



cargo, while double-handling of cargo will be eliminated as cargo will be placed directly on the wharf using the vessel's cranes. The DSP will also have a new fuel manifold that will eliminate the need to routinely use floating fuel hoses, thus reducing the risk of fuel spills into water, and allowing for safer and more efficient fuel receipt. Construction is planned to start in summer 2018 with the arrival of the first sealift and continue through 2019 and 2020. It will take place mostly during the open water months. The DSP will start operating in 2021. Potable water, sanitary and solid waste disposal, and fuel will be provided by City services. The primary fuel required for marine and land-based equipment will be diesel. Refuelling of equipment will be done in designated fuelling areas or using portable containment. The marine fleet will refuel at sea from bunker tanks. Construction equipment is expected to include drill rigs, excavators, rock transport trucks, front end loaders, compactors, dozers and graders, cranes and forklifts and other equipment. A marine derrick, dump/material scows, small workboats and tugboats will also be needed. Approximately 30 workers will be needed for construction. Non-local workers will stay in local accommodations. Construction equipment will arrive on the sealift and workers and consumables will arrive by scheduled flights, and charter flights will be used if needed. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will provide mitigation and monitoring commitments for the construction phase of the Project. Operations Discussions are ongoing between EDT and the City Mayor and Council regarding the operation and maintenance of the DSP. This includes the potential use of the DSP ramp by commercial and recreational boaters. Any future commercial development of the DSP will be permitted separately and therefore, the Project is only concerned with existing levels of activity. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) has been gathered on the local site conditions, harvesting, travel routes and water/ice access and considered in the design and planning of the Iqaluit DSP and SCH projects through Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) meetings, elder interviews, and a Boaters' Working Group. Community Engagement Program There has been consultation with the community, including hunters, fishers, residents, City Mayor and Council, HTA, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Boater's Working Group, sealift and fuel carriers, and others since October 2015. Meetings, interviews, workshops and open houses were used to share information and receive comments, concerns and suggestions about the Project both in English and Inuktitut, as well as in written French and Inuinnaqtun. The feedback has been considered within the design of the DSP, construction planning, and the development of the management plans. Consultation will continue during the construction of the Project.

ᐃᐃᐱᐅᐅ:

Sommaire du projet Le gouvernement du Nunavut (GN), par l'entremise des Services communautaires et gouvernementaux (CGS) et au nom du ministère du Développement économique et Transports (EDT), prévoit construire un port en eau profonde (DSP) pour la ville d'Iqaluit (le Projet). Le financement du Projet est assuré par le Fonds Chantiers Canada et le GN. Le Projet II a été proposé que le DSP soit construit à l'extrémité sud du récif Polaris dans le bras de mer Koojesse, au nord-ouest de l'installation de réapprovisionnement en carburant d'Inuit Head et au sud du pont-jetée et de l'aire de stationnement existants. Il n'y a pas d'autres projets commerciaux ou résidentiels dans cette zone. Le Projet comprend un quai en eau profonde, une aire de dépôt des marchandises sur pont maritime et une rampe de débarquement pour les barges, un nouveau collecteur de carburant, une nouvelle route reliant Akilliq Road au DSP et de l'espace pour déménager les bureaux du site mobile qui sont maintenant sur la plage du pont maritime. Durant la construction, des masses rocheuses seront dynamitées afin de fournir des matériaux de remblayage pour l'aire de dépôts et de protection pour le littoral, des sédiments marins mous seront dragués et des sédiments seront immergés en mer de manière à pouvoir construire le quai sur un substratum rocheux solide. Six options ont été envisagées en ce qui a trait à l'emplacement du DSP. Le site actuel du projet est considéré comme étant le plus approprié en raison de la nature du sol, de son accès privilégié pour les navires, de ses conditions géotechniques et de sa capacité à accueillir un pont maritime et des livraisons de carburant de manière ininterrompue tout au long de la construction. Avantages pour les résidents d'Iqaluit Le DSP procurera des avantages importants à la communauté en améliorant la sécurité et l'efficacité des livraisons de carburant et destinées au pont maritime. Le DSP déménagera les activités du pont maritime à l'écart des replats de marée près de la ville et permettra de séparer les activités des navires industriels, notamment des remorqueurs et des barges, de celles impliquant des chasseurs, pêcheurs et autres usagers de bateaux de plaisance. Cela améliorera la sécurité des plaisanciers dans la baie. Le quai et la rampe nouvellement construits seront accessibles aux navires de charge de type ordinaire et aux barges allègues quel que soit le niveau de la marée. Les activités courantes à la plage du pont maritime sont limitées à quelques heures par jour lorsque la marée est haute. Le DSP fournira un accès 24 heures par jour aux transporteurs du pont maritime pour leur permettre de décharger leurs marchandises en tout temps. La superficie de la nouvelle aire de 4 hectares de dépôt destinée à la gestion des marchandises va presque doubler et les cargaisons n'auront plus à être manipulées deux fois puisqu'elles seront directement placées sur le quai à l'aide des grues des navires. Le DSP disposera aussi d'un nouveau collecteur de carburant qui éliminera le besoin de systématiquement recourir à des boyaux de carburant flottants. Ce nouvel équipement permettra d'atténuer les risques de déversement de carburant dans l'eau et assurera un réapprovisionnement plus sûr et plus efficace de ce combustible. Construction Le début des travaux de construction est prévu pour l'été 2018 avec la mise en place du premier pont maritime. Ils se poursuivront jusqu'en 2020. Ceux-ci se dérouleront principalement durant les mois où les activités maritimes battent leur plein. Le DSP sera prêt à fonctionner en 2021. L'eau potable, l'élimination des déchets solides et sanitaires de même que le carburant seront fournis par les services de la ville. Le diesel sera le principal carburant utilisé pour l'équipement maritime et terrestre. Le ravitaillement de l'équipement s'effectuera dans des zones désignées ou au moyen de conteneurs portables. La flotte maritime se ravitaillera en mer à partir de soutes à combustible. L'équipement de construction devrait comprendre des installations de forage, des excavatrices, des camions de transport de pierres, des camions à chargement frontal, des compacteurs, des boteurs et des niveleuses, des grues, des chariots élévateurs et autres. Un derrick maritime, un chaland à clapets et à matériaux, des petites chaloupes et des bateaux remorqueurs seront aussi requis. Une trentaine de travailleurs seront mis à contribution dans le cadre de ces travaux de construction. Les travailleurs provenant de l'extérieur seront hébergés dans des établissements locaux. L'équipement de construction arrivera par le pont maritime. Les travailleurs et les matières consommables seront transportés sur des vols réguliers. Des avions nolisés seront utilisés au besoin. Un plan de gestion environnemental des travaux de construction (CEMP) fournira des mesures d'atténuation et de surveillance à respecter pendant la phase de construction du Projet. Opérations Des discussions sont engagées entre le ministère du Développement économique et des Transports, la mairesse et le conseil municipal concernant le fonctionnement et l'entretien du DSP. Celles-ci portent notamment sur l'utilisation potentielle de la rampe de mise à l'eau du DSP pour la navigation commerciale et de plaisance. Toute autre exploitation commerciale future du DSP devra faire l'objet d'une autorisation distincte. Le Projet ne concerne donc que les niveaux d'activité existants. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit De l'information en concordance avec les connaissances traditionnelles des Inuits (Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, IQ) a été recueillie sur les conditions du site local, l'exploitation des ressources fauniques, les itinéraires de voyage et l'accès à l'eau et aux surfaces glacées. Des membres de l'association des chasseurs et des trappeurs (HTA), des Anciens et un groupe de travail composé de plaisanciers ont fourni ces commentaires qui ont été pris en compte lors de l'élaboration et la planification des projets du DSP d'Iqaluit et du port pour petits bateaux (SCH). Programme d'engagement communautaire Une consultation se tient depuis 2015 auprès de membres de la communauté, incluant des chasseurs, pêcheurs et résidents, la mairesse et le conseil municipal, l'association des chasseurs et des trappeurs (HTA), la Qikiqtani Inuit Association, le groupe de travail composé de plaisanciers, des transporteurs de carburant et de ponts maritimes et d'autres intervenants. Des réunions, entrevues, ateliers et portes ouvertes se sont tenus dans le but de partager de l'information ainsi que d'entendre les préoccupations, suggestions et commentaires à l'égard du Projet. Ces échanges se sont faits en anglais et en inuktitut, de même qu'en français et en Inuinnaqtun écrits. Les propos échangés ont été pris en considération lors de la conception du DSP;



















has a significant tide range that requires a very tall wharf structure which will result in very high foundation pressures. Sea level rise; note that relative sea level rise for Iqaluit is expected to be negligible over the design life of the structure. Construction The wharf structure will consist of three 27.5 m diameter circular cells with intermediate arc cells. The construction of the fixed wharf will require the installation of approximately 700 flat web sheet piles. All pile driving is expected to be undertaken using hydraulic vibratory pile driving hammers over a period of approximately 45 days. Following the installation of the piles, the cells and an area approximately 36 m wide behind the fixed wharf will be backfilled with a coarse crushed general fill. The fixed wharf and back-up area behind it will be finished with a granular road surfacing. Typical wharf hardware including mooring bollards, ladders, fenders, and a bullrail, with a removable handrail, around the wharf will be provided. No allowance for a shore based access gangway has been allowed for. In general the design vessels are equipped with gangways located at the bridge or forward which should allow the gangways to land on the wharf deck under some tidal conditions. Two fixed navigation lights will be provided on the wharf, one on either end, to aid in navigation and berthing/deberthing activities. The wharf configuration may require relocating one or more existing navigation buoys near the new wharf location. This will be agreed with the CCG and TC once the exact location of the fixed wharf is finalized during the design development phase.

**3.1.2.3 Wharf Causeway Layout** The wharf causeway will provide vehicle access to and from the wharf as well as a utility corridor for the fuel line and other utilities. The roadway allowance is currently set at 9 m wide; this should provide sufficient clearance for two-way truck traffic but would only allow for single direction traffic of forklifts carrying containers. The wharf causeway will be widened to 36 m wide at the fixed wharf to provide a turning area for vehicles to support the sealift activities. Construction The wharf causeway core material will be general fill, sourced from the rock cut operation of the laydown area and will be finished with a crushed granular road surfacing. Open edges of the wharf causeway will be fitted with appropriate vehicle barricades.

**3.1.2.4 Shore Moorings Layout** Two shore moorings will be constructed for the head and stern lines of the sealift vessels. The north shore mooring is in the laydown area south of the sealift ramp. The south shore mooring is located on the north shore of Innuvit Head. Shore moorings will be equipped with standing lines between the shore mooring and bollards on the fixed wharf such that lines do not need to be pulled all the way to shore for every vessel. The mooring on Innuvit Head will be located at a sufficient height such that when a vessel is not at the fixed wharf, the standing line will be taught and out of the water. This will permit small craft to sail through the channel separating Innuvit Head from Baffin Island during high tide. Construction The north shore mooring is expected to be a precast concrete or other gravity type structure embedded in the laydown area fill. The south shore mooring is located on Innuvit Head which is generally exposed bedrock. As such, the south shore mooring is expected to be a rock anchored structure.

**3.1.2.5 Slope and Scour Protection** Slope protection will be provided along all exposed rock fill structures. Given that the core material for the rock structures is a run of quarry material, slope protection is large diameter riprap laid directly on the core material to protect the structure from wave and ice action. A larger riprap is envisioned for the south side of the fixed wharf and wharf causeway due to the greater southerly exposure. A granular scour protection mattress will be provided at the toe of the wharf to protect against scour and provide stability for the wharf structure.

**3.1.2.6 Cut and Fill Activities** The construction of the DSP will require the blasting of approximately 300,000 m<sup>3</sup> of bedrock, over an area of approximately 3 ha. Blasting is necessary to produce the laydown area which is a large cut-fill operation as well as portions of the access road. Materials produced from those cut-fill operations will be used to produce the rock for construction of the DSP and the SCH Projects. The proposed cut area is limited to the laydown area and access road (Figure 1 1); the exact size and configuration of the area to be blasted may vary depending on final rock requirements. Planned cut and fill activities are as follows: Drilling and blasting. Sorting and stockpiling blasted rock to produce general fill and riprap. Crushing, screening and stockpiling of general fill to produce various crushed granular products. An assessment of ARD and ML was conducted on rock samples and a summary of results is presented in Section 4.1.2.

**3.1.2.7 Dredging** Preliminary geotechnical findings indicate that the DSP site will require dredging to remove a layer of weak overburden materials prior to installation of the wharf, to ensure base pressures under the wharf and overall stability of the wharf do not exceed the capacity of the seabed. Based on the geophysical surveys completed in 2010 (WorleyParsons, 2010), an initial allowance was made for a 5 m deep dredge under the fixed wharf for a total volume of approximately 64,000 m<sup>3</sup>. The dredging requirements, including lateral extent and depth, will be finalized during detailed design. As a Contractor for the works has not yet been selected, the exact dredging methodology is not finalized. Based on the volume of dredging required and the location of the work, it is expected that conventional mechanical equipment such as a clamshell bucket will be used. Material will be dredged from the seabed, raised to the surface and placed onto a split scow for DAS (see Section 3.1.2.7 for DAS logistical plans; see Section 4.1.9 for environmental summary).

**3.1.2.10 Ancillary Services Fuel Receiving Infrastructure** Fuel handling equipment will consist of a pipeline connected to the existing fuel line and running along the south side of the laydown area and wharf causeway; the fuel manifold will be located behind the fixed wharf area so as to not interfere with dry cargo operations. The pipeline and manifold will be isolated from mobile equipment traffic with appropriate fixed barriers. The Contractor will be required to drain the existing fuel line prior to undertaking blasting works for the laydown area due to the proximity of the fuel line. Electrical and Lighting Power will be provided for the following: General area lighting for the fixed wharf, laydown area, sealift ramp and the access road. Navigation lighting on the fixed wharf. Instrumentation and controls for fuel handling, if required. General power outlets. Office buildings. Depending on available funding, consideration will be given to providing for the following future power demands. Laydown area reefer plugs. Seawater pump. A seawater pump is currently not a part of the planned scope of work and will be considered under separate regulatory applications if it occurs. Dock Offices The existing sealift and security offices located at the Sealift Beach are proposed to be relocated to the laydown area for operations. Private operators (e.g. NEAS, NSSI) will be responsible for relocating their own offices, although a space within the laydown area will be designated for their use. A photo of the offices at the existing Sealift Beach is shown in Photo 3 4.

**3.1.2.11 Materials and Quantities** The construction of the DSP is expected to require the following main construction materials: Rock, produced from the laydown area and access road cuts: 400,000 m<sup>3</sup>. Steel sheet pile, 1,600 tonnes. Marine fenders, foam filled. Precast concrete mooring foundations. Standing mooring lines. Wharf hardware, including mooring bollards, ladders, fenders, and a bullrail with a removable handrail. Fuel line components including steel pipe, prefabricated steel pipe rack and manifold supports, precast concrete footings, valves, and fittings. Electrical components including cables, junction boxes and enclosures, wiring devices, lights and light poles.

#### **Δεϑε D: CηDΓ ρεεεεΔεΓ ΔDεερσ<sup>56</sup>**

The DSP will be operated during the open-water season, generally mid-July to mid-October, for the annual sealift of dry cargo and fuel. Typically, Iqaluit receives four vessels calls for fuel by one carrier (Woodward Oil) and 10 to 15 vessel calls for dry cargo by two carriers (NEAS and NSSI). The existing facilities at the Sealift Beach are not expected to be used for sealift activities following construction of the DSP. The existing fuel manifold on Innuvit Head is expected to remain as a back-up to provide redundancy in the event of issues with the manifold at the DSP. Exact operations of the DSP will be defined by EDT as the owner. The following sections outline expected facility operations based on the current design and layout of the facility. An OEMP will be prepared and further information is provided in Section 7.4.

**3.2.1 Vessels** During operations, vessels calling at the DSP are expected to approach from the south and will berth portside under their own power alongside the fixed wharf. On departure, vessels will de-berth under their own power, turn seaward of the fixed wharf, and depart to the south.

**3.2.2 Dry Cargo** For vessels using the fixed wharf, dry cargo will be offloaded from the sealift vessels, using ships cranes, onto the wharf deck. Mobile equipment will be used to shuttle the cargo from the fixed wharf to the laydown area where it will be stored and prepared for distribution to end users in Iqaluit. Similarly, retrograde cargo will be delivered to the laydown area from the community and stored until ready to be shipped. Mobile equipment will move the cargo to the fixed wharf where it will be loaded onto the vessel with the ship's crane. Although Iqaluit does not currently have a mobile harbour crane, the design of the fixed wharf will include provisions for a mobile harbour crane to load/unload vessels should there be a need for this type of equipment in the future. The sealift ramp constructed near the fixed wharf will provide additional sealift capabilities when multiple vessels are in Iqaluit attempting to offload or load cargo. Due to the southern location of Iqaluit and its longer open-water season than the more



permafrost) doesn't indicate any ice rich permafrost in the DSP Study Area (Government of Nunavut, 2013b). The shoreline and the rock cut areas are bedrock that are not affected by freezing temperatures. The geotechnical investigations undertaken in September and October, 2016 focused on soil conditions in the intertidal areas by hand digging shallow test pits on the tidal flats. Boreholes drilled for the SCH Project gave no indication of permafrost in boreholes drilled up to 10 m deep. Additional drilling and sampling was conducted recently in 2017 to evaluate soil and rock conditions. The results will be reported in the Geotechnical Site Investigation Report (Advisian, in Progress).

4.1.5 Hydrology The DSP Study Area is located within the Frobisher Bay Watershed. This watershed is located in the southeastern corner of Baffin Island and drains into Frobisher Bay. It lies between East Bluff (the southeastern extreme of Baffin Island on the Meta Incognita Peninsula), at the southern entrance to Frobisher Bay and an unnamed point on Hall Peninsula (at the northern entrance to Frobisher Bay) (NWB, 2014). There are no major freshwater waterbodies identified within or in the vicinity of the DSP Study Area. There are a number of small ponds occurring northwest of the DSP Study Area (Figure 4 1). Surface water drains into the marine environment within the DSP.

4.1.6 Air Quality To determine baseline air quality for the area, previous air quality monitoring data collected in the City was reviewed. Air quality was monitored between June 14 and September 22, 2014 to investigate potential environmental and public health risks associated with a landfill fire in Iqaluit (Health Canada, 2014). Particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), PM<sub>2.5</sub>-associated metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins/furans, and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), were measured (Health Canada, 2014). Although health standards don't apply to ambient air quality, these measurements can be compared to Nunavut air quality standards (Government of Nunavut, 2011). The concentrations measured by Health Canada were over different averaging period than those defined by Nunavut Air Quality Standards (Government of Nunavut, 2011). Therefore concentrations were compared to all averaging periods. Concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and CO were below any of the Nunavut air quality standards (Table 4 1) SO<sub>2</sub> was at levels below the detection limit for the methods used. PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations did peak for hourly concentrations to 85 µg/m<sup>3</sup> but this was below levels observed for natural forest fires (e.g. 170 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) (Health Canada, 2014).

4.1.7 Noise Noise data specific to the DSP Study Area was not available. However, noise levels are presumed to be low as there are no major industrial operations near the DSP Study Area. Noise measurements at remote locations in Northern Canada carried out within baseline studies for various projects including Snap Lake (De Beers, 2002) and Diavik (Diavik, 1998) were reviewed. At Snap Lake, hourly equivalent sound level (Leq) was 29.9 dBA and noise level reported for the Diavik Project ranged from 25 to 40 dBA. As part of the baseline studies for the Baffinland Project Environmental Assessment, mean 24-hour Leq ranged from 24 to 30 dBA (RWDI Air Inc., 2008). These results are typical of remote areas with natural background noise such as wind. Near the DSP Study Area, noise would also be generated from the existing fuel resupply facility at Innuit Head and automobiles and ATVs/snowmobiles using the causeway. Therefore the background noise level in Iqaluit are expected to be at the upper end of the range (25 to 40 dBA) recorded for these other projects but is not expected to be higher for extended periods of time. The City also recently enacted Noise by-law #599 (City of Iqaluit, 2015b) that restricts construction activities overnight (11:00 pm to 7:00 am). The by-law does not include any restriction on noise levels.

