



Cassel Kapolak

Manager, Public Registry
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
Cambridge Bay, NU
By email: ckapolak@nirb.ca; info@nirb.ca;
kgillard@nirb.ca

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Yellowknife, NT
By email: [DFO.ARCEMTriage-
TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.ARCEMTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Richard Dwyer

Manager, Licensing
Nunavut Water Board (NWB)
Gjoa Haven, NU
By email: richard.dwyer@nwb-oen.ca;
licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Wynter Kuliktana

Director, Lands, Environment & Resources
Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA)
Kugluktuk, NU
By email: wkuliktana@lands.kitia.ca;
tbolt@lands.kitia.ca; khatogina@lands.kitia.ca;
jamagoalik@kitia.ca

Jared Ottenhof

Director, Qikiqtani Nunalirijikkut
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
Iqaluit, NU
By email: jottenhof@qia.ca; jfortier@qia.ca;
jsimic@qia.ca

Carson Gillis

Director, Lands and Resources
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI)
Cambridge Bay, NU
By email: cgillis@tunngavik.com

Mark Gillespie

Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO, Proponent)
Winnipeg, MB
By email: mark.gillespie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dear Cassel Kapolak, Fish & Fish Habitat Protection Program, Richard Dwyer, Wynter Kuliktana, Jared Ottenhof, Carson Gillis, and Mark Gillespie:

RE: NPC File No. 150803 [Movement and genetics of whales in the Canadian Arctic using satellite telemetry, tissue biopsies, and photogrammetry.]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. NEW marine-based scientific research activities: Ongoing environmental and anthropogenic changes in the Canadian Arctic have raised concerns regarding the capacity of marine mammal populations to adapt to these new and expanding stressors. To assess and mitigate potential impacts from stressors like climate change and the expansion of high Arctic marine shipping activities, a better understanding of contemporary marine mammal stocks, behaviour, and movements in the Canadian High Arctic is needed.
 - a. Use of drones to collect photographs and video to assess population structure (i.e. age, sex), body condition and behaviour of individuals and groups of whales, as well as blow vapour samples from whales for hormone and genetic analysis.

- b. Use of crossbow or airgun to deploy remote biopsy sampling darts and GPS satellite tags to assess genetic relationships, hormone levels, and diet of Arctic whales, and collect data on location, movement, and dive duration.
2. Location: Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Regions; [Gulf of Boothia and Cumberland Sound]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above-noted project proposal and has determined that it is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. The project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the NIRB for screening. Project materials are available at the following address: <https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150803>.

This decision applies only to the above-noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits, and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address or telephone number below.

Sincerely,



Daniel Haney (he/him) | ᑕᓄᓂᓐ ᑭᓂᓂᓄᓐ

Senior Planner

Nunavut Planning Commission

✉ ghaney@nunavut.ca

☎ (867) 979-3444 ext. 1002 or (867) 222-5265