



SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE No.: 25YN057

NPC File No.: 150847

December 12, 2025

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) "Ocean Measurements in Frobisher Bay for Ecosystem Science and Spill Response" is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

Subject to the Proponent's compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in below, issued in accordance with s. 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is of the view that the project proposal is not likely to cause significant public concerns, and it is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The NIRB therefore recommends that the responsible Minister accepts this Screening Decision Report.

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REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*. The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister indicating one of three options:

- (a) a review of the project is not required;
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On July 3, 2025, the 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 (NIRB File No: 25YN057) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable land use plan. All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's Public Registry by using any of the following search criteria or www.nirb.ca/project/126211.

- Project Name: Ocean Measurements in Frobisher Bay for Ecosystem Science and Spill Response
- NIRB File No.: 25YN057
- NIRB Application No.: 126211

Table 1: NIRB's Assessment Process

Date	Stage
July 3, 2025	Receipt of project proposal from the Commission; or and referral from the Commission
July 3, 2025	Pursuant to s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> requested an application on Public Registry and provide information
August 28, 2025	Receipt of online application from Proponent
August 28, 2025	Request(s) to Proponent for additional information in order to carry out screening pursuant to s. s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
August 28, 2025	Proponent responded to information request(s) and provided additional information
October 2, 2025	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
October 16, 2025	Translated Public engagement and comment request was issued to the following community of Iqaluit
November 6, 2025	Receipt of public comments
November 13, 2025	Pursuant to Article 12 s 12.4.5 of the <i>Nunavut Agreement</i> and s. 92(3) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> , a ministerial extension requested due to capacity issues from the Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College seeking an extension to the 45-day timeline for the provision of the Board's Report

Date	Stage
December 12, 2025	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

1. Project Scope

Location	Qikiqtani region, Iqaluit: Approximately 46 km from Iqaluit, northwest of Pike-Resor Channel within the shipping corridor in inner Frobisher Bay
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

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepts the scope of the project as set out by DFO in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal 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.

2. Inclusion or Exclusion to Scoping List

The NIRB has identified no additional works 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.

3. Public Comments and Concerns

Notices regarding the NIRB's screening of this project proposal were distributed to community organizations (Table 1) as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties requesting they provide the Board with any comments or concerns 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.

On or before November 6, 2025, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

Table 2: Comments Received

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	357822
Transport Canada	357830

a. Summary of Comments and Concerns Received

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB in relation to the Ocean Measurements in Frobisher Bay for Ecosystem Science and Spill Response:

CIRNAC

- Noted that they have reviewed the Project proposal and have no comments to offer at this time.

Transport Canada

- This project proposes installing a mooring in or near the shipping lane to Iqaluit. Work in a navigable, scheduled waterway is subject to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA) and requires an application for approval under the CNWA depending on the final selected location. DFO is advised to contact the Navigation Protection Program (NPP) NPPPNRPPNRPN@tc.gc.ca directly to discuss options;
- Recommends that the Proponent does the following:
 - Coordinate with the Port of Iqaluit for any concerns;
 - Notify the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) of the project;
 - Issue a navigational warning (NAVWARN) warning in conjunction with the Canadian Coast Guard/Northern Canada Vessel Traffic Services Zone (NORDREG);
 - Notify Canadian Coast Guard Emergency Response about the project; and
 - Considering the installation of a surface marker buoy equipped with radar reflectors and an AIS transponder for vessel awareness.

b. Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Traditional, and Community Knowledge

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit or traditional and community knowledge in relation to the proposed project. However, Inuit Qaujimaningit and traditional and community knowledge is incorporated into the terms and conditions recommended below based on information collected from prior and similar projects, data collected and mapped by the Commission, and other available sources.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF *NuPPAA*

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts. Table 3. The Board took particular care to consider Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and

Community Knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

Table 3: Summary of the Board's Assessment of Factors s. 90 NuPPAA

Factor	Comment
The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.	- The project footprint is limited to a single mooring located in inner Frobisher Bay, approximately 46 km from Iqaluit within the established marine shipping corridor. The direct disturbance area is minimal, estimated at less than 10 m² on the seabed, with an operational interaction zone limited to the immediate water column above the mooring (approximately 50–100 m radius for navigational awareness). Wildlife Habitat Considerations: - The mooring is situated in open marine habitat used by seals, marine mammals, seabirds, and fish. Due to the lack of seabed modification, pollutants, or ongoing operational disturbance, any effects to wildlife habitat remain localized to the immediate footprint of the mooring structure
The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.	Inner Frobisher Bay is considered an ecologically sensitive marine environment due to the presence of migratory marine species, seasonal ice-dependent ecological processes, and the absence of sufficient baseline oceanographic data necessary to model environmental change or spill behavior. The system's sensitivity is heightened by active marine traffic and demonstrated challenges in predicting how objects or contaminants move through the marine environment.
The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.	No specific areas of historical, cultural and archaeological significance have been identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project.
The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.	The size of both the human and animal populations likely to be affected is small. Human use of the area is limited to intermittent marine traffic and harvesting activity, while wildlife presence is seasonal and mobile. Given the fixed, passive nature of the mooring and its minimal footprint, only a small number of transient marine wildlife and a minimal number of vessel users may interact with or be affected by the project.
The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the	The proposed project is expected to result in low-magnitude, low-probability, short-duration, and fully reversible impacts. Potential effects are limited to temporary and localized disturbance during

Factor	Comment
impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.	deployment and retrieval, with negligible ongoing effects once the mooring is installed. No long-term environmental change, cumulative interaction, or irreversible impact is anticipated.
The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.	Table 4 is a list of past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects. The Board recommended terms and conditions along with mitigation measures designed with consideration for the potential for cumulative effects in the Board Views section.
Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.	No other relevant factors were identified; however, see below for Regulatory Requirements mandating mitigation and/or reporting.

Regulatory Requirements

The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the Project:
Acts and Regulations

1. The *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/index.html>).
2. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-28.8/>).
3. The *Species at Risk Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/>). Attached in **Appendix A** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
4. The *Wildlife Act* (Nunavut) and its corresponding regulations (<http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html>).
5. The *Nunavut Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/>). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix B**.
6. The *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-7.3/FullText.html>).
7. The *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-12/>) and the *Arctic Shipping Safety and Pollution Prevention Regulations* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2017-286/index.html>).
8. The *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-10.15/>).
9. The *Marine Liability Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-0.7/>).
10. The *Marine Transportation Security Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/m-0.8/index.html>).
11. The *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (<https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-22/>).

Table 4: Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects Considered

NIRB Project Number	Project Title	Project Type
<i>Proposed Developments – undergoing assessment</i>		
06YN071	2025 scientific expedition onboard the research icebreaker CCGS Amundsen	Research
22MN025	Chidliak Diamond Mine	Mine Development
25YN061	The Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Horizontal Directional Drilling Engineering Support Program	Research
25TN072	Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions – Oceans Nova	Marine Based Activities
25YN076	Assessing changing cryohydrogeologic conditions with locally-relevant landscape indicators in Nunavut, Canada	Research
<i>Present Projects – approved or in operation</i>		
25TN015	Hanseatic Nature – Arctic Cruise 2025	Tourism
13YN010	Upper Air Building Laboratory, Resolute Bay	Research (<i>year round</i>)

Views of the Board

In considering the above factors, the Board has identified the following and respectfully provides its views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. The NIRB has also proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:

Valued Component	Migratory and non-migratory birds, terrestrial wildlife and Species at Risk
Potential effects:	Minimal potential interaction as the project is offshore and does not overlap with terrestrial habitat or known nesting or staging areas. Temporary disturbance may occur during short deployment/retrieval vessel presence.
Nature of Impacts:	Low magnitude, short-duration and unlikely to occur. No long-term displacement or habitat alteration expected.
Mitigating Factors:	Small stationary footprint, no lighting, no repeated disturbance, and compliance with SARA and Nunavut Wildlife Act.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 7 Wildlife – General – 8, 9, and 10 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 11 and 12

Valued Component	Marine mammals and marine habitat
Potential effects:	Low potential for short-term disturbance during deployment/retrieval. Very small entanglement or collision risk due to single fixed mooring structure.
Nature of Impacts:	Localized (<100 m radius), infrequent, reversible and not expected to affect behavior or habitat function.
Mitigating Factors:	Fixed mooring with no noise, discharge or ongoing vessel activity. AIS/NAVWARN and CHS notification reduces navigational conflict.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Marine-Based Activities – 13 through 19

Valued Component	Public and traditional land use activities
Potential effects:	No specific concerns or impacts to public and traditional land use activities in the area have been identified; however, potential adverse impacts to the public and traditional land-use activities may result from proposed vessel movement and research activities.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be minimal due to the temporary and low-impact nature of the activities and any resulting impacts would be expected to be reversible.
Mitigating Factors:	Community engagement already initiated with HTA; data generated may improve long-term marine safety and spill response planning.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other – 20 and 21

