



NIRB File No.: 26YN025
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126466
NPC File No.: 151184

July 29, 2026

Justine Sutherland
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
501 University Crescent
Winnipeg Manitoba, R3T 2N6

Sent via email: justine.sutherland@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Developing local capacity and tools for on-board ship monitoring to better understand ecological risks and identify actions to improve mitigation for ship traffic in Arctic Canada's largest port" project proposal

Dear Justine Sutherland:

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 August 19, 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/126466 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 region, at Milne Inlet Port approximately 130 kilometers Southeast of Pond Inlet
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct research on the risk of aquatic non-indigenous species introductions from ballast water discharge associated with increased shipping to Milne Inlet Port related to the Baffinland Mary River Project. The project focuses on characterizing the abundance and diversity of organisms in treated and mid-ocean-exchange ballast water counts. Sampling would be conducted onboard bulk ore carriers during standard de-ballasting operations.
Timeline	Operations Phase: August 24, 2026, to December 23, 2027. Closure Phase December 23, 2027, to March 23, 2028.

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

- Daily use of one truck to transport up to five personnel and sampling equipment between the camp, Milne Inlet Port, and the on-site laboratory..
- Boarding bulk ore carriers at Milne Inlet Port to collect ballast-water samples during standard de-ballasting operations, with support from vessel personnel.
- Filtering approximately 1,000 to 2,000 liters of ballast water per sampled ship using two Ballast CATCH units.
- Collecting approximately 14 liters of raw (unfiltered water) and 1-2 liters of filtered ballast water from each sampled vessel for analysis.
- Collecting approximately 8 liters of ballast water from each sampled vessel for environmental DNA and RNA filtration and analysis.
- Collecting approximately 15 ballast water samples during 2026 field season and up to 80 samples collected over the next two years.
- Use of one ballast EYE viable-organism analyzer to count viable organisms in ballast water samples.
- Use of a TRO (Total Residual Oxidants meter) to measure residual chlorine in ballast water samples.
- Use of a citizen sampler to collect environmental DNA and RNA from ballast water samples.
- Using approximately 50 liters of gasoline to fuel the truck.
- Using approximately Four (4) liters of ethanol for sample preservation.
- Waste management: Collection of approximately 1 liter of ethanol, 2.5 liters of Fluorescein Diacetate (FDA), and one (1) liter of waste generated through Total Residual Oxidants (TRO) testing in appropriate waste containers. The waste would be transferred to Baffinland water treatment facility for treatment and disposal or shipped back down south for proper disposal.

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: Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut
Lisa Pirie, Canadian Wildlife Service
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada