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Dear Gizella Hejjas, Fish & Fish Habitat Protection Program, Maryse Mahy, Jared Ottenhof, Carson Gillis, and Tracey Loewen:

RE: NPC File No. 150867 [Coastal Baseline Inventory: Benthic community composition and food web structure in waters adjacent to Qikiqtarjuaq, NU 2025.]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. NEW marine-based activities: The project will use a bottom trawling, traps, and baited cameras to collect baseline data on benthic habitats and species (fishes and invertebrates) near Qikiqtarjuaq.
 - a. Sampling would occur during the open water season (August or September) using a contracted research or fishing vessel; sampling would require approximately 7 days each year (vessel with 24-hour operations capacity).
 - b. Two people from the Nattivak HTA will be contracted as members of the science crew during the survey; they will be trained in use of the bottom trawl, fish traps, baited camera, zooplankton net, CTD and processing of the sample catch.
 - c. The objectives of the project are to:
 - i. determine which benthic fish and invertebrate species are currently present near Qikiqtarjuaq;
 - ii. quantify fish diets and food web structure and dynamics; and

- iii. quantify habitat characteristics and conditions and assess impacts of sampling gears on habitats.
- 2. Timing, Duration, & Personnel:
 - a. 7 days over period 31 August 2025 to 31 October 2026
 - b. 14 personnel for a total of 98 person-days
- 3. Location: Qikiqtani Region;
 - a. Waters adjacent to community of Qikiqtarjuaq;
 - b. north into Kangirtukutaarluq and Maujatuuq Fiords;
 - c. south around the islands of Igqrjuaq, Angijuaq, Kukiirvik, and Qikiqtaalujuaq; Kangiqtugaapik Fiord
 - d. Auyuittuaq National Park: Qaajurna (Quajon) and Maujatuuq Fiords to the north; Kangiqtullu (Kingnelling) Fiord; Qikiqtaalujuaq Ikirasanga (channel) leading into Mattaataujana, Illaulittuuq, and Panniqtuurluk (North Pangnirtung) Fiords to the south

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above-noted project proposal and has determined that it is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. The project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the NIRB for screening. Project materials are available at the following address <https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150867>.

This decision applies only to the above-noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits, and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address or telephone number below.

Sincerely,



Daniel Haney (he/him) | ᑕᑦᓂᑦᓴᑦ ᑭᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ

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