



NIRB Application for Screening #126442

Observations of polar bear habitat use and foraging behaviour in Navy Board Inlet/Eclipse Sound

Application Type: New

Project Type: Scientific Research

Application Date: Friday, May 22, 2026

Period of operation: from 2026-04-23 to 2026-06-22

Project Proponent: Evan Richardson
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Unit 510-234 Donald Street
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Canada
Phone Number:: 7808635250, Fax Number::

Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
Area of use marine areas to the high tide line in and around Bylot and Baffin Island.	Researching	Marine	No history. Project will occur on the sea ice.	None	15km to Pond Inlet

Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Pond Inlet	Jonathan Pitseolak	Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization	2026-03-24

Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

North Baffin

Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment	Wildlife Research Permit WL 2026-018	Active	2026-04-17	2026-06-30
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	License to fish from DFO to harvest seals will be issued pending NIRB's decision.	Applied, Decision Pending	2026-03-12	

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Water	Snowmobile on frozen sea ice	

Project accomodation types

Community

Other,

Material Use

Equipment to be used (including drills, pumps, aircraft, vehicles, etc)

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
snowmobiles	4	8x2 ft	Snowmobiles will be used to access marine areas to set up trail cameras to observe bears at seal kills on the sea ice.

Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Gasoline	fuel	20	5	100	Gallons	~ 20 five gallon jerry cans will be used to refuel snow machines in town and out on the sea ice.
Gasoline	hazardous	20	5	100	Gallons	Regular 5 gallon jerry cans will be used to store gasoline for snowmobiles.

Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
0	No water use.	

Waste

Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Researching	Combustible wastes	Exhaust from snowmobiles	No known method.	None

Environmental Impacts:

Work will involve travel by snowmobile on the sea ice and no waste issues have been identified for this project. One potential impact is snowmobile exhaust from operational activities. The other potential impact is the harvest of up to 20 ringed seals for our polar bear foraging observation.

Additional Information

SECTION A1: Project Info

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

SECTION B1: Project Info

SECTION B2: Exploration Activity

SECTION B3: Geosciences

SECTION B4: Drilling

SECTION B5: Stripping

SECTION B6: Underground Activity

SECTION B7: Waste Rock

SECTION B8: Stockpiles

SECTION B9: Mine Development

SECTION B10: Geology

SECTION B11: Mine

SECTION B12: Mill

SECTION C1: Pits

SECTION D1: Facility

SECTION D2: Facility Construction

SECTION D3: Facility Operation

SECTION D4: Vessel Use

SECTION E1: Offshore Survey

SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey

SECTION E3: Vessel Use

SECTION F1: Site Cleanup

SECTION G1: Well Authorization

SECTION G2: Onland Exploration

SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration

SECTION G4: Rig

SECTION H1: Vessel Use

SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea

SECTION I1: Municipal Development

Description of Existing Environment: Physical Environment

The existing environmental consists of annual landfast sea ice in Eclipse Sound and Navy Board Inlet. Sea ice is used for travel by local residents, tourism operators and researchers. The sea ice melts each summer and is seasonal in nature and not impacted by our research. Our proposed work will not involve use of any protected areas or National Parks.

Description of Existing Environment: Biological Environment

Eclipse Sound and Navy Board Inlet contain numerous marine species that are of subsistence use and economic value to the people of Pond Inlet.

Description of Existing Environment: Socio-economic Environment

The existing socioeconomic environment is unique with Pond Inlet residents making subsistence use of resources on the sea ice as well as benefiting from ecotourism activities to view local wildlife. Our work will not impede with of these activities.

Miscellaneous Project Information

Identification of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Our work is not anticipated to have any lasting impact on the environment.

Cumulative Effects

There are no anticipated cumulative effects from this work.

Impacts

Identification of Environmental Impacts

	PHYSICAL	Designated environmental areas	Ground stability	Permafrost	Hydrology / Limnology	Water quality	Climate conditions	Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes	Surface and bedrock geology	Sediment and soil quality	Tidal processes and bathymetry	Air quality	Noise levels	BIOLOGICAL	Vegetation	Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns	Birds, including habitat and migration patterns	Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning	Wildlife protected areas	SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Archaeological and cultural historic sites	Employment	Community wellness	Community infrastructure	Human health
Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Operation																									
Researching		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U	-		U	-	-	-	-		-	P	-	-	-
Decommissioning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

(P = Positive, N = Negative and non-mitigatable, M = Negative and mitigatable, U = Unknown)

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

- 1 polygon Area of use marine areas to the high tide line in and around Bylot and Baffin Island.