



NIRB File No.: 26YN030
NIRB Public Registry link: www.nirb.ca/project/126441
NPC File No.: 151115

May 8, 2026

Julia Baak
Canadian Wildlife Service
301-933 Mivvik Street
Iqaluit, NU X0A3H0

Sent via email: Julia.baak@ec.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Canadian Wildlife Service’s “Marine Habitat Use of Black Guillemots at Pitsiulaaqsi and Eastern Canada Seabirds at Sea (ECSAS) Surveys” project proposal

Dear Julia Baak:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening¹ the project proposal.

By copy of this letter, NIRB invites regulators, interested parties, and community members or groups potentially affected by the proposal to view the application and comment directly to the NIRB by May 29, 2026.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal

The application can be viewed on NIRB’s online registry www.nirb.ca/project/126441 where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to info@nirb.ca, or by fax.

¹ Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

Scope of proposal

Location	Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region, 45 kilometres southeast of the community of Iqaluit
Objective	The Proponent intends to deploy GPS transmitters on approximately 30 black guillemots to quantify fine-scale foraging movements during the breeding season, as well as identify important marine areas for protection and improve understanding of the potential effects of climate change and other threats on Arctic marine bird populations.
Timeline	July to August 2026

The scope of the project includes the following undertakings, work or activities:

- Use of a boat to transport personnel and equipment to Pitsiulaaqsi, and used for Eastern Canada Seabirds at Sea surveys on the boat rides to and from Pitsiulaaqsi;
- Conduct of up to two daytrips to Pitsiulaaqsi to capture, band and deploy approximately 30 transmitters on male and female black guillemots;
 - Birds will be caught by hand at their burrow, using a noose pole and/or a noose carpet outside of their burrow;
 - Once captured, a small blood sample would be collected to obtain the sex of each bird.
 - Measurement of individuals and collection of feather samples; GPS transmitters would be affixed to the back or tail of the birds with Tesa tape.
 - Will return to Pitsiulaaqsi for another daytrip to remove GPS transmitters. Upon recapture, will collect another blood sample to measure contaminant levels in this species.
- Hiring local guides and bear monitors for the duration of the project;
- All garbage waste to be brought back to Iqaluit for appropriate processing;
- Use of accommodation and local services within the community of Iqaluit.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

The NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal; as a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

Questions about the NIRB's work should be directed to the undersigned at 1-866-233-3033 ext. 555 or mbeattie@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Beattie
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List

Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubesinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut, Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community Services
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community Services
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Jon Neely, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Jeff Macdonald, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Lisa Pirie, Canadian Wildlife Service