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2023-06-16

Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
Via Email: info@nirb.ca

Parks Canada comments on 23YN025 proposal “OPP 2.0 Baseline Shoreline Mapping”

Good afternoon

Thank you for the opportunity to review Environment and Climate Change Canada’s proposal “OPP 2.0 Baseline Shoreline Mapping”. Survey activities will occur in the area that will become part of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and along the coastline of Sirmilik National Park where there are a number of key migratory bird habitat areas.

It is noted that the proposed timing for the survey around in the Lancaster Sound area is September when the nesting period for migratory birds is usually completed, although birds will still be in the area. Given the requirement for low level flights to acquire the necessary imagery for the mapping project, it is recognized that the normal setbacks will not be met. The resulting potential for disturbance is considered acceptable given the benefits of the project outcomes and the parameters of the flight activities as identified in the supporting documentation: The Potential Impact of Helicopters on the coastal environment and wildlife.

Parks Canada would like to make the following recommendations to the proponent:

- Make imagery available to other researchers when appropriate to prevent a repeat of survey activity.
- Note the locations of Class 1 and Class 2 key migratory bird habitat areas prior to conducting the survey.
- Record observations of bird concentrations during the survey and submit them to the Canadian Wildlife Service branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Key seabird colony sites located within Sirmilik National Park and Tallurutiup Imanga include: Cape Hay and South Bylot Island (Bylot Island), Baillarge Bay (Borden Peninsula, Baffin Island), Hobhouse Inlet and Cape Liddon (south Devon Island), Buchan Gulf (east coast of north Baffin Island).

Maps for the seabird colonies may be found in:

https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/eccc/CW69-1-114-eng.pdf

Maps for important marine habitat sites may be found in:

<https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.570069/publication.html>

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me at nunavut-impactassessment@pc.gc.ca or 873-353-4849

Sincerely,

Jane Chisholm
Program / Policy Advisor

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