



April 17, 2026
NPC File No. 151184

Calvin Ehaloak

A/Manager, Public Registry
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
By email: cehaloak@nirb.ca; info@nirb.ca;
kgillard@nirb.ca

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Yellowknife, NT
By email: [DFO.ARCEMTriage-
TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.ARCEMTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Lisa Pirie

Head, Protected Areas
Nunavut Regional Office
Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: lisa.pirie@ec.gc.ca;
CWSPermitNorth-PermisNordSCF@ec.gc.ca

Jared Ottenhof

Director, Qikiqtani Nunaliirijiklut (Lands and
Resource Management)
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: jottenhof@qia.ca; jnakoolak@qia.ca;
JSimic@qia.ca

Justine Sutherland

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
501 University Crescent
Winnipeg Manitoba R3T2N6 Canada
By email: Justine.Sutherland@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dear Calvin Ehaloak, Lisa Pirie, Jared Ottenhof, and Justine Sutherland:

RE: NPC File No: 151184 [Developing local capacity and tools for on-board ship monitoring to better understand ecological risks and identify actions to improve mitigations for ship traffic in Arctic Canada's largest port]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. **Primary land use:** Marine Based scientific Research
2. **Project summary description:** This project evaluates the risk of aquatic non-indigenous species (NIS) introductions from ballast water discharge associated with increased shipping to Milne Inlet Port related to the Baffinland Iron Mine. Building on ballast water studies conducted from 2023–2025, the project focuses on characterizing the abundance and diversity of organisms in treated and mid-ocean-exchanged ballast water discharged at an Arctic port. The work will use established project-specific protocols, including live organism counts, indicative analysis tools (Ballast Eye), water quality measurements, preserved taxonomy samples, and eDNA/RNA analyses. Sampling will be conducted onboard bulk ore carriers during standard de-ballasting operations, with no environmental sampling. Results will provide the first assessment of NIS introduction risk from discharged ballast water in the Canadian Arctic and inform ongoing monitoring and regulatory compliance of Baffinland Iron Mine operations at Milne Inlet and future Arctic ports.
3. **Location:** Qikiqtani Region; [Around Pond Inlet]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

The project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:
<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=151184>.

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)* to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the *NuPPAA*.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning and Implementation

Jurisdictional Note:

This conformity determination applies only to the components of the proposed project located within the Nunavut Settlement Area and under the Nunavut Planning Commission's statutory jurisdiction as defined in the Nunavut Agreement and the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA). Activities outside the NPC's jurisdiction remain subject to the review and regulatory processes of the relevant authorities. Proponents are responsible for identifying, contacting, and obtaining all required approvals from the appropriate regulators in every applicable jurisdiction to ensure compliance with all legislation, policies, and licensing requirements.