



July 16, 2021

Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
PO Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
XoB oCo

Subject: Parks Canada clarifications to the Hamlet of Pond Inlet's June 28, 2021 letter in response to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's 2021 Shipping and Marine Wildlife Management Plans

Dear NIRB,

Parks Canada Agency (PCA) would like to provide clarification on its current role and plans for research and monitoring in Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (TINMCA) in proximity to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River project. In its June 28, 2021 letter to the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Hamlet of Pond Inlet referred to the coordination of research and monitoring on narwhal in Eclipse Sound being between Baffinland, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and PCA. PCA would like to clarify that at this time our organization is not directly involved in research within the area related to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River project. DFO has the lead role in marine mammal research within the project area, and we are supportive of this lead, and involved via review of Baffinland monitoring reports and MEWG discussions.

The Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for TINMCA was signed by the Government of Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association in 2019. The IIBA for TINMCA is required for the establishment of TINMCA and acknowledges that research and monitoring activities are necessary to support evidence-based decision-making. TINMCA is currently working towards establishment under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*.

PCA is currently co-developing TINMCA's Research and Monitoring Strategy that will guide research and monitoring activities within the National Marine Conservation Area. The priorities and need for this

program will be developed cooperatively through the TINMCA communities, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and Government of Canada. We are interested in better understanding the TINMCA ecosystem and any potential impacts on it, but would like to stress the importance of community involvement in identifying research and monitoring priorities and needs before proceeding with the implementation of a program.

PCA looks forward to consulting with the community of Pond Inlet, including the Hamlet and Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization, to determine TINMCA research and monitoring priorities and needs. These consultations will gather information on the overall understanding of the ecosystem, human use pressures, and Inuit use of TINMCA.

PCA is involved in the environmental assessment process of Baffinland's Mary River mine and provides advice on Baffinland's marine monitoring programs through participation in the Marine Environmental Working Group (MEWG). PCA will continue to provide advice and input through the MEWG, and will support DFO as the current regulator and lead within the Government of Canada to carry out research related to marine mammals in the Baffinland project area at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact Allison Stoddart (819) 661-0283, or by email at Allison.Stoddart@canada.ca.

Sincerely,



Jenna Boon
Field Unit Superintendent, Nunavut
Parks Canada Agency