



NIRB File No.: 26YN007
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126433
NPC File No.: 151101

May 12, 2026

Amanda Savoie
Canadian Museum of Nature
1740 chemin Park
Gatineau, Quebec J9J 3N7

Sent via email: asavoie@nature.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Canadian Museum of Nature’s “Arctic Kelp Forests and Seaweed Biodiversity in Cambridge Bay” project proposal

Dear Amanda Savoie:

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 June 3, 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/126433 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	Kitikmeot region, marine waters surrounding Cambridge Bay, Dease Strait and Queen Maud Gulf.
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct marine-based scientific research to map and monitor seaweed and kelp forests within the marine areas of Cambridge Bay and assess associated invertebrate and fish communities.
Timeline	July 2026 to September 2030 (Seasonal each year within this period)

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

- **Transportation:** Hiring of a local boat operator to guide personnel to research sites, and the Arctic Research Foundation vessel to help with sampling and SCUBA diving.
- **Activities:**
 - Collecting small amounts of seaweed and benthic invertebrate with SCUBA diving.
 - Conducting underwater video transects to map the location, size, and extent of kelp.
 - Fish monitoring by using baited cameras to compare the types of fish living inside kelp forests vs bare seafloor areas.
 - Installing small monitoring sensors to record salinity, temperature, light, nutrients, pH, and dissolved oxygen.
 - Monitoring the potential impacts of increased ship traffic on the coastal ecosystem.
- **Fuel:** Use and transport of approximately 1,100 L of gasoline for fueling boating activities.

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 570 or femingak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Cory Barker, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada