NIRB Application for Screening #126453

Temporal monitoring of Arctic kelp forests and associated biodiversity in the Qikiqtarjuaq region.

Application Type: New

Project Type: Scientific Research

Application Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Period of operation: from 2026-08-01 to 2030-03-31

Project Proponent:

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DETAILS

Non-technical project proposal description

English: See attached.

French: See attached.

Inuktitut: See attached.

Inuinnaqtun: This project will be carried out in the Qikiqtani Region.

Personnel

Personnel on site: 4
Days on site: 60
Total Person days: 240
Operations Phase: from 2026-08-01 to 2030-03-31

Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
Qikiqtarjuaq extended coastal marine area	Researching	Marine	N/A	N/A	Qikiqtarjuaq community and the Auyuittuq national park.

Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Qikiqtarjuaq	Laila Alookie	Qikiqtarjuaq Research Centre	2025-09-07
Qikiqtarjuaq	Pasa Aulaqiaq	Nattivak HTO	2025-10-01

Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

South Baffin

Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Nunavut Planning Commission	Authorization to carry scientific research in the Qikiqtarjuaq region. NPC file 150985	Applied, Decision Pending		
Nunavut Research Institute	Authorization to carry scientific research in the Qikiqtarjuaq region.	Applied, Decision Pending		
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Authorization to carry scientific research in the Qikiqtarjuaq region.	Applied, Decision Pending		
Hunters and Trappers Associations/Organizations	Authorization to carry scientific research in the Qikiqtarjuaq region.	Active	2025-11-20	

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Water	Small boat from community member	
Land	Snowmobiles from the centre	

Project accomodation types

Community

Material Use

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

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
CTD CastAway	1	6 x 6 x 20 cm	Temperature and salinity profiles (point measurements)
Odyssey PAR sensors	12	4 x 4 x 20 cm	Photosynthetic active radiation (monitoring)
HOBO Temp/Light	20	4 x 2 x 1 cm	Temperature and light on the seafloor (monitoring)
HOBO pH & dissolved oxygen	12	4 x 4 x 20 cm	pH and dissolved oxygen (monitoring)
Nemo Underwater Power Drill	1	15 x 15 x 7 cm	Install small anchors for loggers on the seafloor (monitoring)
Boat	1	24 foot	Fieldwork done with community member owning an aluminum boat.
Snowmobile	1	3 meters	Snowmobiles will be borrowed from the Research Centre to access research sites.

Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Gasoline	fuel	300	20	6000	Liters	Field activities will be carried out in collaboration with a local guide operating a 24-foot aluminum vessel, or alternatively using snowmobiles based at the Research Centre. Approximately 40 field days per year are planned over the four-year duration of the project.

Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
0	From the research Centre. It's usually delivered by truck every week.	It's from a local freshwater lake (reservoir).

Waste

Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Researching	Sewage (human waste)	0.3 m3 per day	Wastewater and sewage will be managed through the community's existing treated disposal system in accordance with local practices.	None.

Environmental Impacts:

This project is expected to have very low environmental impacts. Most activities are diver-based and conducted manually with great care to minimize disturbance to marine habitats. No acoustic technologies or heavy equipment will be used during the study. Some limited disturbance may occur during scientific sampling, such as the collection of small numbers of specimens, the installation of monitoring equipment, and the establishment of experimental plots used to study kelp forest recovery. These activities will be conducted at a small spatial scale and in a controlled manner to minimize environmental impact. We are discussing the proposed monitoring locations with members of the Nattivak HTA to ensure that the sites do not overlap with important harvesting areas. Diving operations follow strict safety procedures. To avoid potential accidents, all diving activities are conducted under a rigorous dive safety plan in accordance with the standards of the Canadian Association for Underwater Science (CAUS). All divers are trained and certified, and operations are conducted with appropriate safety equipment and surface support. Overall, the project is designed to minimize disturbance while generating important knowledge about Arctic coastal ecosystems and their long-term environmental health.

