



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 21YN030

Project Name: The “Capturing and Understanding Arctic Change with Renewed Observations” Project
Proponent Name: University of Washington (UW)
Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125623
Comment Deadline: **July 23, 2021**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Capturing and Understanding Arctic Change with Renewed Observations” project is located within the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region, approximately 40 kilometres (km) from Qikiqtarjuaq. The Proponent intends to conduct research on Davis Strait to document and understand the exchange of fresh water and heat between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic. Measurements of ocean temperature, salinity and currents, and sounds made by marine mammals to be collected by a line of 12 moorings (strings of science instruments suspended from a float that is anchored to the sea floor). The moorings are to be serviced every other year using a research ship; during the mooring service cruise the proponent intends to collect measurements of temperature, salinity, and chemical properties at multiple sites from southern Baffin Bay, Davis Strait, and the northern Labrador Sea. The program is proposed to take place from August 1, 2021 to October 10, 2024. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of Research Ship RV *Sanna*;
- Deployment of two (2) oceanographic moorings off Cape Dyer to measure salinity, temperature, and ocean currents with semi-annual visits for servicing;
- Conduct CTD (conductivity, temperature and depth) operations to measure ocean water properties at various sites during the 2022 and 2024 operation years.

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **21YN030** 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. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at 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 Francis Emingak, Junior Technical Advisor toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or femingak@nirb.ca.