



**SCREENING DECISION REPORT  
NIRB FILE No.: 26YN042**

NPC File No.: 151106

July 2, 2026

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board’s (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Parks Canada’s “Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Research and Monitoring Pilot Project” is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

Subject to the Proponent’s compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in below, issued in accordance with s. 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is of the view that the project proposal is not likely to cause significant public concerns, and it is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The NIRB therefore recommends that the responsible Minister accepts this Screening Decision Report.

**OUTLINE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT**

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## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*. The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister indicating one of three options:

- (a) a review of the project is not required;
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On May 13, 2026, the NIRB received a referral to screen Parks Canada’s “Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Research and Monitoring Pilot Project” project proposal (NIRB File No: 26YN042) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s Public Registry by using any of the following search criteria or [www.nirb.ca/project/126451](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126451).

- Project Name: Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Research and Monitoring Pilot Project
- NIRB File No.: 26YN042
- NIRB Application No.: 126451

**Table 1: NIRB’s Assessment Process**

Date	Stage
May 13, 2026	Receipt of project proposal and positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Commission
May 13, 2026	Pursuant to s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> the NIRB requested the Proponent complete an online application to address information required for Screening
May 25, 2026	Receipt of online application from Proponent
May 25, 2026	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
June 3, 2026	Public engagement and comment request was issued in English with translations provided once available
June 24, 2026	Receipt of public comments
July 2, 2026	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

### 1. Project Scope

<b>Location</b>	Qikiqtani region, within marine waters around Bylot Island, Eclipse Sound, Navy Board Inlet, and Milne Inlet, around the community of Pond Inlet
<b>Objective</b>	The Proponent intends to measure seawater properties, and monitor sea-ice conditions, marine mammals, and a seabird colony to support the establishment

	of a long-term monitoring program in the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area.
<b>Timeline</b>	August 15, 2026, to August 30, 2026

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepted the scope of the project as set out by Parks Canada in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal includes the following undertakings, works, or activities:

- Use of a small boat (7m) carrying up to 8 personnel for day trips to reach sampling sites:
  - Deploy sensors to measure seawater properties at various depths
  - Use a drone to monitor sea-ice conditions, marine mammals, and a seabird colony
  - Equipment would be retrieved immediately after measurements are completed
- Use of gasoline for the boat operation.
- All waste would be brought back to Pond Inlet for disposal.

## 2. Inclusion or Exclusion to 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.

## 3. Public Comments and Concerns

As outlined in Table 1 above, notices regarding the NIRB’s screening of this project proposal were distributed to community organizations as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties with a request for interested parties to provide the Board with any comments or concerns 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.

On or before June 24, 2026, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

**Table 2: Comments Received**

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)	361896
Transport Canada (TC)	361813

**a. Summary of Comments and Concerns Received**

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB in relation to the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Research and Monitoring Pilot Project proposal:

**CIRNAC**

- Has reviewed the project proposal and has no comments to offer at this time.

**TC**

- Does not have concerns about the proposed project but notes the project is subject to acts and regulations administered by Transport Canada
- Deployment of scientific equipment are subject to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA) but given that deployment will take place for 10 to 15 minutes and monitored by project personnel. Therefore, no approval under the CNWA is required.

**b. Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge**

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit or Indigenous and Community knowledge in relation to the proposed project. However, Inuit Qaujimaningit and Indigenous and community knowledge is incorporated into the terms and conditions recommended below based on information collected from prior and similar projects, data collected and mapped by the Commission, and other available sources.

**ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF *NuPPAA***

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts. Table 3. The Board took particular care to consider Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

**Table 3: Summary of the Board’s Assessment of Factors s. 90 *NuPPAA***

Factor	Comment
<p>The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The physical footprint of the proposed project components is limited to boat-based sampling activities within the marine waters around Bylot Island, Eclipse Sound, Navy Board Inlet, and Milne Inlet.</li> <li>▪ The proposed project would take place within marine and coastal habitats used by wildlife species such as migratory and non-migratory birds, seabird, marine mammals and Species at Risk such as Polar Bears.</li> <li>▪ Given the short duration of activities, temporary equipment deployment, and same-day retrieval of equipment, the geographic area likely to be affected is expected to be limited.</li> </ul>

