



**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**Agenda: Regular Meeting 001-2024**  
**March 26, 2024**  
**Iqaluit, NU**



	No:	Item:	Tab:	Presenter:	Maximum Time
9:00 - 9:02 AM	1	Open Meeting		Chairperson	2 Minutes
9:02 - 9:04 AM	2	Declaration of Conflict of Interest		Chairperson	2 Minutes
9:04 - 9:05 AM	3	Agenda: Review and Approval of RM001-2024	1	Chairperson	1 Minute
9:05 - 10:00 AM	4	Request to Increase the Total Allowable Harvest and to Remove the Non-quota Limitation for Bluenose-East Caribou in Nunavut	2	Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association	55 Minutes
10:00 - 10:15 AM		<b>BREAK</b>			15 Minutes
10:15 - 11:00 AM	4	Request to Increase the Total Allowable Harvest and to Remove the Non-quota Limitation for Bluenose-East Caribou in Nunavut	2	Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association	45 Minutes
11:00 - 12:00 PM	5	To Seek Approval from the NWMB for the Establishment of a Second Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order under the <i>Oceans Act</i> in Tuvaijuittug	3	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	1 Hour
		<b>LUNCH</b>			1 Hr & 15 Min
1:15 - 1:30 PM	6	Total Allowable Catch Levels for Northern ( <i>Pandalus borealis</i> ) and Striped ( <i>P. montagui</i> ) shrimp in the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones for the 2024-2025 Season	4	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	15 Minutes

1:30 - 2:00 PM	7	Request for Decision on the Proposed Amendments to the List of Species under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>	5	Environment & Climate Change Canada	30 Minutes
2:00 - 2:30 PM	8	Request for Decision on NWMB Participation in the Development of Recovery Documents for Species with no known occurrences in the Nunavut Settlement Area but Assumed Presence	6	Environment & Climate Change Canada	30 Minutes
2:30 - 2:45 PM	9	Development of the Management Plan for the Wolverine in Canada	7	Environment & Climate Change Canada	15 Minutes
2:45 - 3:00 PM	10	Information about the Memorandum of Understanding on Collaboration and Sharing about Environment and Climate Change Canada's National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in Nunavut	8	Environment & Climate Change Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.	15 Minutes
		<b>BREAK</b>			15 Minutes
3:15 - 3:30 PM	11	Five-year Review of NWMB Allocation Policy	9	Arctic Fishery Alliance, Baffin Fisheries, Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd./Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited	15 Minutes
	12	Adjournment of RM001-2024			



**Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association • Hunters' & Trappers' Organization**

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## **SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR**

**Information:**

**Decision: XXX**

**Issue: Request to increase the total allowable harvest and to remove the non-quota limitation for Bluenose-East caribou in Nunavut**

### **Background:**

In 2017, an interim total allowable harvest (TAH) for the Bluenose-East caribou herd was established, restricting Nunavut harvest to 340 caribou annually. In 2020, further limitations on the harvest were established, reducing the TAH to 170 caribou and a sex ratio non-quota limitation (NQL). These measures have had a severe and negative impact on Inuit in Kugluktuk, the only community in Nunavut that harvests Bluenose-East caribou.

The harvest restrictions were imposed in response to a generally acknowledged decline in the abundance of the Bluenose-East caribou herd. Kugluktuk Inuit have abided by the TAHs and NQL placed on the Bluenose-East caribou herd but did not agree with the level of harvesting limitations.

Recent information indicates that the herd is recovering, and that harvest restrictions should now be reconsidered.

### **Context:**

The Bluenose-East caribou herd's historical calving grounds are located west of Kugluktuk; the herd's annual range extends into the Northwest Territories (NWT), south and east of Great Bear Lake. In addition to Kugluktuk, a total of nine communities from the NWT typically harvest Bluenose-East caribou—although availability of the herd has been reportedly reduced. Prior to the setting of a TAH for the Bluenose-East herd, Inuit used to harvest approximately 600 caribou (including Dolphin-Union and Bathurst caribou) annually. Historically, 1500-1600 caribou were harvested annually.

Caribou is a staple food for Kugluktuk Inuit. In addition to food sovereignty, caribou harvesting is crucial for cultural continuity and knowledge transfer. The Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (KHTO) manages the caribou harvesting of Kugluktuk Inuit, in accordance with the *Nunavut Agreement*. The KHTO's power to regulate the harvesting practices of its members includes the authority to establish management approaches in-line with Inuit systems of wildlife management, such as a community-based management plan for the Bluenose-East herd.

With respect to TAHs, the *Nunavut Agreement* clearly specifies that Inuit harvesting can only be restricted or limited where necessary to give effect to a valid wildlife management purpose (i.e., conservation) and, even then, "only to the extent necessary" (s. 5.3.3). Similarly, NQLs cannot "unduly or unreasonably" constrain Inuit harvesting (s. 5.6.50). The KHTO understands this to mean that these are measures of last resort, only to be considered sparingly when less restrictive alternatives (e.g., HTO-driven conservation efforts) have proven ineffective.

## **Impact of TAH and NQL on Kugluktuk Inuit:**

In its 2020 decision, the NWMB appeared to consider some of the effects that an excessively low TAH might have on Inuit food security and cultural continuity, as well as on the confidence and trust of Kugluktuk Inuit in Nunavut's wildlife co-management regime. As it turned out, the scarcity resulting from the TAH of 170 caribou brought on a disruptive sense of urgency never experienced by Kugluktuk Inuit—even while the initial TAH of 340 was in effect.

The caribou harvesting patterns of Kugluktuk Inuit usually vary on a seasonal basis, with either male or female caribou preferred depending on the intended end use (e.g., meat, bedding, clothing). The ability to harvest caribou bulls and/or cows year-round is crucial for both food security and the continuation of cultural practices. Since the introduction of the latest TAH and NQL, however, Kugluktuk Inuit have moved away from these traditional harvesting practices. Whereas the summer harvest was always relatively small, it is now almost the only harvest (in 2023, for example, tags were made available on July 1; by July 3, all 170 tags were signed out even though caribou in July are not fat and their hide is unusable). The lower TAH has encouraged harvesting (annual average of 170.7 caribou during the first three years of the 170 TAH vs. annual average of 156.8 caribou during the four years of the 340 TAH that was never fully met). Basically, the sense of scarcity is so pressing that Kugluktuk Inuit rather have a substandard harvest than have no caribou meat at all.

The TAH of 170 Bluenose-East caribou is also eroding the community's social fabric. People always shared what they harvested with family and other community members. The introduction of the TAH and NQL has caused a major change in Inuit values and practices. Caribou and muskox TAHs generate heated arguments and pit Inuit families and households against each other creating grief. Kugluktuk Inuit and the KHTO want—and need—to be able to move away from this destructive trend by emphasizing cultural practices.

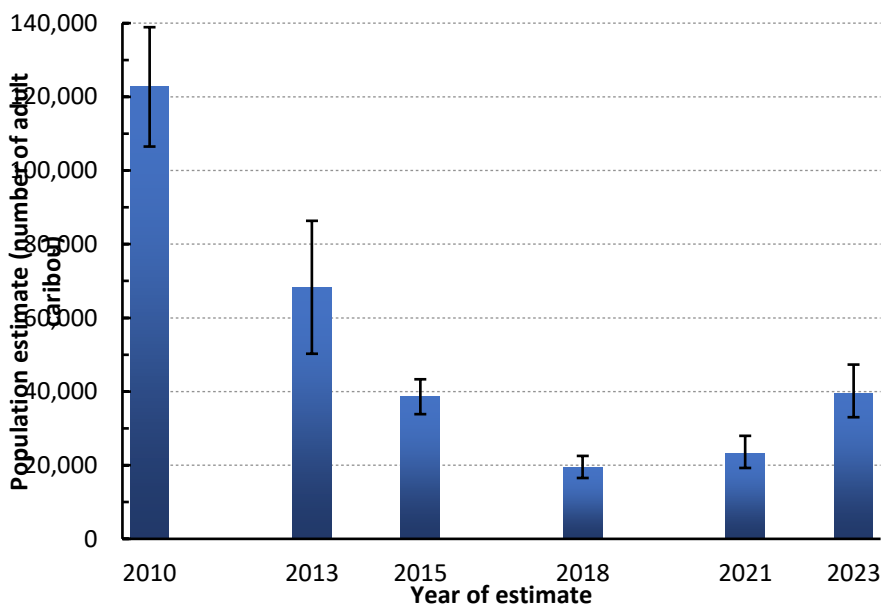
## **Current herd status:**

The KHTO's submission to the NWMB for the 2020 Bluenose-East caribou public hearing already highlighted that Kugluktuk Inuit were noticing multiple signs of herd recovery, such as sightings of numerous calves—including twins—and healthy fall harvests. Community observations also identified environmental conditions promoting herd recovery, such as cooler, wetter, and windier days leading to reduced insect disturbance.

KHTO members have continued to observe many caribou yearlings and still see cows with two calves. Despite a very dry and hot summer, Bluenose-East caribou remain healthy (aside from a brief episode in September 2023 due to an insect-borne disease) and their numbers are increasing. Vegetation is

thriving (e.g., berries were amazing last year) regardless of NWT forest fires or how hot and dry past summers have been. The KHTO firmly believes that the on-the-land observations of Kugluktuk Inuit, in and of themselves, are valid grounds to assert that the Bluenose-East caribou herd is recovering. The KHTO's standpoint is further supported by work undertaken in the NWT.

A series of population estimates (Figure 1) produced by the Government of the NWT (GNWT) likewise suggest that the Bluenose-East caribou herd is recovering with a significant increase in the population estimate between 2021 and 2023 (from 23,000 to 40,000 caribou, approximately); about an overall doubling in numbers since 2018. Since 2018-2020, additional survey-derived indicators (e.g., summer calf and collared cow survival rates, pregnancy rate, calf: cow ratio) also support the increase in the population estimate.



**Figure 1.** Survey-derived population estimates of the Bluenose-East caribou herd, with error bars representing 95% confidence intervals. (Source: GNWT reports)

In parallel, the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) has produced *Taking care of caribou*, a management plan for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East caribou herds. The ACCWM's plan, published in 2014, includes four colour-coded levels of herd status and management actions. In November 2023, the NWT's Wildlife Management Advisory Council approved the ACCWM's proposal to prolong the status of the Bluenose-East herd as "Yellow" (intermediate and increasing).

### **KHTO involvement:**

The KHTO has taken a variety of proactive actions to ensure that the Bluenose-East caribou herd remains a vital, healthy wildlife population capable of sustaining Inuit harvesting needs, in accordance with the principles of conservation set forth in the *Nunavut Agreement*.

## **Harvest Management**

Back in 2016, the KHTO resolved to develop a comprehensive community-based management plan for Bluenose-East caribou as a viable approach to the conservation of the herd. While an updated version of the 2019 plan has still not been submitted to the NWMB for approval, the KHTO has nonetheless voluntarily implemented the following elements of the plan:

- No commercial harvesting or sport hunts;
- No organized community caribou hunts;
- No support of sale/purchase of caribou under the country food distribution program;
- Active participation in caribou monitoring and sampling programs;
- Encouragement of a shift towards the harvest of alternate species;
- Increase in public and educational caribou harvesting awareness initiatives; and
- Creation of a no-harvest zone to the immediate west-southwest of the community.

Kugluktuk Inuit are adhering to the KHTO's community-based measures. In fact, harvesters are actually cooperating beyond what is required under the plan (for instance, the KHTO is receiving fairly complete records of moose harvests even though reporting is not mandatory).

## **Predation control**

The KHTO has repeatedly been advocating for predator incentive programs, seeing as Kugluktuk Inuit have knowledge of the impact that prospering wolf and grizzly bear populations can have on caribou herds. The KHTO has accordingly been appreciative of the GNWT's wolf incentive program, which is now in its last scheduled year, and is seeking support from co-management partners for the continuation of wolf incentives in Nunavut. From the KHTO's point of view, successful wolf predation control has very likely played a role in the creation of conditions facilitating the recovery of the Bluenose-East caribou herd.

## **Collaborative approach**

The KHTO fully recognizes that Kugluktuk Inuit are not the only ones to have been affected by the decline in the abundance of the Bluenose-East caribou herd. Back when the TAH was being introduced, the KHTO even proposed that the recommended proportion of the overall harvest allocated to Kugluktuk be slightly decreased to allow NWT communities to share the overall harvest. Over the years, the KHTO has worked closely with the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, especially regarding the community-based plan, and has developed a constructive relationship with Government of Nunavut (GN) Conservation Officers on issues relating to caribou specifically, and to matters of wildlife conservation and enforcement generally.

The KHTO also acknowledges that some Indigenous harvesters in other jurisdictions have determined that, from their perspective, the status quo is suitable for the time being. The KHTO respects their decision, underlining that the 2020 NWMB decision voiced confidence "that interjurisdictional conservation can be achieved despite some minor differences in harvest levels, especially when everyone is working together to conserve the herd" (p. 5).

It is precisely with this collaboration and transparency in mind that the KHTO approached Indigenous harvesters of Bluenose-East caribou from the NWT and initiated a meeting bringing together NWT and Nunavut co-management partners despite being under no obligation to do so. The KHTO wished to ensure that co-management partners were informed. KHTO has listened to the initial reactions and concerns of co-management partners and taken this into consideration while preparing this submission to the NWMB. The KHTO has not received any objections to their proposal to increase the TAH and remove the NQL to date.

## **Recommendations:**

- The Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (KHTO) recommends that the total allowable harvest (TAH) for the Bluenose-East caribou herd for Nunavut (Kugluktuk) be increased to 450 caribou.
- The KHTO further recommends that the up to 1:1 female-to-male harvest sex ratio non-quota limitation (NQL) be removed.

## **Rationale:**

The TAH of 170 caribou was imposed to promote herd recovery. This level of harvest restriction has resulted in severe hardships for Kugluktuk Inuit. Observations of KHTO members, supported by population estimates and other survey-derived indicators, very strongly suggest that the Bluenose-East caribou herd is recovering. The conservation goal of the TAH of 170 has therefore effectively been met. As the TAH of 170 caribou is no longer necessary to give effect to the desired conservation purpose, it now restricts Inuit harvesting beyond the extent necessary. Moreover, in its 2020 decision, when the herd was thought to be at a lowest point in abundance, the NWMB determined that there was no evidence suggesting that "a low level of harvest (below 950 caribou per year) will have a significant impact on the herd's potential for recovery" (p. 5). Increasing the TAH for Bluenose-East caribou will also lead to an easing of the pressure on Dolphin-Union caribou, which are a concern.

The up to 1:1 female-to-male ratio NQL was likewise instated to promote herd recovery, given the importance of cows to the reproductive success of the herd. The caribou harvest of Kugluktuk Inuit has historically been towards bulls; although female caribou are preferentially harvested for specific purposes and at certain times of the year, male caribou have always accounted for the large majority of the community's overall harvest. This had been the case in pre-TAH years, during the initial TAH without NQL and since the introduction of the NQL. Taking the KHTO-encouraged Inuit self-regulation of the Bluenose-East caribou harvest into account, the imposition of a formal sex ratio limitation is unwarranted. In that sense, the NQL is an undue restriction of the harvesting of Kugluktuk Inuit.

Prepared by Amanda Dumond; Phillippe Lavallée; David Lee

Submitted by Amanda Dumond



Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board  
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Kitikmeot Nunaliit Avikhimaniani Angutikhaligiit Katimayit

10 February 2024

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Amanda Dumond  
Manager  
Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (KAA)

**Re: Bluenose East caribou Total Allowable Harvest**

The Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) understands that KAA is preparing a submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to propose an increase in the TAH for Bluenose East (BNE) caribou from 170 to 450. KRWB understands that scientific data from a recent BNE caribou survey confirmed the population is increasing and that KAA is actively leading predator management and monitoring programs. During their regular meeting on 1 February 2024, KRWB resolved that they are in support of a TAH increase to 450 for BNE caribou.

Regards,

Paul Ikuallaq  
Chair  
Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board



## Tłı̄chǫ Government

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March 20, 2024

**Re: Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association's (KHTO) request to increase the total allowable harvest (TAH) and to remove the non-quota limitation (NQL) for Bluenose-East (BNE) caribou in Nunavut, being agenda Item #4 on NWMB meeting agenda for March 26, 2024**

### WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OF TŁĪCHǪ GOVERNMENT

#### Introduction and Acknowledgement

Tłı̄chǫ Government acknowledges KHTO's rationale and recommendation to increase the TAH of BNE caribou to 450 caribou and remove the non-quota limitation (NQL) of up to a 1:1 female-to-male harvest sex ratio, as well as the authority of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) to determine the total allowable harvest for Nunavut and consider the request to remove the NQL for BNE caribou in Nunavut, both as considered in the *Nunavut Agreement*. Tłı̄chǫ Government appreciates the opportunity to provide its views concerning the request to increase the TAH and to remove the NQL for BNE caribou in Nunavut.

In this submission, Tłı̄chǫ Government outlines our perspective and rationale for a precautionary strategy for managing the BNE caribou within Wek'èezhì and our encouragement of a coordinated herd-wide perspective for developing, implementing and monitoring management actions.

The Sahtì Ekwò (BNE) is a migratory herd of barren-ground caribou whose annual range occurs across Nunavut (Kitikmeot Region) and the Northwest Territories (Sahtu Region and Wek'èezhì regions).

Across the transboundary range of the BNE herd, co-management authorities share a common goal - to ensure long-term health and conservation of caribou so that the keystone relationship

between caribou and Inuit, Dene, and Métis people that has occurred since time immemorial is respected and sustained for our current and future generations.

### **Summary – Tłıchǵ Government Request of NWMB**

Tłıchǵ Government respectfully asks that the NWMB consider the following:

- a) use a herd-wide approach in its review of the KHTO’s request to increase the TAH and remove the NQL for BNE caribou in Nunavut;
- b) request KHTO to update and publicly share its community-based caribou management plan that was developed in 2019<sup>1</sup>; and
- c) request the KHTO to continue providing annual updates on its community-based monitoring of harvest and health of the BNE herd through its participation in the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM).

What follows is the Tłıchǵ Government background and rationale for the consideration asked of the NWMB.

### **Management of Bluenose East caribou in Wek’èezhìi, Northwest Territories**

The Tłıchǵ Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement (Tłıchǵ Agreement) came into effect on August 4, 2005, and is the first comprehensive land claim and self-government agreement in the Northwest Territories. The Tłıchǵ Agreement established the Tłıchǵ Government as the governing authority to manage 39,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Tłıchǵ lands, and to implement laws and programs related to their governing structures, membership, culture, language and communities.

The Tłıchǵ Agreement established the Wek’èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) as an institution of public government, which performs the functions of wildlife management in Wek’èezhìi as set out in the Tłıchǵ Agreement.

Tłıchǵ Government has been working to conserve and recover barren-ground caribou over the past 14 years:

- In 2010, Tłıchǵ Government submitted a revised joint proposal on caribou management actions in Wek’èezhìi with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to address the steep decline of Kǵk’èetì Ekwò (Bathurst caribou) and to help stabilize the BNE herd. The 2010 joint management proposal and a subsequent public hearing held by the WRRB reflected Tłıchǵ Government’s leadership and commitment to implement co-management responsibilities under Chapter 12 of the Tłıchǵ Agreement because a key

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<sup>1</sup> Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (KHTO). 2019. Bluenose East community caribou management plan. Kugluktuk Hunters' and Trappers' Organization, Unpublished Report. Kugluktuk, NU.

recommendation was to manage and reduce the harvest of Ekwò (caribou) by Ṯchq̱ citizens and other Indigenous harvesters.

- Ṯchq̱ Government has worked closely with GNWT and submitted several joint management proposals to the WRRB (in 2010, 2016, 2019 and 2021) on management and monitoring actions for Bathurst and BNE caribou; a proposal to undertake diga (wolf) management actions over a five-year period was submitted to the WRRB in 2020.

In 2019, the WRRB<sup>2</sup> determined a TAH of 193 bulls/year for BNE caribou in Wek'èezhì (based on 1% of the 2018 population estimate as per WRRB determination #1-2019) and the proportional allocation of 39% for Ṯchq̱ citizens (76 bulls as per WRRB determination #2-2019).

Ṯchq̱ Government and GNWT staff are working to update joint management proposals for the two caribou herds and for wolves as they are all expiring this year. Ṯchq̱ Government and GNWT will be submitting an updated joint management proposal on BNE caribou in August 2024 to the WRRB.

### **Current Status of Bluenose-East Caribou**

GNWT completed a BNE caribou calving ground survey in June 2023 and a BNE caribou fall composition survey in October 2023. Based on these surveys is work, GNWT estimated the BNE herd at 39,525 caribou with a 95% confidence interval (CI) between 33,021 – 47,310 based on these surveys. The BNE herd has increased significantly compared to the last calving ground survey in June 2021, which was estimated to be at 23,202 caribou (95% CI: 19,247 – 27,971). The results indicate the BNE herd is showing an upward trend from the previous year's results: 23,200 in 2021 and 19,000 in 2018.

Ṯchq̱ Government received the monitoring information from GNWT in Nov 2023 on BNE herd size, trend, and demography and has discussed these results with Ṯchq̱ communities and Ṯchq̱ Government leadership (Chief's Executive Council- CEC).

In November 2023, the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management<sup>3</sup> (ACCWM) determined that the BNE herd status continues to be Yellow (intermediate and increasing) based on the June 2023 population survey results and subsequent discussions of its members. The ACCWM's decision recognized that despite some very positive community and

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<sup>2</sup> Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB). 2019. Reasons for Decisions Related to a Joint Proposal for the Management of the Sahti Ekwò (Bluenose-East Caribou) Herd. Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board Unpublished Report, Yellowknife, NT.

<sup>3</sup> Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM). 2024. Action Plan for the Bluenose East caribou herd 2024/2025 - Yellow status. Yellowknife, NT.

scientific observations, the observed population level has not yet reached above the ~60,000 threshold to warrant the change to a green status.

In Wek'èezhìi, the current TAH of 193 bulls/year for BNE caribou was based on 1% of the 2018 population estimate per WRRB Determination #1-2019. As per WRRB Determination #2-2019, the proportional allocation (39.3%) for Tłıchǰ citizens was 76 bulls. Tłıchǰ Government has maintained this harvest level since 2019. It should be noted that the WRRB's Determination (#2-2019) for allocating the BNE caribou harvest in Wek'èezhìi also included Nunavut for 69 bulls or 35.7% of the TAH; and to date this allocation has not been utilized.

### **Tłıchǰ Government's Current Response Strategy and Managing Harvest of Bluenose-East Caribou**

The Tłıchǰ Chief's Executive Council (CEC) has decided to encourage and support the continuation of the WRRB determination off the TAH of 193 bulls for the foreseeable future. This decision also reflected recommendations made by Tłıchǰ elders and harvesters that came from a 2-day workshop with Tłıchǰ Government staff in November 2023. The CEC is taking a precautionary approach to harvest management. Despite the recent 2023 population survey, which, for the first time in over a decade, contained encouraging data, Tłıchǰ remains committed to our cautious approach, and we would prefer, in considering an increased TAH in Wek'èezhìi, to have additional data from both scientific and traditional knowledge sources that show herd recovery.

Tłıchǰ are doing their best to protect BNE caribou during this era of scarcity. Our decision to be cautious has been made with the knowledge that we continue to sacrifice hunting opportunities to fully support herd recovery, which in turn keeps our relationship with the caribou strong and conserves our right to harvest caribou for food and to sustain our way of life – something that goes back further than anyone can remember. We encourage decision-makers across the BNE herd range to also take a precautionary approach when it comes to harvesting the BNE herd, including a selection of bulls over cows.

### **Closing**

As Tłıchǰ Government asks the NWMB to consider our submission, we do want to stress that Tłıchǰ Government recognizes the deep relationship of BNE caribou to Inuit in the western Kitikmeot Region, and in particular, the community of Kugluktuk as represented by the KHTO.

Tłıchǰ Government acknowledges and appreciates KHTO's collaborative vision and initiative to discuss and share perspectives and management strategies for BNE caribou, as most recently evidenced by the KHTO organized meeting in January, 2024. Tłıchǰ Government respect Inuit as a wildlife co-management partner and recognizes the previous and ongoing collaboration with KHTO on wolf management across the BNE and Bathurst caribou ranges as a key example of this important work.

Tł̥chq̥ Government appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission and looks forward to its consideration.

In Tł̥chq̥ Unity,



Tammy Steinwand-Deschambault  
Director, DCLP  
Tł̥chq̥ Government

Cc:

Larry Adjun, Chairman, Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association  
Jody Pellisey, Executive Director, Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board  
Heather Sayine-Crawford, Director, Wildlife and Fish, Government of the Northwest Territories

# **An Assessment of Likely Consequences of Various Harvest Levels for the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd 2023-2026**

Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Environment & Climate Change  
22 March 2024

## **Background:**

A June 2023 calving photo survey of the Bluenose-East caribou herd resulted in an adult female estimate of 24,466 and a herd size estimate of 39,525, both substantial increases over the 2021 and 2018 estimates (Boulanger et al. 2024). Previously the herd had shown a large decline 2010-2018 and then appeared to stabilize 2018-2021. From 2018-2023, demographic indicators such as calf:cow and bull:cow ratios have been consistent with a positive herd trend. Observations in recent years from the Kugluktuk Hunter and Trappers Organization (KHTO) and the Tłı̄chʔ Ekwò Nàxoèdee K'è ground-based caribou observation program indicate that Bluenose-East caribou have been in very good condition, summer feeding conditions have been good, and that calves, yearlings and young cows and bulls are abundant.

There have been restrictions on total allowable harvest of the Bluenose-East herd in Nunavut under the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the KHTO plan (currently 170 with an up to 1:1 female to male harvest sex ratio), in the Sahtú Settlement Area under the Délı̄nɛ Belare Wı̄le Gots'e' ʔekwe' plan (currently 30 bulls), and in Wek'èezhii under the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (currently 193 bulls for all user groups). These restrictions were put in place between 2019 and 2021 after the large decline of this herd between 2010 and 2018. Given the herd's change to a stable trend 2018-2021 and an increasing trend 2021-2023, some hunters have expressed interest in considering an increase in total allowable harvest.

This document summarizes main outcomes of a harvest modeling exercise carried out to assess likely consequences of a range of harvest levels and harvest sex ratios for the Bluenose-East herd on a short-term basis, 2023-2026. The model projections are not predictions, but rather are suggestions of likely trend under a defined set of conditions. Previously, likely effects of harvest on a barren-ground caribou herd under a wide range of conditions were described by Boulanger and Adamczewski (2016); the current assessment was specific to the Bluenose-East herd in 2023.

A full report on the harvest modeling results by J. Boulanger (2024) can be made available on request. In this brief overview document, we highlight main trends in the modeling results. We hope these results will assist the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in considering how various levels of harvest might affect the herd.

## **Basic model values used**

The model caribou herd was assumed to start at 39,525 adults (the 2023 Bluenose-East estimate), including 24,466 cows and 15,059 bulls. Possible future trends of a stable herd (population growth rate or  $\lambda$  of 1.00), a moderately increasing trend ( $\lambda$  of 1.05 or 5% increase/year) and a more rapidly increasing trend ( $\lambda$  of 1.11 or 11% increase/year) were used. A declining trend was also used in the model runs, but is omitted here for simplicity. Calf productivity and survival rates of cows, calves, yearlings and bulls were set to fit each population trend and then remained at those values through the simulations. The modeled interval was 3 years, to match a commonly used survey interval. Experience has also shown that this herd's

dynamics can change quickly, which is another reason this modeling was restricted to a short 3-year time interval. In particular, recent monitoring indicates that summer feeding conditions and the severity of the insect season are important for Bluenose-East caribou growth, condition and pregnancy rate, and weather can vary widely from year to year. Harvest levels of 0, 400, 600, 800, 1200, and 1600 caribou were used, which represent 0%, 1.0%, 1.5%, 2.0%, 3.0%, and 4.0% of the 2023 herd size. Harvest sex ratio was varied between 0, 20, 50, 80 and 100% bulls.

### **Effect of a variable harvest rate on herd trend**

In Figure 1, projected herd trend 2023-2026 is shown as a series of graphs corresponding to 0, 1, 1.5, 2, 3 and 4% harvest levels. Harvest sex ratio was kept at 50% bulls in all cases. In each case, underlying herd trends (with no harvest) of stable, increasing moderately at 5%/year and increasing rapidly at 11%/year were used. Projected herd size in 2026 is shown; values were rounded to the nearest hundred caribou.

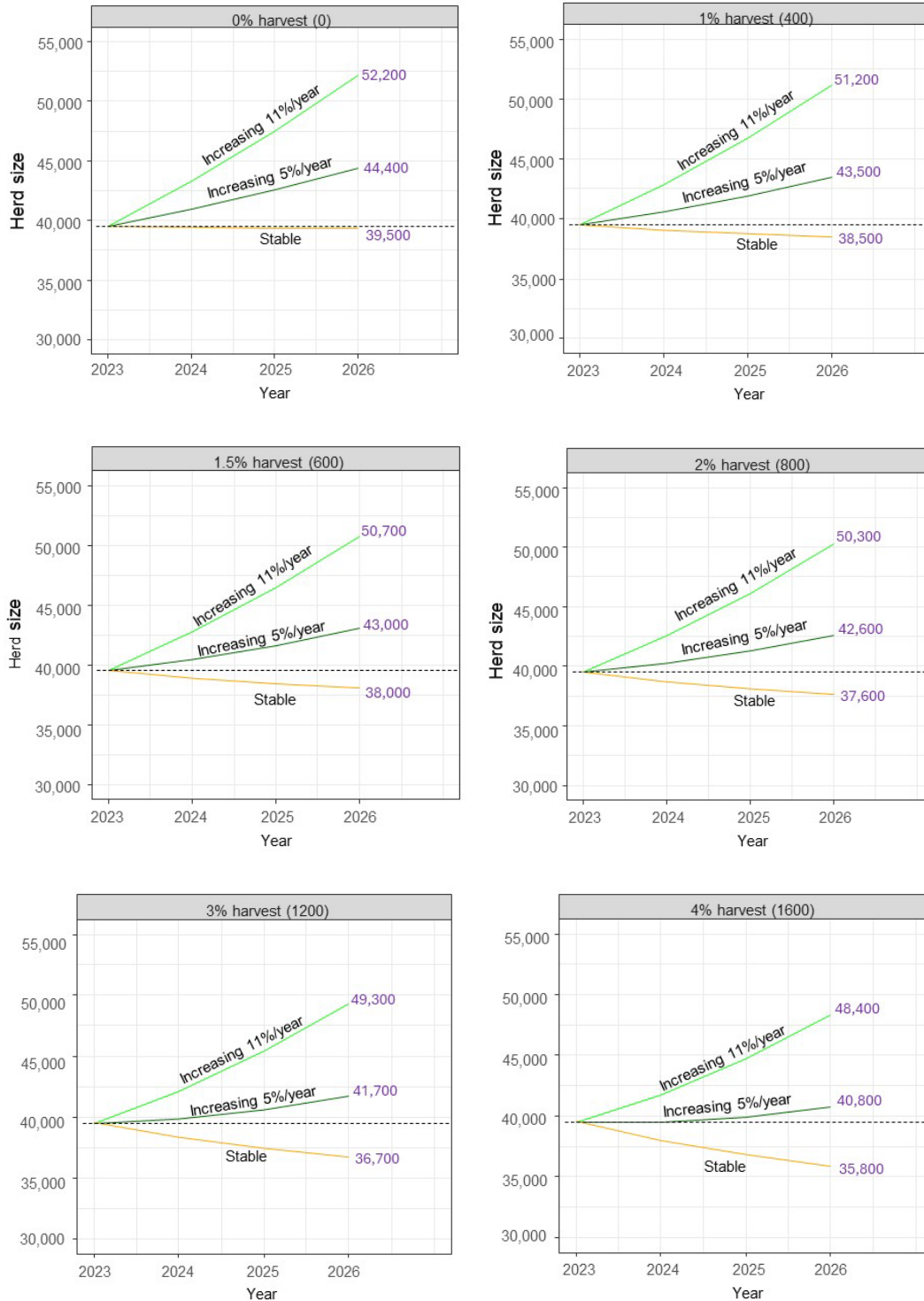
With no harvest, the herd increasing at 11%/year would increase to 52,200 by 2026, the herd increasing at 5%/year would increase to 44,400 by 2026 and the stable herd would remain at the starting level of 39,525.

In the herd increasing at 11%/year, harvest of all levels between 1% and 4% of the herd would result in an increasing herd by 2026. At the highest harvest level of 4%, the herd would be at 48,400 in 2026 compared to 52,200 with no harvest. In this case, the underlying balance between births and deaths is strongly positive, thus the harvest levels simulated would slow the population's growth rate somewhat, but the herd would continue to increase.

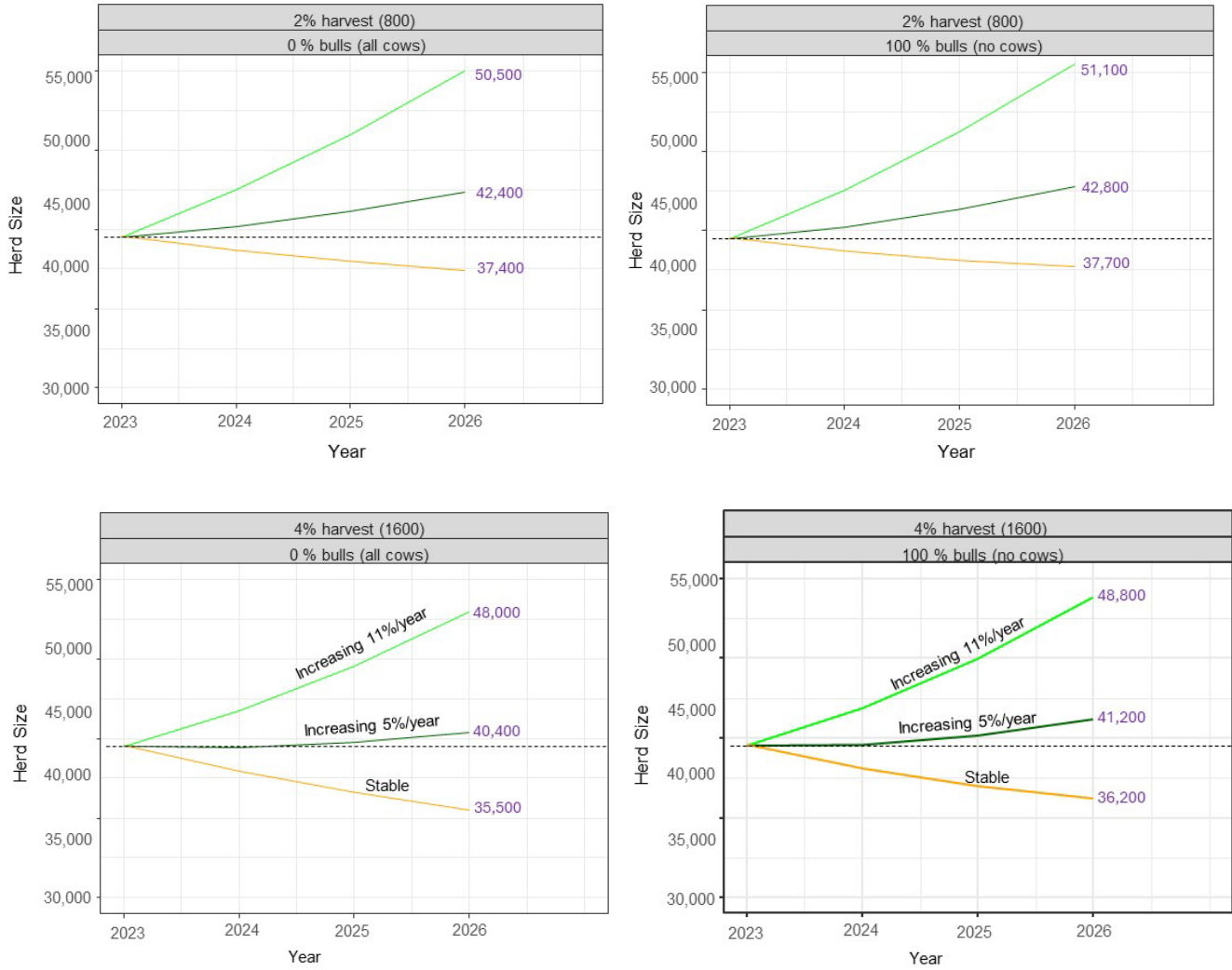
In the herd increasing at 5%/year, the herd would again continue to increase with all levels of harvest considered. However at a 4% harvest level, the growth rate of the herd would be relatively slow and the herd would be at 40,800 in 2026 compared to 44,400 with no harvest. In this situation the underlying balance between births and deaths is positive, though not as much as in the herd increasing at 11%/year.

In the herd with an underlying stable trend, all levels of harvest would result in a declining trend, although the rate of decline would be relatively low under most harvest conditions. The effect of lower levels of harvest would be limited, but with a 4% harvest the herd would be projected at 35,800 in 2026 compared to the herd remaining approximately at the starting size of 39,525 with no harvest. In this case the underlying balance with no harvest is equal between deaths and births, thus any additional deaths from harvest will result in a declining trend.

To assess potential effects of variation in harvest sex ratio on likely herd trend, four examples are provided in Figure 2: 2% harvest of 100% bulls, 2% harvest of 0% bulls (all cows), 4% harvest of 100% bulls and 4% harvest of 0% bulls (all cows). Results were similar for the four cases considered. Herd size projected for 2026 based on an underlying trend of 5% annual increase is projected to be 40,400 with a 4% all-cow harvest compared to 41,200 with a 4% all-bull harvest. The relatively similar results for all-cow and all-bull harvests reflect a number of factors: the projection period is short (3 years) and a difference between all-bull and all-cow harvests would accumulate over a longer time period; the harvest rates simulated are generally low; and the herd has had a healthy bull:cow ratio and good calf recruitment. A large cow harvest in a declining herd would be expected to have a stronger effect on herd trend, particularly if it continues for many years.



**Figure 1.** Harvest modeling projections of Bluenose-East herd size in 2026 with 3 underlying population trends and harvest levels of 0, 1, 1.5, 2, 3 and 4% of the 2023 herd estimate. Sex ratio of the harvest was 50% bulls. Starting herd size was 39,525 in all cases. Projected herd size in 2026 is shown in purple, rounded to nearest 100.



**Figure 2.** Harvest modeling projections of Bluenose-East herd size in 2026 with 3 underlying population trends, harvest levels of 2% (top) and 4% (bottom) of the 2023 herd estimate. Sex ratio of the harvest was 0% bulls (all cows) on the left and 100% bulls (no cows) on the right. Starting herd size was 39,525 in all cases. Projected herd size in 2026 is shown in purple, rounded to nearest 100.

## References

- Boulanger, J. 2024. Harvest simulations for the Bluenose-East herd 2023. Unpublished contract report for ECC Wildlife Division, Government of Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.
- Boulanger, J., and J. Adamczewski. 2016. A general approach to harvest modeling for caribou herds in the NWT and recommendations on harvest based on herd risk status. Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. Manuscript Report 262.
- Boulanger, J., J. Adamczewski, J. Williams, S. Goodman, and K. Clark. 2024. June 2023 calving ground surveys: Bluenose-East and Bathurst barren-ground caribou herds. Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. Manuscript Report (in prep.).

# Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

March 26, 2024

## FOR

### Information :

Decision: X

**Issue:** To seek approval from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) for the establishment of a second Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order under the *Oceans Act* in Tuvaijuittuq.

### Background:

#### ***(a) How the issue relates to the NWMB mandate;***

The establishment of a conservation area is directly related to the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat under the Nunavut Agreement, and is located both within the Nunavut Settlement Area and Zone I marine area.

#### ***(b) Why the issue is being presented;***

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is seeking NWMB approval for the establishment of a marine conservation area in Tuvaijuittuq through the designation of a second Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order (or "Order) under the *Oceans Act*, s35.1(2). This issue is pursuant to articles 5.2.34(a), 9.3.2, 15.2.1, and 15.3.4 of the Nunavut Agreement:

- Section 5.2.34(a): *"approve the establishment, disestablishment, and changes to boundaries of Conservation Areas, related to management and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat."*
- Section 9.3.2: *"The establishment, disestablishment or changing of the boundaries of Conservation Areas related to management and protection of wildlife habitat shall be subject to the approval of the NWMB pursuant to Sub-section 5.2.34(a). Conservation Areas shall be co-managed by Government and the DIO as provided in Section 9.3.7."*
- Section 15.2.1: *"If a Park or Conservation Area is established and that Park or Conservation Area partially extends beyond the marine areas, Article 8 or 9, as the case requires, shall apply to that entire Park or Conservation Area."*
- Section 15.3.4: *"Government shall seek the advice of the NWMB with respect to any wildlife management decisions in Zones I and II which would affect the substance and value of Inuit harvesting rights and opportunities within the marine areas of the Nunavut Settlement Area. The NWMB shall provide relevant information to Government that would assist in wildlife management beyond the marine areas of the Nunavut Settlement Area."*

On June 20, 2019, the NWMB passed the following resolution in relation to the current Order in Tuvaijuittuq:

*"RESOLVED that the NWMB approves, pursuant to Sections 5.2.34(a), 9.3.2, 15.2.1, and 15.3.4 of the Nunavut Agreement and considering the undertaking provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to bring any change following Canada Gazette 1 publication back to the NWMB for*

*consideration, the plan to establish the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area through designation by Ministerial Order, under the Oceans Act.”.*

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

Tuvaijuittuq (“the place where the ice never melts”) is a marine area located northwest of Ellesmere Island. The area contains the oldest and thickest multi-year sea ice in the Canadian Arctic, and is projected to become a critical refuge for ice-associated species as sea ice continues to decline across the Arctic due to climate change. The area was established as an MPA by Ministerial Order under the *Oceans Act* in 2019 to provide the Government of Canada (represented by DFO and Parks Canada [PC]), the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and the Government of Nunavut (GN) time to complete an assessment of the feasibility and desirability of long-term protection.

In January 2023, QIA formally requested that DFO repeal the current Order in Tuvaijuittuq and replace it with a second Order to help recover the time lost due to unforeseen pandemic challenges and to allow additional time to collaboratively explore an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) for the area. In March 2023, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard agreed to QIA’s request and approved a process seeking to repeal and replace the Order. The intent of the proposed second Order is to continue marine protection in this ecologically important and vulnerable area while partners work toward an IPCA.

The proposed second Order would freeze the footprint of ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq for up to an additional five years, meaning any activity that has occurred in Tuvaijuittuq over the twelve months prior to designation (or that has been authorized to occur), with a baseline of the existing Order, would be allowed to continue, while new activities would be prohibited, with some exceptions (s4[2] of the current Order<sup>1</sup>). The period of July 30, 2018 to July 30, 2019 must be used as a baseline given that an Order has been in place since July 30, 2019, and will remain in place until the new Order comes into force. The proposed second Order would not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Nunavut Agreement, meaning that the new regulations would not affect the wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The proposed Order would be covered under the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA), signed in 2019 by Canada and the QIA.

The proposed Order is intended to replace the current Order in Tuvaijuittuq, which extends to July 30, 2024.

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

DFO and QIA will deliver a 20 - 25-minute PowerPoint presentation (enclosed) that provides an overview of the proposal to establish a second Order in Tuvaijuittuq.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-282/page-1.html>

## **Consultation:**

### ***(a) The means of consultation;***

In November and December 2022, the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, represented by Canada (DFO and Parks Canada), QIA and GN, consulted with the communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay on the feasibility assessment process, and to share and seek feedback on the results of various studies completed for Tuvaijuittuq, including biophysical, socio-economic and petroleum potential assessments.

In April 2023, the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group returned to these five communities to seek input on a proposal for a second Order in Tuvaijuittuq, including the conservation objective, boundaries and proposed regulations. Additional virtual follow-up meetings with select community groups were held to ensure quorum and comfort with the proposal. In follow-up meetings, members indicated that no further follow-up meetings were necessary. In the case of Resolute Bay, and Pond Inlet, both HTA and hamlet councils were comfortable proceeding without remaining Board members and gave the Working Group permission to seek letters of support following additional Board discussions. Follow-up letters were sent to community groups to provide additional clarity on questions raised during the consultation process and to offer additional meetings if needed to discuss the proposed regulation. “What We Heard” reports were also circulated to each community HTA and hamlet council summarizing the feedback received during these consultations and inviting their comment.

In July 2023, a joint project description and letters were sent to industry and other stakeholders inviting them to comment on the proposal for a second Order in Tuvaijuittuq, and offering to meet with each organization. Stakeholder groups included territorial stakeholders, environmental non-government organizations, fishing industry, shipping industry, cruise ship industry, oil and gas and mining industries, tour operators, and academia.

In response to DFO’s submission of its proposal to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for conformity determination in September 2023, the NPC issued a similar decision as that for the existing Order; pursuant to the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* the NPC determined that the proposed Order was not subject to the land use plan conformity process and therefore did not require a conformity determination.

DFO engaged the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) on the proposal in July 2023, and again in September 2023 to provide copies of the community support letters received and notify the Board that DFO would be seeking their endorsement. On November 22, 2023, DFO presented updates on the proposal to the QWB, and sought clarity from the Board on how they would like to be involved and informed on next steps for this site. No comments were received from the Board. DFO will continue to engage the QWB on this site.

DFO provided an update to the NWMB at its November 29, 2023 quarterly meeting to notify that a submission and presentation would be made for their approval in spring 2024.

In December 2023, the proposed new regulations were posted in Canada Gazette, Part I for the 30-day public comment period. DFO sent notifications to partners, community HTAs and hamlet councils, and stakeholders in advance of pre-publication. One comment was received through this process which was supportive of protection.

***(b) A list of the organizations consulted and an estimate of the number of individuals consulted, including members of the public; and***

**Table 1.** List of community organizations consulted in November and December 2022, April 2023, and subsequent virtual follow-up meetings by community group, type of consultation and estimated number of individuals. Individuals represent adult participants.

<b>Community Group</b>	<b>Type of Consultation</b>	<b>Date of Consultation</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Individuals</b>
Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association; Resolute Bay Hamlet Council	In-person	15-Nov-2022	6
Resolute Bay community	In-person	15-Nov-2022	13
Iviq Hunters and Trappers Association; Grise Fiord Hamlet Council	In-person	16-Nov-2022	10
Grise Fiord community	In-person	16-Nov-2022	19
Arctic Bay community	In-person	29-Nov-2022	32
Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Association; Pond Inlet Hamlet Council	In-person	30-Nov-2022	22
Pond Inlet community	In-person	30-Nov-2022	53
Nangmoutaq Hunters and Trappers Association; Clyde River Hamlet Council	In-person	6-Dec-2022	13
Clyde River community	In-person	6-Dec-2022	25
Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers Association; Arctic Bay Hamlet Council	In-person	3-Apr-2023	13
Arctic Bay community	In-person	3-Apr-2023	18
Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Association; Pond Inlet Hamlet Council	In-person	4-Apr-2023	12
Pond Inlet community	In-person	4-Apr-2023	15
Nangmoutaq Hunters and Trappers Association; Clyde River Hamlet Council	In-person	5-Apr-2034	9
Nangmoutaq Hunters and Trappers Association	Virtual follow-up	18-May-2023	4
Clyde River community	In-person	5-Apr-2023	16
Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association; Resolute Bay Hamlet Council	In-person	17-Apr-2023	7
Resolute Bay community	In-person	17-Apr-2023	7
Iviq Hunters and Trappers Association; Grise Fiord Hamlet Council	In-person	18-Apr-2023	3
Iviq Hunters and Trappers Association; Grise Fiord Hamlet Council	Virtual follow-up	5-Jun-2023	7
Grise Fiord community	In-person	18-Apr-2023	14

Stakeholders in Nunavut were engaged via email and letter through the Nunavut Marine Conservation Target Steering Committee (represented by Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC], PC, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [CIRNAC], Transport Canada, DFO, the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.), Nunavut Water

Board, and QWB. Stakeholders in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) were engaged on the proposal through the Beaufort Sea Partnership Regional Co-ordination Committee, which is comprised of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, PCA, CIRNAC, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon Government, ECCC, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada.

Industry and non-government organizations included the Canadian Marine Advisory Council, Nunavut Eastern Arctic Shipping Inc., Shipping Federation of Canada, Woodward Group of Companies, Nunavut Fisheries Association, Eastern Arctic Groundfish Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee, Oceans North, World Wildlife Fund-Canada (WWF-Canada), Canadian Wildlife Federation, Ecology Action Centre, Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Black Feather, Travel Nunavut, Atii (Let's go) Tourism, Arctic Kingdom, ArcticNet, Ice, Climate and Environment Laboratory, Nunavut Research Institute, Arctic Security Consultants, Canadian High Arctic Research Station, Polar Continental Shelf Program, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Inuit Circumpolar Council.

***(c) A summary of the results, including any responses or accommodations to issues, concerns, etc. raised during the consultations.***

Community interest in protecting Tuvaijuittuq is based largely on the area's ecological importance and significance to Inuit (past, present and future). Communities are interested in learning more about Tuvaijuittuq as research in the area continues, primarily its animals and habitats, climate change impacts, future economic opportunities (particularly those that are sustainable and do not harm the environment), and the types of research done in the area. Communities were in favour of the second Ministerial Order MPA, and indicated the importance of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, community input and decision-making in future decisions associated with long-term protection. See the enclosed "Consultation and Engagement Summary" and "What We Heard" documents for additional details.

Key take-aways from individual community consultations include:

- **Arctic Bay:** There is interest in protecting Tuvaijuittuq both in the short- and long-term given the area's importance, concerns about climate change and shipping impacts, and to protect Tuvaijuittuq from the interests of other countries to the extent possible; there is interest in future economic opportunities for future generations.
- **Clyde River:** Tuvaijuittuq is historically important to Inuit and is ecologically important; community involvement in decision-making is important; there is concern about climate change and ice-breaking impacts to the area; there is interest in economic opportunities.
- **Grise Fiord:** Tuvaijuittuq is historically important to Inuit as a traditional travel route to and from Greenland and as a hunting ground; it is important that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit forms the basis of knowledge for this area and that Inuit are involved with decision-making processes; there is interest in learning more about long-term plans for the area; care is needed when considering economic development in Tuvaijuittuq to avoid harming the environment.
- **Pond Inlet:** Community involvement in decision-making for Tuvaijuittuq is important; there is concern about climate change impacts and ability to enforce regulations; there is interest in building Inuit employment for monitoring activities within the protected area; assessments conducted for the area should be updated as climate change continues to impact the area.

- **Resolute Bay:** The connection between Tuvaijuittuq and other protected areas is important, as is finding better ways to approach co-management and community involvement; there are concerns about continued contamination in this, and other High Arctic areas from pollution and spills as similar impacts are still being observed 10 to 20 years later; there is concern about increased tourism in Tuvaijuittuq and the interest of other countries in its resources.

Following in-person consultations and virtual follow-up meetings with the communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay, letters in support of the proposal were received from the HTAs and hamlet councils of all five communities.

Of the external stakeholders engaged in June 2023, only WWF-Canada responded, and was fully supportive of the proposal.

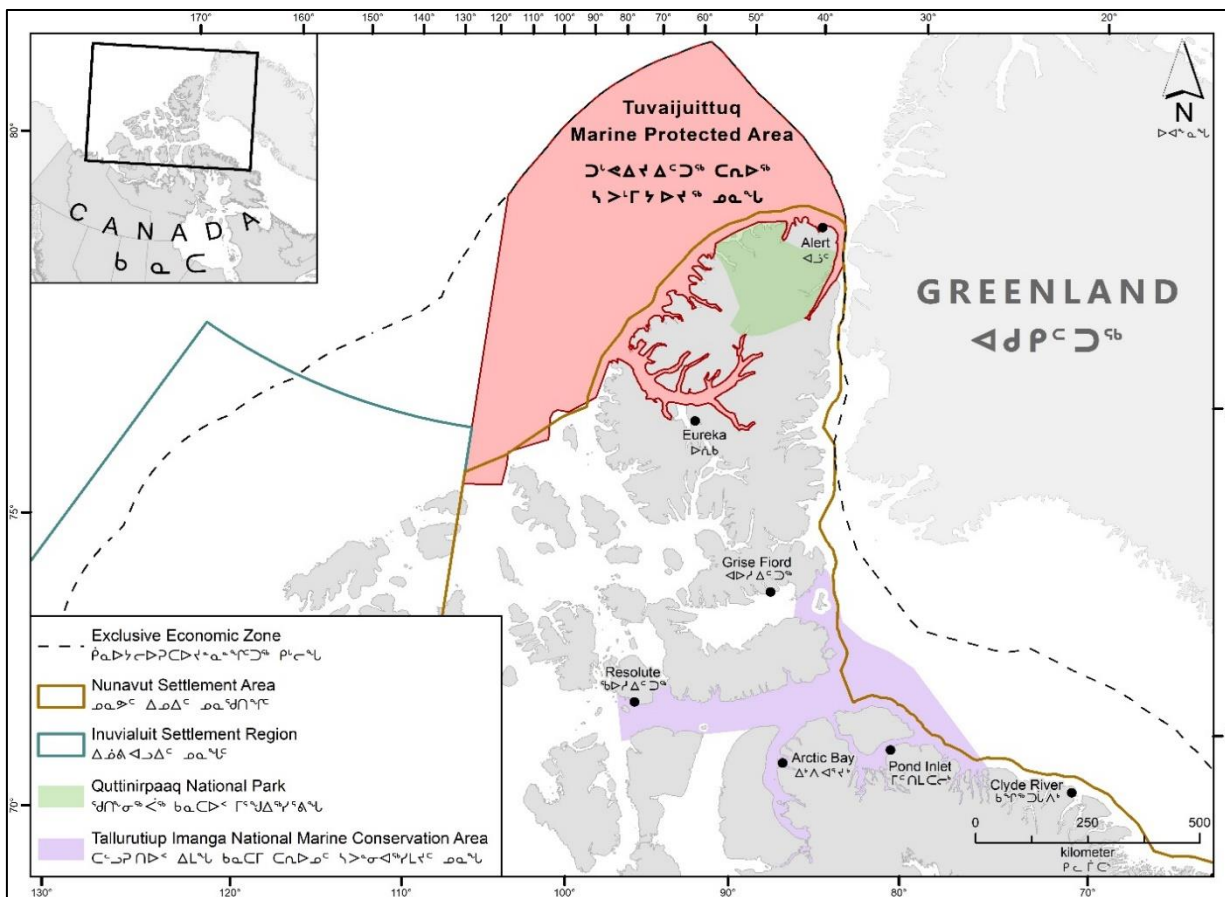
On December 14, 2023, DFO sent notifications to partners, community HTAs and hamlet councils, as well as stakeholders in advance of pre-publication of the proposed new regulation in Canada Gazette, Part I on December 23, 2023. This 30-day public comment period was closed on January 22, 2024. One comment was received which was supportive of protection.

**Recommendation:**

DFO is recommending that NWMB approves the establishment of a second Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order under the *Oceans Act* in Tuvaijuittuq. A decision is requested by May 1, 2024.

**Prepared by:** Chandra Chambers, Arctic Region – Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Marine Planning and Conservation Program

**Date:** March 26, 2023



Map of the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order.

# **Request for Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Approval of a Second Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq**

## **Consultation and Engagement Summary**

### **1. Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement and High Arctic Basin (Tuvaijuittuq) Memorandum of Understanding**

The current Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area (or Order) in Tuvaijuittuq is covered under the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) (Article 17), signed in 2019 by Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA). The proposed second Order would be covered under the same IIBA.

Also in 2019, the Government of Canada, represented by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Parks Canada Agency (PCA), the QIA, and the Government of Nunavut signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a joint process for determining the feasibility and desirability of long-term protection in Tuvaijuittuq. The MoU identifies the Tuvaijuittuq Steering Committee as being responsible for guiding the feasibility assessment, which includes an evaluation of long-term options for the area. In February 2020, the Steering Committee created a working group with representation from all parties to complete the joint assessment.

### **2. Community and engagements to date**

Initial engagement of stakeholders and communities on marine protection in Tuvaijuittuq began in winter 2018, when QIA led a community tour to provide an update to the five adjacent communities associated with Tuvaijuittuq pursuant to an Agreement in Principle reached in April 2019 prior to signing the IIBA. Communities supported in principle the protection of Tuvaijuittuq, and echoed the importance of Inuit being involved in research taking place in the area. Stakeholder groups engaged as part of this process included key Inuit organizations and northern governments, non-governmental organizations, and industry. The majority of stakeholders engaged on the proposal provided their support and/or expressed no concerns. In light of negotiations between the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon government, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation on future offshore oil and gas activity in the Beaufort Sea, the Government of the Northwest Territories requested that a small portion of Tuvaijuittuq along its western boundary be removed from the proposed MPA. This request was respected by the Government of Canada in the spirit of collaboration.

In December 2018, DFO formally presented the proposal to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, who subsequently indicated that additional engagement was needed with communities closest to the proposed MPA. Following this advice, in February 2019, DFO and PCA engaged with the Hunter's and Trapper's Organizations (HTOs) and communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord on a proposed phased approach to marine protection whereby interim protection would be established in Tuvaijuittuq to allow time to collect baseline scientific information and further engage co-management partners and stakeholders with regard to long-term protection options. Representatives from both the GN and the QIA also participated in these meetings. HTOs and attending members from all three communities were generally supportive of both interim and long-term protection of Tuvaijuittuq, as well as the collection of scientific data to better understand the area. A "What We Heard" report developed as part of these consultations was reviewed and approved by the community HTOs and tour

participants. Later that year, QIA consulted two additional communities (Pond Inlet and Clyde River) on the proposal and subsequently obtained letters from all five community HTAs and hamlet councils in support of the proposed Ministerial Order designation. In their support letters, community organizations noted that, *“During the feasibility process our community will be engaged to discuss and consider whether this area should become a conservation area, the boundaries for a conservation area and what types of protection would be created should the conservation area be established.”* On June 19, 2019, DFO presented its proposal to the NWMB for its approval, which the NWMB approved the proposal the following month. The Order came into force on July 31, 2019, and work began on the feasibility assessment.

Between November 14 and December 6, 2022, the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group traveled to the communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay to seek input on the feasibility assessment process, to seek information about community use and interest in Tuvaijuittuq for the long term, and to share the results of various assessments completed for the area, including a biophysical overview, petroleum potential and economic assessment, and socioeconomic overview. The consultation process included meetings with community HTAs, hamlet councils, Nauttisuqtiit, and community open houses. Communities remained generally supportive of protection and expressed interest in future economic opportunities in Tuvaijuittuq if these become possible. A common theme heard across communities was a desire to learn more about Tuvaijuittuq as research continues, to be updated on the progress of the assessment and long-term protection options, and the importance of Inuit-led decision-making in conservation.

Between April 3-18, 2023, the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group returned to these five communities to seek input on QIA’s request to seek a second Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq, including the area’s proposed boundary and regulatory intent. In each community the consultation process included meetings with community HTAs, hamlet councils, Nauttisuqtiit, and community open houses. Between May and July 2023 the Working Group undertook additional virtual follow-up meetings with the Nangmoutaq HTA, Clyde River Hamlet Council, Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council to ensure quorum. The HTAs and hamlet councils in all five communities gave permission for DFO to seek formal letters of support for the proposal. There is interest from all five communities to protect Tuvaijuittuq in both the short-term and long-term, but also in balancing protection with economic opportunities for future generations. Interest in protecting the area is based on Tuvaijuittuq’s ecological importance, its significance to Inuit, and interest in the area’s resources by other countries.

