



March 11, 2024

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**Fish & Fish Habitat Protection Program**

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**Jared Ottenhof**

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**Cortney Wheeler**

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Dear Richard Dwyer, Fish & Fish Habitat Protection Program, Jane Chisholm, Jared Ottenhof, Cassel Kapolak, and Cortney Wheeler:

**RE: NPC File # 150295 [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: This study will use both non-invasive and invasive techniques to monitor beluga whales and narwhals in their natural habitat. The non-invasive techniques will include use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), hydrophones, and underwater cameras to collect photographs, video, and audiograms to assess body condition, behaviour in response to vessels, and social interactions. Invasive techniques include the collection of tissue biopsy samples to assess genetic relationships and hormone levels of the populations studied. In addition, satellite tracking tags will be applied to adult beluga and narwhal to monitor summer movements and provide information on time spent at the surface vs at depth.
2. Camp Establishment: This study will involve setting up a small field camp on Somerset Island in Creswell Bay.
  - a. 6 personnel over 23 days for a total of 138 man-days.
3. Modifications to the amended project proposal: Updated survey dates.
4. Associated NPC File Nos.: 149746 and 149976
5. Associated NIRB File No.: 22YN021
6. Location: Qikiqtani Region; [North Baffin; Creswell Bay on Somerset Island, Boothia Peninsula]

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 (conformity determination issued February 17, 2023), which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB File No.: 22YN021). It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP) and 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 proposed modification does not change the general scope of the 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/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150295>.

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  
Manager of Planning & Implementation, MCIP, RPP  
Nunavut Planning Commission