



Lisa Pirie

Head, Protected Areas, Nunavut Regional Office
Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: lisa.pirie@ec.gc.ca;
CWSPermitNorth-PermisNordSCF@ec.gc.ca

Maryse Mahy

Ecologist Team Leader
Parks Canada (PC)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: Maryse.Mahy@pc.gc.ca;
PC.Nunavut-ImpactAssessment.pc@canada.ca

Caroline Whittle

Director, Heritage
Department of Culture and Heritage (GN-CH)
Iqaluit, NU
By email: cwhittle@gov.nu.ca;
apollock2@gov.nu.ca

Natalie D'Souza

Manager, Land Use & Env. Assessment
Department of Environment (GN-ENV)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: ND'Souza@gov.nu.ca;
landuseplanning@gov.nu.ca; envassessment@gov.nu.ca;
mleblanc-havard1@gov.nu.ca; jpynn@gov.nu.ca;
jneely@gov.nu.ca; wildlife_research@gov.nu.ca

Paula Hughson

A/Manager, Program Development, Nunavut Parks &
Special Places
Department of Environment (GN-ENV)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: phughson@gov.nu.ca; jblake3@gov.nu.ca

Christopher Gerlach

Manager, Tourism Development
Dept of Economic Dev. & Trans. (GN-EDT)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: cgerlach@gov.nu.ca; cruisenunavut@gov.nu.ca;
tourism@gov.nu.ca; dboyle@gov.nu.ca;
rjnoseworthy1@gov.nu.ca

Cory Barker

a/Director, Lands, Environment & Resources
Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA)
Kugluktuk, Nunavut
By email: cbarker@lands.kitia.ca; tbolt@lands.kitia.ca;
khatogina@lands.kitia.ca

Jared Ottenhof

Director, Qikiqtani Nunalirijikkut
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: jottenhof@qia.ca; jnakoolak@qia.ca;
JSimic@qia.ca

Calvin Ehaloak

A/Manager, Public Registry
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
By email: cehaloak@nirb.ca; info@nirb.ca;
kgillard@nirb.ca

Ben Bradley

Quark Expeditions
112 Merton Street - 1st Floor
Toronto ON M4S 2Z8 Canada
By email: permits@quarkexpeditions.com

Dear Lisa Pirie, Maryse Mahy, Caroline Whittle, Natalie D'Souza, Paula Hughson, Christopher Gerlach, Cory Barker, Jared Ottenhof, Calvin Ehaloak, and Ben Bradley:

RE: NPC File No: 151193 [Quark Expeditions: Canadian Arctic 2026]

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

1. **Primary Land Use:** Marine based Tourism

2. **Project summary description:** Quark Expeditions' 2026 Nunavut Expeditions will operate with the Ocean Explorer, carrying a maximum of 138 passengers and 22 staff. There are 3 voyages travelling on board the Ocean Explorer in both Greenland and Nunavut until September 20, 2026. The routes may include visit to Qaqqulluit NWA, Akpait NWA, Bylot Island MBS, Prince Leopold Island MBS, Nirjurtiqavvik NWA, and Ninginganiq NWA.
3. **Summary of modifications:** Modifications include the change of vessel from MV Ultramarine to MV Ocean Explorer, removal of helicopters use, and visit to Ellesmere Island.
4. **Associated NPC File Nos.** 148267, 148631, 148941, 149192, 149267, 149682, 149959, 150449, and 150642; **Associated NIRB File No.:** 05AN089.
5. **Location:** Qikiqtani and Kitikmeot Regions, and transboundary areas; [various locations across the Nunavut]

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 activities associated with this proposal were previously reviewed by NPC including marine-based tourism activities, and a conformity determination was most recently issued on February 26, 2025, which still applies. In addition, the activities were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE NO.: 05AN089). The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that it 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=151193>.

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) 979-3444.

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning & Implementation
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.