In June 2023, follow-up letters were sent to the HTAs and hamlet councils of all five communities, to provide additional clarity on questions raised during the consultation process and to offer additional meetings if needed to discuss the proposed regulation. As part of the consultation process, individual “What We Heard” reports were also developed for each community to summarize the feedback provided by communities members, and to provide additional information to questions raised during the consultations. The reports were circulated to each community’s HTA and hamlet council for their review. One-page summaries of these reports were also mailed to each community mailbox to ensure awareness within the broader communities. DFO received letters in support of the new Ministerial Order MPA from the HTAs and hamlet councils of all five communities.

In June 2023, DFO presented an update on Tuvaijuittuq to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board at its quarterly meeting. The update included notification that DFO was pursuing the establishment of a second Order in Tuvaijuittuq at the request of QIA.

In July 2023, parties to the MoU sent a joint project description and letter to industry and other stakeholders inviting them to comment on the proposal to repeal and replace the Tuvaijuittuq Ministerial Order MPA. In their letter to stakeholders, the parties also offered to meet with each organization. Stakeholders engaged in the 2019 Ministerial Order MPA process were re-engaged between July and August 2023 in collaboration with partners, along with additional groups identified since. Stakeholder groups included territorial stakeholders, environmental non-government organizations, fishing industry, shipping industry, cruise ship industry, oil and gas and mining industries, tour operators, and academia. Stakeholders in Nunavut were engaged through the Nunavut Marine Conservation Target Steering Committee (represented by Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC], PCA, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [CIRNAC], Transport Canada [TC], DFO, the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. [NTI]), and Nunavut Water Board. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board was also included in this process for awareness, with a commitment to providing updates and copies of any community letters in support of the proposal if received.

Stakeholders in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) were engaged on the proposal through the Beaufort Sea Partnership Regional Co-ordination Committee, which is comprised of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC), PCA, CIRNAC, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon Government, ECCC, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and TC.

Industry and non-government organizations included the Canadian Marine Advisory Council, Nunavut Fisheries Association, Eastern Arctic Groundfish Stakeholder Advisory Committee (EAGSAC), Arctic Security Consultants, Oceans North, World Wildlife Fund-Canada (WWF-Canada), Ecology Action Centre, and Inuit Circumpolar Council. Key cruise ship industry stakeholders were also engaged during that period. Of those external stakeholders engaged, only WWF-Canada provided input and was fully supportive of the proposal. No other external stakeholder comments were received.

In September 2023, DFO re-engaged the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board in writing to provide an update on Tuvaijuittuq and copies of the community letters of support received, as well as to notify the Board that DFO would be presenting an update on this proposal and seeking their approval during the Board's fall quarterly meeting. On November 22, 2023, DFO presented updates on the proposal to the QWB, and sought clarity from the Board on how they would like to be involved and informed on next steps for this site. No comments were received from the Board. DFO will continue to engage the QWB on this site.

On October 31, 2023 following DFO's submission of its proposal to the Nunavut Planning Commission in accordance with requirements set out in the Nunavut Agreement and *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, the Nunavut Planning Commission determined that pursuant to the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* the proposed Ministerial Order was not subject to the land use plan conformity process and therefore did not require a conformity determination.

On November 29, 2023, DFO presented an update on Tuvaijuittuq to the NWMB at its fall quarterly meeting and provided a notification that DFO would present its proposal to the NWMB for decision in spring 2024 following conclusion of the Canada Gazette I public comment period.

On December 14, 2023, DFO sent notifications to partners, community HTAs and hamlet councils, as well as stakeholders in advance of pre-publication of the proposed new regulation in Canada Gazette, Part I on December 23, 2023. This 30-day public comment period was closed on January 22, 2024. One comment was received which was supportive of protection.

# Request for Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Approval of a Second Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq

## Project Description

### 1. Request for Approval

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Marine Planning and Conservation Program, is seeking approval from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) to establish a marine conservation area in Tuvaijuittuq through designation of a second Marine Protected Area (MPA) by Ministerial Order (or “Order”) under the *Oceans Act*, s35.1(2), consistent with the Nunavut Agreement s9.3.2 (establishment of conservation areas).

The new Order is intended to replace the current Order in Tuvaijuittuq which extends to July 31, 2024.

### 2. Collaboration and Proposal for a Second Ministerial Order MPA Under the *Oceans Act*

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) are proposing a second interim protection measure for the High Arctic marine area referred to as Tuvaijuittuq (“the place where the ice never melts”). A second Order under the *Oceans Act* would freeze the footprint of ongoing activities in the area for up to an additional five years, meaning any activity that has occurred in Tuvaijuittuq over the twelve months prior to designation (or that has been authorized to occur) would be allowed to continue, while new activities would be prohibited, with some exceptions (S.4[2]<sup>1</sup>). The Order would not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of the Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Nunavut Agreement.

The current Order in Tuvaijuittuq was designated under the *Oceans Act* in 2019, and protects the area for a period of up to five years while the Government of Canada, the QIA and the Government of Nunavut completes an assessment of the feasibility and desirability of long-term protection. The Order is covered under the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA), signed in 2019 by Canada and the QIA. The Government of Canada (represented by DFO and Parks Canada Agency), the QIA, and the Government of Nunavut also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a joint process for determining the feasibility and desirability of long-term protection in Tuvaijuittuq. The Tuvaijuittuq Steering Committee, which has representation from all parties to the MoU, is responsible for guiding this feasibility assessment which began in February 2020 and was to be completed within two years of the signing of the MoU.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused unforeseen and significant challenges to the parties’ ability to meaningfully consult with the impacted Inuit communities and to complete the feasibility assessment, including components such as a QIA-led Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit study of the Ellesmere Island region and additional scientific research. In January 2023, the President of QIA sent a letter to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, formally requesting that the current Order in Tuvaijuittuq be repealed and replaced with a new Order to help recover the time lost due to the pandemic and to collaboratively explore an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) for the area. In March 2023, the Minister agreed to this request and approved a process seeking to repeal and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-282/page-1.html>

replace the Order. The intent of the proposed new Order is to continue marine protection in this ecologically important and vulnerable area while partners determine the most suitable long-term option. The proposed new Order would be covered under the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area IIBA.

### 3. About the Area

#### Location

Tuvaijuittuq includes a portion of the marine waters off northern Ellesmere Island starting from the low water mark and extending to Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone (Figure 1). The majority of the area lies outside two adjacent land claim agreement areas, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and the Nunavut Settlement Area. However, the proposed MPA extends into the Nunavut Settlement Area and thus the Nunavut Agreement provisions apply with respect to the establishment of a conservation area. The eastern portion of this area is located in the Lincoln Sea. On June 14, 2022, Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark announced that they had signed an agreement resolving the disputed Lincoln Sea boundary, and Canada’s ratification of the treaty is ongoing. Once ratified, the boundary of Tuvaijuittuq that falls within this area will be adjusted to match the coordinates of the new international boundary.

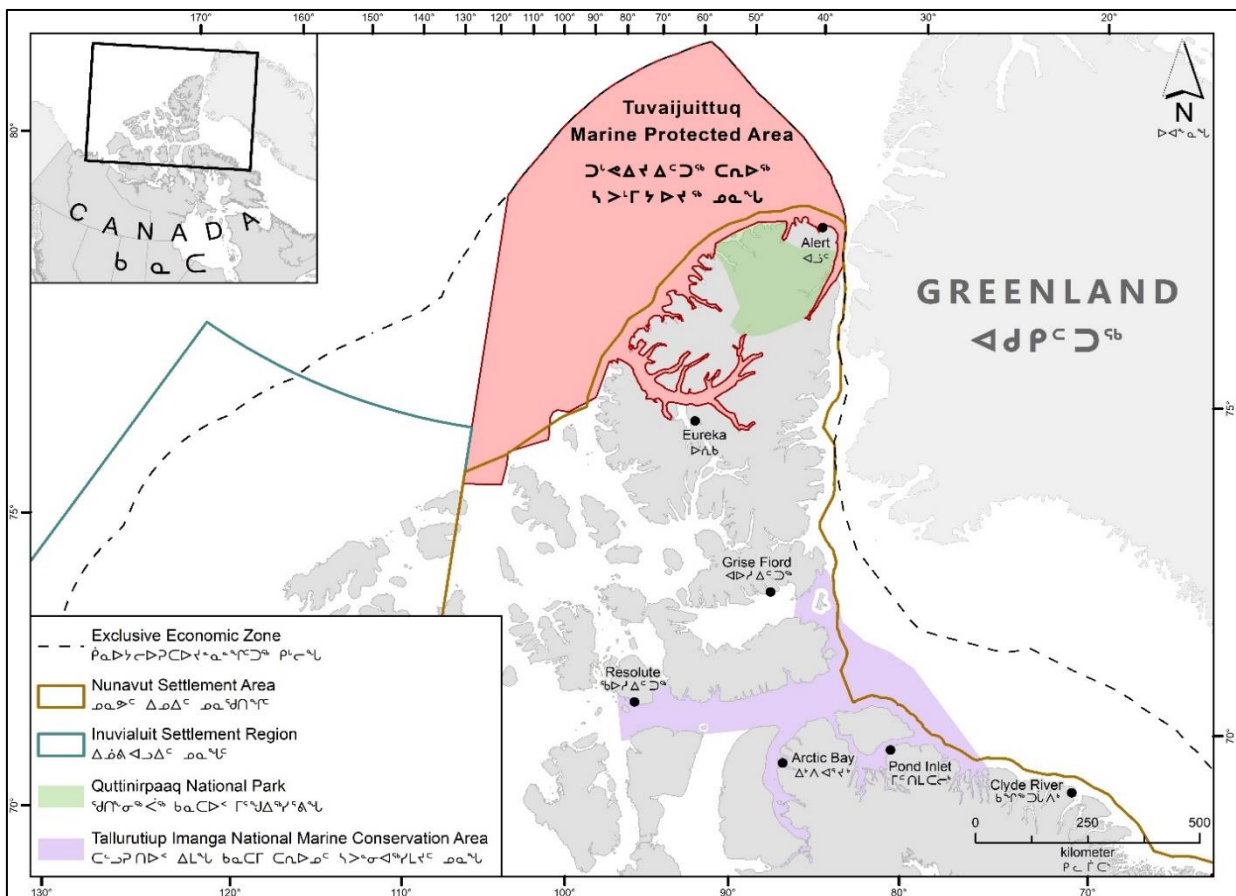


Figure 1. Map of the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order

## Ecological Importance

Tuvaijuittuq is considered to be globally, nationally and regionally unique due to the presence of multi-year pack ice, and is expected to become a critical refuge for ice dependent and culturally significant species as sea ice declines throughout the Arctic due to climate change. The area overlaps multiple Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) identified by DFO in 2011 (Figure 2), and a portion of the area was identified by PCA as a candidate National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) due to its unique features and ecological significance.

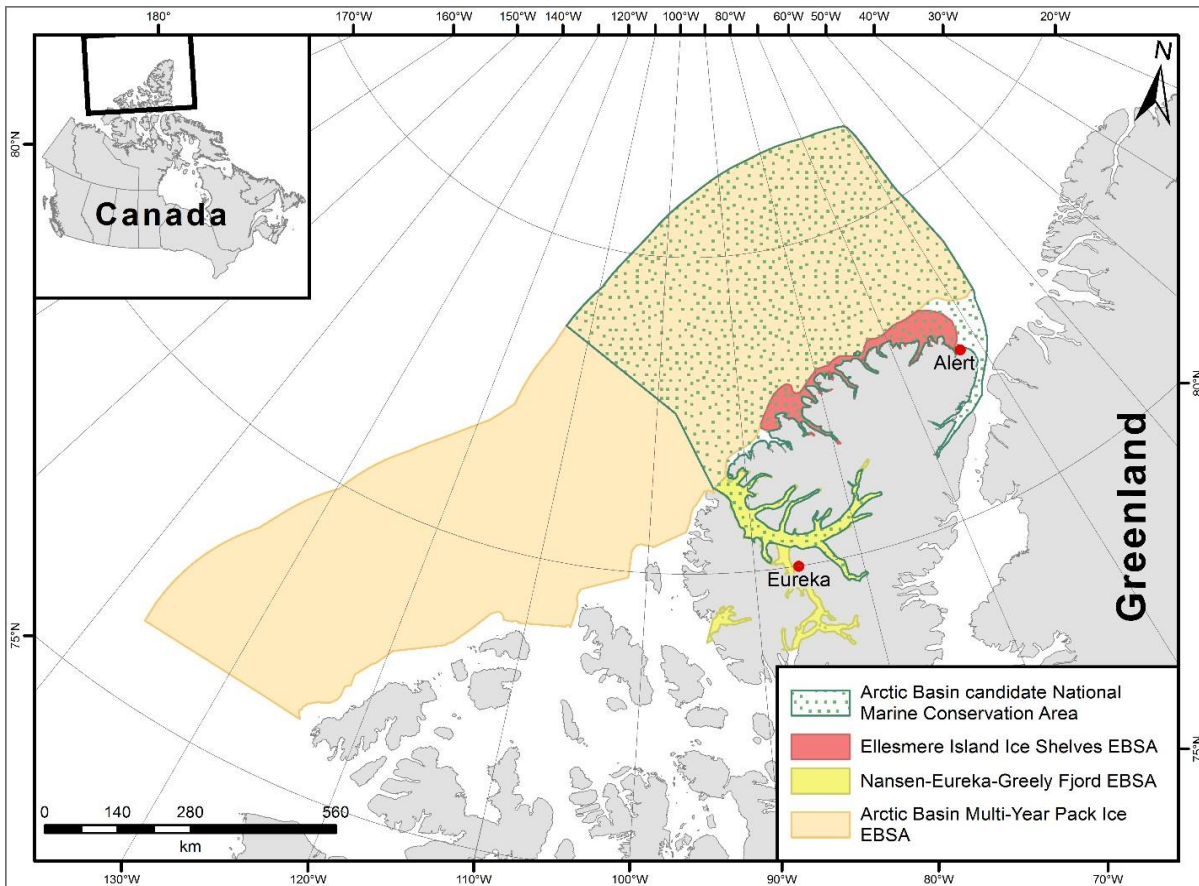


Figure 2. Map of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) identified by DFO and the Candidate National Marine Conservation Area identified by Parks Canada Agency.

Science-led assessments have identified a number of Ecologically Significant Species and Community Properties within Tuvaijuittuq, including ([DFO 2020](#); [Charette et al. 2020](#)):

- **Multi-year ice:** Tuvaijuittuq contains the oldest and thickest sea ice in the Canadian Arctic and provides important habitat for ice-dependent and ice-associated species. The area is an important source of multi-year ice and Arctic Ocean waters to the Canadian Arctic Archipelago and Baffin Bay and as a result, can influence sea ice and other conditions throughout the Canadian Arctic;
- **Ellesmere Island ice shelves:** Remaining ice shelves in Tuvaijuittuq host unique microbial mats and important nesting and feeding habitat for the Endangered Ivory Gull and At Risk species such as the Red Knott and Ross's Gull;

- **Fiord systems:** Tuvaijuittuq’s fiord systems play an important role in the connectivity between Ellesmere Island, the Ellesmere ice shelves and adjacent ecosystems. Fiords in Tuvaijuittuq act as conduits for the transfer of snow and ice meltwaters from Ellesmere Island to the Arctic Ocean and support diverse habitats, including important marine mammal (e.g., Atlantic walrus, bearded and ringed seals, narwhal) habitat. Both the High Arctic Atlantic walrus population and narwhals are listed as Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and observations of both species in Archer Fiord between 2018 and 2023 were farther north than their known distribution ranges;
- **Sea ice-associated communities:** Multi-year sea ice habitat in Tuvaijuittuq supports a number of ice-associated species such as algae and krill which are critical to high Arctic food webs; and
- **Biodiversity:** Despite its far northern location, Tuvaijuittuq contains a remarkable diversity of habitat types and associated marine communities. In addition to the multi-year ice, fiord and ice shelf habitats, the MPA includes areas of annual sea ice, inshore habitats, leads of varying size and duration, and coastal lagoons retaining ancient seawater from the coastal ocean.

Current research in Tuvaijuittuq is led by the ArcticCORE program, which is a multi-tiered program that includes ship-, ice- and aerial-based research and long-term observations (e.g., moorings, community-based observations/monitoring) to characterize the unique ecosystems of Tuvaijuittuq and connectivity to adjacent ecosystems. The remote nature of Tuvaijuittuq and its extensive ice cover make researching the area difficult and as a result, wide gaps in knowledge of the area still exist. Initial research in Tuvaijuittuq was carried out as part of the Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) – Last Ice, which informed the development of an ecosystem review and the identification of knowledge gaps and unique ecological features for Tuvaijuittuq (Charette et al., 2020; DFO, 2020). The ArcticCORE program is continuing the ecosystem characterization of Tuvaijuittuq to address existing knowledge gaps and to provide ecological information which is critically needed to inform decisions around long-term protection of the area.

While limited Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit is available to inform this proposal, DFO undertook a preliminary scan of existing Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit from nearby communities in 2018-2019 to inform the current Order, which included information from a 2012 Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory as well as Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit shared with DFO in 2010 for the purposes of conservation planning. In 2022, the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, which has representation from DFO, Parks Canada, QIA and the Government of Nunavut, consulted with the communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay in part to seek additional input on the importance of the area to Inuit. QIA is currently conducting an in-depth Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit study of the Ellesmere Island Region which will further inform the Tuvaijuittuq feasibility assessment and future decisions regarding long-term protection. Inuit have identified that this area has historical importance as a travel corridor between Greenland and Canada.

### ***Socio-economic Considerations***

DFO has compiled socio-economic information to support an updated socio-economic analysis. Given that a Ministerial Order regulation has been in place since 2019, the activities occurring in Tuvaijuittuq during the 12 months leading up to the establishment of the current Order was used as a baseline for “ongoing” activities.

Tuvaijuittuq is a marine area, the majority of which is located offshore. There are minimal activities occurring in Tuvaijuittuq due to its remoteness and inaccessibility. The area is far from any settled communities. For example, Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay are the closest settled communities, located over 350 and 550 km southeast of Tuvaijuittuq, respectively<sup>2</sup>. Most of Tuvaijuittuq is ice-covered year round and the extensive ice cover results in exceptionally difficult conditions to navigate.

There are no commercial or recreational fisheries or aquacultures in Tuvaijuittuq, and these activities are unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future due to extensive sea ice coverage. There are no active mining projects or licenses in Tuvaijuittuq, and no existing oil and gas licenses, or expressions of interest for these activities. Additionally, the area is included in the federal oil and gas moratorium, which is reviewed every five years and prohibits new oil and gas exploration licensing in the Canadian Arctic Ocean. In June 2023 following consideration of the review, Canada maintained the moratorium for another five years. The Geological Survey of Canada conducted an analysis of petroleum potential in Tuvaijuittuq and predicted that there is a 95% chance that some hydrocarbon resources are present within the MPA, though high uncertainty exists regarding the locations and volume of recoverable petroleum resources (Lister et al. 2022). The areas of highest petroleum potential are located in the Lincoln Sea Basin (northeast) and the Northwest Canada Arctic Margin (southwest) portions of the MPA. Available information indicates that potential resources in Tuvaijuittuq are unlikely to be produced economically under current conditions, and development in the area is not expected for the foreseeable future.

There are no known tourism and recreational activities in Tuvaijuittuq. Quttinirpaaq National Park, located on Ellesmere Island, is adjacent to Tuvaijuittuq and receives a limited number of tourists whose activities do not extend into Tuvaijuittuq. Vessel traffic in Tuvaijuittuq is rare. Between 2012 and 2019, only five vessels accessed Tuvaijuittuq, and all but one (a transiting passenger ice-breaker) were Canadian Coast Guard vessels. Since 2019, only two vessels, both Canadian Coast Guard, have entered Tuvaijuittuq.

The Arctic climate is experiencing rapid change resulting in the loss of sea ice and more specifically, multi-year pack ice. These changes are opening up new opportunities and challenges for the Arctic. For example, warming may result in an extended shipping season and the creation of new shipping routes which, in turn, may pose a risk to the habitat, biodiversity and ecosystem function within Tuvaijuittuq.

#### **4. Consultation and Engagement**

A more detailed description of the consultations and engagements undertaken for Tuvaijuittuq is provided in a separate “Consultation and Engagement Summary” document, included in this submission.

Between November 14 and December 6, 2022, the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group traveled to the communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay to seek input on the feasibility assessment process, including community use and interests for the area, and to share the results of various assessments completed for Tuvaijuittuq (biophysical overview, petroleum potential and economic assessment, socioeconomic overview). A common theme heard across communities was a desire to learn more about Tuvaijuittuq as research continues, to be updated on the progress of the

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<sup>2</sup> Distances measured from the community to the nearest border of Tuvaijuittuq (straight line). Eureka is currently used a seasonal research station.

assessment and long-term protection options, and the importance of Inuit-led decision-making in conservation.

Between April 3-18, 2023, the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group returned to these five communities to seek input on the proposed new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq. Both consultation processes included meetings with community Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTAs), hamlet councils, Nauttisuqtiit, and community open-houses. The Working Group undertook additional virtual follow-up meetings with select community groups to ensure quorum. During those meeting, the HTAs and hamlet councils in all five communities gave permission for DFO to seek formal letters of support for the proposal. There is interest from all five communities to protect Tuvaijuittuq in both the short-term and long-term, but also in balancing protection with economic opportunities for future generations. Interest in protecting the area is based on Tuvaijuittuq's ecological importance, its significance to Inuit, and interest in the area's resources by other countries.

In June 2023, follow-up letters were sent to the HTAs and hamlet councils of all five communities, to provide additional clarity on questions raised during the consultation process and to offer additional meetings if needed to discuss the proposed regulation. As part of the consultation process, individual "What We Heard" reports were also circulated to each community group summarizing the feedback provided by community members. These reports contained the same information shared in the follow-up letters for ease of reference. The reports were circulated to each community's HTA board and hamlet council for their review. To date, DFO has received letters in support of the proposed second Ministerial Order MPA from the HTAs and hamlet councils of all five communities.

In July 2023, parties to the MoU sent a joint project description and letter to industry and other stakeholders inviting them to comment on the proposal to repeal and replace the Tuvaijuittuq Ministerial Order MPA. In their letter to stakeholders, the parties also offered to meet with each organization. Stakeholder groups included territorial stakeholders, environmental non-government organizations, fishing industry, shipping industry, cruise ship industry, oil and gas and mining industries, tour operators, and academia. Stakeholders in Nunavut were engaged through the Nunavut Marine Conservation Target Steering Committee (represented by ECCC, PCA, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), Transport Canada (TC), DFO, the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. [NTI]), and Nunavut Water Board. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board was also included in this process for awareness, with a commitment to providing updates and copies of any community letters in support of the proposal if received. Stakeholders in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) were engaged on the proposal through the Beaufort Sea Partnership Regional Co-ordination Committee, which is comprised of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC), PCA, CIRNAC, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon Government, ECCC, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and TC.

Industry and environmental non-government organizations included the Canadian Marine Advisory Council, Nunavut Fisheries Association, Eastern Arctic Groundfish Stakeholder Advisory Committee (EAGSAC), Arctic Security Consultants, Oceans North, World Wildlife Fund-Canada (WWF-Canada), Ecology Action Centre, and Inuit Circumpolar Council. Key cruise ship industry stakeholders were also engaged during that period. Of those external stakeholders engaged, only WWF-Canada provided input and was fully supportive of the proposal.

In September 2023, DFO re-engaged the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board in writing to provide an update on Tuvaijuittuq and copies of the community letters of support received, as well as to notify the Board that DFO would be presenting an update on this proposal and seeking their approval during the Board's fall quarterly meeting. On November 22, 2023, DFO presented updates on the proposal to the QWB, and sought clarity from the Board on how they would like to be involved and informed on next steps for this site. No comments were received from the Board. DFO will continue to engage the QWB on this site.

In response to DFO's submission of this proposal to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for conformity determination in September 2023, the NPC indicated that pursuant to the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* the proposed Ministerial Order was not subject to the land use plan conformity process and therefore did not require a conformity determination.

## **5. Establishment Timeline and Next Steps**

If the NWMB approves of DFO's proposal to establish a second Order in Tuvaijuittuq, DFO will proceed to publication in Canada Gazette Part II, which designates the new MPA. Following establishment, the Aulattiqatigiit Board will continue to co-manage the MPA consistent with the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area IIBA. Data collection will also continue, including the QIA-led Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit study and additional scientific research, to inform the exploration of an IPCA in collaboration with Inuit and northern partners.

## **References Cited**

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DFO. 2020. Identification of Ecological Significance, Knowledge Gaps and Conservation Objectives for the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Sci. Resp. 2020/056. <https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/40964449.pdf>; <https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/40965107.pdf> (Inuktitut)

Lister, C.J., Atkinson, E.A., Dewing, K.E., King, H.M., Kung, L.E., and Hadlari, T., 2022. High Arctic basins petroleum potential, northern Canada; Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 8897, 88 p. [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf)

# Proposal to Establish a Second Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq

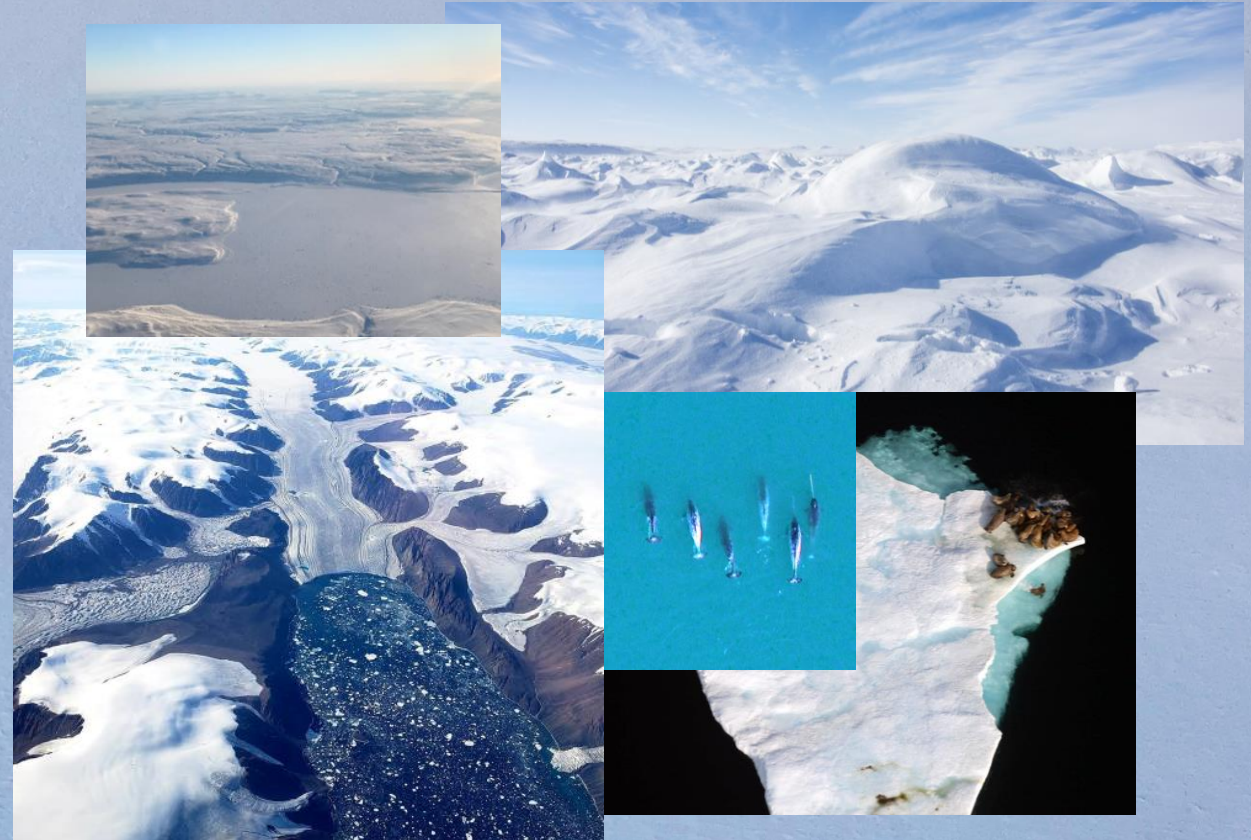
Presentation to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for decision

March 26, 2024



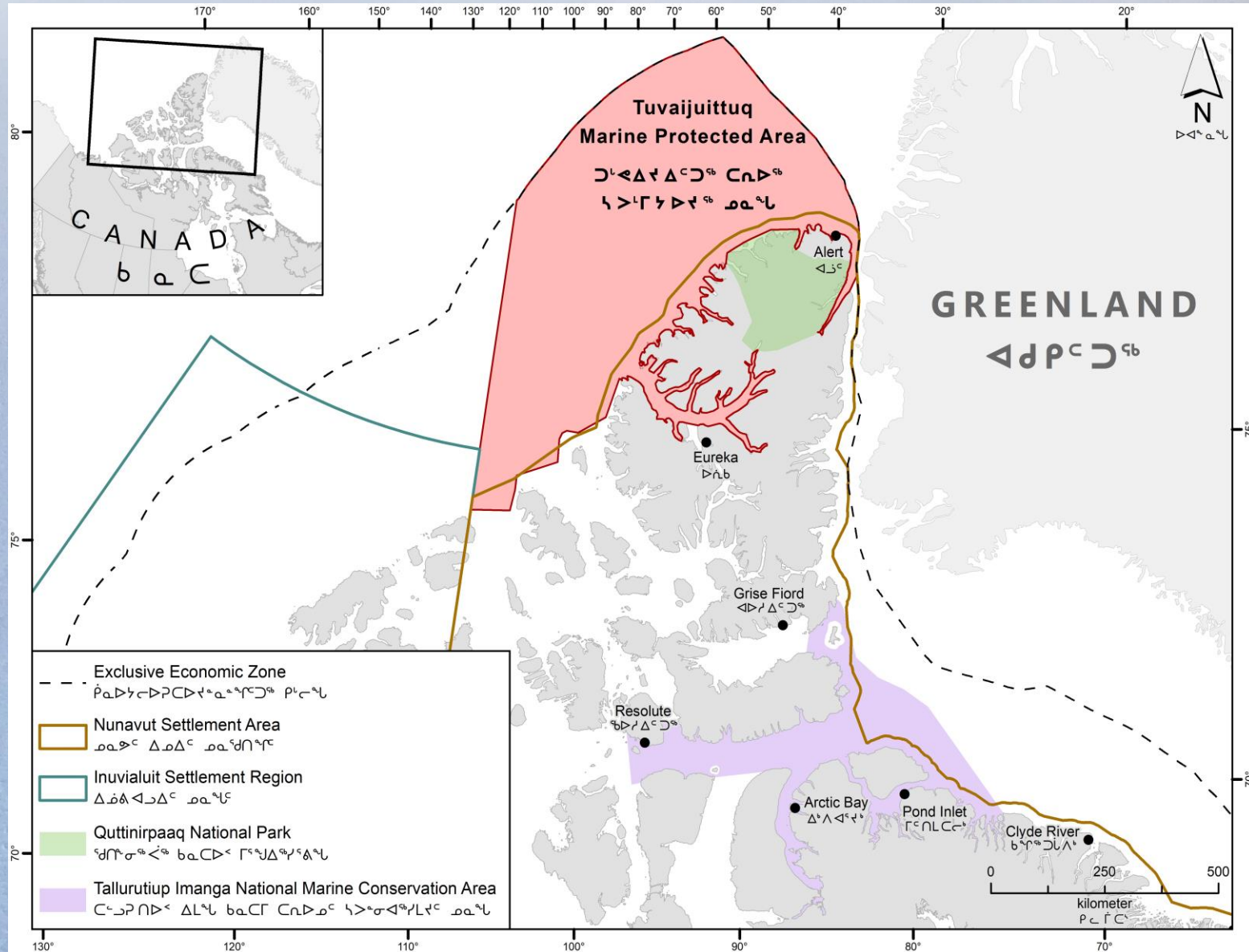
# Tuvaijuittuq – Proposal for a New Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area (MPA)

- Purpose
- Background
- Ecological Importance
- Socio-economic Considerations
- Timeline
- Proposal for a Second Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq
- Consultation and Engagement
- Next Steps



# Purpose

- DFO is seeking NWMB's approval to establish a second Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq under the *Oceans Act*, which will be consistent with the Nunavut Agreement, s9.3.2
- Requested by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association in January 2023



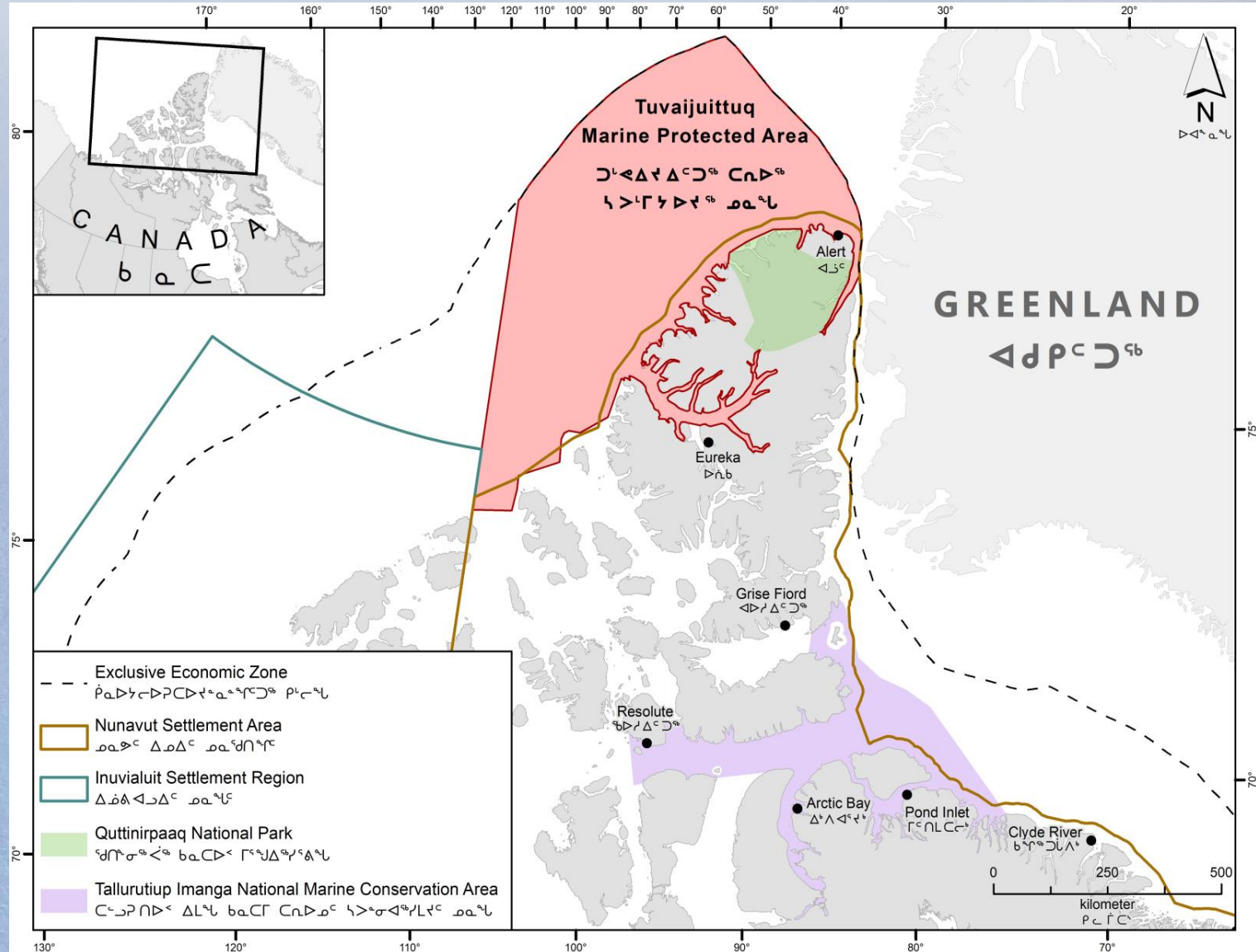
# Background

- Located northwest of Ellesmere Island
- Historical importance to Inuit as a travel corridor between Canada and Greenland
- Falls within a number of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)
- Overlaps with a PCA candidate National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA)
- Established as a marine protected area (MPA) by Ministerial Order under the *Oceans Act* in 2019



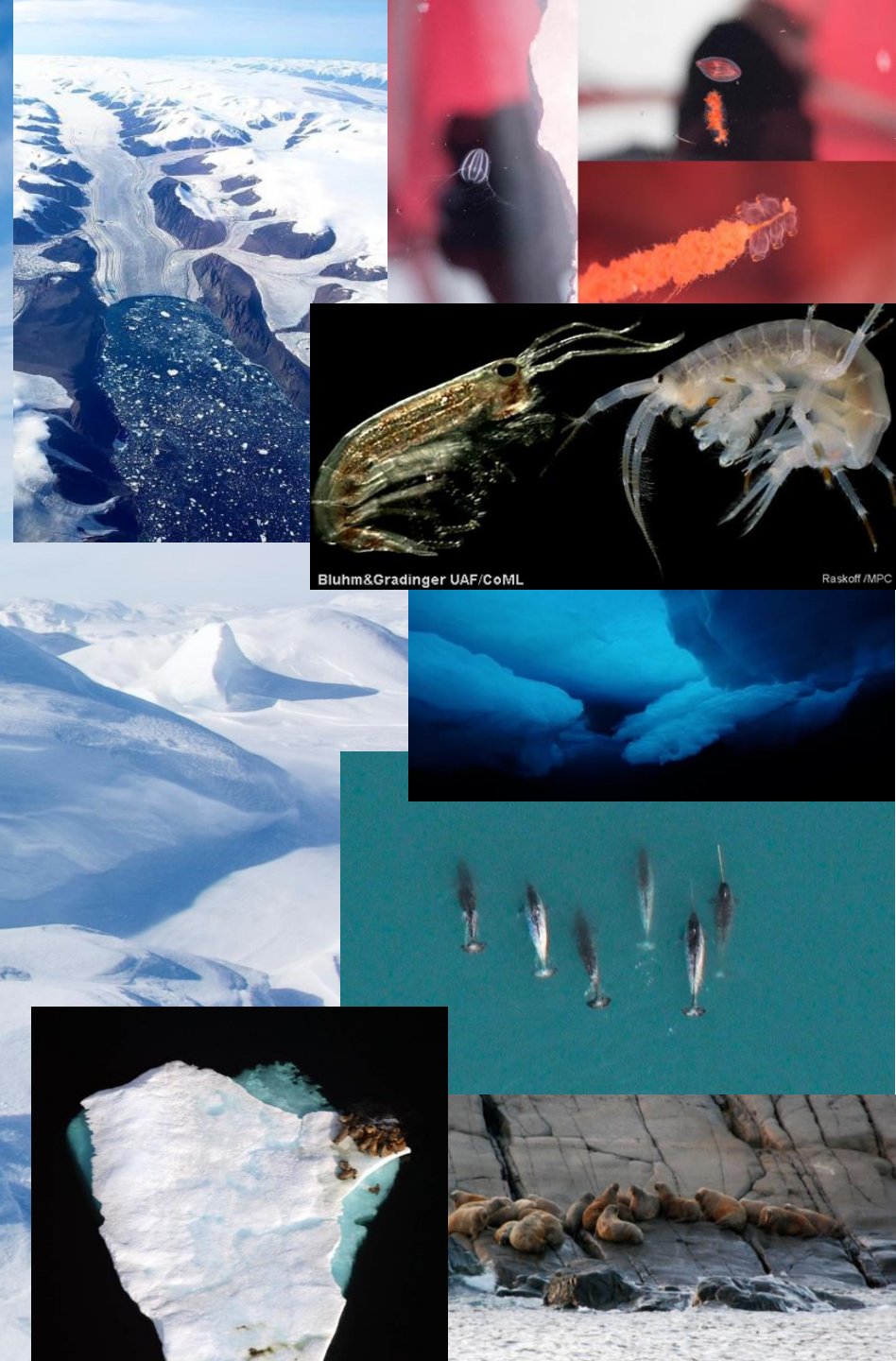
# Background

- Included under the 2019 Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA)
  - Co-managed by the Inuit-Government of Canada Aulattiqatigiit Board
- Also in place is a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by Government of Canada, Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and Government of Nunavut



# Why is Tuvaijuittuq Important?

- Multi-year ice provides important habitat to ice-associated species such as Arctic cod, polar bears, seals, walruses
- Supports and provides protection to under-ice communities
- Forms the basis of local and regional food webs that support higher trophic level species with distributions throughout the Arctic
- Expected to become a critical refuge to ice-associated and under-ice communities as sea ice declines due to climate change



# Socio-economic Considerations

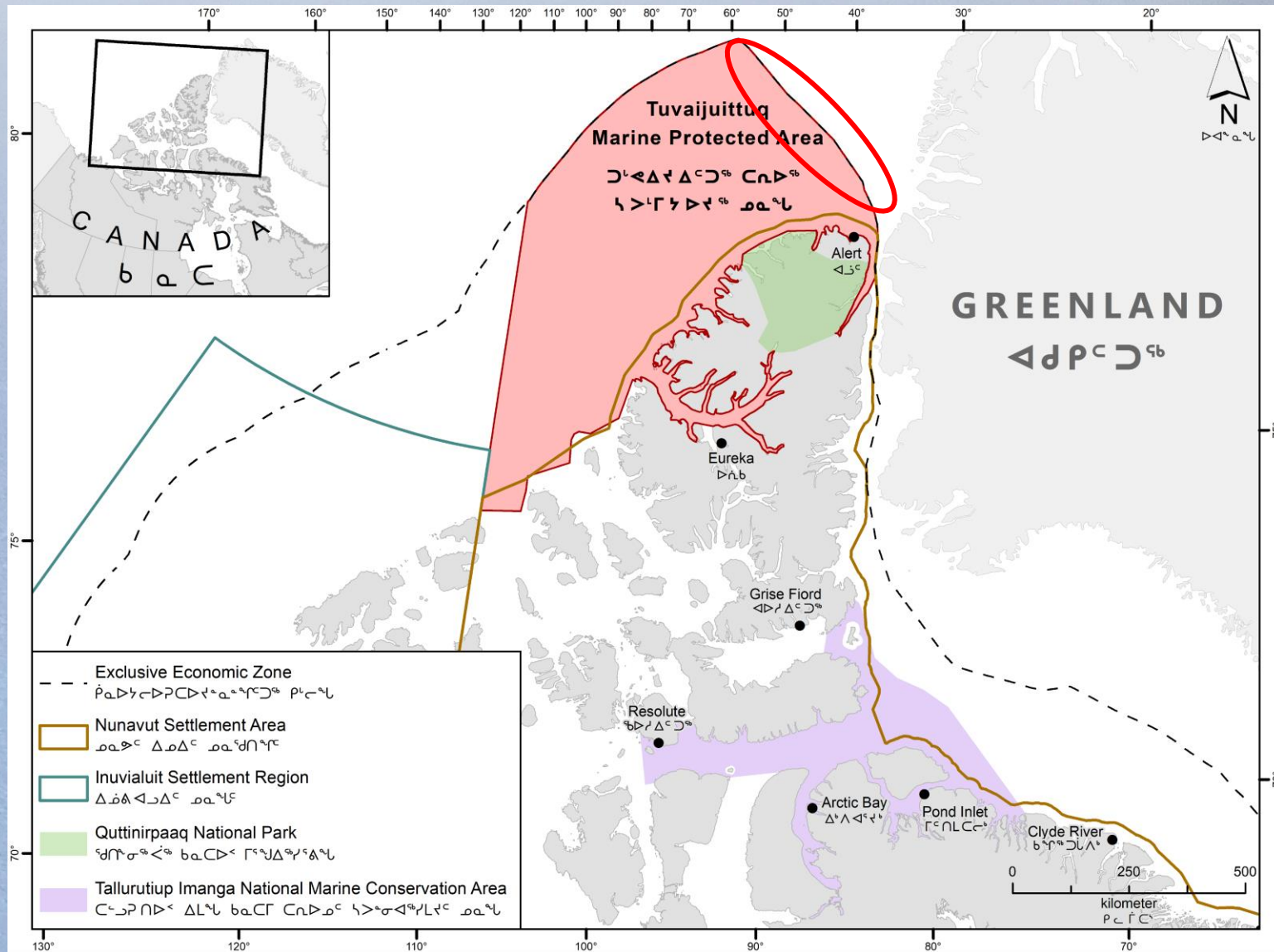
- Minimal activities in Tuvaijuittuq due to its remoteness and inaccessibility
  - No active commercial or recreational fisheries
  - Limited subsistence harvesting
  - No current mining activity and no oil and gas licences: no expressions of interest; moratorium in place
  - High petroleum potential in some areas, high uncertainty, resources not economically accessible
  - Minimal vessel traffic (according to analyses of AIS data)
    - 5 vessels accessed Tuvaijuittuq between August 2012 and July 2018; one foreign passenger vessel in 2016
    - No vessels accessed Tuvaijuittuq in the 12 months leading up to establishment of the 2019 Ministerial Order MPA
    - Since July 2019, only two vessels, both Canadian Coast Guard vessels, accessed Tuvaijuittuq for the purposes of safety and security
  - No tourism activities in the 12 months leading up to the 2019 Ministerial Order

# Proposed New Ministerial Order MPA

- The new Ministerial Order MPA would replace the current Ministerial Order
  - The Order would be in place for up to 5 more years and can be replaced by a long-term measure at any time
- The new Ministerial Order MPA will be consistent with the Nunavut Agreement
- Regulations would stay the same as those already in place in Tuvaijuittuq (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-282/page-1.html>)
- The new Ministerial Order MPA will continue to be covered by the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area IIBA and co-managed by the Aulattiqatigiit Board
- The proposed boundary is the same as the existing MPA boundary
  - Minor adjustments anticipated to align with new international boundary

# Proposed New Ministerial Order MPA

- Canada and Denmark signed a boundary agreement on June 14, 2022 to resolve the outstanding maritime boundary within 200 nautical miles in the Lincoln Sea
- Ratification of the agreement is ongoing
- Once ratified, there will be minor adjustments to the Tuvaijuittuq boundary to align with the new international boundary



### **Seabed, subsoil and water column**

**(2)** The Marine Protected Area consists of the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice, each of which is below the low-water line.

### **Ongoing activities**

**3** For the purposes of subsection 35.1(2) of the *Oceans Act*, the following classes of activities are ongoing activities in the Marine Protected Area:

- (a)** national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence; and
- (b)** marine scientific research activities.

### **Prohibitions**

**4 (1)** It is prohibited in the Marine Protected Area to carry out any activity — other than those set out in section 3 — that disturbs, damages, destroys or removes from the Marine Protected Area any unique geological or archeological features or any living marine organism or any part of its habitat, or is likely to do so.

### **Exemption**

**(2)** Despite subsection (1), the following activities may be carried out in the Marine Protected Area:

- (a)** marine navigation by a foreign national, a foreign ship or a foreign state, or an entity incorporated or formed by or under the laws of a country other than Canada; and
- (b)** the laying, maintenance and repair of cables and pipelines by a foreign state.

### **Non-application – Nunavut Agreement**

**5** This Order does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of the Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as approved, given effect and declared valid by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act*.

# Community Consultation

- **November/December 2022:** consulted with Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay – share/seek input on study findings (ecological, resource potential, socio-economic)
- **April 2023:** the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group returned to the communities to seek input on the proposed second Ministerial Order MPA, including proposed regulations
  - “What We Heard” reports sent to HTAs and hamlet councils summarizing the feedback and providing additional information on the proposal
- Both consultation processes included meetings with community Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTAs), hamlet councils, Nauttiqsuqtiit, and community open-houses
- **May-August 2023:** virtual follow-up meetings held with select community groups as needed
- **June 2023:** follow-up letters sent to HTAs and hamlet councils to provide further clarity on the proposal and to offer additional meetings
- **July-September 2023:** Letters in support of the second Ministerial Order MPA were received from all 5 community HTAs and hamlet councils

# Stakeholder Consultation

- July 2023: DFO, Parks Canada, QIA and the Government of Nunavut sent a joint project description and letter to industry and other stakeholders inviting them to comment on the proposal and offering to meet with each organization
- Stakeholder groups engaged in this process included the Nunavut Water Board, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Inuvialuit Game Council, Fisheries Joint Management Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, ENGOs, fishing industry, shipping industry, cruise ship industry, oil and gas and mining industries, tour operators, and academia.
- Only one response was received from external stakeholders – World Wildlife Fund-Canada fully supported the proposal
- The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) was included in this process for awareness, with invitation to meet. DFO followed up with the QWB in September 2023 to provide copies of community support letters, and subsequently presented at their November 2023 Annual General Meeting

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

- DFO submitted its proposal to the NPC for Conformity Determination against the North Baffin Land Use Plan, under *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA)*
  - Similar to their decision in 2019 for the first Ministerial Order MPA, the NPC determined a Conformity Determination and screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board was not necessary

# Pre-Publication in Canada Gazette Part I

- In December 2023, DFO published its proposal to establish a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq
- Public comment period closed in January 2024
- One comment was received which was supportive of protection

# Next Steps

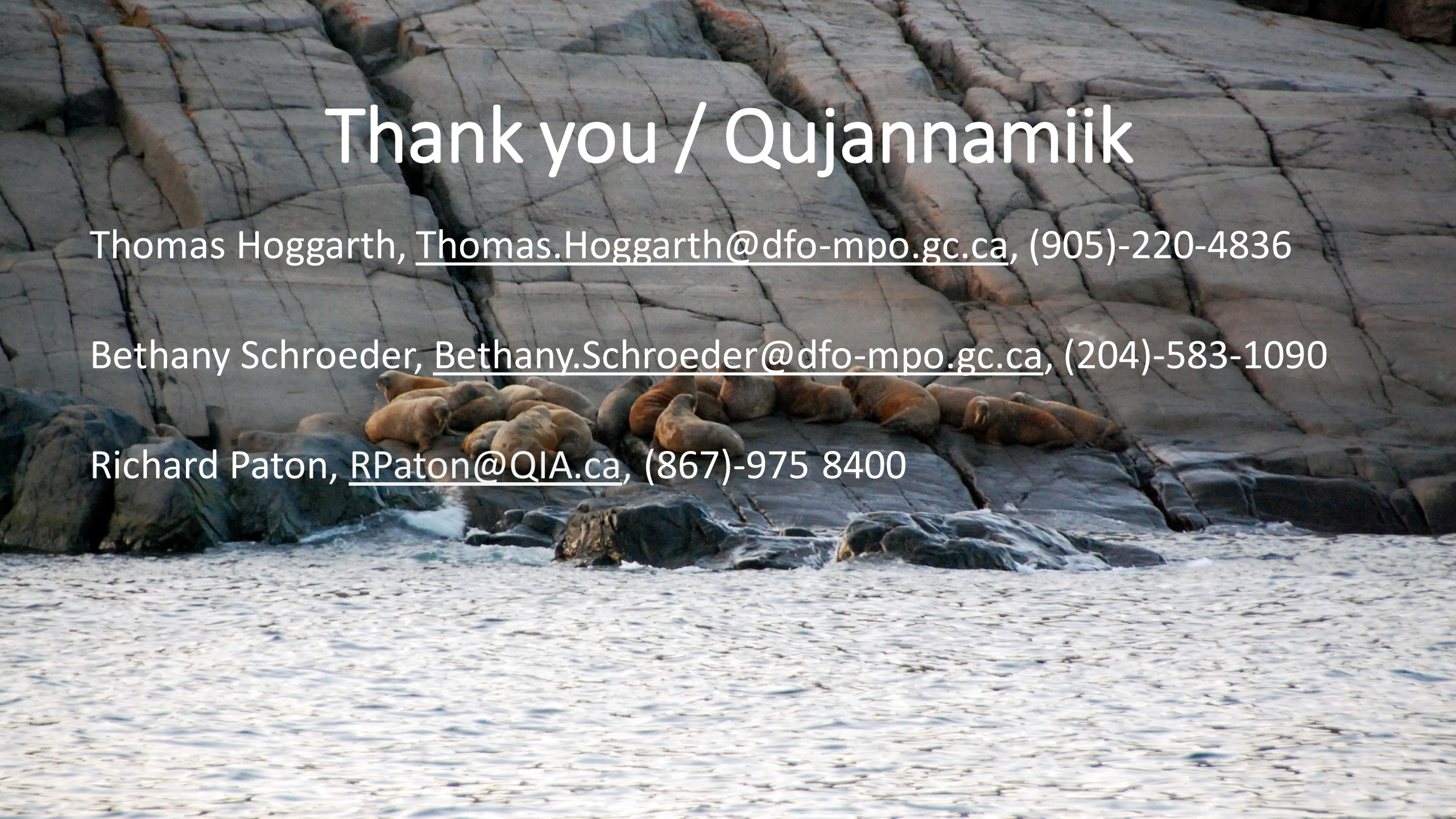
- If the NWMB approves of DFO's proposal to establish a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq:
  - Publication in Canada Gazette Part II (Designation of the new MPA)
  - Continued co-management by the Aulattiqatigiit Board
  - Continued data collection, QIA-led Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit study and feasibility assessment to develop approach for an IPCA in Tuvaijuittuq

# Thank you / Qujanniik

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# Additional Information

# Inuit Employment and Stewardship

- Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area IIBA
  - Government of Canada provides funding for the establishment and operation of the Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit Steward Program
    - Program is administered by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association
    - Provides Inuit employment as environmental stewards and harvesters
    - Provides for mentorship, training, and economic development for Inuit
    - Pilot program in Arctic Bay in 2018, was subsequently extended to Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay
  - Funding also provides for Inuit led research and monitoring through an Inuit Research and Monitoring Fund
  - Contribution funding to eligible Inuit organizations in support of exploring fisheries potential, marine spatial planning and other activities in Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area
  - Contribution funding to support capacity for advancing the Tuvaijuittuq feasibility assessment
- Annual engagement with communities related to ongoing research in Tuvaijuittuq, including invitations for Inuit researchers to take part in research activities
  - Community researchers have joined various research programs in 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022 (no research occurred in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
  - Community interest in traveling to Tuvaijuittuq for extended research programs has been limited

# Timeline

- **September 2022:** QIA outlines interest in pursuing an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) in Tuvaijuittuq
- **January 2023:** QIA requests a second Ministerial Order MPA to recover the time lost due to pandemic challenges, to allow additional time to explore an IPCA, and to meaningfully consult with communities
- **March 2023:** DFO's Minister agrees to the request from QIA to pursue establishment of a second Ministerial Order in Tuvaijuittuq
- **April 2023:** Community and stakeholder consultations begin
- **September 2023:** Letters in support of the new Order are received from HTAs and hamlet councils of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay
- **October 2023:** DFO submits proposal to NPC for Conformity Determination
- **December 2023:** Canada Gazette, Part I (public comment period)
- **March 2024:** Seek NWMB approval
- **Summer 2024:** Canada Gazette, Part II (Ministerial Order MPA is established)

# Ongoing Scientific Research

- Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP)-Last Ice (2018-2022)
  - Initial work to collect baseline data
  - On-ice (ice cores, water sampling), under-ice (ROV/AUV, acoustic profilers), aerial (aircraft, drones) research
  - Some delays experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- ArcticCORE Program (2023-ongoing)
  - Current program for continued research
  - Ship-, ice- and aerial-based research, long-term data (e.g., moorings, community-based observations and monitoring)



# Research Findings to Date

- Multiple conservation priorities identified
  - Multi-year ice
  - Sea ice-associated communities
  - Biodiversity
  - Ellesmere Island Ice Shelves
  - Fiord systems
- Important source of multi-year ice to the Canadian Arctic
  - Supports diverse habitats/biological communities
  - Important connectivity between terrestrial-ice shelf-fiord-nearshore-offshore systems
- Farthest northern distributions for Atlantic Walrus and Narwhal
  - Indicates that Archer Fiord may support a diverse benthic community



# What We Heard: Community Consultations on a New Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq

April 3-18, 2023



Arctic Bay – April 3, 2023



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## Acknowledgements

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank the communities of Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord for their time and hospitality during our community visits. We would especially like to thank the Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTAs), Hamlet Councils, and Mayoral offices for their participation and knowledge-sharing. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for leading the coordination of these meetings.

## Our Team

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group has members from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and the Government of Nunavut (GN). Four participants included representatives from each organization involved in the Working Group.



*Tuvaijuittuq Working Group members attending consultations in Clyde River, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet (left photo) and in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord (right photo). Left Photo, left to right: Syzula Ikkidluak (QIA), Delaney Ewing (DFO), Madelaine Kellett (DFO), Bernie MacIsaac (GN), and Justin Hack (GN). Right Photo, left to right: Sarah Kennedy (DFO), Bethany Schroeder (DFO), Iselena Natsiapik (QIA), Daniel Haney (GN), and Bernie MacIsaac (GN).*



## Executive Summary

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, with members from QIA, DFO, PCA, and GN, conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 - 18, 2023. Arctic Bay consultations were held on April 3, 2023.

The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a request by QIA to establish a new Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area (MPA) to explore an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) for Tuvaijuittuq. The Working Group also shared information on our proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term MPA, and sought community feedback and support on the proposal. The purpose of this report is to summarize the feedback provided by community members who attended the meetings in Arctic Bay, to provide transparency in the process, to provide a record of the discussions and concerns shared by the community, and to provide additional information to questions raised during consultations. To ensure we have accurately captured what we heard, this report has been circulated to the Ikajutit HTA and Arctic Bay Hamlet Council for review. Individual reports were developed for each community and after HTAs and hamlet councils have had an opportunity to comment, these reports will be shared with all five communities.

There were no objections from the Ikajutit HTA and Arctic Bay Hamlet Council for pursuing a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq, which will protect the area for up to five years while partners explore an IPCA. There is interest in the community of Arctic Bay in protecting Tuvaijuittuq in the short-term as well as into the long-term, given the area's importance, concerns about climate change and shipping impacts, and to protect Tuvaijuittuq from the interests of other countries to the extent possible. Economic opportunities are also important for future generations of Inuit and there is concern that long-term protection might limit these. It will be important to consider these issues when exploring long-term options for the area. Tuvaijuittuq has been used by past generations of Inuit for hunting and has significance to Inuit. Nearshore areas of Tuvaijuittuq are particularly important for animals who depend on holes in the ice because multi-year ice is too thick. The community would like more information on the impacts of climate change in this area and across the Arctic, and supports continued research in Tuvaijuittuq. The community has noticed a shift in animals moving north while new animals are coming to Arctic Bay from the south.

### What We Heard From Communities Overall

A common theme heard from communities was a desire to learn more about the MPA, including the animals and habitats that occur there, potential for future economic opportunities, and the types of research done in the area. There is interest from all five communities to protect Tuvaijuittuq in both the short-term and long-term, but also in balancing protection with economic opportunities for future generations. Interest in protecting the area is based on Tuvaijuittuq's ecological importance, its significance to Inuit, and interest in the area's resources by other countries.



## Introduction and Approach

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 - 18, 2023. Arctic Bay consultations were held on April 3, 2023. The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a proposed new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq, to share information on the proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term protection measure, and to seek community feedback and support on this proposal. In each community, two gatherings were held; an initial meeting with the HTA, hamlet council, Mayor, Nauttiqsuqtiit and other relevant community groups, and an evening community open house which was open to the public.

At both meetings, information was shared on the significance of Tuvaijuittuq, its boundaries, reasons why the area is being considered for protection, the steps involved in establishing a new Ministerial Order MPA and proposed regulations for this short-term protection measure. The presentation materials and relevant assessments, including a summary of Natural Resources Canada's resource and economic assessment for the area<sup>1</sup> and an ecological and biological overview, were made available to community members in both English and Inuktitut. Two-page summaries of what we heard during November consultations were also provided. Simultaneous interpretation was provided at each meeting.

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group committed to circulating a "What We Heard" report to each community for their review and approval summarizing their feedback during these consultations. If community members or organizations feel that their feedback was misinterpreted or misrepresented, the Working Group will revise the report as requested and re-circulate to the community. Please contact Chandra Chambers ([chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) if you have any questions or concerns. After communities have had a chance to review and approve their What We Heard reports, the Working Group will provide copies of all reports to each community.

DFO committed to following up with communities on outstanding questions that were asked during community meetings. Answers to these questions were circulated to each community HTA, hamlet council, and mayor in an email on June 28, 2023, and this information is included in Appendix 1 of this report. A copy of the MPA regulations that are being proposed for the new Ministerial Order MPA are also included in Appendix 2 of this report.

The HTAs and/or hamlet councils in some communities could not form quorum during the April meetings. The Working Group followed up with these HTAs and hamlet councils virtually and received permission from each to seek a formal letter of support for the new regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> The full Natural Resources Canada resource assessment was also made available and can be accessed at: [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf)

## Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) and Hamlet Council Meeting

The Working Group and local Nauttiqsuqtiit members met with the Ikajutit HTA and Arctic Bay Hamlet Council on April 3, 2023 at 2:00 pm at the Qaggivik Hall. Other community groups were also invited to attend. Approximately 13 people were present for this meeting. The attending members had no objections to the Working Group's proposal for a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq. The HTA and hamlet gave the Working Group permission to engage the larger community during an open-house meeting that evening.



*Ikajutit HTA and Hamlet Council members meet with the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group members and Nauttiqsuqtiit, April 3, 2023.*

### ***What we heard:***

#### *Importance to Inuit*

- Tuvaijuittuq is important to community members and Inuit feel a responsibility to support protection because the area occurs within their region.
- Tuvaijuittuq has been used by past generations of Inuit for hunting.
- There is interest in protecting Tuvaijuittuq in the short term as well as into the long term. One board member indicated support for protecting Tuvaijuittuq even when there is no more ice in the area.
- Establishing a protected area in Tuvaijuittuq is seen as important to protect the area from other countries' interests. An example provided by one board member was interest by other countries in exploring for oil and gas.
- The IIBA should be considered when discussing the feasibility of protecting Tuvaijuittuq. It was recommended that every possibility is considered for protecting Inuit when establishing a protected area.

#### *Ecological Significance*

- The thick multi-year ice in Tuvaijuittuq is difficult for animals to make holes in, and as a result they stay in the near-shore areas and have adapted to using both the ice in Tuvaijuittuq and the land beside it.

#### *Response:*

- Information related to animals, habitats and climate trends within Tuvaijuittuq is available at the following websites: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas->

[sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2020/2020\\_056-eng.html](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/mpo-dfo/Fs97-6-3408-eng.pdf) (DFO 2020; Inuktitut version available); [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2021/mpo-dfo/Fs97-6-3408-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/mpo-dfo/Fs97-6-3408-eng.pdf) (Charette et al. 2020); and <http://wwwdev.ncr.dfo-mpo.ca/oceans/mpa-zpm/tuvaijuittuq/index-eng.html>.

- The information above is meant to build on presentations made to the community on November 15, 2022 in which information on the ecological significance and assessments of petroleum and economic potential of the area was shared.

### *Economic Opportunities and Activities*

- The community would like to see research continue in Tuvaijuittuq, particularly on the impacts of climate change. There has been a noticeable shift in animals moving north, and new animals coming into the Arctic Bay area from the south. For example, a salmon was caught in nets around Arctic Bay.

#### Response:

- Please note that additional information related to research in Tuvaijuittuq is provided in Appendix 1.
- Economic opportunities are important for future generations of Inuit and there is concern that long-term protection would limit these. An example given by QIA's Vice President and resident of Arctic Bay was a clause or regulation that could allow for oil and gas or mining exploration. Some community members participated in Panarctic Oils Limited explorations on Ellesmere Island in the 1980s.
- There was a request for information about the clean-up of past military and oil exploration materials, such as toxic waste, that were left behind on Ellesmere Island. It was mentioned that Eureka was established due to the Cold War, and there was a lot of military presence in the area during that time. One board member indicated that they had worked for an oil exploration company in the area and had been responsible for cleaning up the area where explorations had taken place, but a lot of things were still left behind.

#### Response:

- Please note that information in response to this question is provided in Appendix 1.

### *Concerns*

- Climate change is not the only thing causing changes in Tuvaijuittuq, but it is a concern and should be addressed collaboratively. More information should be gathered on the impacts of climate change.
- Shipping activities and their impacts to old ice in Tuvaijuittuq is a concern.

## Community Open House

A community open house meeting was held on April 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm, at the Qaggivik Hall. Approximately 18 adults were in attendance. Children and youth were also welcomed.

**What we heard:**

- Tuvaijuittuq is very far from Inuit communities such as Arctic Bay. One community member had only heard about the area once previously in her 100 years of life.

**Next Steps**

The next steps to pursue establishment of a new Ministerial Order MPA will be to seek stakeholder input on the proposal, seek formal community support, complete assessments and other approvals needed under the Nunavut Agreement such as conformity determination by the Nunavut Planning Commission and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approval, and complete DFO's regulatory process. Formal letters of support will be sought from community hamlets and HTAs. Community members are encouraged to communicate their feedback on the proposal to these organizations to inform their decision. DFO will notify communities and stakeholders prior to the proposal being published online for a 30-day public comment period – additional input can be provided at that time as well.



*Qaggivik Hall, Arctic Bay, April 3, 2023.*

It is important to us that we have summarized your input on this proposal correctly. If you feel that we have missed any input provided during our meetings or captured information incorrectly, please reach out to the email address provided above for correction.

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank all of the community members who attended these meetings - your feedback is vital and appreciated.

**Thank you.**

## Appendix 1. Follow-up questions and answers from the April 2023 consultations on a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq.

\*Please note, an additional question and answer have been added (Question #8) and Question #15 has been expanded upon since it was sent to the HTA and hamlet.

### 1) What is the purpose of protecting Tuvaijuittuq?

Researchers agree that summer sea ice will remain the longest in Tuvaijuittuq (Figure 1) as it continues to decline in other areas of the Arctic due to climate change. Because of this, the area is expected to become an important refuge for ice-dependent species. The area has a very diverse ecosystem, and contains a number of unique communities of organisms, including communities on the ice, in the ice, and below the ice. Habitat in Tuvaijuittuq is important to marine mammals and sea birds. For all of these reasons, DFO and its partners believe that the area, its habitat, and the wildlife within it, would benefit from protection. The proposed Ministerial Order MPA is a short-term protection tool which will protect the area for up to five years. The purpose of this short-term protection tool is to prohibit new activities in the area that may cause negative impacts while additional information is collected to support a better understanding of the conservation and protection needs of the area before longer-term protection measures are considered.

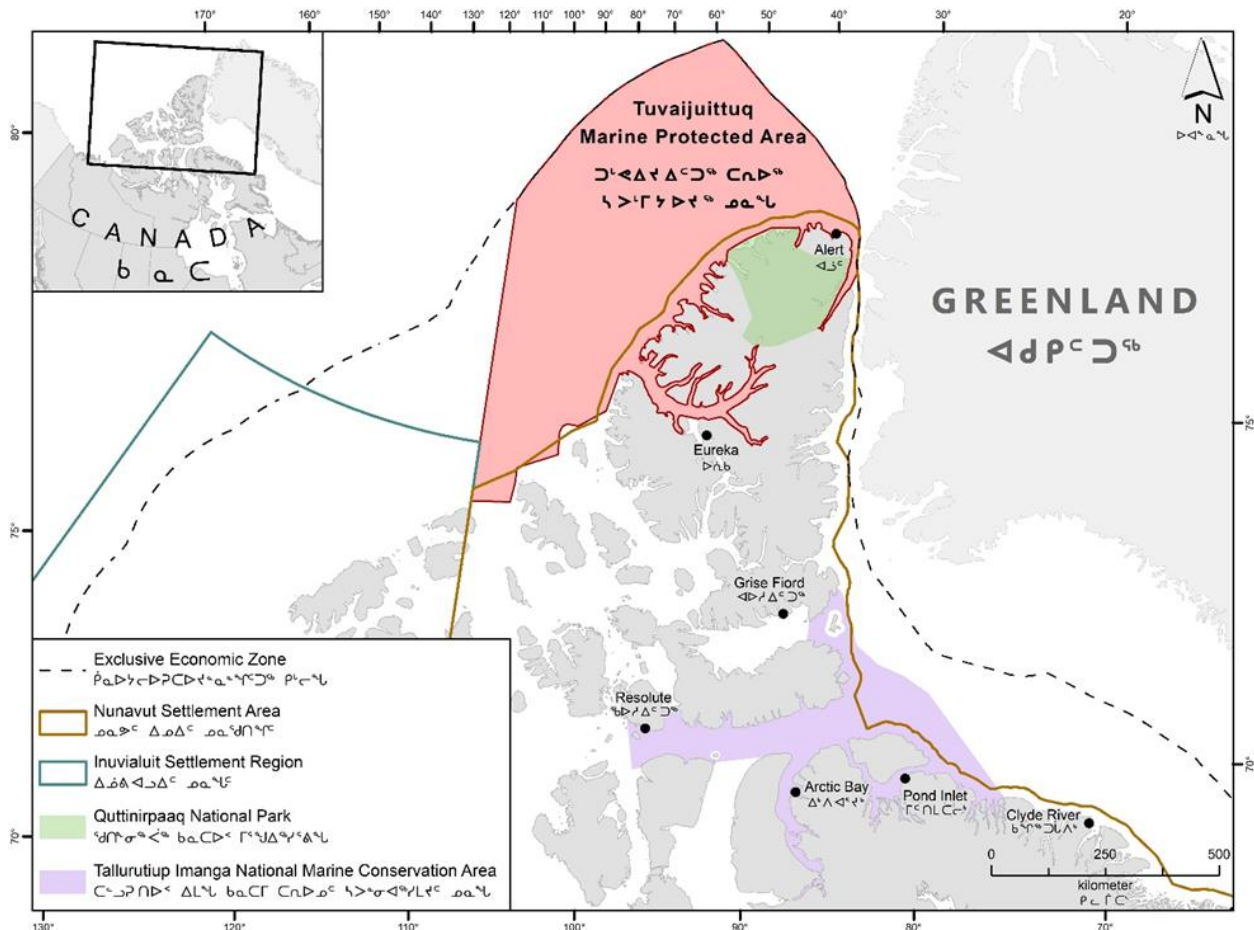


Figure 1. Map of Tuvaijuittuq MPA by Ministerial Order

**2) How was the Tuvaijuittuq boundary determined? Why are the rest of the Queen Elizabeth Islands not included in the boundary?**

The Tuvaijuittuq MPA includes the marine waters off northern Ellesmere Island, starting from the low water mark and extending to the outer boundary of Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone. It also includes the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice. The initial boundaries of Tuvaijuittuq were based on the 2011 Canadian Science Advisory Report ([2011/55](#)), which identified key multi-year ice habitat. The boundary was later extended to the nearshore areas off Ellesmere Island within the Nunavut Settlement Area as more of the area was understood. The marine area around the Queen Elizabeth Islands south of Ellesmere Island supports different communities of organisms than those within Tuvaijuittuq. This area was not considered for inclusion in Tuvaijuittuq as it has different conservation needs. Partners agreed to settle on the boundary as it is now and consider the remaining islands at a later time as possible new protected areas. Some of the Queen Elizabeth Islands overlap with the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, which is not included in the Tuvaijuittuq boundary.

**3) What does “freezing the footprint of ongoing activities” mean?**

Freezing the footprint of ongoing activities means allowing activities that are already lawfully occurring in the area to continue and preventing any new activities that may damage, disturb, destroy or remove important habitats, features and organisms. Ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq were identified using a number of different methods, including community consultation (in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord in 2019 and in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Clyde River in 2022), consultation with QIA, and consultation with DFO Science and other federal departments and agencies including the Department of National Defence, Parks Canada Agency, and Canadian Coast Guard. DFO gathered further information about ongoing activities by seeking input on the proposed regulations from industry and other stakeholders (e.g., non-governmental organizations), and from studies such as an assessment of vessel traffic using Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals in the area between 2012-2019. This study is currently being updated so DFO has the most up-to-date information.

Based on available information, DFO determined that ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq include:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence; and
- (b) marine scientific research activities.

The regulations also include exemptions and exclusions helping to respect commitments Canada has made both domestically and internationally.

The full regulations are provided as a separate attachment in both English and Inuktitut.

**4) Does freezing the footprint of activities affect wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit in this area?**

The Ministerial Order MPA does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of Nunavut Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Nunavut Agreement. This means that the Ministerial Order regulations do not affect the wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA).

There appear to be no provisions within the Nunavut Agreement that extend Inuit harvesting rights beyond the NSA portion of Tuvaijuittuq. As a result, the regulations would apply to everyone in the area of Tuvaijuittuq that falls outside of the NSA. However, we would be interested in further discussing the matter if there are provisions in the Nunavut Agreement you believe have been overlooked.

**5) Why are there exemptions for foreign states in the Ministerial Order MPA regulations?**

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which is an international agreement, Canada must allow certain activities such as navigation (vessels transiting through) and laying of cables and pipelines, from foreign states in certain maritime zones. Because of this, those foreign activities are exempted from the application of the Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq. The exclusive economic zone, an area of the sea beyond the territorial sea extending out to 200 nautical miles from the coastline (Figure 2), is not Canadian territory, and in that area Canada only has jurisdiction over economic resources such as fishing, oil and gas, and mineral exploitation.

Under Canadian law, Canada has the authority to prohibit domestic vessel navigation and other activities in this area. Since the purpose of the short-term Ministerial Order MPA is to conserve and protect the vulnerable habitats and organisms in Tuvaijuittuq while we collect additional information to inform decisions about long-term protection, we aim to limit any activity, including domestic activities, that may negatively impact the area. Although foreign navigation is allowed in the MPA, foreign countries will typically comply with voluntary measures, if guidance is provided to avoid certain areas within the MPA.

**6) Can the old sea ice (multi-year ice) be broken by ice-breakers?**

While some ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice, there are different classes of ice-breakers built for different purposes and ice thicknesses. Not all ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice. To our knowledge, the few vessels that have travelled to Tuvaijuittuq for activities such as national defence, safety, marine research, and foreign vessel travel, have stayed within the nearshore areas during the open water season and did not actively conduct ice-breaking activities.

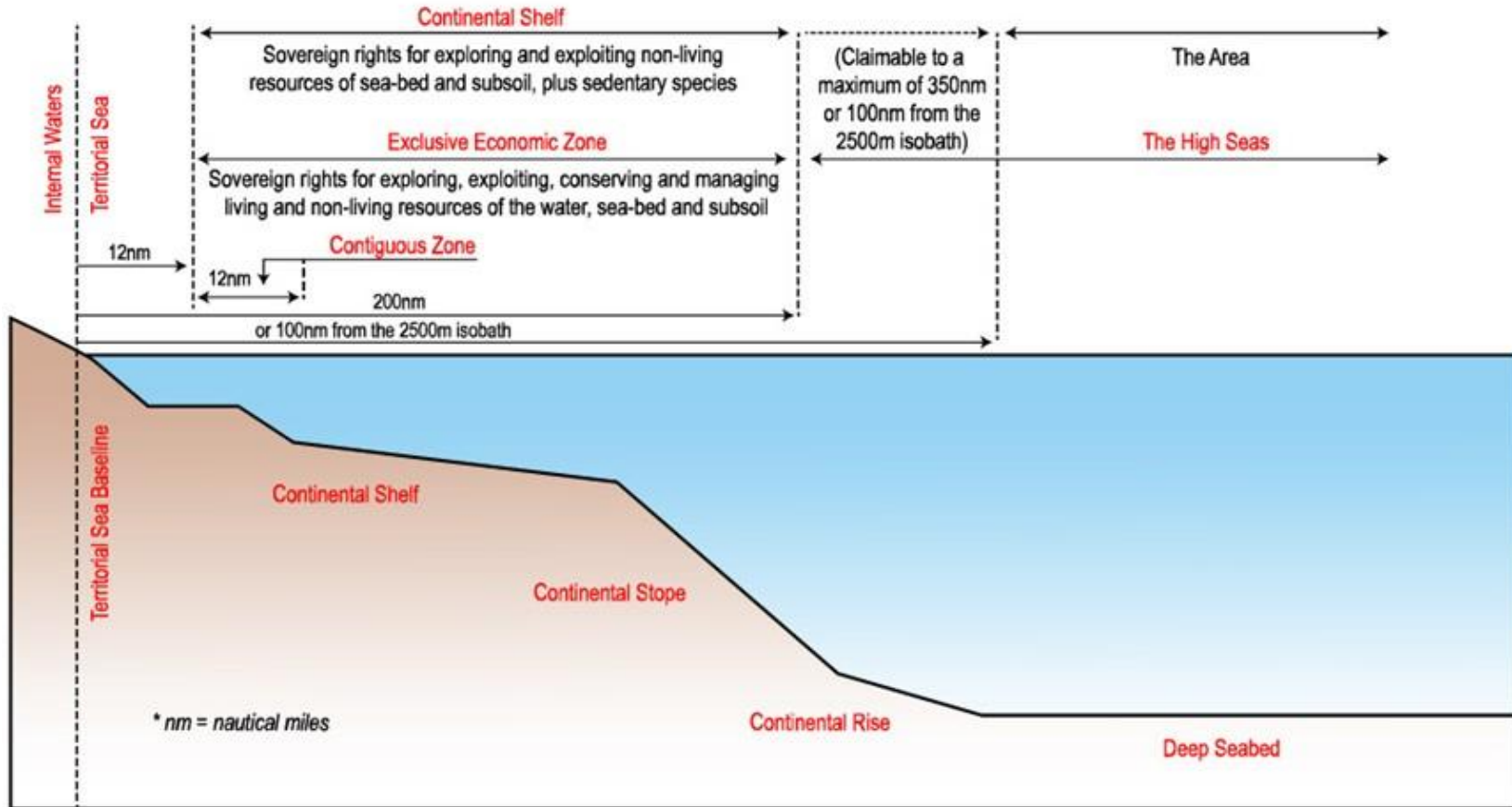


Figure 2. Canada's Maritime Zones

## 7) How can Inuit visit Tuvaijuittuq?

Tuvaijuittuq is an area of the sea that is a mainly ice-covered all year round and is very remote. There is one military research station in Alert called Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Alert located outside of Tuvaijuittuq on northern Ellesmere Island and a small research base in Eureka on Fosheim Peninsula. There are no communities nearby – the closest community is Grise Fiord, which is approximately 327 km as the crow flies from the MPA's southern-most boundary. Activity in Tuvaijuittuq is limited to national defence activities and marine scientific research, mainly due to the extensive ice cover in this marine area. In 2019, the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord indicated that the area is difficult to reach by skidoo; however, some community members in Grise Fiord had travelled, or knew of people that had travelled, as far as Eureka (which is south of the proposed area) by dogsled in the past.

There are however, opportunities for involvement in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, which are based out of CFS Alert. For more information on participating in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, please contact Chandra Chambers ([Chandra.Chambers@df0-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@df0-mpo.gc.ca)).

## 8) Fisheries quotas to Inuit

It is important to note that Tuvaijuittuq is largely ice-covered all year round and is not accessible to fishing vessels. As a result, no large-scale commercial fishing activities are possible in the area under current conditions. It is unknown if ice conditions would support small-scale on ice fisheries, and no data are available to understand whether a fishery (small or large-scale) would be possible.

When we visited communities in April 2023, we received a question relating to fisheries quotas in general and how these are allocated to Inuit.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada continues to respect and implement the obligations under Nunavut Agreement including provisions related to offshore commercial fisheries access that give special consideration to Nunavut. Through implementation of the Nunavut Agreement over the years, the share of adjacent resources to Qikiqtani Inuit has significantly increased, such that Qikiqtani Inuit fishers now have 80% of Turbot and 42% of shrimp resources including 100% of all fisheries resources within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

## 9) What kind of Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit (IQ) is used? What is studied?

- Oral History passed down over centuries of Inuit Knowledge.
- Inuit knowledge living and adapting, part of present day life. It is in how Inuit live and see the world today.
- QIA would like to gather IQ for Tuvaijuittuq.

## 10) Can more information be provided about the infrastructure that QIA refers to? Would QIA make buildings or houses for Tuvaijuittuq purposes?

- Multi-use facilities to address Inuit Stewardship and community needs (office space, equipment storage, garage, country food processing, community outreach, elder gatherings, etc.).

- Additional infrastructure that supports Inuit stewardship activities and the Nauttigsuqtiit program, such as housing and supplementing the facilities in the Tallurutiup Imanga communities as appropriate.
- Infrastructure requirements for Inuit stewardship that arise due to changing socio-economic or environmental conditions.

**11) When will the regional governance model will be in effect?**

At this time, this is still at the negotiation table. However, QIA is seeking this Regional Governance model for future IIBAs as well as existing IIBAs that will be renegotiated over time.

**12) Status update on the harbour planned for Resolute Bay.**

Transport Canada (TC), the Government of Nunavut (GN), and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) have been working together towards the development of community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay and have developed an Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) that was adopted in October 2022.

The IIP was completed based on community engagements and other work to date and informed the Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development.

The Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development was signed by TC and the GN on January 16, 2023 and will provide up to \$76,281,900 to the GN for the design and construction of the two community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. The current funding for community harbours will cover the cost of constructing at least one breakwater, a parking area, dredging, a boat launch, and floating docks.

TC has provided a copy of the agreement to the QIA representative, to be kept in confidence.

We understand from the GN that:

- A Project Manager with GN's Department of Community and Government Services has been assigned to the projects.
- The exact procurement approach for construction has not been finalized, but it is likely to follow the GN's standard procurement practices.
- The first step is expected to be a Request for Proposal for engineering and design services.

For more information, please contact Matthew Bowler ([MBowler@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:MBowler@GOV.NU.CA)) or Miguel Parent ([miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca](mailto:miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca)).

**13) What type of research is occurring in Tuvaijuittuq?**

Research in Tuvaijuittuq is led by DFO through the Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) - Last Ice and this team includes researchers from universities and organizations all over the world. The program brings together a number of different specialists to study different features in Tuvaijuittuq. For example, experts in sea ice, water, fish, marine mammals, and those who study organisms such as algae and krill that form the basis of the High Arctic



food web. Some of this work is done during a late winter/early spring seasonal field camp, where researchers work together as a team to collect samples and do their research. Others, like marine mammal surveys, are conducted around the same time but not as part of the field camp, and in the fall. The program began in 2018 and experienced some delays due to COVID-19 but is continuing. A new ship-based program called ArcticCore will begin this year and will include Archer Fiord and adjacent areas around Tuvaijuittuq (as sea-ice permits). This new program will study physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production, zooplankton, benthos) oceanography and will also include marine mammal surveys and sea ice studies. If long-term protection is put into place in the future, then more formal management and monitoring plans would be developed for Tuvaijuittuq, in collaboration with partners and communities.

Research partners in MAP-Last Ice:

DFO  
Department of National Defence  
Defence Research and Development Canada  
Université Laval  
University of Essex  
Université du Québec à Rimouski  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography  
Polar Continental Shelf Program  
Alfred Wegener Institute  
University of Bristol  
Resolute HTA Board of Directors

Type of research conducted as part of MAP-Last Ice:

- Sea ice distribution, physical properties (thickness, composition), productivity (algal communities, biomass)
- Evolution of the ice and under-ice habitat over time
- Continuous atmospheric, oceanographic and sea ice observations
- Zooplankton, fish and benthic organisms
- Marine mammal and habitat surveys
- Physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production) oceanography

Collection of ice cores during the MAP-Last Ice and ArcticCORE programs:

We are very conscious of potential disturbances to the environment and during our sampling we take action to minimize these disturbances. When we collect ice cores, we sample only a part of the core and we replace the rest of the core to its original hole. Once replaced in its original hole, the core refreezes quickly, typically within a few hours.

The ice cores that we collect are small, at 9 cm diameter. This means that the surface area of one core is 5 times smaller than that of a hole cut out with an 8-inch auger, and about 10-12 times smaller than that of a seal breathing hole. While the seals keep their holes open,

we “close” our holes after sampling (with the original ice core from which we cut off one or a few sections). If we add the area of all the cores that we collect during one sampling season, it would typically add up to much less than 1 square meter, at most 2 m<sup>2</sup>.

In the photo below, we can see our ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. In another photo taken a few days after we took out camp, it was not possible to identify the site where the ice camp had been set up.



**Figure 3. Aerial view showing the ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. A few days after taking out the camp, the site of the ice camp was not visible anymore.**

#### **14) Interest in learning more about Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program**

##### **Polar Continental Shelf Program:**

Natural Resources Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP) supports Arctic science by providing logistics planning, coordination and advice to Canadian government, non-government, university and international researchers. The PCSP supports projects in the Arctic from Churchill, Manitoba, to the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, and from the Yukon/Alaska border to as far as Greenland, on occasion.

Support can include air transportation, as well as fuel, field equipment for loan, field communications and safety, logistics advice for field studies, the use of the PCSP facility in Resolute, Nunavut, and shipping and receiving coordination and advice. The PCSP facility in Resolute is typically open from late January to September each year and is comprised of

an accommodations area that can house up to 237 guests, lounge areas, a fitness room, office spaces, kitchen and dining facilities, an operations centre and a laboratory.

The PCSP provides employment, student training and business opportunities for northern residents. The PCSP also helps with science outreach through publishing an annual science report and connecting researchers with northern community organizations.

The table below includes PCSP projects that occurred close to Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq in recent years. Please feel free to reach out to the project leads if you have an interest in specific projects.

As a contact at the Polar Continental Shelf Program, please feel free to reach out to **Michael Meunier**, Manager of the Program Coordination and Outreach unit ([michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)) or the PCSP Ottawa mailbox ([pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)). Michael and his group would be pleased to connect with you and discuss your priorities.

Here are some additional resources that may be of interest:

- A list of all 2019 and 2020 projects supported by PCSP can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/current-projects/10009>.
- More information on the PCSP can be found at: [https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure\\_eng.pdf](https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure_eng.pdf)
- Information on project support applications can be found here: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/research-support-arctic-logistics-and-field-equipment-for-across-canada/10003>.
- Annual Science Reports can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/pcsp-publications/10011>.

**Table 1. List of PCSP-supported projects in the Arctic Archipelago, many near Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq MPA in recent years**

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Hsin Chiang	McGill University	McGill Arctic Research Station, Expedition Fjord	A new window on the universe: radio astronomy from northern Canada
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Grise Fiord	Aerial survey of High Arctic walrus and narwhal stocks
Michael Maurice	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Svarvevaeg, Eureka, Isachsen, Grise Fiord, Mould Bay, Rea Point, Cape Providence, Resolute Bay, Steffanson Island, Cape Liverpool, Fort Ross, Gateshead	Annual Maintenance of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Automatic Weather Station array - Arctic Archipeligo

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Christine Michel	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka	Arctic CORE (Conservation, Observation, Research, and Engagement)
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Assistance Bay	Assessment of Bioremediation Potential of Marine Fuels on NWP Arctic Beaches
Joseph Monteith	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	Alert, Eureka	Baffin/High Arctic Inspections 2022
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Characterizing viral impact in the Last Ice Area
Christopher Omelon	Queen's University	Expedition Fiord, Resolute Bay	Climate Change Research at the McGill Arctic Research Station
David Didier	Université du Québec à Rimouski	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Coastal dynamics and hazards in Grise Fiord and Jones Sound
Mark Skidmore	Montana State University	Truelove Lowlands, Croker Bay, Resolute, Gascoyne inlet	Exploration of Saline Cryospheric Habitats with Europa Relevance (ESCHER): An approach using airborne and submarine semiautonomous systems
Erin MacNeil	Natural Resources Canada	Gascoyne Inlet	Defence of North America
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Devon Island lakes site	Developing new technologies to access and investigate the hypersaline, subzero Devon Island Subglacial Lake System, a unique Mars and icy moon analogue
Denis Lacelle	University of Ottawa	Eureka	Effect of degrading ice wedge polygon landscapes on local topography, hydrology, and water quality.
Susan Kutz	University of Calgary	East wind lake, Eureka, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Disease in High Arctic Ungulates - Terrestrial Investigations
Amelie Roberto-Charron	Government of Nunavut	Eureka Weather Station, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Diseases in High Arctic Ungulates – Aerial assessment

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Clément Chevallier	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Cape Verra, Cape Verra, Nirjutiqarvik, Cape Liddon, Houbhouse Inlet, Prince Leopold Island, Baillarge Bay	Fulmar colony surveys in Lancaster Sound
Myriam Lemelin	Université de Sherbrooke	T-MARS camp, McGill Arctic Research Station, Axel Heiberg Island	Geological study and mapping of hydrothermal deposits and gossans, Expedition Fiord, Axel Heiberg Island, Nunavut, as analogues for Mars
Christine Dow	University of Waterloo	Devon Ice Cap camp	Geophysical imaging of the Devon sub-glacial lakes
Luke Copland	University of Ottawa	Manson Icefield, Sydkap base camp, Sydkap ice marginal lake complex, Grise Fiord	Glacier monitoring on southern Ellesmere Island
Maya Bhatia	University of Alberta	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Glacier-ocean interactions in the Canadian high Arctic
Daniel Fortier	University of Montreal	Ward Hunt Island	Ground ice of eastern Canadian High Arctic polar desert
Cortney Wheeler	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Elwin Bay, Creswell Bay	High Arctic Beluga Whale Stock Structure
Greg Henry	University of British Columbia	Sverdrup Pass, Knud Peninsula, PCSP Eureka, Bache Peninsula, Princess Marie Bay, Alexandra Fiord, Cape Bounty	High Arctic tundra ecosystem responses to 30 years of experimental and observed climate change
Masaki Uchida	National Institute of Polar Research, Japan	Oobloyah Bay	Identifying and understanding the effect of temporal and spatial changes towards the biodiversity and carbon sequestration processes in the high Arctic
John Moores	York University	Expedition Fjord	Identifying putative microbial drivers of methane flux on Earth and on Mars
Raoul-Marie Couture	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Impact of oxygen pulses on redox-sensitive chemicals and microbiome in Canada's northernmost lake
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Goose Fiord, Brooman Point, Kearney Cove	Improving High Arctic walrus stock assessment using satellite telemetry, genetics, and time-lapse photography
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Lost Hammer, Thompson Glacier, White Glacier,	

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
		Expedition Fjord, Gypsum Hill, Color Peak	Investigations of microbial activity in cryoenvironments in the Canadian High Arctic
Laura Brown	University of Toronto Mississauga	Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Cornwallis Island Lakes	Lake Ice in the Canadian High Arctic
Scott Lamoureux	Queen's University	Cape Bounty, Melville Island, Resolute vicinity	Land and water impacts and response to climate and permafrost changes in the High Arctic
Laura Thomson	Natural Resources Canada	Muller Ice Cap, Expedition Fiord	Mass Balance and Energy fluxes of White Glacier, Axel Heiberg Island, NU
Catherine Girard	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC)	Ward Hunt Island, Resolute Bay vicinity	Microbes on the go: Release of cryospheric microbes to downstream habitats
Derek Mueller	Carleton University	Milne Ice Shelf, Milne Fiord, Purple Valley, Eureka, Resolute	Milne Fiord ice-ocean interactions: Implications for the stability of ice shelves and glaciers in the Polar Regions
Dave Burgess	Natural Resources Canada	Agassiz Ice Cap, Meighen Ice Cap, Grise Fiord, Devon Ice Cap, Melville Ice Cap	National Glaciology Project - Queen Elizabeth Islands, NU & NT
Warwick Vincent	Université Laval	Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island) and Ward Hunt Island	Northern Ellesmere Island in the Global Environment - Sentinel North
Valerie Amarualik	Parks Canada	Young Inlet, Dundee Bight, Dome Camp	Qausuittuq National Park Operations 2022/2023
Adam Ferguson	Parks Canada	Fort Conger, Lake Hazen, Ruggles River, Tanquary Fiord, Resolute Bay	Quttinirpaaq National Park Operations 2022
Gordon Osinski	University of Western Ontario	Haughton River Valley	Reconstructing the post-impact history of the Haughton impact structure, Nunavut
Lynda Gullason	Inuit Heritage Trust Incorporated	Resolute, Morin Point, Devon Island, Pond Inlet	Saving Morin Point: Climate Change Risk Assessment and Archaeological Heritage Recovery
Dermot Antoniades	Université Laval	Stuckberry Valley, Lake Hazen	The functioning and evolution of the ecosystems of Stuckberry Valley, northern Ellesmere Island

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Joshua King	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Development of a new Canadian Arctic Archipelago sea ice product from ICESat-2 (Ice Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2)
Michael Brohart	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Instrument calibration at Eureka weather station as part of the Canadian Brewer Spectrophotometer Network operation
Alison Criscitiello	University of Alberta	Grise Fiord and Resolute, Nunavut	Airborne gravity survey over Devon Ice Cap
Rich DeVall	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Isachsen (Ellef Ringnes Island), Rea Point (Melville Island), Stefansson Island, Fort Ross (Somerset Island), Gateshead Island, Cape Liverpool (Bylot Island), Svarteveg (Axel Heiberg Island) and Grise Fiord (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Annual maintenance of ECCC's automatic weather station array – Arctic Archipelago
Grant Gilchrist	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Grise Fiord, Nunavut	Population surveys of endangered ivory gulls on Ellesmere Island and Devon Islands
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Ward Hunt Island and Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Viral ecology of the high Canadian Arctic in water, ice and aerosols
Mark Lamothe	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka and Resolute, Nunavut	Eureka geomagnetic electronic replacement
Nicolas Lecomte	Université de Montreal	Bylot Island, Igloolik Island and Eureka, Nunavut	Arctic IMPACTS: tracking impacts of ecosystem changes in the Arctic
Christine Michel	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Alert, Nunavut	Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) – Last Ice
Wayne Pollard	McGill University	Eureka and Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Nunavut	The vulnerability and resiliency of ice-rich permafrost in cold polar desert environments in response to changing climate
Vincent St. Louis	University of Alberta	Lake Hazen, Quttinirpaaq National Park, Nunavut	The impacts of rapidly receding glaciers on downstream freshwater resources and ecological services



**15) What is being done to clean up past military, research and Government of Canada sites left on Ellesmere Island?**

There were a number of sites in Quttinirpaaq National Park that required remediation. These sites have been remediated, with the exception of Fort Conger, which now has a long-term monitoring strategy in place.

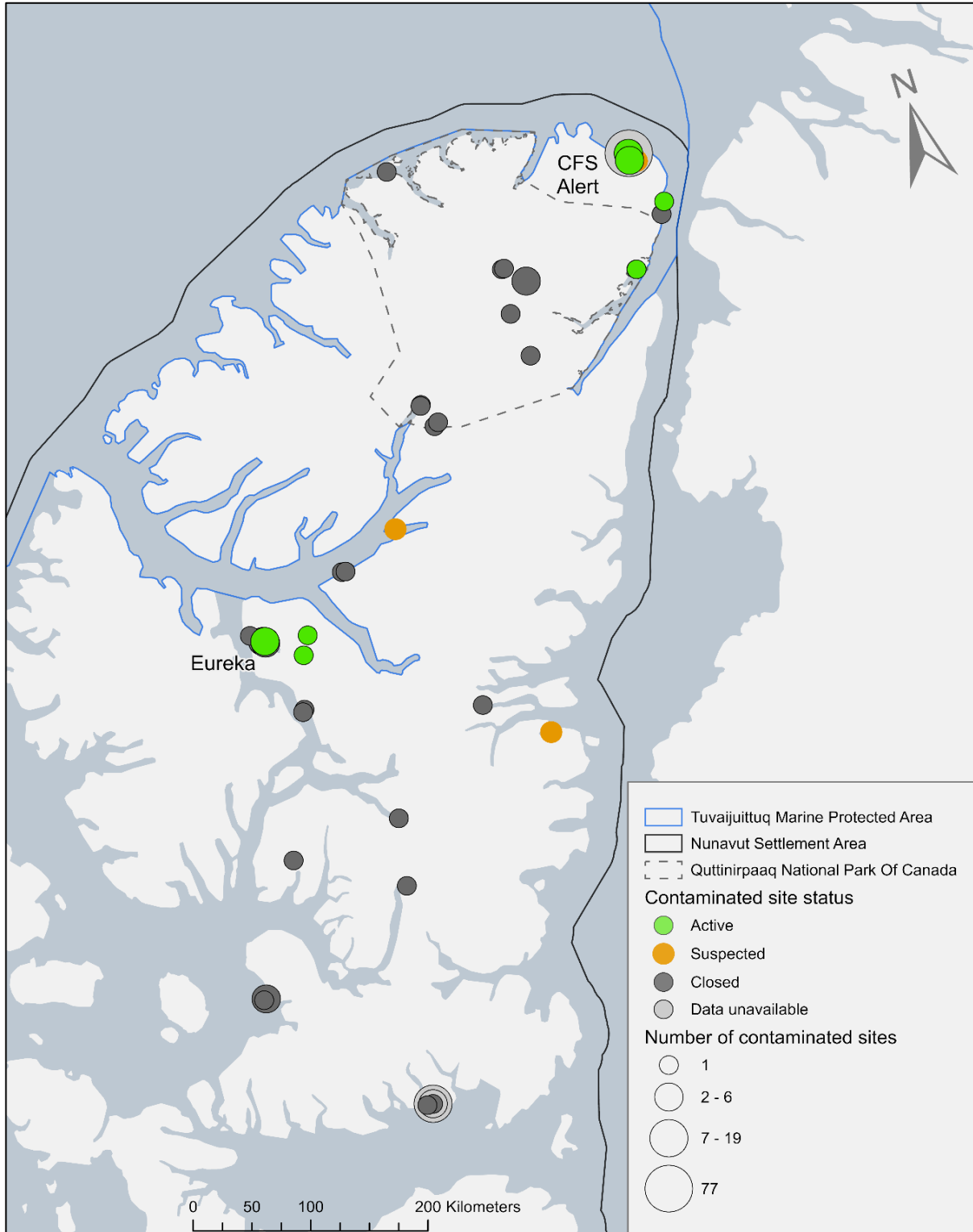
Fort Conger is a historical site situated on the shore of Discovery Harbour on Lady Franklin Bay, (N 81° 45.13', W 64° 49.56'). The site was used as a base by early Arctic expeditions and a scientific research camp. The site was also visited by early twentieth-century expeditions and later by government and military personnel, researchers, Inughuit hunters and tourists. A human health and ecological risk assessment conducted for the area identified risks from contamination at the site and a Risk Management and Remediation Plan has been developed. While some remediation has been completed, additional work is not an option at this time due to the remoteness of the site and the risks to cultural artifacts. Therefore, a long-term monitoring plan was developed so that, if the site becomes more accessible and remediation is possible, the proposed risk management and remediation strategy could be reviewed and updated. For more information on these sites, please contact Jane Chisholm at [jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca).

Additional information has been gathered on other sites on Ellesmere Island from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI). The available data are summarized together in Figure 4, Table 2. The GNWT Spills Database is a collection of reported petroleum and other hazardous material spills in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The FCSI includes information on all known and suspected contaminated sites under the management of federal departments, agencies and consolidated Crown corporations.

The majority of contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island have been closed following historical reviews, testing, clean-ups or long-term monitoring activities. Available information from these two databases indicates that there are ten active sites (five in or near CFS Alert, four in or near Eureka, and one in Fort Conger) and three suspected sites (one at the Alexandra Fiord RCMP Detachment Site, one at D'Iberville Fjord, and one at Alert). Site status and actions data are unavailable from the GNWT Spills Database.

Site numbers that start with “spill-“ are from the GNWT Spills Database, and all other sites are from the FCSI. The site status refers to what is currently happening with the site. An “active” site is a confirmed contaminated site where remediation action is or may be required; a “closed” site is a site that requires no further action; and a “suspected” site requires further assessment work to confirm whether the site is considered a contaminated site. Actions tell us what has been done to the site, for example remediation efforts or testing.

The GNWT Spills database can be found at <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/spills>, and the FCSI data can be found at <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/home-accueil-eng.aspx> and <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/numbers-numeros-eng.aspx?qid=1680451>. Information on the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/federal-contaminated-sites/action-plan.html>.



**Figure 4. Map showing closed, active and suspected contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island, NU. Source data: Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI), accessed May 2023**

**Table 2. List of active and suspected contaminated sites located on Ellesmere Island, including information on reporting organization (Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [CIRNAC]; Fisheries and Oceans Canada [DFO]; National Defence [DND]; Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC]; Parks Canada Agency [PCA]; Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP]), contaminants (petroleum hydrocarbons [PHCs]; benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene [BTEXs]; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs), quantity, and actions.**

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
286	Lincoln Bay	Active	Data unavailable	82.0833	-62.0000	CIRNAC	PHCs	12	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
2747	Eureka High Arctic Weather Station	Active	Data unavailable	79.9908	-85.8586	ECCC	PHCs, BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	15750	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
8328	Fort Conger Historic Site	Active	Data unavailable	81.7522	-64.8261	PCA	PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1265	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24258	Romulus - Panarctic C-42 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.8526	-84.3764	CIRNAC	BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3500	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24259	Gemini - Panarctic E-10 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.9902	-84.0690	CIRNAC	PHCs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1500	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
27530	Neil Trivet Gaw Lab (Bapmon - Alert)	Active	Data unavailable	82.4535	-62.5135	ECCC	PHCs	0	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
20247006	Alert Main Station	Active	Data unavailable	82.4981	-62.3367	DND	PHCs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	14500	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
20247025	Alert Tx Site	Active	Data unavailable	82.4528	-62.5020	DND	PHCs	600	Detailed testing completed. Remedial action plan under development.
20247029	Alert Airfield	Active	Data unavailable	82.4998	-62.3611	DND	PHCs, BTEXs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
70069014	Eureka - North Airstrip Apron	Active	Data unavailable	79.9977	-85.8406	DND	PHCs, BTEXs and PAHs	1755	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
1091	Alexandra Fiord Rcmp Detachment Site	Suspected	Data unavailable	78.8798	-75.7546	RCMP	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.
16525	D'Iberville Fjord (Unassessed)	Suspected	Data unavailable	80.6069	-79.4792	DFO	Data unavailable	0	Historical review completed. Initial testing underway.
25114	Alert - Unauthorized Firing Range	Suspected	Data unavailable	82.4246	-62.1835	DND	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.

\*Closed sites were not included in this table as they have either been cleaned up and/or require no further action. Sites for which no data are available with respect to status were also not included.



## Appendix 2. Tuvaijuittuq Ministerial Order Regulations

\***NOTE:** The regulations can also be found at this website: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-282/page-1.html>

### SOR/2019-282

#### OCEANS ACT

#### Registration 2019-07-30

#### Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area

Whereas this Order designates the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area in a manner that is not inconsistent with a land claims agreement that has been given effect and has been ratified or approved by an Act of Parliament;

Therefore, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, pursuant to 35.1(2)<sup>a</sup> of the *Oceans Act*<sup>b</sup>, makes the annexed *Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area*.

- <sup>a</sup>S.C. 2019, c. 8, s. 5
- <sup>b</sup>S.C. 1996, c. 31

Ottawa, July 29, 2019

Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

#### Definition of *Marine Protected Area*

1 In this Order, ***Marine Protected Area*** means the area of the sea that is designated by section 2.

#### Marine Protected Area

2 (1) The area of the sea in the Arctic Ocean consisting of the waters off northern Ellesmere Island, as described in plan number FB42596, certified on July 16, 2019 and depicted in plan number CLSR 108395, which plans are deposited in the Canada Lands Surveys Records, is designated as the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

#### Seabed, subsoil and water column

(2) The Marine Protected Area consists of the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice, each of which is below the low-water line.

#### Ongoing activities

3 For the purposes of subsection 35.1(2) of the *Oceans Act*, the following classes of activities are ongoing activities in the Marine Protected Area:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence;
- and



(b) marine scientific research activities.

### Prohibitions

**4 (1)** It is prohibited in the Marine Protected Area to carry out any activity — other than those set out in section 3 — that disturbs, damages, destroys or removes from the Marine Protected Area any unique geological or archeological features or any living marine organism or any part of its habitat, or is likely to do so.

### Exemption

**(2)** Despite subsection (1), the following activities may be carried out in the Marine Protected Area:

(a) marine navigation by a foreign national, a foreign ship or a foreign state, or an entity incorporated or formed by or under the laws of a country other than Canada; and

(b) the laying, maintenance and repair of cables and pipelines by a foreign state.

### Non-application – Nunavut Agreement

**5** This Order does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of the Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as approved, given effect and declared valid by the [Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act](#).

### Coming into force

**6** This Order comes into force on the day on which it is registered.

# What We Heard: Community Consultations on a New Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq

April 3-18, 2023



Clyde River – April 5, 2023



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## Acknowledgements

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank the communities of Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord for their time and hospitality during our community visits. We would especially like to thank the Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTAs), hamlet councils, and Mayoral offices for their participation and knowledge-sharing. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for leading the coordination of these meetings.

## Our Team

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group has members from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and the Government of Nunavut (GN). Our participants included representatives from each organization involved in the Working Group.



*Tuvaijuittuq Working Group members attending consultations in Clyde River, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet (left photo) and in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord (right photo). Left Photo, left to right: Syzula Ikkidluak (QIA), Delaney Ewing (DFO), Madelaine Kellett (DFO), Bernie MacIsaac (GN), and Justin Hack (GN). Right Photo, left to right: Sarah Kennedy (DFO), Bethany Schroeder (DFO), Iselena Natsiapik (QIA), Daniel Haney (GN), and Bernie MacIsaac (GN).*



## Executive Summary

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, with members from QIA, DFO, PCA, and GN, conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 - 18, 2023. Clyde River consultations were held on April 5, 2023 and a follow-up meeting with the Nangmoutaq HTA and Clyde River Hamlet Council was held virtually on May 19, 2023.

The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a request by QIA to establish a new Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area (MPA) to explore an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) for Tuvaijuittuq. The Working Group also shared information on our proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term MPA, and sought community feedback and support on the proposal. The purpose of this report is to summarize the feedback provided by community members who attended the meetings in Clyde River, to provide transparency in the process, to provide a record of the discussions and concerns shared by the community, and to provide additional information to questions raised during consultations. To ensure we have accurately captured what we heard, this report has been circulated to the Nangmoutaq HTA and Clyde River Hamlet Council for review. Individual reports were developed for each community and after HTAs and hamlets councils have had an opportunity to comment, these reports will be shared with all five communities.

While the Clyde River Hamlet Council was able to form quorum during the meeting, the Nangmoutaq HTA was unable to. The Working Group met virtually with the HTA on May 19, 2023 to present the proposal again and seek feedback. The Nangmoutaq HTA and Clyde River Hamlet Council gave the Working Group permission to seek a letter of support to pursue a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq, which will protect the area for up to five years while partners explore an IPCA. Several community members present at the public open house meeting expressed support for the proposal, and no concerns or objections were expressed. We heard information on the sea ice in Clyde River, and that Inuit have lived in the Tuvaijuittuq area in the past. There is an interest in learning more about QIA's regional governance model and the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that will inform decisions for this area. Animals use Tuvaijuittuq for feeding, and depend on habitat above and below the ice. The community would like to learn more about the animals in Tuvaijuittuq, climate change impacts, research and other activities there. Clyde River has expressed concerns about climate change, the future of sea ice, and the impact of ice-breakers. Community members are also interested in economic and employment opportunities in Tuvaijuittuq. Clyde River feels strongly that Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay should be involved in decision-making for the area.

### What We Heard From Communities Overall

A common theme heard from communities was a desire to learn more about the MPA, including the animals and habitats that occur there, potential for future economic opportunities, and the types of research done in the area. There is interest from all five communities to protect Tuvaijuittuq in both the short-term and long-term, but also in balancing protection with economic opportunities for future generations. Interest in protecting the area is based on Tuvaijuittuq's ecological importance, its significance to Inuit, and interest in the area's resources by other countries.



## Introduction and Approach

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 and April 18, 2023. Clyde River consultations were held on April 5, 2023. The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a proposed new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq, to share information on the proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term protection measure, and to seek community feedback and support on this proposal. In each community, two gatherings were held; an initial meeting with the HTA, hamlet council, Mayor, Nauttiqsuqtiit and other relevant community groups, and an evening community open house which was open to the public.

At both meetings, information was shared on the significance of Tuvaijuittuq, its boundaries, reasons why the area is being considered for protection, the steps involved in establishing a new Ministerial Order MPA and proposed regulations for this short-term protection measure. The presentation materials and relevant assessments, including a summary of Natural Resources Canada's resource and economic assessment for the area<sup>1</sup> and an ecological and biological overview, were made available to community members in both English and Inuktitut. Two-page summaries of what we heard during November consultations were also provided. Simultaneous interpretation was also provided at each meeting.

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group committed to circulating a "What We Heard" report to each community for their review and approval summarizing their feedback during these consultations. If community members or organizations feel that their feedback was misinterpreted or misrepresented, the Working Group will revise the report as requested and re-circulate to the community. Please contact Chandra Chambers ([chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) if you have any questions or concerns. After communities have had a chance to review and approve their What We Heard reports, the Working Group will provide copies of all reports to each community.

DFO committed to following up with communities on outstanding questions that were asked during community meetings. Answers to these questions were circulated to each community HTA, hamlet council and mayor in an email on June 28, 2023, this information is included in Appendix 1 of this report. A copy of the MPA regulations that are being proposed for the new Ministerial Order MPA are also included in Appendix 2 of this report.

The HTAs and/or hamlet councils in some communities could not form quorum during the April meetings. The Working Group followed up with these HTAs and hamlet councils virtually and received permission from each to seek a formal letter of support for the new regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> The full Natural Resources Canada resource assessment was also made available and can be accessed at: [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2022/mcan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/mcan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf)



## Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) and Hamlet Council Meeting

The Working Group and local Nauttiqsuqtiit met with the Nangmoutaq HTA and Clyde River Hamlet Council on April 5, 2023 at 2:00 pm at the Hamlet Office. Other community groups were invited to attend. Approximately nine people were present for this meeting.

The Clyde River Hamlet Council expressed support for the proposal, and indicated an interest in knowing if other communities are also supportive. The Nangmoutaq HTA was unable to form quorum for the meeting but was supportive of scheduling a virtual follow-up call at a later date. The Working Group subsequently met virtually with the HTA on May 19, 2023 to present the proposal again and seek feedback. The HTA members gave permission for the Working Group to seek a letter of support for the proposal, and to engage the larger community at an open house meeting that evening.

### ***What we heard:***

#### *Importance to Inuit*

- During the consultation, the Hamlet Council felt strongly that Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay should be consulted on this process and involved in decision-making for this area as they are closest to Tuvaijuittuq, and because Inuit were relocated to those communities. Board members asked to know whether Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay give their approval on this process.

#### Response:

- The communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay will be involved in decisions regarding the establishment and co-management of a protected area in Tuvaijuittuq.
- Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay HTAs and hamlet councils gave the Working Group permission to seek letters of support for the proposed new Ministerial Order MPA.

#### *Ecological Significance*

- Animals use Tuvaijuittuq as a feeding area because it has ice year-round. For example, polar bears eat the walrus and seals that travel up to Tuvaijuittuq to feed. Seals travel up to Tuvaijuittuq by following the ice, and fatten up before heading back down south. It is possible the animals will stay up in Tuvaijuittuq in the future because it is the “last ice”. Animals use the water under the sea ice as well.
- The community is interested in learning more about the research in Tuvaijuittuq, including the species found in Tuvaijuittuq (such as Arctic Char, polar bears and narwhal), and predictions on when the ice would break up.

#### Response:

- Research in Tuvaijuittuq is led by DFO through an ongoing research program called the Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) – Last Ice. This program

undertakes seasonal marine mammal, sea ice, lower trophic level, and other types of research.

- Information related to the MAP – Last Ice Program, and the animals, habitats and climate trends within Tuvaijuittuq is available at the following websites: [https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2020/2020\\_056-eng.html](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2020/2020_056-eng.html) (DFO 2020; Inuktitut version available); [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2021/mpo-dfo/Fs97-6-3408-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/mpo-dfo/Fs97-6-3408-eng.pdf) (Charette et al. 2020); and <http://wwwdev.ncr.dfo-mpo.ca/oceans/mpa-zpm/tuvaijuittuq/index-eng.html>. Climate models predict that summer sea ice may disappear in the Arctic Ocean by mid-century; however, it is unknown if or when the Tuvaijuittuq area might be ice-free (Charette et al. 2020). Additional information related to research in Tuvaijuittuq is provided in Appendix 1.
- The information above is meant to build on presentations made to the community on November 15, 2022 in which information on the ecological significance and assessments of petroleum and economic potential of the area was shared.

#### *Economic Opportunities and Activities*

- Clyde River community members would like to know more about the types of activities that occur in Tuvaijuittuq.

#### Response:

- Tuvaijuittuq is an area that is largely ice-covered all year round and as a result, activities in this area are minimal. Ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq were determined in 2019 to be national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence and marine scientific research activities. We heard from communities during consultations in 2019 that Inuit had not traveled there recently. Between 2012 and 2019, vessels accessed Tuvaijuittuq only five times; all within nearshore areas in August/September. All but one vessel (a transiting passenger ice-breaker) were Canadian Coast Guard ships. The passenger vessel briefly accessed Greely Fiord in 2016. Available data indicates that between 2019 and 2023, three vessels accessed nearshore areas in Tuvaijuittuq. All were Canadian Coast Guard ships and all accessed the area in August (one in 2019, two in 2022). No tourist or recreational activities are currently occurring within Tuvaijuittuq. Ward Hunt Island, located outside of Tuvaijuittuq and administered by PCA as part of Quittinirpaaq National Park, has been used in the past as a launch point for expeditions to the North Pole. It is likely that these expeditions involved travelling over sea ice in Tuvaijuittuq; however, the activity is not currently ongoing.
- Additional information regarding ongoing activities, including research within Tuvaijuittuq is provided in Appendix 1.
- The community would consider a commercial fishery in Tuvaijuittuq if it becomes possible in the future.

- There is interest in learning more about the oil and gas and mineral resources in the area and whether resource exploration is feasible since no one lives in the area.

Response:

- Tuvaijuittuq is largely ice covered all year round, and Geological Survey of Canada experts' analysis indicates that the combination of ice-conditions, technology, and market values do not make the area economically viable today. However, as climate change continues to impact the area we cannot predict the future.
- Additional information about petroleum potential can be accessed here: [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf).
- The community would like to see additional employment opportunities created if the area becomes protected.

*Concerns*

- There is concern for the future of sea ice and the impacts of climate change.

## Community Open House

The Working Group hosted an Open House meeting for the general public on April 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The meeting took place at the Quluuq School where approximately 16 adults were in attendance. Children and youth were also welcomed. Several community members present at the meeting expressed support for pursuing a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq. No concerns or objections were expressed.



*Community members meet with the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group members, April 5, 2023.*

**What we heard:**

*Importance to Inuit*

- The community would like to learn more about the Inuit Qaujimagatugangit being used to inform Tuvaijuittuq.
- It is important that information is passed along from Elders to younger generations. The real hunters are not around anymore, and now there are only people who went to school and do not have the old knowledge.

- Inuit used to live in the area in the 1500s and 1600s, and only recently stopped living there. Old Inuit buildings can still be found in the area.
- The ice in Clyde River comes from Tuvaijuittuq, and over time the sea ice has changed and there is less ice. It was suggested that the changes in ice may not be from climate change, it could just be how the Arctic is – some years are colder and some years are warmer. We heard that this may be hard to know because the Elders that knew best are not around anymore.

### *Ecological Significance*

- Similar interest was expressed during the community open house about the desire to learn more about whether climate change could be slowed or prevented, and about why Tuvaijuittuq is important.

#### Response:

- If you would like more information than what is provided above under “Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) & Hamlet Meeting”, and in Appendix 1, please contact [Chandra.Chambers@df-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@df-mpo.gc.ca).

### *Economic Opportunities and Activities*

- The community would like to learn more about the types of activities occurring in Tuvaijuittuq such as shipping activities, and wildlife harvesting rights.

#### Response:

- If you would like more information than what is provided above under “Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) & Hamlet Meeting”, and in Appendix 1, please contact [Chandra.Chambers@df-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@df-mpo.gc.ca).
- A suggestion was made that young Inuit should be involved in the work and research being conducted in the area, such as through employment opportunities.

### *Concerns*

- There is concern that ice-breakers could break the old multi-year sea ice. There was concern expressed about an increased number of ships, such as ice-breakers, accessing the area and harming the animals and releasing pollution into the water.

## Virtual Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) Meeting

The Working Group met virtually with the Nangmoutaq HTA on May 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM to share information on the proposed new Ministerial Order MPA and seek feedback. Four HTA members were in attendance. The HTA members advised that although the chairman and vice chair were unable to attend, the members present were comfortable communicating the information to the absent members rather than schedule an additional meeting. The HTA members gave permission for the Working Group to seek formal approval.

## **What we heard:**

### *Importance to Inuit*

- Community leaders restated the importance of seeking feedback from communities and settlements close to Tuvaijuittuq, including Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, CFS Alert, and Eureka.

#### Response:

- Eureka is not considered to be a community or settlement. It is run as a seasonal research station.

### *Economic Opportunities and Activities*

- There is interest in learning if there have been complaints from industry, such as mining and oil and gas, since the MPA was first established in 2019.

#### Response:

- There were no existing exploration licences in Tuvaijuittuq when the MPA was established in 2019, and no expressions of interest or applications had been received. Leading up to 2019, there was (and still is) a moratorium preventing new oil and gas exploration and production in Arctic offshore waters. This moratorium is reconsidered every five years. No complaints have been raised by the oil and gas or mining industries to DFO with respect to this MPA.

### *Regional Governance Model*

- The HTA is interested having an Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit advisor on the regional governance initiative being led by QIA because Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit plays a large role in Inuit-led governance.

## **Next Steps**

The next steps to pursue establishment of a new Ministerial Order MPA will be to seek stakeholder input on the proposal, seek formal community support, complete assessments and approvals needed under the Nunavut Agreement such as conformity determination by the Nunavut Planning Commission and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approval, and complete DFO's regulatory process. Formal letters of support will be sought from community hamlets and HTAs. Community members are encouraged to communicate their feedback on the proposal to these organizations to inform their decision. DFO will notify communities and stakeholders prior to the proposal being published online for a 30-day public comment period – additional input can be provided at that time as well.

It is important to us that we have summarized your input on this proposal correctly. If you feel that we have missed any input provided during our meetings or captured information incorrectly, please reach out to the email address provided above for correction.



The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank all of the community members who attended these meetings - your feedback is vital and appreciated.

Thank You.

## Appendix 1. Follow-up questions and answers from the April 2023 consultations on a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq.

\*Please note, an additional question and answer have been added (Question #8) and Question #15 has been expanded upon since it was sent to the HTA and hamlet.

