



COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB SCREENINGS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

Project Proposal Title:	Viking Octantis – Canadian Arctic 2025		
Proponent:	F.K. Warren Ltd.		
Location:	Qikiqtani (North Baffin Region)		
Comments Due By:	May 16, 2025	NIRB #:	25TN014

Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:

<input type="checkbox"/> no concerns <input type="checkbox"/> water quality <input type="checkbox"/> terrain <input type="checkbox"/> air quality <input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat <input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat <input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	<input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land <input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities <input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation <input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area <input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area <input type="checkbox"/> human health issues <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ _____ _____
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Please describe the concerns indicated above:

DFO understands that F.K. Warren Ltd plans to operate a cruise vessel (Viking Octantis) to transport passengers and crew members for tourism, scientific research, and wildlife viewing from Nuuk, Greenland to multiple locations in Nunavut Canada including Pond Inlet, Dundas Harbour, Beechey Island, Cape Hay (Bylot Island) and Grise Fiord on four voyages between July 19 to September 15 2025.

We understand the following aquatic species listed as Endangered/Threatened, under the *Species at Risk Act* may use the area in the vicinity of where the proposal is to be located:

- Beluga Whale Cumberland Sound population
- Blue Whale Atlantic population

In addition, we understand the following aquatic species listed as Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act* may use the area in the vicinity of where the project proposal is to be located:

- Bowhead Whale Eastern Canada – West Greenland population
- Fin Whale Atlantic population
- Harbour Porpoises Northwest Atlantic population
- Sowerby's Beaked Whale Atlantic population
- Walrus High Arctic Atlantic population

Finally, we understand the following aquatic species considered for addition under the *Species at Risk Act* may use the area in the vicinity of where the proposal is to be located:

- Walrus Central/Low Atlantic Arctic population

- Beluga Whale Eastern High Arctic - Baffin Bay population
- Beluga Whale Eastern Hudson Bay population
- Beluga Whale Ungava Bay population
- Bowhead Whale Eastern Canada-West Greenland population
- Killer Whale Northwest Atlantic / Eastern Arctic population
- Narwhal
- Ringed seal

The proposal has been reviewed to determine whether it is likely to result in:

- the death of fish by means other than fishing and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat which are prohibited under subsections 34.4(1) and 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- effects to listed aquatic species at risk, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals in a manner which is prohibited under sections 32, 33 and subsection 58(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA);
- The importation, possession, transportation, or release of aquatic invasive species set out in Part 2 of the schedule of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations* which are prohibited under sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Regulations.
- The introduction of aquatic species into regions or bodies of water frequented by fish where they are not indigenous, which is prohibited under section 10 of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?

To avoid and mitigate the potential for prohibited effects to fish and fish habitat (as listed above), the Proponent shall comply with the following Acts and Regulations and implement the measures listed below:

- Marine Mammals Regulations
 - Section 7 of the Marine Mammal Regulations (*Fisheries Act*) prohibits the disturbance of marine mammals. Generally, disturbance is interpreted as disruption to an animal's normal life processes, resulting from intentional human activities (e.g., to pursue, accompany, overtake, encircle, approach repeatedly, hunt, disperse, drive or herd individuals or groups of marine mammals). This applies equally to divers, kayaks, motor boats and aircraft. Disturbance response thresholds vary among individuals, species, and locations.
 - DFO recommends that a watercraft should survey the area for Marine Mammals to avoid disturbing them. If marine mammals are encountered, and remain in the area, effort should be made to avoid disturbing them by rerouting, slowly navigating around their location at a reduced speed and maintaining their distance. Marine mammals should not be approached, in general, within 100 m and 400 m for Species at Risk. Please see the approach distances set out in [Schedule VI of the Marine Mammal Regulations](#) for specific setback based on species and location.



- At DFO.CCG.ArcticERDO-ODIEArctique.GCC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or IqaNordreg@innav.gc.ca
- Marine VHF radio channel 16

Additional information on marine mammals is available on DFO's website: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especies/mammals-mammiferes/watching-observation/index-eng.html>.

It is also the Proponent's *Duty to Notify* DFO if they have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish (including marine mammals) by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Such notifications should be directed to DFO.ARCEMTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Do you support the project proposal? Yes ☒ No ☐ Any additional comments?

DFO does not have any additional comments.

Name of person commenting: Anna-Maija LaFlamme **of** Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Position: FFHPP Biologist **Organization:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Signature:  **Date:** 15/5/2025