



**NIRB File No.: 18YN002**  
NPC File No.: 148679

February 20, 2018

Christine Michel  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
501 University Crescent  
Winnipeg MB R3T2N6 Canada

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

**Re: Notice of Screening for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "MAP (Multidisciplinary Arctic Program) – Last Ice" project proposal**

Dear Christine Michel:

On January 23, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) "MAP (Multidisciplinary Arctic Program) – Last Ice" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin 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*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On January 23, 2018 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to subsection 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that the information provided be sufficient to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and that sufficient information has been provided to commence screening. Following a preliminary completeness check of the proposal as submitted, the NIRB determined that the proposal did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening and on January 29, 2018 requested that the Proponent provide the Board with the additional information in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal.

On February 12, 2018 the NIRB received the required additional information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

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

The proposed “MAP (Multidisciplinary Arctic Program)” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 6 kilometres (km) north from Alert, 805 kilometres (km) north from Grise Fiord and approximately 1,105 kilometres (km) northeast of Resolute Bay. The Proponent intends to study ice conditions over multiple years to better understand the sea ice ecosystem in the northern Canadian Archipelago, and how it will respond to climate change. The program is proposed to take place from April to June 2018 with subsequent studies to be conducted in 2019 and 2020.

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

- Use of snowmobiles to access a station on sea ice off Alert;
- Use of temporary shelter (tent) to process sea ice and water samples;
- Collection of sea ice cores for analysis;
- Collection of water samples;
- Use of oceanographic instruments to measure temperature and salinity of the water column;
- Installation of instrumentation to measure meteorological conditions, ocean currents and zooplankton with removal at end of the spring field season with deployment again in the fall season to measure the ice conditions throughout the winter;
- Possible collection of benthic organisms;
- Use of fuel for heat, snowmobiles and generator;
- Use of Twin Otter to carry out marine mammal surveys;
- Removal of all wastes to be disposed of at Alert station;
- Use of accommodations and facilities for up to six (6) personnel in Alert; and
- Removal of all equipment installed including temporary shelter at the end of spring.

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: MAP (Multidisciplinary Arctic Program) - Last Ice
- NIRB File No.: 18YN002
- Application No.: 125260

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral and Conformity Determination*
- *NPC Application and Conformity Questionnaire*
- *NIRB’s Online Application Form*
- *Non-technical Project Proposal summary in English and Inuktitut*

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 **March 13, 2018**.

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; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

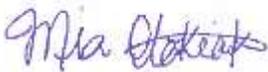
#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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:

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- NIRB File No.: 18YN002
- Application No.: 125260

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or at [motokiak@nirb.ca](mailto:motokiak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak  
Junior Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English and Inuktitut)