



NIRB File No.: 26YN026
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126452
NPC File No.: 151178

May 15, 2026

Cory Matthews
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
501 University Cres
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N6

Sent via email: cory.matthews@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Ecology and demography of killer whales in the eastern Canadian Arctic” project proposal

Dear Cory Matthews:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening¹ the project proposal.

By copy of this letter, NIRB invites regulators, interested parties, and community members or groups potentially affected by the proposal to view the application and comment directly to the NIRB by June 5, 2026.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments 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

The application can be viewed on NIRB’s online registry www.nirb.ca/project/126452 where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to info@nirb.ca, or by fax.

¹ Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

Scope of proposal

Location	Qikiqtani region, within a radius of up to 200 km east of Arctic Bay
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct killer whale field research in the Admiralty Inlet/Arctic Bay area to study killer whale distribution, movements, diet and behavior.
Timeline	July 10, 2026, to October 16, 2029; multi-year seasonal

The scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

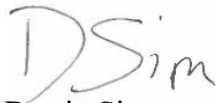
- **Undertakings, Works and Activities**
 - Boat-based killer whale research including satellite tagging, biopsy collection, photo-identification, acoustic recordings using hydrophones, and drone-based behavioral observations and aerial photography to collect data on killer whale distribution, migration, body condition, and group composition;
 - Field work would be conducted from two (2) local boats contracted through the local Hunters and Trappers Organization or Inuit-owned outfitters.
- **Equipment**
 - Two (2) boats (2) crossbows for tag and biopsy equipment, two (2) drones, two to four (2-4) hydrophones, and one (1) generator to power electronics at camp.
- **Fuel**
 - Gasoline would be used for boat and generator fuel; propane and naphtha would be used for cooking stoves
- **Camp**
 - Establishment and operation of a temporary field camp near Kakiak, approximately 70km from Arctic Bay.
- **Waste**
 - Grey water and sewage disposal using sump holes;
 - Non-combustible waste would be packed out and disposed of in Arctic Bay.

Inclusion or Exclusion of 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.

Questions about the NIRB's work should be directed to Dustin Sim, Screening Officer at 1-866-233-3033 Ext. 575 or dsim@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Dustin Sim
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List

Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)