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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut iuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

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Government of Nunavut
Nunavut Kavamat
Gouvernement du Nunavut

May 19, 2022

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

Sent VIA Email: info@nirb.ca

RE: NIRB 22YN021: Notice of Screening for DFO's "Passive Acoustic Monitoring and UAV Assessment of the Impact of Shipping and Development on High Arctic Beluga Whales and Narwhals" project proposal.

Dear Ms. Otokiak,

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut (GN), please find attached comments pertaining to the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) Notice of Screening for DFO's "Passive Acoustics Monitoring and UAV Assessment of the Impacts of Shipping and Development on High Arctic Beluga Whales and Narwhals" project proposal.

The GN has reviewed the information provided to the NIRB regarding the above-mentioned project and Culture and Heritage has provided the following detailed comments pertaining to Archaeological and Paleontological Sites.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact me at 867-975-7828 or by email at asimonfalvy@gov.nu.ca.

Qujannamiik,

Agnes Simonfalvy
Avatiliriniq Coordinator
Government of Nunavut

GN-01: Archaeological and Paleontological Sites	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	Passive Acoustic Monitoring and UAV Assessment of the Impacts of Shipping and Development on High Arctic Beluga Whales and Narwhals
References	NIRB Notice of Screening 22YN021
CONCERNS	
<p>DFO, the Florida Atlantic University and Resolute Hunters and Trappers Association are proposing to undertake a research study on the impacts of shipping and development on beluga whales and narwhals in Creswell Bay, Somerset Island. The activities include the use of a Twin Otter for the transportation of crew and material and the establishment of a temporary six-person camp.</p> <p>A search of the Nunavut Archaeological Site Database indicates that there are recorded archaeological sites near the project location. This general area is also routinely used as a landing destination by the cruise ship tourism industry.</p> <p>The Department of Culture and Heritage has no concerns with the current project proposal as no ground disturbance activities are planned.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>On the basis that no ground disturbance activities are planned during the proposed project the department of Culture and Heritage recommends that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proponent exercises caution in their movements in the area specifically with regards to aircraft landings and the placement of temporary campsites. It is recommended that landing areas be visually inspected prior to landing and take off, and that camp be erected away from any archaeological/historical sites or features. 2. The proponent should avoid conducting activities in the vicinity (50 m buffer zone) of archaeological/historical sites or features. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities should immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to the Territorial Archaeology Office. <p>All archaeological and palaeontological sites in Nunavut are protected under the Nunavut Act. The Proponent must understand that it is their responsibility to ensure that no heritage</p>	

resource sites are disturbed in the course of their activities. No person shall alter, or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove any artifact from an archaeological site without the proper authorizations. Moreover, the building of inuksuit is not recommended.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS