Protected when completed.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE – NORTHERN REGION

APPLICATION FOR A MIGRATORY BIRD SCIENTIFIC PERMIT

Personal information collected as part of the permitting process is protected under the Privacy Act.

IMPORTANT: Incomplete, illegible, or unsigned application forms will be returned and will result in a delay in the review of a permit application. If a section is not applicable, please write or select N/A. Attach additional pages if necessary.

Your project proposal may require additional review and/or screening by territorial/federal/Indigenous review boards/groups before Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) can issue a scientific permit. In some cases, additional review processes and/or environmental assessments may take up to several months to complete. Please contact your regional CWS office for more information.

Permit Application Deadlines:

Nunavut:

The deadline to apply for a scientific permit for a research project that **will be conducted within a NWA or MBS** and that will **begin between June 1 and October 31 is February 1**. For all other times of the year, or for locations not within a NWA or MBS, a permit application must be submitted a minimum of 4 months in advance of the proposed project start date.

Northwest Territories and Yukon:

No annual deadline; however, review processes external to the CWS process can take several months to complete. It is advisable to submit your application a minimum of 4 months in advance of the proposed project start date.

Once a complete application, including external approvals, has been received by CWS, the applicant will be notified of the decision to issue, or not issue, the permit within 40 days. If the application includes species that are federally listed as a threatened or endangered species under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act, a decision will be made within 90 days of receiving a completed application.

PART 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Section 1.1: Type of request

1.1.1 Type of request

☒ New project

☐ Continuing project for which a permit has expired

Expired Scientific Permit number:

☐ Amendment to an existing permit

Existing Scientific Permit number(s):

☐ Extension (contact CWS office prior to filling out application)

Existing Scientific Permit number(s):

1.1.2 Territory	**1.1.3 Period of Permit Requested**
☐ Northwest Territories	☐ 1 year
☒ Nunavut	☐ 2 year
☐ Yukon	☒ 3 year
	☐ N/A (amendment)

1.2: Applicant contact information

Applicant surname:	Applicant given name:	
Gilchrist	Grant	
Position/title:		
Research Scientist		
Name of the organization that the applicant is from:		
Environment and Climate Change Canada		
Mandate/statement of purpose of organization:		
Conserving and restoring Canada's natural environment through science-based research		
Authorized secondary contact:		
Holly Hennin		
Mailing address of **applicant**		
Street or P.O. Box:		
1125 Colonel By Dr.		
City:	Province/Territory, Country:	Postal Code:
Ottawa	ON	K1S 5B6
Telephone:	Email:	Fax:
613-998-7364	grant.gilchrist@canada.ca	
Mailing address of **organization** (if different from above)		
Street or P.O. Box:		
City:	Province/Territory, Country:	Postal Code:

PART 2: RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

SECTION 2.1: Project Information

2.1.1 Project title

Coastal Surveys of Common Eider Nesting Islands in the Belcher Island Archipelago, Nunavut

2.1.2 Project duration (anticipated):	
Start (*yyyy/mm/dd*) :	End (*yyyy/mm/dd*):

2020/06/20	2023/08/30

2.1.3 Project summary
Provide a "Plain Language Summary" of the project including the project objectives, and how the project will contribute to society's understanding of migratory birds, ecosystem health or human well-being. Also indicate whether the question in this study has been answered before, and if so, why you are re-addressing it. If your scientific research occurs in a NWA or MBS, include this section in your Plain Language Project Summary as a part of your NWA/MBS permit application.
(Plain Language Summary is attached)

2.1.4 Applicant qualifications relevant to the project (or CV attached ☒)
Please describe your experience/qualifications in relation to the activities outlined in your project summary (include technical and/or academic qualifications, publication history, etc.).

2.1.5 Animal Use Protocol (AUP)/Animal Care Committee approval documents
Are being submitted with the application:
☐ Yes – documents attached
☒ To follow – I have applied and will submit documents by (*yyyy/mm/dd*): 2020/04/01
☐ Not required

SECTION 2.2: Species

Species at risk: If any of the target and/or non-target species that are the subject of this application are federally listed as a threatened or endangered species under Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, **Annex 1** of this Application **must** also be completed.

2.2.1 Target species (indicate the species, age groups, sex and numbers of migratory birds that will be targeted)
Common eiders, nesting adults, population counts through colony visits and searches

2.2.2 Non-target species (indicate the species, age groups, sex and numbers of migratory birds)
(☒ N/A)
Describe any effects (direct or indirect) on non-target species and how these effects will be mitigated.
We are not capturing or smpling any living animals, only conducting surveys by foot on colonies. We survey the colony in transects with 3-6 people at a time to throughly survey all the nesting eiders. This will allow us to count the common eider nests quickly while trying to minimize disturbance to nearby nesting target and non-target species. Our presence may cause birds to flush off of their nests. By quickly conducting these surveys and leaving the area, it will allow the birds to quickly return to their nests.

SECTION 2.3: Activities/Methods

2.3.1 Activity Description
Describe in detail the activities that will be undertaken (e.g. working in a colony, blood sampling, capture, banding, nest collection, handling of eggs, etc.):
Our surveys are conducted in July, which is when eider females incubate nests. In advance of the field season we select islands ranging in size from 0.1 to 5.0 km2 for survey. These islands are supplemented with additional locations recommended by our guides to ensure that a range of colonies with different habitat characteristics and eider abundance are visited. The islands are accessed by boat and circled upon arrival to determine whether bears are present.

After landing, a search is made on foot by 3-6 people walking 10-25 m apart in successive linear sweeps until the entire island is investigated. Nests are easily found because there is little vegetation and current year breeding attempts can be reliably distinguished from previous years' attempts by the presence of fresh down, which eiders pluck to line their nest bowls. When a nest is found, we record its status as active—a nest containing an incubating hen, eggs or newly hatched ducklings, or empty—a nest in which fresh down was present but a hen, eggs, or ducklings were not present. We also note signs of potential nest predators, including polar bears, foxes, and gulls. For polar bears, the principal signs are seeing animals, finding feces, and encountering large numbers of nests that had been destroyed in which feather down is strewn widely around the nest bowl and eggs have been broken open by large crushing bites or blows.

We will opportunistically collect samples of polar bear feces found on the surveyed islands to assess polar bear diet composition. Any carcass or part of a bird that is found will be opportunistically collected for disease analysis.

2.3.2 Banding (☒ N/A)
☐ Migratory birds will be banded by the **applicant** under banding permit number:

☐ The applicant has **applied** or will be **applying** to the Bird Banding Office (BBO) for a Scientific Permit to Capture and Band (email: ec.bbo.ec@canada.ca or call: 613-998-0524).

☐ **Nominee(s)** will be banding. Name(s) and banding permit number(s) will be provided in Section 7 of this application.

☐ Migratory birds will be captured and released at the capture site but not banded or marked. The **rationale** for this is:

SECTION 2.4: Justification/Mitigation

2.4.1 Justification
Provide justification for the need to use migratory birds (i.e. why migratory birds must be used instead of other species) and a rationale for the species chosen, the sample size, and the sex and age classes proposed.
We currently do not have a sense of the population sizes or colony sizes of common eiders nesting in the Belcher Island Archipelago (including the Sleeper Islands) area. The only way to establish this baseline it so census the current populations. The posible changes in population will be important in informing the development of a proposed Marine Protected Area in the region. By conducting these surveys we will also have the opportunity to collect carcasses for disease analyses and measure the amount of polar bear predation on eider nests. All of these objective currently cannot be measured or tested using alrenative methods. Common eiders are specifically chosen because they have been identified as important by local community members.

2.4.2 Consideration of alternatives
Do alternative methods exist to replace the use of migratory birds, or refine or reduce the numbers needed? If so, provide a rationale for NOT adopting alternative methods.

No, there are currently no alternative methods that can be used. There are no other data that currently exists to conduct this kind of anlaysis, making this a novel study which will be usful in informaing future management

2.4.3 Mitigation measures and risk management

Please describe the measures that will be used to reduce/minimize the disturbance to the migratory birds, reduce the potential for injury, etc.

We will minimize the number of people walking the colonies at one time, counting the nests and birds to reduce disturbance of the focal species and any other species nesting within the colonies. Camps will be set up away from nesting birds to not disturb them. Since we are not capturing or handling the birds, we do not anticipate any risk of injury to any tarteg or non-target species.

SECTION 2.5: Location

2.5.1 Address, geographic coordinates.

Please provide the location(s) where the activities will be conducted. Please include a map with the listed geographic coordinates as an attachment to your application:

South based camp: 55° 49.361N, 79° 53.925W

North Based Camp: TBD based on consultation with the community and HTO of Sanikilauq; located within the Sleeper Islands

Northern Most Extent: 59° 56.228N, 79° 45.040W
Southern Most Extent: 55° 12.403N, 79° 52.252W
Eastern Most Extent: 56° 17.356N, 76° 55.117W
Western Most Extent: 56° 34.242N, 81° 32.340W

Map included in the Plain Language Summary.

