

Consultation and Engagement Summary

[Link to Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area](#)

In the Fall of 2018, QIA expressed their interest to include an area of the Tuvaijuittuq area as part of the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (TINMCA). The PCA, along with DFO and Transport Canada are engaged in the negotiation of the IIBA. In response to QIA's proposal, representatives from PCA and DFO and QIA negotiated and reached an Agreement in Principle (AiP) on the IIBA that committed the parties to, among other things, work collaboratively with the Government of Nunavut (GN) to advance protection of Tuvaijuittuq, including the consideration of interim protection measures under the proposed revisions to the Oceans Act.

Following signing of the AiP, PCA and DFO (representing the Government of Canada), the Government of Nunavut, and the QIA negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the desirability and feasibility of protection measures for Tuvaijuittuq. The MoU provides for the establishment of a steering committee with representatives from the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut and QIA to guide the feasibility assessment for marine protection in Tuvaijuittuq. It is the intent of the parties that any IIBA considerations for the protection measures to be established in Tuvaijuittuq, including a potential national marine conservation area and a potential *Oceans Act* marine protected area, will be covered under the TINMCA IIBA, the signing of which is expected in June 2019.

[Change to boundary related to engagement efforts](#)

Between April 2018 and January 2019, key partners and stakeholders were engaged through various methods regarding protection options for the area of Tuvaijuittuq situated outside the Nunavut Settlement Area and Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The decision to begin work outside the boundaries of the settlement area was based on the urgent need for baseline ecological information in the context of climate change, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association's (QIA) priority at that time to focus their efforts on other initiatives in the Qikiqtani region. Starting in February of 2019, engagement efforts were focused on an expanded area, which includes a portion of the Nunavut Settlement Area. This revised area was based on the study area identified in the AiP associated with the TINMCA IIBA negotiations.

[Engagement to date](#)

DFO has engaged with partners (including Indigenous organizations, Territorial Governments and nearby communities), other federal departments and key stakeholders to identify all ongoing and authorized activities in the proposed area in the last 12 months and to seek feedback regarding both interim and long-term protection in Tuvaijuittuq. In May 2017, a Nunavut Marine Conservation Target (MCT) Steering Committee, with participation from senior-level representatives from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), PCA, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNA), Transport Canada, DFO, the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) was established to provide a coordination mechanism on marine conservation activities planned and underway within and surrounding Nunavut. This group has been a primary forum for updating and engagement of key partners in the Nunavut Settlement Area. In the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, key partners have been engaged through the Beaufort Sea Regional Coordination

Committee, which is comprised of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC), PCA, CIRNA, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), the Yukon Government, ECCC, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Transport Canada.

In April 2018, DFO traveled to the communities of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord to meet with Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) boards to provide updates on potential areas of interest (AOIs) in Canada's Arctic, to gauge community support for protection measures in the High Arctic marine environment, and to consult on the scientific field work proposed by DFO in the vicinity of communities between 2018 and 2020. At that time, the Iviq (Grise Fiord) board indicated that they required more information regarding the High Arctic before they could support protection in that region. Resolute Bay HTO supported protection measures in the area but expressed concern regarding the Government of Canada's capacity for enforcement.

In June 2018, a proposal to use a phased approach for marine protection in Tuvaijuittuq (or "High Arctic Basin") was presented to the Nunavut MCT Steering Committee. Subsequently, letters were sent to both Eastern and Western Arctic Inuit representatives and Territorial governments outlining a proposed approach to provide interim protection to Tuvaijuittuq. Letters were sent from the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of DFO and the Vice President of PCA to the President of NTI, the President of the QIA, the ADM of the Department of Environment for the Government of Nunavut, the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the IRC, the Chair of the IGC, the Chair of the FJMC, the Superintendent of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with the Government of Northwest Territories, and the Senior Oil and Gas Advisor with the Yukon Government. Later that month, information packages were sent to Eastern Arctic Inuit representatives outlining a proposed phased approach to protect Tuvaijuittuq. The letters sought feedback on the proposal.

In July 2018, following senior-level correspondence with key stakeholders, information was sent to other key federal partners, including the Department of National Defense (DND), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), ECCC, Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), NRCan, and the Department of Justice (DoJ) by way of email. The emails described the proposed approach for protection in Tuvaijuittuq and asked for feedback on interim protection for the area.

