



**NIRB File No.: 24YN020**  
**NPC File No.: 150312**

June 4, 2024

Lauren Juranek  
Oregon State University  
101 SW 26<sup>th</sup> St, 104 CEOAS Admin  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331 USA

Sent via email: [laurie.juranek@oregonstate.edu](mailto:laurie.juranek@oregonstate.edu)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Oregon State University's "Early Career Training Cruise" project proposal**

Dear Lauren Juranek:

On April 24, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Oregon State University's (OSU) "Early Career Training Cruise" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On May 31, 2024, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **24YN020**.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

##### ***Project Scope:***

<b>Project:</b>	Early Career Training Cruise
<b>Region:</b>	Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Regions
<b>Location:</b>	Sailing within the Northwest Passage, starting the sail within the community of Kugluktuk and sailing near the communities of Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet

<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to use this cruise to train early career scientists, undertake seafloor mapping, collect seabed grab samples and core samples to improve an atlas of seabed sediments currently in development.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	July to August 2024

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of the US Coast Guard icebreaker USCGC *Healy* for transit and research purposes;
- Collection of samples around Kugluktuk;
- Use of scientific equipment to collect research information;
  - Use of an echosounder to collect seabed imaging;
  - Use of a Smith-MacIntyre surface grab sampler, multi-coring sampler and a gravity coring device to collect surface sediment and seabed samples;
  - Use of a multibeam echo sounder to collect bathymetric data;
  - Use of CTD's to collect seawater property data;
  - Use of shipboard sensors for seawater properties;
  - Use of acoustic scattering to detect biomass in water;
  - Use of an acoustic doppler current profiler to measure ocean current velocity; and
  - Use of a gravimeter to measure earth's gravity field.
- Use of multiple hazardous chemicals to preserve, process and analyze samples.

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above. The NIRB notes that this screening does not include non-research activities related to the normal shipboard operations of the USCGC *Healy* itself.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry [www.nirb.ca/project/125952](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125952) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination and Application*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Garbage Management Plan*
- *Hazmat Plan*
- *Proper Waste Disposal*
- *Sewage Spill Response Plan*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by OSU's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 25, 2024**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125952](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125952).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or [motokiak@nirb.ca](mailto:motokiak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak  
Impact Assessment Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (6): Public Notice of Screening (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)  
Comment Forms (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)

cc: Distribution List  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute