



NIRB File: 26YN049

link: [www.nirb.ca/project/126481](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126481)

Nunavut Planning Commission File No.: 151225

August 26, 2026

To: The Honourable Joanne Thompson  
Minister of Fisheries  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON

Sent via email: [joanne.thompson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:joanne.thompson@parl.gc.ca)

**Re: Screening Decision for Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Pond Inlet Arctic Char Stock Assessment" Project Proposal, North Qikiqtani Region**

Dear Honourable Minister:

On July 6, 2026, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral pursuant to the Nunavut Agreement and *NuPPAA* to conduct a screening<sup>1</sup> of Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Pond Inlet Arctic Char Stock Assessment" project proposal and after completing the required process, the NIRB determined<sup>2</sup> that **a review of the project is not required** and recommended specific terms and conditions<sup>3</sup>.

The attached Screening Decision Report provides the regulatory framework, scope of proposal and Board's assessment process, public engagement, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts, and recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Additional information on the project can be viewed on the NIRB's public registry at the link at the top of this letter.

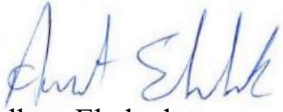
The NIRB look forward to receiving a response from the Minister, and any questions on the Board's assessment process or the Screening Decision Report can be directed to the NIRB's Director, Operations, Tara Arko at 1-866-233-3033 EXT. 500 or [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).

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 section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*

2 Pursuant to s. 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

3 Pursuant to s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

Sincerely,



Albert Ehloak

Chairperson

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 26YN049 (August 26, 2026)

cc: Regulators  
Olayuk Akesuk, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
José Audet-Lecouffe, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
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