



**NIRB File No.: 18TN035**

**NPC File No.: 148834**

June 15, 2018

Jorn Henriksen  
Head of Polar Operations and Environment at Hurtigruten AS  
Postboks 6144  
Tromsø N-9291 Norway

Sent via email: [jorn.henriksen@hurtigruten.com](mailto:jorn.henriksen@hurtigruten.com)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Hurtigruten AS's "MS FRAM The Northwest Passage - In the Wake of Great Explorers" Project Proposal**

Dear Jorn Henriksen:

On June 4, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Hurtigruten AS's "MS FRAM The Northwest Passage - In the Wake of Great Explorers" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan.

Please note that the referral from the NPC was triggered by cumulative effects concerns pursuant to subsection 80(1) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*) and are related to:

- a) Nearby projects that have been carried out, are being carried out, or have been proposed, including projects associated with marine based tourism, scientific research, and minerals and mining freight shipping.
- b) Lancaster Sound and other areas surrounding the project itinerary have been identified as having value and priority for local communities for the following reasons:
  - i. Narwhal calving, whale, fish and seal habitats, bird nesting and char spawning; caribou sea ice crossing.
  - ii. Traditional harvesting of whales, seals, fish, caribou and birds.
  - iii. Access by boats to summer camps and travel to other communities.
  - iv. Historic sites, including sod houses.
  - v. General concerns about the negative impact of cruise ships and mineral shipping on marine mammals.

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 *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **18TN035** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On June 4, 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. On June 11, 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 "MS FRAM The Northwest Passage - In the Wake of Great Explorers" project is a cruise ship which proposes two voyages within the Qikiqtani and Kitikmeot regions with visits to wildlife and historic areas as well as visits to the communities of Pond Inlet, Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay. The Proponent intends to conduct vessel-based tourism activities that would provide passengers opportunities to engage in sightseeing, zodiac cruising, kayak excursions, wildlife watching, shore landings for guided interpretive walks, and organized community visits. The program is proposed to take place from September 2 to 18, 2018.

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

- Use of cruise vessel, the MS *FRAM*, for transportation and accommodation of up to 240 passengers/tourists and 80 crew members (per cruise);
- Use of a fleet of 7 zodiacs (small boats) fitted with outboard engines to facilitate shore landings and sightseeing excursions. All visits to shore to be brief day trips, on foot with no camping, structures built, or motorized transport;
- Use of 10 kayaks for guest and instructors;
- Tourism expedition visits to include:
  - Eclipse Sound (Milne Inlet), Sam Ford Fjord, Crocker Bay, Conningham Bay, James Ross Strait for glacier and wildlife viewing;
  - Dundas Harbour, Radstock Bay, Beechey Island, Fort Ross to visit historic sites;
  - Pre-organized visits to the communities of Pond Inlet, Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay; and
  - Scenic cruising, shore landings and shore-based interpretive activities along the route;
- Storage and use of diesel for vessel operations and for zodiac operations (per cruise);
- Use of onboard reverse osmosis to supply domestic water needs;
- Generation of combustible wastes, and non-combustible wastes with disposal at a certified reception port; and
- Generation of sewage and grey water with treatment on board, disposal as per Canadian legislation.

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

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: MS FRAM The Northwest Passage - In the Wake of Great Explorers
- NIRB File No.: 18TN035
- Application No.: 125338

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, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and French*
- *Project Description/Environmental Impact Statement*
- *Maps noting travel routes*
- *Schedule of stops*

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 Hurtigruten AS project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 6, 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 including whether any cumulative ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts could result from the impacts of the proposed project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out inside the designated area, or wholly or partly outside the designated area.

## 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: MS FRAM The Northwest Passage - In the Wake of Great Explorers
- NIRB File No.: 18TN035
- Application No.: 125338

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4609 or at [johokannoak@nirb.ca](mailto:johokannoak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Jaida Ohokannoak  
Technical Advisor II  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:                    Distribution List  
                      Brian Aglukark, Nunavut Planning Commission  
                      Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
                      Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
                      Stephen William-Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
                      Salamonie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
                      Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
                      Alexander Stubbing, Government of Nunavut–Culture and Heritage  
                      Amy Robinson, Government of Nunavut- Department of Environment  
                      Jody Kusugak, Government of Nunavut–Department of Economic Development and  
                      Transportation  
                      Sylvie LeBlanc, Government of Nunavut–Culture and Heritage  
                      Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
                      Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services  
                      Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada

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