

**Diving & Snorkeling Details Non-Technical Project Summary
for National Wildlife Area and Migratory Bird Sanctuary**



Project Title: Adventure Canada - Expeditions 2018

Applicant name and contact information

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Summary of Activities and Rationale – Diving & Snorkeling

For diving Adventure Canada wishes to carry out Scuba diving and snorkelling activities during the 2018 season in conjunction with the Sedna project. All divers will have advanced certification, and appropriate certifications for cold water diving such as dry suit certifications as per Adventure Canada's criteria. Safety of divers and sites are an utmost importance. The decision to dive will be based on the Dive Master, Expedition Leader and Captain each day depending on favourable wind, weather and ice conditions. They will assess to determine best dive location in area for safety. All dive/snorkel's will be logged and recorded by Dive Master. With a maxim of 16 divers in total.

Additional equipment: Oxygen Tank for divers, 16 tanks with 10.94 liters each

For all dive sites the following protocol will be followed;

- Before the dive all divers/snorkelers will have a full safety and site briefing with Dive Master.
- Another safety/dive briefing will also occur on Zodiac just before entering the water.
- Prior to divers entering the water, an electronic or manual sounding will occur to determine depths.
- Oxygen and First Aid kit will be readily available.
- A recall device will be in each Zodiac at all times, along with a throw line.
- Diver Delay Surface Marker Buoy's will be used per buddy team.
- There will be a bear monitor (with firearm) at each dive site to keep watch for potential polar bear threat.
- There will be no more than 8 divers/snorkelers in the water per Dive Master.
- Two Dive Masters will be running the operation to ensure safe and professional diving/snorkeling.
- All divers will dive in buddies.

- Warm water in coolers will be kept in Zodiac

Possible CWS Dive & Snorkel Spots

Prince Leopold Island, 74°04'30N 89°58W

Proposed dates: Tuesday, August 7, 2018,

Bylot Island - Cape Hay 73°46'2.14"N 80°17'33.68"W

Proposed dates: Thursday August 9, 2018

Diving/snorkeling at the site will be based on the decision of the Expedition Leader, Captain and Dive Master. The site will be based on good visibility and safety within the location. All rules and regulations as per CWS guidelines and recommendations will be followed. The integrity and safety of the CWS site will be of utmost importance. The depth of the dive will not exceed 60 feet at this site to ensure safety. There will be no more than 8 divers/snorkelers in the water per Dive Master. With a maximum of 16 divers. Each diver will have a single tank, with dry suite and will be in the water no-more that 45 minutes. Dive flags will be used at site of dive to ensure safety and the dive site will not be close to any other boat traffic area with passengers visiting the site. ROV may be used for filming purposes.

Potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures

There is the potential of disturbance or stress on the wildlife. We have strict criteria and mitigation in place to ensure all divers have experience to minimize the potential harm to the underwater world. This would include items such as proper awareness of buoyance. In addition, all diving will be from a Zodiac and there will be no shoreline disturbance.

Measures to avoid dangerous wildlife encounters

For diving, there will be a bear monitor (with firearm) at each dive site to keep watch for potential polar bear threat. There will be no more than 8 divers/snorkelers in the water per Dive Master. A recall device will be in each Zodiac at all times, along with a throw line.