



April 11, 2022

**Talia Maksagak**

Manager, Technical Administration  
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)  
P.O. Box 1360, Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0  
By email: [tmaksagak@nirb.ca](mailto:tmaksagak@nirb.ca), [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca);  
[kmorrison@nirb.ca](mailto:kmorrison@nirb.ca)

**Tracey McCaie**

Manager Land Administration  
Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern  
Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)  
P.O. Box 100, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
By email: [tracey.mccaie@canada.ca](mailto:tracey.mccaie@canada.ca);  
[aadnc.landsmineing.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.landsmineing.aandc@canada.ca);  
[isa.qamaniq-mason@canada.ca](mailto:isa.qamaniq-mason@canada.ca);  
[spencer.dewar@canada.ca](mailto:spencer.dewar@canada.ca);[jeff.hart@canada.ca](mailto:jeff.hart@canada.ca)

**Mosha Cote**

Manager-Research Liaison  
Nunavut Research Institute  
P.O. Box 1720  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
By email: [mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca](mailto:mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca)

**Michele LeBlanc-Havard**

Manager, Land Use Planning  
Department of Environment (GN-DOE)  
P.O. Box 1000, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
By email: [mleblanc-havard1@gov.nu.ca](mailto:mleblanc-havard1@gov.nu.ca)  
[dgissing@gov.nu.ca](mailto:dgissing@gov.nu.ca)  
[wildlife\\_research@gov.nu.ca](mailto:wildlife_research@gov.nu.ca);  
[JNeely@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:JNeely@GOV.NU.CA)

**Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier**

Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)  
5204 50th Ave, suite 301, Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2  
By email: [veronique.damours-gauthier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:veronique.damours-gauthier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca); [fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Carson Gillis**

Director, Lands and Resources  
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)  
P.O. Box 1269,  
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0  
By email: [cgillis@tunngavik.com](mailto:cgillis@tunngavik.com);

**Jared Ottenhof**

Director  
Qikiqtani Nunalirijikkut (Lands and Resource  
Management)  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)  
P.O. Box 1340, Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0  
By email: [jottenhof@qia.ca](mailto:jottenhof@qia.ca); [dmp@qia.ca](mailto:dmp@qia.ca);  
[JSimic@qia.ca](mailto:JSimic@qia.ca)

**Annie Mercier**

OSC - Memorial University  
0 Marine Lab Rd  
St. Johns NL A1C 5S7 Canada  
[amercier@mun.ca](mailto:amercier@mun.ca)

Dear Talia Maksagak, Tracey McCaie, Mosha Cote, Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Carson Gillis, Jared Ottenhof, and Annie Mercier:

**RE: NPC File # 149725 [Community-based study of under-ice benthic assemblages in the Arctic (BenthArctic)]**

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. Scientific research to assess the status and value of Arctic benthic resources and prospects for their sustainable use in the context of food security and climate change. Field work is expected to take place in the summer/fall of 2022 and the winter/spring of 2023. The approach centers on the use of a portable

remotely operated vehicle (ROV) deployed through holes in the sea ice to investigate the benthic community structure and diversity in two regions (Sanikiluaq and Grise Fiord). The ROV will have minimal environmental impact; it will capture videos of the benthos and collect water, sediment, and biological samples for analysis.

2. Location: Qikiqtani Region; [near the communities of Grise Fiord and Sanikiluaq]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP. The project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the Nunavut Agreement.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149725&sessionid=>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA) to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the NUPPAA.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) (867 979-3444)

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue  
Manager Planning and Implementation  
Nunavut Planning Commission