



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Passive Acoustic Monitoring and UAV Assessment of the Impacts of Shipping and Development on High Arctic Beluga Whales and Narwhals" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence
22YN021
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 103168142

May 18, 2022

Mia Otokiak
Junior Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
via NIRB public registry

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment request for Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Passive Acoustic Monitoring and UAV Assessment of the Impacts of Shipping and Development on High Arctic Beluga Whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) and Narwhals (*Monodon Monoceros*)" Project Proposal

Dear Mia Otokiak,

On April 27, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) "Passive Acoustic Monitoring and UAV Assessment of the Impacts of Shipping and Development on High Arctic Beluga Whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) and Narwhals (*Monodon Monoceros*)" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CIRNAC #1: Camp Site Activities

The Proponent indicated that a six-person camp will be set up for 20 days, but did not indicate any measures that they would use in order to prevent potential adverse environmental effects. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent ensure that any waste, fuel and food items are sealed in odour-proof container(s) to prevent attraction of wildlife. Further, CIRNAC recommends that any fuel or hazardous material is stored a minimum of 31 meters from the high water mark of any water body in a secondary containment berm, and that any human wastes are deposited a minimum of 31 meters from the high water mark of any waterbody.

CIRNAC #2: Potential for Positive Effects to Inuit Through Employment, Training, and Procurement Opportunities

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent prioritize the employment and training of local Inuit as well as procurement with Inuit-owned businesses when implementing project activities. Such efforts will allow for positive effects to be realized by community members and the local Inuit



population. As a result, Inuit and Inuit-owned businesses situated in Resolute Bay should be prioritized in any project-related employment, training, and procurement opportunities that may be made available.

CIRNAC #3: Consultation with Interested Parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consult with the Hamlet of Resolute Bay, the Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association, as well as any other community members or organizations which may have an interest in the project's activities. Issues that should be considered as part of any consultation activities include:

- Incorporation of Inuit knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- The experience of community members who participate in traditional and non-traditional activities within or in close proximity to the project area;
- Training and employment opportunities for community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local businesses; and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further review phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Bingley by e-mail at richard.bingley2@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca or David Abernethy at (867) 222-1610 or email at david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Richard Bingley
Environmental Assessment Coordinator

