



NIRB File No.: 20YN019
NPC File No.: 149510

June 10, 2021

Jesslene Jawanda
Qikiqtaaluk Corporation
2710 #2 PO Box 681
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: jjawanda@qcorp.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Qikiqtaaluk Corporation's "Qikiqtaaluk Inshore Fisheries Research" project proposal

Dear Jesslene Jawanda:

On April 7, 2021 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Qikiqtaaluk Corporation's "Qikiqtaaluk Inshore Fisheries Research" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **20YN019**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On April 26, 2021 the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB's public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening.

On May 10, 2021 the NIRB released a formal correspondence requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. The NIRB followed up on numerous occasions via email (May 26, 2021) requesting an update on when the information would be provided, including releasing a second formal letter on May 27, 2021 pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*. On May 31, 2021 the Proponent provided the requested information and the NIRB commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125615.

Project:	Qikiqtaaluk Inshore Fisheries Research
Region:	Qikiqtani (South Baffin)
Location:	Within the community boundaries of Kinngait, Sanirajak, Igloolik and Sanikiluaq
Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to conduct research to determine the fishery potential of marine resources in these communities.
Project Proposed Timeline:	July 2021 to October 2024 (with community consultation happening in 2025)

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of *RV Ludy Pudluk* for research purposes:
 - Use of a multi-beam echosounder system and multi-parameter sonde for oceanographic data collection;
 - Use of a boom and hydraulic hauler for multi-species surveys with baited pots;
 - Use of a removable A-frame for mobile fishing gear surveys with a mussel rake and mini-bottom trawl;
 - Physical sampling of the seabed (Ponar grabs) will be used to ground-truth seabed sediment classes;
 - Use of underwater camera systems suitable for drop camera and towed camera surveys;
 - Use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) suitable for estuarine and shoreline surveys;
 - Use of 16 metre seine to carry out beach seine surveys of capelin;
 - Samples of targeted species (up to 50 individuals from each 10 mm length-class) will be placed in plastic bags and frozen at -20°C;
 - All invertebrates captured will be recorded and those not required for laboratory analysis will be returned to the ocean as soon as practicable.
- Five Inuit from each community will actively join the research efforts and be trained on the equipment and research operations;
 - Two Inuit will fly to Newfoundland to join *RV Ludy Pudluk* while it transits North.
 - Two community vessels will work in tandem with the *RV Ludy Pudluk* to increase efficiency.
- Storage and use of 3,000 litres (L) diesel fuel and 40 gallons of gasoline for the life of the project;
- Combustible and non-combustible waste will be stored until disposed of properly in the communities.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry www.nirb.ca/project/125615 and include:

- *Commission Referral and Application*
- *NIRB Online Application*
- *Non-Technical Summary in English and Inuktitut*
- *Project Description in English*
- *Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Association Letter of Support*
- *Cape Dorset Letter of Support*
- *Sanikiluaq Letter of Support*
- *Final Animal Care*
- *NRI Application*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by QC project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **July 2, 2021**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca, via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125615.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Daniel Coombs, Fisheries and Oceans Canada