



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN053

Project Name: The “**Movement and Genetics of Whales in the Canadian Arctic using Satellite Telemetry Tissue Biopsies, and Photogrammetry**” project

Proponent Name: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Project Type: Research Region(s): Kitikmeot, Qikiqtani

Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 126202

Comment Deadline: **August 15, 2025**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Movement and Genetics of Whales in the Canadian Arctic using Satellite Telemetry Tissue Biopsies, and Photogrammetry” project is located within the Kitikmeot Region approximately 50km northeast of Taloyoak and in the Qikiqtani Region immediately south of Pangnirtung. The Proponent intends to better understand narwhal and beluga whale population estimates from aerial surveys, and to monitor behaviour, habitat use and movements in the Canadian High Arctic. The program is proposed to take place 3 to 4 weeks in total from June to November 2025. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Marine-based research activities targeting beluga whales in Cumberland Sound and narwhal and possibly bowhead whales in the Gulf of Boothia
- Hiring 2-4 local personnel
- Using local accommodations
- Disposing of greywater near campsite and human waste at facilities
- Using small boats to transport personnel and equipment to marine areas using 2050 litres of fuel purchased from each local community(s)
- Pumping less than 300 cm³ water from surface waters near camp for camp use
- Establishing, using and demolishing temporary field camp within an existing Inuit hunting camp in Lord Mayor Bay

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN053** 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 Leila Cai at lcai@nirb.ca.