



February 12, 2026
NPC File No. 151035

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Brent Young

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Dear Calvin Ehaloak, Paula Hughson, DFO, Lisa Pirie, Jared Ottenhof and Brent Young:

RE: NPC File # 151035 [ECWG Bowhead Whale Photo Identification and Biopsy Sampling]

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

1. **Primary Land Use:** Marine-based Scientific Research
2. **Project summary description:** The main objectives of this study are updating abundance estimates of the Eastern Canada-West Greenland bowhead population and collecting photographs for photo-identification studies.
3. **Summary of modifications:** Addition of research in the Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area
4. **Associated NPC File Nos.:** 150780 **Associated NIRB File No.:** 25YN040
5. **Location:** Qikiqtani Region; [Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal (conformity determination issued April 24, 2025). This conformity determination still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE NO.: 25YN040).

The NPC has determined that the above-noted project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the inclusion of research in a National Wildlife Area. It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal requires screening by the NIRB under section 12.4.3 of the *Nunavut Agreement* as amended because it is for a component or activity that was not part of the original or previously amended proposal, and its inclusion is a significant modification of the project.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:
<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=151035>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)* to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination 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. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the *NuPPAA*.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue, RPP, MCIP
Manager, Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission