



**SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE No.:25YN045**

NPC File No.: 151036

April 27, 2026

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board’s (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s (DFO) “Arctic Coast - Nunavut Community-based Monitoring 2026/2027” is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)*.

Subject to the Proponent’s compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in below, issued in accordance with s. 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is of the view that the project proposal is not likely to cause significant public concerns, and it is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The NIRB therefore recommends that the responsible Minister accepts this Screening Decision Report.

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REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*. The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister indicating one of three options:

- (a) a review of the project is not required;
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On February 18, 2026, the NIRB received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s (DFO) “Arctic Coast - Nunavut Community-based Monitoring 2026/2027” project proposal (NIRB File No: 25YN045) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan; All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s Public Registry by using any of the following search criteria or www.nirb.ca/project/126355.

- Project Name: Arctic Coast - Nunavut Community-based Monitoring 2026/2027
- NIRB File No.: 25YN045
- NIRB Application No.: 126355

Table 1: NIRB’s Assessment Process

Date	Stage
February 18, 2026	Receipt of project proposal and positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Commission
February 23, 2026	Pursuant to s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> the NIRB requested the Proponent complete an online application to address information required for Screening
March 3, 2026	Receipt of online application from Proponent
March 9, 2026	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
March 23, 2026	Translated Public engagement and comment request issued to the following communities
April 13, 2026	Receipt of public comments
April 16, 2026	Pursuant to Article 12 s 12.4.5 of the <i>Nunavut Agreement</i> and s. 92(3) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> , an extension to the 45-day timeline for the provision of the Board’s Report was requested from the Minister of Fisheries
April 27, 2026	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

1. Project Scope

Location	Kivalliq Region (Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet) and Qikiqtani Region (Iqaluit, Qikiqtarjuaq, Kinngait).
Objective	<p>The Proponent is proposing to continue the ongoing community-monitoring program for gathering baseline data on coastal fishes and habitat conditions in Chesterfield Inlet, Iqaluit, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Kinngait.</p> <p>For the 2026- 2027 field season, the Proponent is proposing to extend the program activities to include Arviat.</p>
Timeline	<p>Operations Phase: from 2026-06-21 to 2026-10-22</p> <p>Closure Phase: from 2026-10-23 to 2027-01-11</p> <p>Post-Closure Phase: from 2027-01-20 to 2027-03-21</p>

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepted the scope of the project as set out by DFO in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal includes the following undertakings, works, or activities:

- The continued community-based field programs in Chesterfield Inlet, Iqaluit, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Kinngait; and
- The extension of the community-based field program to Arviat, including:
 - Field Program: Community-based fieldwork would be conducted between July 25 and September 1, 2026, occurring once per week for up to five weeks. Community-based technicians would carry out field activities for approximately one day per week during this period.
 - Field activities would involve travel by boat and the use of 6-panel multi-mesh gillnets for fish sampling.
 - Equipment and materials to be used are gillnets and boats.
 - Any waste generated would be contained and brought back to town for proper disposal.

2. Inclusion or Exclusion to Scoping List

The NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal; as a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

3. Public Comments and Concerns

As outlined in Table 1 above, notices regarding the NIRB's screening of this project proposal were distributed to community organizations as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties with a request for interested parties to provide the Board with any comments or concerns regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;

- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal

On or before April 13, 2026, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

Table 2: Comments Received

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
<i>Government of Nunavut (GN)</i>	360765
<i>Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)</i>	360734
<i>Transport Canada (TC)</i>	360017

a. Summary of Comments and Concerns Received

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB in relation to the Arctic Coast - Nunavut Community-based Monitoring 2026/2027 project proposal:

Government of Nunavut

- Noted that they have reviewed the proposed project and related documents and has no comments or concerns to raise with the Board at this time.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

- Noted that they have reviewed the project proposal and has no comments to offer at this time.

Transport Canada

- Noted that they have reviewed the project proposal and the project components and activities as they are described in the proposal do not require comments from Transport Canada.