If birds are to be released in a location other than at the point of capture, also provide the location of release:

n/a

2.5.2 Protected areas

Is the area(s) where your project is to be conducted in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary and/or National Wildlife Area? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, provide the name(s) of the protected areas:

If yes, you must also apply for a National Wildlife Area Permit and/or Migratory Bird Sanctuary Permit. Contact the applicable CWS regional office to obtain a permit application.

SECTION 2.6: Disposal/Disposition

Final disposition/disposal and location of any migratory bird samples collected in the study:

Any collected eider carcasses will be sent off to our ECCC lab in Saskatoon for disease screening. Collected polar bear feces will be be sent to our ECCC isotope facility at the Western University in London.

SECTION 2.7: Nominees

List individuals covered by the application to be included as permit nominees (individuals who will carry out the activities authorized under the permit). Please attach a separate sheet if more space is required.

Name	**Organization**	**Position/Title**	**If banding, provide permit number**
Grant Gilchrist	ECCC	Research Scientist	n/a
Sam Richard	ECCC	Field technician	n/a
2-3 Field Technician (TBD)	ECCC	Field technician	n/a
2-3 Inuit field technicians/guides (TBD)	ECCC	Field technician	n/a

SECTION 2.8: Qualified Ornithologists Recommending the Permit
***Important**: letters must be included with the application*

1) Name: Dr. Oliver Love	Telephone Number: 519-253-3000 x2711
Title/Position and Organization: Associate Professor, University of Widnsor, Department of Integrative Biology	
Email: olove@uwindsor.ca	
2) Name: Dr. Paul Smith	Telephone Number: 613-998-7362
Title/Position and Organization: Research Scientist, Environment and Climate Change Canada	
Email: paulallen.smith@canada.ca	

SECTION 9: Documents

☒ Two letters: All applicants **must** submit two letters of recommendation from qualified ornithologists (or equivalent experts) with the application, otherwise it will be considered incomplete (CVs may also be required).
☒ AUP/ACC approval documents: If the activities involve **live** migratory birds or eggs an Animal Use Protocol and Animal Care Committee approval **must** also be submitted.
☒ Bird Banding Permit: If the activities involve capture and banding of migratory birds your BBO permit **must** also be submitted.

PART 3: CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

List local community representatives, Inuit, Indigenous Peoples, Boards, Committees or Councils, who have been contacted about your proposed research activities. State how they are participating in your project, if at all (e.g. providing advice, supplying goods, hired to assist you, etc.). Describe all communication with listed parties including dates of phone calls, emails, and any materials that were provided as mail outs, as well as the response received from each group. Attach a separate sheet if more space is required to outline all points of contact.

Representative name: Lucassie Arragutainaq and Joe Arragutainaq

Name of group represented: Sanikiluaq HTO Manager and Chair

Address: General Delivery, Sanikiluaq, NU, X0A 0W0

Phone/Fax: 1-867-266-8709/1-867-266-8131

How contacted, and date: In person, mid-January

Response received? ☐ Yes ☒ No (If yes, attach response letter or email)

Participating? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how?

Grant and Sam attended a planning and consultation meeting in Sanikiluaq in mid-January to discuss these project specifics with the the HTO and other members of the community. These discussion will be ongling leading up to the field season.

List relevant attachments (please include all mailed out consultation packages and responses):

Representative name:

Name of group represented:

Address:

Phone/Fax:

How contacted, and date:

Response received? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, attach response letter or email)

Participating? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how?

List relevant attachments (please include all mailed out consultation packages and responses):

Representative name:

Name of group represented:

Address:

Phone/Fax:

How contacted, and date:

Response received? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, attach response letter or email)

Participating? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how?

List relevant attachments (please include all mailed out consultation packages and responses):

Representative name:

Name of group represented:

Address:

Phone/Fax:

How contacted, and date:

Response received? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, attach response letter or email)

Participating? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how?

List relevant attachments (please include all mailed out consultation packages and responses):

IMPORTATION NOTE

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Attach with the duly completed form any documents deemed relevant to the application (screening decision reports from territorial review boards, site maps, photographs, copy of other relevant permits issued by another authority, consultation records and materials, detailed description of the project methods, etc.).

Environment and Climate Change Canada may request additional information or seek clarification before issuing or denying a permit.