### 1) What is the purpose of protecting Tuvaijuittuq?

Researchers agree that summer sea ice will remain the longest in Tuvaijuittuq (Figure 1) as it continues to decline in other areas of the Arctic due to climate change. Because of this, the area is expected to become an important refuge for ice-dependent species. The area has a very diverse ecosystem, and contains a number of unique communities of organisms, including communities on the ice, in the ice, and below the ice. Habitat in Tuvaijuittuq is important to marine mammals and sea birds. For all of these reasons, DFO and its partners believe that the area, its habitat, and the wildlife within it, would benefit from protection. The proposed Ministerial Order MPA is a short-term protection tool which will protect the area for up to five years. The purpose of this short-term protection tool is to prohibit new activities in the area that may cause negative impacts while additional information is collected to support a better understanding of the conservation and protection needs of the area before longer-term protection measures are considered.

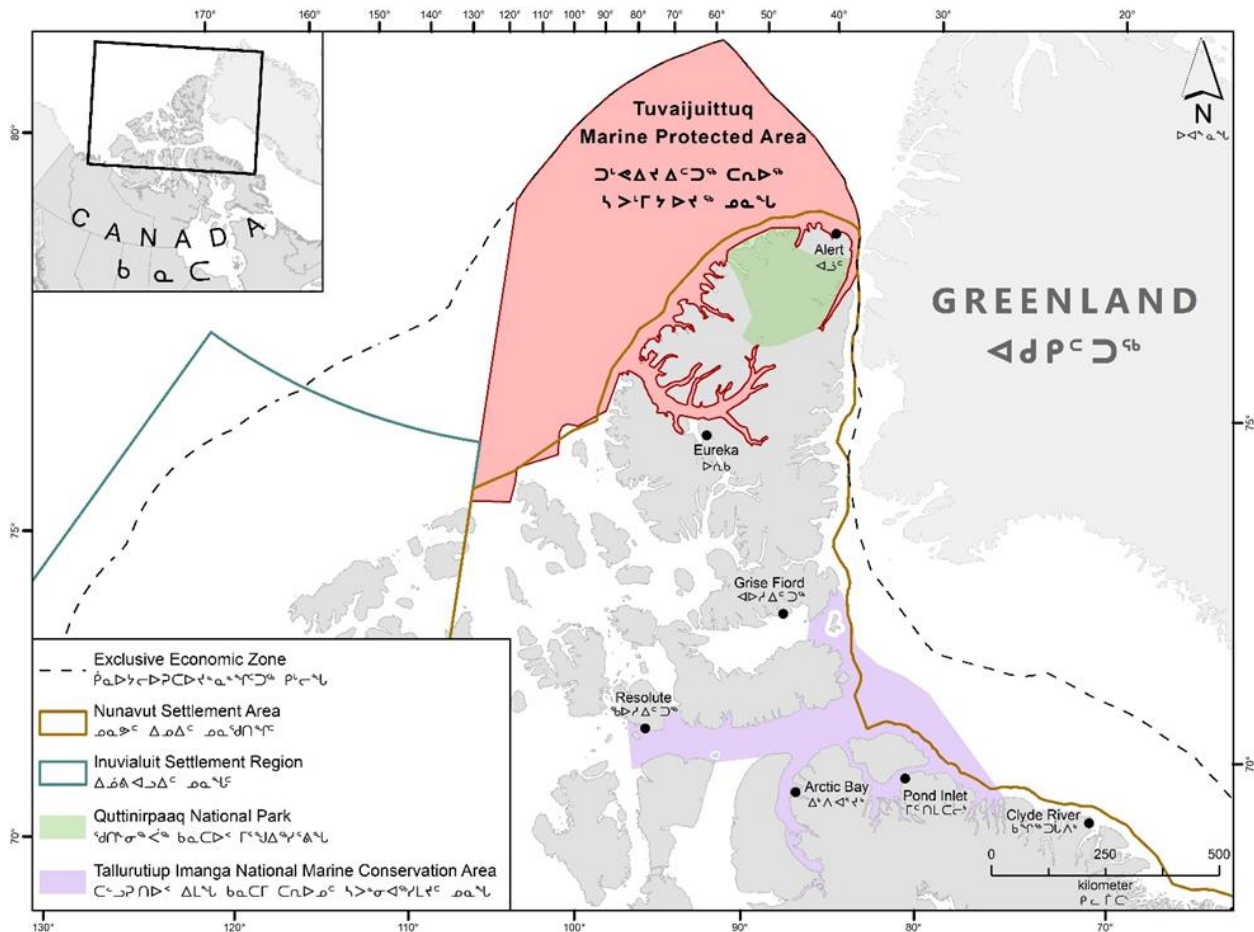


Figure 1. Map of Tuvaijuittuq MPA by Ministerial Order

**2) How was the Tuvaijuittuq boundary determined? Why are the rest of the Queen Elizabeth Islands not included in the boundary?**

The Tuvaijuittuq MPA includes the marine waters off northern Ellesmere Island, starting from the low water mark and extending to the outer boundary of Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone. It also includes the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice. The initial boundaries of Tuvaijuittuq were based on the 2011 Canadian Science Advisory Report ([2011/55](#)), which identified key multi-year ice habitat. The boundary was later extended to the nearshore areas off Ellesmere Island within the Nunavut Settlement Area as more of the area was understood. The marine area around the Queen Elizabeth Islands south of Ellesmere Island supports different communities of organisms than those within Tuvaijuittuq. This area was not considered for inclusion in Tuvaijuittuq as it has different conservation needs. Partners agreed to settle on the boundary as it is now and consider the remaining islands at a later time as possible new protected areas. Some of the Queen Elizabeth Islands overlap with the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, which is not included in the Tuvaijuittuq boundary.

**3) What does “freezing the footprint of ongoing activities” mean?**

Freezing the footprint of ongoing activities means allowing activities that are already lawfully occurring in the area to continue and preventing any new activities that may damage, disturb, destroy or remove important habitats, features and organisms. Ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq were identified using a number of different methods, including community consultation (in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord in 2019 and in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Clyde River in 2022), consultation with QIA, and consultation with DFO Science and other federal departments and agencies including the Department of National Defence, Parks Canada Agency, and Canadian Coast Guard. DFO gathered further information about ongoing activities by seeking input on the proposed regulations from industry and other stakeholders (e.g., non-governmental organizations), and from studies such as an assessment of vessel traffic using Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals in the area between 2012-2019. This study is currently being updated so DFO has the most up-to-date information.

Based on available information, DFO determined that ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq include:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence; and
- (b) marine scientific research activities.

The regulations also include exemptions and exclusions helping to respect commitments Canada has made both domestically and internationally.

The full regulations are provided as a separate attachment in both English and Inuktitut.

**4) Does freezing the footprint of activities affect wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit in this area?**

The Ministerial Order MPA does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of Nunavut Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Nunavut Agreement. This means that the Ministerial Order regulations do not affect the wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA).

There appear to be no provisions within the Nunavut Agreement that extend Inuit harvesting rights beyond the NSA portion of Tuvaijuittuq. As a result, the regulations would apply to everyone in the area of Tuvaijuittuq that falls outside of the NSA. However, we would be interested in further discussing the matter if there are provisions in the Nunavut Agreement you believe have been overlooked.

**5) Why are there exemptions for foreign states in the Ministerial Order MPA regulations?**

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which is an international agreement, Canada must allow certain activities such as navigation (vessels transiting through) and laying of cables and pipelines, from foreign states in certain maritime zones. Because of this, those foreign activities are exempted from the application of the Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq. The exclusive economic zone, an area of the sea beyond the territorial sea extending out to 200 nautical miles from the coastline (Figure 2), is not Canadian territory, and in that area Canada only has jurisdiction over economic resources such as fishing, oil and gas, and mineral exploitation.

Under Canadian law, Canada has the authority to prohibit domestic vessel navigation and other activities in this area. Since the purpose of the short-term Ministerial Order MPA is to conserve and protect the vulnerable habitats and organisms in Tuvaijuittuq while we collect additional information to inform decisions about long-term protection, we aim to limit any activity, including domestic activities, that may negatively impact the area. Although foreign navigation is allowed in the MPA, foreign countries will typically comply with voluntary measures, if guidance is provided to avoid certain areas within the MPA.

**6) Can the old sea ice (multi-year ice) be broken by ice-breakers?**

While some ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice, there are different classes of ice-breakers built for different purposes and ice thicknesses. Not all ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice. To our knowledge, the few vessels that have travelled to Tuvaijuittuq for activities such as national defence, safety, marine research, and foreign vessel travel, have stayed within the nearshore areas during the open water season and did not actively conduct ice-breaking activities.

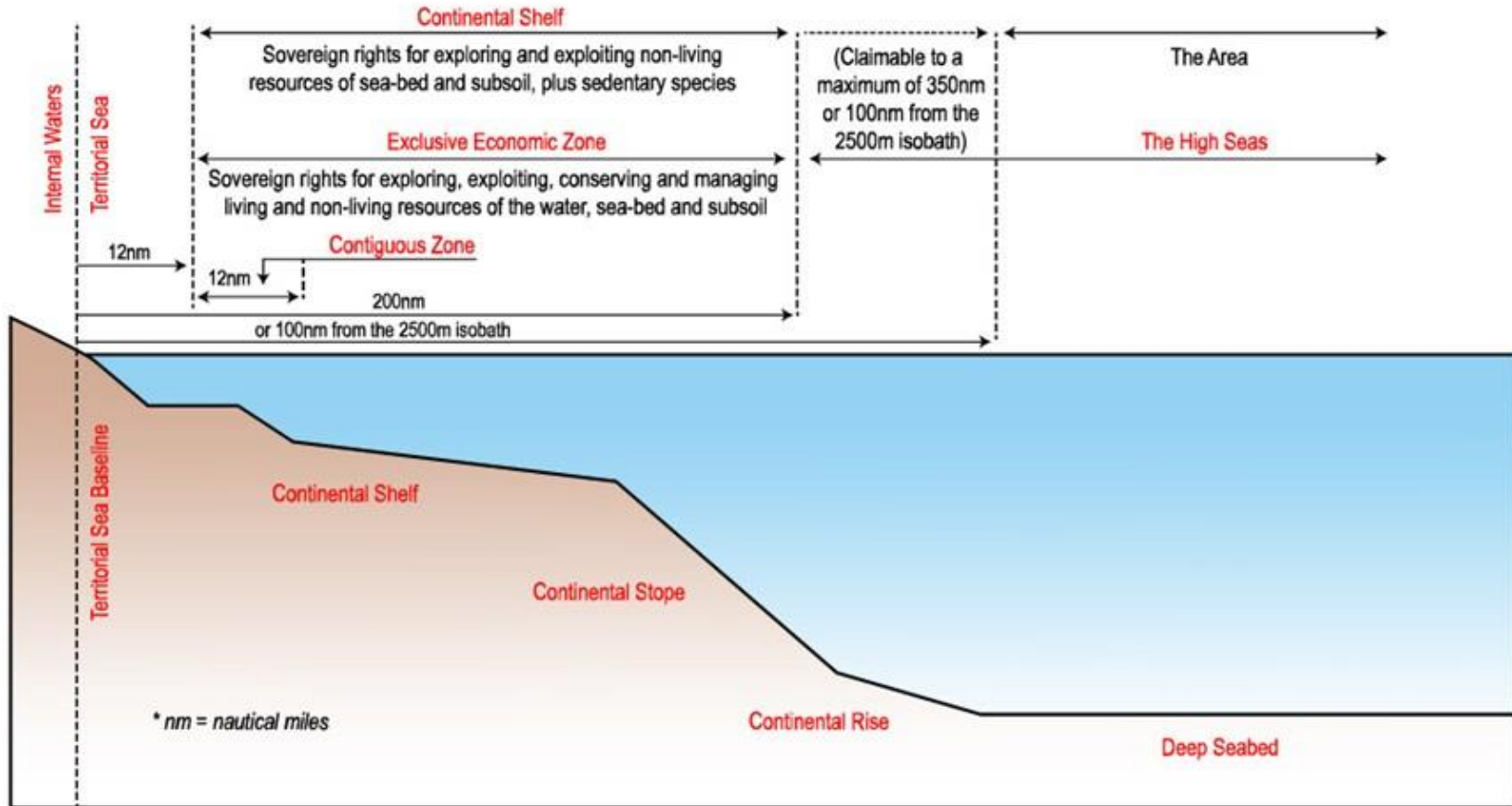


Figure 2. Canada's Maritime Zones

## 7) How can Inuit visit Tuvaijuittuq?

Tuvaijuittuq is an area of the sea that is a mainly ice-covered all year round and is very remote. There is one military research station in Alert called Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Alert located outside of Tuvaijuittuq on northern Ellesmere Island and a small research base in Eureka on Fosheim Peninsula. There are no communities nearby – the closest community is Grise Fiord, which is approximately 327 km as the crow flies from the MPA's southern-most boundary. Activity in Tuvaijuittuq is limited to national defence activities and marine scientific research, mainly due to the extensive ice cover in this marine area. In 2019, the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord indicated that the area is difficult to reach by skidoo; however, some community members in Grise Fiord had travelled, or knew of people that had travelled, as far as Eureka (which is south of the proposed area) by dogsled in the past.

There are however, opportunities for involvement in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, which are based out of CFS Alert. For more information on participating in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, please contact Chandra Chambers ([Chandra.Chambers@df-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@df-mpo.gc.ca)).

## 8) Fisheries quotas to Inuit

It is important to note that Tuvaijuittuq is largely ice-covered all year round and is not accessible to fishing vessels. As a result, no large-scale commercial fishing activities are possible in the area under current conditions. It is unknown if ice conditions would support small-scale on ice fisheries, and no data are available to understand whether a fishery (small or large-scale) would be possible.

When we visited communities in April 2023, we received a question relating to fisheries quotas in general and how these are allocated to Inuit.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada continues to respect and implement the obligations under Nunavut Agreement including provisions related to offshore commercial fisheries access that give special consideration to Nunavut. Through implementation of the Nunavut Agreement over the years, the share of adjacent resources to Qikiqtani Inuit has significantly increased, such that Qikiqtani Inuit fishers now have 80% of Turbot and 42% of shrimp resources including 100% of all fisheries resources within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

## 9) What kind of Inuit Qaujimaqatqangit (IQ) is used? What is studied?

- Oral History passed down over centuries of Inuit Knowledge.
- Inuit knowledge living and adapting, part of present day life. It is in how Inuit live and see the world today.
- QIA would like to gather IQ for Tuvaijuittuq.

## 10) Can more information be provided about the infrastructure that QIA refers to? Would QIA make buildings or houses for Tuvaijuittuq purposes?

- Multi-use facilities to address Inuit Stewardship and community needs (office space, equipment storage, garage, country food processing, community outreach, elder gatherings, etc.).

- Additional infrastructure that supports Inuit stewardship activities and the Nauttigsuqtiit program, such as housing and supplementing the facilities in the Tallurutiup Imanga communities as appropriate.
- Infrastructure requirements for Inuit stewardship that arise due to changing socio-economic or environmental conditions.

### **11) When will the regional governance model will be in effect?**

At this time, this is still at the negotiation table. However, QIA is seeking this Regional Governance model for future IIBAs as well as existing IIBAs that will be renegotiated over time.

### **12) Status update on the harbour planned for Resolute Bay.**

Transport Canada (TC), the Government of Nunavut (GN), and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) have been working together towards the development of community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay and have developed an Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) that was adopted in October 2022.

The IIP was completed based on community engagements and other work to date and informed the Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development.

The Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development was signed by TC and the GN on January 16, 2023 and will provide up to \$76,281,900 to the GN for the design and construction of the two community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. The current funding for community harbours will cover the cost of constructing at least one breakwater, a parking area, dredging, a boat launch, and floating docks.

TC has provided a copy of the agreement to the QIA representative, to be kept in confidence.

We understand from the GN that:

- A Project Manager with GN's Department of Community and Government Services has been assigned to the projects.
- The exact procurement approach for construction has not been finalized, but it is likely to follow the GN's standard procurement practices.
- The first step is expected to be a Request for Proposal for engineering and design services.

For more information, please contact Matthew Bowler ([MBowler@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:MBowler@GOV.NU.CA)) or Miguel Parent ([miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca](mailto:miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca)).

### **13) What type of research is occurring in Tuvaijuittuq?**

Research in Tuvaijuittuq is led by DFO through the Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) - Last Ice and this team includes researchers from universities and organizations all over the world. The program brings together a number of different specialists to study different features in Tuvaijuittuq. For example, experts in sea ice, water, fish, marine mammals, and those who study organisms such as algae and krill that form the basis of the High Arctic



food web. Some of this work is done during a late winter/early spring seasonal field camp, where researchers work together as a team to collect samples and do their research. Others, like marine mammal surveys, are conducted around the same time but not as part of the field camp, and in the fall. The program began in 2018 and experienced some delays due to COVID-19 but is continuing. A new ship-based program called ArcticCore will begin this year and will include Archer Fiord and adjacent areas around Tuvaijuittuq (as sea-ice permits). This new program will study physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production, zooplankton, benthos) oceanography and will also include marine mammal surveys and sea ice studies. If long-term protection is put into place in the future, then more formal management and monitoring plans would be developed for Tuvaijuittuq, in collaboration with partners and communities.

Research partners in MAP-Last Ice:

DFO  
Department of National Defence  
Defence Research and Development Canada  
Université Laval  
University of Essex  
Université du Québec à Rimouski  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography  
Polar Continental Shelf Program  
Alfred Wegener Institute  
University of Bristol  
Resolute HTA Board of Directors

Type of research conducted as part of MAP-Last Ice:

- Sea ice distribution, physical properties (thickness, composition), productivity (algal communities, biomass)
- Evolution of the ice and under-ice habitat over time
- Continuous atmospheric, oceanographic and sea ice observations
- Zooplankton, fish and benthic organisms
- Marine mammal and habitat surveys
- Physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production) oceanography

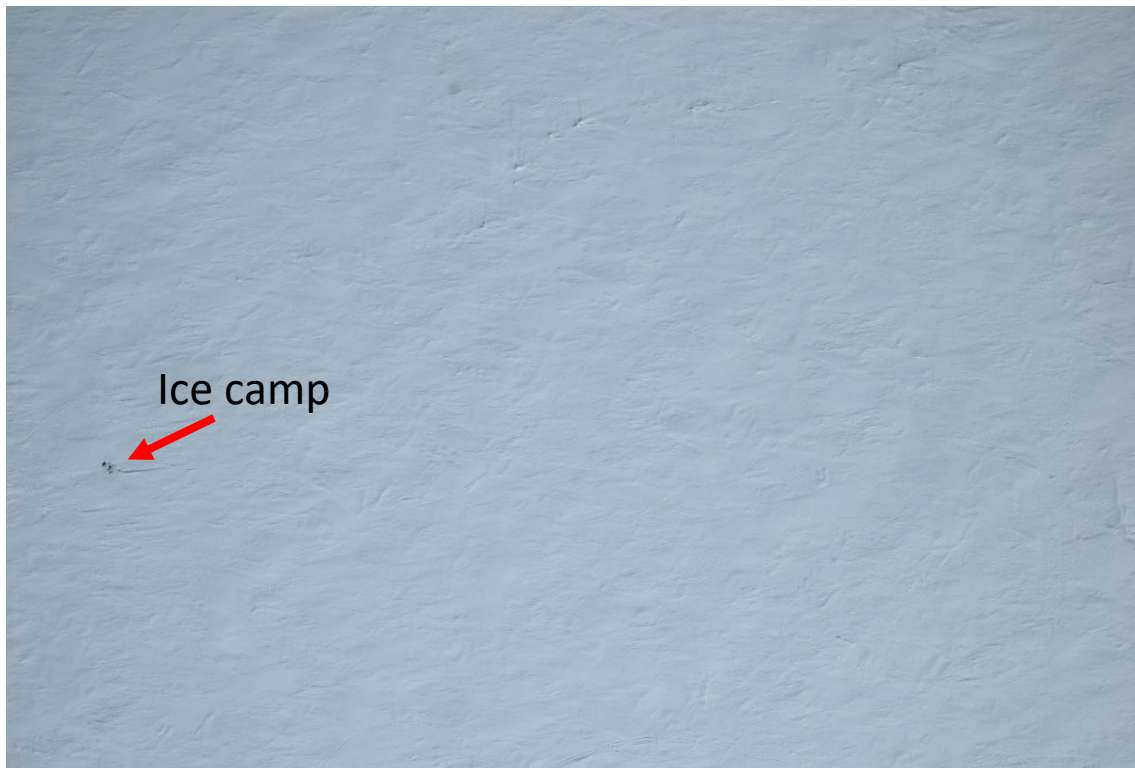
Collection of ice cores during the MAP-Last Ice and ArcticCORE programs:

We are very conscious of potential disturbances to the environment and during our sampling we take action to minimize these disturbances. When we collect ice cores, we sample only a part of the core and we replace the rest of the core to its original hole. Once replaced in its original hole, the core refreezes quickly, typically within a few hours.

The ice cores that we collect are small, at 9 cm diameter. This means that the surface area of one core is 5 times smaller than that of a hole cut out with an 8-inch auger, and about 10-12 times smaller than that of a seal breathing hole. While the seals keep their holes open,

we “close” our holes after sampling (with the original ice core from which we cut off one or a few sections). If we add the area of all the cores that we collect during one sampling season, it would typically add up to much less than 1 square meter, at most 2 m<sup>2</sup>.

In the photo below, we can see our ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. In another photo taken a few days after we took out camp, it was not possible to identify the site where the ice camp had been set up.



**Figure 3. Aerial view showing the ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. A few days after taking out the camp, the site of the ice camp was not visible anymore.**

#### **14) Interest in learning more about Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program**

##### **Polar Continental Shelf Program:**

Natural Resources Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP) supports Arctic science by providing logistics planning, coordination and advice to Canadian government, non-government, university and international researchers. The PCSP supports projects in the Arctic from Churchill, Manitoba, to the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, and from the Yukon/Alaska border to as far as Greenland, on occasion.

Support can include air transportation, as well as fuel, field equipment for loan, field communications and safety, logistics advice for field studies, the use of the PCSP facility in Resolute, Nunavut, and shipping and receiving coordination and advice. The PCSP facility in Resolute is typically open from late January to September each year and is comprised of



an accommodations area that can house up to 237 guests, lounge areas, a fitness room, office spaces, kitchen and dining facilities, an operations centre and a laboratory.

The PCSP provides employment, student training and business opportunities for northern residents. The PCSP also helps with science outreach through publishing an annual science report and connecting researchers with northern community organizations.

The table below includes PCSP projects that occurred close to Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq in recent years. Please feel free to reach out to the project leads if you have an interest in specific projects.

As a contact at the Polar Continental Shelf Program, please feel free to reach out to **Michael Meunier**, Manager of the Program Coordination and Outreach unit ([michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)) or the PCSP Ottawa mailbox ([pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)). Michael and his group would be pleased to connect with you and discuss your priorities.

Here are some additional resources that may be of interest:

- A list of all 2019 and 2020 projects supported by PCSP can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/current-projects/10009>.
- More information on the PCSP can be found at: [https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure\\_eng.pdf](https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure_eng.pdf)
- Information on project support applications can be found here: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/research-support-arctic-logistics-and-field-equipment-for-across-canada/10003>.
- Annual Science Reports can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/pcsp-publications/10011>.

**Table 1. List of PCSP-supported projects in the Arctic Archipelago, many near Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq MPA in recent years**

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Hsin Chiang	McGill University	McGill Arctic Research Station, Expedition Fjord	A new window on the universe: radio astronomy from northern Canada
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Grise Fiord	Aerial survey of High Arctic walrus and narwhal stocks
Michael Maurice	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Svartevaeg, Eureka, Isachsen, Grise Fiord, Mould Bay, Rea Point, Cape Providence, Resolute Bay, Steffanson Island, Cape Liverpool, Fort Ross, Gateshead	Annual Maintenance of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Automatic Weather Station array - Arctic Archipeligo

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Christine Michel	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka	Arctic CORE (Conservation, Observation, Research, and Engagement)
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Assistance Bay	Assessment of Bioremediation Potential of Marine Fuels on NWP Arctic Beaches
Joseph Monteith	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	Alert, Eureka	Baffin/High Arctic Inspections 2022
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Characterizing viral impact in the Last Ice Area
Christopher Omelon	Queen's University	Expedition Fiord, Resolute Bay	Climate Change Research at the McGill Arctic Research Station
David Didier	Université du Québec à Rimouski	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Coastal dynamics and hazards in Grise Fiord and Jones Sound
Mark Skidmore	Montana State University	Truelove Lowlands, Croker Bay, Resolute, Gascoyne inlet	Exploration of Saline Cryospheric Habitats with Europa Relevance (ESCHER): An approach using airborne and submarine semiautonomous systems
Erin MacNeil	Natural Resources Canada	Gascoyne Inlet	Defence of North America
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Devon Island lakes site	Developing new technologies to access and investigate the hypersaline, subzero Devon Island Subglacial Lake System, a unique Mars and icy moon analogue
Denis Lacelle	University of Ottawa	Eureka	Effect of degrading ice wedge polygon landscapes on local topography, hydrology, and water quality.
Susan Kutz	University of Calgary	East wind lake, Eureka, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Disease in High Arctic Ungulates - Terrestrial Investigations
Amelie Roberto-Charron	Government of Nunavut	Eureka Weather Station, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Diseases in High Arctic Ungulates – Aerial assessment

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Clément Chevallier	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Cape Verra, Cape Verra, Nirjutiqarvik, Cape Liddon, Houbhouse Inlet, Prince Leopold Island, Baillarge Bay	Fulmar colony surveys in Lancaster Sound
Myriam Lemelin	Université de Sherbrooke	T-MARS camp, McGill Arctic Research Station, Axel Heiberg Island	Geological study and mapping of hydrothermal deposits and gossans, Expedition Fiord, Axel Heiberg Island, Nunavut, as analogues for Mars
Christine Dow	University of Waterloo	Devon Ice Cap camp	Geophysical imaging of the Devon sub-glacial lakes
Luke Copland	University of Ottawa	Manson Icefield, Sydkap base camp, Sydkap ice marginal lake complex, Grise Fiord	Glacier monitoring on southern Ellesmere Island
Maya Bhatia	University of Alberta	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Glacier-ocean interactions in the Canadian high Arctic
Daniel Fortier	University of Montreal	Ward Hunt Island	Ground ice of eastern Canadian High Arctic polar desert
Cortney Wheeler	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Elwin Bay, Creswell Bay	High Arctic Beluga Whale Stock Structure
Greg Henry	University of British Columbia	Sverdrup Pass, Knud Peninsula, PCSP Eureka, Bache Peninsula, Princess Marie Bay, Alexandra Fiord, Cape Bounty	High Arctic tundra ecosystem responses to 30 years of experimental and observed climate change
Masaki Uchida	National Institute of Polar Research, Japan	Oobloyah Bay	Identifying and understanding the effect of temporal and spatial changes towards the biodiversity and carbon sequestration processes in the high Arctic
John Moores	York University	Expedition Fjord	Identifying putative microbial drivers of methane flux on Earth and on Mars
Raoul-Marie Couture	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Impact of oxygen pulses on redox-sensitive chemicals and microbiome in Canada's northernmost lake
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Goose Fiord, Brooman Point, Kearney Cove	Improving High Arctic walrus stock assessment using satellite telemetry, genetics, and time-lapse photography
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Lost Hammer, Thompson Glacier, White Glacier,	

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
		Expedition Fjord, Gypsum Hill, Color Peak	Investigations of microbial activity in cryoenvironments in the Canadian High Arctic
Laura Brown	University of Toronto Mississauga	Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Cornwallis Island Lakes	Lake Ice in the Canadian High Arctic
Scott Lamoureux	Queen's University	Cape Bounty, Melville Island, Resolute vicinity	Land and water impacts and response to climate and permafrost changes in the High Arctic
Laura Thomson	Natural Resources Canada	Muller Ice Cap, Expedition Fiord	Mass Balance and Energy fluxes of White Glacier, Axel Heiberg Island, NU
Catherine Girard	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC)	Ward Hunt Island, Resolute Bay vicinity	Microbes on the go: Release of cryospheric microbes to downstream habitats
Derek Mueller	Carleton University	Milne Ice Shelf, Milne Fiord, Purple Valley, Eureka, Resolute	Milne Fiord ice-ocean interactions: Implications for the stability of ice shelves and glaciers in the Polar Regions
Dave Burgess	Natural Resources Canada	Agassiz Ice Cap, Meighen Ice Cap, Grise Fiord, Devon Ice Cap, Melville Ice Cap	National Glaciology Project - Queen Elizabeth Islands, NU & NT
Warwick Vincent	Université Laval	Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island) and Ward Hunt Island	Northern Ellesmere Island in the Global Environment - Sentinel North
Valerie Amarualik	Parks Canada	Young Inlet, Dundee Bight, Dome Camp	Qausuittuq National Park Operations 2022/2023
Adam Ferguson	Parks Canada	Fort Conger, Lake Hazen, Ruggles River, Tanquary Fiord, Resolute Bay	Quttinirpaaq National Park Operations 2022
Gordon Osinski	University of Western Ontario	Haughton River Valley	Reconstructing the post-impact history of the Haughton impact structure, Nunavut
Lynda Gullason	Inuit Heritage Trust Incorporated	Resolute, Morin Point, Devon Island, Pond Inlet	Saving Morin Point: Climate Change Risk Assessment and Archaeological Heritage Recovery
Dermot Antoniades	Université Laval	Stuckberry Valley, Lake Hazen	The functioning and evolution of the ecosystems of Stuckberry Valley, northern Ellesmere Island

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Joshua King	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Development of a new Canadian Arctic Archipelago sea ice product from ICESat-2 (Ice Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2)
Michael Brohart	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Instrument calibration at Eureka weather station as part of the Canadian Brewer Spectrophotometer Network operation
Alison Criscitiello	University of Alberta	Grise Fiord and Resolute, Nunavut	Airborne gravity survey over Devon Ice Cap
Rich DeVall	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Isachsen (Ellef Ringnes Island), Rea Point (Melville Island), Stefansson Island, Fort Ross (Somerset Island), Gateshead Island, Cape Liverpool (Bylot Island), Svarteveg (Axel Heiberg Island) and Grise Fiord (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Annual maintenance of ECCC's automatic weather station array – Arctic Archipelago
Grant Gilchrist	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Grise Fiord, Nunavut	Population surveys of endangered ivory gulls on Ellesmere Island and Devon Islands
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Ward Hunt Island and Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Viral ecology of the high Canadian Arctic in water, ice and aerosols
Mark Lamothe	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka and Resolute, Nunavut	Eureka geomagnetic electronic replacement
Nicolas Lecomte	Université de Montreal	Bylot Island, Igloolik Island and Eureka, Nunavut	Arctic IMPACTS: tracking impacts of ecosystem changes in the Arctic
Christine Michel	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Alert, Nunavut	Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) – Last Ice
Wayne Pollard	McGill University	Eureka and Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Nunavut	The vulnerability and resiliency of ice-rich permafrost in cold polar desert environments in response to changing climate
Vincent St. Louis	University of Alberta	Lake Hazen, Quttinirpaaq National Park, Nunavut	The impacts of rapidly receding glaciers on downstream freshwater resources and ecological services



**15) What is being done to clean up past military, research and Government of Canada sites left on Ellesmere Island?**

There were a number of sites in Quttinirpaaq National Park that required remediation. These sites have been remediated, with the exception of Fort Conger, which now has a long-term monitoring strategy in place.

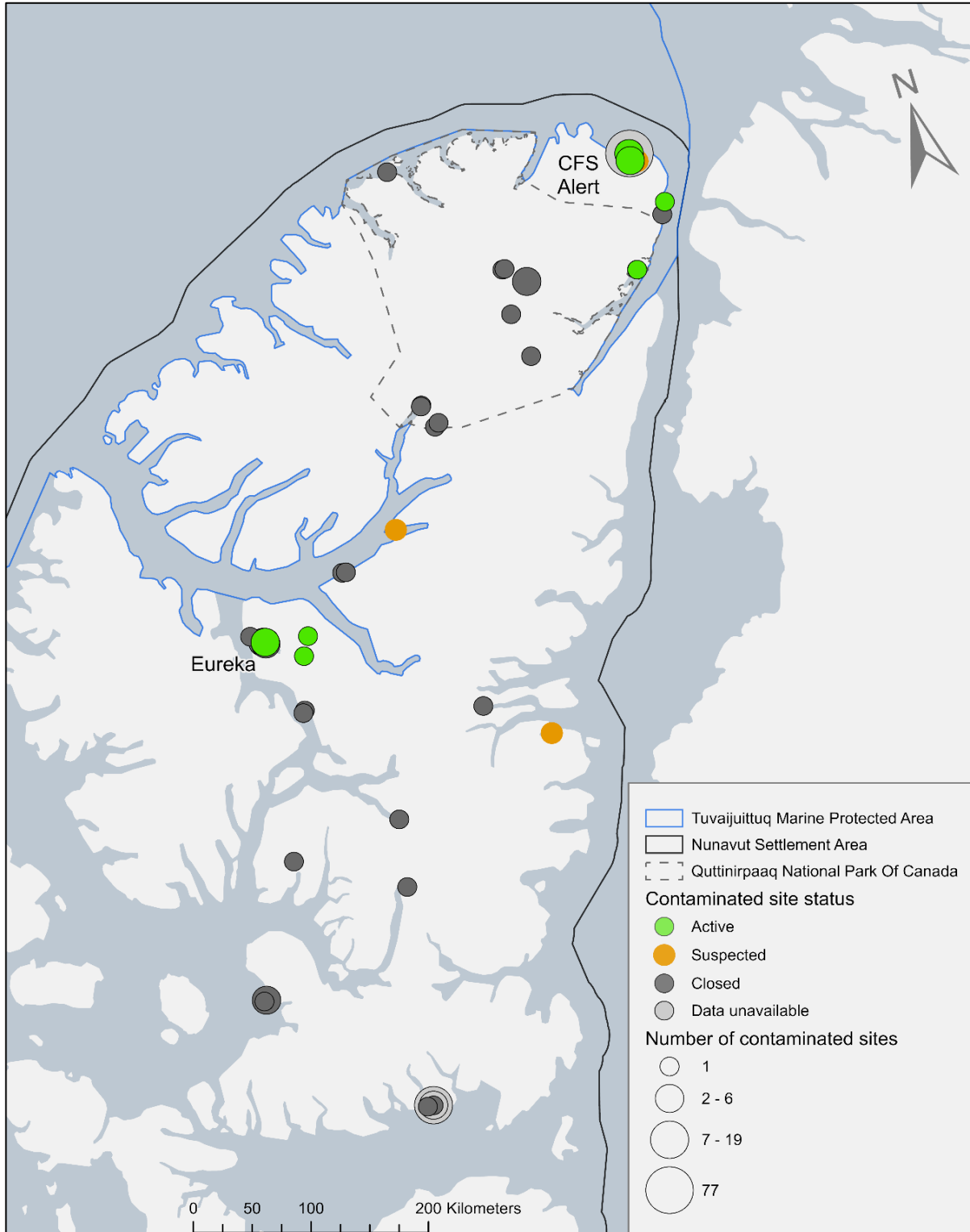
Fort Conger is a historical site situated on the shore of Discovery Harbour on Lady Franklin Bay, (N 81° 45.13', W 64° 49.56'). The site was used as a base by early Arctic expeditions and a scientific research camp. The site was also visited by early twentieth-century expeditions and later by government and military personnel, researchers, Inughuit hunters and tourists. A human health and ecological risk assessment conducted for the area identified risks from contamination at the site and a Risk Management and Remediation Plan has been developed. While some remediation has been completed, additional work is not an option at this time due to the remoteness of the site and the risks to cultural artifacts. Therefore, a long-term monitoring plan was developed so that, if the site becomes more accessible and remediation is possible, the proposed risk management and remediation strategy could be reviewed and updated. For more information on these sites, please contact Jane Chisholm at [jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca).

Additional information has been gathered on other sites on Ellesmere Island from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI). The available data are summarized together in Figure 4, Table 2. The GNWT Spills Database is a collection of reported petroleum and other hazardous material spills in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The FCSI includes information on all known and suspected contaminated sites under the management of federal departments, agencies and consolidated Crown corporations.

The majority of contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island have been closed following historical reviews, testing, clean-ups or long-term monitoring activities. Available information from these two databases indicates that there are ten active sites (five in or near CFS Alert, four in or near Eureka, and one in Fort Conger) and three suspected sites (one at the Alexandra Fiord RCMP Detachment Site, one at D'Iberville Fjord, and one at Alert). Site status and actions data are unavailable from the GNWT Spills Database.

Site numbers that start with “spill-“ are from the GNWT Spills Database, and all other sites are from the FCSI. The site status refers to what is currently happening with the site. An “active” site is a confirmed contaminated site where remediation action is or may be required; a “closed” site is a site that requires no further action; and a “suspected” site requires further assessment work to confirm whether the site is considered a contaminated site. Actions tell us what has been done to the site, for example remediation efforts or testing.

The GNWT Spills database can be found at <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/spills>, and the FCSI data can be found at <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/home-accueil-eng.aspx> and <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/numbers-numeros-eng.aspx?qid=1680451>. Information on the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/federal-contaminated-sites/action-plan.html>.



**Figure 4. Map showing closed, active and suspected contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island, NU. Source data: Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI), accessed May 2023**

**Table 2. List of active and suspected contaminated sites located on Ellesmere Island, including information on reporting organization (Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [CIRNAC]; Fisheries and Oceans Canada [DFO]; National Defence [DND]; Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC]; Parks Canada Agency [PCA]; Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP]), contaminants (petroleum hydrocarbons [PHCs]; benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene [BTEXs]; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs), quantity, and actions.**

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
286	Lincoln Bay	Active	Data unavailable	82.0833	-62.0000	CIRNAC	PHCs	12	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
2747	Eureka High Arctic Weather Station	Active	Data unavailable	79.9908	-85.8586	ECCC	PHCs, BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	15750	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
8328	Fort Conger Historic Site	Active	Data unavailable	81.7522	-64.8261	PCA	PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1265	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24258	Romulus - Panarctic C-42 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.8526	-84.3764	CIRNAC	BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3500	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24259	Gemini - Panarctic E-10 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.9902	-84.0690	CIRNAC	PHCs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1500	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
27530	Neil Trivet Gaw Lab (Bapmon - Alert)	Active	Data unavailable	82.4535	-62.5135	ECCC	PHCs	0	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
20247006	Alert Main Station	Active	Data unavailable	82.4981	-62.3367	DND	PHCs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	14500	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
20247025	Alert Tx Site	Active	Data unavailable	82.4528	-62.5020	DND	PHCs	600	Detailed testing completed. Remedial action plan under development.
20247029	Alert Airfield	Active	Data unavailable	82.4998	-62.3611	DND	PHCs, BTEXs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
70069014	Eureka - North Airstrip Apron	Active	Data unavailable	79.9977	-85.8406	DND	PHCs, BTEXs and PAHs	1755	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
1091	Alexandra Fiord Rcmp Detachment Site	Suspected	Data unavailable	78.8798	-75.7546	RCMP	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.
16525	D'Iberville Fjord (Unassessed)	Suspected	Data unavailable	80.6069	-79.4792	DFO	Data unavailable	0	Historical review completed. Initial testing underway.
25114	Alert - Unauthorized Firing Range	Suspected	Data unavailable	82.4246	-62.1835	DND	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.

\*Closed sites were not included in this table as they have either been cleaned up and/or require no further action. Sites for which no data are available with respect to status were also not included.



## Appendix 2. Tuvaijuittuq Ministerial Order Regulations

\***NOTE:** The regulations can also be found at this website: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-282/page-1.html>

### SOR/2019-282

#### OCEANS ACT

#### Registration 2019-07-30

#### Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area

Whereas this Order designates the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area in a manner that is not inconsistent with a land claims agreement that has been given effect and has been ratified or approved by an Act of Parliament;

Therefore, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, pursuant to 35.1(2)<sup>a</sup> of the *Oceans Act*<sup>b</sup>, makes the annexed *Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area*.

- <sup>a</sup>S.C. 2019, c. 8, s. 5
- <sup>b</sup>S.C. 1996, c. 31

Ottawa, July 29, 2019

Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

#### Definition of *Marine Protected Area*

1 In this Order, ***Marine Protected Area*** means the area of the sea that is designated by section 2.

#### Marine Protected Area

2 (1) The area of the sea in the Arctic Ocean consisting of the waters off northern Ellesmere Island, as described in plan number FB42596, certified on July 16, 2019 and depicted in plan number CLSR 108395, which plans are deposited in the Canada Lands Surveys Records, is designated as the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

#### Seabed, subsoil and water column

(2) The Marine Protected Area consists of the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice, each of which is below the low-water line.

#### Ongoing activities

3 For the purposes of subsection 35.1(2) of the *Oceans Act*, the following classes of activities are ongoing activities in the Marine Protected Area:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence;
- and



(b) marine scientific research activities.

### Prohibitions

**4 (1)** It is prohibited in the Marine Protected Area to carry out any activity — other than those set out in section 3 — that disturbs, damages, destroys or removes from the Marine Protected Area any unique geological or archeological features or any living marine organism or any part of its habitat, or is likely to do so.

### Exemption

**(2)** Despite subsection (1), the following activities may be carried out in the Marine Protected Area:

(a) marine navigation by a foreign national, a foreign ship or a foreign state, or an entity incorporated or formed by or under the laws of a country other than Canada; and

(b) the laying, maintenance and repair of cables and pipelines by a foreign state.

### Non-application – Nunavut Agreement

**5** This Order does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of the Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as approved, given effect and declared valid by the [Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act](#).

### Coming into force

**6** This Order comes into force on the day on which it is registered.

# What We Heard: Community Consultations on a New Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq

April 3-18, 2023



Grise Fiord – April 18, 2023



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## Acknowledgements

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank the communities of Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord for their time and hospitality during our community visits. We would especially like to thank the Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTAs), Hamlet Councils, and Mayoral offices for their participation and knowledge-sharing. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for leading the coordination of these meetings.

## Our Team

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group has members from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and the Government of Nunavut (GN). Our participants included representatives from each organization involved in the Working Group.



*Tuvaijuittuq Working Group members attending consultations in Clyde River, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet (left photo) and in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord (right photo). Left Photo, left to right: Syzula Ikkidluak (QIA), Delaney Ewing (DFO), Madelaine Kellett (DFO), Bernie MacIsaac (GN), and Justin Hack (GN). Right Photo, left to right: Sarah Kennedy (DFO), Bethany Schroeder (DFO), Iselena Natsiapik (QIA), Daniel Haney (GN), and Bernie MacIsaac (GN).*



## Executive Summary

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, with members from QIA, DFO, PCA, and GN, conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 - 18, 2023. Grise Fiord consultations were held on April 18, 2023 and a follow-up meeting with the Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council was held virtually on July 5, 2023.

The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a request by QIA to establish a new Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area (MPA) to explore an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) for Tuvaijuittuq. The Working Group also shared information on our proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term MPA, and sought community feedback and support on the proposal. The purpose of this report is to summarize the feedback provided by community members who attended the meetings in Grise Fiord, to provide transparency in the process, to provide a record of the discussions and concerns shared by the community, and to provide additional information to questions raised during consultations. To ensure we have accurately captured what we heard, this report has been circulated to the Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council for review. Individual reports were developed for each community and after HTAs and hamlet councils have had an opportunity to comment, these reports will be shared with all five communities.

While the Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council were unable to form quorum during the meeting, the Working Group met virtually with the HTA and Hamlet Council on July 5, 2023 to present the proposal and again and seek feedback. Both the Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council gave the Working Group permission to seek letters of support for protecting Tuvaijuittuq under a new Ministerial Order MPA. Several community members present at the public open house meeting expressed support for the proposal, and no concerns or objections were expressed. The area is historically important to Inuit as a traditional travel route to and from Greenland. Inuit hunting grounds extend into parts of Tuvaijuittuq. There is interest from the community in understanding which long-term protection tools will be considered as part of the discussions around Indigenous Conserved and Protected Areas and in opportunities for Inuit that may become available from this work. Grise Fiord has noticed an increase in activities in the Arctic, and there is concern that potentially harmful activities will not be properly regulated. Care is needed when considering economic development in Tuvaijuittuq to avoid activities that may harm the sea ice and surrounding habitats. It is important that Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit forms the basis of knowledge for Tuvaijuittuq and that Inuit are involved in decision-making for the area. Given the changing nature of Tuvaijuittuq and surrounding areas, we may need to consider changing the name of the MPA.

### What We Heard From Communities Overall

A common theme heard from communities was a desire to learn more about the MPA, including the animals and habitats that occur there, potential for future economic opportunities, and the types of research done in the area. There is interest from all five communities to protect Tuvaijuittuq in both the short-term and long-term, but also in balancing protection with economic opportunities for future generations. Interest in protecting the area is based on Tuvaijuittuq's ecological importance, its significance to Inuit, and interest in the area's resources by other countries.



## Introduction and Approach

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 and April 18, 2023. Grise Fiord consultations were held on April 18, 2023. The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a proposed new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq, to share information on the proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term protection measure, and to seek community feedback and support on this proposal. In each community, two gatherings were held; an initial meeting with the HTA, hamlet council, Mayor, Nauttisuqtiit and other relevant community groups, and an evening community open house which was open to the public.

At both meetings, information was shared on the significance of Tuvaijuittuq, its boundaries, reasons why the area is being considered for protection, the steps involved in establishing a new Ministerial Order MPA and proposed regulations for this short-term protection measure. The presentation materials and relevant assessments, including a summary of Natural Resources Canada's resource and economic assessment for the area<sup>1</sup> and an ecological and biological overview, were made available to community members in both English and Inuktitut. Two-page summaries of what we heard during November consultations were also provided. Simultaneous interpretation was also provided at each meeting.

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group committed to circulating a "What We Heard" report to each community for their review and approval summarizing their feedback during these consultations. If community members or organizations feel that their feedback was misinterpreted or misrepresented, the Working Group will revise the report as requested and re-circulate to the community. Please contact Chandra Chambers ([chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) if you have any questions or concerns. After communities have had a chance to review and approve their What We Heard reports, the Working Group will provide copies of all reports to each community.

DFO committed to following up with communities on outstanding questions that were asked during community meetings. Answers to these questions were circulated to each community HTA, hamlet council and Mayor in an email on June 28, 2023, and this information is included in Appendix 1 of this report. A copy of the MPA regulations that are being proposed for the new Ministerial Order MPA are also included in Appendix 2 of this report.

The HTAs and/or hamlet councils in some communities could not form quorum during the April meetings. The Working Group followed up with these HTAs and hamlet councils virtually and received permission from each to seek a formal letter of support for the new regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> The full Natural Resources Canada resource assessment was also made available and can be accessed at: [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf)



## Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) and Hamlet Council Meeting

The Working Group met with the Iviq HTA and the Grise Fiord Hamlet Council on April 18, 2023 at 2:00 pm at the Community Hall. Other community groups were invited to attend. Three people were present for this meeting.

The Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council were not able to form quorum, but the members present indicated they are supportive of the proposal and will bring the information back to the boards. The representatives gave permission to the Working Group to seek formal approval and asked that an additional virtual meeting be scheduled to ensure comfort with the proposal by the remaining members. The Working Group met virtually with the Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council on July 5, 2023. The Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council were comfortable with the Working Group seeking letters of support for the proposed new Ministerial Order MPA.

### ***What we heard:***

#### *Importance to Inuit*

- Grise Fiord would like to know more about how Tuvaijuittuq will be managed in the long term and what opportunities would be available for community members to be involved in this work.

#### *Economic Opportunities and Activities*

- Grise Fiord expressed interest in learning more about the program and its involvement with Tuvaijuittuq, as well as any additional opportunities available to Grise Fiord.

#### *Response:*

- Information regarding the Polar Continental Shelf Program and the projects they have supported in this area is provided in Appendix 1 of this report. For additional information, feel free to contact Michael Meunier, Manager of the Program Coordination and Outreach unit ([michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)).
- One community member expressed that it is good to hear about the different projects happening in the area. There is a lot of funding and interest for projects in the Arctic, and opportunities to collaborate with other partners and countries, such as Greenland is seen as positive.

#### *Concerns*

- There is an increase in activities occurring in the Arctic. There is concern that as activities continue to increase, they will not be regulated or controlled. For example, filmmakers were taking videos of people dirt biking on an iceberg. There are also increased vessel activities occurring in other protected areas, such as sailboats in Tallurutiup Imanga.

## Community Open House

The Working Group hosted an Open House meeting for the general public on April 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The meeting took place in the Community Hall, where approximately 14 adults were in attendance. Children and youth were also welcomed. Several community members present at the meeting expressed support for pursuing a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq. No concerns or objections were expressed.



*Community members meet with the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group members, April 18, 2023.*

### ***What we heard:***

#### *Importance to Inuit*

- Tuvaijuittuq is historically important to Inuit. There are not a lot of community members left who remember the traditional travel routes. People from Greenland also used to go to Tuvaijuittuq to hunt. It was expressed that these memories are very important.
- Part of Inuit hunting grounds are in Tuvaijuittuq, and it is an important area for Grise Fiord community members. Community members feel that these areas should be protected, which will allow them to stay in Grise Fiord and continue to be a voice for their community.
- Community members have few memories or stories of traveling to the Tuvaijuittuq area. There are memories of dog sledding trips occurring in the 1960s. One was a regular patrol trip from April to June with a geologist and RCMP officer, who hired community members to go by dog team. Two other trips were raised as examples of a changing climate and the need for protection. On one trip, community members went out with two dog teams and on the way home lost one dog team and sled. Because the ice had melted on their return home, they were forced to travel along the ice cap. On a trip to Pond Inlet, dog sled teams were returning home in the late spring almost ran out of snow.
- A recommendation was made that the stories shared at this meeting and the previous meeting in November are considered for Tuvaijuittuq.

#### *Response:*

- Please note that QIA is in the process of conducting an Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit study for Tuvaijuittuq and will be following up with communities in the coming year. The Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit shared during this study, as well as information shared during consultations for Tuvaijuittuq, will inform the Working Group's recommendations about long-term protection and approach to management.

## Concerns

- There is concern that with the establishment of a Marine Protected Area, more ships will travel to Tuvaijuittuq and there will be more economic activities which could cause negative impacts. Community members feel that impacts such as ice calving or ice shelf collapse are caused by human activities. Care is needed when considering economic development to avoid exposing the area to increased vessel traffic related to tourism.
- Community members are concerned about climate change and the impacts it may have on wildlife. We heard that communities depend on wildlife for survival. If wildlife is not protected, and if younger generations are not taught about country food, then food will be bought from the stores. There is concern that buying food from stores will lead to diabetes and increased blood pressure.
- Having a funding structure that allows funds to flow to Grise Fiord instead of stations such as Eureka and CFS Alert is viewed as important to the integrity of the Grise Fiord community. There is concern that benefits associated with current IIBAs are not flowing as desired into Grise Fiord.

## Virtual Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) and Hamlet Council Meeting

The Working Group met virtually with the Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council on July 5, 2023 at 2:00 pm. Seven members were in attendance, with one member representing both the HTA and hamlet council. The HTA members present indicated they were comfortable proceeding with the meeting and agreed to communicate the information presented with the remaining HTA members. The Iviq HTA and Grise Fiord Hamlet Council are comfortable with the Working Group seeking a letter of support for the proposed new Ministerial Order MPA.

### ***What we heard:***

#### *Importance to Inuit*

- Grise Fiord would like to continue being consulted, along with the other impacted communities, on Tuvaijuittuq and issues related to long-term protection.

#### *Economic Opportunities and Activities*

- There is interest in learning more about the activities conducted in Tuvaijuittuq.

#### Response:

- Tuvaijuittuq is an area that is largely ice-covered all year round and as a result, activities in this area are minimal. Ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq were determined in 2019 to be national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence and marine scientific research activities. We heard from communities during consultations in 2019 that Inuit had not traveled there recently. Between 2012 and 2019, vessels accessed Tuvaijuittuq only five times; all within nearshore areas in August/September. All but one vessel (a transiting passenger ice-breaker) were Canadian Coast Guard ships. The



passenger vessel briefly accessed Greely Fiord in 2016. Available data indicates that between 2019 and 2023, three vessels accessed nearshore areas in Tuvaijuittuq. All were Canadian Coast Guard ships and all accessed the area in August (one in 2019, two in 2022). No tourist or recreational activities are currently occurring within Tuvaijuittuq. Ward Hunt Island, located outside of Tuvaijuittuq and administered by PCA as part of Quittinirpaaq National Park, has been used in the past as a launch point for expeditions to the North Pole. It is likely that these expeditions involved travelling over sea ice in Tuvaijuittuq; however, the activity is not currently ongoing.

- Additional information regarding ongoing activities, including research within Tuvaijuittuq is provided in Appendix 1.

## Next Steps

The next steps to pursue establishment of a new Ministerial Order MPA will be to seek stakeholder input on the proposal, seek formal community support, complete assessments and other approvals needed under the Nunavut Agreement such as conformity determination by the Nunavut Planning Commission and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approval, and complete DFO's regulatory process. Formal letters of support will be sought from community hamlets and HTAs. Community members are encouraged to communicate their feedback on the proposal to these organizations to inform their decision. DFO will notify communities and stakeholders prior to the proposal being published online for a 30-day public comment period – additional input can be provided at that time as well.

It is important to us that we have summarized your input on this proposal correctly. If you feel that we have missed any input provided during our meetings or captured information incorrectly, please reach out to the email address provided above for correction.

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank all of the community members who attended these meetings - your feedback is vital and appreciated.

Thank you.

## Appendix 1. Follow-up questions and answers from the April 2023 consultations on a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq.

\*Please note, an additional question and answer have been added (Question #8) and Question #15 has been expanded upon since it was sent to the HTA and hamlet.

### 1) What is the purpose of protecting Tuvaijuittuq?

Researchers agree that summer sea ice will remain the longest in Tuvaijuittuq (Figure 1) as it continues to decline in other areas of the Arctic due to climate change. Because of this, the area is expected to become an important refuge for ice-dependent species. The area has a very diverse ecosystem, and contains a number of unique communities of organisms, including communities on the ice, in the ice, and below the ice. Habitat in Tuvaijuittuq is important to marine mammals and sea birds. For all of these reasons, DFO and its partners believe that the area, its habitat, and the wildlife within it, would benefit from protection. The proposed Ministerial Order MPA is a short-term protection tool which will protect the area for up to five years. The purpose of this short-term protection tool is to prohibit new activities in the area that may cause negative impacts while additional information is collected to support a better understanding of the conservation and protection needs of the area before longer-term protection measures are considered.

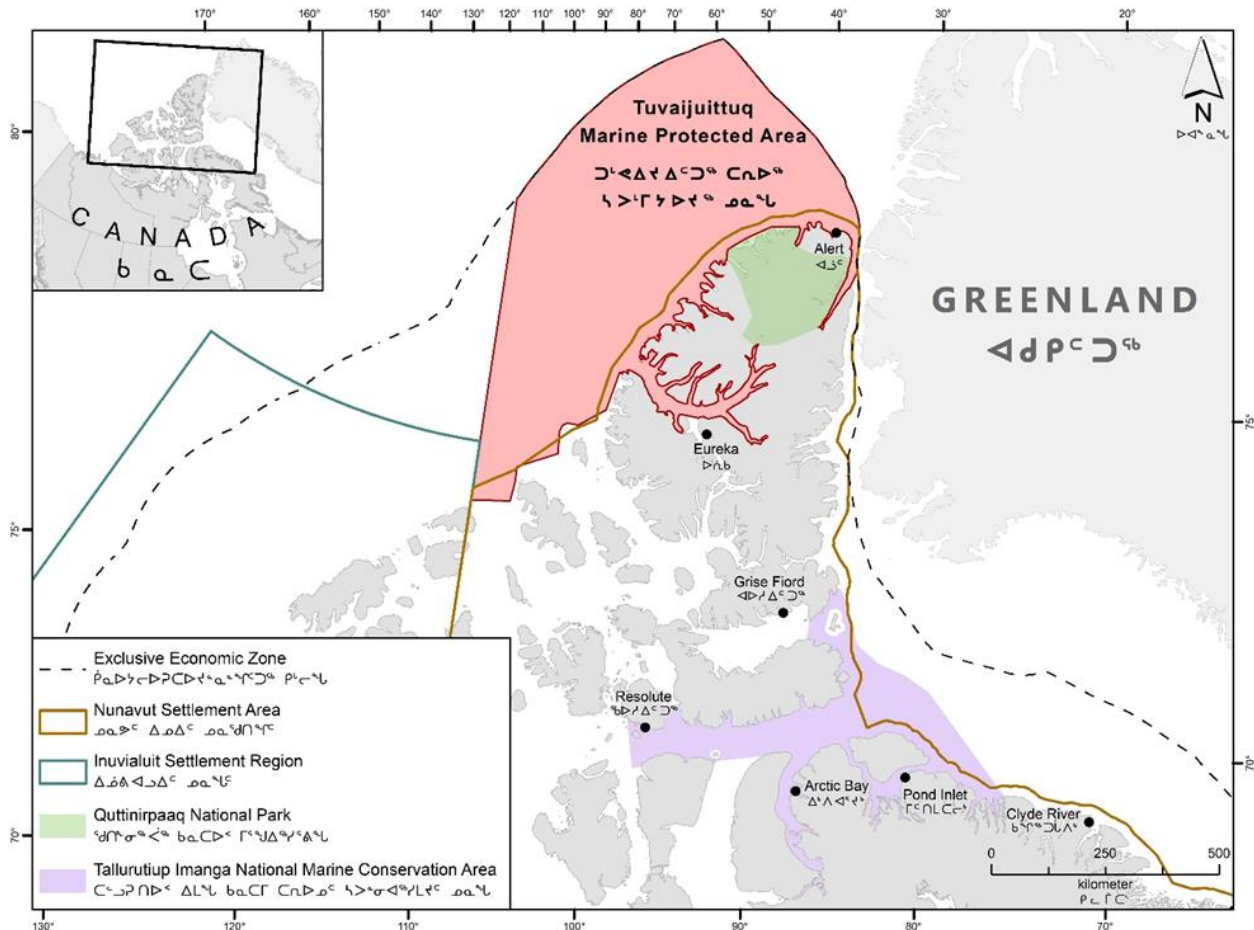


Figure 1. Map of Tuvaijuittuq MPA by Ministerial Order

**2) How was the Tuvaijuittuq boundary determined? Why are the rest of the Queen Elizabeth Islands not included in the boundary?**

The Tuvaijuittuq MPA includes the marine waters off northern Ellesmere Island, starting from the low water mark and extending to the outer boundary of Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone. It also includes the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice. The initial boundaries of Tuvaijuittuq were based on the 2011 Canadian Science Advisory Report ([2011/55](#)), which identified key multi-year ice habitat. The boundary was later extended to the nearshore areas off Ellesmere Island within the Nunavut Settlement Area as more of the area was understood. The marine area around the Queen Elizabeth Islands south of Ellesmere Island supports different communities of organisms than those within Tuvaijuittuq. This area was not considered for inclusion in Tuvaijuittuq as it has different conservation needs. Partners agreed to settle on the boundary as it is now and consider the remaining islands at a later time as possible new protected areas. Some of the Queen Elizabeth Islands overlap with the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, which is not included in the Tuvaijuittuq boundary.

