Nunavut Research Institute / ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᑐᓕᕆᔨᒃᑯᑦ
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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH LICENSE

LICENSE NUMBER 01 032 22N-M

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TITLE: Community-based study of under-ice benthic assemblages in the Arctic (BenthArctic)

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH:
The proposed project builds on interest expressed by Inuit communities in Nunavut to assess the status and value of their marine benthic resources and prospects for their sustainable use in the context of food security and climate change. It aims to expand our understanding of nearshore benthic assemblages, with a focus on winter-spring processes occurring at sea-ice edges and on species of relevance to commercial and subsistence fisheries. Interlinked objectives will be dedicated to fundamental research, practical knowledge transfer and community mobilization. Field work is expected to take place in the summer/fall of 2022 and the winter/spring of 2023. The approach centers on the use of a portable remotely operated vehicle deployed through holes in the sea ice to investigate the benthic community structure and diversity in two regions (Low vs High Arctic, specifically Sanikiluaq and Grise Fiord). The ROV will have minimal environmental impact; it will capture videos of the benthos and collect a few water, sediment and biological samples for analysis. Videos will be used for scientific analyses and to create education material; they will be shared with end users in the two localities. A complementary segment will assess methods best adapted for the collection and handling of key commercial species.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:
The holder of the licence will be bound by the terms and conditions of the Nunavut Impact Review Board Screening Decision Report and the Department of Culture & Heritage archaeological sites terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will form part of this licence. These terms and conditions will form part of this license.

DATA COLLECTION IN NU:
DATES: May 31,2022 to October 31,2022
LOCATION: Sanikiluaq, Grise Fiod

Scientific Research License 01 032 22N-M expires on December 31,2022
Issued at Iqaluit, NU on August 18,2022

Mosha Cote
Science Administration
Officer

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