



# NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN066

**Project Name:** The “Coastal Baseline Inventory: Benthic community composition and food web structure in water adjacent to Qikiqtarjuaq, NU 2025” project

**Proponent Name:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

**Project Type:** Research **Region:** Qikiqtani Region

**Public Registry:** [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) **Application No.:** 150867

**Comment Deadline:** **September 22, 2025**

## PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Coastal Baseline Inventory: Benthic community composition and food web structure in water adjacent to Qikiqtarjuaq, NU 2025” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, near the community Qikiqtarjuaq. The Proponent intends to conduct research activities to collect baseline data on benthic habitat and species to determine the current conditions near Qikiqtarjuaq and allow examinations of effects of climate change or human development activities on these species. The program is proposed to take place from August 2025 to October 2026. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Conduct bottom trawling six (6) to eight (8) times per day to capture Greenland Halibut, sculpins and Northern shrimps;
- Use of a baited camera system at each sampling station to collect data on the sea floor traps habitat characteristics and record observations on species not caught in the trawl and traps;
- Conduct conductivity, temperature, and depth (CTD) casts to obtain vertical profiles of the water column; and
- Hiring of members from Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) to assist in research activities

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN066** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

**You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:**

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca).** Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Varun Nayak at (867) 983-4607 or [vnayak@nirb.ca](mailto:vnayak@nirb.ca).