



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 22YN021**

NPC File No.: 149746

June 23, 2022

To: Alasdair Beattie
Team Lead
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
301-5204 50th Ave (Franklin)
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

Sent via email: alasdair.beattie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca and fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for 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, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region

Dear Alasdair Beattie:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard for 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" in the Qikiqtani Region, dated June 23, 2022.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4605 or info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Cassel Kapolak
Environmental Administrator
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (2): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 22YN021 (English and Inuktitut) (June 23, 2022)

cc: Cortney Wheeler, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Stephan Williamson-Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Michele Leblanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
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