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

Description of Existing Environment: Biological Environment

Description of Existing Environment: Socio-economic Environment

Miscellaneous Project Information

Identification of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Cumulative Effects

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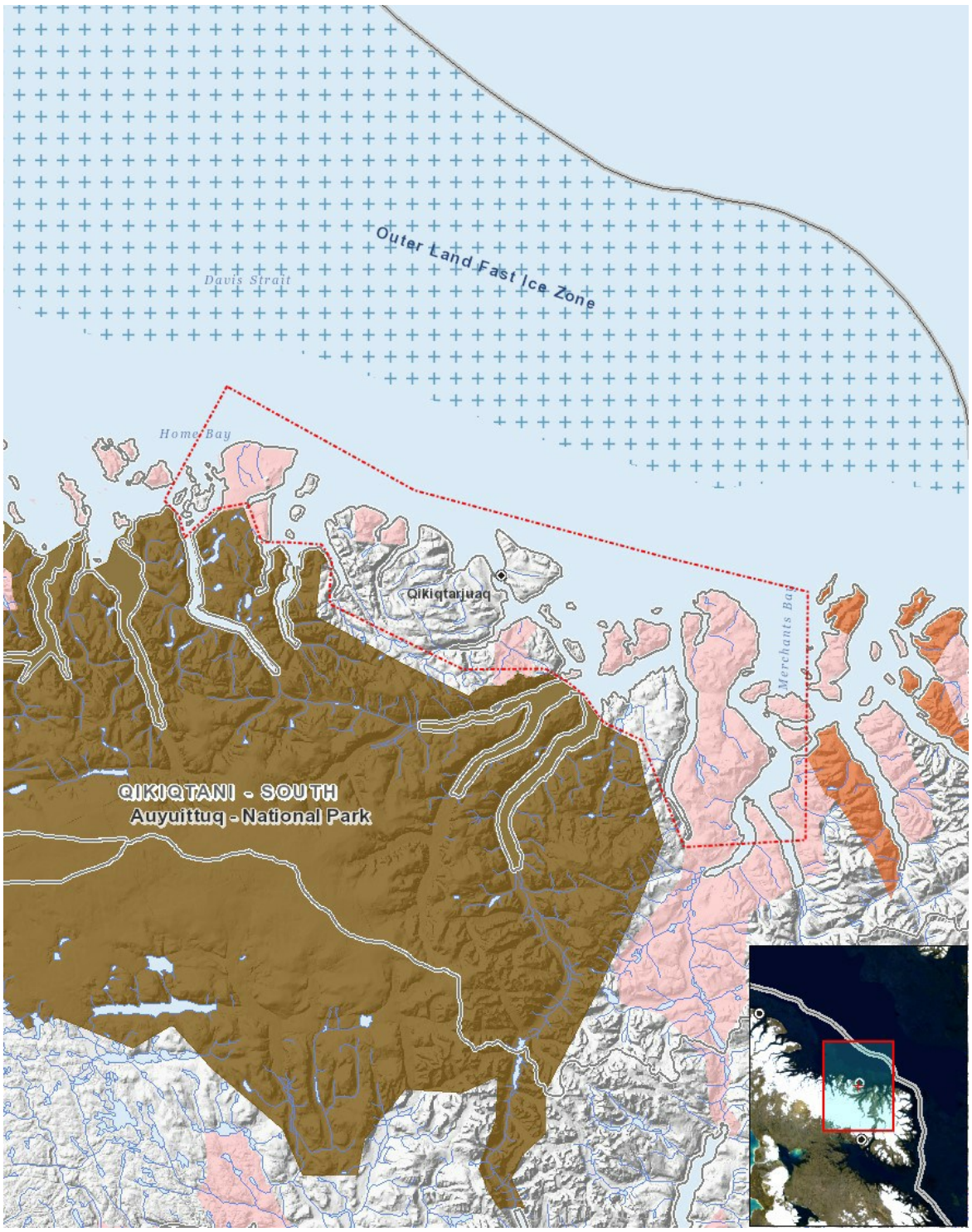
(P = Positive, N = Negative and non-mitigatable, M = Negative and mitigatable, U = Unknown)

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

1	polyline	Qikiqtarjuaq extended coastal marine area