4. b. Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit or Indigenous and Community knowledge in relation to the proposed project. However, Inuit Qaujimaningit and Indigenous and community knowledge is incorporated into the terms and conditions recommended below based on information collected from prior and similar projects, data collected and mapped by the Commission, and other available sources.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF *NUPPAA*

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts. Table 3. The Board took particular care to consider Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and

Community Knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

Table 3: Summary of the Board’s Assessment of Factors s. 90 NuPPAA

Factor	Comment
The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The physical footprint of the proposed activities is limited to nearshore and coastal areas accessed by boat, generally occurring within approximately 5 km to 20 km of the community. ▪ The proposed project would take place within habitats of far-ranging wildlife species such as migratory and non-migratory birds, Arctic fox, Arctic hare and Species at Risk such as Polar Bears.
The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific areas of ecosystemic sensitivity have been identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project. ▪ However, coastal and marine environments in the Project area are generally considered sensitive to disturbance, particularly during the open-water season.
The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific areas of historical, cultural and archaeological significance have been identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project.
The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed project is unlikely to result in impacts to local human and animal populations. ▪ Temporary and localized disturbance to wildlife, including species harvested by Inuit in the Project area, may occur during field activities.
The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A zone of influence of up to 5 km from the most potentially disruptive activities (boat travel and gillnet deployment) was considered for the NIRB’s assessment. ▪ Potential effects are expected to be low in magnitude, localized to the Project area, short-term, and reversible, and limited to the duration of field activities. ▪ With adherence to the relevant regulatory requirements and application of the mitigation measures recommended by the

Factor	Comment
	NIRB, no significant residual effects are expected to occur.
The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Table 4 is a list of past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects. ▪ Given the small scale, short duration, and community-based nature of the proposed activities, the project is not expected to contribute significantly to cumulative effects. ▪ The Board recommended terms and conditions along with mitigation measures designed with consideration for the potential for cumulative effects in the Board Views section.
Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No other relevant factors were identified; however, see below for Regulatory Requirements mandating mitigation and/or reporting.

Regulatory Requirements

The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the Project:
Acts and Regulations

1. The *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/index.html>).
2. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-28.8/>).
3. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/>), the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1035/index.html) and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1036/index.html).
4. The *Species at Risk Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/>). Attached in **Appendix A** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
5. The *Wildlife Act (Nunavut)* and its corresponding regulations (<http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html>).

Table 4: Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects Considered

NIRB Project Number	Project Title	Project Type
<i>Past Projects</i>		
25YN012	Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability, and Service (ACCESS)	Research
25YN024	DFO biopsy, tagging, acoustics, and drone work on walrus and beluga	Research
25YN019	Western Hudson Bay beluga population abundance estimate	Research
25YN021	Movement and chemical ecology of fishes in Hudson Bay	Research
25YN026	Impacts of Past Glacial Ice Sheets	Research
25XN002	Chesterfield Inlet Sealift Improvements Project	Infrastructure
24YN045	Kinngait beluga and walrus biopsy, tagging, camera, and drone work	Research
25TN015	Hanseatic Nature – Arctic Cruise 2025	Tourism

VIEWS OF THE BOARD

In considering the above factors, the Board has identified the following and respectfully provides its views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. The NIRB has also proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:

Valued Component	Migratory and non-migratory birds, terrestrial species, and Species at Risk
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects to migratory and non-migratory birds, their migratory routes, terrestrial species, and Species at Risk (e.g., polar bears) may occur as a result of noise and visual disturbance generated from the transportation of personnel and equipment via boat and snowmobile, boating activities, and the deployment of gillnets.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be limited due to the infrequent, small-scale, and temporary nature of the proposed field activities, and any resulting impacts are expected to be reversible.
Mitigating Factors:	The limited spatial footprint, short duration of activities, and implementation of wildlife-specific mitigation measures (avoidance distances, timing considerations, and adherence to wildlife protection guidelines) reduce the potential for disturbance.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 9 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 10 through 15 Wildlife General – 16 through 18 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 19 through 22 Caribou and Muskox – 23

Valued Component	Marine waters, marine mammals and marine habitat, and fish and fish habitat
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects to marine mammals, fish, and marine habitat (including benthic communities) may occur as a result of increased noise and/or physical disturbance associated with boating activities and the deployment of gillnets. Cumulative effects could occur if multiple activities are encountered within the same area.
Nature of Impacts:	Potential impacts are expected to be limited, localized, temporary, and reversible following completion of field activities.
Mitigating Factors:	The limited duration of in-water activities, low intensity of boating, and adherence to marine-specific mitigation measures (maintaining distances from marine mammals and minimizing disturbance to benthic habitats) reduce potential impacts.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Water courses/Water Bodies – 6 through 8 Marine-Based Activities – 24 through 31

Valued Component	Vegetation, land, soils, terrain stability, permafrost
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects to vegetation, land, soils, terrain stability, and permafrost are expected to be minimal, as no ground disturbance or construction activities are proposed.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be negligible due to the absence of ground disturbance and the temporary nature of activities.
Mitigating Factors:	The absence of ground disturbance and reliance on boat-based access minimize interaction with land, soils, and vegetation.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 9 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 10 through 15

