



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

May 23, 2023

To: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Sent via email: minister-minister@ec.gc.ca and CWSPermitNorth-PermisNordSCF@ec.gc.ca

Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "High Arctic Cetacean Survey 2023" Project Proposal

Dear Honourable Minister:

On March 31, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)'s "High Arctic Cetacean Survey 2023" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). **Pursuant to s. 92(4) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Minister extend the period for the submission of the Board's written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 23YN020.**

On April 3, 2023, 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 April 11, 2023, the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. On April 25, 2023, the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board's consideration by May 16, 2023.

Due to number of projects currently before the Board, the NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the *NuPPAA* and additional time is requested to complete the decision-making for this file. The NIRB anticipates screening of this project proposal will be completed by **June 9, 2023**, at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Minister for consideration; should any additional time be required to conclude the screening process, the NIRB commits to providing further updates as deemed appropriate.

If this request is approved, the NIRB understands that the Minister will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125740.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Karen D. Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Cortney Wheeler, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
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
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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