



NIRB Application for Screening #125889

Seabird Surveys and Monitoring of Vessel Traffic within Akpait and Qaqulluit National Wildlife Areas

Application Type: New
Project Type: Scientific Research
Application Date: 2/20/2024 2:14:54 PM
Period of operation: from 2024-07-15 to 2024-08-15
Project Proponent: Julia Baak
Canadian Wildlife Service
301-933 Mivvik Street
Iqaluit Nunavut X0A3H0
Canada
Phone Number:: 8672220875, Fax Number::

DETAILS

Non-technical project proposal description

English: Summary of activities and rationale: We will take photos of the Thick-Billed Murre and Northern Fulmar colony from a boat with a camera and with a drone with a team of approximately 10 to 12 people at Akpait and Qaqulluit Island. Thick-billed murres and Northern Fulmar will be counted from the photographs to know the population size and compare to previous counts. We will compare the number of birds counted from the boat-based photographs and drone photographs to know what survey method is best to use in the future. We will install trail cameras at Akpait and Qaqulluit Island to see when Thick-billed Murre and Northern Fulmar arrive for the breeding season, when they lay eggs, when chicks hatch, when chicks fledge, and when they leave the colony at the end of the breeding season. We will also install trail cameras, facing the ocean, to see how many vessels are using the National Wildlife Areas and when they are using them. We will also search for a good area to build a cabin at Akpait or Qaqulluit Island with a drone, as suggested by the Sululiit Area Co-management Committee. Project location: Akpait National Wildlife Area (66.917, -61.75) and Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area (67.215, -62.497). Proposed date and duration of visits: We will visit each site, Akpait and Qaqulluit Island for 1 to 2 days in late July/early August 2024. We plan to hire community members to return in fall and summer 2025 to retrieve trail cameras, and change trail camera batteries and SD cards. Method of transportation: We will boat to all sites from Qikiqtarjuaq each day and visit each site once or twice. The round-trip boat trip to Akpait will take approximately 10-12 hours. The round-trip boat trip to Qaqulluit Island will take approximately 6 hours.

French: Activités du projet : À partir d'un bateau, une équipe d'environ 10 à 12 personnes équipé d'un appareil photo et d'un drone prendrons des photos de la colonie de guillemots de Brünnich et de fulmars boréaux à Akpait et Qaqulluit. Les guillemots de Brünnich et les fulmars boréaux seront comptés à partir des photographies afin de connaître la taille de la population et de la comparer aux comptages précédents. Nous comparerons le nombre d'oiseaux dénombrés à partir des photographies prises en bateau et des photographies prises par drone afin de déterminer la meilleure méthode à utiliser à l'avenir. Nous installerons des caméras de surveillance à Akpait et Qaqulluit pour voir quand les guillemots de Brünnich et les fulmars boréaux arrivent pour la saison de reproduction, quand ils pondent leurs œufs, quand les poussins éclosent, quand les poussins s'envolent et quand ils quittent la colonie à la fin de la saison de reproduction. Nous installerons également des caméras de surveillance, orientées vers l'océan, pour voir combien de navires utilisent les réserves nationales de faune et quand ils les utilisent. Nous chercherons également un emplacement pour construire une cabane à Akpait ou à Qaqulluit à l'aide d'un drone, comme l'a suggéré le comité de cogestion de l'aire Sululiit. Lieu du projet : Réserve nationale de faune d'Akpait (66.917, -61.75) et réserve nationale de faune de Qaqulluit (67.215, -62.497). Date et durée proposées des visites : Nous visiterons chaque site, Akpait et Qaqulluit pendant 1 à 2 jours fin juillet/début août 2024. Nous prévoyons d'engager des membres de la communauté pour revenir à l'automne et à l'été 2025 afin de récupérer les caméras de surveillance et de changer les piles et les cartes SD des caméras de surveillance. Méthode de transport : Nous nous rendrons en bateau à tous les sites depuis Qikiqtarjuaq chaque jour et visiterons chaque site une ou deux fois. Le voyage aller-retour en bateau jusqu'à Akpait durera environ 10 à 12 heures. Le trajet aller-retour en bateau jusqu'à l'île de Qaqulluit prendra environ 6 heures.

