



**NIRB File No.: 10YN058**  
CWS File No.: NUN-SCI-14-01

December 2, 2014

Michael Janssen and Grant Gilchrist  
NWRC, Carleton University  
1125 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

*Sent via email: [michael.janssen@ec.gc.ca](mailto:michael.janssen@ec.gc.ca); [grant.gilchrist@ec.gc.ca](mailto:grant.gilchrist@ec.gc.ca)*

**Re: Application Acknowledgement for Carleton University's Amendment Request with the Canadian Wildlife Services for "Community-Based Monitoring of Sea Ice and Eider Duck Populations around the Belcher Islands, Nunavut"**

Dear Michael Janssen and Grant Gilchrist:

On November 27, 2014 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) for an amendment to its Permit for Scientific Take or Disturbance of Migratory Birds (No. NUN-SCI-14-01) for Carleton University's "Detecting Avian Cholera in the Hudson Bay Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima sedentaria*) in the Belcher Island Archipelago, Nunavut" project. On November 28, 2014 the NIRB received notice that a conformity determination from the Nunavut Planning Commission was not required for this file, as the proposed project is located within a region that does not currently have an approved land use plan in place (South Baffin Region).

Please be advised that the original project proposal (NIRB File No.: 10YN058) was received by the NIRB from CWS on December 6 and 14, 2010. The proposal was screened in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on January 14, 2011 the NIRB issued a 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College indicating the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Project components/activities included the following:

- Field program to collect samples of Common Eiders to test them for avian cholera;
- Program to take place for 1-2 weeks and to be completed by end of March 2011;
- Use of snowmobiles to move five people and scientific equipment from a previously established camp near Sanikiluaq to the study area;
- Use of helicopter for site to site pick-ups and drop-offs;
- Collection and preservation of blood, feather, cloacal and choanal swabs, and tissue (liver, kidney, and lungs) samples from birds harvested by local hunters;
- Opportunistic collection of any dead eiders found in the study area; and

- Shipment of samples to a laboratory at the Veterinary College in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec for cholera analysis.

### ***Previous Amendments***

On February 23, 2012 the Proponent applied for an amendment to the original CWS Permit (No. NUN-SCI-11-01) for Scientific Take or Disturbance of Migratory Birds to include the following activities and components:

- Deployment of additional remote time-lapse photography equipment at polynya and floe edge habitats to collect information;
- Deployment of oceanographic equipment such as salinity metres in winter sea ice habitats;
- Sample testing conducted at the University of Saskatchewan's, College of Veterinary Medicine lab facilities; and
- Removal of all equipment deployed prior to spring melt season.

On November 13, 2013 the Proponent applied for an amendment and extension to the CWS Permit (No. NUN-SCI-11-01) for Scientific Take or Disturbance of Migratory Birds to include the following activities and components:

- Continue multi-year research on eider populations using time lapse photography and oceanographic monitoring (salinity meters and tide current meters);
  - Time lapse photography to take place between January and June;
  - Oceanographic monitoring to take place between January and March at Agiararaluit, Lucassie Island polynya, Quipaluq polynya as well as at several floe edge habitats used by eiders on the Belcher Islands;
- No collection of Common Eiders but introduction of more passive-monitoring techniques, such as assessing foraging behavior.
- Activities to take place from January 1, 2014 to March 25, 2017.

On February 4, 2014 Carleton University proposed to amend its CWS Permit (No. NUN-SCI-14-01) for Scientific Take or Disturbance of Migratory Birds to include the following additional components and activities:

- Employ local hunters to collect up to 60 Common Eider Ducks (male and female) using a 12 gauge shotgun and bird shot;
- Samples to be frozen and shipped to the National Wildlife Research Centre in Ottawa to be analyzed for contaminant loads and parasites;
- Opportunistic collection of any dead eiders found in the study area and sent to laboratory for analyses; and
- Activities to take place from January 2014 to March 2017.

### **Current Amendment**

Carleton University is proposing to amend its CWS Permit (No. NUN-SCI-14-01) for Scientific Take or Disturbance of Migratory Birds to include trapping of up to 35 eiders to attach a small GPS tag for assessing movement in relation to ice conditions.

The NIRB has determined that the current amendment request may result in a change to the original scope of the project.

The CWS application and the original NIRB screening file, 10YN058 are available from NIRB's online public registry at the following link:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/10YN058-Carleton%20University-Amie%20Black/>.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

*“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:*

- (a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or*
- (b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”*

The NIRB is of the opinion that the request for the amendment is not likely to *significantly* change the general scope of the original project activities. Therefore the NIRB is *proposing* to re-issue the same terms and conditions as those in the attached January 14, 2011 Screening Decision, along with any new terms and conditions the NIRB considers appropriate. The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by this project and we invite interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by **December 12, 2014**.

The NIRB would like Parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the inclusion of the additionally proposed component(s) and/or activity(ies) would significantly modify the project;
- Any additional mitigation measures that are appropriate; and
- Any other matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please send your comments directly to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4619 or [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P.Ag.  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Mia Pelletier, Canadian Wildlife Service

Enclosures (3): Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)  
NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 10YN058 (January 14, 2011)