



COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB SCREENINGS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

Project Proposal Title: Scenic Cruises – Unlocking the Northwest Passage																			
Proponent: Scenic Cruises																			
Location: Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Regions																			
Comments Due By: July 14, 2022	NIRB #: 22TN017																		
<p>Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> no concerns</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> water quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> terrain</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> air quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> human health issues</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> other: _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please describe the concerns indicated above:</p> <p>Disturbance of marine mammals.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> no concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land	<input type="checkbox"/> water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities	<input type="checkbox"/> terrain	<input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area	<input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> human health issues	<input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	_____
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<p>Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?</p> <p>Section 7 of the Marine Mammal Regulations (Fisheries Act) prohibits the disturbance of marine mammals. Generally, disturbance is interpreted as disruption to an animal's normal life processes, resulting from intentional human activities (e.g., to pursue, accompany, overtake, encircle, approach repeatedly, hunt, disperse, drive or herd individuals or groups of marine mammals). This applies equally to divers, kayaks, motor boats and aircraft. Disturbance response thresholds vary among individuals, species and locations.</p> <p>DFO recommends that watercraft should survey the area for Marine Mammals to avoid disturbing them. If marine mammals are encountered, and remain in the area, effort should be made to avoid disturbing them by rerouting, slowly navigating around their location at a reduced speed and maintaining their distance. The watercraft should not accelerate within 800 m of whales and 250 m of other marine mammals. The marine mammals should not be approached, in general, within 100 m for common species and 400 m for Species at Risk. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 500 m over marine mammals when surveys are not taking place. Please see the approach distances set out in Schedule 5 of the Marine Mammal Regulations for specific setback based on species and location (Marine Mammal Regulations (justice.gc.ca)).</p>																			





The Marine Mammal Regulations apply to all boaters including commercial and recreational boaters. However, a vessel “in transit” would not be considered to disturb marine mammals for the purposes of the regulations. The Marine Mammal Regulations do not apply provided the cruise ship does not divert its course for the purposes of marine mammal watching.

Additional information on marine mammals is available on our website: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/mammals-mammiferes/watching-observation/index-eng.html>.


Do you support the project proposal? Yes ☒ No ☐ Any additional comments?

It is also the proponent’s *Duty to Notify* DFO if they have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Such notifications should be directed to (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/CONTACT-eng.html>).

If you have any questions please contact Rick Kiriluk at our Burlington office at 905-336-4560 or by email at Rick.Kiriluk@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Name of person commenting: Rick Kiriluk **of** Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Position: A/Team Leader – Triage and Planning **Organization:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Signature:  **Date:** July 11, 2022