



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN040

Project Name: The “**ECWG Bowhead Whale Photo Identification and Biopsy Sampling**” project
Proponent Name: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani Region
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca 126181
Comment Deadline: **June 27, 2025**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “ECWG Bowhead Whale Photo Identification and Biopsy Sampling” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, Foxe Basin and east coast of Baffin Island around Clyde River. The Proponent intends to collect biopsy samples for use in updating abundance estimates and the use of drones to collect photographs for use in photo-identification studies. The program is proposed to take place from June 2025 to August 2025. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of two boats daily to transport personnel and equipment to research sites
- Hiring of four locals through the Hunters and Trappers Association in Igloolik and Clyde River to support the researchers
- Use of two (2) drones to be used to take photos and videos of bowhead whales
- Use of crossbows to collect small skin/blubber tissue samples from bowhead whales
- Non-hazardous waste to be collected and transported back to the Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg to be properly disposed of; and regular garbage to be disposed in the community dump.

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN040** 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 Francis Emingak at femingak@nirb.ca.