NOTICE OF SCREENING

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN024

Project Name:	The **"Biopsy, tagging, acoustics, and drone work on walrus and beluga"** project	
Proponent Name:	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	
Project Type:	Research	Region: Kivalliq and Qikiqtani Regions
Public Registry:	www.nirb.ca	Application No.: 126169
Comment Deadline:	**June 3, 2025**	

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed "Biopsy, tagging, acoustics, and drone work on walrus and beluga" project is located within the Kivalliq and Qikiqtani regions, within the communities of Coral Harbour, Igloolik, Kinngait, Naujaat, and Sanirajak. The Proponent intends to conduct research about walrus and beluga whales to determine how they may be affected by the increased shipping in the areas of the Qikiqtani and Kivalliq regions through studying critical habitat and shipping corridors, listening and watching for behaviour changes (foraging, resting, vocalizing) and using this information to potentially develop mitigation measures such as buffer zones around important terrestrial and marine habitat. The program is proposed to take place from July to October 2025. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Collect biopsy samples of walrus and beluga to study the genetics of the species
- Use drones and remote cameras to conduct aerial surveys and to monitor walrus haul outs and gather behavioral data on beluga whales,
- Place hydrophones to monitor marine mammal presence
- Local support from the local Hunters and Trappers Associations/Organizations to hire boats, captains and field research assistants

Please visit the NIRB's public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN024** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB's attention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB's screening process, please contact Robby Qammaniq, Impact Assessment Officer toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or rqammaniq@nirb.ca.