

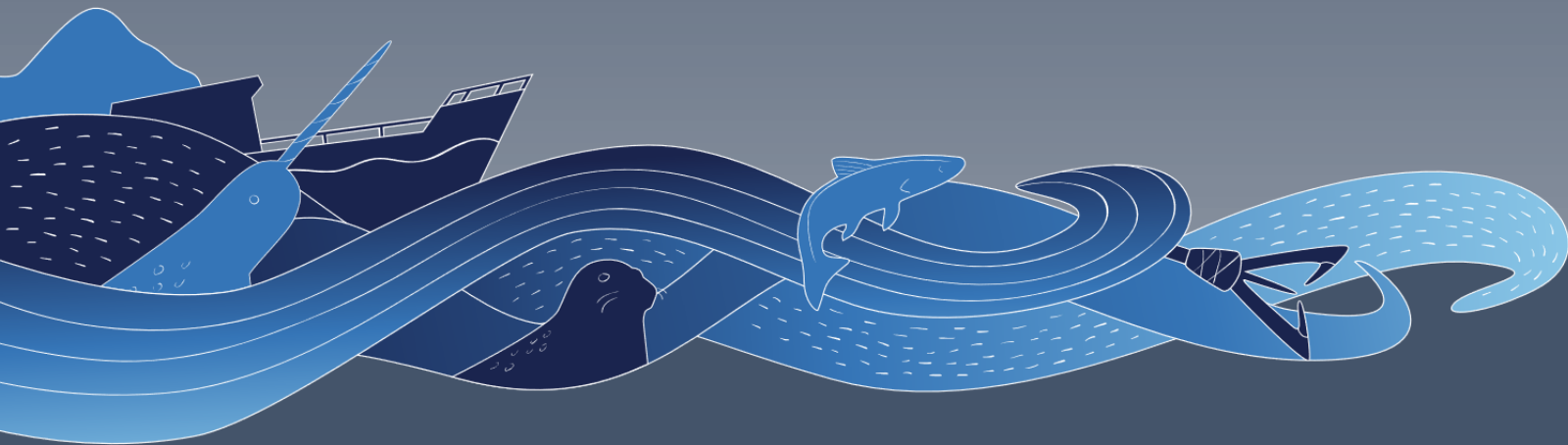


Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Proposal to Establish Ministerial Order Marine Protected Areas under the *Oceans Act* in Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq

Presentation to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
February 26, 2025



Canada 

Purpose

DFO is seeking NWMB's approval to establish Ministerial Order Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq under the *Oceans Act*, which will be consistent with the Nunavut Agreement, s9.3.2



Sarvarjuaq

- Sarvarjuaq is located in northern Baffin Bay.
- Narrow channels help ice bridges form between Canada and Greenland, creating one of the largest recurring polynyas in the Arctic, the North Water Polynya.
- The polynya supports a large variety of marine life, including algae, fish, seabirds, and marine mammals.
- Sarvarjuaq is an important overwintering habitat and calving area, supporting the species harvested by communities throughout the Qikiqtani Region and beyond.
- The ice bridge has also been a method of travel for Inuit, connecting Canada and Greenland.



Proposed Ministerial Order MPA

- A Ministerial Order MPA freezes the footprint of ongoing activities in an area for a period of up to 5 years.
- This means that activities that are occurring, or are authorized to occur, in the year leading up to establishment are allowed to continue, but no new activities would be allowed for the duration of the Order.
- A joint Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for the proposed MPAs is being negotiated between the Government of Canada and QIA.
- The proposed MPAs would protect these vulnerable areas while partners consider long-term management and conservation needs for Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq, including Inuit Protected and Conserved Areas for both sites.

Proposed Ministerial Order MPA (cont)

Activities listed below would be allowed within the proposed Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq MPAs:

- Inuit activities provided for in the *Nunavut Agreement*
- All ongoing activities taking place 1 year prior to designation and activities that have otherwise been authorized to occur by applicable federal laws or by laws of a province/territory
- Marine scientific research
- Activities carried out for purposes of public safety, national defence, national security or law, or in response to emergency situations
- Exempted foreign activities

Classes of ongoing activities

The following have been identified as classes of ongoing activities in both Sarvarjuaq and Qikiqtait. These classes of activities will be allowed to continue under the Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq Ministerial Order MPAs:

- ✓ Hunting and trapping (including sport hunting)
- ✓ Fishing (including sport fishing)
- ✓ Harvesting of marine plants
- ✓ Constructing, dismantling, maintaining and repairing, and using of temporary structures on sea ice
- ✓ Marine navigation
- ✓ National defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence
- ✓ Canadian Coast Guard activities carried out by the Canadian Coast Guard
- ✓ Tourism activities
- ✓ Recreational activities
- ✓ Educational activities
- ✓ Travel over sea ice using motorized vehicles and non-motorized methods
- ✓ Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and community-based research activities (including stewardship activities)
- ✓ Scientific research activities
- ✓ Filming and media content development

Consultations Qikiqtait

November 2023 – April 2024:

Two rounds of in-person consultations with Sanikiluaq HTA, Sanikiluaq Hamlet Council, Arctic Eider Society, Sanikiluaq Qikiqtait Steering Committee and public of Sanikiluaq.

October 2024:

Letters in support of the Ministerial Order MPA were received from HTA, hamlet council and the Arctic Eider Society



Consultations Sarvarjuaq

October 2023 – June 2024: Two rounds of in-person consultations with the HTAs, hamlet councils and general public in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq

May 2024: Newsletter distributed with consultation summary, objectives, an activities survey with return mail packaging provided and contact information

October 2024: Letters in support of the Ministerial Order MPA were received from all 6 community HTAs and hamlet councils

Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholders engaged were identified with assistance from the Government of Nunavut and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.
- Letters were sent to stakeholders in English, French and Inuktitut. The first letters were distributed in July 2024. The second round of letters were sent in October 2024.
- DFO continues to be available to stakeholders as the process advances.

Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) & Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

- DFO submitted the Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq proposals to the NPC for conformity determination as required under the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA).
- NPC referred the proposal to NIRB for further screening and a public comment period.

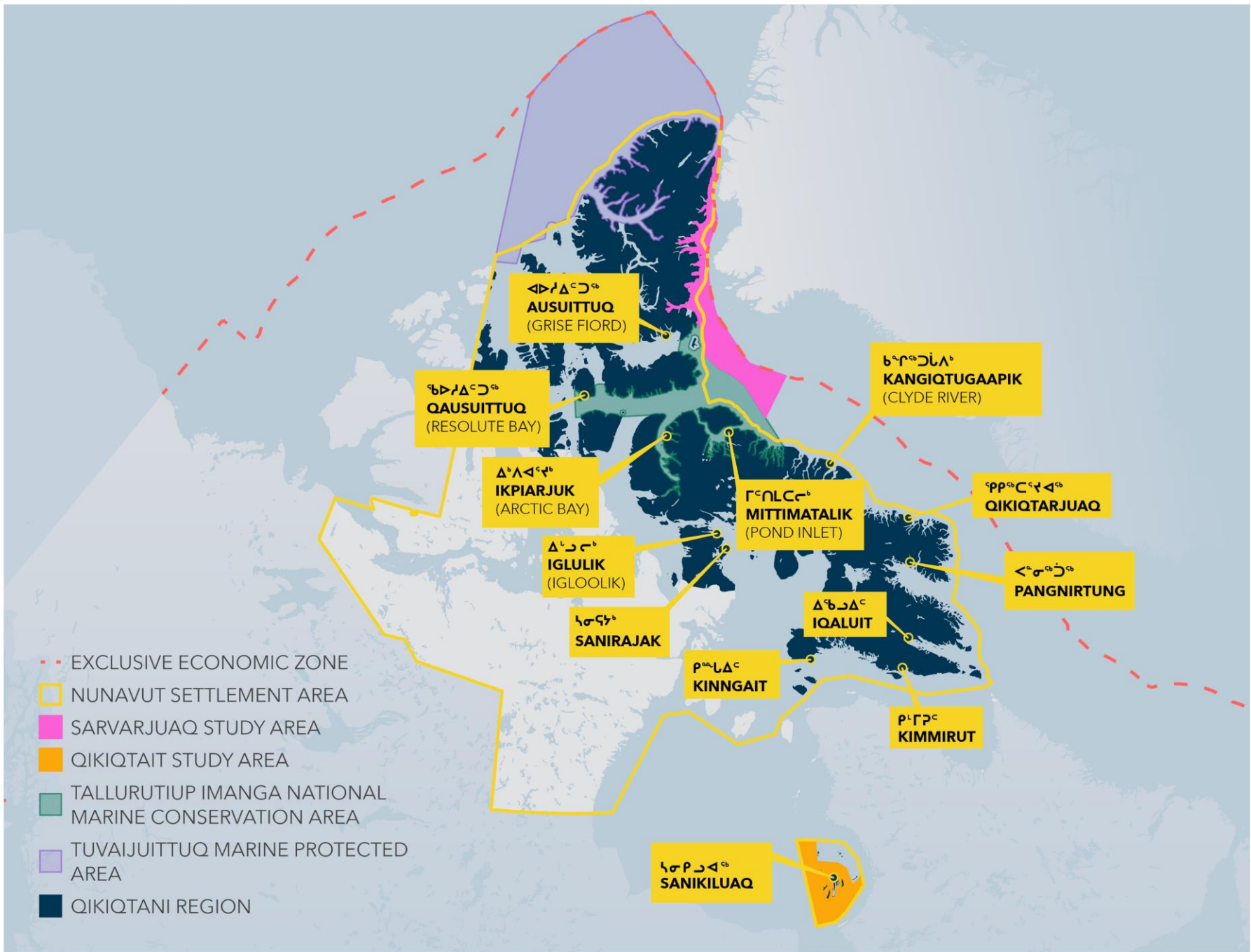
Pre-Publication in Canada Gazette, Part I

- DFO published its proposal to establish a new Ministerial Order MPA in Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq.
- The 30-day public comment period opened during December and closed in January.

Next Steps

If the NWMB approves of DFO's proposal to establish a new Ministerial Order MPA in Qikiqtait and Sarvarjuaq the next steps are:

- Signing of the IIBA between the Government of Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association;
- Publication in Canada Gazette, Part II (designation of the new MPAs).



- EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE
- NUNAVUT SETTLEMENT AREA
- SARVARJUAQ STUDY AREA
- QIKIQTAIT STUDY AREA
- TALLURUTIUP IMANGA NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA
- TUVAIJUITTUQ MARINE PROTECTED AREA
- QIKIQTANI REGION

ᐱᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
AUSUITTUQ
 (GRISE FIOR)

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
QAUUITTUQ
 (RESOLUTE BAY)

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
IKPIARJUK
 (ARCTIC BAY)

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
IGLULIK
 (IGLOOLIK)

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
SANIRAJAK

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
KINNGAIT

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
IOALUIT

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
KIMMIRUT

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
SANIKILUAQ

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
MITTIMATALIK
 (POND INLET)

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
KANGIQTUGAAPIK
 (CLYDE RIVER)

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
QIKIQTARJUAQ

ᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ
PANGNIRTUNG