



NIRB File No.: 26YN049
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126481
NPC File No.: 151225

July 29, 2026

Simon Wiley
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Winnipeg, MB

Sent via email: simon.wiley@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Department of Fisheries and Ocean's "Pond Inlet Arctic Char Stock Assessment" project proposal

Dear Simon Wiley:

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/126481) 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 two fishing locations approximately 75 km from Pond Inlet, and 15 km from Sirmilik Park
Objective	The Proponent intends to assess two stocks of Arctic char through the collection of biological samples, and use of local knowledge.
Timeline	July 26, 2026, to September 26, 2026, five days of data collection

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

- Use open boats equipped with outboard motors and approximately 400 litres of gasoline to access sampling sites in Eclipse Sound and Paquet Bay.
- Set up a temporary camp consisting of up to four personal tents, one kitchen tent, and one sampling tent.
- Use of multi-mesh gill nets (1.5 to 5.5 in) to collect Arctic char and biological samples, including ageing structures, muscle tissue, fin tissue, mature female gonads, and stomachs that appear to contain food. Fish carcasses would be returned to the community for distribution and consumption.
- Continue to gather local knowledge on Arctic char fisheries through interviews and consultation.

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. 565 or jtakkiruq@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Jordan Takkiruq
Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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