Personnel

Personnel on site: 10

Days on site: 4

Total Person days: 40

Operations Phase: from 2024-07-15 to 2024-08-15

Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
Akpait National Wildlife Area	Researching	Marine	The Thick-billed Murre colony at Akpait National Wildlife Area was last surveyed in 1985.	NA	Approximately 120 km from Qikiqtaruaq.
Akpait National Wildlife Area	Researching	Inuit Owned Sub-Surface Lands	The Thick-billed Murre colony at Akpait National Wildlife Area was last surveyed in 1985.	NA	Approximately 120 km from Qikiqtaruaq.
Akpait National Wildlife Area	Researching	Inuit Owned Surface Lands	The Thick-billed Murre colony at Akpait National Wildlife Area was last surveyed in 1985.	NA	Approximately 130 km from Qikiqtaruaq.
Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area	Researching	Marine	The Northern Fulmar colony at Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area was last surveyed in 2002.	NA	Approximately 75 km from Qikiqtaruaq.
Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area	Researching	Inuit Owned Sub-Surface Lands	The Northern Fulmar colony at Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area was last surveyed in 2002.	NA	Approximately 75 km from Qikiqtaruaq.

Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Qikiqtaruaq	Billy Arnaquq	NA	2023-10-19

Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Canadian Wildlife Service	Migratory Birds Scientific Permit	Applied, Decision Pending	2024-02-01	
Canadian Wildlife Service	National Wildlife Area Permit	Applied, Decision Pending	2024-02-01	
Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment	Wildlife Research Permit	Applied, Decision Pending	2024-02-08	

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Water	We will take a boat to get to Akpait and Qaqulluit National Wildlife Areas.	

Project accomodation types

Other,

Material Use

Equipment to be used (including drills, pumps, aircraft, vehicles, etc)

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
DJI Mavic 3 Pro drone	2	98 mm	To take photos and videos of thick-billed murres and other breeding seabirds on the island.
Camera (Sony AR7IV)	2	98 mm	To take photos and videos of thick-billed murres and other breeding seabirds on the island.
Silver dolphin 28 ft boat or a Stanley 25 ft boat	1	28 ft	Transport to and from Akpait and Qaqulluit National Wildlife Areas.

Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Gasoline	fuel	1	100	100	Gallons	Used for the boat to transport people to and from Akpait and Qaqulluit National Wildlife Areas.

Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
0		

Waste

Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Researching	Combustible wastes	Small	A small amount of waste may be produced when deploying trail cameras. This will be collected on site and brought back to the boat and disposed of in Qikiqtarjuaq.	NA

Environmental Impacts:

To mitigate potential disturbance to birds while conducting boat-based photographic surveys and drone surveys, we have minimum setback distances from the colony: 30 metres for drone surveys and 200 metres for boat-based photographic surveys. Additionally, during surveys multiple observers will monitor the colony for signs of disturbance, for example, birds flushing. If disturbance occurs, we will increase the buffer distance between the drone or boat and the colony. If disturbance still occurs, we will cease the survey. Deploying trail cameras to monitor birds mitigates disturbance, as it limits the amount of time researchers spend in a colony. For example, researchers will spend one day deploying trail cameras to monitor the breeding season compared to researchers being present for the entire one to two months of the breeding season to visually monitor birds. In the event of a fuel spill, wildlife or wildlife habitat could become contaminated/impacted. CWS and the 24- hour NT-NU spill report line (867-920-8130) will be notified of any spills, though the chance of a spill is low.

Additional Information

SECTION A1: Project Info

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

SECTION B1: Project Info

SECTION B2: Exploration Activity

SECTION B3: Geosciences

SECTION B4: Drilling

SECTION B5: Stripping

SECTION B6: Underground Activity

SECTION B7: Waste Rock

SECTION B8: Stockpiles

SECTION B9: Mine Development

SECTION B10: Geology

SECTION B11: Mine

SECTION B12: Mill

SECTION C1: Pits

SECTION D1: Facility

SECTION D2: Facility Construction

SECTION D3: Facility Operation

SECTION D4: Vessel Use

SECTION E1: Offshore Survey

SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey

SECTION E3: Vessel Use

SECTION F1: Site Cleanup

SECTION G1: Well Authorization

SECTION G2: Onland Exploration

SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration

SECTION G4: Rig

SECTION H1: Vessel Use

A vessel will be used to travel to and from Akpait National Wildlife Area and Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area, and to conduct boat-based photographic survey and drone survey of the cliffs to count nesting marine birds.

SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea

SECTION I1: Municipal Development

Description of Existing Environment: Physical Environment

Akpait is comprised of steep cliffs, with the highest reaching 915 m in elevation. Qaqulluit Island has two rock towers that are 430 m in elevation. Akpait is made up of Precambrian sedimentary rock and Qaqulluit is made up of Precambrian rock with volcanic sediment below.

Description of Existing Environment: Biological Environment

Thick-billed Murres, Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Black Guillemots, and Glaucous Gulls breed at Akpait. Northern Fulmar breed at Qaqulluit.

