



February 17, 2023  
NPC File No.: 149976

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Dear Veronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Richard Dwyer, Jared Ottenhof, Francis Emingak, and Cortney Wheeler:

**RE: NPC File No: 149976 [Passive acoustic monitoring and UAV assessment of the impacts of shipping and development on High Arctic beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) and narwhals (*Monodon monoceros*)]**

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. Scientific Research: Activities involve setting up a small field camp near Creswell Bay and use of non-invasive techniques such as unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), hydrophones, and underwater cameras to collect photographs, video, and audiograms. Tissue samples will be collected to assess genetic relationships and hormone levels of the populations studied. In addition, satellite tracking tags will be applied to beluga and narwhal to monitor summer movements and provide information on time spent at the surface vs at depth.
2. Summary of modifications: Applying satellite tracking tags to beluga and narwhal to monitor summer movements and provide information on time spent at the surface vs at depth.
3. Related NPC FILE No: 149746; Related NIRB FILE No.: 22YN021
4. Location: North Baffin [Creswell Bay, approx. 170 km West of Arctic Bay, and 215 km south of Resolute Bay]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal and a conformity determination was issued on April 11, 2023, which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including tissue biopsy collection and the use of non-invasive techniques to monitor beluga whales and narwhals in their natural habitat (NIRB FILE NO.: 22YN021). It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the inclusion of satellite tracking tags to beluga and narwhal does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/project-dashboard.php?appid=149976&sessionid=>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA) to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above-noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects, and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the NUPPAA.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Goump Djalogue', with a stylized, cursive script.

Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP  
Manager Planning and Implementation  
Nunavut Planning Commission