



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 21YN029**

NPC File No.: 149502

August 13, 2021

To: Daniel Coombs
A/Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Government of Canada
5204 50th Ave, Suite 301
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

Sent via email: daniel.coombs@dfo-mpo.gc.ca and fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's "Healy Baffin Bay Survey" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region

Dear Daniel Coombs:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Bernadette Jordan, P.C., Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's "Healy Baffin Bay Survey" in the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region, dated August 13, 2021.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4605 or info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Cassel Kapolak
Environmental Administrator
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (2): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 21YN029 (English and Inuktitut) (August 13, 2021)

cc: Dr. Robert Pickart, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Stephan Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Transport Canada
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