



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 22YN004

Project Name: The “Shift-eDNA” project
Proponent Name: Université de Montpellier
Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani Region
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125655
Comment Deadline: **March 17, 2022**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Shift-eDNA” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, sailing through North and South Baffin, with potential stops in Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, and Iqaluit, with a second vessel sailing from the Northwest Territories to Ellesmere Island. The Proponent intends to survey marine fish communities by sampling for DNA in coastal waters, in order to detect early species arrivals due to climate change. The *Vagabond* sailboat to sail in early September. An inflatable catamaran to sail in June from Sachs Harbour NWT and arrive in Nunavut as soon as the weather and winds allow. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of the 15 meter sailboat *Vagabond* with 4 crew to take seawater water samples at approximately 10 locations between Grise Fiord and Hudson Strait
- Potential stops in Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, and Iqaluit
- Use of 7 meter inflatable catamaran with 3 crew to sail from Sachs Harbour NWT to take seawater samples at approximately 6 locations around Ellesmere Island and then, ice conditions allowing, to proceed to Greenland

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **22YN004** 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 Mia Otokiak, Junior Technical Advisor toll-free at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.