



# NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 18YN029

Project Name: The “URI Northwest Passage Project 2019” project  
Proponent Name: University of Rhode Island (URI)  
Project Type: Research Region: Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Regions  
Public Registry: [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) Application No.: 125457  
Comment Deadline: **May 3, 2019**

## PROJECT SCOPE:

URI is currently proposing the “URI Northwest Passage Project 2019” project which would be located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot regions and encompasses multiple research sites from Pond Inlet to Resolute Bay via Bellot Strait, including Lancaster Sound, Wellington Channel, Austin Channel, Viscount Melville Sound, Prince Regent Inlet and Peel Sound. The Proponent intends to amend the scope of previously approved activities to reflect the new routing of the research expedition and to include additional research methods. The program is proposed to take place from July to August, 2019. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Undertake marine-based research activities along the Northwest Passage near the communities of Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay
- Use of a remote operated vehicle (ROV), capable of vessel or ice-based deployment, with an operating range of a maximum 100 metres (m) depth and tether length of 300 m;
- Operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV/drone), capable of vessel or ice-based deployment, for aerial surveys of coastlines and ice floes;
- Use of a hull-mounted split-beam echosounder to examine mid-water fish and zooplankton;

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: 18YN029 to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

**You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:**

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca).** Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Erin Reimer, Technical Advisor at (867) 857-4566 or by email at [ereimer@nirb.ca](mailto:ereimer@nirb.ca).