**3) What does “freezing the footprint of ongoing activities” mean?**

Freezing the footprint of ongoing activities means allowing activities that are already lawfully occurring in the area to continue and preventing any new activities that may damage, disturb, destroy or remove important habitats, features and organisms. Ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq were identified using a number of different methods, including community consultation (in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord in 2019 and in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Clyde River in 2022), consultation with QIA, and consultation with DFO Science and other federal departments and agencies including the Department of National Defence, Parks Canada Agency, and Canadian Coast Guard. DFO gathered further information about ongoing activities by seeking input on the proposed regulations from industry and other stakeholders (e.g., non-governmental organizations), and from studies such as an assessment of vessel traffic using Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals in the area between 2012-2019. This study is currently being updated so DFO has the most up-to-date information.

Based on available information, DFO determined that ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq include:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence; and
- (b) marine scientific research activities.

The regulations also include exemptions and exclusions helping to respect commitments Canada has made both domestically and internationally.

The full regulations are provided as a separate attachment in both English and Inuktitut.

**4) Does freezing the footprint of activities affect wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit in this area?**

The Ministerial Order MPA does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of Nunavut Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Nunavut Agreement. This means that the Ministerial Order regulations do not affect the wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA).

There appear to be no provisions within the Nunavut Agreement that extend Inuit harvesting rights beyond the NSA portion of Tuvaijuittuq. As a result, the regulations would apply to everyone in the area of Tuvaijuittuq that falls outside of the NSA. However, we would be interested in further discussing the matter if there are provisions in the Nunavut Agreement you believe have been overlooked.

**5) Why are there exemptions for foreign states in the Ministerial Order MPA regulations?**

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which is an international agreement, Canada must allow certain activities such as navigation (vessels transiting through) and laying of cables and pipelines, from foreign states in certain maritime zones. Because of this, those foreign activities are exempted from the application of the Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq. The exclusive economic zone, an area of the sea beyond the territorial sea extending out to 200 nautical miles from the coastline (Figure 2), is not Canadian territory, and in that area Canada only has jurisdiction over economic resources such as fishing, oil and gas, and mineral exploitation.

Under Canadian law, Canada has the authority to prohibit domestic vessel navigation and other activities in this area. Since the purpose of the short-term Ministerial Order MPA is to conserve and protect the vulnerable habitats and organisms in Tuvaijuittuq while we collect additional information to inform decisions about long-term protection, we aim to limit any activity, including domestic activities, that may negatively impact the area. Although foreign navigation is allowed in the MPA, foreign countries will typically comply with voluntary measures, if guidance is provided to avoid certain areas within the MPA.

**6) Can the old sea ice (multi-year ice) be broken by ice-breakers?**

While some ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice, there are different classes of ice-breakers built for different purposes and ice thicknesses. Not all ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice. To our knowledge, the few vessels that have travelled to Tuvaijuittuq for activities such as national defence, safety, marine research, and foreign vessel travel, have stayed within the nearshore areas during the open water season and did not actively conduct ice-breaking activities.

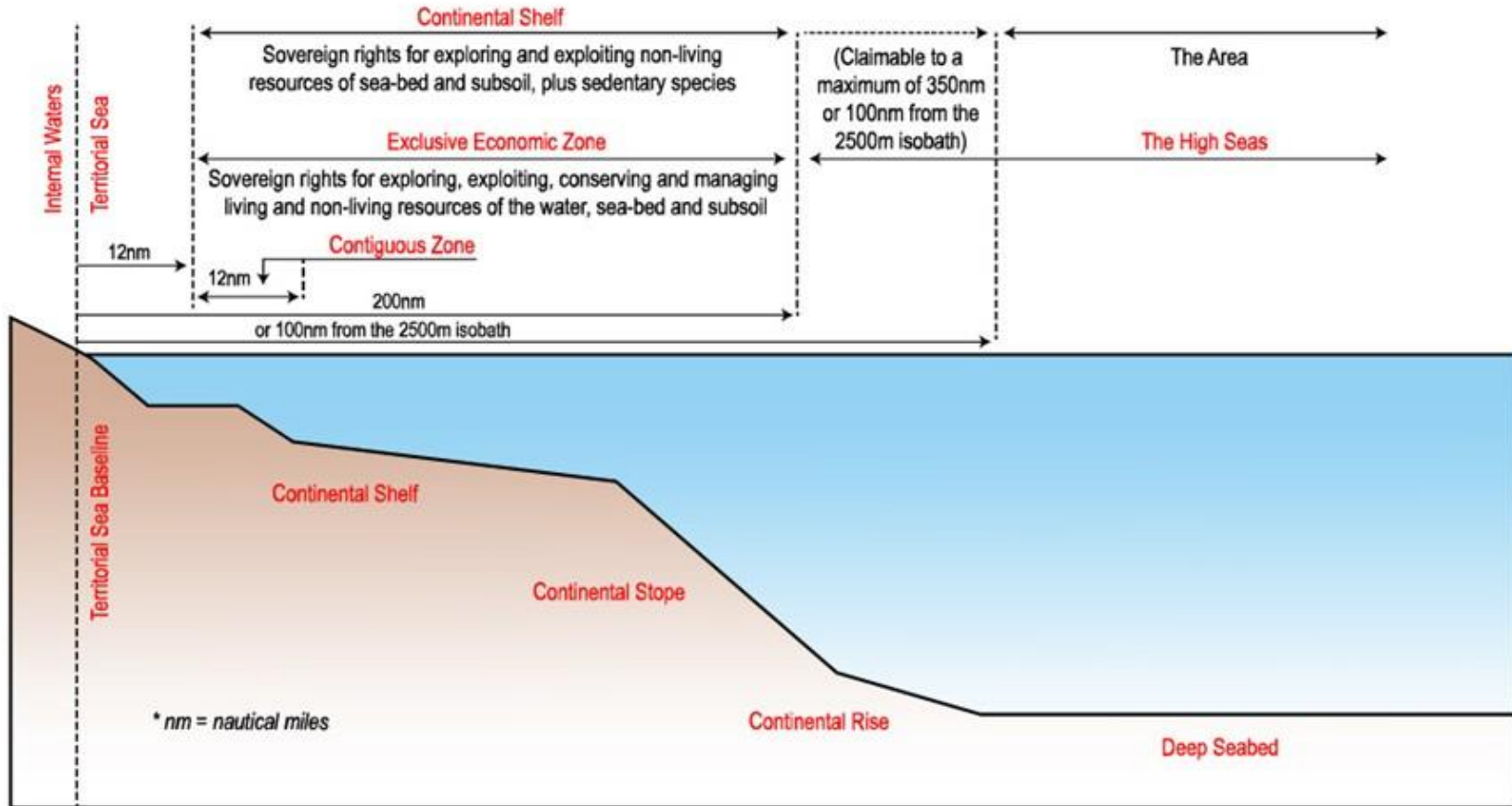


Figure 2. Canada's Maritime Zones

## 7) How can Inuit visit Tuvaijuittuq?

Tuvaijuittuq is an area of the sea that is a mainly ice-covered all year round and is very remote. There is one military research station in Alert called Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Alert located outside of Tuvaijuittuq on northern Ellesmere Island and a small research base in Eureka on Fosheim Peninsula. There are no communities nearby – the closest community is Grise Fiord, which is approximately 327 km as the crow flies from the MPA's southern-most boundary. Activity in Tuvaijuittuq is limited to national defence activities and marine scientific research, mainly due to the extensive ice cover in this marine area. In 2019, the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord indicated that the area is difficult to reach by skidoo; however, some community members in Grise Fiord had travelled, or knew of people that had travelled, as far as Eureka (which is south of the proposed area) by dogsled in the past.

There are however, opportunities for involvement in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, which are based out of CFS Alert. For more information on participating in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, please contact Chandra Chambers ([Chandra.Chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)).

## 8) Fisheries quotas to Inuit

It is important to note that Tuvaijuittuq is largely ice-covered all year round and is not accessible to fishing vessels. As a result, no large-scale commercial fishing activities are possible in the area under current conditions. It is unknown if ice conditions would support small-scale on ice fisheries, and no data are available to understand whether a fishery (small or large-scale) would be possible.

When we visited communities in April 2023, we received a question relating to fisheries quotas in general and how these are allocated to Inuit.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada continues to respect and implement the obligations under Nunavut Agreement including provisions related to offshore commercial fisheries access that give special consideration to Nunavut. Through implementation of the Nunavut Agreement over the years, the share of adjacent resources to Qikiqtani Inuit has significantly increased, such that Qikiqtani Inuit fishers now have 80% of Turbot and 42% of shrimp resources including 100% of all fisheries resources within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

## 9) What kind of Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit (IQ) is used? What is studied?

- Oral History passed down over centuries of Inuit Knowledge.
- Inuit knowledge living and adapting, part of present day life. It is in how Inuit live and see the world today.
- QIA would like to gather IQ for Tuvaijuittuq.

## 10) Can more information be provided about the infrastructure that QIA refers to? Would QIA make buildings or houses for Tuvaijuittuq purposes?

- Multi-use facilities to address Inuit Stewardship and community needs (office space, equipment storage, garage, country food processing, community outreach, elder gatherings, etc.).

- Additional infrastructure that supports Inuit stewardship activities and the Nauttigsuqtiit program, such as housing and supplementing the facilities in the Tallurutiup Imanga communities as appropriate.
- Infrastructure requirements for Inuit stewardship that arise due to changing socio-economic or environmental conditions.

**11) When will the regional governance model will be in effect?**

At this time, this is still at the negotiation table. However, QIA is seeking this Regional Governance model for future IIBAs as well as existing IIBAs that will be renegotiated over time.

**12) Status update on the harbour planned for Resolute Bay.**

Transport Canada (TC), the Government of Nunavut (GN), and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) have been working together towards the development of community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay and have developed an Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) that was adopted in October 2022.

The IIP was completed based on community engagements and other work to date and informed the Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development.

The Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development was signed by TC and the GN on January 16, 2023 and will provide up to \$76,281,900 to the GN for the design and construction of the two community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. The current funding for community harbours will cover the cost of constructing at least one breakwater, a parking area, dredging, a boat launch, and floating docks.

TC has provided a copy of the agreement to the QIA representative, to be kept in confidence.

We understand from the GN that:

- A Project Manager with GN's Department of Community and Government Services has been assigned to the projects.
- The exact procurement approach for construction has not been finalized, but it is likely to follow the GN's standard procurement practices.
- The first step is expected to be a Request for Proposal for engineering and design services.

For more information, please contact Matthew Bowler ([MBowler@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:MBowler@GOV.NU.CA)) or Miguel Parent ([miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca](mailto:miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca)).

**13) What type of research is occurring in Tuvaijuittuq?**

Research in Tuvaijuittuq is led by DFO through the Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) - Last Ice and this team includes researchers from universities and organizations all over the world. The program brings together a number of different specialists to study different features in Tuvaijuittuq. For example, experts in sea ice, water, fish, marine mammals, and those who study organisms such as algae and krill that form the basis of the High Arctic



food web. Some of this work is done during a late winter/early spring seasonal field camp, where researchers work together as a team to collect samples and do their research. Others, like marine mammal surveys, are conducted around the same time but not as part of the field camp, and in the fall. The program began in 2018 and experienced some delays due to COVID-19 but is continuing. A new ship-based program called ArcticCore will begin this year and will include Archer Fiord and adjacent areas around Tuvaijuittuq (as sea-ice permits). This new program will study physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production, zooplankton, benthos) oceanography and will also include marine mammal surveys and sea ice studies. If long-term protection is put into place in the future, then more formal management and monitoring plans would be developed for Tuvaijuittuq, in collaboration with partners and communities.

Research partners in MAP-Last Ice:

DFO  
Department of National Defence  
Defence Research and Development Canada  
Université Laval  
University of Essex  
Université du Québec à Rimouski  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography  
Polar Continental Shelf Program  
Alfred Wegener Institute  
University of Bristol  
Resolute HTA Board of Directors

Type of research conducted as part of MAP-Last Ice:

- Sea ice distribution, physical properties (thickness, composition), productivity (algal communities, biomass)
- Evolution of the ice and under-ice habitat over time
- Continuous atmospheric, oceanographic and sea ice observations
- Zooplankton, fish and benthic organisms
- Marine mammal and habitat surveys
- Physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production) oceanography

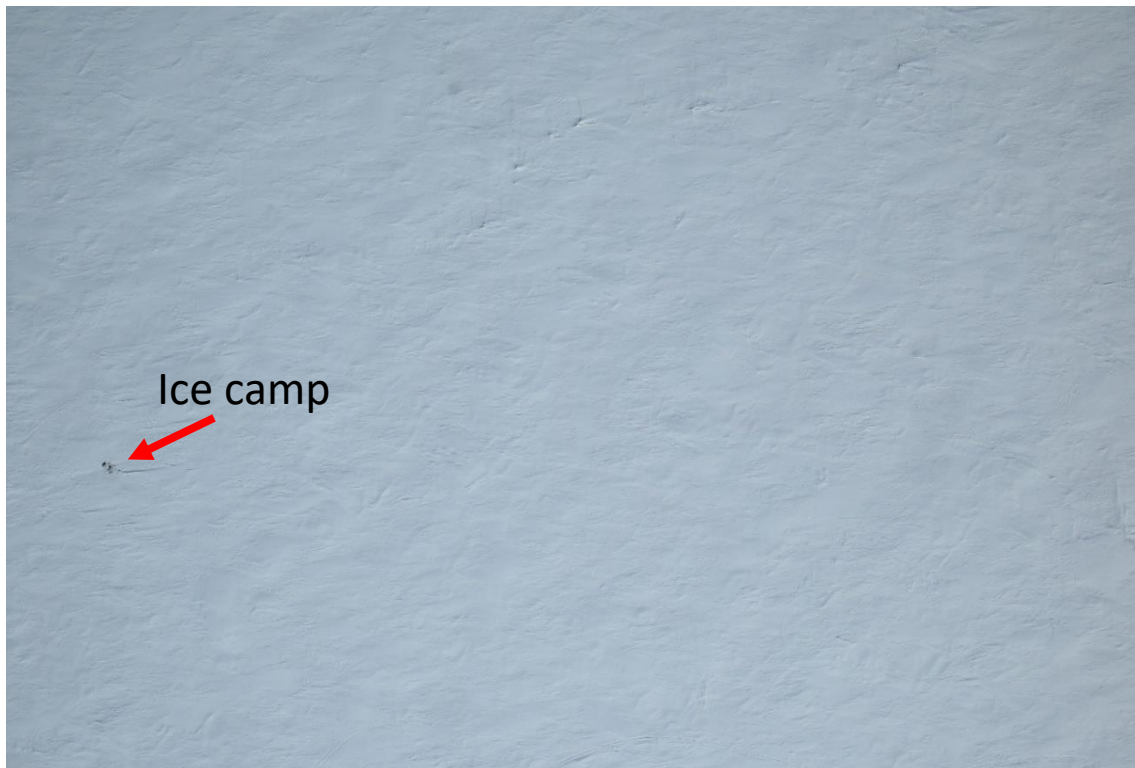
Collection of ice cores during the MAP-Last Ice and ArcticCORE programs:

We are very conscious of potential disturbances to the environment and during our sampling we take action to minimize these disturbances. When we collect ice cores, we sample only a part of the core and we replace the rest of the core to its original hole. Once replaced in its original hole, the core refreezes quickly, typically within a few hours.

The ice cores that we collect are small, at 9 cm diameter. This means that the surface area of one core is 5 times smaller than that of a hole cut out with an 8-inch auger, and about 10-12 times smaller than that of a seal breathing hole. While the seals keep their holes open,

we “close” our holes after sampling (with the original ice core from which we cut off one or a few sections). If we add the area of all the cores that we collect during one sampling season, it would typically add up to much less than 1 square meter, at most 2 m<sup>2</sup>.

In the photo below, we can see our ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. In another photo taken a few days after we took out camp, it was not possible to identify the site where the ice camp had been set up.



**Figure 3. Aerial view showing the ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. A few days after taking out the camp, the site of the ice camp was not visible anymore.**

#### **14) Interest in learning more about Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program**

##### **Polar Continental Shelf Program:**

Natural Resources Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP) supports Arctic science by providing logistics planning, coordination and advice to Canadian government, non-government, university and international researchers. The PCSP supports projects in the Arctic from Churchill, Manitoba, to the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, and from the Yukon/Alaska border to as far as Greenland, on occasion.

Support can include air transportation, as well as fuel, field equipment for loan, field communications and safety, logistics advice for field studies, the use of the PCSP facility in Resolute, Nunavut, and shipping and receiving coordination and advice. The PCSP facility in Resolute is typically open from late January to September each year and is comprised of

an accommodations area that can house up to 237 guests, lounge areas, a fitness room, office spaces, kitchen and dining facilities, an operations centre and a laboratory.

The PCSP provides employment, student training and business opportunities for northern residents. The PCSP also helps with science outreach through publishing an annual science report and connecting researchers with northern community organizations.

The table below includes PCSP projects that occurred close to Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq in recent years. Please feel free to reach out to the project leads if you have an interest in specific projects.

As a contact at the Polar Continental Shelf Program, please feel free to reach out to **Michael Meunier**, Manager of the Program Coordination and Outreach unit ([michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)) or the PCSP Ottawa mailbox ([pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)). Michael and his group would be pleased to connect with you and discuss your priorities.

Here are some additional resources that may be of interest:

- A list of all 2019 and 2020 projects supported by PCSP can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/current-projects/10009>.
- More information on the PCSP can be found at: [https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure\\_eng.pdf](https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure_eng.pdf)
- Information on project support applications can be found here: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/research-support-arctic-logistics-and-field-equipment-for-across-canada/10003>.
- Annual Science Reports can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/pcsp-publications/10011>.

**Table 1. List of PCSP-supported projects in the Arctic Archipelago, many near Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq MPA in recent years**

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Hsin Chiang	McGill University	McGill Arctic Research Station, Expedition Fjord	A new window on the universe: radio astronomy from northern Canada
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Grise Fiord	Aerial survey of High Arctic walrus and narwhal stocks
Michael Maurice	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Svarvevaeg, Eureka, Isachsen, Grise Fiord, Mould Bay, Rea Point, Cape Providence, Resolute Bay, Steffanson Island, Cape Liverpool, Fort Ross, Gateshead	Annual Maintenance of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Automatic Weather Station array - Arctic Archipeligo

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Christine Michel	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka	Arctic CORE (Conservation, Observation, Research, and Engagement)
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Assistance Bay	Assessment of Bioremediation Potential of Marine Fuels on NWP Arctic Beaches
Joseph Monteith	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	Alert, Eureka	Baffin/High Arctic Inspections 2022
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Characterizing viral impact in the Last Ice Area
Christopher Omelon	Queen's University	Expedition Fiord, Resolute Bay	Climate Change Research at the McGill Arctic Research Station
David Didier	Université du Québec à Rimouski	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Coastal dynamics and hazards in Grise Fiord and Jones Sound
Mark Skidmore	Montana State University	Truelove Lowlands, Croker Bay, Resolute, Gascoyne inlet	Exploration of Saline Cryospheric Habitats with Europa Relevance (ESCHER): An approach using airborne and submarine semiautonomous systems
Erin MacNeil	Natural Resources Canada	Gascoyne Inlet	Defence of North America
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Devon Island lakes site	Developing new technologies to access and investigate the hypersaline, subzero Devon Island Subglacial Lake System, a unique Mars and icy moon analogue
Denis Lacelle	University of Ottawa	Eureka	Effect of degrading ice wedge polygon landscapes on local topography, hydrology, and water quality.
Susan Kutz	University of Calgary	East wind lake, Eureka, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Disease in High Arctic Ungulates - Terrestrial Investigations
Amelie Roberto-Charron	Government of Nunavut	Eureka Weather Station, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Diseases in High Arctic Ungulates – Aerial assessment

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Clément Chevallier	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Cape Verra, Cape Verra, Nirjutiqarvik, Cape Liddon, Houbhouse Inlet, Prince Leopold Island, Baillarge Bay	Fulmar colony surveys in Lancaster Sound
Myriam Lemelin	Université de Sherbrooke	T-MARS camp, McGill Arctic Research Station, Axel Heiberg Island	Geological study and mapping of hydrothermal deposits and gossans, Expedition Fiord, Axel Heiberg Island, Nunavut, as analogues for Mars
Christine Dow	University of Waterloo	Devon Ice Cap camp	Geophysical imaging of the Devon sub-glacial lakes
Luke Copland	University of Ottawa	Manson Icefield, Sydkap base camp, Sydkap ice marginal lake complex, Grise Fiord	Glacier monitoring on southern Ellesmere Island
Maya Bhatia	University of Alberta	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Glacier-ocean interactions in the Canadian high Arctic
Daniel Fortier	University of Montreal	Ward Hunt Island	Ground ice of eastern Canadian High Arctic polar desert
Cortney Wheeler	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Elwin Bay, Creswell Bay	High Arctic Beluga Whale Stock Structure
Greg Henry	University of British Columbia	Sverdrup Pass, Knud Peninsula, PCSP Eureka, Bache Peninsula, Princess Marie Bay, Alexandra Fiord, Cape Bounty	High Arctic tundra ecosystem responses to 30 years of experimental and observed climate change
Masaki Uchida	National Institute of Polar Research, Japan	Oobloyah Bay	Identifying and understanding the effect of temporal and spatial changes towards the biodiversity and carbon sequestration processes in the high Arctic
John Moores	York University	Expedition Fjord	Identifying putative microbial drivers of methane flux on Earth and on Mars
Raoul-Marie Couture	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Impact of oxygen pulses on redox-sensitive chemicals and microbiome in Canada's northernmost lake
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Goose Fiord, Brooman Point, Kearney Cove	Improving High Arctic walrus stock assessment using satellite telemetry, genetics, and time-lapse photography
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Lost Hammer, Thompson Glacier, White Glacier,	

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
		Expedition Fjord, Gypsum Hill, Color Peak	Investigations of microbial activity in cryoenvironments in the Canadian High Arctic
Laura Brown	University of Toronto Mississauga	Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Cornwallis Island Lakes	Lake Ice in the Canadian High Arctic
Scott Lamoureux	Queen's University	Cape Bounty, Melville Island, Resolute vicinity	Land and water impacts and response to climate and permafrost changes in the High Arctic
Laura Thomson	Natural Resources Canada	Muller Ice Cap, Expedition Fiord	Mass Balance and Energy fluxes of White Glacier, Axel Heiberg Island, NU
Catherine Girard	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC)	Ward Hunt Island, Resolute Bay vicinity	Microbes on the go: Release of cryospheric microbes to downstream habitats
Derek Mueller	Carleton University	Milne Ice Shelf, Milne Fiord, Purple Valley, Eureka, Resolute	Milne Fiord ice-ocean interactions: Implications for the stability of ice shelves and glaciers in the Polar Regions
Dave Burgess	Natural Resources Canada	Agassiz Ice Cap, Meighen Ice Cap, Grise Fiord, Devon Ice Cap, Melville Ice Cap	National Glaciology Project - Queen Elizabeth Islands, NU & NT
Warwick Vincent	Université Laval	Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island) and Ward Hunt Island	Northern Ellesmere Island in the Global Environment - Sentinel North
Valerie Amarualik	Parks Canada	Young Inlet, Dundee Bight, Dome Camp	Qausuittuq National Park Operations 2022/2023
Adam Ferguson	Parks Canada	Fort Conger, Lake Hazen, Ruggles River, Tanquary Fiord, Resolute Bay	Quttinirpaaq National Park Operations 2022
Gordon Osinski	University of Western Ontario	Haughton River Valley	Reconstructing the post-impact history of the Haughton impact structure, Nunavut
Lynda Gullason	Inuit Heritage Trust Incorporated	Resolute, Morin Point, Devon Island, Pond Inlet	Saving Morin Point: Climate Change Risk Assessment and Archaeological Heritage Recovery
Dermot Antoniades	Université Laval	Stuckberry Valley, Lake Hazen	The functioning and evolution of the ecosystems of Stuckberry Valley, northern Ellesmere Island

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Joshua King	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Development of a new Canadian Arctic Archipelago sea ice product from ICESat-2 (Ice Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2)
Michael Brohart	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Instrument calibration at Eureka weather station as part of the Canadian Brewer Spectrophotometer Network operation
Alison Criscitiello	University of Alberta	Grise Fiord and Resolute, Nunavut	Airborne gravity survey over Devon Ice Cap
Rich DeVall	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Isachsen (Ellef Ringnes Island), Rea Point (Melville Island), Stefansson Island, Fort Ross (Somerset Island), Gateshead Island, Cape Liverpool (Bylot Island), Svartevog (Axel Heiberg Island) and Grise Fiord (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Annual maintenance of ECCC's automatic weather station array – Arctic Archipelago
Grant Gilchrist	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Grise Fiord, Nunavut	Population surveys of endangered ivory gulls on Ellesmere Island and Devon Islands
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Ward Hunt Island and Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Viral ecology of the high Canadian Arctic in water, ice and aerosols
Mark Lamothe	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka and Resolute, Nunavut	Eureka geomagnetic electronic replacement
Nicolas Lecomte	Université de Montreal	Bylot Island, Igloodik Island and Eureka, Nunavut	Arctic IMPACTS: tracking impacts of ecosystem changes in the Arctic
Christine Michel	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Alert, Nunavut	Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) – Last Ice
Wayne Pollard	McGill University	Eureka and Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Nunavut	The vulnerability and resiliency of ice-rich permafrost in cold polar desert environments in response to changing climate
Vincent St. Louis	University of Alberta	Lake Hazen, Quttinirpaaq National Park, Nunavut	The impacts of rapidly receding glaciers on downstream freshwater resources and ecological services



**15) What is being done to clean up past military, research and Government of Canada sites left on Ellesmere Island?**

There were a number of sites in Quttinirpaaq National Park that required remediation. These sites have been remediated, with the exception of Fort Conger, which now has a long-term monitoring strategy in place.

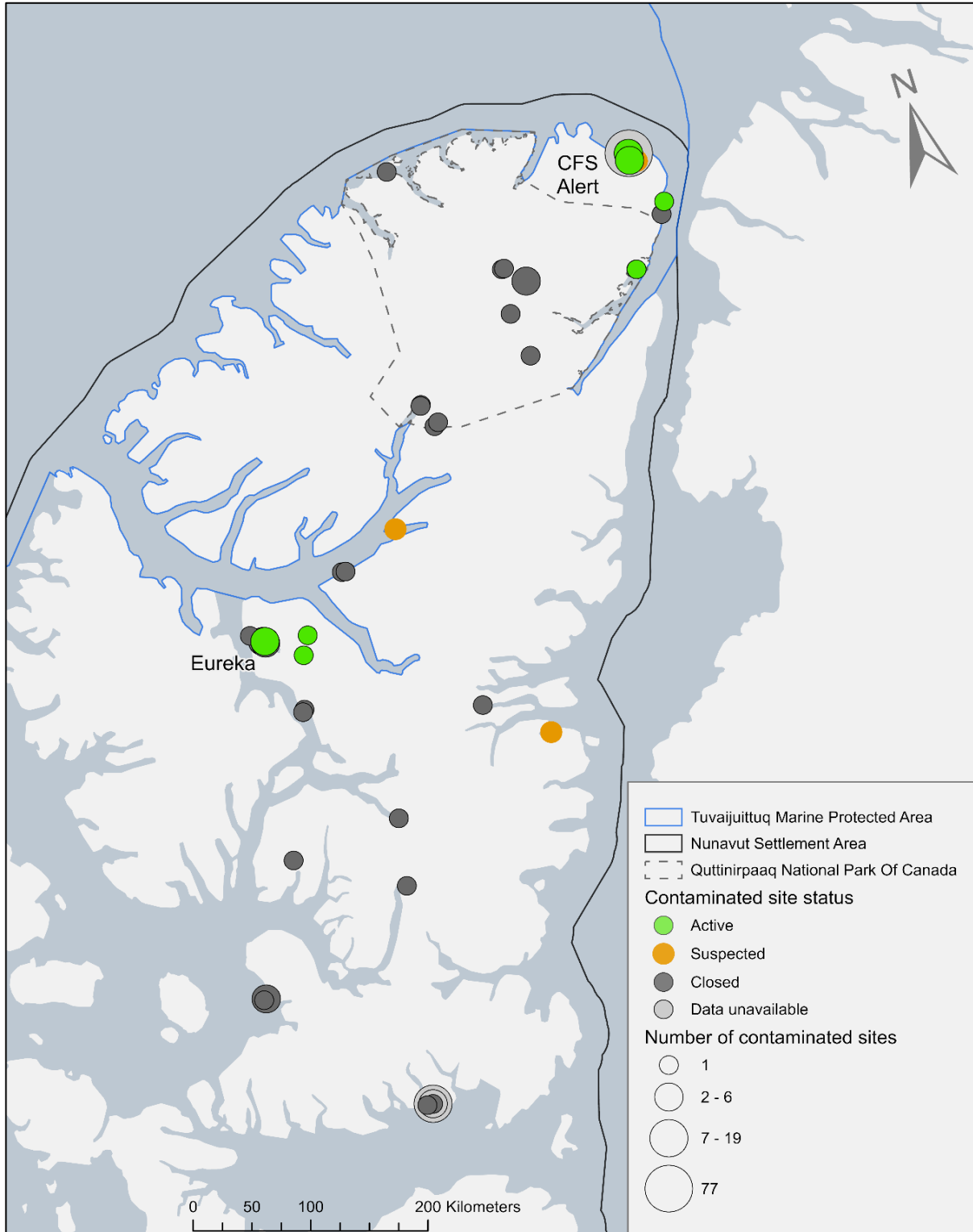
Fort Conger is a historical site situated on the shore of Discovery Harbour on Lady Franklin Bay, (N 81° 45.13', W 64° 49.56'). The site was used as a base by early Arctic expeditions and a scientific research camp. The site was also visited by early twentieth-century expeditions and later by government and military personnel, researchers, Inughuit hunters and tourists. A human health and ecological risk assessment conducted for the area identified risks from contamination at the site and a Risk Management and Remediation Plan has been developed. While some remediation has been completed, additional work is not an option at this time due to the remoteness of the site and the risks to cultural artifacts. Therefore, a long-term monitoring plan was developed so that, if the site becomes more accessible and remediation is possible, the proposed risk management and remediation strategy could be reviewed and updated. For more information on these sites, please contact Jane Chisholm at [jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca).

Additional information has been gathered on other sites on Ellesmere Island from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI). The available data are summarized together in Figure 4, Table 2. The GNWT Spills Database is a collection of reported petroleum and other hazardous material spills in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The FCSI includes information on all known and suspected contaminated sites under the management of federal departments, agencies and consolidated Crown corporations.

The majority of contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island have been closed following historical reviews, testing, clean-ups or long-term monitoring activities. Available information from these two databases indicates that there are ten active sites (five in or near CFS Alert, four in or near Eureka, and one in Fort Conger) and three suspected sites (one at the Alexandra Fiord RCMP Detachment Site, one at D'Iberville Fjord, and one at Alert). Site status and actions data are unavailable from the GNWT Spills Database.

Site numbers that start with “spill-“ are from the GNWT Spills Database, and all other sites are from the FCSI. The site status refers to what is currently happening with the site. An “active” site is a confirmed contaminated site where remediation action is or may be required; a “closed” site is a site that requires no further action; and a “suspected” site requires further assessment work to confirm whether the site is considered a contaminated site. Actions tell us what has been done to the site, for example remediation efforts or testing.

The GNWT Spills database can be found at <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/spills>, and the FCSI data can be found at <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/home-accueil-eng.aspx> and <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/numbers-numeros-eng.aspx?qid=1680451>. Information on the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/federal-contaminated-sites/action-plan.html>.



**Figure 4. Map showing closed, active and suspected contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island, NU.** Source data: Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI), accessed May 2023

**Table 2. List of active and suspected contaminated sites located on Ellesmere Island, including information on reporting organization (Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [CIRNAC]; Fisheries and Oceans Canada [DFO]; National Defence [DND]; Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC]; Parks Canada Agency [PCA]; Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP]), contaminants (petroleum hydrocarbons [PHCs]; benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene [BTEXs]; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs), quantity, and actions.**

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
286	Lincoln Bay	Active	Data unavailable	82.0833	-62.0000	CIRNAC	PHCs	12	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
2747	Eureka High Arctic Weather Station	Active	Data unavailable	79.9908	-85.8586	ECCC	PHCs, BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	15750	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
8328	Fort Conger Historic Site	Active	Data unavailable	81.7522	-64.8261	PCA	PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1265	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24258	Romulus - Panarctic C-42 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.8526	-84.3764	CIRNAC	BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3500	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24259	Gemini - Panarctic E-10 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.9902	-84.0690	CIRNAC	PHCs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1500	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
27530	Neil Trivet Gaw Lab (Bapmon - Alert)	Active	Data unavailable	82.4535	-62.5135	ECCC	PHCs	0	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
20247006	Alert Main Station	Active	Data unavailable	82.4981	-62.3367	DND	PHCs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	14500	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
20247025	Alert Tx Site	Active	Data unavailable	82.4528	-62.5020	DND	PHCs	600	Detailed testing completed. Remedial action plan under development.
20247029	Alert Airfield	Active	Data unavailable	82.4998	-62.3611	DND	PHCs, BTEXs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
70069014	Eureka - North Airstrip Apron	Active	Data unavailable	79.9977	-85.8406	DND	PHCs, BTEXs and PAHs	1755	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
1091	Alexandra Fiord Rcmp Detachment Site	Suspected	Data unavailable	78.8798	-75.7546	RCMP	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.
16525	D'Iberville Fjord (Unassessed)	Suspected	Data unavailable	80.6069	-79.4792	DFO	Data unavailable	0	Historical review completed. Initial testing underway.
25114	Alert - Unauthorized Firing Range	Suspected	Data unavailable	82.4246	-62.1835	DND	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.

\*Closed sites were not included in this table as they have either been cleaned up and/or require no further action. Sites for which no data are available with respect to status were also not included.



## Appendix 2. Tuvaijuittuq Ministerial Order Regulations

\***NOTE:** The regulations can also be found at this website: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-282/page-1.html>

### SOR/2019-282

### OCEANS ACT

#### Registration 2019-07-30

#### Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area

Whereas this Order designates the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area in a manner that is not inconsistent with a land claims agreement that has been given effect and has been ratified or approved by an Act of Parliament;

Therefore, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, pursuant to 35.1(2)<sup>a</sup> of the Oceans Act<sup>b</sup>, makes the annexed Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

- <sup>a</sup>S.C. 2019, c. 8, s. 5
- <sup>b</sup>S.C. 1996, c. 31

Ottawa, July 29, 2019

Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

#### Definition of *Marine Protected Area*

1 In this Order, **Marine Protected Area** means the area of the sea that is designated by section 2.

#### Marine Protected Area

2 (1) The area of the sea in the Arctic Ocean consisting of the waters off northern Ellesmere Island, as described in plan number FB42596, certified on July 16, 2019 and depicted in plan number CLSR 108395, which plans are deposited in the Canada Lands Surveys Records, is designated as the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

#### Seabed, subsoil and water column

(2) The Marine Protected Area consists of the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice, each of which is below the low-water line.

#### Ongoing activities

3 For the purposes of subsection 35.1(2) of the Oceans Act, the following classes of activities are ongoing activities in the Marine Protected Area:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence;
- and



(b) marine scientific research activities.

### Prohibitions

**4 (1)** It is prohibited in the Marine Protected Area to carry out any activity — other than those set out in section 3 — that disturbs, damages, destroys or removes from the Marine Protected Area any unique geological or archeological features or any living marine organism or any part of its habitat, or is likely to do so.

### Exemption

**(2)** Despite subsection (1), the following activities may be carried out in the Marine Protected Area:

(a) marine navigation by a foreign national, a foreign ship or a foreign state, or an entity incorporated or formed by or under the laws of a country other than Canada; and

(b) the laying, maintenance and repair of cables and pipelines by a foreign state.

### Non-application – Nunavut Agreement

**5** This Order does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of the Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as approved, given effect and declared valid by the [Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act](#).

### Coming into force

**6** This Order comes into force on the day on which it is registered.

# What We Heard: Community Consultations on a New Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq

April 3-18, 2023



Pond Inlet – April 4, 2023



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## Acknowledgements

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank the communities of Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord for their time and hospitality during our community visits. We would especially like to thank the Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTAs), hamlet councils, and Mayoral offices for their participation and knowledge-sharing. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for leading the coordination of these meetings.

## Our Team

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group has members from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and the Government of Nunavut (GN). Four participants included representatives from each organization involved in the Working Group.



*Tuvaijuittuq Working Group members attending consultations in Clyde River, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet (left photo) and in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord (right photo). Left Photo, left to right: Syzula Ikkidluak (QIA), Delaney Ewing (DFO), Madelaine Kellett (DFO), Bernie MacIsaac (GN), and Justin Hack (GN). Right Photo, left to right: Sarah Kennedy (DFO), Bethany Schroeder (DFO), Iselena Natsiapik (QIA), Daniel Haney (GN), and Bernie MacIsaac (GN).*



## Executive Summary

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, with members from QIA, DFO, PCA, and GN, conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 - 18, 2023. Pond Inlet consultations were held on April 4, 2023.

The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a request by QIA to establish a new Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area (MPA) to explore an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) for Tuvaijuittuq. The Working Group also shared information on our proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term MPA, and sought community feedback and support on the proposal. The purpose of this report is to summarize the feedback provided by community members who attended the meetings in Pond Inlet, to provide transparency in the process, to provide a record of the discussions and concerns shared by the community, and to provide additional information to questions raised during consultations. To ensure we have accurately captured what we heard, this report has been circulated to the Mittimatalik HTA and Pond Inlet Hamlet Council for review. Individual reports were developed for each community and after HTAs and hamlet councils have had an opportunity to comment, these reports will be shared with all five communities.

While the Pond Inlet Hamlet Council was able to form quorum for the meeting, the Mittimatalik HTA was not. The HTA members present preferred to communicate the information presented at the meeting to the remaining members instead of scheduling a follow-up meeting. The Mittimatalik HTA members present and Pond Inlet Hamlet Council supported the proposal to pursue a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq and gave the Working Group permission to seek letters of support for the proposal. The community of Pond Inlet would like to continue its involvement in consultations and decision-making related to Tuvaijuittuq. Community interests related to Tuvaijuittuq include learning more about the animals (particularly marine mammals), the research being done, and in vessel traffic occurring in the area. There is also interest by the community for regular and stable Inuit employment for monitoring activities within the protected area, and in limiting the number of cruise ships that enter the MPA if possible. There is some concern about the ability to enforce regulations in the Tuvaijuittuq MPA, and whether assessments conducted for the area will be updated as climate change continues to impact the area. Pond Inlet has seen significant changes to sea ice in their area.

### What We Heard From Communities Overall

A common theme heard from communities was a desire to learn more about the MPA, including the animals and habitats that occur there, potential for future economic opportunities, and the types of research done in the area. There is interest from all five communities in protection for the area in both the short-term and long-term, but also in balancing protection with economic opportunities for future generations. Interest in protecting the area is based on Tuvaijuittuq's ecological importance, its significance to Inuit, and interest in the area's resources by other countries.



## Introduction and Approach

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 and April 18, 2023. Pond Inlet consultations were held on April 4, 2023. The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a proposed new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq, to share information on the proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term protection measure, and to seek community feedback and support on this proposal. In each community, two gatherings were held; an initial meeting with the HTA, hamlet council, Mayor, Nauttiqsuqtiit and other relevant community groups, and an evening community open house.

At both meetings, information was shared on the significance of Tuvaijuittuq, its boundaries, reasons why the area is being considered for protection, the steps involved in establishing a new Ministerial Order MPA and proposed regulations for this short-term protection measure. The presentation materials and relevant assessments, including a summary of Natural Resources Canada's resource and economic assessment for the area<sup>1</sup> and an ecological and biological overview, were made available to community members in both English and Inuktitut. Two-page summaries of what we heard during November consultations were also provided. Simultaneous interpretation was also provided at each meeting.

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group committed to circulating a "What We Heard" report to each community for their review and approval summarizing their feedback during these consultations. If community members or organizations feel that their feedback was misinterpreted or misrepresented, the Working Group will revise the report as requested and re-circulate to the community. Please contact Chandra Chambers ([chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) if you have any questions or concerns. After communities have had a chance to review and approve their What We Heard reports, the Working Group will provide copies of all reports to each community.

DFO committed to following up with communities on outstanding questions that were asked during community meetings. Answers to these questions were circulated to each community HTO, Hamlet office and Mayor in an email on June 28, 2023, and this information is included in Appendix 1 of this report. A copy of the MPA regulations that are being proposed for the new Ministerial Order MPA are also included in Appendix 2 of this report.

The HTAs and/or hamlet councils in some communities could not form quorum during the April meetings. The Working Group followed up with these boards virtually and received permission from each to seek a formal letter of support for the new regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> The full Natural Resources Canada resource assessment was also made available and can be accessed at: [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf)



## Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) and Hamlet Council Meeting

The Working Group met with the Mittimatalik HTA and Pond Inlet Hamlet Council on April 4, 2023 at 2:00 pm in the Sauniq Hotel conference room. Other community groups were invited to attend. Approximately 12 people were present for this meeting.

The Pond Inlet Hamlet Council was able to form quorum for the meeting, and although the HTA was not, the HTA members present committed to communicating the information to the remaining members and expressed support for the proposal. Both the Mittimatalik HTA and Pond Inlet Hamlet Council members indicated that a virtual follow-up meeting was unnecessary and gave permission to the Working Group to seek formal approval. The attending members gave the Working Group permission to engage the community at an open house meeting that evening.

### **What we heard:**

#### *Ecological Significance*

- The Pond Inlet community would like to learn more about Tuvaijuittuq, including marine mammal research that is happening in the area.

#### Response:

- Research in Tuvaijuittuq is led by DFO through an ongoing research program called the Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) – Last Ice. This program undertakes seasonal marine mammal, sea ice, lower trophic level, and other types of research.
  - Information related to animals, habitats and climate trends within Tuvaijuittuq is available at the following websites: [https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2020/2020\\_056-eng.html](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2020/2020_056-eng.html) (DFO 2020; Inuktitut version available); [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2021/mpo-dfo/Fs97-6-3408-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/mpo-dfo/Fs97-6-3408-eng.pdf) (Charette et al. 2020); and <http://wwwdev.ncr.dfo-mpo.ca/oceans/mpa-zpm/tuvaijuittuq/index-eng.html>. Climate models predict that summer sea ice may disappear in the Arctic Ocean by mid-century; however, it is unknown if or when the Tuvaijuittuq area might be ice-free (Charette et al. 2020). Additional information related to research in Tuvaijuittuq is provided in Appendix 1.
  - The information above is meant to build on presentations made to the community on November 15, 2022, in which information on the ecological significance and assessments of petroleum and economic potential of the area was shared. Please contact Chandra Chambers at [Chandra.Chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) if you would like more information.
- There is interest in visiting Tuvaijuittuq, particularly the Archer Fiord/Lady Franklin Bay area which supports several marine mammal species.

### *Economic Opportunities and Activities*

- Pond Inlet asked for additional details regarding the proposed regulations.

Response:

- While the proposed regulations were reviewed during the meeting, DFO committed to providing additional details on how the regulation would be applied. This information is included in Appendices 1 and 2 of this report. If you have any questions, please contact Chandra Chambers at [Chandra.Chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or 204-914-6959.
- There was interest in learning more about how the Tuvaijuittuq boundary was determined originally and why the Queen Elizabeth Islands were not included. There was also a question about whether there have been any boundary disputes other than the one with Denmark in the Lincoln Sea area.

Response:

- Canada and Denmark signed a boundary agreement on June 14, 2022 to resolve a disagreement on the maritime boundary along the eastern edge of Tuvaijuittuq in the Lincoln Sea. Once an agreement is approved by Canada, this portion of the MPA boundary will be adjusted to follow the new international boundary line.
- There are no additional international boundary disputes related to Tuvaijuittuq.
- Additional information on how the Tuvaijuittuq boundary was decided on is provided in Appendix 1.
- Pond Inlet would like to have a continued role in decision-making about long-term options for Tuvaijuittuq and in the approach to enforcing the regulations.

Response:

- The Aulattiqatigiit Board that manages Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area also manages Tuvaijuittuq.
- DFO is responsible for compliance and enforcement in Tuvaijuittuq. Compliance monitoring is conducted through aerial surveillance, vessel traffic monitoring and detection using automatic information systems.
- Pond Inlet would like to see long-term employment opportunities for Inuit in Tuvaijuittuq.

Response:

- The Government of Canada and QIA are working together to identify future employment opportunities for Inuit related to potential long-term protection of Tuvaijuittuq. Currently, there are opportunities to participate in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq through the MAP - Last Ice Program. If there is interest in participating in research activities, please contact Chandra Chambers at [Chandra.Chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).
- Board members expressed interest in travelling to Tuvaijuittuq and seeing the area for themselves, particularly the Archer Fiord area due to the marine mammals.

- Pond Inlet would like to be kept up to date on vessel traffic in Tuvaijuittuq, including where the vessels have travelled. If possible, cruise ship access to Tuvaijuittuq should be limited.

Response:

- Tuvaijuittuq is an area that is largely ice-covered all year round and as a result, activities in this area are minimal. Between 2012 and 2019, vessels accessed Tuvaijuittuq only five times, all within nearshore areas in August/September. All but one vessel (a transiting passenger ice-breaker) were Canadian Coast Guard ships. Available data indicates that between 2019 and 2023, three vessels accessed nearshore areas in Tuvaijuittuq. All three were Canadian Coast Guard ships and all trips occurred in August when sea ice extent is at its lowest (one in 2019, two in 2022). Only one of these vessels entered the Archer Fiord/Lady Franklin Bay area, between August 27-31, 2022.
- The community would like to see the number of cruise ships visiting Pond Inlet decrease. It was suggested that the Working Group come to Pond Inlet to observe the cruise ships and their activities rather than asking about them.

Response:

- Waters in and around Pond Inlet are managed under the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA), through Parks Canada Agency legislation. This request has been shared with the appropriate partners co-managing the NMCA.

### Concerns

- Board members were pleased to hear that the wildlife harvesting rights within the Nunavut Settlement Area are not affected by the Ministerial Order but were concerned that harvesting may be restricted by DFO in the future for animals such as narwhal, as additional to limits placed on narwhal in Arctic Bay. To date, marine mammals observed in Tuvaijuittuq include narwhal, walrus and seals (ringed and bearded). Integrated fisheries management plans have been developed for Atlantic walrus and narwhal populations (see links below).

Response:

- Additional information on how narwhal populations are managed in Canada can be accessed here (Inuktitut version available): <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/ifmp-gmp/narwhal-narval/index-eng.html>.
- Additional information on how Atlantic Walrus are managed in Canada can be accessed here (Inuktitut version available): <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/ifmp-gmp/walrus-atl-morse/walrus-nunavut-morse-eng.html>
- Additional information on harvesting rights in Tuvaijuittuq is provided in Appendix 1.
- There are concerns that any employment opportunities for Inuit related to Tuvaijuittuq in the future will not be available long-term. For example, employment opportunities for Pond Inlet community members related to Quittinirpaaq National Park did not grow into long-term opportunities. There is concern that this may happen with Tuvaijuittuq.

- The community of Pond Inlet has concerns about whether the assessments completed for Tuvaijuittuq, such as ecological, resource and economic assessments, will adapt as climate change impacts continue.

Response:

- The assessments used to inform short-term protection for Tuvaijuittuq have been updated since 2019 and will not be updated further for the purposes of pursuing another five years of protection. However, many of these assessments will be updated if we pursue long-term protection in order to make management decisions based on the most up to date information.
- When protecting an area over the long term, an important principle guiding the Government of Canada's approach is the ability to work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to adjust our management approach to address changes to the area's ecosystem. This guiding principle will be an important consideration when working with partners to decide on a long-term option for Tuvaijuittuq.

*QIA Vision for an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA)*

- There is interest in learning more about QIA's vision for Tuvaijuittuq, including their regional governance model and planned infrastructure in the region.

Response:

- QIA will be undertaking consultations on their regional governance model in the coming months.

## Community Open House

The community open house took place in the Pond Inlet Community Hall April 4, 2023 at 7:00 pm, where approximately 15 adults were in attendance. Children and youth were also welcomed.

**What we heard:**

- The ice is noticeably changing around Pond Inlet. For example, 10-20 years ago the ice was eight feet thick and now it is half as thick, and will likely get thinner as time goes on.
- Additional interest was expressed at this meeting in future employment opportunities and in visiting Tuvaijuittuq.

## Next Steps

The next steps to pursue establishment of a new Ministerial Order MPA will be to seek stakeholder input on the proposal, seek formal community support, complete assessments and other approvals needed under the Nunavut Agreement such as conformity determination by the Nunavut Planning Commission and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approval, and complete DFO's regulatory process. Formal letters of support will be sought from community hamlets and HTAs. Community members are encouraged to communicate their feedback on the



proposal to these organizations to inform their decision DFO will notify communities and stakeholders prior to the proposal being published online for a 30-day public comment period – additional input can be provided at that time as well.

It is important to us that we have summarized your input on this proposal correctly. If you feel that we have missed any input provided during our meetings or captured information incorrectly, please reach out to the email address provided above for correction.

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank all of the community members who attended these meetings - your feedback is vital and appreciated.

Thank you.

## Appendix 1. Follow-up questions and answers from the April 2023 consultations on a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq.

\*Please note, an additional question and answer have been added (Question #8) and Question #15 has been expanded upon since it was sent to the HTA and hamlet.

### 1) What is the purpose of protecting Tuvaijuittuq?

Researchers agree that summer sea ice will remain the longest in Tuvaijuittuq (Figure 1) as it continues to decline in other areas of the Arctic due to climate change. Because of this, the area is expected to become an important refuge for ice-dependent species. The area has a very diverse ecosystem, and contains a number of unique communities of organisms, including communities on the ice, in the ice, and below the ice. Habitat in Tuvaijuittuq is important to marine mammals and sea birds. For all of these reasons, DFO and its partners believe that the area, its habitat, and the wildlife within it, would benefit from protection. The proposed Ministerial Order MPA is a short-term protection tool which will protect the area for up to five years. The purpose of this short-term protection tool is to prohibit new activities in the area that may cause negative impacts while additional information is collected to support a better understanding of the conservation and protection needs of the area before longer-term protection measures are considered.

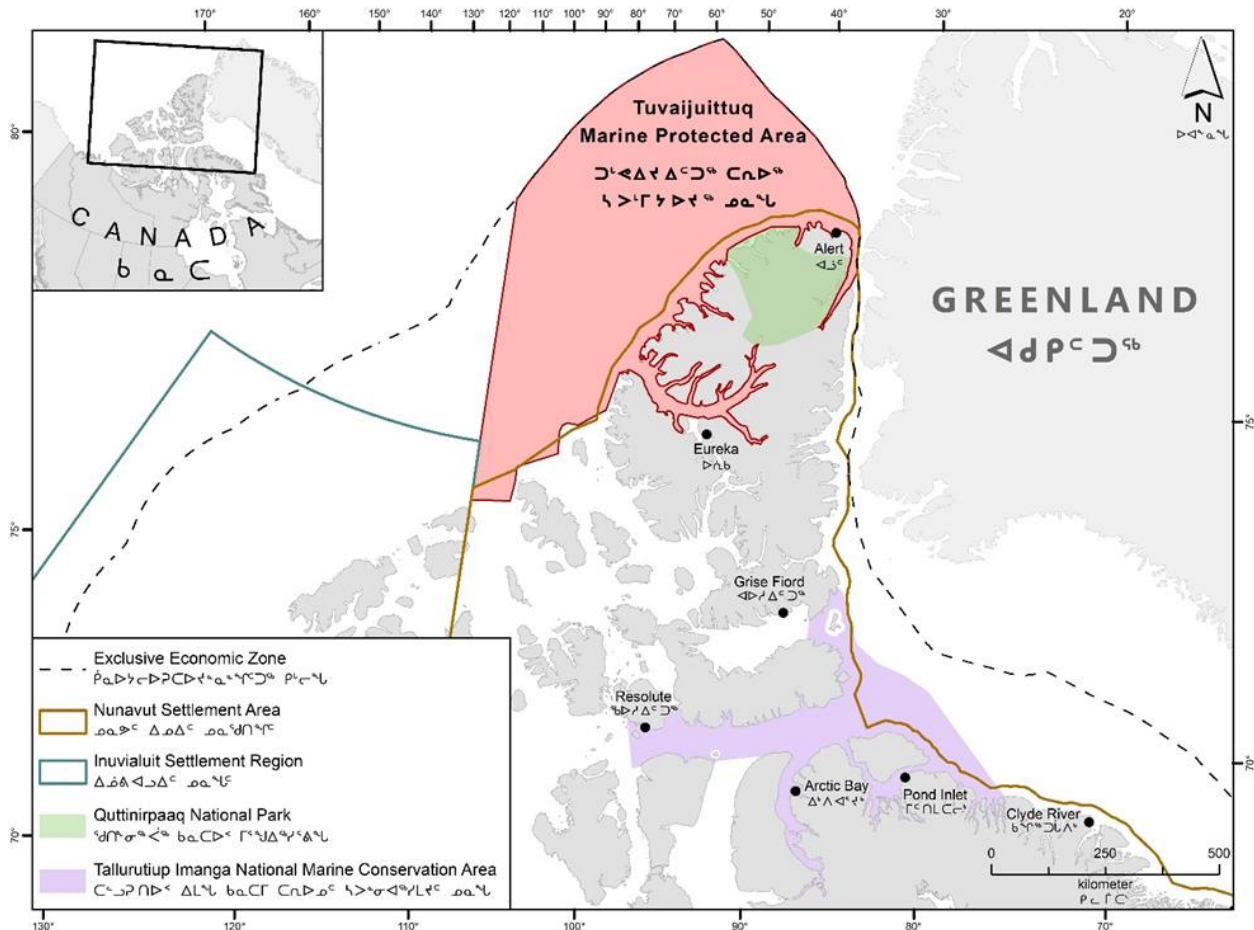


Figure 1. Map of Tuvaijuittuq MPA by Ministerial Order

**2) How was the Tuvaijuittuq boundary determined? Why are the rest of the Queen Elizabeth Islands not included in the boundary?**

The Tuvaijuittuq MPA includes the marine waters off northern Ellesmere Island, starting from the low water mark and extending to the outer boundary of Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone. It also includes the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice. The initial boundaries of Tuvaijuittuq were based on the 2011 Canadian Science Advisory Report ([2011/55](#)), which identified key multi-year ice habitat. The boundary was later extended to the nearshore areas off Ellesmere Island within the Nunavut Settlement Area as more of the area was understood. The marine area around the Queen Elizabeth Islands south of Ellesmere Island supports different communities of organisms than those within Tuvaijuittuq. This area was not considered for inclusion in Tuvaijuittuq as it has different conservation needs. Partners agreed to settle on the boundary as it is now and consider the remaining islands at a later time as possible new protected areas. Some of the Queen Elizabeth Islands overlap with the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, which is not included in the Tuvaijuittuq boundary.

**3) What does “freezing the footprint of ongoing activities” mean?**

Freezing the footprint of ongoing activities means allowing activities that are already lawfully occurring in the area to continue and preventing any new activities that may damage, disturb, destroy or remove important habitats, features and organisms. Ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq were identified using a number of different methods, including community consultation (in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord in 2019 and in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Clyde River in 2022), consultation with QIA, and consultation with DFO Science and other federal departments and agencies including the Department of National Defence, Parks Canada Agency, and Canadian Coast Guard. DFO gathered further information about ongoing activities by seeking input on the proposed regulations from industry and other stakeholders (e.g., non-governmental organizations), and from studies such as an assessment of vessel traffic using Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals in the area between 2012-2019. This study is currently being updated so DFO has the most up-to-date information.

Based on available information, DFO determined that ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq include:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence; and
- (b) marine scientific research activities.

The regulations also include exemptions and exclusions helping to respect commitments Canada has made both domestically and internationally.

The full regulations are provided as a separate attachment in both English and Inuktitut.

**4) Does freezing the footprint of activities affect wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit in this area?**

The Ministerial Order MPA does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of Nunavut Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Nunavut Agreement. This means that the Ministerial Order regulations do not affect the wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA).

There appear to be no provisions within the Nunavut Agreement that extend Inuit harvesting rights beyond the NSA portion of Tuvaijuittuq. As a result, the regulations would apply to everyone in the area of Tuvaijuittuq that falls outside of the NSA. However, we would be interested in further discussing the matter if there are provisions in the Nunavut Agreement you believe have been overlooked.

**5) Why are there exemptions for foreign states in the Ministerial Order MPA regulations?**

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which is an international agreement, Canada must allow certain activities such as navigation (vessels transiting through) and laying of cables and pipelines, from foreign states in certain maritime zones. Because of this, those foreign activities are exempted from the application of the Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq. The exclusive economic zone, an area of the sea beyond the territorial sea extending out to 200 nautical miles from the coastline (Figure 2), is not Canadian territory, and in that area Canada only has jurisdiction over economic resources such as fishing, oil and gas, and mineral exploitation.

Under Canadian law, Canada has the authority to prohibit domestic vessel navigation and other activities in this area. Since the purpose of the short-term Ministerial Order MPA is to conserve and protect the vulnerable habitats and organisms in Tuvaijuittuq while we collect additional information to inform decisions about long-term protection, we aim to limit any activity, including domestic activities, that may negatively impact the area. Although foreign navigation is allowed in the MPA, foreign countries will typically comply with voluntary measures, if guidance is provided to avoid certain areas within the MPA.

**6) Can the old sea ice (multi-year ice) be broken by ice-breakers?**

While some ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice, there are different classes of ice-breakers built for different purposes and ice thicknesses. Not all ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice. To our knowledge, the few vessels that have travelled to Tuvaijuittuq for activities such as national defence, safety, marine research, and foreign vessel travel, have stayed within the nearshore areas during the open water season and did not actively conduct ice-breaking activities.

