



**Calvin Ehaloak**

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**Jared Ottenhof**

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Dear Calvin Ehaloak, DFO, Luis Manzo, Jared Ottenhof, and Claire Hornby:

**RE: NPC File # 151141 [DFO biopsy, tagging, acoustics, and drone work on walrus and beluga]**

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

1. **Primary Land Use: Scientific Research**
2. **Project summary description:** The project focuses on walrus and beluga, examining how increased shipping—driven by sea ice decline—affects their behavior, habitat use, and populations. Using tools like satellite tags, drones, hydrophones, and biopsies, the studies will assess overlap with shipping routes and identify disturbances such as noise and displacement. Fieldwork will occur across several Nunavut communities with strong local collaboration.
3. **Summary of modifications:** Added additional years to the project and updated support letters.
4. **Associated NPC File Nos.:** 150413, 150692; Associated NIRB File No.: 24YN025
5. **Location:** Qikiqtani and Kivalliq Regions; [coast and waters near communities of Igloodik, Sanirajak, Kinggait, Coral Harbour, and Naujaat]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (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 April 7, 2025 which still applies. In addition, associated activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB File No.: 24YN025). It conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, G, and H of the KRLUP.

The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that the multi-year extension of the research 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=151141>

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

***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.*