



through designation by Ministerial Order, under the Oceans Act.

Summary of Evidence and Arguments

The protection given to the interim protected area from the previous Ministerial Order is set to expire after five years, ending on July 30, 2024. According to the *Oceans Act (1996)*, after five years, the Minister must either make a recommendation to the Governor-in-Council to designate a permanent marine protected area or repeal the interim Order.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada said the process of establishing a permanent marine protected area encountered significant delays, notably due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Given these circumstances, Qikiqtani Inuit Association formally requested that Fisheries and Oceans Canada seek approval from NWMB to repeal and replace the current Ministerial Order to allow additional time to complete an ongoing feasibility assessment of the area and explore the establishment of an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada stated that if the Order is repealed and another is made, it will provide interim protection for five years. During these five years, any activity that has occurred in Tuvaijuittuq over the twelve months prior to the designation of the first Order or that has been authorized to occur, would be allowed to continue. However, new activities would be prohibited, with some exceptions specified in the current Order. Neither the first nor second Order would limit the wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the *Nunavut Agreement*.

The Government of Nunavut's written submission stated that their support for marine protection in the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area is contingent upon Fisheries and Oceans Canada taking immediate action to reassess their proposed restrictive interpretation of the *Oceans Act*. Specifically, the Government of Nunavut expressed concern over the interpretation of the *Oceans Act* that would prohibit tourism, recreation, and outfitting activities for another five-year period. During the Regular Meeting, the Government of Nunavut further explained that activities like treks to the North Pole that did not occur in the 12 months before the first Ministerial Order would be prohibited, potentially leading to lost economic opportunities.

The Government of Nunavut proposed potential solutions to prevent lost economic opportunities. They suggested recognizing certain activities as not causing harm, in



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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

interim period.

Conclusion

Given the considerations above, the Board decided to approve the request to establish a second Ministerial Order for Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area. The NWMB looks forward to your reply and completion of the *Nunavut Agreement* decision-making process. If you have questions regarding this letter, do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Daniel Shewchuk

Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Thomas Hoggarth, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des
Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

June 7, 2024

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 11, 2024, regarding the approval of the proposal to establish a second marine protected area in Tuvaijuittuq by ministerial order under the *Oceans Act*.

This letter confirms that I accept the March 26, 2024 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision that says:

RESOLVED that, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approves, pursuant to Sections 5.2.34(a), 9.3.2, 15.2.1, and 15.3.4 of the Nunavut Agreement, the plan to re-establish interim protection for the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area through designation by Ministerial Order, under the *Oceans Act*.

I would like to express my appreciation to you and the members of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for supporting the continued protection of this important marine area within the Nunavut Settlement Area while we work with Inuit and territorial partners to pursue an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area in Tuvaijuittuq.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Diane Lebouthillier'.

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

c.c.: Olayuk Akesuk, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Canada