



# NOTICE OF SCREENING

## OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 20YN008

Project Name: The “Re-estimating the abundance of the Lancaster Sound (LS) Polar Bear subpopulation via genetic mark-recapture sampling” Project

Proponent Name: Government of Nunavut’s (GN)

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

Public Registry: [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) Application No.: 125513

Comment Deadline: **May 7, 2020**

### PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Re-estimating the abundance of the Lancaster Sound (LS) Polar Bear subpopulation via genetic mark-recapture sampling” project is located within the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) region, approximately 470 000 square kilometres (km) from Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord are within the boundaries of the proposed study area while Pond Inlet is the nearest community outside of the proposed study area. The Proponent intends to conduct a three (3) year study (2021-2023) involving genetic biopsy mark-recapture techniques to reassess the size and status of the Lancaster Sound Polar Bear subpopulation in order to provide appropriate management advice to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. The program is proposed to take place from August 2020 to September 2024. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Fuel caching activities to occur in 2020 to include:
  - Use of twin otter aircraft to transport aviation fuel to caching locations previously used by the Polar Continental Shelf Program; and
  - Setup and use of temporary camps within the study area (possibly Creswell Bay, Gascoyne Inlet, Polar Bear Pass camp, Fort Ross):
- Research activities through 2021-2023 to include:
  - Work with local Hunters and Trappers Organizations to design and implement a comprehensive survey using genetic biopsy sampling;
  - Use of generators at temporary camps;
  - Transportation, storage and use of fuel for camp purposes (gasoline, aviation fuel, diesel)

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **20YN008** 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](http://www.nirb.ca).** Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto: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 Mia Otokiak, Junior Technical Advisor toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or [motokiak@nirb.ca](mailto:motokiak@nirb.ca).