Socio-economic effects on northerners:

Valued Component	Economic impact, local business, employment and hiring
Potential effects:	Potential positive impacts to the community of Iqaluit resulting from proposed research activities. There is also the potential of non-local workers purchasing arts and crafts from local artisans.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for positive economic benefits in relation to the research activities are likely but short-term for the duration of activities.
Mitigating Factors:	Board is recommending the Proponent continues to inform the communities of the research activities and ensure potential local hiring opportunities
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other - 22

Significant public concern:

Valued Component	Public concern
Potential effects:	No significant public concern was expressed during the public commenting period for this file; however, there is potential adverse effects to Inuit harvesting and marine mammals.

Nature of Impacts:	Each of the potential concerns were discussed in previous sections and the potential for impacts is considered to be minimal as long as the Proponent follow the recommended terms and conditions.
Mitigating Factors:	The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure that to the extent possible, the Proponent hire locally and access local services where possible, and to ensure planned activities in the area utilizes available Inuit Qaujimaningit.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other – 20

Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

Administrative Conditions:

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the following project-specific terms and conditions have been recommended: 1-5.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent's compliance with regulatory requirements and the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant, or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Board is recommending the following specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of the project:

General

1. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150847) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, August 14, 2025; August 28, 2025). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.

5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

7. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Wildlife – General

8. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
9. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
10. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

11. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
12. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

Marine-Based Activities

13. The Proponent shall ensure that noise be kept to a minimum and shall refrain from making sharp or loud noises, blowing horns or whistles and shall maintain constant engine noise levels.
14. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. This includes ensuring that there are no wake zones within 250 metres and a minimum of 100 metre no go zone around marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels ahead of the path being traveled by mobile mammals and waiting for the mammals to pass is also prohibited.

15. When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, the Proponent shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.
16. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.
17. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.
18. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.
19. The Proponent shall implement measures designed to minimize disturbance to seabed sediments and benthic communities and marine wildlife when carrying out project activities within the marine environment.

Other

20. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
21. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
22. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board is recommending the following:

Change in Project Scope

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at info@nirb.ca or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at www.nirb.ca.

Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications, and reports produced as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

Bear and Carnivore Safety

4. The Proponent should review the Government of Nunavut's booklet on Bear Safety, which can be downloaded from this link: http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear_safety_-_reducing_bear-people_conflicts_in_nunavut.pdf. Further information on bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques can be found in the "Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from this link: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf.
5. There are polar bear and grizzly bear safety resources available from the Bear Smart Society with videos on polar bear safety available in English, French and Inuktitut at <http://www.bearsmart.com/play/safety-in-polar-bear-country/>. Information can also be obtained from Parks Canada's website on bear safety at the following link: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/d.aspx> or in reviewing the "Safety in Polar Bear Country" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~media/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety_English.ashx.
6. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Iqaluit, phone: (867) 975-7788

Species at Risk

7. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada", available at the following link: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf. The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including *Species at Risk*, are encountered or affected by the project.

Migratory Birds

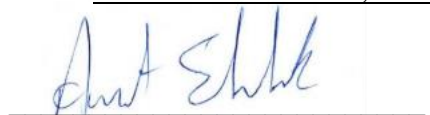
8. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services' "Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html> and "Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada.

9. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change Canada's Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet "Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs" available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board's screening decision with respect to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) "Ocean Measurements in Frobisher Bay for Ecosystem Science and Spill Response". The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated December 12, 2025 at Iqaluit, NU.



Albert Ehloak, *Acting* Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Species at Risk in Nunavut

APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the *Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 29 (*SARA*), and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of *SARA*, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for *SARA*. *SARA* applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of *SARA* identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of *SARA*. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the Species at Risk Registry at <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca> for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of Species at Risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of *SARA* are amended on a regular basis, so it is important to check the *SARA* registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2024

Terrestrial Species at Risk¹	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility²
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Common Nighthawk	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harlequin Duck	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harris's Sparrow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Horned Grebe	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red Knot Islandica Subspecies	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut (GN)
Transverse Lady Beetle	Special Concern	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population)	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Caribou (Barren-ground Population)	Threatened	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	GN
Grizzly Bear (Western Population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Wolverine	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population)	Threatened	Schedule 1	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form)	Data Deficient	Schedule 3	DFO
Lumpfish	Threatened	No Schedule	DFO
Thorny Skate	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO

¹ The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

² Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.