

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD – August 8, 2024

FOR: Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Update on the interim plan for the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area

PURPOSE

Provide an update on the Interim Management Plan (IMP) for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (TINMCA) including progress to date, recent community consultations, next steps, and anticipated timeline to completion. The last update was given to the NWMB in spring 2020. There have been delays in finalizing the draft IMP, but the Planning Committee has made significant progress towards finalizing the plan over the past year and hopes to present the final interim management plan for NWMB approval at the February or June 2025 meeting.

BACKGROUND

The major steps in the establishment process of TINMCA under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act (2002)* are: completion of an assessment of the feasibility and desirability of the NMCA (completed in 2017); negotiation of an IIBA (completed in 2019); creating an interim management plan (underway); and establishing the NMCA in legislation (underway).

Tallurutiup Imanga is 108,000 km², located in the northern Qikiqtani region, and includes some terrestrial areas (three significant bird cliffs and all islands under 400 ha). The communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga are Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet and Clyde River.

The Planning Committee for Tallurutiup Imanga, consisting of two representatives from QIA, one representative from Parks Canada; and one representative from the Government of Nunavut, is responsible for leading the development of the interim management plan for TINMCA. The interim plan will guide the management of TINMCA for five years while a comprehensive 10-year Management Plan is developed. The development of the IMP is informed by extensive consultation with communities, as well as input from stakeholders and the public.

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

- zones of strict protection to protect sensitive features that are susceptible to disturbance (e.g. cliffs with bird colonies). Only Inuit use and limited scientific research may occur.
- zones to protect specific habitats (e.g. migration corridors, nurseries) where some activities are restricted if they negatively impact the habitat;
- multiple use areas where a range of variety of activities and uses are permitted if they do not negatively impact the marine environment or Inuit rights, and
- areas identified as being of special importance for communities, where activities will be managed so that Inuit use of these areas is not impacted.

CONSULTATIONS

- Community consultations on the draft interim management plan were held in 2018 and 2019 in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, and Clyde River to gather information about what should be in the plan. The Planning Committee met with hamlet Councils, Hunter and Trapper Organizations (HTO) and other local organizations and held public information sessions. Approximately 300 individuals attended those consultations. The Planning Committee used what was heard at these meetings to draft the interim management plan.
- In March 2024, the Planning Committee travelled to Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, and Clyde River, to present the draft plan to ensure that community concerns and priorities had been adequately addressed in the draft plan. Meetings were held with hamlet Councils, HTOs, CLARCs and the Nauttiqsuqtiit over 2 days. Open houses were also held in each community. Approximately 130 individuals attended these meetings. During these recent consultations, the Planning Committee received additional information on what needs to be protected and about threats to TINMCA (e.g.: concerns about pleasure craft and cruise ship behaviour and impacts, concerns about capacity to respond to public safety or environmental incidents). The Committee is using this information to further refine the Objectives and Targets and the Zoning plan. The Planning Committee also received comments that improved the Vision statement and will ensure this Vision reflects what the community wants TINMCA to look like in 15-20 years.

NEXT STEPS

- The Planning Committee is currently working to edit the IMP draft based on the feedback from March 2024 community consultations. Once complete, the next steps are:
- September/October 2024: Virtual meetings held with communities to validate and finalize the draft IMP.
- November/December 2024: Stakeholder and public consultations on the draft IMP.
- January/February 2025: Final edits to the IMP and approvals
- Anticipated March 2025: IMP submitted to the Aulattiqatigiit Board for approval.
- Anticipated June 2025: IMP submitted to the NWMB for approval.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

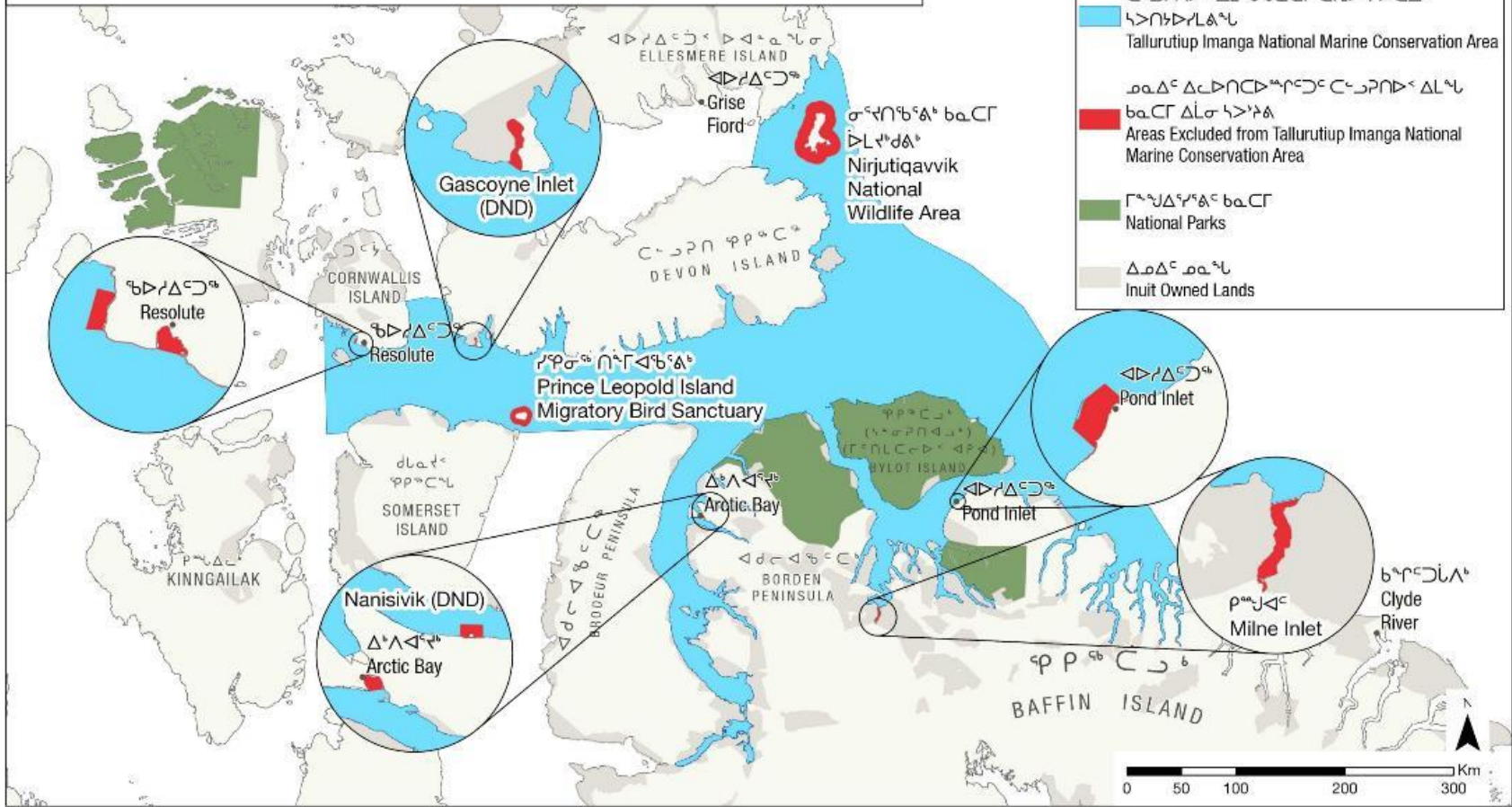
If the NWMB has any comments, concerns, or questions, the Planning Committee is available to discuss these at any point.

Parks Canada: Laurent Jonart, laurent.jonart@pc.gc.ca
Government of Nunavut: Bradley Pirie, BPirie@gov.nu.ca
Qikiqtani Inuit Association: Jovan Simic, jsimic@qia.ca

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 Areas excluded from Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area

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 Inuit Owned Lands



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 Terrestrial areas included in Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area

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