



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 19YN024

Project Name: The “Eyes Above and Ears Below: Combining Technologies to Understand Killer Whale Vocal Behaviour” project

Proponent Name: Ocean Wise Conservation Association, (Ocean Wise)

Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region

Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125467

Comment Deadline: **July 19, 2019**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Eyes Above and Ears Below: Combining Technologies to Understand Killer Whale Vocal Behaviour” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, within Eclipse Sound and surrounding inlets, within the vicinity of Sirmilik National Park, and within the vicinity of and up to approximately 100 kilometres (km) from Pond Inlet. The Proponent intends to conduct a visual and passive acoustic study of killer whales, to better define their population characteristics and distribution near Pond Inlet and surrounding areas. The program is proposed to take place in August, 2019. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Establishment of two (2) temporary camp locations within Sirmilik National Park;
- Transport of up to three (3) personnel by boat from Pond Inlet to access temporary camp locations;
- Operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV/drone) for aerial surveys and filming of killer whales; and
- Training of Youth, Elders and hunters in the research activities.

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **19YN024** 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. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at 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 I, at 1-867-857-4566 or ereimer@nirb.ca.