Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board
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Tuesday January 4th 2011

Aliza Weller
Environmental Administrator
Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik, PO Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
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Re: Comments on the Environmental Assessment of Amie Black's "Detecting Avian Cholera in the Hudson Bay Common Eider (Somateria mollissima sedentaria) in the Belcher Archipelago, Nunavut" project proposal. NIRB File Number 10YN058.

I am writing in response to a request for comment on the Environmental Assessment of the Eider Research Project on behalf of the NMRIRB.

Public Concern

1. Research projects such as the one being commented on are usually operated by researchers who have experience in the local area. So a list of past research undertaken by the Proponent, especially within Nunavut/Nunavik should be made available so that local people can judge the new proposal in light of their past experiences with such types of research and with these researchers.

Socio-Economic Impact

2. Research proposals such as this one, particularly if it is multi-year in nature; have provided educational opportunities for the researchers in traditional knowledge and for the community members in the rationales for the peculiar ways in which such projects are designed.

3. If there are local youth with interests in wildlife studies, such projects would provide valuable experiences and prompt their increased efforts to seek educational opportunities, while providing them with some personal contacts within the university research world.

4. It is also important to note that the traditional users of the land should use such opportunities to reinforce their knowledge and ownership of the land.

5. Since there are opportunities within this proposal to hire locally-trained community members as stated in the documentation, once the project is underway the efforts undertaken to hire locally and the degree of representation of community members should be verified.

6. In accordance with the hiring of local community members, it should be ascertained as to what methods will be employed for this process and what contacts are in place.

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7. The NMRIRB is glad to see a research project being proposed for a study on Eider ducks. We are also interested in seeing a future study eventually occurring in the NMR islands as over the years the islands have been known to have ducks dying of unknown causes.

8. Since the Belcher Islands are not part of the Nunavik Marine Region but given the nature of the project and the close proximity we would request that the Proponent make their

research findings available to Nunavik communities, especially those on the Hudson Bay coast, as soon as it becomes available.

9. As Makivik is represented on the Nunavut Impact Review Board as mentioned under Section 40 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. What other measures are being taken to include them in the EA process of the research project proposal?

Thank you for the opportunity for commenting on this Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

Mishal A. Naseer
Regional Planner
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