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Canada

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January 16, 2019

Your file *Votre référence*
125425 / 18UN050

Our file *Notre référence*
18-HCAA-01701

Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street, P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Dear Reviewer:

Subject: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for GN's "UnderSea Fibre Optic Cable Installation" Project Proposal

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Fisheries Protection Program (DFO-FPP) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments on the Government of Nunavut's (GN) (the Proponent) application for the "UnderSea Fibre Optic Cable Installation" Project (the Project).

As directed by the NIRB in their email dated December 20, 2018, DFO-FPP is providing the following comments with respect to the Project's screening. DFO-FPP understands that the NIRB would like interested parties to provide comments regarding:

- 1) Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;

DFO-FPP is not aware of any significant public concern at this stage of review.

- 2) Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;

DFO-FPP has reviewed the Proponent's application pursuant to its mandate to maintain the on-going productivity of commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries. DFO-FPP is not aware of any significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects at this stage of review.

- 3) Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;

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DFO-FPP has reviewed the Proponent's application pursuant to its mandate to determine whether it is likely to result in serious harm to fish which is prohibited under subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* unless authorized.

Based on the information provided, the Program has insufficient information to determine if your proposal could result in serious harm to fish.

In order for us to complete the review of your proposal, we ask that the Government of Nunavut complete a request for review form (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/index-eng.html). The completed form can be submitted by email to FisheriesProtection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

- 4) 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

The proposed project is planned for areas that are considered ecologically and biologically sensitive areas and that may have aquatic species at risk. As discussed above, in order for us to complete the review of this proposal, we ask that the Government of Nunavut complete a request for review form (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/index-eng.html).

- 5) Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

It is your Duty to Notify DFO-FPP if you have caused, or are about to cause, serious harm to fish that are part of or support a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery. Such notifications should be directed to <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/violation-infraction/index-eng.html>.

If you have any questions please contact Sara Eddy at our Burlington office at 905-336-4535 or by email at Sara.Eddy@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Sara Eddy
Team Leader Triage and Planning

COPY: Lisa Wren – Fisheries and Oceans Canada