Description of Existing Environment: Socio-economic Environment

Miscellaneous Project Information

Identification of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Cumulative Effects

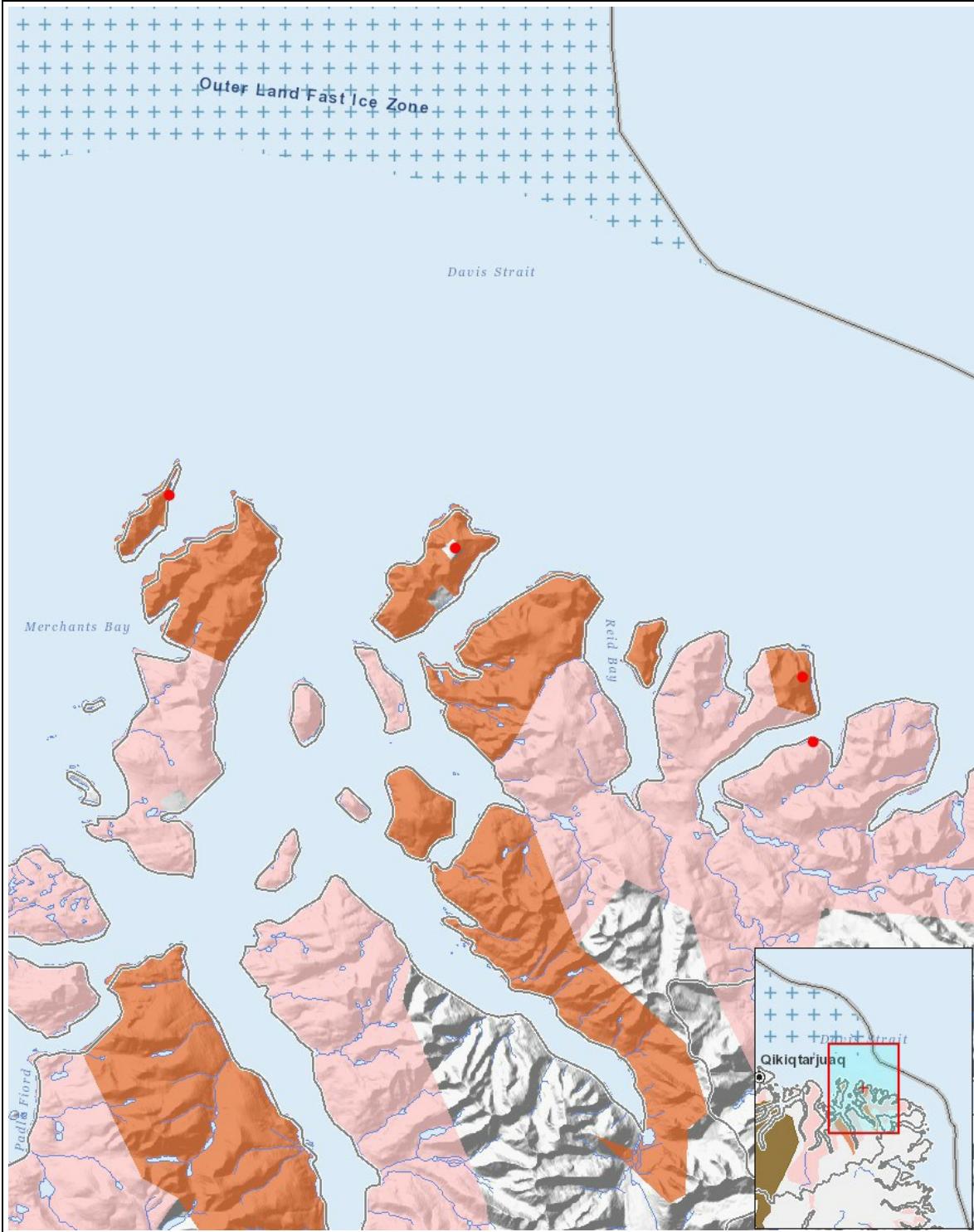
Impacts

Identification of Environmental Impacts

PHYSICAL																		
Designated environmental areas																		
Ground stability																		
Permafrost																		
Hydrology / Limnology																		
Water quality																		
Climate conditions																		
Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes																		
Surface and bedrock geology																		
Sediment and soil quality																		
Tidal processes and bathymetry																		
Air quality																		
Noise levels																		
BIOLOGICAL																		
Vegetation																		
Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns																		
Birds, including habitat and migration patterns																		
Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning																		
Wildlife protected areas																		
SOCIO-ECONOMIC																		
Archaeological and cultural historic sites																		
Employment																		
Community wellness																		
Community infrastructure																		
Human health																		
Construction																		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operation																		
Researching	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	M	-	P
Decommissioning																		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(P = Positive, N = Negative and non-mitigatable, M = Negative and mitigatable, U = Unknown)

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

- | | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | point | Akpait National Wildlife Area |
| 2 | point | Qaulluit National Wildlife Area |
| 3 | point | Akpait National Wildlife Area |