



NIRB File No.: 25YN057

NIRB Public Registry Link: www.nirb.ca/project/125211

NPC File No.: 150847

October 16, 2025

Ryan Galley
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
501 University Crescent
Winnipeg Manitoba R3T2N6
Canada

Sent via email: ryan.galley@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request

Dear Ryan Galley:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) "Ocean Measurements in Frobisher Bay for Ecosystem Science and Spill Response" project proposal:

- July 3, 2025, the Nunavut Planning Commission noted that this project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan, and
- August 28, 2025, the NIRB received a complete application and assigned file number **25YN057**- please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

The NIRB has commenced screening the project proposal pursuant to the *Nunavut Agreement* and *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*¹ and by copy of this letter, **invites interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the proposal to comment directly to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.**

SCOPE OF PROPOSED PROJECT

Location	Qikiqtani region, Iqaluit: 46 kilometers Southeast
Objective	The Proponent aims to build a comprehensive oceanographic dataset for Frobisher Bay to support scientific research, environmental protection, and emergency response planning.
Timeline	July 2025 to September 2028 multi-year operation

¹ Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of Canadian Coast Guard for project activities;
- Deployment of a multi-year oceanographic mooring in Frobisher Bay to collect comprehensive physical oceanographic data. Measurements will include:
 - Ocean currents (full water column), tides, sea ice motion and thickness, wave height and frequency (during open water), water salinity and temperature (at depth); and
- Mooring equipment includes:
 - An anchor (train wheels), acoustic release, RBR CTD sensor to measure conductivity, temperature and depth, acoustic doppler current profiler, and a buoyancy floatation.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

The NIRB has identified no additional work or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Documents received and describing the proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126211 including:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application*
- *NIRB Online Application Form in English*
- *Non-technical Project Summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *NRI Application*
- *Regional Ecosystem Factsheet in English and Inuktitut*
- *2023 Report Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*
- *Nunami Stantec 2018 SEA Baffin Bay Davis Strait*
- *Amaruq HTO Letter of Support*

The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

By copy of this letter, the NIRB is inviting interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the project proposal to comment directly to the NIRB by **November 6, 2025**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126211. Questions should be directed to the undersigned at 1-866-233-3033 or femingak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, French and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English, French and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spncer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut (GN-ED&T)
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut (GN-ED&T)
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Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
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