

COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB SCREENINGS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

Project Proposal Title:	Impacts of Melting Tidewater Glaciers on Marine Biogeochemical Cycles		
Proponent:	University of Alberta		
Location:	Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region		
Comments Due By:	May 24, 2019	NIRB #:	19YN020

Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> no concerns
<input type="checkbox"/> water quality
<input type="checkbox"/> terrain
<input type="checkbox"/> air quality
<input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area | <input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land
<input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities
<input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation
<input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area
<input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area
<input type="checkbox"/> human health issues
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

_____ |
|---|---|

Please describe the concerns indicated above:

Disturbance of marine mammals

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?

Section 7 of the Marine Mammal Regulations (Fisheries Act) prohibits the disturbance of marine mammals. Generally, disturbance is interpreted as disruption to an animal's normal life processes, resulting from intentional human activities (e.g., to pursue, accompany, overtake, encircle, approach repeatedly, hunt, disperse, drive or herd individuals or groups of marine mammals). This applies equally to divers, kayaks, motor boats and aircraft. Disturbance response thresholds vary among individuals, species and locations.

Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 500 m over marine mammals when surveys are not taking place

DFO recommends that watercraft should survey the area for Marine Mammals to avoid disturbing them. If marine mammals are encountered, and remain in the area, effort should be made to avoid disturbing them by rerouting, slowly navigating around their location at a reduced speed and maintaining their distance. The watercraft should not accelerate within 800 m of whales and 250 m for other marine mammals. The marine mammals should not be approached, in general, within 100 m for common species and 400 m for Species at Risk. Please see the

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distances set out in Section 5 of the Marine Mammal Regulations for additional setback based on species and location (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-93-56/page-11.html#docCont>).

Do you support the project proposal? Yes No Any additional comments?

It is your Duty to Notify DFO 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/contact-eng.html>.

Additional information on marine mammals is available on our website: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/mammals-mammiferes/watching-observation/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.

Name of person commenting: Sara Eddy **of** Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Position: Team Leader, Triage and **Organization:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Planning

Signature:  **Date:** May 29, 2019