4.1.8 Climate Conditions Iqaluit is located within the Northern Arctic Ecozone and is one of the coldest and driest landscapes in Canada (Ecological Stratification Working Group, (ESWG, 1995)). Climate is very cold and dry. Snow falls in all months of the year and persists on the ground for at least 10 months (September to June). Mean daily temperature is -9.3o C (Standard Deviation: ±3.7oC) over the year, but ranges from -26.9oC in January to 8.2o C in July (Government of Canada, 2016). Mean daily minimum and maximum temperatures in January are -30.9oC and -22.8oC respectively (Government of Canada, 2016). In July, mean daily minimum is 4.1oC and mean daily maximum is 12.3oC (Government of Canada, 2016). The freezing index for Iqaluit is approximately 6,500 degree days and the thawing index is approximately 1,000 degree days (Boyd, 1976). Average relative humidity is 76.7% and is slightly higher during the spring, summer, and fall (May to September) compared to the winter (December to February). Mean annual precipitation is 403.7 mm. Mean monthly precipitation ranges from 18.7 mm in February to 69.5 mm in August (Government of Canada, 2016). Precipitation mostly falls as snow (229.3 cm) with only 197.2 mm falling as rain (Government of Canada, 2016). On average, snow depth over the course of the year is 14 cm but ranges from 31 cm in April to being clear of snow during the summer (July to September) (Government of Canada, 2016). The nearest wind station to the DSP is the ECCC station at YFB (Climate ID 2402590) approximately 3.0 km northwest of the DSP site. During the open-water season, the most frequent winds are from the east-southeast through to south-southeast sectors (30.7% of the time), followed by winds from the northwest and north-northwest 25.0% of the time. The more severe storms (≥60 kph) come from both the northwest and southeast. Winds are calm (<10 kph) 40.9% of the time, during the open water season. The maximum recorded wind speed during the mid-July to mid-October season was 104.0 kph from the northwest. On average, the Project site has approximately 15 hours of light (including civil twilight) (National Research Council of Canada, 2017). The Project site experiences 24 hours of light from the end of May to the end of July (National Research Council of Canada, 2017). The least amount of sunlight occurs near the December solstice with approximately seven hours of light (National Research Council of Canada, 2017).

4.1.9 Marine Sediment and Water Quality Sediments nearshore are comprised predominantly of sands, giving way to silts and clays with increase in water depth and distance from shore. Sediments in the intertidal areas of the DSP Study Area consist of greater than 90% sand and gravel, decreasing to between 50% and 60% sand, with minimal gravel, in the subtidal areas. Sediments within the DAS Study Area consisted of predominantly silts and clays (~70%). Metal concentrations measured in sediments at the DAS Study Area and DSP Study Area are below Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) guidelines and DAS Regulations criteria (collectively referred to as Regulatory Guidelines). Elevated concentrations of arsenic, in comparison to CCME guidelines (CCME, 1999), are evident at the DAS Study Area. Due to the lack of anthropogenic influence at the DAS Study Area, these concentrations are believed to be natural, in line with other studies completed in the region (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, 2010 cited in Nunavut General Monitoring Plan (NGMP (2012)); Stewart and Lockhart, 2005; Wolfden Resources, 2006). PAH concentrations were below Regulatory Guidelines at both the DSP and DAS Study Areas. Water quality in Koojesse Inlet and Frobisher Bay appears to be typical of the region. The physicochemical properties of the water column are characterized as neutral pH, brackish, hard and clear (Advisian, 2017b; NGMP, 2012). In summer, nutrient concentrations tend to be higher in deeper water compared to the surface (Advisian, 2017b; Knight Piésold, 2010 cited in NGMP (2012)). Dissolved metal concentrations are generally comparable to total concentrations, indicating metals are not typically bound to solids. There are no apparent trends in metal concentration with depth or location. All metals were below respective long term CCME water quality guidelines for the protection of marine species (CCME, 1999). Detailed information regarding the sediment and water quality field surveys, including methods and laboratory analysis, is provided in the Marine Baseline Report (Advisian, 2017b).

4.1.10 Coastal Morphology and Bathymetry Exposed bedrock is present landward of the HHWL along the coastline of the DSP Study Area. The upland area has a maximum elevation of approximately 35 m and slopes downward at an average approximate slope of 25% to around elevation 4 m. The intertidal zone below elevation 4 m is gradually sloping at around 3% to 5% to create a tidal flat which extends 130 m to 150 m offshore of the high water mark HHWL. The tidal flat in the location of the proposed DSP site is generally exposed bedrock with areas of soft sediments with cobble/boulders. Offshore of elevation 0 m the seabed begins to slope more steeply at around 20 to 25%. Water sufficient for the design vessels is approximately 250 m offshore of the HHWL. Photos of the DSP site were presented in Photo 3 2 and Photo 3 3.

4.1.11 Tides Tides in Frobisher Bay are semidiurnal, with two high and two low tides in a lunar day (24.84 hrs) (Hsiao, 1992). The spring and neap tidal ranges are 11.3 m and 7.8 m respectively (CHS, 2016). Typical currents in Koojesse Inlet are 1 m/s at the ocean surface, and decrease with depth (Hatcher et al., 2014). Drogued drifters were deployed in Koojesse Inlet in September 2016 to support hydrodynamic and sediment dispersion modelling (Advisian, 2017d). The results of this survey were consistent with the results of (Hatcher et al., 2014) for surface current speeds.

## Īā. 4ĒNDċ 'šbΔċ'ĊānDσ'šL: ĐLċ'šC'šσ'šL

4.2.1 Vegetation (Terrestrial) Most of Nunavut, including the DSP Study Area is located within the Tundra Biome and the Northern Arctic Ecozone (ESWG, 1995). The Northern Arctic Ecozone is among the largest Arctic ecosystems in the world and is divided into a number of ecoregions. The Project occurs within the Ecoregion 28 – Meta Incognita Peninsula. The dominant vegetation communities are herbaceous and lichen communities.

Lichen communities are typical in rocky areas and occur within the DSP Study Area. Vegetative cover is greater on wetter and sheltered sites within the DSP Study Area and taller shrub species occur in warmer microsites with wet sites dominated by sedges and willow species. Approximately 200 species of flowering plants occur within Nunavut, north of the tree line (Aarluk, 2012). Vegetation field surveys were conducted from September 19 to 21, 2016. An ecological land classification (ELC) survey was completed to identify the vegetation communities in the terrestrial portion of the DSP Study Area. Field studies also included a species inventory and non-vascular plant assessment. During the ELC survey six vegetation communities were identified as follows: Upland Bedrock Outcrop – Shallow Soils (UB-SS) Upland Shoreline Cliff (USC) Upland Shoreline (US) Upland Dwarf Shrub (UDS) Wetland Dwarf Shrub (WDS) Disturbed (DIS) Vegetation communities in the DSP Study Area are characterized as a mosaic dominated by bedrock with interspersed vegetated areas (Photo 3 2). The bedrock areas are vegetated almost exclusively by non-vascular lichen species. Vascular plant species occur in sheltered breaks in the bedrock and flatter areas where soils have accumulated allowing for plant establishment. Soils are typically thin sands and gravels, with isolated areas with thicker deposits. During the field assessment a total of 108 vegetation species were observed, including eight shrub, four graminoid, 20 forb and 76 non-vascular species. The most common vascular species identified were black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum* L. ssp. *Nigrum*), willow species, dwarf fireweed (*Chamerion latifolium* L) and moss campion (*Silene acaulis* [L.] Jacq.). Nine plants were identified as having traditional uses within the Iqaluit area by Inuit Field Technicians, however the DSP Study Area is not used for traditional purposes such as berry picking, or harvesting plant materials for medicinal purposes.

#### 4.2.2 Wildlife (including Habitat and Migratory Patterns)

The terrestrial portion of the DSP Study Area is natural and has some habitat value. In particular, the rocky outcrop and cliff areas provide cover and security habitat and the intertidal provides foraging opportunities. However, the majority of the terrain is comprised of bedrock; thus vegetation cover is sparse and low, reducing its attractiveness as forage or cover for species that depend on vegetation. The habitat assessment and field reconnaissance survey from September 19 to 21, 2016 resulted in no confirmed observations of wildlife in the DSP Study Area. However, several wildlife features were observed suggesting past use by terrestrial wildlife. A small burrow (<12 cm), was located at the base of a small cliff in the USC community. Given the size, it was suspected to belong to an ermine (*Mustela erminea*). A short distance away was a foot-hold trap anchored into rock. Although not actively set, Inuit Field Technicians explained that it was placed for fox. In the west end of the DSP Study Area was the UDS vegetation community that contained relatively deep, friable soil. Here a large den complex with multiple entrances and associated diggings was located. Given the size and characteristics, the den was suspected of belonging to a fox (Arctic fox: *Alopex lagopus* or red fox: *Vulpes vulpes*). Aside from the dens, numerous cast avian pellets were found in the DSP Study Area and animal remains were observed at the base of the USC community. Although remains were not identified to species level, it is likely they were lemmings (e.g. brown lemming; *Lemmus trimucronatus* or Perry land collared lemming; *Dicrostonyx groenlandicus*). Given the habitat available (primarily bedrock), Perry land collared lemmings are more likely to inhabit the DSP Study Area, as they are typically more abundant on dry rocky tundra versus brown lemmings, that tend to be more abundant on damp tundra dominated by grasses, sedges and mosses (Sale, 2006). Arctic hare (*Lepus arctos*) also has the potential to occur in the DSP Study Area as they commonly inhabit elevated, dry, and gravel slopes that support sparse but diverse vegetation communities (Parker, 1977). However, Arctic hare are typically found in willow-dominated communities where forage opportunities are present (Klein and Bay, 1994). The DSP Study Area is within the range of Arctic wolves (*Canis lupus arctos*). They have large home ranges, are wide-ranging, and follow migratory caribou (McLoughlin et al., 2004; Sale, 2006); consequently they are unlikely to occur in the DSP Study Area.

#### 4.2.3 Migratory and Marine Birds (including Habitat and Migratory Patterns)

##### 4.2.3.1 DSP Study Area Bird presence was sparse during the vegetation mapping and habitat assessment. The assessment occurred in late-September at a time when most birds have initiated migration (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2016b) so this was expected. Common ravens (*Corvus corax*) and unidentified gulls were observed during vegetation surveys. The USC community contained numerous instances of whitewash, abundant pellets and animal remains, suggesting the possibility of a falcon eyrie (Booms et al., 2008; White et al., 2002) or common raven roost (Boarman and Heinrich, 1999). IQ revealed that historically this area is used as common raven roost. Ravens and gulls are known to congregate in the vicinity of the landfill on Akiliq Road, located approximately 500 m north of the DSP Study Area. The area around Iqaluit has been identified as a Wildlife Area of Special interest for gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus*) and peregrine falcons (*F. peregrinus*). However, the presence of a raven colony in this area reduces the nesting potential for other bird species. Common ravens are known to gather in 'crowds' when feeding and to show interspecific aggression to other predatory birds (Boarman and Heinrich, 1999). Consequently, the cliff is likely to be unattractive for falcons. In addition to the raven roost, IQ interviews also revealed that snow buntings are known to inhabit the DSP Study Area in March and April. Habitat in the DSP Study Area is natural and holds some value for birds. The USC community likely holds the highest value in terms of habitat, evidenced by numerous pellets, whitewash, and animal remains. The remaining terrain is predominately comprised of bedrock, reducing its attractiveness as nesting and cover habitat for species that depend on vegetation. Fifty-five species have historical occurrences or ranges that overlap the DSP Study Area. Of those species, 14 have some potential to nest based on the available habitat. Another 10 species of birds could potentially nest, but the likelihood is considered low. Given the sparse vegetation and bedrock, species likely to nest within the DSP Study Area are those that nest on the ground with very little vegetation cover or on the cliff face. Consequently, the species likely to nest here include: common raven, horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), northern wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthes*) and snow bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). According to ECCC, the nesting season for Iqaluit (N10: Arctic Plains and Mountains, Bird Conservation Region 3) is between mid-May and mid-August (ECCC, 2016b). Thus, migratory birds will have migrated from the DSP Study Area outside this period. It should be noted that these are estimated dates and that the exact timing can vary according to the species, climate, elevation, habitat type, micro-sites or timing of spring (ECCC, 2016b). The timing could vary by up to ten days. In addition, there is a nest building phase which generally occurs two weeks prior (ECCC, 2016b). Although few birds were observed within the terrestrial portion of the DSP Study Area, several large congregations (each >500 individuals) of marine birds were observed approximately 1 km from shore in Koojesse Inlet. These birds were congregated around some rocky islands at low tide. Inuit field technicians informed the ecologist they were foraging on sculpin (Family: Cottoidea). It is clear this nearshore environment near the DSP Study area offers valuable foraging habitat. However, nesting habitat for these marine birds is largely unsuitable. Many marine birds nest in large colonies on remote, precipitous cliffs and remote islands that are inaccessible to predators (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2016a, 2016b). Although the majority of marine birds are unlikely to be breeding in the DSP Study Area, 21 species could potentially use inter-tidal and nearshore habitats for foraging (Advisian, 2017b). Given most marine birds are also migratory, it is expected many will only use this area for short periods of time to forage following breeding and on-route during migration. King eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), common eider (*S. mollissima*), long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), and black guillemot (*Cepphus grille*) have potential to forage in nearshore environments over-winter. However, these species are dependent on ice-free areas to access food; thus occur at the floe-edge (Gilchrist and Robertson, 2000). Given that freeze-up near Iqaluit is generally complete by November and lasts until break-up initiates in June (Advisian, 2017b), the over-wintering species that forage in nearshore environments are unlikely to occur at this time in Koojesse Inlet.4.2.3.2 DAS Study Area No marine bird surveys were conducted in the DAS Study Area. The DAS site is approximately 1.5 km from Cairn Island, the nearest possible nesting site (see Figure 3 1). The recommended setback distance from coastlines with known concentrations of nesting seabirds and waterfowl/seaducks is 1 km and 500 m respectively (Environment Canada, 2014). The importance of the DAS site as foraging habitat for marine birds is low. Depth during towed surveys was approximately 100 m. This is deeper than the maximum dive depth of some of the deepest diving marine birds (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2016a, e.g. long-tailed duck). Similarly, abundance, biomass, and species richness for prey species were lower than other surveyed sites. During the towed survey, visibility at the DAS site was poor due to a dense layer of flocculent algae, likely reducing the value of this area for pursuit divers. 4.2.4 Marine Fish Habitat (including Marine Vegetation)4.2.4.1 DSP Study Area Intertidal surveys were conducted at low tide, and the subtidal seabed survey was conducted with a towed video camera. The details of survey methodology are provided in Advisian (2017b). The intertidal survey consisted of five perpendicular to shore transects conducted in the fall of 2015. The subtidal survey was conducted in the fall of 2015 and 2016 and consisted of eight transects which were parallel and perpendicular to shore. The substrates observed within the DSP Study Area were largely hard substrates (bedrock, boulder, cobble) in the intertidal, transitioning to soft substrates with scattered boulders in the subtidal zone. The area of bedrock was delineated during the Geotechnical Program that occurred in October 2015. A DSP habitat map (see Figure 4 2) has been prepared categorizing the area based on substrate and marine vegetation. Abundance and distribution of seaweed in the high

to mid intertidal areas was low, which is characteristic of Arctic environments (Stephenson, 1954), due to the presence of ice, which continually scours the substrate during freeze-up, iced, and break-up periods. Typically, the ice scour also influences the shallow subtidal waters, where the daily tidal fluctuations will similarly scour the substrate. Two tide pools were observed within the DSP Study Area where biomass (not necessarily diversity) was higher than in the surrounding intertidal areas. Seaweed species observed included filamentous brown algae and rockweed (*Fucus distichus*). In the mid to low intertidal areas, substrate transitions to soft substrate (sand, mud) with scattered boulders and gravel. The presence of boulders decreases with water depth. In the lower intertidal, there is a noticeable increase in the density of rockweed (50 to 80%), with low densities of sugar wrack kelp (*Saccharina latissima*) and sieve kelp (*Agarum clathratum*, 5 to 10%) also observed. As observed from the towed video surveys, the subtidal substrate transitions to soft sediments (sand) with scattered and clustered boulders. Within the subtidal, these hard substrates were typically associated with moderate to abundant seaweed coverage (30 to 70%), which were primarily sugar wrack kelp, sieve kelp and ribbon kelp (*Alaria marginata*). The extent to which seaweeds provide three dimensional habitat for marine organisms has not been well studied in the Arctic, however, it is an established concept in temperate and tropical environments (Brown et al., 2011; Cristie et al., 2003; Warfe et al., 2008; Wikstrom and Kautsky, 2007). Włodarska-Kowalczyk et al. (2009) hypothesize that holdfasts of larger kelps provide refuge for organisms, such as amphipods, from ice scour events. It is likely that established seaweed beds are important for a variety of life stages of marine species occurring in the coastal waters of Koojesse Inlet, specifically as outlined in Section 4.2.5 for Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) and Arctic cod (*Boreogadus saida*), and for their prey. Furthermore, they are significant primary producers, and thus play an important role in a short open-water season (Glud et al., 2002). Seaweeds are not harvested by residents of Iqaluit, however Black et al. (2008) state that Arctic suction kelp is used as a general health remedy in a study that targeted medicinal plants with IQ.

4.2.4.2 DAS Study Area A seabed survey, which consisted of a single transect approximately 340 m in length through the DAS Study Area, was undertaken in September 2016 (Advisian, 2017b). Substrate characteristics within the DAS Study Area were soft sediments, which primarily consisted of silt. There was no seaweed observed or any other features which would provide structurally complex fish habitats.

4.2.5 Marine Fish (Including Migration/Spawning)

4.2.5.1 DSP Study Area The coastal marine environment fronting the DSP Study Area is being used by migratory species such as Arctic char and Arctic cod. Arctic char are an important subsistence and commercial fishery species in Nunavut, who have both a lacustrine and amphidromous life history. Arctic char live primarily in fresh water, and migrate to the ocean for a short summer migration (~20 to 45 days) (Bégout Anras et al., 1999; Klemetsen et al., 2003). Myers (1949) referred to this migration as amphidromous, as anadromous by definition refers to species who spend the majority of their lives in marine waters. For familiarity of terms, the term anadromous is used, while recognizing this important distinction. The primary purpose of the summer seaward migration is to increase energy reserves and during migration they may double their body mass (Jørgensen et al., 1997). It is generally accepted that Arctic char migrating through Koojesse Inlet are from the Sylvania Grinnell River (SGR) and potentially from the Armshow River, where a research collaboration is underway between DFO and the HTA. The current program initiated in the open-water season of 2015 and is set conclude in 2019 (DFO, 2017). Spares et al. (2012) conducted an acoustic telemetry study in Frobisher Bay on Arctic char migrating from the SGR and Armshow River (24 km southwest of Iqaluit), which showed that Arctic char are migrating through the DSP Study Area. The eastward migration of the SGR fish stock is supported by the mark-recapture efforts of Vangerwen-Toyne et al. (2013). Spares et al. (2012) found that Arctic char spent the majority of time in less than 3 m of water and hypothesized this to be a strategy to optimize prey and temperature regimes. However, frequent diving behaviour into deeper waters (~10 m) also occurred, which was assumed to be motivated by food availability. Prey of Arctic char included fish (capelin, northern sand lance), crustaceans (mysids, amphipods, and decapods), polychaetes, and insects (Guiguer et al., 2002; Johnson, 1989; Moore and Moore, 1974; Rikardsen and Elliot, 2000). Spares et al. (2012) found that the most common prey for this species in Koojesse Inlet were amphipods. Amphipods were observed in the intertidal areas of the DSP Study Area during the 2015 Marine field survey, with higher densities noted in the tide pools. Arctic char spawn in freshwater in September and October over a gravel substrate, where eggs incubate under the ice for approximately six months, and spend their early life history in freshwater (DFO, 2014). The SGR is approximately 3 km west of Iqaluit. Based on research and IQ, the SGR Arctic char migration (Gallagher and Dick, 2010) and associated fishing (IQ workshop) begins in late June. Residents of the City fish for Arctic char along most available coastline areas, which include areas within the DSP Study Area (Figure 4 3). Seine nets are the preferred fishing gear along the coastline of the DSP Study Area (IQ Workshop: March 2017), however, along the east shore of Peterhead Inlet some angling may occur (Gallagher and Dick, 2010). It is thought that Arctic char can be caught in numerous locations along the coast, and the DSP Study Area is not being targeted as a high density area for Arctic char (IQ Workshop: March 2017). Spares et al. (2012) concluded that SGR Arctic char do not migrate far from their natal river. From other studies in Nunavut, Arctic char prefer migrating along coastlines as opposed to across water bodies (Moore et al., 2016; Moore, 1975), and are typically found within 30 km from natal rivers (Bégout Anras et al., 1999). The SGR fishery is co-managed by the HTA, the NWMB, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and DFO (Gallagher and Dick, 2010) and it is for recreational and subsistence purposes only. There are no exploratory commercial fisheries occurring at this time. The commercial fishery for Arctic char from the SGR has been closed since the late 1960s, with the current fishery being exclusive to subsistence and recreational fishing (DFO, 2013). Arctic char fisheries are managed on the assumption that each river system supports a discrete fish stock (Kristofferson et al., 1984). Research is underway to study the SGR stock through the DFO-HTA SGR collaboration.

Arctic cod (*Boreogadus saida*) are a pelagic marine species that are believed to be the single most important species in the trophic link between plankton, marine birds and marine mammals in the Arctic ecosystem (Welch et al., 1992). This species is exclusively marine, and the extent of their migratory behaviours are not fully understood, with the exception of a pre-spawning late summer migration to coastal waters (FAO, 2017). They are known to be concentrated at floe edges prior to break-up (Bradstreet, 1982; Gradinger and Bluhm, 2004). The floe edge in Frobisher Bay is located at the Frobisher Bay polynya (> 180 km southeast of the DSP Study Area). Arctic cod have the potential to be using the coastal waters of the DSP Study Area during the open-water season; however, they are likely to be more transient in nature than Arctic char. A large school of Arctic cod was observed immediately northeast of the DSP Study Area during the 2015 Marine field survey (Advisian, 2017b) (see Figure 4 2). Arctic cod are harvested for subsistence purposes, although not to the same extent as Arctic char, and the degree of their importance is more variable between communities. This species is considered to be inferior to Arctic char as indicated by the following quote, "The cod's poor diet and high water content leads to poorer tasting meat and shorter preservation (Hurubise, 2016; p43, pers comm July 13 2015). While the primary effort for subsistence fishing targets Arctic char, Arctic cod are also harvested by Iqaluit residents. Fishing for Arctic cod begins following break-up. IQ has not yet identified any fishing outside of the summer months. For the most part, Arctic cod are harvested similarly to Arctic cod using gillnets. However, Arctic cod are targeted in specific locations, such as the stretch of water southeast of the DSP Study Area between Inuit Head and Long Island. Benthic species, such as the truncate soft shell clam (*Mya truncata*), have the potential to be present in the subtidal zone of the DSP Study Area. However, the substrate within the intertidal of the DSP Study Area would not support this species (hard substrate), and there were no observations of bivalves during the subtidal seabed survey. There is no commercial fishery for this species in Koojesse Inlet. The soft shell clam is likely harvested as a subsistence fishery in intertidal areas but not in the subtidal.

4.2.5.2 DAS Study Area During the towed camera survey at the DAS site macro fauna observed included brittle stars and occasionally feather stars. Generally, the most prevalent species phylum observed from benthic infauna surveys (grab samples) were polychaetes followed by molluscs.

4.2.6 Marine Mammals (Including Habitat and Migratory Patterns) Frobisher Bay is within the range of 12 species of marine mammals, as listed in Table 4 2. The temporal presence in the Arctic is also presented in Table 4 2. An Arctic Resident is a species that resides in the Arctic year-round, however may migrate or disperse within Arctic waters; a seasonal visitor predictably resides within the Arctic region for a portion of the year, most typically during the open-water season; while an occasional visitor has a northern limit of the species distribution overlapping with the Arctic, but usually occupies other ecological habitats. These species are rarely encountered in the Arctic. The scientific literature, including the results of previous IQ studies provides information on marine mammals over the larger area of Frobisher Bay. For the purposes of this Project, the limits of Frobisher Bay were considered to be at the floe edge of the Frobisher Bay polynya near the Countess of Warwick Island. This boundary is in excess of 180 km southeast of Iqaluit. The frequency has been estimated and presented in Table 4 2. Further details can be found in the Marine Baseline Report (Advisian, 2017b). There is limited information to specifically target the presence of these marine mammal species in Koojesse Inlet, and therefore in the DSP Study Area. However, personal communications with several HTA



quickly (Statistics Canada, 2017). According to 2011 census data, the total aboriginal population was 4,110 individuals, including 3,895 Inuit or 58.1% of the City's population (Statistics Canada, 2012). The Inuit population of Iqaluit is characterized by a younger population than the average across Canada, but is comparable to remote communities across North Baffin. According to the 2011 National Housing Survey, of the total population 15 years and over, 17.0% were high school graduates (or equivalents); 6.9% held apprenticeship or trades certificates; and 20.4% had graduated from a University with a bachelor level degree or higher (Statistics Canada, 2013). According to 2011 Census data, the unemployment rate in Iqaluit was 9.2% and participation was 78.7% (Statistics Canada, 2012). These rates were not disaggregated further by cultural groups. However, according to Statistics Canada's 2015 Annual Labour Force Update, Inuit were less likely than non-Inuit to be in the labour force, with an employment rate of 44.9% for Inuit compared to 86.0% for non-Inuit (Statistics Canada, 2016). Iqaluit enjoys a fairly diverse economy. As the government centre and territorial capital of Nunavut, government is the dominant employer and public administration jobs occupy 43.5% of the workforce in Iqaluit (Statistics Canada, 2013). The traditional subsistence economy remains important in Iqaluit, albeit less so when compared to the smaller, more northern communities on Baffin Island (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, 2012). Many households still engage in subsistence activities at least part time (City of Iqaluit, 2015a). A more thorough discussion of population, education, and employment is provided in Advisian (2017g).

#### 4.3.3 Land and Resource Use

##### 4.3.3.1 Harvesting Land use information in and around the DSP Study Area obtained during the HTA design workshops and discussions with local hunters has been provided in Figure 4 3. Traditional subsistence activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering remain important in Iqaluit. However, information obtained from the HTA indicated that subsistence harvesting occurring within the City is limited and mainly involves fishing along the shoreline (Figure 4 3). Arctic char is an important species for subsistence and commercial fishing in Iqaluit. The HTA stated that typically hunters do not harvest bivalves in Koojesse Inlet because they are concerned about contamination from the wastewater treatment plant discharge and it would be a rare occurrence to see anyone harvesting clams in the area anymore (HTA Member pers. comm. March 2017). The availability of traditionally harvested foods (country food) is crucial in that it lowers the demand for imported food which is very costly and typically less nutritious. Additionally, the harvesting, preparation, and distribution of meat and skins provide important opportunities to maintain and enhance Inuit culture. Food security is a challenge for many in Iqaluit and to address this, the City provides funding for food security programs through the GN's Community Cluster Funding Program. There is also a community freezer purchased in November 2016 by the HTA that provides hunters free storage for their harvests.

##### 4.3.3.2 Access and Navigation

The proposed DSP site is not located in an area used by small craft boaters to access water. Small craft access to Koojesse Inlet is predominately from the municipal breakwater and existing causeway (Photo 4 1). According to the HTA and local outfitters, approximately 60 to 70% of users have boat trailers. Hunters without boat trailers depend on the high tides to access the water, mostly at the municipal breakwater. For boat owners with trailers, the existing causeway is used as an alternative to the municipal breakwater for launching and take-out and provides some parking space for trucks with boat trailers (SSG pers. comm. November 2016). The road to the existing causeway, however, is unpaved and is in disrepair in places which can affect access by vehicles with trailers (SSG pers. comm. November 2016; SSG pers. comm. September 2016). Accessing the ice in Iqaluit is, at times, considered challenging by local hunters who have to adapt their routes and access due to changing ice conditions. Winter and spring access routes at the municipal breakwater and the existing causeway are provided in Figure 4 3. The existing causeway is a busy access point with an estimated 200 snowmobiles accessing from there some days in a typical season (HTA Member pers. comm. November 2016). During early summer it is very busy at the existing causeway because of the overlap of spring to summer access (qamutik, snowmobiles, and boats) (HTA Member pers. comm. November 2016). Improvements to the existing causeway are covered in the SCH project NIRB Screening application (NIRB, 2017a; NIRB File No. 17XN022).

##### 4.3.3.3 Tourism

The DSP site is not currently used for tourism related activities. There are several outfitting companies operating out of the City that offer boating, snowmobiling, kite skiing, hunting, dog sledding and river raft trips at the Katannilik Park (situated between Iqaluit and Kimmirut). In the summertime there are many scenic places to go hiking, fishing, camping and berry picking, such as Sylvia Grinnell Park, the Road to Nowhere, and the seaside trail to Apex. The Qaummaarviit Territorial Historic Park offers a unique opportunity to see archaeological artifacts and learn about Thule culture. Iqaluit's Spring Festival, Toonik Tyme, is held every April and showcases traditional Inuit games and activities such as iglu building and seal skinning combined with musical performances, scavenger hunts, ice golf, and snowmobile races. According to the Community Economic Development Plan (City of Iqaluit, 2015a), almost 10,000 visitors pass through the doors of the Iqaluit Unikkaarvik Visitors Centre on a yearly basis. Despite increased traffic of tourist cruise ships in the region around Baffin Island, only five cruise ship calls were expected over the cruising season in 2016 bringing an expected total of 671 visitors to the City (Government of Nunavut, 2016). Cruise ship passengers are usually tendered to shore at the municipal breakwater by zodiac boats (which provides easy walking access to the City) or at the existing causeway.

##### 4.3.4 Local and Regional Traffic Patterns

Iqaluit is a transportation and resource distribution hub that provides access to smaller communities through the connection of the international airport and the sealift delivery services (Chris West pers. comm. November 2016). YFB is owned by the GN and is currently undergoing major improvements including the construction of a new terminal building. First Air operates daily flights from Ottawa and Montreal to Iqaluit. Canadian North operates a daily flight from Ottawa to Iqaluit. Both airlines also offer service from Yellowknife to Iqaluit, via Rankin Inlet. Sealift is a vital link for all communities in Nunavut allowing residents to obtain their annual re-supply of goods and materials needed throughout the year. Sealift ships travel from several southern Canadian Ports with a variety of goods ranging from housewares, non-perishable items, construction materials, vehicles, and heavy equipment. Current providers of sealift carriage and associated services include: NSSI, NEAS and Northern Transportation Company Limited (NTCL). In 2016 there were 13 ship calls by two dry cargo carriers. These ranged from two to 10 days in duration, for a total of 72 ship days (Jean-Pierre Lehnert pers. comm. November 2016). There is currently no accessible wharf for sealift ships to berth in Iqaluit. Ships are forced to anchor at an exposed location offshore in the upper reaches of Frobisher Bay and unload their cargo onto barges moved by tug boats that can only deliver to the landing area during high tide. The tug boats and barges are then met by forklift trucks in the shallower water and landing area. The ships generally provide their own barges and tugs to support lightering. However, some shipping lines leave one or two barges in Iqaluit for the duration of the shipping season. Cargo barges are landed at the landing beach adjacent to the airport runway where shipping companies offload cargo at the high watermark. A local contractor is responsible for storing the cargo within the beach laydown area and distributing the cargo within the town site. At the start of each sealift season, the tidal portion of the beach must be cleared of boulders and cobbles deposited by the shifting ice floes during the breakup period. Some years, the beach is reportedly so severely choked with ice that barge lightering is not possible and vessels are turned back causing delays of essential cargo (HTA Member pers. comm. November 2016). In 2009, a structural steel beam was reported to have accidentally been dropped into the sea during a lightering operation. This caused a delay in construction of a building in Iqaluit until the following year, when the component could be replaced. In the fall of 2015, construction of the \$40 million Aquatic Centre in Iqaluit was delayed by three weeks after heavy ice in Frobisher Bay slowed down sealift delivery resulting in crews working overtime past the construction season deadline (Northern News Services, 2016). Fuel is supplied by coastal tanker under contract to Woodward Oil, which transfers fuel by floating hoses deployed by the ship's crew after the ship has been secured and once weather conditions are favourable. The City Public Works department is responsible for road maintenance including street signs, culverts, and walkways. The majority of roads in Iqaluit are paved with secondary roads constructed of gravel. Roads accommodate two lanes of traffic and typically do not have sidewalks or pathways. Iqaluit currently has no public transportation, although there is taxi service widely available throughout the City.

##### 4.3.5 Community Health and Wellness

Health facilities and services in Iqaluit include a general hospital, public health facility, family practice clinic and non-contracted rehabilitative treatment, provided through the Timimut Ikajuksivik Centre. The Qikiqtani General Hospital is currently the only acute care facility in Nunavut and provides a range of in-and out-patient hospital services including 24-hour emergency services, in-patient care (including obstetrics, pediatrics and palliative care), surgical services, laboratory services, diagnostic imaging and respiratory therapy. Although community health and wellness is supported by public health programs and medical facilities, it is also intrinsically related to a sense of familial and cultural cohesion. Traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering plus the associated activities of drying, fermenting and preserving food and preparing skins strongly contributes to the community's sense of shared cultural values and beliefs. Many residents in Iqaluit still practice and depend on harvesting activities to provide for their families. A more thorough discussion of community health and wellness in Iqaluit is provided in Advisian (2017g).

##### 4.3.6 Community Infrastructure and Services

According to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Annual Report for 2015-2016,



health services and other community services. The workforce of 30 for the Project will be shared with the SCH Project. The YFB Project only requires an additional 20 workers. As indicated in Section 5.3.6, accommodation for non-local workers can be provided by hotels, bed and breakfasts and short term rentals and it is not expected to impede on accommodation the community depends on. In addition, the Project will have a dedicated fuel truck for meeting Project fuel requirements which will be shared with the SCH Project. It is unknown where the YFP Project will receive its fuel supply. However continued consultation with the City, YFP Project team and PPD will be undertaken to ensure sufficient supply of fuel is available. Interference with marine access and navigation. DSP construction is outside of the primary navigation routes into the Sealift Beach and municipal wharf and will not interfere with access to the existing causeway. The marine construction, including transportation of dredgeate to the DAS site, does not overlap with construction for the YFB and SCH projects, both of which will be predominantly constructed from land. Once operational, there will be greater segregation of sealift vessels from the recreational boaters that will be using the SCH and causeway. Access and navigation will be improved by the DSP and SCH projects and therefore there is a positive impact. Discussions are underway with TC and all projects will go through the NPA process. With mitigation measures implemented, there will be no cumulative effects from the three projects.

#### 6.4 Assessment of Transboundary Effects

Potential project impacts identified in Section 5 are localized to within less than 10 km and are avoided or mitigated with the measures described. The closest territorial, provincial or international boundary to the Study Areas is the boundary with Quebec 270 km to the south west. The only activities that could be transboundary are transportation, including shipping. Transportation for additional equipment required for construction will be by existing scheduled sealift deliveries and scheduled flights will be used to move personnel to and from Iqaluit, as required. The operation of the DSP also does not include any additional shipping. Therefore transboundary impacts are not expected from the Project.



Project Map

