

# Nunavut Impact Review Board

Strategic Environmental Assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait

Update on File No. 17SN034 - [www.nirb.ca/project/125087](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125087)

June 2018

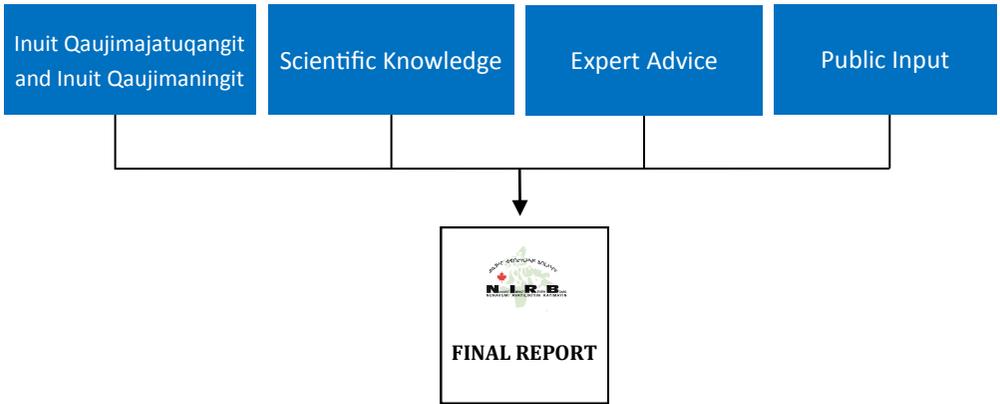


**Information on the Strategic Environmental Assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait (SEA):** what work has been done, what the next steps are, and how you can get involved.

# Purpose of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):

To understand possible types of offshore oil and gas related activities that could one day be proposed in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait and their associated risks, benefits, and management strategies.

## What Information is Considered?



## What is the Process?

There are three phases that make up the SEA process:

- Phase 1: Scoping (Complete)
- **Phase 2: Development Scenarios (Current Phase)**
- Phase 3: Develop Final SEA Report

When the SEA is complete, the NIRB will provide its recommendations to the Federal Government to inform its future decision making processes.



# Who is involved?

The SEA is being undertaken by the NIRB with the support of a working group comprised of the following independent groups and organizations:

Working Group Member	Specific Responsibility
 <p>Nunavut Impact Review Board</p>	<p>Coordinate the assessment and prepare a final report with recommendations.</p>
 <p>Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada</p>	<p>Initiate the SEA and coordinate input from federal departments</p>
 <p>Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated</p>	<p>Ensure the SEA process and resulting government decisions are consistent with the <i>Nunavut Agreement</i></p>
 <p>Qikiqtani Inuit Association</p>	<p>Collect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and information on Inuit harvesting activities and working with the NIRB to ensure appropriate use and incorporation of Inuit knowledge throughout the process</p>
 <p>Government of Nunavut</p>	<p>Provide education material on general oil and gas activities to the communities</p>
<p>Community members like you!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing knowledge and input</li> <li>• Asking questions</li> <li>• Telling us what is important</li> <li>• Attending public meetings</li> <li>• Providing written comments and submissions</li> </ul>
<p>Inuit organizations and other groups</p>	
<p>Nunavut Institutions of Public Government</p>	
<p>Federal and Territorial Government Agencies</p>	
<p>Industry, academia, and non-government organizations</p>	

# Phase 1: Scoping

**Purpose:** Identify a list of topics to be considered within the SEA

## How we did this:

- We visited your community two times and used your feedback to make the list.
- We sent the list out to get feedback from organizations, the public, and governments.

## Questions that we asked:

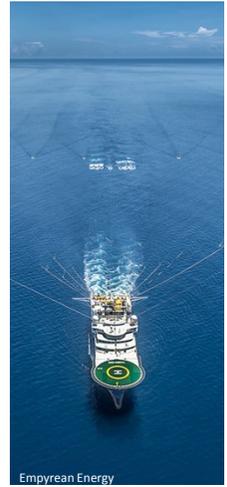
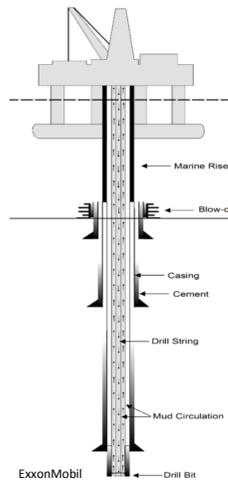
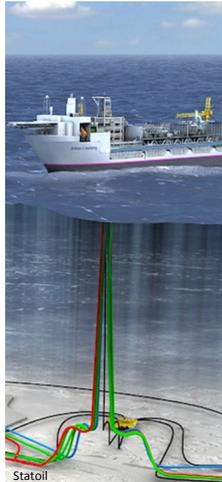
- What questions or issues are most important to address?
- What concerns do you have about oil and gas development in your region?
- What experience do you have with past oil and gas activities?
- What do we need to learn more about?

**The list was completed March 2018**



## Phase 2: Development Scenarios

**Purpose:** Identify what oil and gas development could be possible in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait if it was allowed.



### How we are doing this:

- An independent consultant developed two reports for the NIRB:
  - ⇒ Possible Development Scenarios Report: What oil and gas activities could look like in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait; and
  - ⇒ Environmental Setting and Effects Assessment Report: Information on the Physical, Biological and Human Environments and how the possible oil and gas activities could change the environment.
- These technical reports have been posted online and distributed to communities, organizations, the public and government for feedback.
- The NIRB is preparing a summary report to bring to your community.
- The NIRB will visit your community to discuss the development scenarios and possible effects and to hear your feedback.

## Questions we will ask at this stage:

- What kinds of oil and gas activities are possible in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait?
- What could oil and gas activities in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait involve?
- How could these types of activities impact the environment and communities?
- What additional questions should be addressed?
- What information is missing?

## Possible scenarios we are studying

The following oil and gas development scenarios are being considered during this phase of the SEA. Factors being considered for each scenario include possible equipment and infrastructure requirements as well as possible accidents and malfunctions that could occur.



- Scenario one: Exploration with seismic surveys



- Scenario two: Exploration Drilling



- Scenario three: Field Development and Production Drilling



- Scenario four: No Offshore Oil and Gas Activity

## Potential effects to be assessed

We are studying the possible positive and negative effects that could occur in each development scenario. For example:

- Effects on the physical environment, biological environment and human environment;
- Potential effects from routine activities;
- Cumulative effects;
- Transboundary Effects;
- Accidents and Malfunctions; and
- Mitigation Measures and Planning Considerations.



## How you can be involved:

- Attend the NIRB's public meeting happening in your community this fall.
- Ask questions and share your thoughts in person at the meeting, by phone, or by email.
- Sign up for notifications.



*More information about submitting comments and contacting the NIRB can be found on pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter*

## Phase 3: Develop Final SEA Report

**Purpose:** To provide the NIRB Board members with the information necessary to prepare a Final SEA Report. This report will contain the Board members' recommendations for the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs regarding oil and gas development in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait based on what they have learned from the SEA process.

The NIRB's final report will include recommendations to inform the federal government's five year review of the decision to designate Canadian Arctic waters as off limits to future oil and gas licences. These recommendations could encompass:

- Whether offshore oil and gas activity should proceed;
- Specific needs for additional information;
- Location and timing of potential oil and gas activity;
- Actions to prevent or reduce potential effects from offshore oil and gas activities; and
- Options to maximize benefits for Nunavummiut.

### How We Will Do This:

- The NIRB will hold a Final Public Meeting.
- Representatives from the 10 selected Qikiqtani communities will be invited to attend and share your views and concerns with the Board.
- Organizations will be invited to attend and share their views and concerns with the Board, including: Inuit organizations and other groups, Nunavut Institutions of public government, Federal and Territorial departments, Industry, academia, and non-government organizations.

## Questions We Will Ask:

- What information is missing?
- What areas require further study?
- Should oil and gas development be allowed in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait?
- What should happen next?

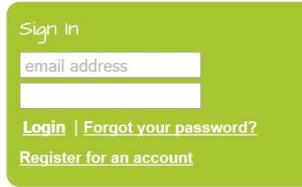
## How you can be involved:

- Prior to the Final Public Meeting, the NIRB will ask community organizations to select community representatives. Come to the meeting in your community this fall to find out more about how this selection process will work.
- Share your thoughts with your community's representative prior to the Final Public Meeting.
- Submit written comments directly to the NIRB (See pages 10 and 11 for more information).



# How to Submit a Comment on the NIRB's Public Registry

**Step 1:** Go to [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) and sign in to your account. If you don't have an account, create one by clicking on [Register for an Account](#).



A screenshot of a green sign-in form. At the top, it says "Sign In". Below that are two input fields: the first is labeled "email address" and the second is for a password. Under the input fields, there are three links: "Login", "Forgot your password?", and "Register for an account".

**Step 2:** Click on the Public Registry button found below the sign in box.



**Step 3:** Search for the project file number that you would like to submit comments on (for example, to find this SEA, enter 17SN034).

## SEARCH the PUBLIC REGISTRY

### Keyword Search

Search Projects  Search Documents

**Step 4:** Choose the project you are looking for from the list of search results. Click on the underlined title.

[125087 \[17SN034\] - Strategic Environmental Assessment in Baffin Bay/Davis Strait](#)

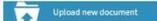
Applicant: Nunavut Impact Review Board, S.E.A.  
Project Type: Other  
Region: Transboundary, North Baffin  
Last Modified: 2018-06-05

**Step 5:** You are now on the file’s “Project Dashboard”. To submit a comment for this file, click on the “Comment Form” button found at the top right of the page.



**Step 6:** This will bring you to the Electronic Comment Form. You have the choice to fill out the form displayed on the screen or to upload a document with your comments. Once you have filled in all the boxes or have uploaded your own document, be sure to click “Submit.”

Fill out the form below or upload your comments.



The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:

<input type="checkbox"/> no concerns <input type="checkbox"/> water quality <input type="checkbox"/> terrain <input type="checkbox"/> air quality <input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat <input type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat <input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat <input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	<input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land <input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities <input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation <input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area <input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area <input type="checkbox"/> human health issues <input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat <input type="checkbox"/> other:
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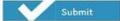
If you selected 'other' please list your additional concerns here:

Please describe the concerns indicated above:

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?

Do you support the project proposal?

Yes
  No
  Any additional comments?



### Having trouble submitting your comments?

You can also submit comments by email, phone or fax. For more information see the back of this flyer.

## How to Get in Touch with the NIRB

Have questions or comments?

Contact Heather Rasmussen at the NIRB's office in Cambridge Bay using the contact information below.



Phone (toll free): 1-866-233-3033

Fax: 867-983-2594

Email: [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca)

Mail: P.O. Box 1360, Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0