

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR: Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Update on the status and timelines for the interim management plan of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area.

Background

(a) How the issue related to the NWMB mandate

In June 2026, the Aulattiqatigiit Board, the co-management board for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA), will be seeking NWMB approval on aspects of the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Interim Management Plan (IMP) that concern wildlife management.

(b) Why the issue is being presented

Prior to submitting the IMP to the NWMB for approval at the June 2026 meeting, the Planning Committee responsible for leading the development of the IMP wishes to provide an update to the NWMB on progress to date, including recent community, stakeholder, and public consultations, as well as next steps and the anticipated timeline for completion. The last update was given to the NWMB in October 2024.

The IMP is being submitted to the NWMB for approval in June in accordance with requirements of Article 5 of the Nunavut Agreement, as well as Section 7 of the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. However, no wildlife management measures that affect Inuit rights-based activities provided for in the *Nunavut Agreement* are being proposed in the IMP. Management measures related to wildlife (e.g. zones restricting access to non-beneficiaries) were developed to increase the protection of wildlife and its habitat.

(c) The key facts and circumstances relating to the issue

Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is a marine conservation area located in the northern Qikiqtani region and includes some terrestrial areas (three significant bird cliffs and all islands under 400 ha). It is jointly managed by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Government of Canada (Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, and Transport Canada). An Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement was signed for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA in 2019, but the establishment of the site under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* remains outstanding. One of the steps needed to complete establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is to develop an IMP.

The IMP will guide the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA while a comprehensive 10-year Management Plan is developed within five years of the establishment of the NMCA. The development has been led by a Planning Committee, which consists of two representatives from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, one representative from Parks Canada, and one representative from the Government of Nunavut. The IMP has been informed by extensive consultation with the associated communities, as well as input from stakeholders and the public. The communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA are Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord), Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay), Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay), Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet), and Kangiqtugaapik (Clyde River).

The IMP contains a vision that describes the desired future state of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA in 15-20 years; management objectives that are broad outcomes to accomplish over the life of the IMP, with associated targets that are more specific and will measure progress towards achieving the objectives; and a zoning plan that sets the management intent for different areas of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA by dividing it into specific zones. Zoning describes what activities can take place in an area, when they can take place, and under what conditions. Inuit rights-based harvesting and traditional use are allowed in all zones, at all times. The zoning is divided into an ice-season zoning plan and an open-water season zoning plan, to better reflect the realities of each season.

(d) The estimated time required to orally present the issue (excluding questions/discussion).

The Planning Committee will deliver a 15-minute presentation that provides details about the IMP, updates on new developments, and next steps.

Consultations

- **2018 - 2019 community consultations:** Consultations on the draft IMP were held in Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord), Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay), Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay), Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet), and Kangiqtugaapik (Clyde River) to gather information about what should be in the IMP. The Planning Committee met with hamlet councils, Hunters & Trappers Organizations and other local organizations and held public information sessions. 158 individuals attended those consultations. The Planning Committee used what was heard at these meetings to draft the IMP.
- **2018 - 2019 stakeholder engagement:** Stakeholders in the cruise, shipping, mining, and tourism industries, as well as NGOs and researchers, were engaged through presentations, meetings, and workshops. Sixty-eight stakeholder groups attended 16 engagement opportunities. Letters and emails were also received from stakeholders. Inputs received during this stakeholder engagement informed the draft IMP.
- **March 2024 community consultations:** The Planning Committee travelled to the five communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA to present the draft IMP and ensure that community concerns and priorities had been adequately addressed. Meetings were held with hamlet councils, Hunters & Trappers Organizations, Community Land and Resource Committees, and the Nauttiqsuqtiit (or Inuit stewards) over 2 days in each community. Open houses were also held in each community. A total of 103 individuals attended these meetings. During these consultations, the Planning Committee received additional information on values that need to be protected (e.g. rights, culture, wildlife) and about the threats to these values in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA (e.g., concerns about pleasure craft and cruise ship behavior and impacts, concerns about capacity to respond to public safety or environmental incidents). The Planning Committee used this information to further refine the objectives and targets and the zoning sections of the draft IMP. The Planning Committee also received comments that improved the vision statement.
- **November 2024 - January 2025 community consultations:** Representatives of the Planning Committee travelled to the five communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA to validate the updates made to the content of the draft IMP, as a result of the March community consultations. Evening meetings were held with hamlet councils, Hunters &

Trappers Organizations, and the Nauttiqsuqtiit. Presentations were given in Inuktitut with interpretation into English. Fifty-one individuals attended the meetings. Community members had questions and comments but were overall satisfied with the draft IMP, which allowed the Planning Committee to move to public and stakeholder consultations.

- **2025 public engagement:** Engagement was held online from June 23 to July 21. The draft IMP was posted in Inuktitut, English, and French on parks.canada.ca. It was shared on Facebook (@ParksCanadaNunavut, @ParksCanada, @QikiqtaniInuit @GovofNunavut), X (@ParksCanNunavut), and on the website Consulting with Canadians. The draft IMP webpage was visited 258 times in English and 25 times in Inuktitut. The public was offered to provide comments by email. Only one comment was received. No modifications to the draft IMP were made following the public engagement.
- **2025 stakeholder engagement:** From May 22 to August 1, 78 stakeholder groups were engaged. They each received a copy of the draft IMP. Meetings were held with representatives of the mining, shipping, cruise ship, tourism, and fisheries industries. Follow-up meetings were then held with the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators and Baffinland Iron Mines Corp. Non-government organizations and academia were provided an opportunity to submit feedback in writing. A total of 125 comments were received from all stakeholders. Following this stakeholder engagement, the Planning Committee recommended making minor changes to the IMP.
- **2025 community check-in:** Before officially integrating these changes in the draft IMP, the Planning Committee checked in with each of the five communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The hamlet councils and Hunters & Trappers Organizations of each community were sent a letter that provided an overview of the proposed changes. They were also offered an opportunity to meet and discuss the changes with the Planning Committee, ask questions, and clarify any of the edits. Communities did not raise concerns regarding the proposed changes. Therefore, these changes were made to the draft IMP.

Recommendation

The Planning Committee hopes to present the final IMP for NWMB approval at the June 2026 meeting, following internal approvals. Prior to submitting the final IMP to the NWMB for approval in May, the Planning Committee recommends organizing a meeting with NWMB staff to provide an overview of the IMP and answer any questions pre-emptively.

Prepared By:

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