



**NIRB File No.: 22YN056**  
NPC File No.: 149878

November 28, 2022

Lucianne Marshall  
Ocean Networks Canada  
10-6961 East Saanich Road  
Victoria, BC V8Z 0A9

Sent via email: [lucimm@uvic.ca](mailto:lucimm@uvic.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Ocean Networks Canada’s “Iqaluit Community Fishers – DFO OPP” Project Proposal**

Dear Lucianne Marshall:

On October 12, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Ocean Networks Canada’s (ONC) “Iqaluit Community Fishers – DFO OPP” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. 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*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **22YN056**.

#### INFORMATION REQUEST

On October 12, 2022, the NIRB requested that the Proponent complete the online application form through the NIRB’s public registry system and ensure, pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*, that sufficient information is provided to determine the scope of the project activities being proposed and commence screening.

On November 17, 2022, the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### **Project Scope:**

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125741](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125741).

<b>Project:</b>	Iqaluit Community Fishers – DFO OPP
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani (South Baffin)
<b>Location:</b>	Within 80 kilometres of the community of Iqaluit
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to collect a baseline of oceanographic data so that there is a greater understanding of the seasonal dynamic of water exchange in Frobisher Bay.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	November 2022 to March 2023 (continuation of project if funding found)

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Hiring and training of local community members to do the research;
- Use of multi-parameter oceanographic equipment that collects water samples;
  - Use of a laptop to operate oceanographic equipment.
- Use of local vehicles (boats, snowmobiles) to access sampling sites;
- Use of ice auger to drill holes in ice to collect water samples; and
- Use of fuel for vehicles and ice auger.

### **Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List**

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125741](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125741) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application and Questionnaire*
- *NIRB's Online Application*
- *Amaruq Hunters and Trappers Organization Letter of Support*
- *City of Iqaluit Questionnaire*
- *Map of Sampling Plan Areas*
- *Project Description*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by ONC's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **December 8, 2022**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment ([Appendix A](#)).

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125741](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125741).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or [motokiak@nirb.ca](mailto:motokiak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak  
Technical Advisor I  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, French and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English, French and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut – Department of Economic Development & Transportation  
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

## Appendix A: Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

### General

1. Ocean Networks Canada (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 149878) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, November 17, 2022). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

### Waste Management

6. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., gasoline) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

### Fuel and Chemical Storage

7. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife.
8. The Proponent shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available during any transfer of fuel or hazardous substances, at all fuel storage sites and when refueling equipment.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures. All spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

### Wildlife – General

10. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
11. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.

12. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

### **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

13. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.

14. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.

15. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

### **Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

16. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area, including surface ice, is kept clean and tidy at all times.

17. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.

### **Other**

18. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.

19. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.

20. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.