Feedback associated with engagement activities in June and July 2018 was as follows:

- Within the MCT Nunavut Steering Committee concerns were expressed related to Canada's obligations under the Nunavut Agreement and refinement of the Tuvaijuittuq boundary;
- The Government of Nunavut sent a letter to Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on October 1, 2018 expressing concern over the use of an interim protection measure in the High Arctic, including concerns related to due process (i.e., allowing time for consultation and assessment), the rationale for interim protection, and the loss of access to possible resources;
- Arctic Security Consultants expressed full support for interim protection of Tuvaijuittuq;

- The Nunavut Fisheries Association communicated their support for interim protection of Tuvaijuittuq, as well as for the conduct of additional research in the area. They indicated that protecting the area will have no impact on the fishing industry;
- Oceans North verbally communicated their support for interim protection in this area;
- WWF has been calling for the protection of the Last Ice Area (which includes the proposed IPMPA) for many years. WWF verbally communicated that they will support interim protection in this area; and
- The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board recommended that DFO seek formal advice from the Board as per section 5.2.34 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

In early September 2018, the proposal for protection of Tuvaijuittuq was provided to the Beaufort Sea Regional Coordinating Committee and the IGC at regular meetings. The proposal yielded no comment/questions from participants except that the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation does not support establishment of new marine protected areas in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region until Inuvialuit concerns with the current MPA funding model and northern Oil and Gas moratorium were addressed.

In September 2018, the proposed approach was also presented to the FJMC at a face to face meeting. The FJMC was supportive of work to strengthen the MPA program in the Western Arctic and requested continued updates on Tuvaijuittuq. Later in September 2018, the information package was sent to a broader distribution list, which included Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, Nunavut Fisheries Association, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board/Nunavut Marine Council, Nunavut Impact Review Board, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Qikiqtaaluk Corp., the Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay HTOs, and the Ecology Action Centre. In November 2018, the same information was sent to the shipping industry through the Canadian Marine Advisory Council distribution list, which includes hundreds of stakeholders.

In December 2018, DFO formally presented the proposal to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and requested advice. DFO received a letter from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on January 2, 2019 indicating that additional engagement was required prior to providing official advice. Following the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's recommendation, plans were made for additional engagement with interested communities involving DFO, PCA, Government of Nunavut and QIA. In February 2019, DFO, PCA and the Government of Nunavut visited the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute and Grise Fiord to update the communities with respect to research programs and seek feedback on potential protection options for Tuvaijuittuq. Local QIA representatives attended the HTO meetings and provided valuable feedback. Both the HTO's and communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute and Grise Fiord were generally supportive of long-term protection measures as well as the use of the interim protection tool.

DFO met with the Nunavut MCT Steering Committee and the Beaufort Sea Partnership Regional Coordinating Committee in February 2019 and March 6, 2019, respectively, to provide updates for Tuvaijuittuq and associated Ministerial Order Policy Intent proposed under Bill C-55. Participants in the

Regional Coordinating Committee meeting included IRC, IGC, FJMC, PCA, CIRNA, GNWT, Yukon Government, ECCC, NRCan, and TC. There were no comments or questions.

DFO met with the Beaufort Sea Regional Partnership Coordinating Committee in March 2019 to provide updates on Tuvaijuittuq and associated Policy Intent. Participants in the meeting included IRC, IGC, FJMC, PCA, CIRNA, GNWT, Yukon Government, ECCC, NRCan, and TC. There were no comments or questions.

On April 5th 2019, DFO met with the Nunavut Marine Council Working Group which has representation from the Nunavut Planning Commission, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Water Board and the Nunavut Impact Review Board. The representative from the Nunavut Impact Review Board was unable to attend. An overview of the proposal was provided and the Nunavut Marine Council representatives indicated that the update was appreciated and advised on the role of their respective organizations in the process.

In March 2019, the Government of Nunavut, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Canada reached a Memorandum of Understanding on the desirability and feasibility of protection measures for the Tuvaijuittuq. The MoU provides for the establishment of a steering committee with representatives from Canada, the Government of Nunavut and QIA to guide the feasibility assessment for long term marine protection in Tuvaijuittuq and consideration of interim protection measures. The Tuvaijuittuq Steering Committee first met on April 18, 2019 and continues to meet frequently and guide advancement of marine protection considerations. The Steering Committee has provided support to proceed with submission of a Marine Protected Area by Ministerial Order proposal to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for decision at the next meeting. Official party positions on the proposal will be submitted ahead of this meeting.

In April 2019, in light of recent negotiations between the GoC, the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT), the Yukon Government, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) on future offshore oil and gas activity in the Beaufort Sea, the GNWT expressed concerns with the boundary of the study area of the Canada-Nunavut-Qikiqtani Inuit Association MoU on protecting Tuvaijuittuq. While the Government of Canada has the authority under the Oceans Act to establish a marine protected area in any area of the sea, the boundary of the Tuvaijuittuq proposed MPA was modified to remove the area that caused concern in the spirit of collaboration.