



	<p>requesting that Baffinland provide an update regarding the continued development of the Early Warning Indicators recognizing the current limitations of the current COVID-19 limitations.</p>	<p>meeting held on February 25, 2020. As part of the discussion, original and current timelines for selection of suitable variables as EWIs were presented. A number of criteria were presented to assist in the scoping process towards the selection of suitable EWIs. EWIs and indicator species proposed by Baffinland were presented and further discussed with the MEWG.</p> <p>Since this last MEWG meeting, Baffinland has been continuing its efforts towards the selection of suitable EWIs in consideration of feedback that has been provided by the MEWG. Accordingly, Baffinland is actively preparing an Early Warning Indicator (EWI) document that summarizes its overall approach for the selection of variables that will be used as an EWI(s) for the upcoming 2020 shipping season.</p> <p>The draft document is expected to include the following elements, and will include a summary of feedback received thus far through engagement with the MEWG:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Background; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Purpose & Terminology b. Relevant Project Certificate Conditions c. Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) – Effects of Vessel Noise on Marine Mammals d. Baffinland Marine Mammal Monitoring Programs e. Marine Environment Working Group (MEWG) Engagement in EWI Development 2. Early Warning Indicators; and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Candidate EWIs Following MEWG Engagement b. Literature Review on EWIs for Marine Mammals c. EWIs for Marine Mammals in Development Projects in Canada
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		<p>d. Selection Criteria e. Selected EWI(s) f. EWI Data Collection</p> <p>3. EWI Thresholds.</p> <p>The EWI document is expected to be completed in advance of the start of the shipping season.</p> <p>As part of the agenda of the next MEWG teleconference meeting, tentatively scheduled for end of June 2020, a high-level summary of the EWI document will be presented by Baffinland. Summary slides will be prepared and presented to provide an overview of the various elements noted above to the MEWG prior to completion of the EWI document.</p> <p>Baffinland will take into consideration input received by the MEWG before completing the final draft of the EWI document. However, Baffinland notes that the variables identified as suitable EWIs in the document being prepared will be implemented for the 2020 shipping season. Additional changes may be needed in future years pending 2020 monitoring results and additional feedback received through the MEWG.</p>
General	As per 2018-2019 Board Recommendation #5 the NIRB is requesting an update on planning for the caribou tissue sampling protocol that was provided in Baffinland's response to the 2018-2019 Board Recommendations with the Terrestrial Environment Working Group?	<p>Baffinland will provide an update on its recent planning efforts for caribou tissue sampling at the next TEWG meeting, tentatively scheduled for end of June 2020. Since late 2019, and as presented during the TEWG meeting held February 26, 2020, Baffinland has collaborated on a regional-based Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) funding application with co-leads Gamberg Consulting, who has been studying contaminants in caribou across Canada, and the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC). The application, "<i>Caribou Contaminant Monitoring Program</i>" (the Program) was submitted on January 14, 2020, and included the involvement of numerous team members from diverse affiliations such as the Government of Nunavut (GN), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Government of Yukon, and Baffinland.</p>





