



# NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 22YN019

Project Name: The “Community-based Study of Under-ice Benthic Assemblages in the Arctic (BenthArctic)” project

Proponent Name: OSC – Memorial University

Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani Region

Public Registry: [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) Application No.: 125691

Comment Deadline: **May 27, 2022**

## PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Community-based Study of Under-ice Benthic Assemblages in the Arctic (BenthArctic)” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, within 30 kilometres (km) from Grise Fiord and Sanikiluaq. The Proponent intends to conduct research on marine benthic resources. The program is proposed to take place from Summer/fall of 2022 and the winter/spring of 2023. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Work with local partners to access to research areas through boat, skidoo, and all-terrain vehicle (ATV)
- Use of remote operated vehicle (ROV) to collect video footage, and small marine biological, water and sediment samples
- Opportunistic collection of samples from fishing by-catches (sediment and benthic organisms) from community members
- Use of accommodations and facilities in Grise Fiord and Sanikiluaq

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **22YN019** 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](http://www.nirb.ca).** Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto: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 Emily Koide, Technical Advisor I toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or [ekoide@nirb.ca](mailto:ekoide@nirb.ca).