



NIRB File No.: 25YN062
Commission File No.: 150872

November 13, 2025

Kevin Hedges
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
501 University Crescent
Winnipeg, MB
R3T 2N6

Sent via email: kevin.hedges@dfo-mp.gc.ca

Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Ocean Tracking Network: Marine fish tracking in Baffin Bay and connected waters onboard the RV Kiviuq 1” project proposal

Dear Kevin Hedges:

On July 24, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Ocean Tracking Network: Marine fish tracking in Baffin Bay and connected waters onboard the RV Kiviuq 1” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). On September 17, 2025, the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by September 29, 2025 (later extended to October 22, 2025).

On or before October 22, 2025, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	357405
Transport Canada	357413
Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment (SGAV)-Denmark	357679

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126223.

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- Works in navigable waterways may require approval under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA) and advised the Proponent to review the Minor Works Order to self-assess on whether an approval under the CNWA is required.

- All marine navigation, including the use of the research vessel, for the project must conform to applicable federal and territorial legislation (particularly the requirements under the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* and its associated regulations).
- It appears, based on the logistical plan, that the project has already occurred prior to the initiation of the consultation process. The material should clearly specify when the project will take place, in order to enable a more detailed assessment of the project's impact on the affected species and environment.
- Difficult to assess whether the project will have any significant impacts on whales as the biopsies description where not provided in the material.

The NIRB would like to provide Fisheries and Oceans Canada with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **November 27, 2025**.

If Fisheries and Oceans Canada determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4607 or vnayak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Varun Nayak
Monitoring Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Jackie Barber, Transport Canada
Julie Schandorf Hansen, ESPOO, Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment