Project Title: Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) – Northern Watch Technology Demonstration Project

Project Location: Gascoyne Inlet, NU

CIRNAC Permit: N2021N0007
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The DRDC Northern Watch Technology Demonstration Project (Project) is underway to demonstrate an arctic maritime surveillance capability to the Department of National Defence and other concerned federal departments. This is a multi-year undertaking and is based at Gascoyne Inlet.

The main research program presently supported by the Gascoyne Inlet Camp is the Defence of North America program. This program is a multi-year program, part of which is focused on surveillance in maritime Arctic locations.

As part of technology demonstration activities, annual trips to the Gascoyne Inlet Camp are required. Once the team has arrived the camp, their main tasks will include routine camp maintenance and science (research) activities. The on-site team for the 2024 field season is expected to range from 10 to 25 persons, with the normal load being approximately 10 people. The duration of their time on site is expected to be for five weeks within the July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024 timeframe.

The Gascoyne Inlet camp will also support research activities such as the Recovery of Northern Watch Array, the Seabed Survey of Gascoyne Inlet for Long-Term Arctic Infrastructure Monitoring, the Sonobuoys Deployment, and the Oceans Network Canada Ocean Observatory Upgrade via support platforms such as small boats, and Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) or commercial vessel.

The DRDC also intends to set up and test a small, sailboat-style reverse-osmosis water treatment system to determine the feasibility of providing fresh water to the camp through a larger system in the future. This would include a small saltwater intake hose and a brine discharge hose near the shoreline. It is a similar system that would be used aboard ships to provide fresh water, but on a much smaller scale.

The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces strive for excellence in environmental stewardship. A Simplified Environmental Study (SES) will be conducted, and the research trials will be conducted with due diligence towards the environment.