PART 4: ATTESTATION AND SIGNATURE

I, __Grant Gilchrist_____ (print name) attest that I have the ability and knowledge to accurately identify the species and conduct the permitted activities and certify that:

- I am 18 years of age or older;
- All information submitted in this application is accurate and has been completed to the best of my knowledge;

- I will abide by any Canadian Council on Animal Care guidelines relevant to my activities;
- I may not commence any activities that are the subject matter of this application before a valid permit is in my possession;
- I, and the nominees, have the ability and knowledge to safely conduct the permitted activities and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the permit;
- (if applicable) I am familiar with accepted methods of euthanasia for birds and have sufficient training to perform euthanasia if a bird is accidentally injured during permitted activities and cannot be released or rehabilitated;
- (if applicable) The facility where migratory birds will be kept meets the requirements as set out in the AUP/ACC documents.
- I understand that, in order to legally conduct the activities, I may need to obtain additional federal, provincial, territorial and/or municipal permits or authorizations; and
- (if applicable) I agree that any information necessary to meet the requirements of the *Species at Risk Act* may be posted on the Public Registry.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:  **DATE:**__2020/02/06_____

_____

(sign with dark ink) (*yyyy/mm/dd*)

Submit complete application form to:

Nunavut:

Canadian Wildlife Service – Iqaluit office
Email: ec.nupermisscf-cwspermitnu.ec@canada.ca

Northwest Territories:

Canadian Wildlife Service – Yellowknife office
Email: ec.tnopermisscf-cwspermitnwt.ec@canada.ca

Yukon:

Canadian Wildlife Service – Whitehorse Office
Email: ec.scfpacpermits-cwspacpermits.ec@canada.ca

For internal use only			
Date Received:	Date Approved:		
Permits Officer:	Approved ☐	Denied ☐	Date:
Biological reviewer:	Approved ☐	Denied ☐	Date:
Species at risk reviewer:	Approved ☐	Denied ☐	Date:
Environmental Assessment:	Approved ☐	Denied ☐	N/A ☐
Previous report on file	Yes ☐	No ☐	NA ☐
Documentation missing	Yes ☐	No ☐	

Comments:

ANNEX 1: SPECIES AT RISK

Under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), permits are required by persons conducting activities that affect a species listed on Schedule 1, any part of its critical habitat or the residences of its individuals. If your application is for activities that will affect a migratory bird species that is also listed on Schedule 1 of SARA, information must be provided for the categories below.

Note: In accordance with regulatory requirements, certain information will be posted on the SAR Public Registry (https://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/).

1. Species:
Polar bears

2. Purpose of the activities:
☒ Scientific research relating to the conservation of the species.
☐ The activity benefits the species or is required to enhance its chance of survival in the wild.
☐ Affecting the species is incidental to the carrying out of the activity.

3. Qualified persons
Demonstrate that the activities will be undertaken by qualified persons:
We do not plan to interact directly with polar bears. We will collect fecal samples opportunistically to run stable isotope analyses to assess diet and determine their reliance on common eider eggs as a food source.

4. Alternatives
Paragraph 73(3)(a) of SARA requires that all reasonable alternatives to the activity that would reduce the impact on the species be considered and that the best solution be adopted.

Please demonstrate that **all reasonable alternatives** to the proposed activity that would reduce the impact on the species have been considered:
Given that we are only opportunistically collecting fecal samples and have no intention of disturbing polar bears, nor will we land on an island with a polar bear, we should have no impacts on any bears.

Explain why you believe that your proposed approach is the **best solution**:
This is the best solution because it does not require interacting or disturbing bears at all. This will allow us to gain insight into their diet with absolutley no disturbance to the animals.

5. Mitigation measures
Please demonstrate that all feasible measures will be taken to minimize the impact of the activity on the species or its critical habitat or the residences of its individuals (as per paragraph 73(3)(b) of SARA):
During our surveys we will circle islands to ensure that no bears are present. We will only offboard at an island if there are no polar bears. We will avoid interacting with polar bears and ensure our camp is clean and food stored properly with advice from our Inuit guides to ensure we do not attract bears to our camps.

6. Effect on survival or recovery

Please explain why you believe that your proposed activities will not jeopardize the survival or recovery of the species (as per paragraph 73(3)(c) of SARA):

These activities should in no way jeopardize the survival or recovery of the species because we are leaving the polar bears alone entirely and only collecting feces if we come across it during surveys.