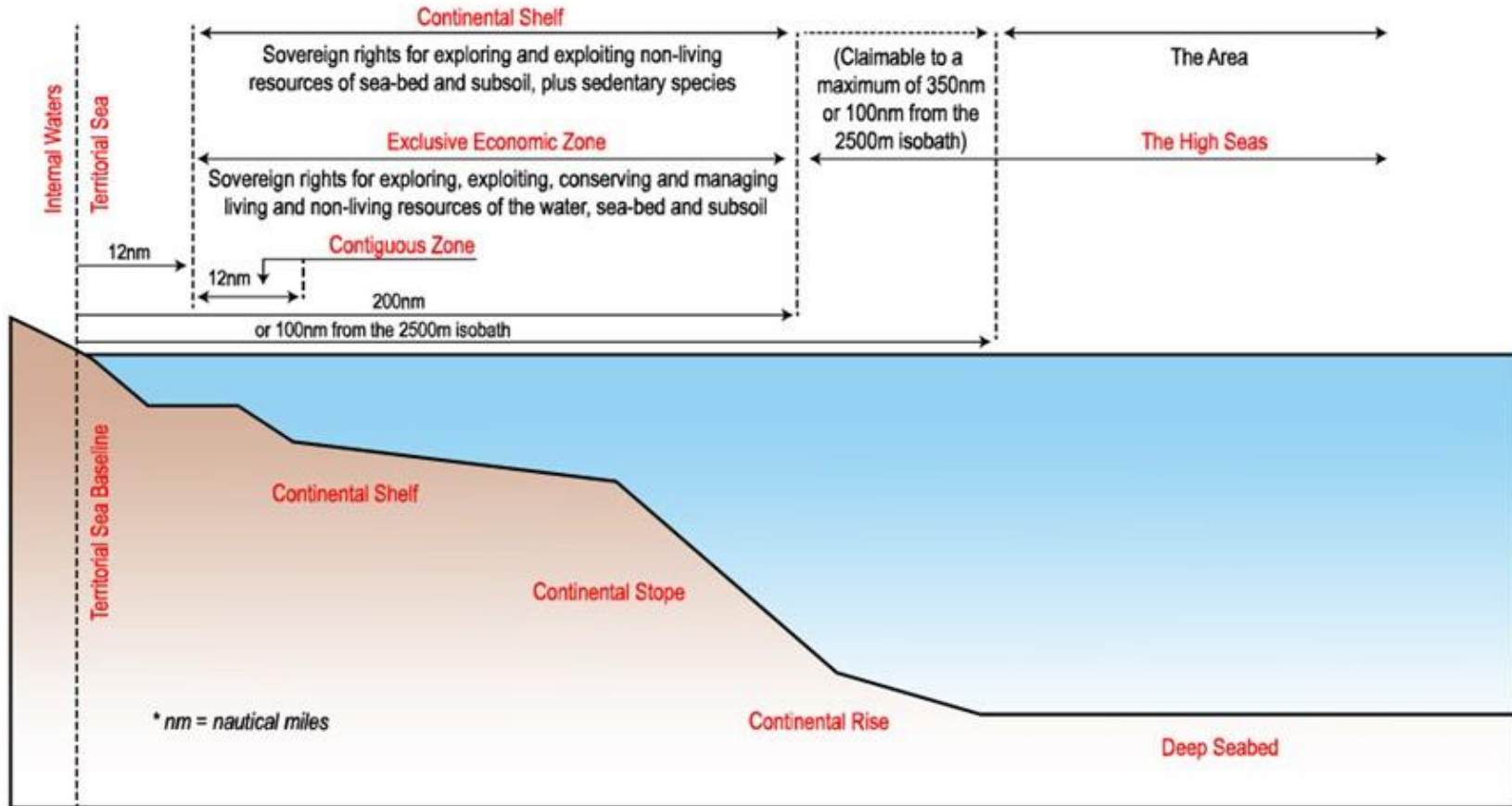


Figure 2. Canada's Maritime Zones

## 7) How can Inuit visit Tuvaijuittuq?

Tuvaijuittuq is an area of the sea that is a mainly ice-covered all year round and is very remote. There is one military research station in Alert called Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Alert located outside of Tuvaijuittuq on northern Ellesmere Island and a small research base in Eureka on Fosheim Peninsula. There are no communities nearby – the closest community is Grise Fiord, which is approximately 327 km as the crow flies from the MPA's southern-most boundary. Activity in Tuvaijuittuq is limited to national defence activities and marine scientific research, mainly due to the extensive ice cover in this marine area. In 2019, the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord indicated that the area is difficult to reach by skidoo; however, some community members in Grise Fiord had travelled, or knew of people that had travelled, as far as Eureka (which is south of the proposed area) by dogsled in the past.

There are however, opportunities for involvement in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, which are based out of CFS Alert. For more information on participating in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, please contact Chandra Chambers ([Chandra.Chambers@df0-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@df0-mpo.gc.ca)).

## 8) Fisheries quotas to Inuit

It is important to note that Tuvaijuittuq is largely ice-covered all year round and is not accessible to fishing vessels. As a result, no large-scale commercial fishing activities are possible in the area under current conditions. It is unknown if ice conditions would support small-scale on ice fisheries, and no data are available to understand whether a fishery (small or large-scale) would be possible.

When we visited communities in April 2023, we received a question relating to fisheries quotas in general and how these are allocated to Inuit.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada continues to respect and implement the obligations under Nunavut Agreement including provisions related to offshore commercial fisheries access that give special consideration to Nunavut. Through implementation of the Nunavut Agreement over the years, the share of adjacent resources to Qikiqtani Inuit has significantly increased, such that Qikiqtani Inuit fishers now have 80% of Turbot and 42% of shrimp resources including 100% of all fisheries resources within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

## 9) What kind of Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit (IQ) is used? What is studied?

- Oral History passed down over centuries of Inuit Knowledge.
- Inuit knowledge living and adapting, part of present day life. It is in how Inuit live and see the world today.
- QIA would like to gather IQ for Tuvaijuittuq.

## 10) Can more information be provided about the infrastructure that QIA refers to? Would QIA make buildings or houses for Tuvaijuittuq purposes?

- Multi-use facilities to address Inuit Stewardship and community needs (office space, equipment storage, garage, country food processing, community outreach, elder gatherings, etc.).

- Additional infrastructure that supports Inuit stewardship activities and the Nauttigsuqtiit program, such as housing and supplementing the facilities in the Tallurutiup Imanga communities as appropriate.
- Infrastructure requirements for Inuit stewardship that arise due to changing socio-economic or environmental conditions.

**11) When will the regional governance model will be in effect?**

At this time, this is still at the negotiation table. However, QIA is seeking this Regional Governance model for future IIBAs as well as existing IIBAs that will be renegotiated over time.

**12) Status update on the harbour planned for Resolute Bay.**

Transport Canada (TC), the Government of Nunavut (GN), and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) have been working together towards the development of community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay and have developed an Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) that was adopted in October 2022.

The IIP was completed based on community engagements and other work to date and informed the Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development.

The Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development was signed by TC and the GN on January 16, 2023 and will provide up to \$76,281,900 to the GN for the design and construction of the two community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. The current funding for community harbours will cover the cost of constructing at least one breakwater, a parking area, dredging, a boat launch, and floating docks.

TC has provided a copy of the agreement to the QIA representative, to be kept in confidence.

We understand from the GN that:

- A Project Manager with GN's Department of Community and Government Services has been assigned to the projects.
- The exact procurement approach for construction has not been finalized, but it is likely to follow the GN's standard procurement practices.
- The first step is expected to be a Request for Proposal for engineering and design services.

For more information, please contact Matthew Bowler ([MBowler@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:MBowler@GOV.NU.CA)) or Miguel Parent ([miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca](mailto:miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca)).

**13) What type of research is occurring in Tuvaijuittuq?**

Research in Tuvaijuittuq is led by DFO through the Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) - Last Ice and this team includes researchers from universities and organizations all over the world. The program brings together a number of different specialists to study different features in Tuvaijuittuq. For example, experts in sea ice, water, fish, marine mammals, and those who study organisms such as algae and krill that form the basis of the High Arctic



food web. Some of this work is done during a late winter/early spring seasonal field camp, where researchers work together as a team to collect samples and do their research. Others, like marine mammal surveys, are conducted around the same time but not as part of the field camp, and in the fall. The program began in 2018 and experienced some delays due to COVID-19 but is continuing. A new ship-based program called ArcticCore will begin this year and will include Archer Fiord and adjacent areas around Tuvaijuittuq (as sea-ice permits). This new program will study physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production, zooplankton, benthos) oceanography and will also include marine mammal surveys and sea ice studies. If long-term protection is put into place in the future, then more formal management and monitoring plans would be developed for Tuvaijuittuq, in collaboration with partners and communities.

Research partners in MAP-Last Ice:

DFO  
Department of National Defence  
Defence Research and Development Canada  
Université Laval  
University of Essex  
Université du Québec à Rimouski  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography  
Polar Continental Shelf Program  
Alfred Wegener Institute  
University of Bristol  
Resolute HTA Board of Directors

Type of research conducted as part of MAP-Last Ice:

- Sea ice distribution, physical properties (thickness, composition), productivity (algal communities, biomass)
- Evolution of the ice and under-ice habitat over time
- Continuous atmospheric, oceanographic and sea ice observations
- Zooplankton, fish and benthic organisms
- Marine mammal and habitat surveys
- Physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production) oceanography

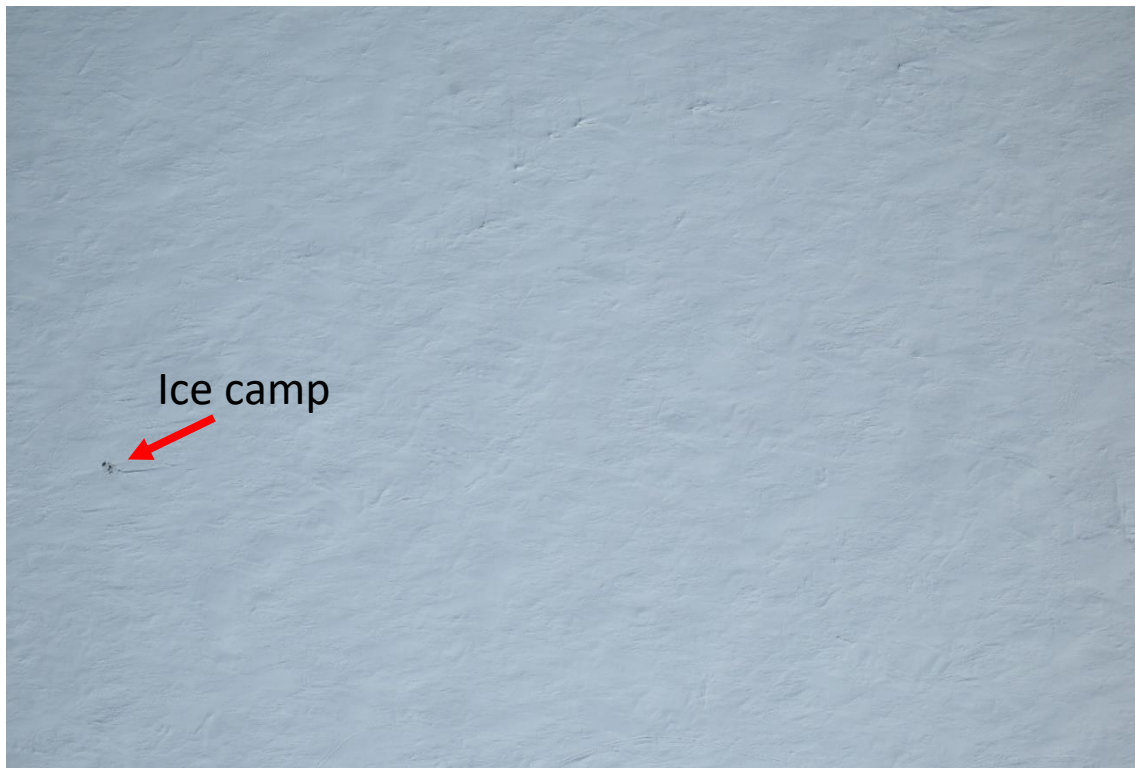
Collection of ice cores during the MAP-Last Ice and ArcticCORE programs:

We are very conscious of potential disturbances to the environment and during our sampling we take action to minimize these disturbances. When we collect ice cores, we sample only a part of the core and we replace the rest of the core to its original hole. Once replaced in its original hole, the core refreezes quickly, typically within a few hours.

The ice cores that we collect are small, at 9 cm diameter. This means that the surface area of one core is 5 times smaller than that of a hole cut out with an 8-inch auger, and about 10-12 times smaller than that of a seal breathing hole. While the seals keep their holes open,

we “close” our holes after sampling (with the original ice core from which we cut off one or a few sections). If we add the area of all the cores that we collect during one sampling season, it would typically add up to much less than 1 square meter, at most 2 m<sup>2</sup>.

In the photo below, we can see our ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. In another photo taken a few days after we took out camp, it was not possible to identify the site where the ice camp had been set up.



**Figure 3. Aerial view showing the ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. A few days after taking out the camp, the site of the ice camp was not visible anymore.**

#### **14) Interest in learning more about Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program**

##### **Polar Continental Shelf Program:**

Natural Resources Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP) supports Arctic science by providing logistics planning, coordination and advice to Canadian government, non-government, university and international researchers. The PCSP supports projects in the Arctic from Churchill, Manitoba, to the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, and from the Yukon/Alaska border to as far as Greenland, on occasion.

Support can include air transportation, as well as fuel, field equipment for loan, field communications and safety, logistics advice for field studies, the use of the PCSP facility in Resolute, Nunavut, and shipping and receiving coordination and advice. The PCSP facility in Resolute is typically open from late January to September each year and is comprised of

an accommodations area that can house up to 237 guests, lounge areas, a fitness room, office spaces, kitchen and dining facilities, an operations centre and a laboratory.

The PCSP provides employment, student training and business opportunities for northern residents. The PCSP also helps with science outreach through publishing an annual science report and connecting researchers with northern community organizations.

The table below includes PCSP projects that occurred close to Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq in recent years. Please feel free to reach out to the project leads if you have an interest in specific projects.

As a contact at the Polar Continental Shelf Program, please feel free to reach out to **Michael Meunier**, Manager of the Program Coordination and Outreach unit ([michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)) or the PCSP Ottawa mailbox ([pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)). Michael and his group would be pleased to connect with you and discuss your priorities.

Here are some additional resources that may be of interest:

- A list of all 2019 and 2020 projects supported by PCSP can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/current-projects/10009>.
- More information on the PCSP can be found at: [https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure\\_eng.pdf](https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure_eng.pdf)
- Information on project support applications can be found here: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/research-support-arctic-logistics-and-field-equipment-for-across-canada/10003>.
- Annual Science Reports can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/pcsp-publications/10011>.

**Table 1. List of PCSP-supported projects in the Arctic Archipelago, many near Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq MPA in recent years**

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Hsin Chiang	McGill University	McGill Arctic Research Station, Expedition Fjord	A new window on the universe: radio astronomy from northern Canada
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Grise Fiord	Aerial survey of High Arctic walrus and narwhal stocks
Michael Maurice	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Svartevaeg, Eureka, Isachsen, Grise Fiord, Mould Bay, Rea Point, Cape Providence, Resolute Bay, Steffanson Island, Cape Liverpool, Fort Ross, Gateshead	Annual Maintenance of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Automatic Weather Station array - Arctic Archipeligo

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Christine Michel	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka	Arctic CORE (Conservation, Observation, Research, and Engagement)
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Assistance Bay	Assessment of Bioremediation Potential of Marine Fuels on NWP Arctic Beaches
Joseph Monteith	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	Alert, Eureka	Baffin/High Arctic Inspections 2022
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Characterizing viral impact in the Last Ice Area
Christopher Omelon	Queen's University	Expedition Fiord, Resolute Bay	Climate Change Research at the McGill Arctic Research Station
David Didier	Université du Québec à Rimouski	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Coastal dynamics and hazards in Grise Fiord and Jones Sound
Mark Skidmore	Montana State University	Truelove Lowlands, Croker Bay, Resolute, Gascoyne inlet	Exploration of Saline Cryospheric Habitats with Europa Relevance (ESCHER): An approach using airborne and submarine semiautonomous systems
Erin MacNeil	Natural Resources Canada	Gascoyne Inlet	Defence of North America
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Devon Island lakes site	Developing new technologies to access and investigate the hypersaline, subzero Devon Island Subglacial Lake System, a unique Mars and icy moon analogue
Denis Lacelle	University of Ottawa	Eureka	Effect of degrading ice wedge polygon landscapes on local topography, hydrology, and water quality.
Susan Kutz	University of Calgary	East wind lake, Eureka, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Disease in High Arctic Ungulates - Terrestrial Investigations
Amelie Roberto-Charron	Government of Nunavut	Eureka Weather Station, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Diseases in High Arctic Ungulates – Aerial assessment

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Clément Chevallier	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Cape Verra, Cape Verra, Nirjutiqarvik, Cape Liddon, Houbhouse Inlet, Prince Leopold Island, Baillarge Bay	Fulmar colony surveys in Lancaster Sound
Myriam Lemelin	Université de Sherbrooke	T-MARS camp, McGill Arctic Research Station, Axel Heiberg Island	Geological study and mapping of hydrothermal deposits and gossans, Expedition Fiord, Axel Heiberg Island, Nunavut, as analogues for Mars
Christine Dow	University of Waterloo	Devon Ice Cap camp	Geophysical imaging of the Devon sub-glacial lakes
Luke Copland	University of Ottawa	Manson Icefield, Sydkap base camp, Sydkap ice marginal lake complex, Grise Fiord	Glacier monitoring on southern Ellesmere Island
Maya Bhatia	University of Alberta	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Glacier-ocean interactions in the Canadian high Arctic
Daniel Fortier	University of Montreal	Ward Hunt Island	Ground ice of eastern Canadian High Arctic polar desert
Cortney Wheeler	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Elwin Bay, Creswell Bay	High Arctic Beluga Whale Stock Structure
Greg Henry	University of British Columbia	Sverdrup Pass, Knud Peninsula, PCSP Eureka, Bache Peninsula, Princess Marie Bay, Alexandra Fiord, Cape Bounty	High Arctic tundra ecosystem responses to 30 years of experimental and observed climate change
Masaki Uchida	National Institute of Polar Research, Japan	Oobloyah Bay	Identifying and understanding the effect of temporal and spatial changes towards the biodiversity and carbon sequestration processes in the high Arctic
John Moores	York University	Expedition Fjord	Identifying putative microbial drivers of methane flux on Earth and on Mars
Raoul-Marie Couture	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Impact of oxygen pulses on redox-sensitive chemicals and microbiome in Canada's northernmost lake
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Goose Fiord, Brooman Point, Kearney Cove	Improving High Arctic walrus stock assessment using satellite telemetry, genetics, and time-lapse photography
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Lost Hammer, Thompson Glacier, White Glacier,	

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
		Expedition Fjord, Gypsum Hill, Color Peak	Investigations of microbial activity in cryoenvironments in the Canadian High Arctic
Laura Brown	University of Toronto Mississauga	Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Cornwallis Island Lakes	Lake Ice in the Canadian High Arctic
Scott Lamoureux	Queen's University	Cape Bounty, Melville Island, Resolute vicinity	Land and water impacts and response to climate and permafrost changes in the High Arctic
Laura Thomson	Natural Resources Canada	Muller Ice Cap, Expedition Fiord	Mass Balance and Energy fluxes of White Glacier, Axel Heiberg Island, NU
Catherine Girard	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC)	Ward Hunt Island, Resolute Bay vicinity	Microbes on the go: Release of cryospheric microbes to downstream habitats
Derek Mueller	Carleton University	Milne Ice Shelf, Milne Fiord, Purple Valley, Eureka, Resolute	Milne Fiord ice-ocean interactions: Implications for the stability of ice shelves and glaciers in the Polar Regions
Dave Burgess	Natural Resources Canada	Agassiz Ice Cap, Meighen Ice Cap, Grise Fiord, Devon Ice Cap, Melville Ice Cap	National Glaciology Project - Queen Elizabeth Islands, NU & NT
Warwick Vincent	Université Laval	Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island) and Ward Hunt Island	Northern Ellesmere Island in the Global Environment - Sentinel North
Valerie Amarualik	Parks Canada	Young Inlet, Dundee Bight, Dome Camp	Qausuittuq National Park Operations 2022/2023
Adam Ferguson	Parks Canada	Fort Conger, Lake Hazen, Ruggles River, Tanquary Fiord, Resolute Bay	Quttinirpaaq National Park Operations 2022
Gordon Osinski	University of Western Ontario	Haughton River Valley	Reconstructing the post-impact history of the Haughton impact structure, Nunavut
Lynda Gullason	Inuit Heritage Trust Incorporated	Resolute, Morin Point, Devon Island, Pond Inlet	Saving Morin Point: Climate Change Risk Assessment and Archaeological Heritage Recovery
Dermot Antoniades	Université Laval	Stuckberry Valley, Lake Hazen	The functioning and evolution of the ecosystems of Stuckberry Valley, northern Ellesmere Island

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Joshua King	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Development of a new Canadian Arctic Archipelago sea ice product from ICESat-2 (Ice Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2)
Michael Brohart	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Instrument calibration at Eureka weather station as part of the Canadian Brewer Spectrophotometer Network operation
Alison Criscitiello	University of Alberta	Grise Fiord and Resolute, Nunavut	Airborne gravity survey over Devon Ice Cap
Rich DeVall	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Isachsen (Ellef Ringnes Island), Rea Point (Melville Island), Stefansson Island, Fort Ross (Somerset Island), Gateshead Island, Cape Liverpool (Bylot Island), Svarteveg (Axel Heiberg Island) and Grise Fiord (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Annual maintenance of ECCC's automatic weather station array – Arctic Archipelago
Grant Gilchrist	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Grise Fiord, Nunavut	Population surveys of endangered ivory gulls on Ellesmere Island and Devon Islands
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Ward Hunt Island and Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Viral ecology of the high Canadian Arctic in water, ice and aerosols
Mark Lamothe	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka and Resolute, Nunavut	Eureka geomagnetic electronic replacement
Nicolas Lecomte	Université de Montreal	Bylot Island, Igloolik Island and Eureka, Nunavut	Arctic IMPACTS: tracking impacts of ecosystem changes in the Arctic
Christine Michel	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Alert, Nunavut	Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) – Last Ice
Wayne Pollard	McGill University	Eureka and Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Nunavut	The vulnerability and resiliency of ice-rich permafrost in cold polar desert environments in response to changing climate
Vincent St. Louis	University of Alberta	Lake Hazen, Quttinirpaaq National Park, Nunavut	The impacts of rapidly receding glaciers on downstream freshwater resources and ecological services

### 15) What is being done to clean up past military, research and Government of Canada sites left on Ellesmere Island?

There were a number of sites in Quttinirpaaq National Park that required remediation. These sites have been remediated, with the exception of Fort Conger, which now has a long-term monitoring strategy in place.

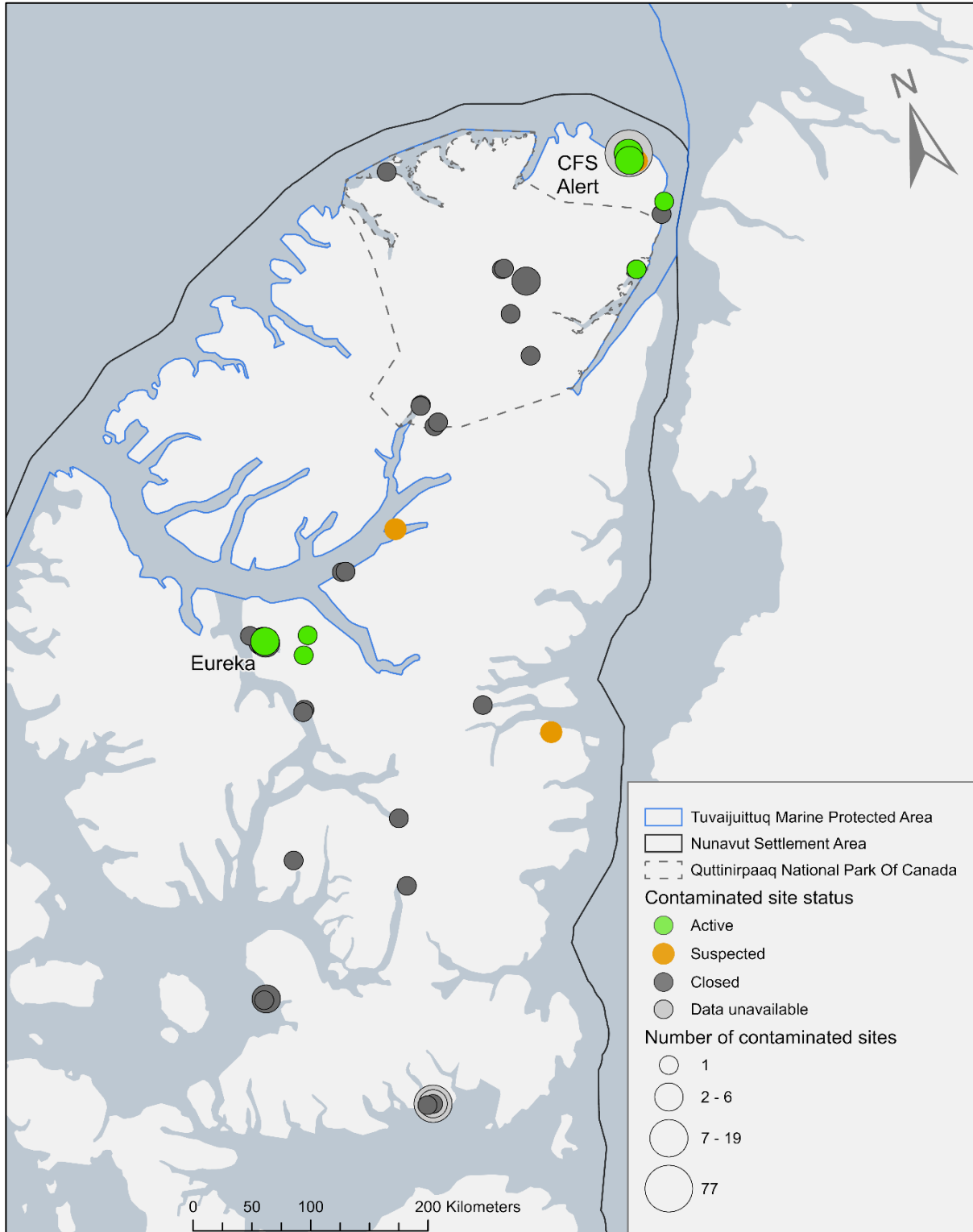
Fort Conger is a historical site situated on the shore of Discovery Harbour on Lady Franklin Bay, (N 81° 45.13', W 64° 49.56'). The site was used as a base by early Arctic expeditions and a scientific research camp. The site was also visited by early twentieth-century expeditions and later by government and military personnel, researchers, Inughuit hunters and tourists. A human health and ecological risk assessment conducted for the area identified risks from contamination at the site and a Risk Management and Remediation Plan has been developed. While some remediation has been completed, additional work is not an option at this time due to the remoteness of the site and the risks to cultural artifacts. Therefore, a long-term monitoring plan was developed so that, if the site becomes more accessible and remediation is possible, the proposed risk management and remediation strategy could be reviewed and updated. For more information on these sites, please contact Jane Chisholm at [jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca).

Additional information has been gathered on other sites on Ellesmere Island from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI). The available data are summarized together in Figure 4, Table 2. The GNWT Spills Database is a collection of reported petroleum and other hazardous material spills in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The FCSI includes information on all known and suspected contaminated sites under the management of federal departments, agencies and consolidated Crown corporations.

The majority of contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island have been closed following historical reviews, testing, clean-ups or long-term monitoring activities. Available information from these two databases indicates that there are ten active sites (five in or near CFS Alert, four in or near Eureka, and one in Fort Conger) and three suspected sites (one at the Alexandra Fiord RCMP Detachment Site, one at D'Iberville Fjord, and one at Alert). Site status and actions data are unavailable from the GNWT Spills Database.

Site numbers that start with “spill-“ are from the GNWT Spills Database, and all other sites are from the FCSI. The site status refers to what is currently happening with the site. An “active” site is a confirmed contaminated site where remediation action is or may be required; a “closed” site is a site that requires no further action; and a “suspected” site requires further assessment work to confirm whether the site is considered a contaminated site. Actions tell us what has been done to the site, for example remediation efforts or testing.

The GNWT Spills database can be found at <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/spills>, and the FCSI data can be found at <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/home-accueil-eng.aspx> and <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/numbers-numeros-eng.aspx?qid=1680451>. Information on the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/federal-contaminated-sites/action-plan.html>.



**Figure 4. Map showing closed, active and suspected contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island, NU. Source data: Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI), accessed May 2023**

**Table 2. List of active and suspected contaminated sites located on Ellesmere Island, including information on reporting organization (Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [CIRNAC]; Fisheries and Oceans Canada [DFO]; National Defence [DND]; Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC]; Parks Canada Agency [PCA]; Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP]), contaminants (petroleum hydrocarbons [PHCs]; benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene [BTEXs]; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs), quantity, and actions.**

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
286	Lincoln Bay	Active	Data unavailable	82.0833	-62.0000	CIRNAC	PHCs	12	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
2747	Eureka High Arctic Weather Station	Active	Data unavailable	79.9908	-85.8586	ECCC	PHCs, BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	15750	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
8328	Fort Conger Historic Site	Active	Data unavailable	81.7522	-64.8261	PCA	PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1265	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24258	Romulus - Panarctic C-42 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.8526	-84.3764	CIRNAC	BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3500	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24259	Gemini - Panarctic E-10 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.9902	-84.0690	CIRNAC	PHCs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1500	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
27530	Neil Trivet Gaw Lab (Bapmon - Alert)	Active	Data unavailable	82.4535	-62.5135	ECCC	PHCs	0	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
20247006	Alert Main Station	Active	Data unavailable	82.4981	-62.3367	DND	PHCs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	14500	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
20247025	Alert Tx Site	Active	Data unavailable	82.4528	-62.5020	DND	PHCs	600	Detailed testing completed. Remedial action plan under development.
20247029	Alert Airfield	Active	Data unavailable	82.4998	-62.3611	DND	PHCs, BTEXs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
70069014	Eureka - North Airstrip Apron	Active	Data unavailable	79.9977	-85.8406	DND	PHCs, BTEXs and PAHs	1755	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
1091	Alexandra Fiord Rcmp Detachment Site	Suspected	Data unavailable	78.8798	-75.7546	RCMP	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.
16525	D'Iberville Fjord (Unassessed)	Suspected	Data unavailable	80.6069	-79.4792	DFO	Data unavailable	0	Historical review completed. Initial testing underway.
25114	Alert - Unauthorized Firing Range	Suspected	Data unavailable	82.4246	-62.1835	DND	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.

\*Closed sites were not included in this table as they have either been cleaned up and/or require no further action. Sites for which no data are available with respect to status were also not included.



## Appendix 2. Tuvaijuittuq Ministerial Order Regulations

\***NOTE:** The regulations can also be found at this website: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-282/page-1.html>

### SOR/2019-282

#### OCEANS ACT

#### Registration 2019-07-30

#### Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area

Whereas this Order designates the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area in a manner that is not inconsistent with a land claims agreement that has been given effect and has been ratified or approved by an Act of Parliament;

Therefore, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, pursuant to 35.1(2)<sup>a</sup> of the Oceans Act<sup>b</sup>, makes the annexed Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

- <sup>a</sup>S.C. 2019, c. 8, s. 5
- <sup>b</sup>S.C. 1996, c. 31

Ottawa, July 29, 2019

Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

#### Definition of *Marine Protected Area*

1 In this Order, **Marine Protected Area** means the area of the sea that is designated by section 2.

#### Marine Protected Area

2 (1) The area of the sea in the Arctic Ocean consisting of the waters off northern Ellesmere Island, as described in plan number FB42596, certified on July 16, 2019 and depicted in plan number CLSR 108395, which plans are deposited in the Canada Lands Surveys Records, is designated as the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

#### Seabed, subsoil and water column

(2) The Marine Protected Area consists of the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice, each of which is below the low-water line.

#### Ongoing activities

3 For the purposes of subsection 35.1(2) of the Oceans Act, the following classes of activities are ongoing activities in the Marine Protected Area:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence;
- and



(b) marine scientific research activities.

### Prohibitions

**4 (1)** It is prohibited in the Marine Protected Area to carry out any activity — other than those set out in section 3 — that disturbs, damages, destroys or removes from the Marine Protected Area any unique geological or archeological features or any living marine organism or any part of its habitat, or is likely to do so.

### Exemption

**(2)** Despite subsection (1), the following activities may be carried out in the Marine Protected Area:

(a) marine navigation by a foreign national, a foreign ship or a foreign state, or an entity incorporated or formed by or under the laws of a country other than Canada; and

(b) the laying, maintenance and repair of cables and pipelines by a foreign state.

### Non-application – Nunavut Agreement

**5** This Order does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of the Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as approved, given effect and declared valid by the [Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act](#).

### Coming into force

**6** This Order comes into force on the day on which it is registered.

# What We Heard: Community Consultations on a New Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq

April 3-18, 2023



Resolute Bay – April 17, 2023



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## Acknowledgements

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank the communities of Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord for their time and hospitality during our community visits. We would especially like to thank the Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTAs), hamlet councils, and Mayoral offices for their participation and knowledge-sharing. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for leading the coordination of these meetings.

## Our Team

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group has members from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and the Government of Nunavut (GN). Four participants included representatives from each organization involved in the Working Group.



*Tuvaijuittuq Working Group members attending consultations in Clyde River, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet (left photo) and in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord (right photo). Left Photo, left to right: Syzula Ikkidluak (QIA), Delaney Ewing (DFO), Madelaine Kellett (DFO), Bernie Maclsaac (GN), and Justin Hack (GN). Right Photo, left to right: Sarah Kennedy (DFO), Bethany Schroeder (DFO), Iselena Natsiapik (QIA), Daniel Haney (GN), and Bernie Maclsaac (GN).*



## Executive Summary

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group, with members from QIA, DFO, PCA, and GN, conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 - 18, 2023. Resolute Bay consultations were held on April 17, 2023.

The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a request by QIA to establish a new Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area (MPA) to explore an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) for Tuvaijuittuq. The Working Group also shared information on our proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term MPA, and sought community feedback and support on the proposal. The purpose of this report is to summarize the feedback provided by community members who attended the meetings in Resolute Bay, to provide transparency in the process, to provide a record of the discussions and concerns shared by the community, and to provide additional information to questions raised during consultations. To ensure we have accurately captured what we heard, this report has been circulated to the Resolute Bay HTA and Resolute Bay Hamlet Council for review. Individual reports were developed for each community and after HTAs and hamlet councils have had an opportunity to comment, these reports will be shared with all five communities.

The Resolute Bay HTA and Resolute Bay Hamlet Council did not express any concerns for a new Ministerial Order in Tuvaijuittuq, and gave the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group permission to seek a letter of support through their Chairperson and Board of Directors for the HTA for the proposal. The community of Resolute Bay would like to learn more about Tuvaijuittuq as information becomes more available and would like to continue being involved in decision-making for this area. The community feels that the connections between Tuvaijuittuq and other established and potential protected areas such as Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, the Sarvarjuaq study area, and Quttinirpaaq National Park are important. Also important is finding ways to approach co-management and related community involvement in a way that works better for communities. There is support for QIA's regional governance model and an interest in learning more about it. While some community members in Resolute Bay are supportive of protecting Tuvaijuittuq in the long-term, others feel that there are too many protected areas in the Qikiqtani Region. Concerns were expressed about continued contamination in High Arctic areas from pollution and spills; these impacts are still being observed 10 to 20 years later. Other concerns shared were the possibility that protecting the area may attract more tourism, that other countries may become interested in the resources in Tuvaijuittuq, and that benefits associated with Tallurutiup Imanga are not flowing as desired into Resolute Bay. The community would like to see more seasonal jobs for youth.

### What We Heard From Communities Overall

A common theme heard from communities was a desire to learn more about the MPA, including the animals and habitats that occur there, potential for future economic opportunities, and the types of research done in the area. There is interest from all five communities to protect Tuvaijuittuq in both the short-term and long-term, but also in balancing protection with economic opportunities for future generations. Interest in protecting the area is based on Tuvaijuittuq's ecological importance, its significance to Inuit, and interest in the area's resources by other countries.



## Introduction and Approach

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group conducted community consultations in Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord between April 3 and April 18, 2023. Resolute Bay consultations were held on April 17, 2023. The purpose of these consultations was to discuss a proposed new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq, to share information on the proposed approach to regulations for this new short-term protection measure, and to seek community feedback and support on this proposal. In each community, two gatherings were held; an initial meeting with the HTA, hamlet council, Mayor, Nauttiqsuqtiit and other relevant community groups, and an evening community open house which was open to the public.

At both meetings, information was shared on the significance of Tuvaijuittuq, its boundaries, reasons why the area is being considered for protection, the steps involved in establishing a new Ministerial Order MPA and proposed regulations for this short-term protection measure. The presentation materials and relevant assessments, including a summary of Natural Resources Canada's resource and economic assessment for the area<sup>1</sup> and an ecological and biological overview, were made available to community members in both English and Inuktitut. Two-page summaries of what we heard during November consultations were also provided. Simultaneous interpretation was provided at each meeting.

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group committed to circulating a "What We Heard" report to each community for their review and approval summarizing their feedback during these consultations. If community members or organizations feel that their feedback was misinterpreted or misrepresented, the Working Group will revise the report as requested and re-circulate to the community. Please contact Chandra Chambers ([chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:chandra.chambers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) if you have any questions or concerns. After communities have had a chance to review and approve their What We Heard reports, the Working Group will provide copies of all reports to each community.

DFO committed to following up with communities on outstanding questions that were asked during community meetings. Answers to these questions were circulated to each community HTO, Hamlet office and Mayor in an email on June 28, 2023, and this information is included in Appendix 1 of this report. A copy of the MPA regulations that are being proposed for the new Ministerial Order MPA are also included in Appendix 2 of this report.

The HTAs and/or hamlet councils in some communities could not form quorum during the April meetings. The Working Group followed up with these boards virtually and received permission from each to seek a formal letter of support for the new regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> The full Natural Resources Canada resource assessment was also made available and can be accessed at: [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/rncan-nrcan/m183-2/M183-2-8897-eng.pdf)



## Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) and Hamlet Council Meeting

The Working Group met with the Resolute Bay HTA and Resolute Bay Hamlet Council on April 3, 2023 at 2:00 pm at the ATCO hotel conference room. Other community groups were invited to attend. Seven people were present for this meeting. The representatives present did not express any concerns with the proposal to repeal the current Ministerial Order and replace with a new Ministerial Order in Tuvaijuittuq. As a result, the HTA members gave permission for the Working Group to seek a letter of support for the proposal from the Chairperson and Board of Directors for the HTA.

### **What we heard:**

#### *Importance to Inuit*

- The community would like to learn more about harvesting rights in Tuvaijuittuq.

#### Response:

- The Ministerial Order MPA is consistent with the Nunavut Agreement and does not affect the wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit within the Nunavut Settlement Area. In the offshore area of Tuvaijuittuq that falls outside the Nunavut Settlement Area, the regulations of this short-term protection measure would apply to everyone.
- Harvesting rights in Tuvaijuittuq are also addressed in Appendix 1.

#### *Ecological Significance*

- Resolute Bay would like more information on the species found in Tuvaijuittuq (such as Arctic char, polar bears and narwhal), and why the area is important.

#### Response:

- There are a few reasons why Tuvaijuittuq is being considered for protection. One important reason is that Tuvaijuittuq is an area of multi-year ice that is expected to maintain summer sea ice the longest as ice declines in other areas of the Arctic due to climate change. As a result, this region is likely to become an important refuge for animals that depend on sea ice. The area also maintains a number of unique communities of organisms above, inside and below the ice.
- Research in Tuvaijuittuq is led by DFO through an ongoing research program called the Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) – Last Ice. This program undertakes seasonal marine mammal, sea ice, lower trophic level, and other types of research.
- Information related to animals, habitats and climate trends within Tuvaijuittuq is available at the following websites: [https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2020/2020\\_056-eng.html](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2020/2020_056-eng.html) (DFO 2020; Inuktitut version available); [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2021/mpo-dfo/Fs97-6-3408-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/mpo-dfo/Fs97-6-3408-eng.pdf) (Charette et al. 2020); and <http://wwwdev.ncr.dfo->



[mpo.ca/oceans/mpa-zpm/tuvaijuittuq/index-eng.html](https://mpo.ca/oceans/mpa-zpm/tuvaijuittuq/index-eng.html). Additional information related to research in Tuvaijuittuq is provided in Appendix 1.

- The information above is meant to build on presentations made to the community on November 15, 2022 in which information on the ecological significance and assessments of petroleum and economic potential of the area was shared.

*Economic Opportunities and Activities*

- The community is interested in learning more about how the Tuvaijuittuq boundary was determined.

Response:

- Canada and Denmark signed a boundary agreement on June 14, 2022 to resolve a disagreement on the maritime boundary along the eastern edge of Tuvaijuittuq in the Lincoln Sea. Once an agreement is approved by Canada, this portion of the MPA boundary will be adjusted to follow the new international boundary line.
- Additional information on how the Tuvaijuittuq boundary was decided on is provided in Appendix 1.
- There is support in the community for protecting Tuvaijuittuq, along with other areas in the region such as Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area. Connectivity between protected areas in the same region is important, and this connection should extend to how we approach co-management. For example, finding ways to make community involvement more efficient with their many partners and conservation projects.

*QIA Vision for an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA)*

- There is support for QIA’s vision for Tuvaijuittuq, including finding efficiencies with their regional governance model to change the way we co-manage conservation areas in the Qikiqtani Region.

Response:

- QIA will be undertaking consultations on their regional governance model in the coming months.

*Concerns*

- The area is being contaminated from pollution from both the water and air. The impacts from spills that occurred 10-20 years ago are still being seen, and it takes a long time for ecosystems to recover from these impacts.

## Community Open House

The Working Group hosted a community open house meeting on April 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The meeting took place in the Community Gym, where approximately seven adults were in attendance. Children and youth were also welcomed.

### **What we heard:**

#### *Importance to Inuit*

- Community members would like to continue their involvement in decision-making processes for Tuvaijuittuq, including Inuit governance and stewardship. There is interest in learning more about QIA's approach to regional governance.
- It was recommended that communities be involved from the beginning when committees are created because there have been issues with advisory groups not listening to community input.



*Community members meet with the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group members, April 17, 2023.*

#### *Ecological Significance*

- Community members expressed an interest in learning more about the significance of Tuvaijuittuq as more information becomes available.

#### Response:

- In addition to the answer provided above under “Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) and Hamlet Council Meeting”, the Working Group will update the communities as more information becomes available for Tuvaijuittuq.

#### *Economic Opportunities and Activities*

- The community of Resolute Bay would like to see more seasonal jobs for youth. There is currently a recycling program for plastic and metal that creates seasonal jobs for youth, but there should be more, perhaps related to protection work.
- Community members would like to learn more about how the proposed regulations apply within different parts of the marine environment (e.g., between 12 and 200 miles).

#### Response:

- In addition to the information already provided during the meeting, and above under “Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) and Hamlet Council Meeting”, more information on the proposed regulations and how they are applied are provided in appendices 1 and 2.

#### *Concerns*

- There is concern that once the area becomes protected it will attract more tourists. A community member expressed that when Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area was created, the HTA had identified some ecologically sensitive areas, but there has been an increase in sailboats in those areas.

Response:

- It should be noted that the Tuvaijuittuq MPA is an area made up largely of multi-year sea-ice and is difficult to access without an icebreaker. The MPA does not include the land (it starts at the low water mark). Given that the area cannot be accessed by regular vessels, tourist access to the area is extremely limited.
- There is concern in the community that other countries have an interest in accessing oil and gas in the future when the ice melts.
- Some community members feel that there are too many conservation areas in the Qikiqtani Region, and there is concern that protection may interfere with some economic opportunities.
- There is concern that the benefits associated with the current Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements are not flowing as desired into Resolute Bay.
- The Resolute Bay community would like an update on the status of their harbour.

Response:

- An Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development was signed by Transport Canada and the GN on January 16, 2023, and will provide up to \$76,281,900 to the GN for the design and construction of the two community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. The current funding for community harbours will cover the cost of constructing at least one breakwater, a parking area, dredging, a boat launch, and floating docks.
- A more detailed update is provided in Appendix 1.

## Next Steps

The next steps to pursue establishment of a new Ministerial Order MPA will be to seek stakeholder input on the proposal, seek formal community support, complete assessments and approvals needed under the Nunavut Agreement such as conformity determination by the Nunavut Planning Commission and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approval, and complete DFO's regulatory process. Formal letters of support will be sought from community hamlets and HTAs. Community members are encouraged to communicate their feedback on the proposal to these organizations to inform their decision. DFO will notify communities and stakeholders prior to the proposal being published online for a 30-day public comment period – additional input can be provided at that time as well.

It is important to us that we have summarized your input on this proposal correctly. If you feel that we have missed any input provided during our meetings or captured information incorrectly, please reach out to the email address provided above for correction.

The Tuvaijuittuq Working Group would like to thank all of the community members who attended these meetings - your feedback is vital and appreciated.

# Thank you.

## Appendix 1. Follow-up questions and answers from the April 2023 consultations on a new Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq.

\*Please note, an additional question and answer have been added (Question #8) and Question #15 has been expanded upon since it was sent to the HTA and hamlet.

### 1) What is the purpose of protecting Tuvaijuittuq?

Researchers agree that summer sea ice will remain the longest in Tuvaijuittuq (Figure 1) as it continues to decline in other areas of the Arctic due to climate change. Because of this, the area is expected to become an important refuge for ice-dependent species. The area has a very diverse ecosystem, and contains a number of unique communities of organisms, including communities on the ice, in the ice, and below the ice. Habitat in Tuvaijuittuq is important to marine mammals and sea birds. For all of these reasons, DFO and its partners believe that the area, its habitat, and the wildlife within it, would benefit from protection. The proposed Ministerial Order MPA is a short-term protection tool which will protect the area for up to five years. The purpose of this short-term protection tool is to prohibit new activities in the area that may cause negative impacts while additional information is collected to support a better understanding of the conservation and protection needs of the area before longer-term protection measures are considered.

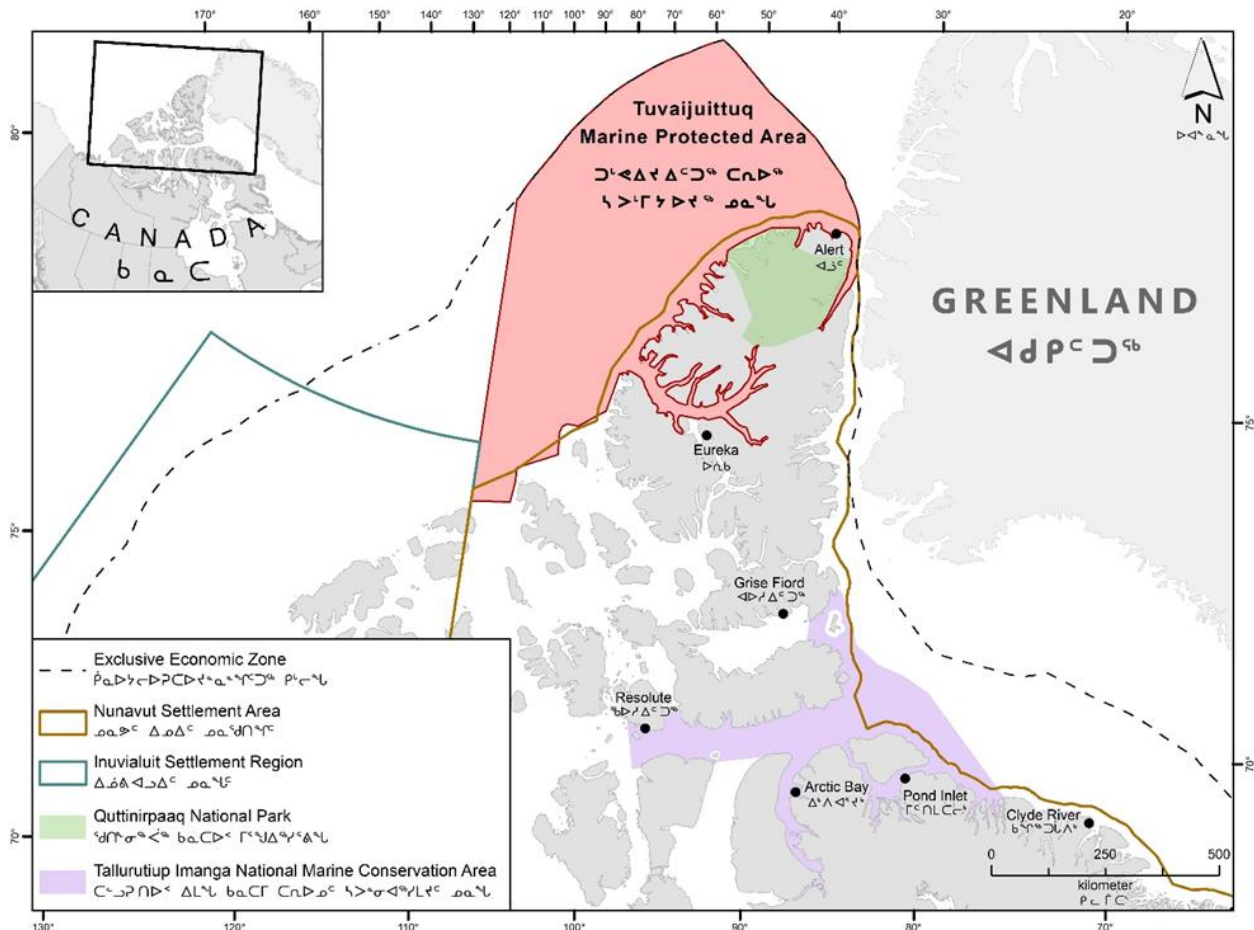


Figure 1. Map of Tuvaijuittuq MPA by Ministerial Order

**2) How was the Tuvaijuittuq boundary determined? Why are the rest of the Queen Elizabeth Islands not included in the boundary?**

The Tuvaijuittuq MPA includes the marine waters off northern Ellesmere Island, starting from the low water mark and extending to the outer boundary of Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone. It also includes the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice. The initial boundaries of Tuvaijuittuq were based on the 2011 Canadian Science Advisory Report ([2011/55](#)), which identified key multi-year ice habitat. The boundary was later extended to the nearshore areas off Ellesmere Island within the Nunavut Settlement Area as more of the area was understood. The marine area around the Queen Elizabeth Islands south of Ellesmere Island supports different communities of organisms than those within Tuvaijuittuq. This area was not considered for inclusion in Tuvaijuittuq as it has different conservation needs. Partners agreed to settle on the boundary as it is now and consider the remaining islands at a later time as possible new protected areas. Some of the Queen Elizabeth Islands overlap with the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, which is not included in the Tuvaijuittuq boundary.

**3) What does “freezing the footprint of ongoing activities” mean?**

Freezing the footprint of ongoing activities means allowing activities that are already lawfully occurring in the area to continue and preventing any new activities that may damage, disturb, destroy or remove important habitats, features and organisms. Ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq were identified using a number of different methods, including community consultation (in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord in 2019 and in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Clyde River in 2022), consultation with QIA, and consultation with DFO Science and other federal departments and agencies including the Department of National Defence, Parks Canada Agency, and Canadian Coast Guard. DFO gathered further information about ongoing activities by seeking input on the proposed regulations from industry and other stakeholders (e.g., non-governmental organizations), and from studies such as an assessment of vessel traffic using Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals in the area between 2012-2019. This study is currently being updated so DFO has the most up-to-date information.

Based on available information, DFO determined that ongoing activities in Tuvaijuittuq include:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence; and
- (b) marine scientific research activities.

The regulations also include exemptions and exclusions helping to respect commitments Canada has made both domestically and internationally.

The full regulations are provided as a separate attachment in both English and Inuktitut.

**4) Does freezing the footprint of activities affect wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit in this area?**

The Ministerial Order MPA does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of Nunavut Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Nunavut Agreement. This means that the Ministerial Order regulations do not affect the wildlife harvesting rights of Inuit within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA).

There appear to be no provisions within the Nunavut Agreement that extend Inuit harvesting rights beyond the NSA portion of Tuvaijuittuq. As a result, the regulations would apply to everyone in the area of Tuvaijuittuq that falls outside of the NSA. However, we would be interested in further discussing the matter if there are provisions in the Nunavut Agreement you believe have been overlooked.

**5) Why are there exemptions for foreign states in the Ministerial Order MPA regulations?**

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which is an international agreement, Canada must allow certain activities such as navigation (vessels transiting through) and laying of cables and pipelines, from foreign states in certain maritime zones. Because of this, those foreign activities are exempted from the application of the Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq. The exclusive economic zone, an area of the sea beyond the territorial sea extending out to 200 nautical miles from the coastline (Figure 2), is not Canadian territory, and in that area Canada only has jurisdiction over economic resources such as fishing, oil and gas, and mineral exploitation.

Under Canadian law, Canada has the authority to prohibit domestic vessel navigation and other activities in this area. Since the purpose of the short-term Ministerial Order MPA is to conserve and protect the vulnerable habitats and organisms in Tuvaijuittuq while we collect additional information to inform decisions about long-term protection, we aim to limit any activity, including domestic activities, that may negatively impact the area. Although foreign navigation is allowed in the MPA, foreign countries will typically comply with voluntary measures, if guidance is provided to avoid certain areas within the MPA.

**6) Can the old sea ice (multi-year ice) be broken by ice-breakers?**

While some ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice, there are different classes of ice-breakers built for different purposes and ice thicknesses. Not all ice-breakers can break through thick multi-year ice. To our knowledge, the few vessels that have travelled to Tuvaijuittuq for activities such as national defence, safety, marine research, and foreign vessel travel, have stayed within the nearshore areas during the open water season and did not actively conduct ice-breaking activities.

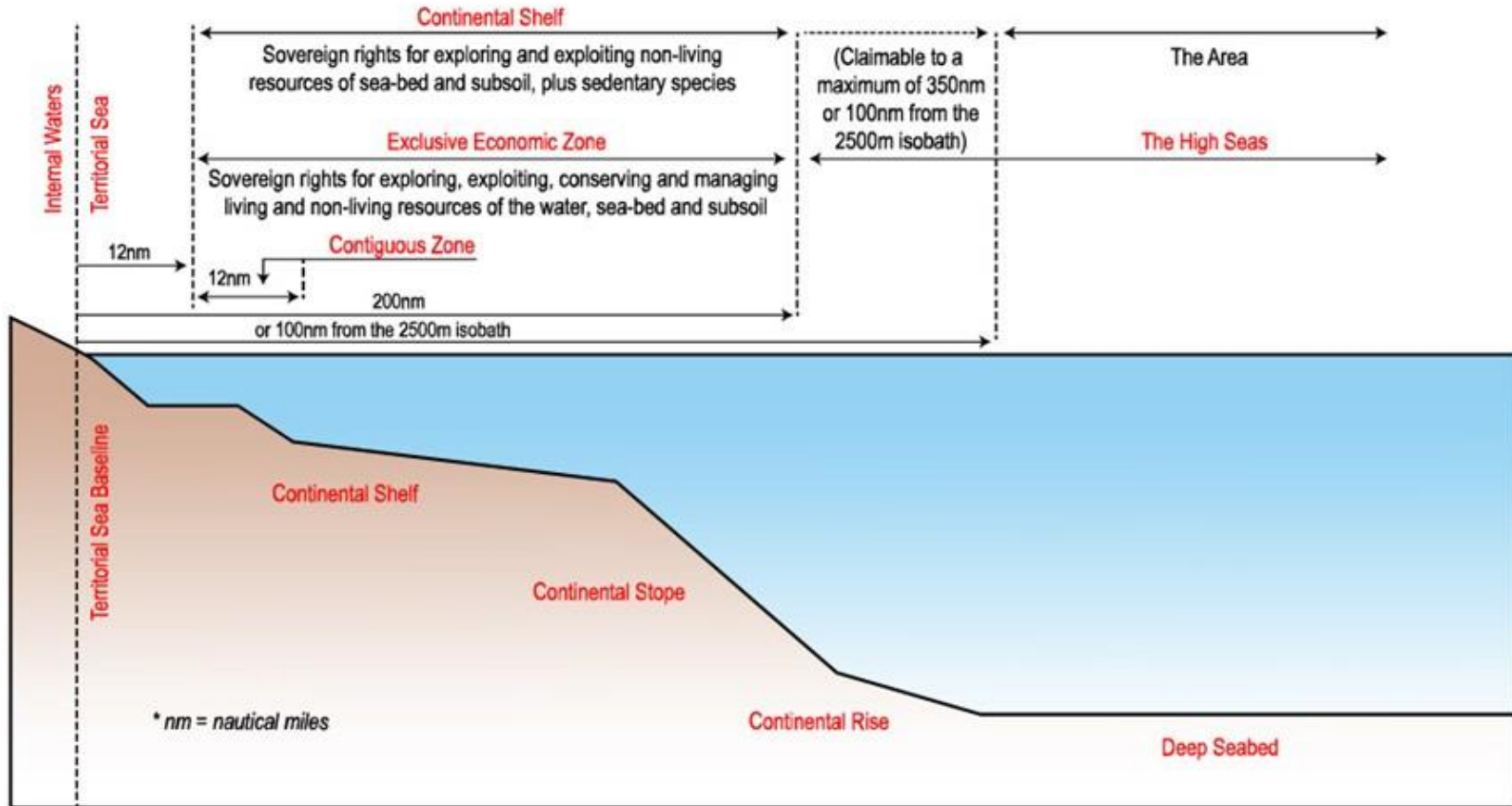


Figure 2. Canada's Maritime Zones

## 7) How can Inuit visit Tuvaijuittuq?

Tuvaijuittuq is an area of the sea that is a mainly ice-covered all year round and is very remote. There is one military research station in Alert called Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Alert located outside of Tuvaijuittuq on northern Ellesmere Island and a small research base in Eureka on Fosheim Peninsula. There are no communities nearby – the closest community is Grise Fiord, which is approximately 327 km as the crow flies from the MPA's southern-most boundary. Activity in Tuvaijuittuq is limited to national defence activities and marine scientific research, mainly due to the extensive ice cover in this marine area. In 2019, the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord indicated that the area is difficult to reach by skidoo; however, some community members in Grise Fiord had travelled, or knew of people that had travelled, as far as Eureka (which is south of the proposed area) by dogsled in the past.

There are however, opportunities for involvement in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, which are based out of CFS Alert. For more information on participating in research activities in Tuvaijuittuq, please contact Chandra Chambers ([Chandra.Chambers@df0-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Chandra.Chambers@df0-mpo.gc.ca)).

## 8) Fisheries quotas to Inuit

It is important to note that Tuvaijuittuq is largely ice-covered all year round and is not accessible to fishing vessels. As a result, no large-scale commercial fishing activities are possible in the area under current conditions. It is unknown if ice conditions would support small-scale on ice fisheries, and no data are available to understand whether a fishery (small or large-scale) would be possible.

When we visited communities in April 2023, we received a question relating to fisheries quotas in general and how these are allocated to Inuit.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada continues to respect and implement the obligations under Nunavut Agreement including provisions related to offshore commercial fisheries access that give special consideration to Nunavut. Through implementation of the Nunavut Agreement over the years, the share of adjacent resources to Qikiqtani Inuit has significantly increased, such that Qikiqtani Inuit fishers now have 80% of Turbot and 42% of shrimp resources including 100% of all fisheries resources within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

## 9) What kind of Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit (IQ) is used? What is studied?

- Oral History passed down over centuries of Inuit Knowledge.
- Inuit knowledge living and adapting, part of present day life. It is in how Inuit live and see the world today.
- QIA would like to gather IQ for Tuvaijuittuq.

## 10) Can more information be provided about the infrastructure that QIA refers to? Would QIA make buildings or houses for Tuvaijuittuq purposes?

- Multi-use facilities to address Inuit Stewardship and community needs (office space, equipment storage, garage, country food processing, community outreach, elder gatherings, etc.).

- Additional infrastructure that supports Inuit stewardship activities and the Nauttigsuqtiit program, such as housing and supplementing the facilities in the Tallurutiup Imanga communities as appropriate.
- Infrastructure requirements for Inuit stewardship that arise due to changing socio-economic or environmental conditions.

**11) When will the regional governance model will be in effect?**

At this time, this is still at the negotiation table. However, QIA is seeking this Regional Governance model for future IIBAs as well as existing IIBAs that will be renegotiated over time.

**12) Status update on the harbour planned for Resolute Bay.**

Transport Canada (TC), the Government of Nunavut (GN), and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) have been working together towards the development of community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay and have developed an Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) that was adopted in October 2022.

