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Canada

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March 17, 2020

Your file *Votre référence*
125498 / 19DN049

Our file *Notre référence*
20-HCAA-00241

Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street, P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Subject: Military Exercises, Resolute and Hudson Bay, Resolute Bay and Rankin Inlet NU (NIRB) (20-HCAA-00241) – Implementation of Measures to Avoid and Mitigate the Potential for Prohibited Effects to Fish and Fish Habitat

Dear Reviewer:

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (the Program) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO-FFHPP) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of National Defence's (DND) (the Proponent) application for "OP NANOOK-NUNALIVUT 2020" (the Project).

As directed by the NIRB in their letter dated February 26, 2028, DFO-FFHPP is providing the following comments with respect to the Project's screening. DFO-FFHPP understands that the NIRB would like interested parties to provide comments regarding:

- 1) Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;

DFO-FFHPP is not aware of any significant public concern at this stage of review.

- 2) Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;

DFO-FFHPP has reviewed the Proponent's application pursuant to its mandate to sustainably manage Canada's fisheries. DFO-FFHPP has no concerns with the Project as proposed.

- 3) Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;

DFO-FFHPP has reviewed the Proponent's application pursuant to its mandate to determine whether it is likely to result in:

- the death of fish by means other than fishing and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat which are prohibited under subsections 34.4(1) and 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- effects to listed aquatic species at risk, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals in a manner which is prohibited under sections 32, 33 and subsection 58(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*.

The aforementioned impacts are prohibited unless authorized under their respective legislation and regulations. Provided that the Project is implemented in the manner, and during the timeframe, described, the Project will not result in the death of fish, the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish and/or fish habitat, or prohibited effects on listed aquatic species at risk.

- 4) Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures);

The Proponent has outlined appropriate mitigation measures.

- 5) Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

It remains the responsibility of the proponent to remain in compliance with the *Fisheries Act*, avoid prohibited effects on listed aquatic species at risk, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals, and prevent the introduction of non-indigenous species. It is also the proponent's *Duty to Notify* DFO if they have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Such notifications should be directed to FisheriesProtection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or 1-855-852-8320.

If you have any questions with the content of this letter, please contact Lisa Wren at our Burlington office at 905-973-8392 or lisa.wren@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Wren
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Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

COPY: Deborah Silver – Fisheries and Oceans Canada