Valued Component	Public and traditional land use activities in the area
Potential effects:	No specific adverse effects to public and traditional land use activities have been identified; however, temporary interactions with ongoing Inuit harvesting activities may occur.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be limited due to infrequent and temporary activities, and any resulting impacts would be expected to be reversible.
Mitigating Factors:	Ongoing engagement with local communities and incorporation of Inuit Qaujimaningit support the avoidance of conflicts with traditional land use activities.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other – 32 and 33

Socio-economic effects on northerners:

Valued Component	Local hiring, contracting and economic impact
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Potential effects:	Potential positive impacts may result from the hiring of local community members and the use of local services for project activities.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be positive, provided the Proponent adheres to its commitment to hire locally where possible.
Mitigating Factors:	The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure that the Proponent continues to inform the communities of the ongoing research activities and to ensure community members are aware of and best able to successfully connect with hiring opportunities.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other - 34

Significant public concern:

Valued Component	Public Concern
Potential effects:	No significant public concern was expressed during the public commenting period for this project proposal. Potential concerns may arise from interactions with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities during project implementation.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be minimal as long as the Proponent follows the recommended terms and conditions.
Mitigating Factors:	The implementation of recommended terms and conditions, including measures to avoid interference with Inuit wildlife harvesting and traditional land use activities, reduces the potential for public concern. Ongoing engagement and coordination with the local Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), as well as incorporation of available Inuit Qaujimaningit, further supports the planning and timing of project activities. The encouragement of local hiring and use of local services, where possible, also contributes to reducing potential concerns and enhancing community benefits.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other – 32 and 33

Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

Administrative Conditions:

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the following project-specific terms and conditions have been recommended: 1-5.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent’s compliance with regulatory requirements and the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant, or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

The Board is recommending the following specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of the project:

General

1. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 151036 and the NIRB (Online Application Form, March 3, 2026). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. The Proponent shall ensure that water extraction from any fish-bearing waterbody is done with appropriate care and caution. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the appropriate authorizing agency.
7. The Proponent shall ensure that no disturbance of the stream bed, lakebed or the banks of any definable watercourse be permitted, except where deemed necessary for maintaining project-specific operational commitments or approved by a responsible authority in cases of spill management.
8. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

9. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

10. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.

11. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
12. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name for ease of identification.
13. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.
15. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife – General

16. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
17. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
18. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

19. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
20. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone¹ appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.
21. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.
22. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

¹ Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

23. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration as identified by current land use plans in place and/or by Inuit Qaujimaningit.

Marine-Based Activities

24. The Proponent shall not visit cliffs used by nesting and breeding birds during the late afternoon or early evening hours during the months of August and September.
25. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. This includes ensuring that there are no wake zones within 250 metres and a minimum of 100 metre no go zone around marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels ahead of the path being traveled by mobile mammals and waiting for the mammals to pass is also prohibited.
26. When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, the Proponent shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.
27. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.
28. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 500 metres of a walrus haul out while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft.
29. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.
30. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.
31. The Proponent shall implement measures designed to minimize disturbance to seabed sediments and benthic communities and marine wildlife when carrying out project activities within the marine environment.

Other

32. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
33. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
34. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board is recommending the following:

Change in Project Scope

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at info@nirb.ca or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at www.nirb.ca.

Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications, and reports as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

Migratory Birds

5. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services' "Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html> and "Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada.
6. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change Canada's Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet "Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs" available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf.

Fishing Licence

7. The Proponent shall ensure that all guests partaking in sport fishing activities during their stay at the lodge obtain fishing licences from the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board's screening decision with respect to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) "Arctic Coast - Nunavut Community-based Monitoring 2026/2027". The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated April 27, 2026 at Iqaluit, NU.



Albert Ehloak, *Acting Chairperson*

Attachments: Appendix A: Species at Risk in Nunavut

APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the *Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 29 (*SARA*), and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of *SARA*, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for *SARA*. *SARA* applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of *SARA* identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of *SARA*. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the Species at Risk Registry at <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca> for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of Species at Risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of *SARA* are amended on a regular basis, so it is important to check the *SARA* registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2024

Terrestrial Species at Risk ²	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility ³
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Common Nighthawk	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harlequin Duck	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harris's Sparrow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Horned Grebe	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red Knot Islandica Subspecies	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut (GN)
Transverse Lady Beetle	Special Concern	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population)	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Caribou (Barren-ground Population)	Threatened	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	GN
Grizzly Bear (Western Population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Wolverine	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population)	Threatened	Schedule 1	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form)	Data Deficient	Schedule 3	DFO
Lumpfish	Threatened	No Schedule	DFO
Thorny Skate	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO

² The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

³ Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.