The IIP was completed based on community engagements and other work to date and informed the Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development.

The Agreement for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord Community Harbour Development was signed by TC and the GN on January 16, 2023 and will provide up to \$76,281,900 to the GN for the design and construction of the two community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. The current funding for community harbours will cover the cost of constructing at least one breakwater, a parking area, dredging, a boat launch, and floating docks.

TC has provided a copy of the agreement to the QIA representative, to be kept in confidence.

We understand from the GN that:

- A Project Manager with GN's Department of Community and Government Services has been assigned to the projects.
- The exact procurement approach for construction has not been finalized, but it is likely to follow the GN's standard procurement practices.
- The first step is expected to be a Request for Proposal for engineering and design services.

For more information, please contact Matthew Bowler ([MBowler@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:MBowler@GOV.NU.CA)) or Miguel Parent ([miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca](mailto:miguel.parent@tc.gc.ca)).

**13) What type of research is occurring in Tuvaijuittuq?**

Research in Tuvaijuittuq is led by DFO through the Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) - Last Ice and this team includes researchers from universities and organizations all over the world. The program brings together a number of different specialists to study different features in Tuvaijuittuq. For example, experts in sea ice, water, fish, marine mammals, and those who study organisms such as algae and krill that form the basis of the High Arctic



food web. Some of this work is done during a late winter/early spring seasonal field camp, where researchers work together as a team to collect samples and do their research. Others, like marine mammal surveys, are conducted around the same time but not as part of the field camp, and in the fall. The program began in 2018 and experienced some delays due to COVID-19 but is continuing. A new ship-based program called ArcticCore will begin this year and will include Archer Fiord and adjacent areas around Tuvaijuittuq (as sea-ice permits). This new program will study physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production, zooplankton, benthos) oceanography and will also include marine mammal surveys and sea ice studies. If long-term protection is put into place in the future, then more formal management and monitoring plans would be developed for Tuvaijuittuq, in collaboration with partners and communities.

Research partners in MAP-Last Ice:

DFO  
Department of National Defence  
Defence Research and Development Canada  
Université Laval  
University of Essex  
Université du Québec à Rimouski  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography  
Polar Continental Shelf Program  
Alfred Wegener Institute  
University of Bristol  
Resolute HTA Board of Directors

Type of research conducted as part of MAP-Last Ice:

- Sea ice distribution, physical properties (thickness, composition), productivity (algal communities, biomass)
- Evolution of the ice and under-ice habitat over time
- Continuous atmospheric, oceanographic and sea ice observations
- Zooplankton, fish and benthic organisms
- Marine mammal and habitat surveys
- Physical (currents/movement), chemical (nutrients, ocean acidification), and biological (primary production) oceanography

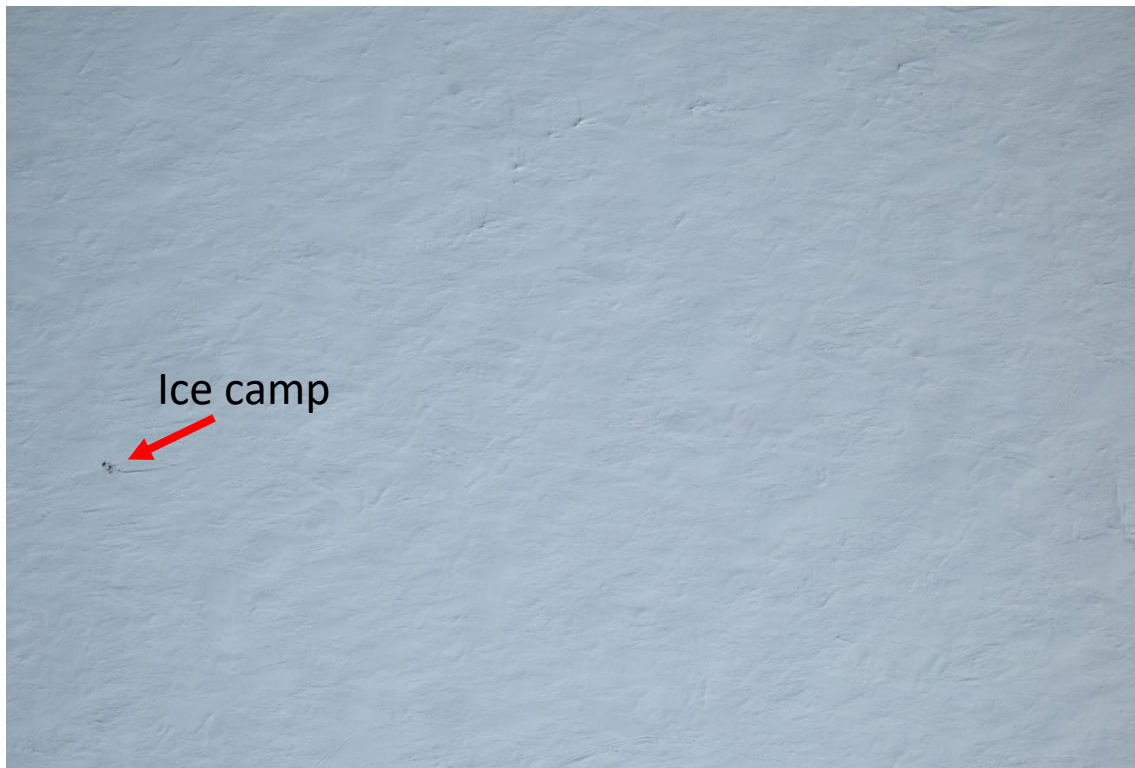
Collection of ice cores during the MAP-Last Ice and ArcticCORE programs:

We are very conscious of potential disturbances to the environment and during our sampling we take action to minimize these disturbances. When we collect ice cores, we sample only a part of the core and we replace the rest of the core to its original hole. Once replaced in its original hole, the core refreezes quickly, typically within a few hours.

The ice cores that we collect are small, at 9 cm diameter. This means that the surface area of one core is 5 times smaller than that of a hole cut out with an 8-inch auger, and about 10-12 times smaller than that of a seal breathing hole. While the seals keep their holes open,

we “close” our holes after sampling (with the original ice core from which we cut off one or a few sections). If we add the area of all the cores that we collect during one sampling season, it would typically add up to much less than 1 square meter, at most 2 m<sup>2</sup>.

In the photo below, we can see our ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. In another photo taken a few days after we took out camp, it was not possible to identify the site where the ice camp had been set up.



**Figure 3. Aerial view showing the ice camp on the sea ice north of Ellesmere Island. A few days after taking out the camp, the site of the ice camp was not visible anymore.**

#### **14) Interest in learning more about Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program**

##### **Polar Continental Shelf Program:**

Natural Resources Canada’s Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP) supports Arctic science by providing logistics planning, coordination and advice to Canadian government, non-government, university and international researchers. The PCSP supports projects in the Arctic from Churchill, Manitoba, to the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, and from the Yukon/Alaska border to as far as Greenland, on occasion.

Support can include air transportation, as well as fuel, field equipment for loan, field communications and safety, logistics advice for field studies, the use of the PCSP facility in Resolute, Nunavut, and shipping and receiving coordination and advice. The PCSP facility in Resolute is typically open from late January to September each year and is comprised of

an accommodations area that can house up to 237 guests, lounge areas, a fitness room, office spaces, kitchen and dining facilities, an operations centre and a laboratory.

The PCSP provides employment, student training and business opportunities for northern residents. The PCSP also helps with science outreach through publishing an annual science report and connecting researchers with northern community organizations.

The table below includes PCSP projects that occurred close to Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq in recent years. Please feel free to reach out to the project leads if you have an interest in specific projects.

As a contact at the Polar Continental Shelf Program, please feel free to reach out to **Michael Meunier**, Manager of the Program Coordination and Outreach unit ([michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:michael.meunier@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)) or the PCSP Ottawa mailbox ([pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:pcspottawa-ppcpottawa@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)). Michael and his group would be pleased to connect with you and discuss your priorities.

Here are some additional resources that may be of interest:

- A list of all 2019 and 2020 projects supported by PCSP can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/current-projects/10009>.
- More information on the PCSP can be found at: [https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure\\_eng.pdf](https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/earthsciences/files/pdf/polar/PCSP-Brochure_eng.pdf)
- Information on project support applications can be found here: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/research-support-arctic-logistics-and-field-equipment-for-across-canada/10003>.
- Annual Science Reports can be found at the following link: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/science-and-data/science-and-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/pcsp-publications/10011>.

**Table 1. List of PCSP-supported projects in the Arctic Archipelago, many near Grise Fiord and/or Tuvaijuittuq MPA in recent years**

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Hsin Chiang	McGill University	McGill Arctic Research Station, Expedition Fjord	A new window on the universe: radio astronomy from northern Canada
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Grise Fiord	Aerial survey of High Arctic walrus and narwhal stocks
Michael Maurice	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Svartevaeg, Eureka, Isachsen, Grise Fiord, Mould Bay, Rea Point, Cape Providence, Resolute Bay, Steffanson Island, Cape Liverpool, Fort Ross, Gateshead	Annual Maintenance of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Automatic Weather Station array - Arctic Archipeligo

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Christine Michel	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka	Arctic CORE (Conservation, Observation, Research, and Engagement)
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Assistance Bay	Assessment of Bioremediation Potential of Marine Fuels on NWP Arctic Beaches
Joseph Monteith	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	Alert, Eureka	Baffin/High Arctic Inspections 2022
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Characterizing viral impact in the Last Ice Area
Christopher Omelon	Queen's University	Expedition Fiord, Resolute Bay	Climate Change Research at the McGill Arctic Research Station
David Didier	Université du Québec à Rimouski	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Coastal dynamics and hazards in Grise Fiord and Jones Sound
Mark Skidmore	Montana State University	Truelove Lowlands, Croker Bay, Resolute, Gascoyne inlet	Exploration of Saline Cryospheric Habitats with Europa Relevance (ESCHER): An approach using airborne and submarine semiautonomous systems
Erin MacNeil	Natural Resources Canada	Gascoyne Inlet	Defence of North America
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Devon Island lakes site	Developing new technologies to access and investigate the hypersaline, subzero Devon Island Subglacial Lake System, a unique Mars and icy moon analogue
Denis Lacelle	University of Ottawa	Eureka	Effect of degrading ice wedge polygon landscapes on local topography, hydrology, and water quality.
Susan Kutz	University of Calgary	East wind lake, Eureka, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Disease in High Arctic Ungulates - Terrestrial Investigations
Amelie Roberto-Charron	Government of Nunavut	Eureka Weather Station, Resolute Bay	Emerging Infectious Diseases in High Arctic Ungulates – Aerial assessment

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Clément Chevallier	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Cape Verra, Cape Verra, Nirjutiqarvik, Cape Liddon, Houbhouse Inlet, Prince Leopold Island, Baillarge Bay	Fulmar colony surveys in Lancaster Sound
Myriam Lemelin	Université de Sherbrooke	T-MARS camp, McGill Arctic Research Station, Axel Heiberg Island	Geological study and mapping of hydrothermal deposits and gossans, Expedition Fiord, Axel Heiberg Island, Nunavut, as analogues for Mars
Christine Dow	University of Waterloo	Devon Ice Cap camp	Geophysical imaging of the Devon sub-glacial lakes
Luke Copland	University of Ottawa	Manson Icefield, Sydkap base camp, Sydkap ice marginal lake complex, Grise Fiord	Glacier monitoring on southern Ellesmere Island
Maya Bhatia	University of Alberta	Sydkap Glacier and surrounding area, Starnes Fiord and surrounding area, Jakeman Glacier and surrounding area, Grise Fiord	Glacier-ocean interactions in the Canadian high Arctic
Daniel Fortier	University of Montreal	Ward Hunt Island	Ground ice of eastern Canadian High Arctic polar desert
Cortney Wheeler	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Elwin Bay, Creswell Bay	High Arctic Beluga Whale Stock Structure
Greg Henry	University of British Columbia	Sverdrup Pass, Knud Peninsula, PCSP Eureka, Bache Peninsula, Princess Marie Bay, Alexandra Fiord, Cape Bounty	High Arctic tundra ecosystem responses to 30 years of experimental and observed climate change
Masaki Uchida	National Institute of Polar Research, Japan	Oobloyah Bay	Identifying and understanding the effect of temporal and spatial changes towards the biodiversity and carbon sequestration processes in the high Arctic
John Moores	York University	Expedition Fjord	Identifying putative microbial drivers of methane flux on Earth and on Mars
Raoul-Marie Couture	Université Laval	Ward Hunt Island	Impact of oxygen pulses on redox-sensitive chemicals and microbiome in Canada's northernmost lake
Cory Matthews	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Goose Fiord, Brooman Point, Kearney Cove	Improving High Arctic walrus stock assessment using satellite telemetry, genetics, and time-lapse photography
Lyle Whyte	McGill University	Lost Hammer, Thompson Glacier, White Glacier,	

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
		Expedition Fjord, Gypsum Hill, Color Peak	Investigations of microbial activity in cryoenvironments in the Canadian High Arctic
Laura Brown	University of Toronto Mississauga	Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Nanuit Itillinga (Polar Bear Pass), Cornwallis Island Lakes	Lake Ice in the Canadian High Arctic
Scott Lamoureux	Queen's University	Cape Bounty, Melville Island, Resolute vicinity	Land and water impacts and response to climate and permafrost changes in the High Arctic
Laura Thomson	Natural Resources Canada	Muller Ice Cap, Expedition Fiord	Mass Balance and Energy fluxes of White Glacier, Axel Heiberg Island, NU
Catherine Girard	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC)	Ward Hunt Island, Resolute Bay vicinity	Microbes on the go: Release of cryospheric microbes to downstream habitats
Derek Mueller	Carleton University	Milne Ice Shelf, Milne Fiord, Purple Valley, Eureka, Resolute	Milne Fiord ice-ocean interactions: Implications for the stability of ice shelves and glaciers in the Polar Regions
Dave Burgess	Natural Resources Canada	Agassiz Ice Cap, Meighen Ice Cap, Grise Fiord, Devon Ice Cap, Melville Ice Cap	National Glaciology Project - Queen Elizabeth Islands, NU & NT
Warwick Vincent	Université Laval	Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island) and Ward Hunt Island	Northern Ellesmere Island in the Global Environment - Sentinel North
Valerie Amarualik	Parks Canada	Young Inlet, Dundee Bight, Dome Camp	Qausuittuq National Park Operations 2022/2023
Adam Ferguson	Parks Canada	Fort Conger, Lake Hazen, Ruggles River, Tanquary Fiord, Resolute Bay	Quttinirpaaq National Park Operations 2022
Gordon Osinski	University of Western Ontario	Haughton River Valley	Reconstructing the post-impact history of the Haughton impact structure, Nunavut
Lynda Gullason	Inuit Heritage Trust Incorporated	Resolute, Morin Point, Devon Island, Pond Inlet	Saving Morin Point: Climate Change Risk Assessment and Archaeological Heritage Recovery
Dermot Antoniades	Université Laval	Stuckberry Valley, Lake Hazen	The functioning and evolution of the ecosystems of Stuckberry Valley, northern Ellesmere Island

Primary Investigator	Institution	Study Location(s)	Project Title
Joshua King	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Development of a new Canadian Arctic Archipelago sea ice product from ICESat-2 (Ice Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2)
Michael Brohart	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Eureka, Nunavut	Instrument calibration at Eureka weather station as part of the Canadian Brewer Spectrophotometer Network operation
Alison Criscitiello	University of Alberta	Grise Fiord and Resolute, Nunavut	Airborne gravity survey over Devon Ice Cap
Rich DeVall	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Isachsen (Ellef Ringnes Island), Rea Point (Melville Island), Stefansson Island, Fort Ross (Somerset Island), Gateshead Island, Cape Liverpool (Bylot Island), Svarteveg (Axel Heiberg Island) and Grise Fiord (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Annual maintenance of ECCC's automatic weather station array – Arctic Archipelago
Grant Gilchrist	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Grise Fiord, Nunavut	Population surveys of endangered ivory gulls on Ellesmere Island and Devon Islands
Alexander Culley	Université Laval	Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Resolute (Cornwallis Island), Ward Hunt Island and Thores Lake (Ellesmere Island), Nunavut	Viral ecology of the high Canadian Arctic in water, ice and aerosols
Mark Lamothe	Natural Resources Canada	Eureka and Resolute, Nunavut	Eureka geomagnetic electronic replacement
Nicolas Lecomte	Université de Montreal	Bylot Island, Igloolik Island and Eureka, Nunavut	Arctic IMPACTS: tracking impacts of ecosystem changes in the Arctic
Christine Michel	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Alert, Nunavut	Multidisciplinary Arctic Program (MAP) – Last Ice
Wayne Pollard	McGill University	Eureka and Expedition Fiord (Axel Heiberg Island), Nunavut	The vulnerability and resiliency of ice-rich permafrost in cold polar desert environments in response to changing climate
Vincent St. Louis	University of Alberta	Lake Hazen, Quttinirpaaq National Park, Nunavut	The impacts of rapidly receding glaciers on downstream freshwater resources and ecological services

### 15) What is being done to clean up past military, research and Government of Canada sites left on Ellesmere Island?

There were a number of sites in Quttinirpaaq National Park that required remediation. These sites have been remediated, with the exception of Fort Conger, which now has a long-term monitoring strategy in place.

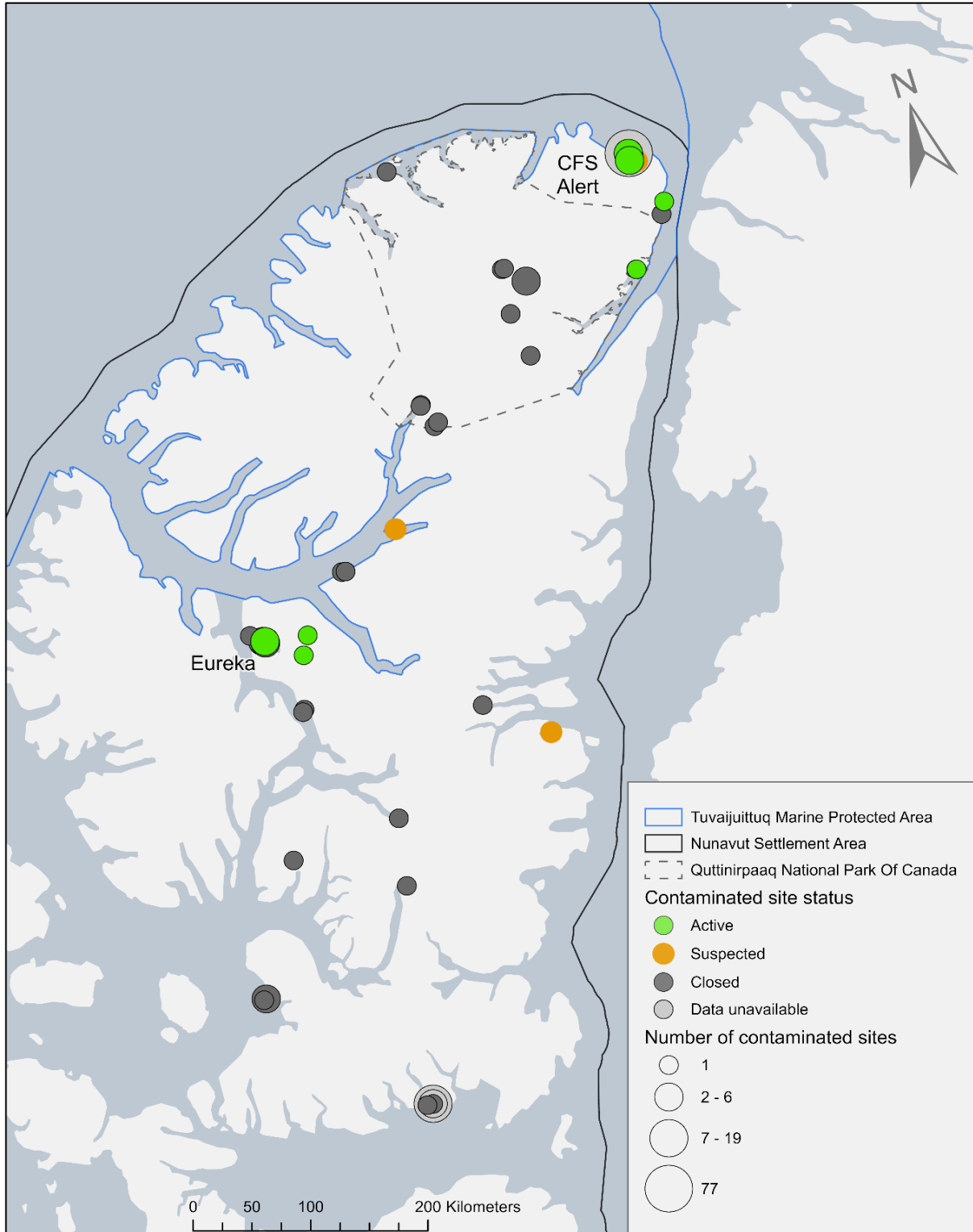
Fort Conger is a historical site situated on the shore of Discovery Harbour on Lady Franklin Bay, (N 81° 45.13', W 64° 49.56'). The site was used as a base by early Arctic expeditions and a scientific research camp. The site was also visited by early twentieth-century expeditions and later by government and military personnel, researchers, Inughuit hunters and tourists. A human health and ecological risk assessment conducted for the area identified risks from contamination at the site and a Risk Management and Remediation Plan has been developed. While some remediation has been completed, additional work is not an option at this time due to the remoteness of the site and the risks to cultural artifacts. Therefore, a long-term monitoring plan was developed so that, if the site becomes more accessible and remediation is possible, the proposed risk management and remediation strategy could be reviewed and updated. For more information on these sites, please contact Jane Chisholm at [jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jane.chisholm@pc.gc.ca).

Additional information has been gathered on other sites on Ellesmere Island from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI). The available data are summarized together in Figure 4, Table 2. The GNWT Spills Database is a collection of reported petroleum and other hazardous material spills in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The FCSI includes information on all known and suspected contaminated sites under the management of federal departments, agencies and consolidated Crown corporations.

The majority of contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island have been closed following historical reviews, testing, clean-ups or long-term monitoring activities. Available information from these two databases indicates that there are ten active sites (five in or near CFS Alert, four in or near Eureka, and one in Fort Conger) and three suspected sites (one at the Alexandra Fiord RCMP Detachment Site, one at D'Iberville Fjord, and one at Alert). Site status and actions data are unavailable from the GNWT Spills Database.

Site numbers that start with “spill-“ are from the GNWT Spills Database, and all other sites are from the FCSI. The site status refers to what is currently happening with the site. An “active” site is a confirmed contaminated site where remediation action is or may be required; a “closed” site is a site that requires no further action; and a “suspected” site requires further assessment work to confirm whether the site is considered a contaminated site. Actions tell us what has been done to the site, for example remediation efforts or testing.

The GNWT Spills database can be found at <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/spills>, and the FCSI data can be found at <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/home-accueil-eng.aspx> and <https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/numbers-numeros-eng.aspx?qid=1680451>. Information on the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/federal-contaminated-sites/action-plan.html>.



**Figure 4. Map showing closed, active and suspected contaminated sites on Ellesmere Island, NU. Source data: Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) Spills Database and the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI), accessed May 2023**

**Table 2. List of active and suspected contaminated sites located on Ellesmere Island, including information on reporting organization (Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [CIRNAC]; Fisheries and Oceans Canada [DFO]; National Defence [DND]; Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC]; Parks Canada Agency [PCA]; Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP]), contaminants (petroleum hydrocarbons [PHCs]; benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene [BTEXs]; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs), quantity, and actions.**

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
286	Lincoln Bay	Active	Data unavailable	82.0833	-62.0000	CIRNAC	PHCs	12	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
2747	Eureka High Arctic Weather Station	Active	Data unavailable	79.9908	-85.8586	ECCC	PHCs, BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	15750	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
8328	Fort Conger Historic Site	Active	Data unavailable	81.7522	-64.8261	PCA	PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1265	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24258	Romulus - Panarctic C-42 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.8526	-84.3764	CIRNAC	BTEXs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3500	Remediation / risk management completed. Confirmatory sampling underway.
24259	Gemini - Panarctic E-10 Well Site	Active	Data unavailable	79.9902	-84.0690	CIRNAC	PHCs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	1500	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
27530	Neil Trivet Gaw Lab (Bapmon - Alert)	Active	Data unavailable	82.4535	-62.5135	ECCC	PHCs	0	Initial testing completed. Detailed testing underway.
20247006	Alert Main Station	Active	Data unavailable	82.4981	-62.3367	DND	PHCs, PAHs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	14500	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.

Site Number	Site Name / Location	Site Status	Occurrence Date	Latitude	Longitude	Reporting Organization	Contaminants	Quantity (cubic metres)	Actions
20247025	Alert Tx Site	Active	Data unavailable	82.4528	-62.5020	DND	PHCs	600	Detailed testing completed. Remedial action plan under development.
20247029	Alert Airfield	Active	Data unavailable	82.4998	-62.3611	DND	PHCs, BTEXs, Metal, metalloid, and organometallic	3	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
70069014	Eureka - North Airstrip Apron	Active	Data unavailable	79.9977	-85.8406	DND	PHCs, BTEXs and PAHs	1755	Confirmatory sampling completed. Long term monitoring underway.
1091	Alexandra Fiord Rcmp Detachment Site	Suspected	Data unavailable	78.8798	-75.7546	RCMP	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.
16525	D'Iberville Fjord (Unassessed)	Suspected	Data unavailable	80.6069	-79.4792	DFO	Data unavailable	0	Historical review completed. Initial testing underway.
25114	Alert - Unauthorized Firing Range	Suspected	Data unavailable	82.4246	-62.1835	DND	Data unavailable	0	Historical review planned.

\*Closed sites were not included in this table as they have either been cleaned up and/or require no further action. Sites for which no data are available with respect to status were also not included.



## Appendix 2. Tuvaijuittuq Ministerial Order Regulations

\***NOTE:** The regulations can also be found at this website: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-282/page-1.html>

### SOR/2019-282

#### OCEANS ACT

#### Registration 2019-07-30

#### Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area

Whereas this Order designates the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area in a manner that is not inconsistent with a land claims agreement that has been given effect and has been ratified or approved by an Act of Parliament;

Therefore, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, pursuant to 35.1(2)<sup>a</sup> of the Oceans Act<sup>b</sup>, makes the annexed Order Designating the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

- <sup>a</sup>S.C. 2019, c. 8, s. 5
- <sup>b</sup>S.C. 1996, c. 31

Ottawa, July 29, 2019

Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

#### Definition of *Marine Protected Area*

1 In this Order, **Marine Protected Area** means the area of the sea that is designated by section 2.

#### Marine Protected Area

2 (1) The area of the sea in the Arctic Ocean consisting of the waters off northern Ellesmere Island, as described in plan number FB42596, certified on July 16, 2019 and depicted in plan number CLSR 108395, which plans are deposited in the Canada Lands Surveys Records, is designated as the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

#### Seabed, subsoil and water column

(2) The Marine Protected Area consists of the seabed, the subsoil to a depth of five metres and the water column, including the sea ice, each of which is below the low-water line.

#### Ongoing activities

3 For the purposes of subsection 35.1(2) of the Oceans Act, the following classes of activities are ongoing activities in the Marine Protected Area:

- (a) national defence activities carried out by the Department of National Defence;
- and



(b) marine scientific research activities.

### Prohibitions

**4 (1)** It is prohibited in the Marine Protected Area to carry out any activity — other than those set out in section 3 — that disturbs, damages, destroys or removes from the Marine Protected Area any unique geological or archeological features or any living marine organism or any part of its habitat, or is likely to do so.

### Exemption

**(2)** Despite subsection (1), the following activities may be carried out in the Marine Protected Area:

(a) marine navigation by a foreign national, a foreign ship or a foreign state, or an entity incorporated or formed by or under the laws of a country other than Canada; and

(b) the laying, maintenance and repair of cables and pipelines by a foreign state.

### Non-application – Nunavut Agreement

**5** This Order does not apply with respect to the wildlife harvesting rights of the Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as provided for in the Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as approved, given effect and declared valid by the [Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act](#).

### Coming into force

**6** This Order comes into force on the day on which it is registered.





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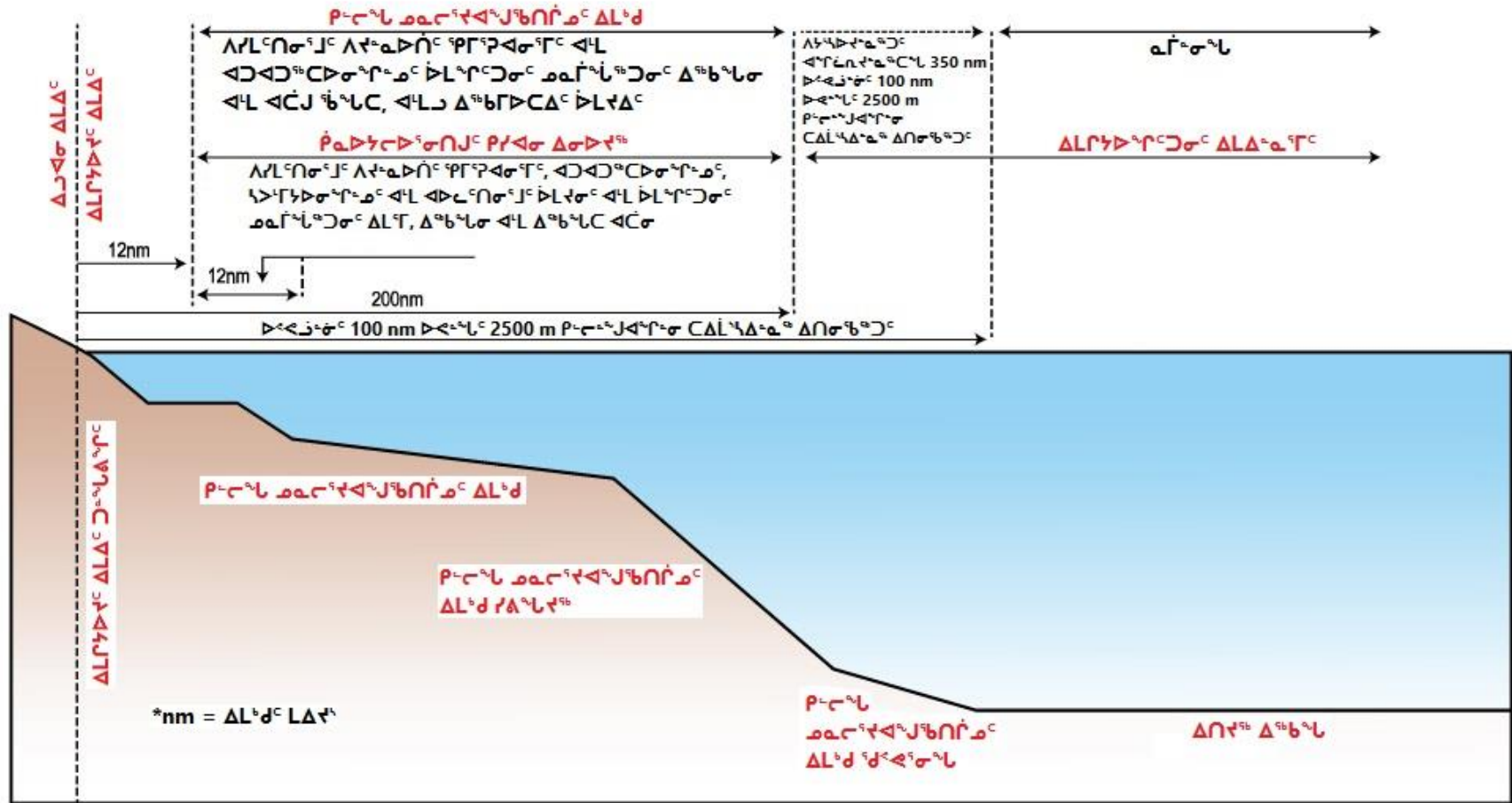


Figure 2. Geological cross-section

































ᐱᓕᓐ ᓂᓕᓐᓂᓐ: ᓄᓇᓕᓐᓂ ᐅᓕᓕᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ  
 ᓄᓕᓕᓐ ᓂᓕᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓕᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ ᓄᓕᓐᓂᓐ  
 ᓄᓂᓐᓂᓐ ᓕᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓕᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ  
 ᓂᓕᓐᓂᓐ 3-18 2023



ᓂᓕᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ - ᓂᓕᓐᓂᓐ 5, 2023



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ገጽ-ገጽ ማህጸን ማህጸን (HTA) ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 6

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ገጽ-ገጽ ማህጸን ማህጸን (HTA) ማህጸን ..... 11

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ገጽ-ገጽ ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 13

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ክፍል/ክፍሎች	ገጽ/ገጾች	ፎቶ/ቪዲዮ ወይንም ሌላ ማሳሰቢያ	ገጽ/ገጾች ቁጥር
ፊት ለፊት	ገጽ 1	ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያ	ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያ (geomagnetic electronic) ማሳሰቢያ
መጨረሻ ምስል	ገጽ 2	ገጽ 2 ላይ ምስል ማሳሰቢያ	ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያ (Arctic IMPACTS:) ምስል ማሳሰቢያ
ገጽ 3 ላይ ምስል	ገጽ 3	ገጽ 3 ላይ ምስል ማሳሰቢያ	ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያ (MAP) - ምስል ማሳሰቢያ
ገጽ 4 ላይ ምስል	ገጽ 4	ገጽ 4 ላይ ምስል ማሳሰቢያ	ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያ
ገጽ 5 ላይ ምስል	ገጽ 5	ገጽ 5 ላይ ምስል ማሳሰቢያ	ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያ

**15) ክፍል/ክፍሎች ላይ ያሉ ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው?**

ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው?

ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው?

ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ፊት ለፊት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው? ለምን ዓይነት ምስል ማሳሰቢያዎች ናቸው?









ᐃᓂᐅᕐᕐ ᓐᐃᕐᕐᕐ	ᐃᓂᕐᕐ ᐄᕐᕐᕐ / ᓐᐃᕐᕐᕐ	ᐃᓂᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᓂᓂᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᓂᓂᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ (ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐ)	ᕐᕐᓂᓂᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ
							ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ (PAH)		
1091	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᐃᓂᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	78.8798	-75.7546	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ (RCMP)	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	0	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ.
16525	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ (ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ)	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	80.6069	-79.4792	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ (DFO)	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	0	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ. ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ.
25114	ᕐᕐᕐᕐ – ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	82.4246	-62.1835	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ (DND)	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ	0	ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ.

\*ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ. ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ ᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ.









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ገጠናዎች ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 4

ገጠናዎች ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 5

ገጠናዎች ማህጸን ማህጸን (HTA) ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 6

ገጠናዎች ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 7

ገጠናዎች ማህጸን ማህጸን (HTA) ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 9

ገጠናዎች ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 10

ገጠናዎች 1. ገጠናዎች ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን 2023  
ገጠናዎች ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 11

ገጠናዎች 2. ገጠናዎች ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ማህጸን ..... 29















- ወደ-ጥንቃቄ ልዩነት ስርዓት ለግንባታ ለመደብረት ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል። ግንባታው ለመኖር ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል። ለሁሉም ስራዎች ለመኖር ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል።
- ለጥያቄው ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል። ለሁሉም ስራዎች ለመኖር ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል።

**ካንዲዳት ክልሎች ለሚፈለግ ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል።**

ለጥያቄው ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል። ለሁሉም ስራዎች ለመኖር ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል። ለሁሉም ስራዎች ለመኖር ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል።

**የስራው ግብረት:**

ለሚፈለግ ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል።

- ለስራው ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል። ለሁሉም ስራዎች ለመኖር ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል።

የስራው ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል።

- ለስራው ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል። ለሁሉም ስራዎች ለመኖር ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል።
  - ለስራው ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል። ለሁሉም ስራዎች ለመኖር ስራዎች ለማድረግ ለሚያስፈልጉት ሁሉ ለሚፈለግ ጥያቄዎች ስርዓት ማስፈጸም ይቻላል።









**4) ደዲ የፈጻሚነት ጋፎ ለራሱ የሚሰጥ ለሌሎች ጋፎ ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል?**

ደዲ ፐርሰናል አገልግሎት ለሕግ አገልግሎት አድርጎ ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ የሕግ ሰርቫር አገልግሎት ለሰጠው ሰርቫር ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል።

ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ የሕግ ሰርቫር አገልግሎት ለሰጠው ሰርቫር ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል።

**5) የግብር ለውጥ ለሕግ አገልግሎት ለሰጠው ሰርቫር ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል?**

ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ የሕግ ሰርቫር አገልግሎት ለሰጠው ሰርቫር ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል።

ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ የሕግ ሰርቫር አገልግሎት ለሰጠው ሰርቫር ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል።

**6) ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል?**

ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ የሕግ ሰርቫር አገልግሎት ለሰጠው ሰርቫር ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል። ደዲ ለሌሎች ሰርቫር ለማቆም የሚችል ለውጥ ሊኖረው ይችላል።

















ክፍለ-ገጽ ለገጽ-ገጽ/ገጽ-ገጽ	ገጽ-ገጽ	ገጽ-ገጽ ደረጃ	ገጽ-ገጽ
ገጽ 1	ገጽ 2	ገጽ 3	ገጽ 4
ገጽ 5	ገጽ 6	ገጽ 7	ገጽ 8
ገጽ 9	ገጽ 10	ገጽ 11	ገጽ 12
ገጽ 13	ገጽ 14	ገጽ 15	ገጽ 16
ገጽ 17	ገጽ 18	ገጽ 19	ገጽ 20
ገጽ 21	ገጽ 22	ገጽ 23	ገጽ 24
ገጽ 25	ገጽ 26	ገጽ 27	ገጽ 28
ገጽ 29	ገጽ 30	ገጽ 31	ገጽ 32
ገጽ 33	ገጽ 34	ገጽ 35	ገጽ 36
ገጽ 37	ገጽ 38	ገጽ 39	ገጽ 40
ገጽ 41	ገጽ 42	ገጽ 43	ገጽ 44
ገጽ 45	ገጽ 46	ገጽ 47	ገጽ 48
ገጽ 49	ገጽ 50	ገጽ 51	ገጽ 52
ገጽ 53	ገጽ 54	ገጽ 55	ገጽ 56
ገጽ 57	ገጽ 58	ገጽ 59	ገጽ 60
ገጽ 61	ገጽ 62	ገጽ 63	ገጽ 64
ገጽ 65	ገጽ 66	ገጽ 67	ገጽ 68
ገጽ 69	ገጽ 70	ገጽ 71	ገጽ 72
ገጽ 73	ገጽ 74	ገጽ 75	ገጽ 76
ገጽ 77	ገጽ 78	ገጽ 79	ገጽ 80
ገጽ 81	ገጽ 82	ገጽ 83	ገጽ 84
ገጽ 85	ገጽ 86	ገጽ 87	ገጽ 88
ገጽ 89	ገጽ 90	ገጽ 91	ገጽ 92
ገጽ 93	ገጽ 94	ገጽ 95	ገጽ 96
ገጽ 97	ገጽ 98	ገጽ 99	ገጽ 100









ΔσΔΐϙ αΔΐΔϙ	ΔσΐΛϙ ϙΔΐϙΔ / αΓΐσΐΛ	ΔσΐΛϙ ΐβσΔϙΐΛσΐΛ	ΐβσΔϙΐϙϙΔϙ Δΐϙΐβ ΔϙΐΛ	Δϙΐϙ	ΐσΐϙ	Δσΐβΐβΐβ βΔΐΐββββϙ	ρϙΐσΐβΐ	ΔΓρΐσΐΛ (ρϙϙΐβ) ϙ ϙϙ	ΐβσΔϙΐϙ
24259	ΐΓαΔ - ϙΐΔΐββ E-10 ρΔΐΔΐΔΐΔΐ ΔσΐΛ	ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ	ΐββΐΐββββββββ ϙΔΐΔΐσΔΐϙ	79.9902	-84.0690	σΔΐββββββββββ βββ βαϙΓ (CIRNAC)	Δΐββββββββββββ ϙ ϙΔΐρϙϙ (PHC), ΐΔΐΐΐ, ΛϙΔΐϙ, ΔΐΛ ΔΔΛσΛϙϙ	1500	ΛρϙΔΐββββββββββ ΐββββββββββββββ Λββββββββββββββ. αΔΐσΔΐββββββββββ ΐββββββββββββββ ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ
27530	σΔϙ ΔϙΔϙΐ ΐΛ ΐββββββββββ (ϙϙΛΐ - Δΐϙ)	ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ	ΐββββββββββββββ ϙΔΐΔΐσΔΐϙ	82.4535	-62.5135	Δϙββββββββββββ ΔΐΛ ϙϙβββ Δρΐββββββββββββ σβ βαϙΓ (ECCC)	Δΐββββββββββββ ϙ ϙΔΐρϙϙ (PHC)	0	ΛρϙΔΐββββββββββ ΐββββββββββββββ Λββββββββββββββ. αΔΐσΔΐββββββββββ ΐββββββββββββββ ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ
202470 06	Δΐϙ ΛϙϙΔΐΔΐΔΐ ΐΛ	ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ	ΐββββββββββββββ ϙΔΐΔΐσΔΐϙ	82.4981	-62.3367	Δαϙββββββββββ βαϙΓ ΐββββββββββ (DND)	Δΐββββββββββββ ϙ ϙΔΐρϙϙ (PHC), ϙϙβββββ ββββββββββ ϙΔΐρϙϙ (PAH), ΐΔΐΐΐ, ΛϙΔΐϙ, ΔΐΛ ΔΔΛσΛϙϙ	14500	αΔΐσΔΐββββββββββ ΐββββββββββββββ Λββββββββββββββ. ΔΔσΔΐββββββββββ αΔΐββββββββββββββ ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ
202470 25	Δΐϙ Tx ΔσΐΛ	ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ	ΐββββββββββββββ ϙΔΐΔΐσΔΐϙ	82.4528	-62.5020	Δαϙββββββββββ βαϙΓ ΐββββββββββ (DND)	Δΐββββββββββββ ϙ ϙΔΐρϙϙ (PHC)	600	αΔΐσΔΐββββββββββ ΐββββββββββββββ Λββββββββββββββ. ββββββββββββββββ ΐββββββββββββββββ ϙϙββββββββββββββ ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ
202470 29	Δΐϙ ΐββββββββββββ	ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ	ΐββββββββββββββ ϙΔΐΔΐσΔΐϙ	82.4998	-62.3611	Δαϙββββββββββ βαϙΓ ΐββββββββββ (DND)	Δΐββββββββββββ ϙ ϙΔΐρϙϙ (PHC), ϙΐβββ, ϙΔΐΔΐ, Δΐββββββββββ, ΔΐΛ ΐΔϙβββ (BTEX), ΐΔΐΐΐ, ΛϙΔΐϙ, ΔΐΛ ΔΔΛσΛϙϙ	3	αΔΐσΔΐββββββββββ ΐββββββββββββββ Λββββββββββββββ. ΔΔσΔΐββββββββββ αΔΐββββββββββββββ ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ
700690 14	ΔΔϙββ - ΔΔΐσΐΛσ ΓΐΔΐββ ΐββββββββββββ	ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ	ΐββββββββββββββ ϙΔΐΔΐσΔΐϙ	79.9977	-85.8406	Δαϙββββββββββ βαϙΓ ΐββββββββββ (DND)	Δΐββββββββββββ ϙ ϙΔΐρϙϙ (PHC), ϙΐβββ, ϙΔΐΔΐ, Δΐββββββββββ, ΔΐΛ ΐΔϙβββ (BTEX) ΔΐΛ ϙϙβββ	1755	αΔΐσΔΐββββββββββ ΐββββββββββββββ Λββββββββββββββ. ΔΔσΔΐββββββββββ αΔΐββββββββββββββ ΛϙϙΔΐΐΐ











## የምረቃ

የዕድሜ ልዩነት ምርመራ .....	3
ለጽሑፍ ምርመራ .....	3
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ወይንም ለሌላ ምርመራ .....	5
ገጽ ምርመራ (HTA) ለሌላ ምርመራ ለሌላ ምርመራ .....	6
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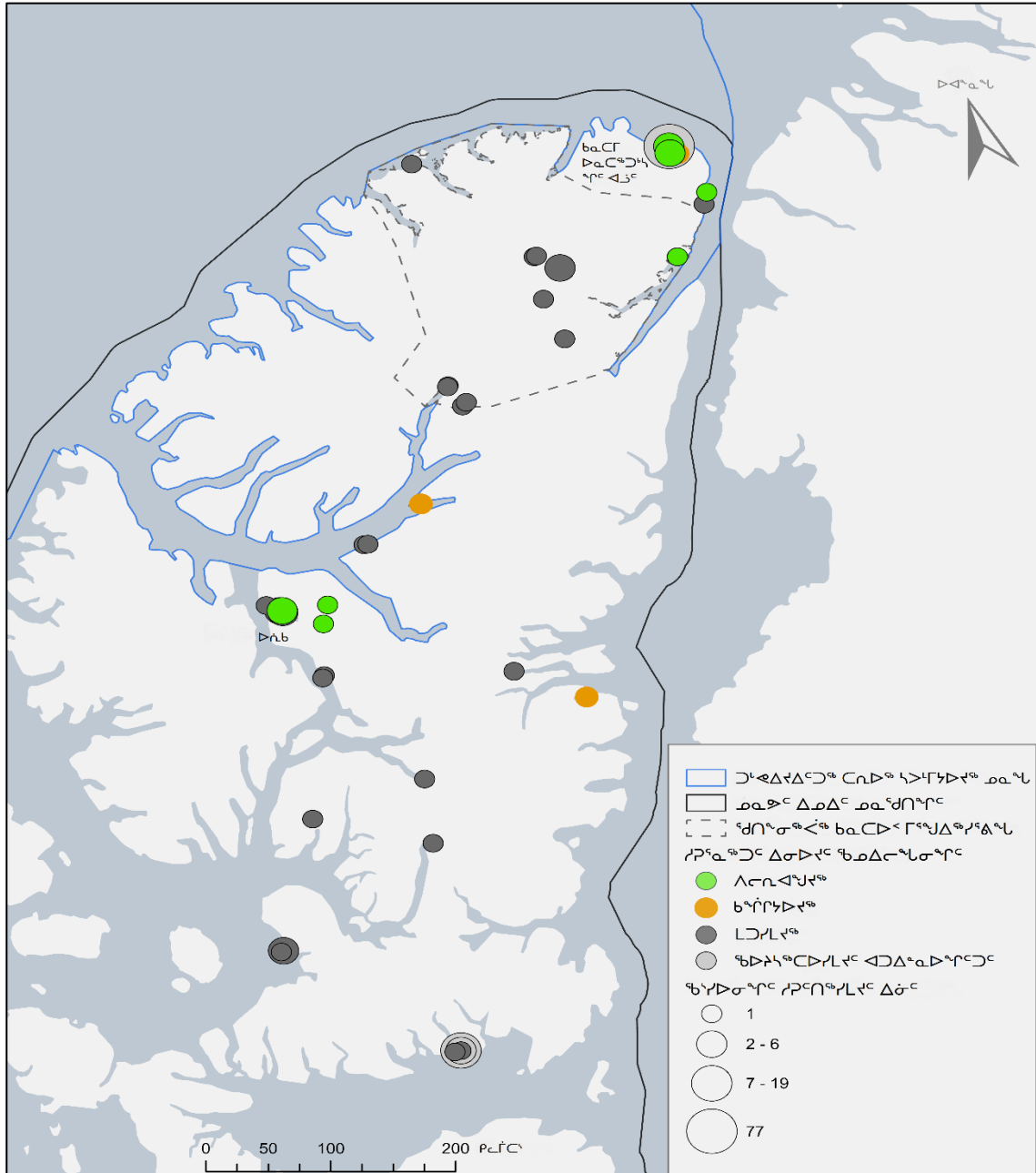








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<https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/home-accueil-eng.aspx>  
 ᓂᓴᓴ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ  
<https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcsi-rscf/numbers-numeros-eng.aspx?qid=1680451>. ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ  
 ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/federal-contaminated-sites/action-plan.html>.



ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ 4. ᓄᓇ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ ᓂᓴᓴᓄᓄᓂᓂ  
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 2023



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24259	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ - ᐱᓄᐱᓐ E-10 ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	79.9902	-84.0690	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (CIRNAC)	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (PHC), ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	1500	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ
27530	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (ᐱᓄᐱᓐ - ᐱᓄᐱᓐ)	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	82.4535	-62.5135	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (ECCC)	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (PHC)	0	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ
202470 06	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	82.4981	-62.3367	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (DND)	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (PHC), ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (PAH), ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	14500	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ
202470 25	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ Tx ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	82.4528	-62.5020	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (DND)	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (PHC)	600	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ
202470 29	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	82.4998	-62.3611	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (DND)	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (PHC), ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (BTEX), ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	3	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ
700690 14	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ - ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	79.9977	-85.8406	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (DND)	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (PHC), ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ, ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ (BTEX) ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ	1755	ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ ᐱᓄᐱᓐ







ᐱᕐᕐᑖ ᐱᕐᕐ ᕐᑕᕐ ᐱᕐᕐᑖ: ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ  
 ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ  
 ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ  
 ᕐᑕᕐᑖ 3-18 2023



ᕐᑕᕐᑖ ᕐᑕᕐᑖ - ᕐᑕᕐᑖ 17, 2023



# የምረቃ

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 የምረቃ ለመገኘት የሚያስፈልጉት ለሌላ ምረቃ ዓይነት ለመገኘት የሚያስፈልጉት ለመገኘት የሚያስፈልጉት  
 ለመገኘት የሚያስፈልጉት ለመገኘት የሚያስፈልጉት ..... 11

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Δ-r-i-y-e-r-c-j-m-c 2. ba-CΓ C-n-d-r Γ-b-i-t-j-c

























ΔσΔῖς αΔῖΔῖ	ΔσῖΛῖ ῖΔῖῖ / αῖῖ	ΔσῖΛῖ ῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖ (ῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖ)	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ
24259	ῖῖῖ - ῖῖῖῖ E-10 ῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	79.9902	-84.0690	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖ (CIRNAC)	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (PHC), ῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	1500	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ
27530	ῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (ῖῖῖῖ - ῖῖῖῖ)	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	82.4535	-62.5135	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (ECCC)	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (PHC)	0	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ
202470 06	ῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	82.4981	-62.3367	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (DND)	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (PHC), ῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (PAH), ῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	14500	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ
202470 25	ῖῖῖῖ Tx ῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	82.4528	-62.5020	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (DND)	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (PHC)	600	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ
202470 29	ῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	82.4998	-62.3611	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (DND)	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (PHC), ῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (BTEX), ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	3	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ
700690 14	ῖῖῖῖῖῖ - ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	79.9977	-85.8406	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (DND)	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (PHC), ῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ, ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ (BTEX) ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ	1755	ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ ῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖῖ







Sept 15, 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Naomi Pudluk  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

**RE: Designation of a new Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area in Tuvaijuittuq**

I am writing to express support from my community for the establishment of a new Ministerial Order Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Tuvaijuittuq. It is our understanding that the current five-year Ministerial Order MPA in Tuvaijuittuq will be repealed and replaced with a new Ministerial Order MPA, which will freeze the footprint of ongoing activities in the area for up to another five years. This additional time will allow the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), Government of Canada, and Government of Nunavut to complete the ongoing feasibility assessment for the area and explore an Inuit-led Protected and Conserved Area in Tuvaijuittuq that aligns with QIA's vision and Inuit interests for the region.

Our community will continue to be engaged during the Tuvaijuittuq feasibility assessment process as to whether the area should be protected over the long term, on the boundary of the area being considered for protection, and type of protection recommended.

We look forward to working with the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group and Steering Committee to advance the consideration of long-term protection in Tuvaijuittuq following the establishment of the new Ministerial Order MPA.

Sincerely



Arctic Bay HTA



HAMLET OF ARCTIC BAY  
ᐃᑲᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐃᑲᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ

P.O. Box 150  
Arctic Bay, NU  
X0A 0A0  
Phone: (867) 439-9917  
Fax: (867) 439-8767

July 31, 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

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Sincerely,

*John Hussey SAO For*

Mayor and Council  
Hamlet of Arctic Bay





July [DATE], 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
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We look forward to working with the Tuvaijuittuq Working Group and Steering Committee to advance the consideration of long-term protection in Tuvaijuittuq following the establishment of the new Ministerial Order MPA.

Sincerely

[HTO/A, Hamlet, Mayor]

Jaysie Tisulluag

Chairperson:

Ajusa A

July [DATE], 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Naomi Pudluk  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

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Sincerely

[HTO/A, Hamlet, Mayor]

Jaysie Tisulluag

Chairperson:

Ajwa A



MUNICIPALITY OF CLYDE RIVER  
P.O. BOX 89  
CLYDE RIVER, NUNAVUT  
X0A 0E0  
PHONE: 867 – 924 – 6220 ext. 205  
FAX: 867 – 924 – 6293  
E-MAIL: [cao@clyderiver.ca](mailto:cao@clyderiver.ca)

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August 28, 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Naomi Pudluk  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

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Sincerely,

Limiekee Palluq  
Duputy Mayor  
Municipality of Clyde River

September 18, 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Naomi Pudluk  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

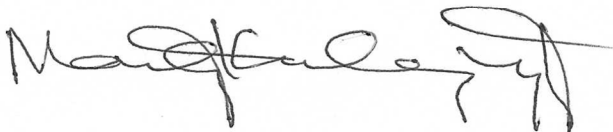
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Sincerely



Iviq Hunters and Trappers Association

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Naomi Pudluk  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

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Sincerely,



Hamlet of Grise Fiord Mayor

September 01, 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Naomi Pudluk  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

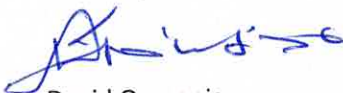
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Sincerely



David Qamaniq  
Chairperson of Mittimatalik HTO  
Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization

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Hamlet of Pond Inlet  
P.O. Box 180  
Pond Inlet, Nunavut  
X0A 0S0

August 4, 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Naomi Pudluk  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

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Sincerely

Joshua Arreak, Mayor

August 2, 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Naomi Pudluk  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
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Sincerely



Mark Amarualik- Acting Chairman  
Resolute Bay Hunters & Trappers Association  
Resolute Bay NU X0A-0V0



## Hamlet of Resolute Bay

P.O. Box 60

Resolute Bay, NU

X0A-0V0

Phone: (867)252-3616 Fax: (867)988-3771

Email: [finclerk@resolute.ca](mailto:finclerk@resolute.ca)

July 31, 2023

To: Andrew Randall  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Arctic Region

Lori Macadam  
Director  
Protected Area Establishment  
Parks Canada Agency

Jeremiah Groves  
Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Naomi Pudluk  
Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

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## Hamlet of Resolute Bay

P.O. Box 60

Resolute Bay, NU

X0A-0V0

Phone: (867)252-3616 Fax: (867)988-3771

Email: [finclerk@resolute.ca](mailto:finclerk@resolute.ca)

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Sincerely

Mark Amarualik  
Mayor



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Building Nunavut Together  
Nunavut iluqatigiingniq  
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Department of Environment  
Avatiliqiyikkut  
Ministère de l'Environnement

March 25, 2024

Annette Gibbons  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

**Request for Written Support for Advancing Marine Protection in the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area**

Dear Ms. Gibbons:

Following your letter written February 28, 2024 seeking written support from the Government of Nunavut for advancing marine protection in the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area (MPA), the Government of Nunavut affirms its commitment to marine conservation in and around Nunavut that aligns with regional priorities and territorial interests. We must also recognize the importance of the Devolution Agreement since the current Ministerial Order was implemented, and therefore there are new considerations regarding the boundary.

Furthermore, we understand the rationale behind the decision to pursue the repeal and replacement of the Ministerial Order for Tuvaijuittuq, given that the feasibility and desirability assessment for long-term protection was not completed over the last 5 years. Nonetheless, the proposed interim measures, as they stand, appear to unjustifiably restrict activities, which is a significant concern for us.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (“DFO”) current interpretation of the Oceans Act, specifically section 35.1 (2) (b), suggesting a blanket prohibition on all human activities, does not align with our understanding. Specifically, this section of the Act says, any activity:

*“...that disturbs, damages, destroys or removes from that marine protected area any unique geological or archeological features or any living marine organism or any part of its habitat or is likely to do so”.*



Not all human activities inherently contravene the Act's stipulations regarding disturbances in marine areas. However, DFO's current restrictive interpretation will have profound effects on recreation, tourism, and outfitting activities in the area, effectively banning them during the duration of the Ministerial Order; thus, diverging from our views on regional priorities and territorial interests.

In the spirit of consensus decision-making of protected areas in Nunavut and Tuvaijuittuq, the Government of Nunavut is requesting a resolution to this; and therefore, we propose two solutions within the legislative framework of the Oceans Act and the Ministerial Order to address our above noted concerns.

One solution would be to recognize that certain activities can occur within a Marine Protected Area that will not contravene the prohibition listed in the Ministerial Order. For instance, certain activities, like recreation, tourism, and outfitting, depending on how they are conducted, will not *disturb, damage, destroy or remove from that marine protected area any unique geological or archeological features or any living marine organism or any part of its habitat or is likely to do so*. Therefore, DFO needs to re-evaluate their messaging that the prohibition will limit all human activities within the boundaries of the MPA and must recognize the inherent flexibility that the prohibition within the Ocean Act allows for.

Alternatively, the Ministerial Order could recognize specific tourism, recreation, and outfitting activities as 'on-going' under section 35.1 (1) (c) of the Ocean's Act. Many of these activities, are authorized and continue to be authorized in Nunavut under Territorial and Federal Legislation, and this enables it to be classified as an on-going activity, regardless of whether the activity occurred in the 12-months prior to designation of the original Ministerial Order in 2019. Given this, the GN is requesting the ongoing activity list be expanded beyond marine research and National Defence related activities.

