



**NIRB File No.: 23YN020**  
NPC File No.: 149949

April 25, 2023

Cortney Wheeler  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
501 University Crescent  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N6

Sent via email: [Cortney.watt@dfodfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Cortney.watt@dfodfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "High Arctic Cetacean Survey 2023" project proposal**

Dear Cortney Wheeler:

On March 31, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)'s "High Arctic Cetacean Survey 2023" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan and with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On April 11, 2023, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

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 **23YN020** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### 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/125793](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125793).

<b>Project:</b>	High Arctic Cetacean Survey 2023
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani, Kitikmeot, and Kivalliq

<b>Location:</b>	Nunavut waters: Lancaster Sound, Gulf of Boothia, Jones Sound, Norwegian Bay, Cumberland Sound, Peel Sound, North-Eastern Baffin Island marine areas.
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, Igloolik, Sanirajak, and Nauyasat.
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct an aerial survey of cetaceans in Nunavut waters.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	August 2023

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

- Aerial surveys on a Twin Otter equipped with bubble windows and an optical glass covered camera hatch at the rear.
- Surveys will be taken along transect lines from an altitude of 610 meters (2000ft)

#### ***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 [www.nirb.ca/project/125793](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125793) and include:

- *NIRB Application (Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, English, French)*
- *Taloyoak Support Letter*
- *Resolute Bay Support Letter*
- *Qikiqtarjuaq Support Letter*
- *Pangnirtung Support Letter*
- *Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization Letter*
- *Proponent Survey Letter*
- *NPC conformity Determination*

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 Fisheries and Oceans Canada project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 16, 2023**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

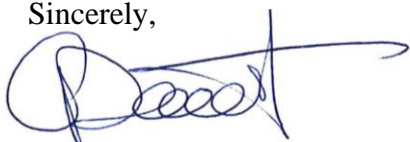
- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on 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.

#### 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/125740](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125740).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4609 or [gdaoust@nirb.ca](mailto:gdaoust@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Guillaume Daoust  
Technical Advisor II  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.  
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
Laura Harris, Government of Nunavut  
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Research  
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada  
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada