



December 9, 2025
NPC File No. 150978

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Mark Gillespie

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Dear Calvin Ehaloak, Richard Dwyer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Cory Barker, Jared Ottenhof, Mark Gillespie;

RE: NPC File # 150978 [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. **Primary Land Use:** Marine based scientific research.
2. **Project summary description:** 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 air gun 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.
3. **Summary of modifications:** Extension of dates from 2026-06-01 until 2026-12-01
4. **Associated NPC File No.:** 150803; **Associated NIRB File No.:** 25YV053
5. **Location:** Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Regions; [Gulf of Boothia and Cumberland Sound]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. NPC has determined that this project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. The activities associated with this proposal were previously reviewed by NPC on June 11, 2025. In addition, the works and activities listed above were previously screened by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB FILE No. 25YV053). The above-noted project proposal is exempt from screening by the NIRB because the NPC is of the understanding that it does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in Section 12.4.3 (a) and (b) of the Nunavut Agreement do not apply.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal to the regulatory authorities identified by the proponent. Project materials are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150978>

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 (867)979-3444.

Sincerely,



Goump Djalogue, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning and Implementation
Nunavut Planning Commission