



NIRB Application for Screening #126481 Pond Inlet Arctic Char Stock Assessment

Application Type: New

Project Type: Scientific Research

Application Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026

Period of operation: from 2026-07-26 to 2026-09-26

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DETAILS

Non-technical project proposal description

- English: Introduction The community of Pond Inlet has been redeveloping their Arctic Char fisheries and the local fishers have put in great efforts to collect biological samples in accordance with their exploratory fishing licence. Data the fishers' have collected will be used in a stock assessment analysis to provide managers, the HTO and the community with a stock status update. To support the fishers' data and provide a complete and well executed stock assessment analysis, fishery independent baseline biological data is required. This research aims to work with the community of Pond Inlet to collect baseline biological data from two (Tuniit and Satuut) Arctic Char stocks in the Pond Inlet Area, as well as, local knowledge and fishing practices on these stocks. Additionally these harvesting locations are mixed stock fisheries (more than one natal river represented) so understanding what river each fish was hatched in is necessary. Collectively this information will fill knowledge gaps on Pond Inlet Arctic Char fisheries and provide managers more information to assist future decisions. Objectives The objectives for the 2026 season are: 1) Meet with the Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization regarding ongoing stock assessment research in the Pond Inlet area. 2) Collect biological, CPUE, and environmental data for two stocks of Arctic Char at Tuniit and Satuut. 3) Continue gathering local knowledge on Arctic Char fisheries in the Pond Inlet Area (interviews and consults from past research will continue to be used as well). Methods A meeting is to occur with the Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization and also with the field crew at the start of the project. Topics discussed will be the proposed study sites for this field season, future study interests, and expectations from all parties. Stock assessment research will occur at Tuniit and Satuut. A field crew consisting of two DFO representatives and two Pond Inlet residents will set gill nets of various mesh sizes ranging from 1.5 to 5.5 inch in known Char fishing locations. All fish will be sampled for length, weight, sex, maturity, gonad (reproductive organs) weight, ageing structures, muscle tissue, and fin tissue. Gonads of all mature females will collected and frozen for determination of fecundity (number of eggs). All stomachs appearing to contain food will be collected and frozen for potential future diet analysis. Carcasses will be returned to the community for distribution and consumption. The results will be reported back to the Mittimatilik Hunters and Trappers Organization via a plain language report in December 2026 and an in person meeting in May 2027.
- French: Introduction La communauté de Pond Inlet réorganise actuellement ses pêcheries d'omble chevalier, et les pêcheurs locaux ont déployé des efforts considérables pour recueillir des échantillons biologiques conformément à leur permis de pêche exploratoire. Les données recueillies par les pêcheurs serviront à une analyse d'évaluation des stocks visant à fournir aux gestionnaires, à l'organisation locale de chasseurs et de trappeurs (HTO) et à la communauté une mise à jour sur l'état des stocks. Pour compléter les données des pêcheurs et garantir une analyse d'évaluation des stocks complète et rigoureuse, il est nécessaire d'obtenir des données biologiques de référence indépendantes de la pêche commerciale. Ce projet de recherche vise à collaborer avec la communauté de Pond Inlet pour recueillir des données biologiques de référence sur deux stocks d'omble chevalier (Tuniit et Satuut) dans la région de Pond Inlet, ainsi que pour documenter les connaissances locales et les pratiques de pêche associées à ces stocks. Par ailleurs, comme ces zones d'exploitation correspondent à des pêcheries à stocks mixtes (impliquant des poissons issus de plusieurs rivières natales), il est essentiel de déterminer la rivière d'origine de chaque poisson. L'ensemble de ces informations permettra de combler les lacunes dans les connaissances sur les pêcheries d'omble chevalier de Pond Inlet et fournira aux gestionnaires des données supplémentaires pour orienter les décisions futures. Objectifs Les objectifs pour la saison 2026 sont les suivants : 1) Rencontrer l'organisation de chasseurs et de trappeurs Mittimatalik (Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization) au sujet des recherches en cours sur l'évaluation des stocks dans la région de Pond Inlet. 2) Recueillir des données biologiques, environnementales et relatives à la prise par unité d'effort (PUE) pour deux stocks d'omble chevalier, à Tuniit et à Satuut. 3) Poursuivre la collecte de connaissances locales sur les pêcheries d'omble chevalier dans la région de Pond Inlet (les entretiens et consultations issus de recherches antérieures continueront également d'être utilisés). Méthodes Une réunion sera organisée avec l'organisation de chasseurs et de trappeurs Mittimatalik ainsi qu'avec l'équipe de terrain au début du projet. Les sujets abordés incluront les sites d'étude proposés pour cette saison, les intérêts pour de futures études et les attentes de toutes les parties prenantes. Les travaux d'évaluation des stocks se dérouleront à Tuniit et à Satuut. Une équipe de terrain, composée de deux représentants du MPO et de deux résidents de Pond Inlet, installera des filets maillants de différentes tailles de mailles (allant de 1,5 à 5,5 pouces) dans des zones de pêche à

[illegible]

Personnel on site: 4
Days on site: 5
Total Person days: 20
Operations Phase: from 2026-07-26 to 2026-09-26

Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
Satuut Fishing Location	Scientific/International Polar Year Research	Inuit Owned Surface Lands	Common community fishing location	No known archeological or paleontological value	~75km from pond Inlet~15 km from Sirmilik Park
Tuniit Fishing Location	Scientific/International Polar Year Research	Inuit Owned Surface Lands	Common community fishing location	No known archeological or paleontological value	~70km from pond Inlet~15 km from Sirmilik Park

Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Pond Inlet	Jonathan Pitseolak	Mittimatilik HTO	2026-05-05

Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

North Baffin

Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Hunters and Trappers Associations/Organizations	Mittimatilik HTO has given me support for this project. Letter attached	Active	2026-05-05	
Nunavut Planning Commission	Referred to NIRB	Active	2026-06-07	
Qikiqtani Inuit Association	Permit granted	Active	2026-07-16	
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	waiting on NIRB approval	Applied, Decision Pending	2026-07-02	

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Water	Open boats with outboard motors	

Project accomodation types

Temporary Camp

Material Use

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

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
Gill Net	2	2m x50m	Multi mesh gill nets will be used to collect a representative sample of the population of Arctic Char
Camping Equipment	1	30m X 30m	Temporary camp set up for a few days while collecting samples.up to four personal tents, one kitchen tent and one sampling tent.

Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Gasoline	fuel	2	200	400	Liters	Gasoline will be used in the boats rented in the community to move us and our sampling equipment to the study location
n/a	hazardous	0	0	0	Liters	none expected

Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
5	Dipping a pot	Stream nearest our camp site

Waste

Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Camp	Other, Camp garbage	two bags	return to town	site clean up when packing up
Camp	Sewage (human waste)	Minimal	Bury on site	cover with rocks

Environmental Impacts:

There are no known environmental impacts. No mitigation needed

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Decommissioning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

1	point	Satuut Fishing Location
2	point	Tuniit Fishing Location