



NIRB File No.: 19YN024
NPC File No: 149163
Related NPC File No.: 149066

August 11, 2022

Dr. Valeria Vergara
Ocean Wise Conservation Association
1768 William St.
Vancouver, BC V5L 2R4

Sent via email: valeria.vergara@ocean.org

Re: Termination of Assessment Activities for Ocean Wise Conservation Association’s “Eyes Above and Ears Below: Combining Technologies to Understand Killer Whale Vocal Behaviour, Group Composition and Distribution in the Arctic” Project Proposal, pursuant to NuPPAA s. 143(4)

Dear Dr. Valeria Vergara:

On April 4, 2019, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Ocean Wise Conservation Association’s “Eyes Above and Ears Below: Combining Technologies to Understand Killer Whale Vocal Behaviour, Group Composition and Distribution in the Arctic” project proposal and on May 25, 2019, the NIRB received a revised referral from the Nunavut Planning Commission. The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 19YN024 and commenced screening the project proposal pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

On August 9, 2019, the NIRB suspended its assessment activities for this screening pursuant to s. 143(2) of the *NuPPAA* following a request from Ocean Wise Conservation Association to suspend the NIRB’s assessment of the “Eyes Above and Ears Below: Combining Technologies to Understand Killer Whale Vocal Behaviour, Group Composition and Distribution in the Arctic” project proposal. To date, the Proponent has not requested resumption of the assessment within three (3) years of the suspension of this project proposal; therefore the assessment of the “Eyes Above and Ears Below: Combining Technologies to Understand Killer Whale Vocal Behaviour, Group Composition and Distribution in the Arctic” project proposal is hereby **terminated** pursuant to s. 143(4) of the *NuPPAA* (see [Appendix A](#) for file history).

Should the Proponent wish to undertake the proposed project in future, a new project proposal must be submitted to the Nunavut Planning Commission in accordance with s. 76 of the *NuPPAA*. Please be advised that the *NuPPAA* prohibits the carrying out of a project, in whole or in part, where the required assessment by the NIRB has not been completed; regulatory authorities are also not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorizations in respect of a project where the required assessment by the NIRB has not been completed.

Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding the termination of this assessment, please contact Tara Arko – Director, Technical Services at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Karen D. Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachment: Appendix A: File History

Enclosure (1): Suspension Letter (August 9, 2019)

cc: The Honourable Steven Guibeault, P.C., Minister of Environment and Climate Change
The Honourable Joyce Murray, P.C., Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
Goump Djalogue, Nunavut Planning Commission
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Service
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

APPENDIX A: FILE HISTORY

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE
April 4, 2019	NIRB email to Proponent requesting Proponent complete online application.
May 10, 2019	Information Request Letter #1 requesting information be submitted by May 24, 2019.
May 27, 2019	Follow-up email from the NIRB to the Proponent requesting an update on when online application will be completed.
May 28, 2019 & June 14, 2019	Receipt of Proponent's online application.
June 28, 2019	Public Notice of Screening distributed to Parties with a deadline of July 19, 2019.
August 7, 2019	Proponent request to suspend assessment activities.
August 9, 2019	Issuance of Suspension of Assessment Activities pursuant to 143(2) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> .
April 22, 2020	NIRB email to Proponent regarding follow up to Suspension of Assessment Activities.
September 20, 2021	NIRB email to Proponent regarding follow up to Suspension of Assessment Activities.
March 11, 2022	NIRB email to Proponent regarding follow up to Suspension of Assessment Activities.
August 3, 2022	NIRB email to Proponent regarding reminder of follow up to Suspension of Assessment Activities.