



NOTICE OF SCREENING

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: **19YN040**

Project Name: The “RV David Thompson Eastern Arctic Operations 2019” Project
Proponent Name: Parks Canada
Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot Regions
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125481
Comment Deadline: **September 13, 2019**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “RV David Thompson Eastern Arctic Operations 2019” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) and Kitikmeot regions, with stops in Pond Inlet and Pangnirtung. The Proponent intends to conduct non-intrusive scientific and archaeological marine survey operations along a selected route starting at Bellot Strait and transiting through Prince Regent Inlet and Lancaster Sound terminating at Pond Inlet with additional studies being conducted in Cumberland Sound. The program is proposed to take place from September 2019 to October 2022. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Usage of research vessel, the RV David Thompson and diving platform, for research, transportation, accommodations and as a marine research platform for 10 personnel;
- Storage and use of fuel (propane, diesel, gasoline) for vessel operation. Ship to ship refueling from Canadian Coast Guard ships;
- Use of an unmanned autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) at select locations to collect information on ecological areas of interest;
- Use of vessel towed side scan sonar at selective locations to collect information on ecological areas of interest;

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **19YN040** 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 Kelli Gillard, Manager, Project Monitoring or Francis Emingak, Junior Technical Advisor toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 via email at kgillard@nirb.ca or femingak@nirb.ca.