



José Audet-Lecouffe

Senior Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
By email: Jose.Audet-Lecouffe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca;
fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Richard Dwyer

Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board (NWB)
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0
By email: richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca
licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Jared Ottenhof

Director, Qikiqtani Nunalirijikkut
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: jottenhof@qia.ca; jfortier@qia.ca;
JSimic@qia.ca

Cassel Kapolak

Manager, Technical Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
By email: ckapolak@nirb.ca ; info@nirb.ca ;
kmorrison@nirb.ca

Marianne Marcoux

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
501 University Crescent
Winnipeg Manitoba R3L1N6 Canada
By email: marianne.marcoux@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dear José Audet-Lecouffe, Richard Dwyer, Jared Ottenhof, Cassel Kapolak, and Marianne Marcoux:

RE: NPC File No: 150408 [Admiralty Inlet and Grise Fiord narwhal tagging and drone work]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. Marine Based Scientific Research: Survey of narwhal population in high arctic to provide a more accurate abundance estimate and provide science advise on levels of Total Allowable Harvest of narwhals. Activities include 1) using drone video to follow individual narwhals and quantify their diving pattern and 2) remotely equipping narwhals with tags that provide location and depth data. A potential additional activity may consist of installing 2 wildlife computers Motes which are stationary, unattended ground-based listening stations that continually log telemetry data from satellite tags on animals within reception range. At each site, a temporary field camp will be established for the duration of the study.
2. Associated NPC File No: 150050; Associated NIRB File No: 23YN039.
3. Location: Qikiqtani; [Admiralty Inlet, Navy Board and near Grise Fiord.]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal and a conformity determination issued on May 29, 2023, which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, including tagging of narwhal by crossbow from land, boat, or kayak; video recording of narwhal from drones; and use of assorted shore camps as operational bases (NIRB File No.: 23YN039). It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan

(NBRLUP). 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 extension of the survey period and inclusion of a new site near Grise Fiord does not change the general scope of the original 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=150408> .

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,



Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission