



[EXTERNAL] NIRB 126223/25YN062: Response Requested

From Loewen, Tracey (she, her / elle, la) (DFO/MPO) <Tracey.Loewen@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

Date Fri 2025-11-28 2:49 PM

To nirb info <info@nirb.ca>

Cc Hedges, Kevin (he, him / il, lui) (DFO/MPO) <Kevin.Hedges@DFO-MPO.GC.CA>

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Hi Varun

I acknowledge that I am a day late in replying to your request for response. I have been managing illness this week and Kevin is on work travel. I am a senior biologist with Kevin Hedges and am assisting with this application.

1. All marine navigation will conform to applicable federal and territorial legislation.
2. All the work that as designated to occur outside the Nunavut Settlement Area occurred this year as part of the OTN program. We did not do any of the work designated for inside the Nunavut Settlement Area because we did not have the final approvals to move the work forward – there were miscommunications on the length of time to work through the process within our DFO department and this is the first requirement that we complete the application process. We plan to reapply for all licensing requirements immediately for the next fiscal year (once we are through the process and have final outcomes) as we need to visit the moorings that are in the Nunavut Settlement Area (Cumberland Sound). The community of Pangnirtung (HTA) has an expectation that we can complete this research to support questions relating to the commercial fishery for Halibut.
3. The OTN network is not planning to collect whale biopsies and did not do so this past year outside the NSA.

Thank you
Tracey

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