



**NIRB File No.: 14YN001**

**NPC File No.: 148392**

January 18, 2017

Jane Eert  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Institute of Ocean Sciences  
9860 West Saanich Road  
Sidney, BC V8L 4B2

Sent via email: [jane.eert@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:jane.eert@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Fisheries and Oceans Canada-Institute of Ocean Sciences’ “CROW – Canadian Ranger Ocean Watch” project proposal**

Dear Jane Eert:

On December 2, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada-Institute of Ocean Sciences’ (DFO) “CROW – Canadian Ranger Ocean Watch” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). The NPC determined that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan and that the proposal has been previously screened by the NIRB (14YN001); however, NPC noted that there has been a significant modification to the project study area boundary.

Pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and section 86 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number 14YN001, the NIRB views this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and assigned this proposal with this previous file number. A summary of the previously screened project activities can be found in **Appendix A**.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening. On December 13, 2016 the NIRB requested that DFO provide additional information in support of this proposal by December 28, 2016. On January 4, 2017 the NIRB received the requested additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

## PROJECT SCOPE

### ***Project Scope:***

The proposed “CROW – Canadian Rangers Ocean Watch” project is located in the Kitikmeot region, and is proposed to occur in the vicinity of Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, and Taloyoak. The objective of the proposed project is for the Canadian Rangers to measure key observational parameters to compile ice-covered seasonal water profiles during their regular activities for the Department of National Defense. This extension to the program is proposed to take place from February 2017 to December 2019 and intends to monitor sea and sea ice conditions in the Kitikmeot region. The scope of activities previously approved for this ongoing research program (NIRB File No. 14YN001) has been included within **Appendix A**.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the amended project includes the following additional undertakings, works or activities:

- Continue project for another two (2) years;
- Use of small nets to collect samples of plankton; and
- Use of chemicals to preserve plankton samples.

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB’s online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: CROW – Canadian Ranger Ocean Watch
- NIRB File No.: 14YN001
- Application No.: 125034

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form (formerly the NIRB Part 1 form in English)*
- *NIRB Part 1 Summary Form in English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Non technical Project Proposal summary in English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun*
- *Map in the non technical summary noting study area*
- *Spill Contingency Plan*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB’s online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by DFO’s project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **January 30, 2017**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: CROW – Canadian Ranger Ocean Watch
- NIRB File No.: 14YN001
- Application No.: 125034

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

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P.Ag.  
Manager, Project Monitoring  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Elizabeth Patreau, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Attachments: Appendix A: Previously-Screened Project Proposals

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun)  
Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun)

## APPENDIX A: PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSALS

The original project proposal NIRB (File No. 14YN001), was received by the NIRB on January 16, 2014 and was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement). On April 4, 2014 the NIRB issued a Nunavut Agreement 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Institute of Ocean Sciences' (DFO or Proponent) original "Canadian Ranger Ocean Watch" project was located in the Kitikmeot region, and is proposed to occur in the vicinity of Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, and Taloyoak. The objective of the proposed project is for the Canadian Rangers to measure key observational parameters to compile ice-covered seasonal water profiles during their regular activities for the Department of National Defense. The program is proposed to take place from February 2014 to December 2016 and intends to monitor sea and sea ice conditions in the Kitikmeot region.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Transportation to sampling locations via snowmobiles and boats;
- Measurements to be conducted by Canadian Rangers using an ice auger including:
  - snow and ice thickness;
  - snow/ice interface temperature;
  - sea water temperature, salinity, chlorophyll content, and dissolved oxygen;
- Use of an internally recording CTD (Conductivity [salinity], Temperature and Depth) instrument with dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll sensors through the ice to the sea floor via a hand cranked winch;
- Collection of small volumes of seawater for analysis; and
- Deployment of free-floating ice buoys to collect data that will be transmitted via satellite to the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney, British Columbia.