

February 27, 2024

Nunavut Impact Review Board

From: Alex Fredin, Arlington, MN, USA & Maynard Axelson, Mount Vernon, WA, USA

In Response to Comments for NIRB File No: 24UN004 & NPC File No: 150211

To: Nunavut Impact Review Board for the “Waterfowl Egg Collection for Education”

- Notes that some residents of Coral Harbour may express concern over the collection of eggs from species that are culturally and socioeconomically important to Inuit. **In response to this comment we understand the cultural and socioeconomical importance of the eggs that we are seeking to collect. We understand the importance of these eggs. While we are up in Coral Harbour we would like to educate residence of the importance of these species to the individuals that will have the opportunity to see them in captivity for years in the future.**
- Notes that the five (5) waterfowl species involved in this proposal are consumed by local Inuit, including their eggs. The Aiviit HTO has supported the proposal at the requested numbers but may be able to provide the proponents with additional guidance, for example, reducing the number of eggs to be collected from species that are less abundant. **Based on field observations during the collection trip we have no intent to over-collect a less prevalent species. We will consult with Aiviit HTO for additional guidance on prevalence of species at the time of collection.**
- Notes that any potential for significant adverse impacts on Inuit harvesting can be alleviated by closely working with the Aiviit HTO to ensure that collecting activities occur in areas where Inuit are not actively harvesting eggs for subsistence. **Yes, we will work closely with Chairman and members regarding this activity.**
- Notes that the proponents have the experience and knowledge necessary to minimize adverse effects by ensuring that eggs are collected in a safe manner and kept healthy through the use of incubators. **Yes, both Maynard and Alex have had experience with transporting eggs, both have transported eggs from prior USA egg collections.**
- Notes that local support and participation are critical to the success of this project. Notes

that a minimum of two local guides should be hired. Local guides will also be required for polar bear safety reasons, and the proponents should consult with the HTO on bear safety plans. Yes, after discussion with HTO, HTO is going to nominate a guide that has the best knowledge and plans in regards to area bear activity and will always have a guide with us during this project.

- Notes that Inuit have well-established guidelines for sustainability when it comes to egg collection, and the proponents should work closely with the HTO to develop a protocol that specifies how many eggs can be removed for each nest depending on the total number of eggs present (e.g., remove a single egg from nests with 3 or less eggs, and a maximum of two eggs from nests with 4 or more eggs). Yes, we have no intention on over-interrupting females during egg collection. We are conservationists and we feel the laying female should still continue to have success during the incubation process by having a number of eggs to continue to hatch/brood/rear.

- Notes that the proponents are also encouraged to work with the HTO to ensure they are not collecting eggs from nests where local Inuit are also harvesting, to mitigate any cumulative impacts from multiple egg collections from the same nests. Yes, Aiviit HTO have been very responsive during messaging and will be a huge asset for this project and their guidance is going to be key to mitigate and possible issues with the local inuit residents.

- Notes that the proponents will require a Scientific Educational permit from Environment and Climate Change Canada, and possibly an aviculture permit. They are encouraged to apply for these permits as soon as possible. Yes, upon review by Nunavut Impact Review Board we plan on applying. We have been in contact with the ECCC regarding permitting for this activity.

- Notes that the project will not be located with the McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS), the Harry Gibbons MBS or the East Bay MBS, and will instead take place within the municipal boundaries, in whole or in part. Correct, we intend not to take part of any collections in any Migratory Bird Sanctuary.