



NIRB File No.: 26YN046
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126473
NPC File No.: 151223

July 7, 2026

Hailey Chymy
Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
631 Mivvik St
Iqaluit, NU X0A 3H0

Sent via email: hailey.chymy@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: **Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Department of Fisheries and Ocean's "Cumberland Sound Fishery-Independent Arctic Char Research 2026-27" project proposal**

Dear Hailey Chymy:

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 July 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/126473 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	South Qikiqtani region, Opingivik Lake/PG002 area, approximately 110 kilometers Southwest of Pangnirtung
Objective	The Proponent intends to collect baseline biological data from the commercially fished but previously unassessed Arctic Char stock at Opingivik Lake (PG002), to contribute to a 5-year index of abundance and trends in biological characteristics used to assess stock status.
Timeline	August 8, 2026, to August 31, 2026; (up to twelve-day research activities)

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

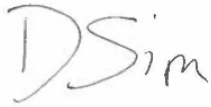
- **Undertaking, Works and Activities**
 - Collection of up to 200 Arctic Char for baseline biological sampling and stock assessment research.
 - Use of two (2) boats to transport equipment and personnel from Pangnirtung to the project site and back.
- **Camp**
 - Establishment, operation, and decommissioning of a temporary camp to support research activities of up to six (6) personnel.
- **Equipment and Fuel**
 - Use of three (3) multi-mesh gillnets to catch fish for sampling.
 - Use of one (1) small boat/skiff for checking nets while performing survey.
 - Use of two (2) personal tents for accommodation, one (1) large canvas tent used as a kitchen for crew, one (1) medium sized tent used for sampling, two (2) Coleman stoves for cooking.
 - Gasoline would be used to refuel boats, and naphtha would be used to fuel Coleman stoves.
- **Waste**
 - Greywater; Environmentally friendly soaps would be used for all washing activities to enable a safe return of greywater to the environment.
 - Waste produced from the temporary camp would be stored in large garbage bags and would be returned to Pangnirtung and disposed of properly.
 - Water would be used for basic camp activities, including cooking and cleaning, and would be obtained by hand using a water jug from a nearby freshwater stream.

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 575 or dsim@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Dustin Sim
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association\
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada