



SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE No.: 26YN049

NPC File No.: 151225

August 26, 2026

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Pond Inlet Arctic Char Stock Assessment" 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

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK	2
PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS	2
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF <i>NUPPAA</i>	4
VIEWS OF THE BOARD	7
RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS	9
OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	11
CONCLUSION	13
<u>TABLES</u>	
TABLE 1: NIRB'S ASSESSMENT PROCESS	2
TABLE 2: COMMENTS RECEIVED	3
TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF THE BOARD'S ASSESSMENT OF FACTORS S. 90 <i>NuPPAA</i>	4
TABLE 4: PAST, PRESENT, AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE PROJECTS CONSIDERED	6
<u>APPENDICES</u>	
APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT	14

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 July 6, 2026, the NIRB received a referral to screen Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Pond Inlet Arctic Char Stock Assessment" project proposal (NIRB File No: 26YN049) 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/126481.

- Project Name: Pond Inlet Arctic Char Stock Assessment
- NIRB File No.: 26YN049
- NIRB Application No.: 126481

Table 1: NIRB's Assessment Process

Date	Stage
July 6, 2026	Receipt of project proposal and positive conformity determination (North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Commission
July 6, 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
July 23, 2026	Receipt of online application from Proponent
July 23, 2026	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
July 29, 2026	Public engagement and comment request was issued in English with translations provided once available
August 19, 2026	Receipt of public comments
August 26, 2026	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

1. Project Scope

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

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepted the scope of the project as set out by DFO in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal 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.

2. 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 August 19, 2026, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

Table 2: Comments Received

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Government of Nunavut (GN)	362789
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)	362582
Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	362768

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 Pond Inlet Arctic Char Stock Assessment project proposal:

GN

- Reviewed the proposed project and related documents and has no comments or concerns to raise at this time.

CIRNAC

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

DFO

- Reviewed the documents in accordance with DFO's mandate and has no comments or recommendations at this time.

3. 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
The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.	▪ The physical footprint of the proposed project components is limited to the Satuut and Tuniit fishing locations and the travel routes from Pond Inlet via boat. ▪ The proposed project would take place within habitats of far-ranging wildlife species such as migratory and non-migratory birds, seabirds, fish, marine mammals, and Species at Risk such as Polar Bears.
The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.	▪ No specific areas of ecosystemic sensitivity have been identified by the Proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project.

Factor	Comment
	The NIRB notes that Sirmilik National Park is located in proximity to the proposed Project locations.
The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.	No specific areas of historical, cultural, or archaeological significance were identified within the physical footprint of the proposed Project based on the information available to the Board. The Proponent notes that the fish sample locations are approximately 15 km from Sirmilik National Park
The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.	- 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. - The Project would involve the collection of Arctic char for stock assessment purposes; however, given the limited scale and short duration of sampling, the activities are not expected to significantly affect local Arctic char population abundance.
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.	- A zone of influence of up to 5 km from the most potentially-disruptive project activities was selected for the NIRB's assessment. - 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.
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.	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 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.	No other relevant factors were identified; however, see below for Regulatory Requirements mandating mitigation and/or reporting.

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) and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* (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 *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-12/>).
9. The *Marine Liability Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-0.7/>).

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

NIRB Project Number	Project Title	Project Type
<i>Proposed Developments – undergoing assessment</i>		
26YN025	Developing local capacity and tools for on-board ship monitoring to better understand ecological risks and identify actions to improve mitigations for ship traffic in Arctic Canada's largest port	Research
26WA001	Renewal and Amendment of the Hamlet of Pond Inlet Water Licence #3BM-PON2025 – Water Supply Facility	Municipal and Industrial Development
<i>Present Projects – approved or in operation</i>		
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 Qaujimajatuqangit	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

NIRB Project Number	Project Title	Project Type
23UN047	Establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area	Other
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
26YN042	Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Research and Monitoring Pilot Project	Research
<i>Past Projects</i>		
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:

Valued Component	Migratory and non-migratory birds and Species at Risk
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects to migratory and non-migratory birds and Species at Risk may occur from noise and visual disturbance associated with boat travel and human presence at the proposed research locations.
Nature of Impacts:	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.
Mitigating Factors:	Project activities are limited in duration. Equipment would be deployed for a short period of time and monitored by the Proponent.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 7 and 8 Wildlife – General – 10 and 11 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 12 and 13

Valued Component	Marine Environment
Potential effects:	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 gill nets at the study sites.
Nature of Impacts:	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.

Mitigating Factors:	Standard mitigation measures, including minimizing disturbance, proper waste and fuel management, and adherence to wildlife protection protocols, are expected to reduce potential impacts.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Water courses/Water bodies – 6 Waste Management – 7 and 8 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 9 Marine-Based Activities – 17 through 19

Valued Component	Public and Traditional Land Use
Potential effects:	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.
Nature of Impacts:	Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, as activities are temporary and localized to the project footprint. The duration is short-term and limited to the active project period.
Mitigating Factors:	The Proponent submitted a letter of support from the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization indicating support for the proposal. 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 do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other – 23 and 24

Socio-economic effects on northerners:

Valued Component	Archaeological, Cultural, and Heritage Sites
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects may occur from the disturbance of known or previously unidentified archaeological or culturally significant sites while setting up a temporary campsite.
Nature of Impacts:	Potential impacts are expected to be low in likelihood due to the small scale of the proposed activities; however, any disturbance to archaeological or cultural resources would be considered significant and potentially irreversible.
Mitigating Factors:	Project activities are limited to a small-scale temporary campsite. Standard regulatory requirements, including avoidance of known sites and implementation of appropriate buffer zones and chance-find procedures, are expected to reduce the potential for impacts.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 14 through 16 Heritage Sites – 20 through 22

Valued Component	Local Hiring
Potential effects:	Limited positive effects may occur through short-term opportunities for community participation, and potential for local hiring during field activities.
Nature of Impacts:	Potential impacts are expected to be minor, localized, and short-term, given the small scale of the project and limited personnel requirements.
Mitigating Factors:	The Proponent has indicated that the crew would include residents of Pond Inlet to support field activities.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other – 25

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. Department of Fisheries and Oceans (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.: 151225), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, July 23, 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 ensure that water extraction from any fish-bearing waterbody is done with appropriate care and caution. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the appropriate authorizing agency.

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 avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.
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.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

14. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
15. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.
16. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) upon completion of work and/or abandonment.

Marine-Based Activities

17. 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).
18. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.
19. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.

Heritage Sites

20. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed as a result of project activities.
21. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.
22. No activities shall be conducted in the vicinity (50 metres buffer zone) of any archaeological/historical sites. If archaeological sites or features are encountered, activities shall immediately be interrupted and moved away from this location. Each site encountered needs to be recorded and reported to the Government of Nunavut-Department of Culture and Heritage.

Other

23. 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.
24. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
25. 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 or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at 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.

Bear and Carnivore Safety

4. The Proponent should review the Government of Nunavut's booklet on Bear Safety, which can be downloaded from this link: http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear_safety_-_reducing_bear-people_conflicts_in_nunavut.pdf. Further information on bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques can be found in the "*Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from this link: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf.
5. There are polar bear and grizzly bear safety resources available from the Bear Smart Society with videos on polar bear safety available in English, French and Inuktitut at <http://www.bearsmart.com/play/safety-in-polar-bear-country/>. Information can also be obtained from Parks Canada's website on bear safety at the following link: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/d.aspx> or in reviewing the "*Safety in Polar Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~/_media/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety_English.ashx.
6. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Pond Inlet, phone: (867) 899-8819).

Species at Risk

7. 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. 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

8. 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.
9. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change Canada's Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet "Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs" available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board's screening decision with respect to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' "Pond Inlet Arctic Char Stock Assessment". The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated August 26, 2026 at Iqaluit, NU.



Albert Ehloak, 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) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2024

Terrestrial Species at Risk ¹	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility ²
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

¹ The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

² 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.