

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision: N/A

Issue: Summary of the CHS's 2017 Hydrographic Survey Plan for the Arctic.

Background:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) conduct hydrographic surveys with the primary goal of updating official Government of Canada navigational products to the benefit of enhanced navigation safety and the protection of the marine environment. Not unlike the acoustic frequencies used by echo sounders on recreational vessels, scientific research has established that the sonars used for hydrography do not disturb marine mammals. Data from hydrographic surveys has additional utility including the support of fisheries research.

Note that CHS survey launches are typically painted with orange hulls and bright yellow topsides.

The following is a summary of the CHS' plans as of May 2017 for Arctic Hydrography in 2017:

1) Koksoak River (South Ungava Bay)

Purpose: To collect modern bathymetry and water level data in the Koksoak River to facilitate enhanced navigational products and aids to navigation for the benefit of vessels using the river, primarily for the purpose of improving transportation efficiencies for re-supply of the village of Kuujjuak.

Platforms: Canadian Coast Guard Ship (CCGS) *Larsen*, with CHS Survey launches (CSL) *Pintail* and CSL *Petrel*.

Dates: September 11th to October 28th, 2017 (approximate).

2) Ungava Bay Corridor Survey

Purpose: To collect modern bathymetry in transportation corridors that connect coastal communities in Ungava Bay, for the purpose of improving transportation efficiencies for community re-supply. The data collected from this work will be used to update official navigational publications.

Platform(s): To be determined.

Dates: August 1st to October 15th, 2017 (approximate).

3) *Gjoa Haven to Taloyoak Corridor Survey (St. Roch Basin)*

Purpose: CHS will expand the modern hydrographic data coverage that exists between the communities of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. Data will also be collected opportunistically when transiting from Kugluktuk East, and around King William Island. The targeted work in St. Roch Basin will end on approximately September 6th, at which time the vessel will transit westward to the Beaufort Sea, collecting data on an opportunistic basis until October 2nd when remaining staff are scheduled to disembark at Deadhorse, Alaska. All CHS data collected will be used to update official navigational publications for the purpose of improving transportation efficiencies for community re-supply.

Platforms: CCGS *Sir Wilfrid Laurier*, with two new (yet-to-be-named) 8.6m CHS launches.

Dates: August 6th to October 2nd, 2017 (approximate).

4) *Pond Inlet to Cambridge Bay and Return (Opportunistic Survey)*

Purpose: CHS staff will partner with the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) to collect bathymetric data on an opportunistic basis as the Maritime Coastal Defense Vessel (MCDV) HMCS *Kingston* transits from Pond Inlet to Cambridge Bay return (via Bellot Strait). All CHS data collected will be used to update official navigational publications for the purpose of improving transportation efficiencies for community re-supply.

Platform: RCN vessel HMCS *Kingston*.

Dates: August 10th to September 15th, 2017 (approximate).

5) *Pond Inlet to Cambridge Bay (Opportunistic Survey)*

Purpose: CHS staff will partner with the Royal Research Ship (RRS) *Ernest Shackleton* to collect bathymetric data from a rigid-hull inflatable tender to *Shackleton* on an opportunistic basis as RRS *Ernest Shackleton* transits from Pond Inlet to Cambridge Bay (via Bellot Strait). All CHS data collected will be used to update official navigational publications for the purpose of improving transportation efficiencies for community re-supply.

Platform: Rigid-hull inflatable tender deployed from RRS *Ernest Shackleton*.

Dates: August 16th to August 21st, 2017 (approximate).

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