Given the critical nature of our concerns and the urgent need for a collaborative approach to marine protection in the Tuvaijuittuq MPA, our support is not merely conditional but contingent upon immediate and substantive action by DFO. This action must include a comprehensive reassessment of the restrictive interpretation currently proposed, ensuring it does not unjustifiably hinder those activities that we have identified, that are vital to our regional economy and cultural practices. It is imperative that DFO engages and cooperates



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 Building *Nunavut* Together  
*Nunavut* iluqatigiingniq  
 Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

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Department of Environment  
 Avatiliqiyikkut  
 Ministère de l'Environnement

directly and effectively with the Government of Nunavut and other key stakeholders as mandated under section 33(1) of the Oceans Act to swiftly address these issues. Failure to achieve a mutually agreeable resolution that respects both these objectives will necessitate a reconsideration of our support.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with partners on marine conservation initiatives in and around Nunavut waters.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Niego  
 Deputy Minister  
 Department of Environment

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND**  
**NUNAVIK MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD**

**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

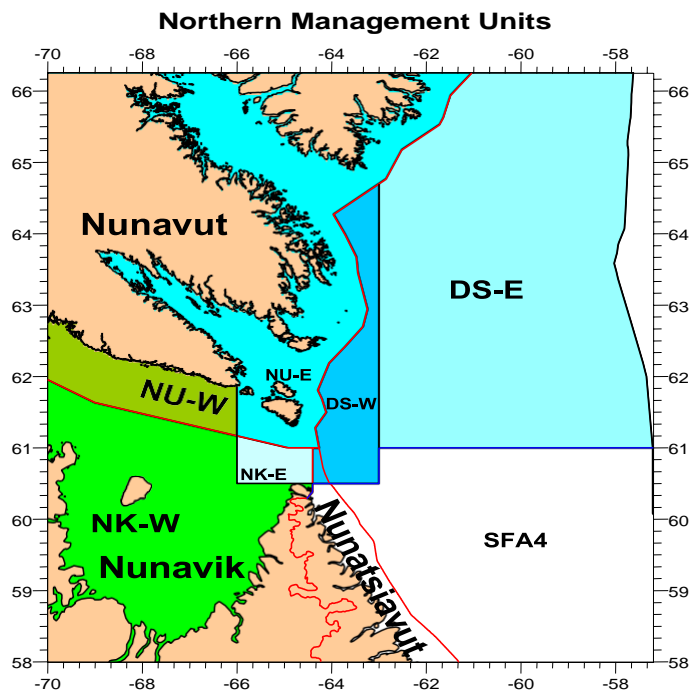
**Recommendation:**

**Issue: Total Allowable Catch levels for Northern (*Pandalus borealis*) and Striped (*Pandalus montagui*) Shrimp in the Western and Eastern Assessment Zones for the 2024-25 season**

**Map:**

Blue areas – Eastern Assessment Zone

Green areas – Western Assessment Zone



Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*)



Striped shrimp (*Pandalus montagui*)

## **Background**

Two shrimp species (*P. borealis* and *P. montagui*) occur in the Northern shrimp fishery that takes place in the Davis Strait and eastern Hudson Strait. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for each species is set for two distinct stock assessment zones, the Western Assessment Zone (WAZ) and the Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ) (see Map). The TAC is further distributed into management units within these zones.

The fishery in these areas operates April 1 – March 31. Harvesting activity typically commences in May to June, subject to ice conditions.

Where this fishery occurs within and adjacent to the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) and Nunavik Marine Region (NMR), decisions and recommendations on TAC and harvest levels for each species are requested annually from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) (the Boards).

This briefing note is intended to mark upcoming decisions and recommendations that will be requested from the Boards for the 2024-25 fishing season.

DFO will provide the necessary and most recent science information to support Board decision making as soon as it becomes available to initiate a joint hearing process on this issue between the NWMB & NMRWB. A meeting of the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC) will occur on April 3, 2024 where stakeholders and Indigenous groups will discuss TAC options for both species in the WAZ and EAZ. A dedicated post-meeting for Indigenous interests will take place April 4, 2024. A consultation summary will be provided.

## **Science Advice**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Science sector conducts full stock assessments of *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* on a two-year cycle with updates in interim years. A stock status update occurred February 6, 2024. Timing of the shrimp science survey, coupled with the time necessary to analyze the data and formalize the advice, does not allow for earlier availability. Peer-reviewed science advice was not available at the time of this submission and will be provided to the Boards for their consultations once the approved information is published.

## Summary of Request

A subsequent briefing note will be submitted to provide science information and a summary of consultations from the April 3-4 NSAC meeting. Recognizing that fishing begins in the WAZ and EAZ as early as May, decisions and recommendations on the following matters will be requested as soon as possible:

### **Western Assessment Zone:**

1. Decisions on harvest levels for *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* in the NU W (within the NSA) and NK W (within the NMR) management units, respectively.
2. Recommendations on the overall TAC for *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* in the WAZ.

### **Eastern Assessment Zone:**

1. Decisions on harvest levels for *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* in the NU E (within the NSA) and NK E (within the NMR) management units, respectively.
2. Recommendations on the distribution and allocation of the TAC for *P. borealis* within the Davis Strait management units (DS W, DS E).
3. Recommendations on the overall TAC for *P. borealis* and *P. montagui* in the EAZ, respectively.

**Table 1. Summary of requested decisions and recommendations, WAZ.**

<b>Area (Management Unit)</b>	<b><i>P. borealis</i></b>	<b><i>P. montagui</i></b>
<b>NSA (NU W)</b>	Harvest level decision NWMB	Harvest level decision NWMB
<b>NMR (NK W)</b>	Harvest level decision NMRWB	Harvest level decision NMRWB
<b><i>TOTAL (WAZ)</i></b>	<i>TAC recommendation (combined total of decisions) NWMB and NMRWB</i>	<i>TAC recommendation (combined total of decisions) NWMB and NMRWB</i>

**Table 2. Summary of requested decisions and recommendations, EAZ.**

<b>Area (Management Unit)</b>	<b><i>P. borealis</i></b>	<b><i>P. montagui</i></b>
<b>NSA (NU E)</b>	Harvest level decision NWMB	Harvest level decision NWMB
<b>NMR (NK E)</b>	Harvest level decision NMRWB	Harvest level decision NMRWB
<b>DS E</b>	TAC distribution and allocation recommendation NWMB	<i>*Not applicable bycatch</i>
<b>DS W</b>	TAC distribution and allocation recommendation NWMB & NMRWB	
<b><i>TOTAL (EAZ)</i></b>	<i>TAC Recommendation NWMB &amp; NMRWB</i>	<i>TAC Recommendation NWMB &amp; NMRWB</i>

**Prepared by:** Fisheries Resource Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**Date:** February 19, 2024



Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

For

Information:

Decision: X

**Issue:** Request for decision on the proposed amendments to the List of Species under the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*

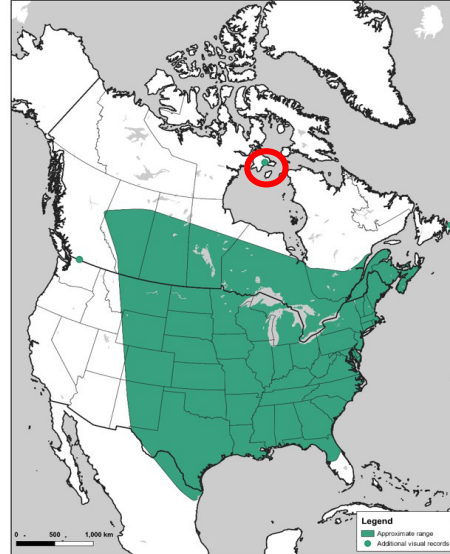
**Background:**

- The Eastern Red Bat and the Hoary Bat are under consideration for addition to the federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*
- While each species has been observed in Nunavut, these recordings are rare and well outside their known breeding range
- ECCC has accelerated their normal consultation process in Nunavut due to the steep population declines nationally
- If these species are listed as endangered, they would receive protection on lands under the administration of the ECCC Minister, like migratory bird sanctuaries, meaning they could not be harmed on these lands
- If listed, ECCC would need to prepare a recovery strategy for these species and would do so in collaboration with co-management partners
- Briefly the species under consideration are:

**Hoary Bat | ᖃᕈᑎᑦᑭᑦ ᑎᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᑕᑦᑎᑎᑦᑭᑦ**  
**(qinngujaq timmisuuq avinngaujaq)**  
 Proposed status: Endangered



Eastern Red Bat | ᐱᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ ᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃᐃ  
 (aupaqtuq timmisuuq avinggaujaq)  
 Proposed status: Endangered



**Consultations:**

- Consultation material on the proposed changes to the list of Species at Risk in Canada were sent to Hunter and Trapper Organizations (HTOs), Regional Wildlife Boards (RWBs), Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs), and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), Government of Nunavut (GN), and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) staff November 17, 2023. Phone calls were made to each HTO in December to confirm receipt of the material and to answer questions. A presentation was made at the Kivalliq Wildlife Board AGM December 6, 2023. Follow up emails were sent January 22, 2024.
- Consultation packages contained a fact sheet and a questionnaire (in Inuktitut and English; Appendix A), [links to the individual species accounts on the Species at Risk Registry which contained the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada \(COSEWIC\) Assessment and Status Report](#) and [information on the federal consultation process](#).
- Organizations were asked to provide their formal position on the proposed listing (i.e. oppose, support or are indifferent) and any other comments, concerns or information that they feel should be considered.
- Given the irregularity of recordings and the breeding range being outside of Nunavut for both species, only organizations and communities that overlap with documented records of the species were contacted. As a result, only Coral Harbour and Arviat and Kivalliq organizations were contacted.
- ECCC received written comments from the Government of Nunavut that stated they have no objections should these species be listed and that they suspect that the recorded sightings are not evidence of range expansion but likely accidental introduction via shipping containers (Appendix A).

- No other written comments were received from organizations in Nunavut. ECCC did receive feedback during the KWB AGM that these species are not of interest or concern to the board.

**Next Steps:**

Following the Board's decision, the Minister will make a recommendation to the Governor in Council that takes into account the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada's assessment, consultations, including those with wildlife management boards authorized for that species by a land claims agreement (including the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB), and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB)), and the regulatory impact analysis statement. Section 5.3.16 of the *Nunavut Agreement* will be followed to inform the Minister's recommendation to the Governor in Council.

As part of the federal regulatory process, a 30-day comment period follows the publication of the proposed decision in Canada Gazette, Part 1. The final step in the listing process is for the Governor in Council to make a final listing decision. If the Governor in Council decides to list a species, it is at this point that it becomes legally included on Schedule 1. The decision and the regulatory impact analysis statement will be published in the next edition of the Canada Gazette, Part II.

**Decision:**

We are requesting a decision from NWMB on the proposed amendments to the List of Wildlife Species under the federal *Species at Risk Act* as per the *Nunavut Agreement* s.5.2.34(f) and 5.3.16-5.3.23.

Prepared by: Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region  
Date Drafted: 2024-02-19

**Pankratz,Rhiannon (elle, la | she, her) (ECCC)**

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**From:** SAR-NT/ LEP-NT (ECCC)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 3:20 PM  
**Subject:** RE: FOR COMMENT: Proposed SARA amendments Hoary Bat (Due January 15, 2024)

Hello,

This is a follow up to an earlier email requesting comments on the proposed amendments to the Species at Risk Act for the Eastern Red Bat and Hoary Bat, by January 15, 2024 (see below for more information). If you are interested in providing comments but require additional time, please respond by Jan 26 ,2024.

Kind Regards,

Rhiannon Pankratz  
(*She,Her/Elle*)

Northern Liaison Biologist  
Canadian Wildlife Service - Northern Region  
Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada  
[rhiannon.pankratz@ec.gc.ca](mailto:rhiannon.pankratz@ec.gc.ca) / Tel: 867-445-7927

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[rhiannon.pankratz@ec.gc.ca](mailto:rhiannon.pankratz@ec.gc.ca) / Tél.: 867-445-7927



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**From:** SAR-NT/ LEP-NT (ECCC)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 17, 2023 4:02 PM  
**Subject:** FOR COMMENT: Proposed SARA amendments Hoary Bat (Due January 15, 2024)







Species	Status	Reason for listing and Implications	Nunavut Range
<p><b>Hoary Bat</b></p>  <p><a href="#">Species Information (SARA Registry)</a></p>	<p>Under consideration for addition to list.</p> <p>New Proposed (COSEWIC) status – <b>Endangered</b> (2023)</p> <p>Current (Schedule 1) status SARA – Not listed</p>	<p>This species was assessed as endangered due to steep declines, over 50% over three generations. The primary threat to this species is mortality at wind energy facilities. Wind power capacity is expected to increase but this threat can be mitigated.</p> <p>If listed as Endangered, a national Recovery Strategy will be required, including identification of critical habitat.</p>	 <p>It occurs irregularly in Nunavut. It has been reported near Arviat and Coral Harbour (see red circles). The regular breeding range excludes Nunavut.</p>

For more information please refer to the attached “Part 1: Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act: Terrestrial Species”, the “Part 2: List of Species Eligible for an Amendment to Schedule 1” and the Part 3: Species Summaries. These documents explain the process and contain more information on the species under consideration. You are invited to submit comments regarding the potential impacts of these proposed amendments to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk. Your comments will be considered and will inform the Minister’s recommendation to Cabinet.

Given the steep decline of these species, we are conducting consultations on the proposed listing of these species quicker than we normally would. We would appreciate if you could provide comments by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. If you require additional time, please inform us prior to the requested deadline. Our intent is to present these species at the first meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in 2024. Comments can be submitted until we present at that meeting.

Please contact Rhiannon Pankratz, ([SARA.North@ec.gc.ca](mailto:SARA.North@ec.gc.ca), 867-445-7927) directly if you would like to provide comments, if you have questions about the SARA process or the species under review, or if you would like to request an online presentation of this material.

Please indicate your decision on the listing of these species under SARA. We would appreciate your response by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

I welcome your participation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Rhiannon Pankratz  
*(She,Her/Elle)*

Northern Liaison Biologist  
Canadian Wildlife Service - Northern Region  
Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada  
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**Pankratz,Rhiannon (elle, la | she, her) (ECCC)**

---

**From:** SAR-NT/ LEP-NT (ECCC)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 3:16 PM  
**Subject:** RE: FOR COMMENT: Proposed SARA amendments Eastern Red Bat and Hoary Bat (Due: January 15, 2024)

Hello,

This is a follow up to an earlier email requesting comments on the proposed amendments to the Species at Risk Act for the Eastern Red Bat and Hoary Bat, by January 15, 2024 (see below for more information). If you are interested in providing comments but require additional time, please respond by Jan 26 ,2024.

Kind Regards,

Rhiannon Pankratz  
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**From:** SAR-NT/ LEP-NT (ECCC)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 17, 2023 4:26 PM  
**Subject:** FOR COMMENT: Proposed SARA amendments Eastern Red Bat and Hoary Bat (Due: January 15, 2024)

*English follows*











Every year the Government of Canada considers the scientific assessments of terrestrial species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) that are eligible either to be added to the List of Wildlife Species (Schedule 1) of the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* or to have their status changed. This year they are considering two species of bats, the Hoary and the Eastern Red Bat (see table below). These species do not regularly occur in Nunavut. We are interested to know if you have any comments on these species and your position on the proposed addition of these species to Schedule 1 of the SARA.

Briefly, the species found in Nunavut included in the proposed amendments to Schedule 1 are (to see more details see attached species summaries):

Species	Status	Reason for listing and Implications	Nunavut Range
<p><b>Hoary Bat</b></p>  <p><a href="#">Species Information (SARA Registry)</a></p>	<p>Under consideration for addition to list.</p> <p>New Proposed (COSEWIC) status – <b>Endangered</b> (2023)</p> <p>Current (Schedule 1) status SARA – Not listed</p>	<p>This species was assessed as endangered due to steep declines, over 50% over three generations. The primary threat to this species is mortality at wind energy facilities. Wind power capacity is expected to increase but this threat can be mitigated.</p> <p>If listed as Endangered, a national Recovery Strategy will be required, including identification of critical habitat.</p>	 <p>It occurs irregularly in Nunavut. It has been reported near Arviat and Coral Harbour (see red circles). The regular breeding range excludes Nunavut.</p>

Species	Status	Reason for listing and Implications	Nunavut Range
<p><b>Eastern Red Bat</b></p>  <p><a href="#">Species Information (SARA Registry)</a></p>	<p>Under consideration for addition to list.</p> <p>New Proposed (COSEWIC) status – <b>Endangered</b> (2023)</p> <p>Current (Schedule 1) status SARA – Not listed</p>	<p>This species was assessed as endangered due to steep declines, over 50% over three generations. The primary threat to this species is mortality at wind energy facilities. Wind power capacity is expected to increase but this threat can be mitigated.</p> <p>If listed as Endangered, a national Recovery Strategy will be required, including identification of critical habitat.</p>	 <p>It occurs irregularly in Nunavut. It has been recorded in Coral Harbour (see red circle). The regular breeding range excludes Nunavut.</p>

For more information please refer to the attached “Part 1: Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act: Terrestrial Species”, the “Part 2: List of Species Eligible for an Amendment to Schedule 1” and the “Part 3: Species Summaries”. These documents explain the process and contain more information on the species under consideration. You are invited to submit comments regarding the potential impacts of these proposed amendments to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk. Your comments will be considered and will inform the Minister’s recommendation to Cabinet.

Given the steep decline of these species, we are conducting consultations on the proposed listing of these species quicker than we normally would. We would appreciate if you could provide comments by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. If you require additional time, please inform us prior to the requested deadline. Our intent is to present these species at the first meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in 2024. Comments can be submitted until we present at that meeting.

Please contact Rhiannon Pankratz, ([SARA.North@ec.gc.ca](mailto:SARA.North@ec.gc.ca), 867-445-7927) directly if you would like to provide comments, if you have questions about the SARA process or the species under review, or if you would like to request an online presentation of this material.

Please indicate your decision on the listing of these species under SARA. We would appreciate your response by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

I welcome your participation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Rhiannon Pankratz  
*(She, Her/Elle)*

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## Eastern Red Bat

Photo: © Sherri Fenton and Brock Feinton



### Scientific Name

*Lasiurus borealis*

### Taxon

Mammals

### COSEWIC Status

Endangered

### Canadian Range

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories

### Reason for designation

This medium sized reddish-orange bat is found across most of Canada in the summer months and during its fall migration. This bat migrates annually, and this seasonal migration exposes individuals to numerous threats, of which the greatest is from mortality at wind energy facilities. Although there is considerable uncertainty regarding exact rates of decline for these bats across Canada, declines in carcass counts at wind energy facilities suggest declines far in excess of 50% over three generations. The planned increase in wind power capacity will increase this threat but mitigation is possible. Additional threats include habitat loss and degradation, habitat change and pesticide use, and widespread declines in prey insect abundance.

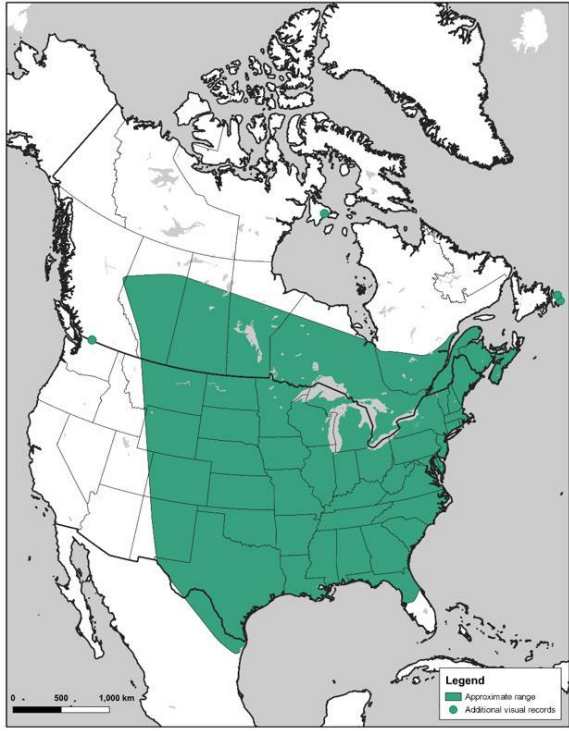
## Wildlife Species Description and Significance

Hoary Bats, Eastern Red Bats, and Silver-haired Bats are medium to large in body size relative to other bats species in Canada, with Hoary Bats being the largest species in Canada. All three species have complex and varied colouration that aids in camouflage while roosting or hibernating. These three bat species are similar in that they mostly roost in trees, migrate long distances between summer breeding grounds and their winter range, are long-lived, give birth to more than one pup per year, and share similar diets and ecomorphology.

There is no evidence of population genetic structure in any of these three species. There is only one designatable unit for each species in Canada.

### Distribution

All three species are widely distributed in North America, found from the northern boreal forest to central Mexico. In Canada, the three species have a range that extends from British Columbia to the Atlantic provinces during the summer, although their extent of occurrence in Prince Edward Island and the territories is uncertain. These species migrate seasonally from their northern summer ranges to their southern wintering areas outside of Canada; however, some Silver-haired Bats overwinter in British Columbia and around the Great Lakes.



Approximate distribution of Eastern Red Bat based on visual records in green and additional visual records represented with green dots. Data are insufficient to accurately delineate the northern range limits of this species.

Sources: Nagorsen and Nash 1984, Knowles 2005, Brown and Hamilton 2006, Lucas and Hebda 2011, Nagorsen and Paterson 2012, Natural Resource Solutions Inc. 2012, Cebellos 2014, GBIF.org 2020, Government of Alberta 2020, Solick *et al.* 2020, Humber pers. comm. 2023, Canadian Museum of Nature (CMNMA 2822), R Barclay unpub. Data, Klymko pers. comm.

## Habitat

Habitat requirements for these species include foraging, drinking, and roosting habitats, with the latter considered the most limiting. All three species roost in trees; however, Hoary Bats and Eastern Red Bats roost by hanging from branches, and Silver-haired Bats roost in tree cavities or under exfoliating bark.

All three species catch aerial insects while in flight. Foraging habitats vary for all three species but include wetlands, open areas, and edge or gap habitats in forested landscapes.

## Biology

All three bat species migrate seasonally. They are relatively fast flyers that hunt most often in open habitats or along habitat edges and within

canopy gaps in forested landscapes. They are obligate insectivores that prey on aerial insects.

These species are relatively fecund compared to other bats. They likely first give birth in their second year. Hoary Bats and Silver-haired Bats usually have twins, but Eastern Red Bats may have up to four pups.

Vital rates (survival, longevity, age structure, etc.) are mostly unknown but it is inferred from similar, related species that they are relatively long-lived, with maximum lifespans of at least 12–15 years. Generation time is unknown but estimated to be 2–6 years based on IUCN methodology and inferences for similar bats.

## Population Sizes and Trends

The primary means used to assess the relative abundance of bats include mark-recapture studies and emergence counts. However, coordinated North American-wide monitoring for bats (e.g., NABat) has not occurred for long enough in Canada to generate population trend data. Given the limitations, multiple sources of information were used to assess population trends, including carcass searches at wind energy facilities, changes in capture and acoustic detection rates, rabies submission rates, and population viability modelling that relied on expert estimates.

Current population levels for all three species are unknown; however, experts postulated that the most likely population size of Hoary Bats across North America is approximately 2.25 million individuals. Given the similarities in life history and ecology, it was assumed that this estimate can also be broadly applied to Silver-haired Bats and Eastern Red Bats.

In 2007, expert elicitation and projected fatality rates were used to model the effect of wind energy production on Hoary Bat populations in North America. The models were based on variable initial population size, levels of wind energy build-out and fatality rates from the year 2014, along with favourable population growth rates without mortality due to wind turbines. That is, the models only considered additive mortality as a result of fatalities at wind turbines, not other threats. Some plausible models suggested that Hoary Bats will decline by 50% to 90% in the next 50 years, a 1.4% to 4.5% annual decline. The “most likely” demographic scenario predicted that

fatalities associated with wind energy facilities would result in a 90% population decline over 50 years, with a 22% probability of extinction over the next 100 years. Follow-up studies that included population models accounting for projected build-out (with/without mitigation to reduce fatality rates) estimated extinction risk at 0–40% by 2050 based on various build-out scenarios with a midpoint of 20%. These results suggest that significant population declines may have already occurred if the initial Hoary Bat population size was below 3 million individuals. Recently, multiple, independently derived genetic estimates of effective population size for all three species across North America also suggest their current population sizes are well below 3 million. It is expected that similar probabilities apply to Eastern Red Bats and Silver-haired Bats; however, neither of these species has been explicitly modelled.

In support of the decline suggested by population modelling for Hoary Bats, there are multiple lines of evidence to suggest that population declines are occurring in migratory tree-roosting bats including declining capture rates of lasiurine (bats within the genus *Lasiurus*) bats, and a decrease of annual rabies submissions. Change in fatality rates at wind turbines, change in capture and acoustic detection rates, and change in rabies submission rates all suggest declines for all species.

In Ontario, the number of carcasses found under wind turbines during the late summer and autumn migration declined significantly over seven years and recent occupancy modelling in the US Pacific Northwest provides evidence of a decline in the regional occurrence probability of Hoary Bats (2016–2018 relative to 2010). Multi-year acoustic and capture studies also provide evidence for population changes for all three species. In the US, all three species have declined in terms of the proportion of overall bat submissions for rabies testing.

### **Threats and Limiting Factors**

These three bat species face several threats, some of which are common to all bats found in Canada, while others are more specific to these migratory species. Several threats contribute cumulatively to suspected declines for all three species. Based on the IUCN threats calculator, the threats assessment is High to Very High for

Hoary Bats, Eastern Red Bats, and Silver-haired Bats.

Wind energy development is the most immediate and concerning threat. Hoary Bats, followed by Silver-haired Bats, and then Eastern Red Bats, account for most fatalities at wind turbines in Canada. The number and extent of wind energy facilities (hereafter “build-out”) will continue to increase substantially across the range of these species.

The global decline of insects is of particular concern for these bats, which are obligate insectivores, as it is for migratory birds, which are aerial insectivores. The causes of insect declines are likely multifactorial, cumulative, and difficult to reverse. While long-term abundance data do not exist for migratory bats, they are likely just as affected by widespread declines in prey as birds with similar diets are.

Other threats include chemical and noise pollution, as well as deforestation that results in the loss of roosting habitat. However, these threats are considered to have a low impact over the next three generations for all three species.

### **Protection, Status and Ranks**

None of these bats receive special protection in Canada, except in Quebec where they are included on the Liste des espèces susceptibles d’être désignées menacées ou vulnérables (list of wildlife species likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable). Quebec is also the only province to have established a recovery strategy for Eastern Red Bats. In most jurisdictions, in conjunction with other wildlife, they are provided general protection by provincial and territorial wildlife acts. In 2018, Hoary Bats and Eastern Red Bats were added to Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) based on their “unfavourable conservation status” related to the rapid expansion of wind energy and the need for international cooperation for their conservation.

All three species are ranked as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List, but key threats identified in this assessment were not considered. In contrast, NatureServe’s global status (G ranks) for all three species is G3G4, rounded to G3 (Vulnerable). The national status (N ranks) for all of these bats in Canada by NatureServe is N5B, NUM; that is,

the breeding population is assessed as Secure, while the status of the migratory population is Undetermined. The status of each of these three bat species assessed in each province, territory, or state (S ranks) is variable, likely reflecting more about the state of knowledge in each jurisdiction rather than their actual conservation status.

Source: COSEWIC. 2023. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Hoary Bat *Lasiurus cinereus*, Eastern Red Bat *Lasiurus borealis* and the Silver-haired Bat *Lasionycteris noctivagans*, in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xxi + 101 pp

For more information, please visit  
[www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca).

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[Enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)



## Hoary Bat

Photo: © Sheri Fenton and Brock Fenton



**Scientific name**  
*Lasiurus cinereus*

**Taxon**  
Mammals

**COSEWIC status**  
Endangered

**Canadian range**  
British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories

**Reason for designation**  
This large-bodied bat has light yellow-brown fur on its face and neck and white tipped hairs over most of its body. It is found across Canada in the summer months and during fall migration. Seasonal migration exposes individuals to a variety of threats including a high risk of mortality at wind energy facilities. Although there is considerable uncertainty regarding the exact rates of decline for these bats across Canada, declines in carcass counts at wind energy facilities suggest declines far in excess of 50% over three generations. The planned increase in wind power capacity will increase this threat but mitigation is possible. Population viability modeling estimates the probability of extinction is least at the 20% threshold by 2050 (3 generations). Additional threats to this species

include ongoing and widespread declines in insect abundance, loss of forested roosting and foraging habitat, and pollution.

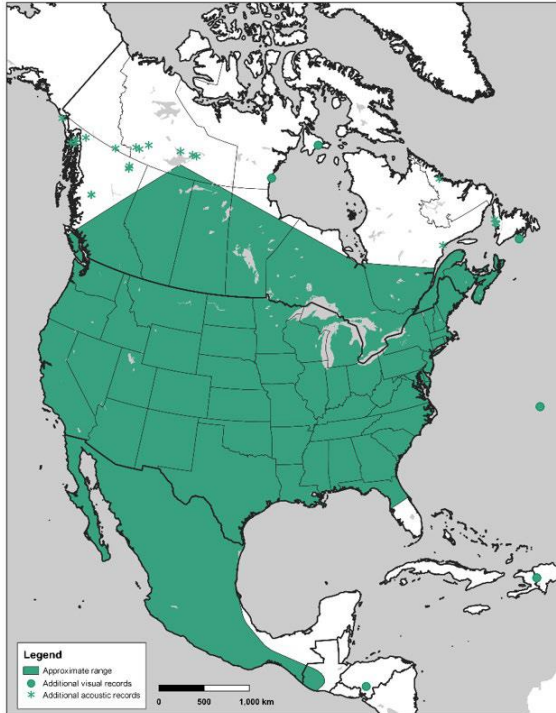
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Approximate distribution of Hoary Bat based on visual records in green, additional visual records represented with green dots, and additional acoustic records represented with an asterisk. Data are insufficient to accurately delineate the northern range limits of this species. Winter range based on Cryan and Veilleux (2007) but not differentiated in this figure.

Source: Hitchcock 1943, Shump and Shump 1982, Anand-Wheeler 2002, Maisonneuve *et al.* 2008, Stantec Consulting Ltd 2012, Blejwas *et al.* 2014, Mora and López 2014, Slough *et al.* 2014, Wilson *et al.* 2014, Hansen *et al.* 2018, de Lacoste and SFEPM 2020, Faure-Lacroix *et al.* 2020, GBIF.org 2020, Washinger *et al.* 2020, Rae and Lausen 2021, Slough *et al.* 2022, Humber pers. comm. 2023, New Brunswick Museum (NBM-5801, NBM-1202).

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In Ontario, the number of carcasses found under wind turbines during the late summer and autumn migration declined significantly over seven years and recent occupancy modelling in the US Pacific Northwest provides evidence of a decline in the regional occurrence probability of Hoary Bats (2016–2018 relative to 2010). Multi-year acoustic and capture studies also provide evidence for population changes for all three species. In the US, all three species have declined in terms of the proportion of overall bat submissions for rabies testing.

## Threats and Limiting Factors

These three bat species face several threats, some of which are common to all bats found in Canada, while others are more specific to these

migratory species. Several threats contribute cumulatively to suspected declines for all three species. Based on the IUCN threats calculator, the threats assessment is High to Very High for Hoary Bats, Eastern Red Bats, and Silver-haired Bats.

Wind energy development is the most immediate and concerning threat. Hoary Bats, followed by Silver-haired Bats, and then Eastern Red Bats, account for most fatalities at wind turbines in Canada. The number and extent of wind energy facilities (hereafter “build-out”) will continue to increase substantially across the range of these species.

The global decline of insects is of particular concern for these bats, which are obligate insectivores, as it is for migratory birds, which are aerial insectivores. The causes of insect declines are likely multifactorial, cumulative, and difficult to reverse. While long-term abundance data do not exist for migratory bats, they are likely just as affected by widespread declines in prey as birds with similar diets are.

Other threats include chemical and noise pollution, as well as deforestation that results in the loss of roosting habitat. However, these threats are considered to have a low impact over the next three generations for all three species.

## Protection, Status and Ranks

None of these bats receive special protection in Canada, except in Quebec where they are included on the Liste des espèces susceptibles d’être désignées menacées ou vulnérables (list of wildlife species likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable). Quebec is also the only province to have established a recovery strategy for Eastern Red Bats. In most jurisdictions, in conjunction with other wildlife, they are provided general protection by provincial and territorial wildlife acts. In 2018, Hoary Bats and Eastern Red Bats were added to Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) based on their “unfavourable conservation status” related to the rapid expansion of wind energy and the need for international cooperation for their conservation.

All three species are ranked as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List, but key threats identified in this assessment were not considered. In contrast,

NatureServe's global status (G ranks) for all three species is G3G4, rounded to G3 (Vulnerable). The national status (N ranks) for all of these bats in Canada by NatureServe is N5B, NUM; that is, the breeding population is assessed as Secure, while the status of the migratory population is Undetermined. The status of each of these three bat species assessed in each province, territory, or state (S ranks) is variable, likely reflecting more about the state of knowledge in each jurisdiction rather than their actual conservation status.

Source: COSEWIC. 2023. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Hoary Bat *Lasiurus cinereus*, Eastern Red Bat *Lasiurus borealis* and the Silver-haired Bat *Lasionycteris noctivagans*, in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xxi + 101 pp

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ቦሌጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና ለግብርና

Photo: © Sherri Fenton and Brock Feinton



**ፍቅሪካጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና**  
*Lasiurus borealis* / ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ

**ጭጭጭ**  
ሊሳሳ

ጭጭጭ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ጭጭጭ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና

**ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና**  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና

**ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ**

ጭጭጭ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና

ጭጭጭ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና  
ሲላዥሳ ሲላዥሳ ጭጭጭ ለግብርና ለግብርና







ዲግሪውት-አረብ ግራም ስብሰባ ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

**ክፍለ-ድርጅቱ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።**

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።

የባርድምታ ስብሰባዎች ለሰፊ ምርመራ እና ለማጠቃለያ ሰብሰባዎች ሲካተቱ ይገኛል።







**የሞገጥጭ ባህገጥጭ ልጅ መሆኑን**

Photo: © Sherri Fenton and Brock Fenton



**የጌላታቱ ስፋቲ ብሩካር ልጅ መሆኑን**  
*Lasirus cinereus - ርዕሽ ስፋቲ ብሩካር*

**ደሞኒፍ ስፋቲ**  
ለሌሎች

ጥናታዊ ጥናት ስፋቲ ብሩካር ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ባለሙያዎች በተለይ ለሌሎች ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ስሜት ለማለት ይረዳሉ።

**ባለሙያዎች ለመለየት**

ከሌሎች ልጆች ጋር ለመለየት ለሌሎች ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ስሜት ለማለት ይረዳሉ። ለምሳሌ ስፋቲ ብሩካር ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ስሜት ለማለት ይረዳሉ።

**ለሌሎች ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ**

በደቡብ አካባቢ ያለው ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ስሜት ለማለት ይረዳሉ። ለምሳሌ ስፋቲ ብሩካር ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ስሜት ለማለት ይረዳሉ።

ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ስሜት ለማለት ይረዳሉ። ለምሳሌ ስፋቲ ብሩካር ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ስሜት ለማለት ይረዳሉ።

**በግልጽ ለማረጋገጥ**

የሞገጥጭ ባህገጥጭ ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ስሜት ለማለት ይረዳሉ። ለምሳሌ ስፋቲ ብሩካር ልጅ መሆኑን ለማረጋገጥ ስሜት ለማለት ይረዳሉ።







ዲፕሎማቲካዊ ምርመራ ለግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።  
CIC ለ IUCN ስልጠናዎች ላይ ለማሳተፍ ማብረቃት ማድረግ ይገባል።  
የግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።

ሌሎች ስልጠናዎች ላይ ለማሳተፍ ማብረቃት ማድረግ ይገባል።  
የግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።  
የግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።

መሥሪያ ቤቅ ለማስተካከል ማድረግ ይገባል።  
ለግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።  
ለግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።

ለግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።  
ለግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።  
ለግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።

### ካንጎንግራፍ፣ የግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።

ዲፕሎማቲካዊ ምርመራ ለግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።  
ለግለሰብ ልምድ ለመጠየቅ ለሚያስችል ሁኔታዎች ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ ይገባል።  
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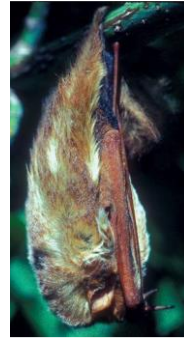


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# Hoary Bat and Eastern Red Bat



## Proposed status of Endangered

We would like your input on the proposed status for Hoary Bat and Eastern Red Bat as Endangered on the List of Wildlife Species at Risk under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Since adding or reclassifying species on the SARA List may affect the way you or your community, nation, business or organization interact with the species, the Minister wants to know what these changes could mean to you. It could be that you need to know that the species will be there for future generations, but you also may have concerns about your future activities. Your comments will help the Minister understand what the changes to the SARA List would mean to you.

The following questions are intended to assist you in providing comments. They are not meant to be limiting and any other comments you may have are welcome.

*By completing this questionnaire, you understand that this information will be used to inform the Minister of Environment in their recommendation to the Governor in Council. Any information provided here will be shared and could be shared in the public realm.*

**Please send completed forms to Rhiannon Pankratz, Northern Liaison Biologist.**

**Email: [SARA.North@ec.gc.ca](mailto:SARA.North@ec.gc.ca)**

**Please send forms by December 15, 2023**

**Name (First and Last Name):** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are representing an organization please provide the name of the organization:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Have you seen the Hoary Bat in your area? Yes  No

If yes, where have you seen them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you seen it often? Yes  No

What is your or your organization's position/opinion on the proposed status of Hoary Bat as Endangered?

- Support the proposed status of Hoary Bat as Endangered
- Do not support the proposed status of Hoary Bat as Endangered
- Indifferent to the proposed status of Hoary Bat as Endangered



Have you seen the Eastern Red Bat in your area? Yes  No

If yes, where have you seen them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you seen it often? Yes  No

What is your or your organization's position/opinion on the proposed status of Eastern Red Bat as Endangered?

- Support the proposed status of Eastern Red Bat as Endangered
- Do not support the proposed status of Eastern Red Bat as Endangered
- Indifferent to the proposed status of Eastern Red Bat as Endangered



Do you need more information from Environment and Climate Change Canada to make your decision?

Yes  No

**What do these species and their habitats mean to you or the group for which you are responding?**

**Could you describe your or your group's relationship with these species (e.g., cultural, spiritual, ceremonial, practicing rights, health, wellbeing, livelihood)?**

**How might your relationship with these species change if this proposed status goes through?**

**Could the recovery of these species support your livelihood, or well-being? Yes  No**

**Do you have any additional comments?**



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ᐅᑎᖃᑎᑭᑦ (ᐅᑎᖃᑎᑭᑦ ᐅᑎᑭᑭᑦ): \_\_\_\_\_

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Δεῦτε ἵνα ἴδωμεν τὰ σημεῖα σου, ἵνα πιστεύσωμεν σοῖς λόγοις.



Archived: Monday, January 29, 2024 3:18:46 PM

From: [Machtans, Craig \(ECCC\)](#)

Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 3:02:32 PM

To: [Pynn, Jonathan](#)

Cc: [Svoboda, Michael \(ECCC\)](#); [Pankratz, Rhiannon \(elle, la | she, her\) \(ECCC\)](#); [Ringrose, John](#); [MacDonald, Bruce \(ECCC\)](#); [Gissing, Drikus](#)

Subject: RE: FOR COMMENT: Proposed SARA amendments Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat and Silver-haired Bat (Due: January 15, 2024)

Sensitivity: Normal

Hi Jonathan –

Thanks for this, appreciate your specific comments. We're planning for the March 2024 NWMB meeting.

Craig

From: Pynn, Jonathan <JPynn@GOV.NU.CA>

Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 7:22 AM

To: Machtans, Craig (ECCC) <Craig.Machtans@ec.gc.ca>

Cc: Svoboda, Michael (ECCC) <Michael.Svoboda@ec.gc.ca>; Pankratz, Rhiannon (elle, la | she, her) (ECCC) <Rhiannon.Pankratz@ec.gc.ca>; Ringrose, John <JRingrose@GOV.NU.CA>; MacDonald, Bruce (ECCC) <BruceA.MacDonald@ec.gc.ca>; Gissing, Drikus <DGissing@GOV.NU.CA>

Subject: RE: FOR COMMENT: Proposed SARA amendments Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat and Silver-haired Bat (Due: January 15, 2024)

Hi Craig,

After discussing this internally, please see the GN's comments and position below.

For planning purposes, is there a general idea which NWMB meeting this will be brought to?

*The Government of Nunavut has reviewed the limited information provided in support of the uplisting for Eastern Red Bat and Hoary Bat; as there are no reports for Silver-haired bats in Nunavut we are not providing comments on their proposed listing other than a general support for following the species listing process.*

*The Nunavut Department of Environment is not currently conducting bat research in Nunavut but will report to ECCC should these species be observed in Nunavut. As stated, there have been some recorded instances of these bat species in Coral Harbour and Arviat; anecdotal evidence is that these recorded sightings are not evidence of range expansion into Nunavut, rather a result of accidental introduction via shipping containers.*

*We support the efforts of the Government of Canada in their conservation efforts and have no objections should these species be considered by the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada for listing under the Species at Risk Act.*

If there are any questions on this, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Jonathan

**Jonathan Pynn**

Senior Wildlife Advisor  
Department of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

Angijukhiq Uumajuliqikkut  
Uqaujiji  
Avatiliqiyikkut  
Nunavut Kavamangat

Conseiller principal en conservation de la faune  
Ministère de l'Environnement  
Gouvernement du Nunavut

PO Box 1000, Str. 1370 Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0  
867-975-7793  
[jpynn@gov.nu.ca](mailto:jpynn@gov.nu.ca)



From: Machtans, Craig (ECCC) <[Craig.Machtans@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Craig.Machtans@ec.gc.ca)>

Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:48 AM

To: Gissing, Drikus <DGissing@GOV.NU.CA>

Cc: Pynn, Jonathan <JPynn@GOV.NU.CA>; Svoboda, Michael (ECCC) <Michael.Svoboda@ec.gc.ca>; Pankratz, Rhiannon (elle, la | she, her) (ECCC) <Rhiannon.Pankratz@ec.gc.ca>; Ringrose, John <JRingrose@GOV.NU.CA>; MacDonald, Bruce (ECCC) <BruceA.MacDonald@ec.gc.ca>

Subject: FOR COMMENT: Proposed SARA amendments Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat and Silver-haired Bat (Due: January 15, 2024)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.


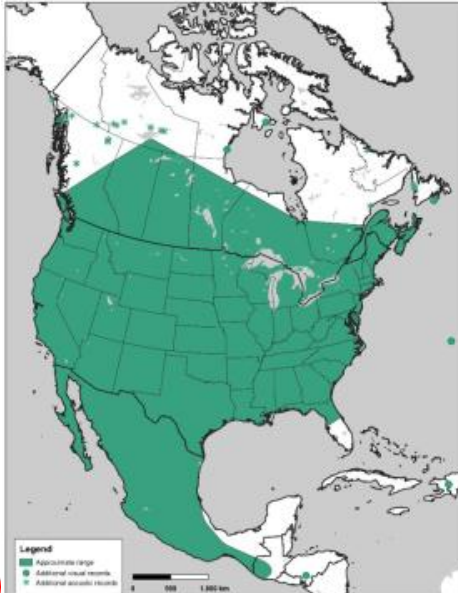

Hi Drikus,

Every year the Government of Canada receives the scientific assessments of terrestrial species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and consults about their addition to Schedule 1 of the *Species At Risk Act* (SARA) or to have their current status changed. For 2024, there are 2 terrestrial species, the [Eastern Red Bat](#) and [Hoary Bat](#) which have been recorded in Nunavut, but well outside the known breeding range, and are being considered for addition. Both species were assessed as Endangered. There is uncertainty around the exact rates of declines. However, despite this uncertainty, carcass counts at wind energy facilities in Ontario during their migration suggest that the declines for all three species are far in excess of 50% over three generations, and COSEWIC believes that this could be true across the country. Given these dramatic declines, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) would like to accelerate the consultations on the possibility to add these bats to the *Species at Risk Act's* Schedule 1.

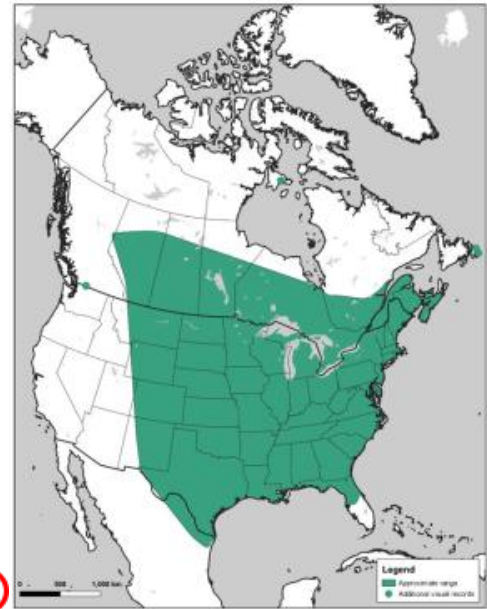
At this time, we are seeking comments and a position on the proposed listing for the 2024 species. It is my assumption that you will solicit the input of other Government of Nunavut departments as necessary and will provide comments on behalf of the Government of Nunavut.

Hunter and Trapper Organizations, Regional Wildlife Boards and Inuit Associations, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated also being consulted separately at the same time.

Briefly, the species found in Nunavut included in the proposed amendments to Schedule 1 are:

Species	Status	Reason for listing and Implications	Nunavut Range
 <a href="#">Species Information (SARA Registry)</a>	Under consideration for addition to list.  New Proposed (COSEWIC) status – <b>Endangered</b> (2023)  Current (Schedule 1) status SARA – Not listed	This species was assessed as endangered due to steep declines, over 50% over three generations. The primary threat to this species is mortality at wind energy facilities. Wind power capacity is expected to increase but this threat can be mitigated.  If listed as Endangered, a national Recovery Strategy will be required, including identification of critical habitat.	 It occurs irregularly in Nunavut. It has been reported near Arviat and Coral Harbour (see red circles). The regular breeding range excludes Nunavut.
	Under consideration for addition to list.  New Proposed (COSEWIC) status – <b>Endangered</b> (2023)  Current (Schedule 1) status SARA – Not listed	This species was assessed as endangered due to steep declines, over 50% over three generations. The primary threat to this species is mortality at wind energy facilities. Wind power capacity is expected to increase but this threat can be mitigated.  If listed as Endangered, a national Recovery Strategy will be required, including identification of critical habitat.	

[Species Information \(SARA Registry\)](#)



It occurs irregularly in Nunavut. It has been recorded in Coral Harbour (see red circle). The regular breeding range excludes Nunavut.

For more information please refer to the attached “Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act: Terrestrial Species” for 2024. These documents explain the process and contain the species profiles for the species found in Nunavut under consideration.

Given the steep decline of these species, we are conducting consultations on the proposed listing of these species quicker than we normally would. We would appreciate if you could provide comments by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. If you require additional time, please inform us prior to the requested deadline. Our intent is to present these species at the first meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in 2024 (March). Comments can be submitted until we present at that meeting.

Please contact Rhiannon Pankratz, Northern Liaison Biologist, ([Rhiannon.pankratz@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Rhiannon.pankratz@ec.gc.ca), 867-445-7927) directly if you would like to provide comments or if you have questions about the SARA process or the species under review.

Please indicate if you support the listing of these species under SARA. We would appreciate your response by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

Yours sincerely,

Craig

Craig Machtans  
Acting Director, Northern Region  
Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada (Whitehorse)  
[craig.machtans@canada.ca](mailto:craig.machtans@canada.ca) / Office Landline: 867-393-6706, Cell: 867-336-8242

A/Directeur, Région du Nord  
Environnement et Changement climatique Canada / Gouvernement du Canada (Whitehorse)  
[craig.machtans@canada.ca](mailto:craig.machtans@canada.ca) / Téléphone fixe de bureau: 867-393-6706, Cellulaire: 867-336-8242



## Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

For

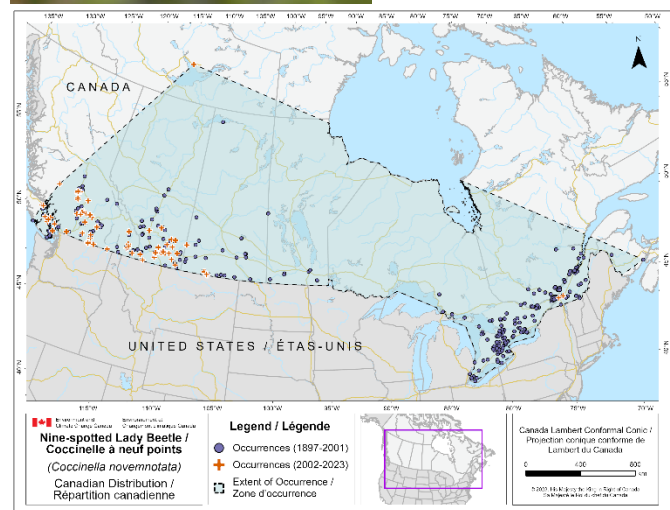
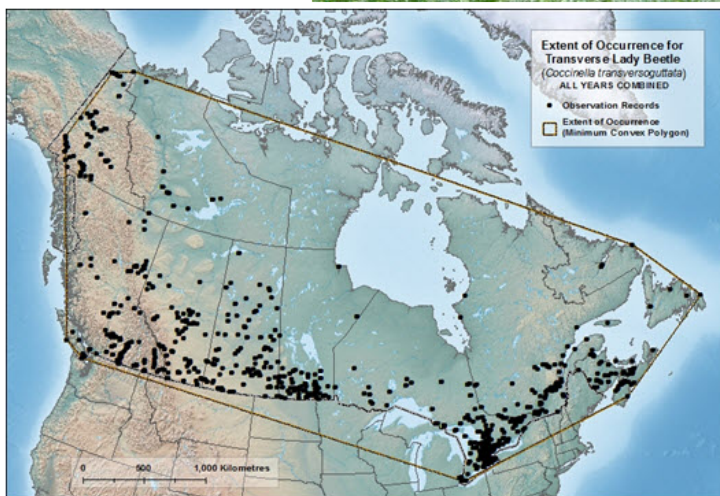
Information:

**Decision: X**

**Issue:** Request for decision on NWMB participation in the development of recovery documents for species with no known occurrence in the Nunavut Settlement Area but assumed presence

### Background:

- There are a few species at risk with no documented occurrence within Nunavut but for which there is assumed presence based on range map extrapolations
- Two current examples are the Transverse Lady Beetle and the Nine-spotted Lady Beetle
- ECCC is currently developing recovery documents for these species
- In 2017 NWMB decided not to take a decision on the proposed listing of transverse lady beetle, citing a lack of documented occurrence



**Consultations:**

Collaboration on the development of the recovery documents for these two species would still occur with affected and interested communities and organizations within or close to the proposed range for the species.

**Next Steps:**

- Communities and organizations will be invited to participate in the development of the documents
- ECCC will draft recovery documents for these species and circulate them for jurisdictional review once drafts are ready
- Finalization of the recovery documents for the Transverse Lady Beetle and the Nine-spotted Lady Beetle will be guided by the outcome of the requested decision

**Decision:**

We are requesting a decision from NWMB on whether the board is interested in exercising their decision making function as per as per the *Nunavut Agreement* s.5.2.34(d,i) and 5.3.16-5.3.23 for these species.

Prepared by: Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region  
Date Drafted: 2024-01-31



Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

For

**Information: X**

Decision:

**Issue:** Development of the management plan for the Wolverine in Canada

**Background:**

- Wolverine was assessed at a national level by COSEWIC as special concern in 2014
- It was listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* as special concern in 2018
- Species of special concern do not receive protections or prohibitions under the *SARA*
- A management plan must be developed for species listed as special concern
- Management plans outline the threats to the species and propose conservation actions to prevent further decline of the species
- The management plan will not limit harvest of Wolverine and will not affect Inuit rights
- ECCC has drafted the management plan for Wolverine in Canada and will be consulting on the draft before bringing the document to NWMB for decision

**Consultations:**

- ECCC hosted 9 virtual workshops on sections of the management plan with Indigenous partners across all three territories
  - A total of 83 participants came to at least one workshop
- Hunter and Trapper Organizations, Regional Inuit Associations, Regional Wildlife Organizations, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., NWMB board staff, and communities in Nunavut were invited to participate in these virtual workshops
  - Arviq HTO, Clyde River HTO, Ekaluktutiak HTO, Kugluktuk HTO, Nangmoutaq HTO, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board staff attended at least one meeting
- ECCC presented to each of the Regional Wildlife Boards on the development of the wolverine management plan at their annual AGMs in 2022 and 2023
- ECCC will circulate the draft management plan for review and input in spring 2024 to HTOs, Regional Inuit Associations, Regional Wildlife Organizations, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., NWMB board staff, and communities

**Next Steps:**

- Comments from communities and organizations will be incorporated
- ECCC will circulate the draft for a final review and support prior to proposed posting

- The proposed document will be posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry for a 60 day public comment period
- Once public comments have been addressed, ECCC will bring the proposed final document to NWMB for decision as per the *Nunavut Agreement* s.5.2.34(d,i) and 5.3.16-5.3.23

Prepared by: Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region  
Date Drafted: 2024-02-19



Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
FOR

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** To provide information to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the Government of Nunavut (GN), and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) (the Parties), which describes how the Parties will collaborate and share information about ECCC's National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs) in Nunavut.

**Background Information:**

Overview of the Nunavut Memorandum of Understanding For Coordination and Cooperation with Respect To Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas ('MOU')

- To support the effective management and conservation strategies of these areas and to promote coordination and cooperation between NTI GN and ECCC after Devolution, the Parties agreed to the MOU.
- The MOU was signed by the Parties on January 11, 2024, and will be in effect for 10 years. The MOU will have an automatic 10-year renewal period, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties.
- The purpose of the MOU is described in Article 1 in which the Parties acknowledge that mutual information sharing and the exchange of ideas between them concerning these areas is beneficial in order to:
  - o confirm that all parties agree that National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are to be administered and managed for conservation purposes;
  - o provide a venue for the Parties to discuss their interests regarding the administration and management of these sanctuaries and areas, including adjacent lands;
  - o ensure that relevant information is shared; and
  - o contribute advice, support decision-making, and improve transparency.
- As described by the MOU, the National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries Coordination and Cooperation Committee ('the Committee') will discuss matters regarding the management and administration of NWAs and MBSs.
- The Committee may contribute advice and support the consistent, efficient, responsible and transparent administration and management of National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
- The Committee will be composed of two senior official representatives for each party (total of 6 members), with role of the Chair alternating between the Parties on an annual basis.
- The Committee will meet at least once a year but may call an *ad hoc* meeting to address urgent concerns as needed.

- With the consensus, the Committee may invite the participation of other parties, Experts, or Indigenous Groups as needed. However, consensus is not needed where there may be a Consultation requirement for the Government of Canada or Government of GN. The MOU can be amended with the unanimous written agreement of the Parties and may be terminated by any Party with one year's notice.

#### History of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas Prior to the Signing of the Devolution Agreement

- In Nunavut, NWAs and MBSs are designated on various land tenures, including federal crown land and Inuit-owned land. Historically, administration and control of these lands were divided between ECCC for NWAs and the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) for MBSs.
- During the Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement (Devolution Agreement) negotiations, the GN, NTI, and the Government of Canada (the Parties to the Devolution Agreement) had to determine if the CIRNAC-administered lands in MBSs would be transfer to the Government of Nunavut (GN).
- In May 2021, the Parties to Devolution agreed that the MBSs should remain under federal jurisdiction.
- There are Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements (IIBAs) between the Inuit of Nunavut and the Government of Canada in place that cover all NWA's and MBSs in the Nunavut Settlement Area. Each NWA and MBS is co-managed by a Designated Inuit Organization and the Government of Canada. IIBAs, management plans and co-management structures are not affected by this MoU.

#### **Consultations:**

- Consultations on this MOU were not required as the Parties to the MOU are the legal representatives of their beneficiaries.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Appointment of senior officials to the Committee.
- Determine date and logistics of the Committee's first meeting.

#### **Recommendation: n/a**



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**BAFFIN FISHERIES**



Daniel Shewchuk,  
Chair, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

January 29, 2024

**Re: Five-year Review of NWMB Allocation Policy**

**From: Arctic Fishery Alliance, Baffin Fisheries, Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd./Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited**

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

We are writing to request a review of the NWMB Allocation Policy to ensure it is working as intended, and best supports Nunavut interests. A review of the Policy will ensure it is maximizing delivery of benefits to the Inuit Beneficiaries of Nunavut, ensuring sustainability of Nunavut's fisheries resources, and fostering a strong, globally competitive fishing industry in Nunavut.

The review is warranted at this time for the following reasons:

**1. To check effectiveness, and follow best-practice precedent set by NLCA and DFO**

The current, 2018/19 version of the NWMB Allocation Policy is an ambitious, industry-changing policy, unique in the world. It has now undergone a full, five-year cycle, with significant quota adjustments made. However, the application, adjudication, and impact of this version of the Policy has not yet been assessed. Is it working as intended? Decisions affecting hundreds of jobs and tens of millions of dollars are made based on clauses in the Policy. Nunavut communities and the lives of its citizens are affected by the Policy. The policy therefore requires careful, regular review.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement required a five-year review to analyse obligations, assess impact, examine implementation, and make recommendations for improvement. The 2019 Amendments to the Fisheries Act are also required to be reviewed every five years, at a minimum.

The time is right for a review of the Policy and its impact on the people of Qikiqtani and Nunavut.

**2. Assess Policy's impact in a changing Nunavut industry**

When the policy was last developed, additional capacity was required in the Nunavut fleet. The Policy encourages this. Since then, all Nunavut fishing companies have increased capacity, delivering or ordering new vessels, and increasing onshore and offshore production capacities. At the same time, Nunavut quotas have decreased. All Nunavut quotas can now be harvested and processed by Nunavut-owned assets. The Policy now may be incentivizing overcapacity which, as seen in many other jurisdictions, negatively impacts communities. A review is required in light of this industry evolution.

The labour market has changed since 2018. The Policy may now encourage unsafe work practices, due to intense competition for a small pool of qualified personnel, which has not grown as anticipated five years ago. Regulatory incentives can lead to unintended consequences, particularly in the fishing industry. It is important to conduct a review of the NWMB Allocation policy to ensure it is working as intended and adapted to changing environment in the Nunavut fishery.



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BAFFIN FISHERIES



**3. Assess Policy’s opportunities in a changing national environment**

Canada’s evolving national reconciliation policy, combined with major changes in Indigenous participation in the fishing industry, have changed the opportunities to be considered by the Policy.

For example, a single Nunavut company could not have competed with the Mi'kmaq Nation for the 2020/2021 \$500 million financed purchase of a 50% interest in Clearwater Seafoods, due to allocation risks associated with the Policy, and the Policy’s focus on competition versus cooperation. The Mi'kmaq Nation acquisition demonstrated what could be possible for Nunavut. Such an opportunity was not considered by the authors of the 2018 Policy, because no such acquisition had occurred before. The Policy needs to be reviewed to ensure such opportunities are considered, and available to Nunavut.

**4. Assess Policy’s opportunities in a changing global environment**

The global fishing industry has changed over the past five years, particularly due to international market conditions, record-setting inflation, and global supply constraints.

Global trade risks have increased. When the 2019 Policy was under development in 2017/18, Canada was negotiating a free trade agreement with China. Now, relations are unfriendly, and all trade with China is a risk. China dominates the global seafood import market, and remains the final destination for more than 75% of Nunavut seafood production. Nunavut fishing companies must make investments to offset this unprecedented risk. However, the policy has no provisions for such investments. In fact, the policy may discourage certain investments, including market diversification, vertical integration, investment in the fishery outside of Nunavut and investment in other industries to offset the heavy reliance on one market and two species.

**5. Address Changes in DFO shrimp management practices**

When the Allocation Policy was last reviewed and revised in 2018, DFO used averages from multiple years of survey data to establish the biomass and set the TAC for Northern Shrimp. Over the last two years, however, DFO has switched to considering only a single year of data when setting the TAC for the upcoming year. This means shrimp total allowable catches (TAC) are forecast to move up and down beyond 15% every single year.

Section 12.2 of the Policy triggers a potential allocation review every time the TAC changes +/- 15%. When this section of the Policy was written, this volatility did not exist. These allocation reviews will unnecessarily increase NWMB’s administrative burden, and further increase volatility, which is detrimental to commercial offshore fishery investment and planning.

For the reasons listed above, a Policy review is required in 2024.

Thank you,

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