



NIRB File No.: 21YN029
NPC File No.: 149502

July 12, 2021

Dr. Robert Pickart
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
MS 21 WHOI 266 Woods Hole Rd
Woods Hole, MA 02543 USA

Sent via email: rpickart@whoi.edu

Re: Notice of Screening for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's "Healy Baffin Bay Survey" project proposal

Dear Dr. Robert Pickart:

On June 1, 2021, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's (WHOI) "Healy Baffin Bay Survey" 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 **21YN029**.

INFORMATION REQUEST

On June 1, 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 June 22, 2021, the NIRB released a formal correspondence, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, requesting that the Proponent provide the Board with the information necessary in order to carry out the screening of the project proposal. On June 28, 2021 the NIRB received the required information and 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/125618.

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| Project: | Healy Baffin Bay Survey |
| Region: | Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region |
| Location: | Transiting through Baffin Bay from Greenland |
| Summary of Project Description: | The Proponent intends to determine the fate of the freshwater carried into Baffin Bay by the West Greenland Boundary Current, and to establish the pathways by which heat from the current gets diverted to the Uummannaq region glaciers of West Greenland. |
| Project Proposed Timeline: | September to October, 2021 |

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

- Research activities carried out on icebreaker USCGC *Healy*; including
- Use of scientific instruments to measure ocean properties:
 - 3.5 and 12 kHz echo-sounder for seabed imaging;
 - 75 and 150 kHz acoustic doppler current profiler (ACDP) to collect vertical profiles of water velocity
 - Multibeam echo-sounder for bathymetric data collection;
 - Conductivity Temperature Depth (CTD) instrument to measure temperature and salinity of water;
 - Surface velocity drifters deployed to collect surface currents;
 - Flow-through sensors to monitor the properties of the seawater while underway.
- Use of chloroform for measuring nutrients in water samples; and
- Combustible and non-combustible waste to be properly disposed of.

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. The NIRB notes that the Proponent will be deploying an autonomous glider in West Greenland, may cross the international boundary into Canadian waters when recovered. The NIRB further notes the other research activities are proposed to be carried out during the transit of the USCGC *Healy* which will be screened independently.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry www.nirb.ca/project/125618 and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*

- *NIRB Online Application*
- *Project Overview*
- *Healy Transit Equipment List*
- *Particulars of the USCG Cutter Healy*
- *Garbage Management Plan*
- *Proper Waste Disposal Plan*
- *Sewage Spill Response Plan*
- *Hazmat Plan*

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 WHOI project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 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/125618.

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
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Transport Canada