Factor	Comment
The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Proponent acknowledges that the proposed project components take place entirely within the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, including on marine waters nearby Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent does not propose to conduct activities in Sirmilik National Park; however, the NIRB notes that some proposed activities would take place on marine waters nearby Sirmilik National Park.</li> <li>▪ The area is considered to be sensitive due to its importance for seabirds, migratory birds, marine mammals, and other marine wildlife.</li> </ul>
The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No specific areas of historical, cultural and archaeological significance have been identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project.</li> <li>▪ The NIRB notes that the proposed project area is near the community of Pond Inlet and includes marine waters used by Inuit for harvesting, travel, and other cultural activities.</li> </ul>
The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The proposed project is not expected to result in significant impacts to local human or wildlife populations due to the temporary, localized nature of the proposed activities.</li> </ul>
The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The NIRB considered an area extending up to 10 km from the proposed sampling sites in its assessment. Potential impacts are expected to be localized, temporary, and low in magnitude, as the project is limited to short-term boat-based travel, temporary deployment of scientific equipment, and drone use.</li> <li>▪ All equipment would be retrieved immediately after measurements are completed, and no moorings are proposed.</li> <li>▪ With adherence to the relevant regulatory requirements and application of the mitigation measures recommended by the NIRB, no significant residual effects are expected to occur.</li> </ul>
The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Table 4 is a list of past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects, including research, tourism, and mine development activities. Given the limited scale, short duration, and temporary nature of the proposed activities, the project is not expected to contribute substantially to cumulative impacts when considered with these other activities. The Board recommended terms and conditions along with mitigation measures</li> </ul>

Factor	Comment
	designed with consideration for the potential for cumulative effects in the Board Views section.
Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No other relevant factors were identified; however, see below for Regulatory Requirements mandating mitigation and/or reporting.</li> </ul>

## Regulatory Requirements

***The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the Project:***  
**Acts and Regulations**

1. The *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/index.html>).
2. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-28.8/>).
3. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/>), the *Migratory Birds Regulations* ([https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,\\_c.\\_1035/index.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1035/index.html)) and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* ([https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,\\_c.\\_1036/index.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1036/index.html)).
4. The *Species at Risk Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/>). Attached in **Appendix A** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
5. The *Wildlife Act (Nunavut)* and its corresponding regulations (<http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html>).
6. The *Canada National Parks Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-14.01/>).
7. The *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-7.3/FullText.html>).
8. The *Wildlife Area Regulations* under the *Canada Wildlife Act* ([https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,\\_c.\\_1609/FullText.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1609/FullText.html)).
9. The *Aeronautics Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-2/>) and the *Canadian Aviation Regulations* (<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/acts-regulations/regulations-sor96-433.html>).
10. The *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-12/>).
11. The *Marine Liability Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-0.7/>).
12. The *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-22/>).

## Table 4: Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects Considered

NIRB Project Number	Project Title	Project Type
<b><i>Proposed Developments – undergoing assessment</i></b>		
26TN024	MY Maverick Northwest Passage Transit 2026	Tourism
26YN027	Observations of polar bear habitat use and foraging behaviour in Navy Board Inlet/Eclipse Sound	Research
<b><i>Present Projects – approved or in operation</i></b>		
08MN053	Sustaining Operations Proposal	Mine Development
08MN053	Sustaining Operations Proposal 2	Mine Development
23YN068	Mary River Mine Fugitive Dust Research: Bridging Western Science, Industry Monitoring, and Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit	Research
25TN071	Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions – Ocean Victory	Tourism
23YA018	Arctic coastal and drifting ice processes and dynamics	Research
25YN020	Assessing oil related contaminants in birds in Nunavut	Research
25YN044	Characterization of Shoreline Litter in the Canadian Arctic	Research
23YN064	Community weather and ice monitoring in Mittimatalik	Research
23UN047	Establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area	Other
<b><i>Past Projects</i></b>		
25TN031	Eagle Eye Tours Wildlife Tours	Tourism
23YN020	High Arctic Cetacean Survey 2023	Research
25YN003	IceBird Winter 2025	Research
25TN010	Roald Amundsen – Arctic Cruise 2025	Tourism

#### VIEWS OF THE BOARD

In considering the above factors, the Board has identified the following and respectfully provides its views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. The NIRB has also proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

#### **Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:**

<b>Valued Component</b>	Migratory and non-migratory birds, and Species at Risk
<b>Potential effects:</b>	Potential adverse effects to migratory and non-migratory birds and Species at Risk such as Polar Bears may occur as a result of noise and visual disturbance associated with the transportation of personnel and equipment via boat to the proposed research sites and the deployment of data collection equipment.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	The potential for impacts is considered to be limited due to infrequent and temporary activities, and any resulting impacts would be expected to be reversible.

<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	Project activities are limited in duration. Equipment would be deployed for a few minutes at a time and monitored by the Proponent. standard wildlife setback measures and drone-specific mitigation measures would be implemented, with drone operations conducted by a trained pilot. All waste, equipment, and personnel would be returned to the community following the completion of field activities.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Waste Management – 7 and 8 Wildlife – General – 10 and 11 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 12 and 13

<b>Valued Component</b>	Marine Environment
<b>Potential effects:</b>	Potential adverse effects to marine mammals, fish, and their habitat from noise and visual disturbance generated from the transportation of personnel and equipment and the deployment of data collection equipment at the study sites.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized, short-term, and reversible, as disturbances would be limited to the project footprint and the duration of active operations. Wildlife is expected to reoccupy the area following completion of activities.
<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	Standard mitigation measures, including minimizing disturbance, proper waste and fuel management, and adherence to wildlife protection protocols, are expected to reduce potential impacts.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Water courses/Water bodies – 6 Waste Management – 7 and 8 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 9 Marine-Based Activities – 14 through 16

<b>Valued Component</b>	Public and Traditional Land Use
<b>Potential effects:</b>	Potential adverse effects to public and traditional land use are expected to be limited; however, temporary disturbance to local harvesting, travel, or cultural activities could occur if project activities overlap with those uses.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, as activities are temporary and localized to the project footprint. The duration is short-term, limited to the active project period.
<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	<p>The Proponent submitted a letter of support from the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization indicating support for the proposal, provided that hunters are not disturbed.</p> <p>Continued project planning and communication with local organizations and community members, minimizing disturbance, and avoiding conflicts with wildlife harvesting and traditional land use activities where possible are expected to reduce potential impacts. However, The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure project activities are informed by available Inuit Qaujimaningit and that project activities</p>

	do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Other – 17 and 18

**Socio-economic effects on northerners:**

<b>Valued Component</b>	Local Hiring
<b>Potential effects:</b>	Limited positive effects may occur through short-term opportunities for community participation, and potential for local hiring/training during field activities.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	Potential impacts are expected to be minor, localized, and short-term, given the small scale of the project and limited personnel requirements.
<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	The Proponent has indicated that training would be provided regarding oceanographic measurements.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Other – 19

**Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:**

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

**Administrative Conditions:**

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the following project-specific terms and conditions have been recommended: 1-5.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent’s compliance with regulatory requirements and the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant, or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

**RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The Board is recommending the following specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of the project:

**General**

1. Parks Canada (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 151106) and the NIRB

(Online Application Form, May 25, 2026). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.

3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

#### **Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)**

6. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body.

#### **Waste Management**

7. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.
8. The Proponent shall dispose of all combustible wastes as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. All non-combustible wastes from the project site shall be removed to an approved facility for disposal.

#### **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

9. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

#### **Wildlife – General**

10. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
11. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

#### **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

12. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
13. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

#### **Marine-Based Activities**

14. The Proponent shall, where practicable, coordinate with other vessels to minimize simultaneous vessel traffic in critical wildlife habitat areas allowing the wildlife to continue to use the habitat undisturbed (e.g. Navy Board Inlet, Lancaster Sound, Milne Inlet, Bellot Strait).
15. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.
16. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.

### **Other**

17. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
19. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

## OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board is recommending the following:

### **Change in Project Scope**

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

### **Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission**

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca).

### **Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit**

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications, and reports as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

### **Species at Risk**

4. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change Canada’s “Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada”, available at the following link:  
[http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual\\_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf). The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including Species at Risk, are encountered or affected by the project.

### **Migratory Birds**

5. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services’ “Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut”, available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html> and “Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories”, available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada.

### **Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Air Vehicles and Non-Recreational Drones**

6. The Proponent should review Transport Canada’s site on the rules for flying drones in Canada at <https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/aviation/drone-safety/new-rules-drones.html>.

## CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board’s screening decision with respect to the Parks Canada’s “Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Research and Monitoring Pilot Project”. The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated July 2, 2026 at Iqaluit, NU.



Albert Ehaloak, Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Species at Risk in Nunavut

## APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the *Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 29 (*SARA*), and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of *SARA*, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for *SARA*. *SARA* applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of *SARA* identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of *SARA*. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the Species at Risk Registry at <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca> for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of Species at Risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of *SARA* are amended on a regular basis, so it is important to check the *SARA* registry ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2024

<b>Terrestrial Species at Risk<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>COSEWIC Designation</b>	<b>Schedule of SARA</b>	<b>Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility<sup>2</sup></b>
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Common Nighthawk	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harlequin Duck	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harris's Sparrow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Horned Grebe	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red Knot Islandica Subspecies	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut (GN)
Transverse Lady Beetle	Special Concern	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population)	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Caribou (Barren-ground Population)	Threatened	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	GN
Grizzly Bear (Western Population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Wolverine	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population)	Threatened	Schedule 1	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form)	Data Deficient	Schedule 3	DFO
Lumpfish	Threatened	No Schedule	DFO
Thorny Skate	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO

<sup>1</sup> The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

<sup>2</sup> Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.