



Nattivak Hunters & Trappers Organization

Memorial University of Newfoundland
210 Prince Philip Dr, St. John's, Newfoundland
A1B 3R6

February 18, 2026

Dear Dr. Natasha Leclerc and collaborators (Drs. Archambault, Deslauriers, Teichert, and Thébault):

Re: **HTO Consultation: Sclerochronological Study to Reconstruct Baseline Ecosystem Dynamics**

I am writing to you on the behalf of the Board of Directors of Nattivak HTO in Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut.

After consulting with the Nattivak HTO Vice-Chairperson and Board Members, we approve the proposed **Sclerochronological Study** near Qikiqtarjuaq. "**Sclerochronology**" is the study of growth rings in animals and plants (examples: clam shells, coralline algae crusts and fish 'ear' bones) to learn about past environments.

Specifically, we approve your plan to lead an **experimental underwater platform** approximately 20 metres below the ocean surface near Qikiqtarjuaq to grow coralline algae crusts and monitor their growth over one year.

We also understand and approve that **preliminary surveys** are required to localize and collect sclerochronological specimens (example: coralline algae crusts and clam shells) for the platform and for **historical baseline reconstruction** of sea ice and ecosystem dynamics.

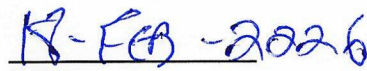
The project is set to start in **August 2026** and end in **October 2029**. Results will be published in journals and report translated in Inuktitut.

This approval is contingent on the agreement that local Inuit will be hired as guides, divers, helpers, bear watchers and/or photographers during the project.

If any further discussions are required, please contact chairperson Jaypootie Aliqatuqtuq during regular business hours at (867) 927-8836.

With regards,


Jaypootie Aliqatuqtuq
Chairperson of Nattivak HTO


Date: