



NIRB File No.: 17YN061

Associated NIRB File No.: 13YN022

NPC File No.: 148583

July 18, 2017

Bill Williams
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
9860 West Saanich Road
Sidney, BC V8L 4B2

Sent via email: bill.williams@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Re: Notice of Screening for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Kitikmeot Region Marine Science Study" Project Proposal

Dear Bill Williams:

On June 12, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) "Kitikmeot Region Marine Science Study" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 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 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **17YN061**.

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. Pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the NuPPAA, on June 13, 2017 the NIRB requested that the additional information from DFO be provided to the Board. The NIRB followed up with the Proponent on June 23, 2017 noting that the NIRB required the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. The Proponent provided the requested additional information on July 14, 2017 and the NIRB commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

The proposed “Kitikmeot Region Marine Science Study” project is located within the Kitikmeot region between Dolphin and Union Strait in the west and Larsen Sound in the north and east. The Proponent intends to conduct baseline oceanographic data and evaluate marine ecosystem structure in the Kitikmeot region. The program is proposed to take place seasonally from August to September 2017 until 2021.

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

- Use of research vessel (RV) *Martin Bergmann* (sixty two feet (ft) in length) to conduct research activities with a capacity of up to thirteen (13) personnel;
- Use of an aluminum skiff (sixteen (16) ft in length) to transport personnel to and from land, and for oceanographic sampling in shallow water from various river mouths;
- Occasional use of float plane to transport crew and scientist to the RV *Martin Bergmann* for ship change;
- Use of local facilities in Cambridge Bay and the Canadian High Arctic Research Station;
- Collect oceanographic samples and data measurements as follows:
 - Vertical rosette water sampling for ocean geochemistry, primary production, dissolved nutrients, salinity, dissolved inorganic carbon, dissolved organic matter and stable isotopes;
 - Collect temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll fluorescence, turbidity and underwater light with the use of a CTD;
 - Use of a tethered submersible camera for underwater video;
 - Collect information on water velocity, dissolved nutrients, and backscatter from zooplankton and fish using an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler;
 - Use of hydrophones to listen to marine mammals and ship noise;
 - Collect benthic organisms and seafloor mud with small bottom grab and box core samplers;
 - Collect zooplankton samples with fine mesh net;
 - Measure surface currents with small GPS surface drifters;
 - Deployment/recovery of temporary subsurface moorings at six (6) locations with electronic sensors and acoustics mounted to collect oceanographic samples and data measurements. Moorings to be anchored to the seafloor and reaching to 15 metres (m) below the surface;
- Use of fuel and chemicals for the research activities; and
- Disposal of combustible, non-combustible and sewage at the appropriate facilities in Cambridge Bay.

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. The NIRB notes it has screened the ship based activities under NIRB File No. 13YN022 and the activities were allowed to proceed without a review being required under Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) with recommended terms and

conditions. The NIRB further notes that the above based research activities are linked to the undertaking of the ship activities.

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 by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Kitikmeot Region Marine Science Study
- NIRB File No.: 17YN061
- Application No.: 125154

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut*
- *Maps noting project area*

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 project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 28, 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 proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal 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.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Kitikmeot Region Marine Science Study
- NIRB File No.: 17YN061
- Application No.: 125154

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-5627 or at tmaksagak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Talia Maksagak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service
Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

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

Appendix A

Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

General

1. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (Application to Determine Conformity, June 12, 2017), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, July 11, 2017).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

Water Use

5. The Proponent shall ensure that water extraction from any fish-bearing waterbody is done with appropriate care and caution. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

Waste Disposal

6. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

Wildlife - General

7. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
8. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
9. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
10. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

11. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance (e.g., a 100 metres buffer around the nests). If active nests of any birds

are discovered (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.

12. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.
13. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by three (3) kilometres.
14. The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

Aircraft Flight Restrictions

15. The Proponent shall not alter flight paths to approach wildlife, and avoid flying directly over animals.
16. The Proponent shall restrict aircraft/helicopter activity related to the project to a minimum flight altitude of 610 metres above ground level unless except during landing, take-off or if there is a specific requirement for low-level flying, which does not disturb wildlife or migratory birds.
17. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft/helicopter do not, unless for emergency, touch-down in areas where wildlife are present.
19. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

Restoration of Disturbed Areas

20. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.

Ship-based Research Activities

21. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including waste water) or sediment into any marine waters, and shall manage wastes on board the vessel prior to final disposal at approved port facilities.
22. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures. All spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Other

23. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
 24. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
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25. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

