



April 28, 2026
NPC File No. 151151

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Dear Calvin Ehaloak, Lisa Pirie, Richard Dwyer, DFO, Jared Ottenhof, Mosha Cote, Paula Hughson, Carla Pamak, and Anissa Merzouk:

RE: NPC File # 151151 [2026 scientific expedition onboard the research icebreaker CCGS Amundsen]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. **Primary Land Use:** Marine based Scientific Research
2. **Project summary description:** This project uses the Canadian research icebreaker CCGS Amundsen to investigate how rapid Arctic sea-ice loss and climate change are altering Canadian Arctic marine ecosystems. Since 2003, Amundsen expeditions have collected long-term physical, biological, and geochemical data. In 2026, researchers will sample water, plankton, fish, sediments, and seafloor habitats, deploy moorings and ice buoys, and conduct multibeam and sub-bottom surveys. Helicopter-supported river, ice, and glacier sampling will characterize greenhouse gases, sediments, and geological history, improving predictions of ecosystem and contaminant responses.
3. **Summary of modifications:** The 2026 CCGS Amundsen expedition will follow the same overall research scope and general regions as previous years (Baffin Bay, Nares Strait, Queen Elizabeth Islands), with similar sampling activities. The study team composition and some specific sampling sites will change slightly. New but comparable instruments will be introduced to enhance ecosystem measurements, including a SubOcean methane profiler, expendable bathythermograph (XBT) probes, additional atmospheric sensors (radiometers, anemometers, LIDAR), and ice buoys deployed and recovered during Leg 5, as in 2021 and 2024.
4. **Related NPC File No:** 148573, 148925, 149170, 150481, 150484, 150830; **Related NIRB File No:** 06YN071
5. **Location:** Qikiqtani Region; [several research areas along Baffin Bay, Nares Strait, Queen Elizabeth Islands]].

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above-noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal and conformity determination was most recently issued on June 13, 2025 which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB File No.: 06YN071). It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the continuation of similar research activities with new instrumentation does not change the general scope of the original or previously amended project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address: <https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=151151>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)* to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above-noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the *NuPPAA*.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 447-4563.

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission

C.C.:

- **Adam Lewis**, Nunavut Marine Region Impact Review Board (NMRIRB); By email: alewis@nmrirb.ca
- **Janelle Kennedy**, Nunavut Marine Region Planning Commission (NMRPC); By email: admin@nmrpc.ca; sdean@nmrpc.ca

Jurisdictional Note:

This conformity determination applies only to the components of the proposed project located within the Nunavut Settlement Area and under the Nunavut Planning Commission's statutory jurisdiction as defined in the Nunavut Agreement and the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA). Activities outside the NPC's jurisdiction remain subject to the review and regulatory processes of the relevant authorities. Proponents are responsible for identifying, contacting, and obtaining all required approvals from the appropriate regulators in every applicable jurisdiction to ensure compliance with all legislation, policies, and licensing requirements.