

### 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:

<b>Project Proposal Title:</b> <u>Coastal Environmental Baseline Program: Baseline Mercury Levels in Frobisher Bay Fish and Invertebrates</u>	
<b>Proponent:</b> <u>University of Waterloo</u>	
<b>Location:</b> <u>Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region</u>	
<b>Comments Due By:</b> <u>August 19, 2019</u>	<b>NIRB #:</b> <u>19YN036</u>
<b>Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> no concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land
<input type="checkbox"/> water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities
<input type="checkbox"/> terrain	<input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation
<input type="checkbox"/> air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area
<input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> human health issues
<input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	_____
<b>Please describe the concerns indicated above:</b>	
Disturbance of marine mammals	
Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?	
<p>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.</p> <p>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 distances set out in Section 5 of the Marine Mammal Regulations for additional setback based on species and location (<a href="https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-93-56/page-11.html#docCont">https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-93-56/page-11.html#docCont</a>).</p> <p>The Marine Mammal Regulations apply to all boaters including commercial and recreational boaters. However, a vessel “in transit” would not be considered to disturb marine mammals for</p>	

8. Comment Form Distribution

the purposes of the regulations. The Marine Mammal Regulations do not apply provided the cruise ship does not divert its course for the purposes of marine mammal watching.

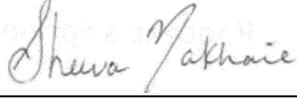
**Do you support the project proposal? Yes  No  Any additional comments?**

It is your Duty to Notify DFO-FFHPP 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-especies/mammals-mammiferes/watching-observation/index-eng.html>.

**Name of person commenting:** Sheeva Nakhaie **of** Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

**Position:** Biologist **Organization:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**Signature:**  **Date:** 9 Aug 2019