

Non-Technical Summary – Proposed Exercise Recovery Ranger (Amadjuak Lake, NU.)

During Exercise Baffin Ranger, personnel from 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (1 CRPG) were traversing the ice on Amadjuak Lake, Nunavut when the ice failed on April 4, 2023, and their equipment was lost into the lake. Among the equipment lost were two snowmobiles (Light Over Snow Vehicles (LOSVs)), over 225L of miscellaneous POL, one small arms, and other miscellaneous equipment. The Department of National Defence (DND) understands it is legally required to take all reasonable measures to mitigate and remediate any environmental impacts as Amadjuak Lake is an important Arctic char and caribou habitat.

DND proposes hiring a civilian contractor to conduct recce and recovery operations of the missing submerged equipment from the lakebed of the North Bay region of Amadjuak Lake during the summer/fall 2025 (tentatively July 15 to September 30) in an environmental sound manner. The recovery team will include divers and/or a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) that will be working on and in Amadjuak Lake, Canadian Rangers to provide local knowledge and predator control, environmental personnel to provide oversight and guide pollution prevention measures, and other personnel to support the operation. Iqaluit, Nunavut will be designated as the Forward Operating Base (FOB) for equipment and personnel rotation via aircraft support with the assistance of 1 CRPG, military divers, and 3rd Canadian Division Support Group's (3 CDSG) Environmental Services. Zodiacs and other water-related equipment will be used to recover the missing items, and a helicopter (if required) will also be used to lift the large submerged items onto the shore, inside secondary containment containers, and at least 31 m from the lake shoreline to be stored there until winter for 1 CRPG land removal via snowmobiles. Lastly, pollution prevention measures will be employed through all phases of the recovery.

During the main recovery operation, one temporary camp for up to 25 personnel has prior CIRNAC approval for a duration of no longer than ten days that will also serve as the Main Operating Base (MOB) with the exact location being determined by ground conditions. All recce and recovery activities will occur within the pre-defined area (Op Box), and mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid negative environment impacts. Only the Canadian Rangers will carry weapons for predator control during the daily dive and/or ROV recovery operations and at night. During both the recce and recovery operations, water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene may be drawn from the nearby Amadjuak Lake. Greywater will be disposed of into a sump that will be at least 31 m away from the shoreline and sewage will be properly contained and transported out for disposal at a proper waste facility.

Please note that the dates may change slightly due to unpredictable circumstances, such as poor weather. No permanent structures will be erected, camp will consist of temporary shelters (modular, arctic, and/or McPherson tents), and no fuel will be stored as caches during the recce and recovery operations. Lastly, all personnel participating in either the recce or recovery operations will be self-sufficient and do not intend to draw on the local economy for logistical support or resupply.

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