

GN

- Concerns that the Project application and supporting materials do not include a predator deterrence plan or clarity regarding how disturbance to polar bears will be minimized. The GN recommends that the proponent submit a predator deterrence plan (i.e., human-bear conflict management procedures) and wildlife policies that will be used for the Project. The GN also recommends that the Proponent provide these materials in any future submissions for similar activities.
- Recommends that a predator deterrence plan include specifications on lethal and non-lethal devices to be used for defence and deterrence, and information on the use of bear monitors.
- Recommends that the Proponent maintain a minimum distance of 100 meters (m) in water and a minimum distance of 300 m on the ice or land from polar bears. All bears encountered should be allowed to travel on a path of their choosing and should not be pursued; at no times should a bear be surrounded by multiple vehicles.
- Concerns that the Project application and supporting materials do not discuss the potential impacts on nesting raptors. Evidence suggests that disturbance from recreation can result in various impacts. These impacts can result in adult or juvenile mortalities. The GN recommends that the Proponent refrain from approaching nesting raptors during the critical timing window (May – July 15) and particularly during poor weather conditions.

Arctic Kingdom Response

We have attached our Human-Bear Conflict Management Plan and Wildlife Policies to our application and will upload these to all future applications. This includes guidelines for the use of lethal and non-lethal deterrents. Our wildlife policies adhere to all the guidelines sent out by the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment in our Wildlife Observation License. We understand the need to refrain from approaching nesting raptors during the critical window.

CIRNAC

- Notes that the Proponent did not provide specific mitigation measures it would implement in the absence of snow cover. Mitigation measures for potential impacts to vegetation should be considered because air temperatures during June may facilitate snowmelt and expose underlying vegetation. Recommends that the Proponent outline mitigation measures it would take to minimize any impacts to vegetation from its tourism activities.
- Notes that the Proponent did not describe how it would respond if there is residual effect to the surrounding environment after applying the proposed spill prevention and mitigation measures (e.g., contaminated land, snow, ice, seawater, etc.). Recommends that the Proponent describe how it would respond if the surrounding environment is impacted by fuel spills.

Arctic Kingdom Response

Our travel is exclusively on sea ice, so there will be no vegetation exposed on our travel routes even if temperatures facilitate snow melt. In the event of any spill that is above the threshold for reportable quantities, our policy is to notify the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Protection Operations (DENREP) for Nunavut. <https://www.gov.nu.ca/en/environment-and-wildlife/spill-response> We would then take the necessary steps as instructed by the governing body.