

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

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: To seek Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) approval of the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area interim management plan and non-quota limitations on harvesting by non-Inuit within specific zones of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.

Background:

(a) How the issues relate to the NWMB mandate;

The Aulattiqatigiit Board, the Inuit-Canada co-management board for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA), is seeking NWMB approval of the aspects in the interim management plan (IMP) that concern wildlife management (5.2.34 (c)) and non-quota limitation on harvesting by non-Inuit (5.6.48) (see Annex I). This IMP, once approved, will be in place for five years, when it will be replaced by a full management plan.

(b) Why the issue is being presented;

The IMP is being submitted to the NWMB for approval in accordance with:

- *Nunavut Agreement, Article 5.2.34 (c): “In addition to its primary functions outlined in Section 5.2.33, the NWMB shall in its discretion perform the following functions related to management and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat: (c) approve plans for management and protection of particular wildlife habitats including areas within Conservation Areas, Territorial Parks and National Parks”;*
- *Nunavut Agreement, Article 5.6.48: “Subject to the terms of this Article, the NWMB shall have sole authority to establish, modify or remove, from time to time and as circumstances require, non-quota limitations on harvesting in the Nunavut Settlement Area”; and;*
- *Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA, Section 7.3.8: “Once the Aulattiqatigiit Board has reached a consensus decision in accordance with section 5.8 of this Agreement, the proposed [interim] Management Plan will be provided to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for its approval of the parts of the proposed Management Plan related to the management and protection of particular wildlife habitat, in accordance with Article 5 of the Nunavut Agreement.”*

No wildlife management measures that affect Inuit rights-based activities provided for in the *Nunavut Agreement* are being proposed in the IMP. Management measures related to wildlife

(e.g. zones prohibiting or restricting hunting and/or fishing by non-beneficiaries) were developed to increase the protection of wildlife and its habitat.

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

Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is a marine conservation area located in the northern Qikiqtani region and includes some terrestrial areas (three significant bird cliffs and all islands under 400 ha). It is an ecological driver for much of the eastern Arctic and provides important habitat for nearly all Arctic marine species.

It is jointly managed by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Government of Canada (Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Transport Canada). An Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement was signed for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA in 2019, but the establishment of the site under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* remains outstanding. One of the remaining steps needed to complete the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is to develop an IMP.

The IMP will guide the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA while a comprehensive 10-year Management Plan is developed within five years of the establishment of the NMCA. The development has been led by a Planning Committee, which consists of two representatives from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, one representative from Parks Canada, and one representative from the Government of Nunavut. The IMP has been informed by extensive consultation with the associated communities, as well as input from stakeholders and the public, from 2018 to 2025. The communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA are Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord), Qausuittuq (Resolute), Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay), Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet), and Kangiqtugaapik (Clyde River).

The IMP contains a vision, management objectives and targets, and a zoning plan that address the protection and conservation of Tallurutiup Imanga ecosystems and cultural heritage while supporting sustainable use and respecting Inuit rights. The vision describes the desired future state of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA in 15-20 years. The management objectives are broad outcomes to accomplish over the life of the IMP, with associated targets that are more specific and will measure progress towards achieving the objectives. They focus on the development and assessment of tools and processes to protect the natural and cultural heritage of Tallurutiup Imanga; protect Inuit rights and promote community well-being, support collaborative research and monitoring, and reinforce public safety. The zoning plan sets the management intent for different areas of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. Zoning describes what activities can take place in an area, when they can take place, and under what conditions. In particular, the zoning plan creates spatial and temporal restrictions to protect sea ice, areas of importance to the communities and key species such as Narwhal, Beluga, Walrus and sea birds. **Inuit rights-based harvesting and traditional use are not impacted by IMP restrictions.** However, some zones prohibit and/or restrict recreational fishing, commercial fishing, and hunting, trapping and gathering by non-Inuit either year-round or on a seasonal basis. The zoning is divided into an ice-season zoning plan and an open-water season zoning plan, to better reflect the realities of each season.

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

Representatives from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Parks Canada will deliver a 45 to 60minute PowerPoint presentation (enclosed) that provides details about the management planning process, an overview of the interim management plan (i.e., vision, objectives, and zoning), and the results of consultation.

Consultation:

The following is a summary of consultations that were undertaken between 2018 and 2025 to develop the interim management plan for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The consultation report (enclosed) provides a comprehensive description of the Tallurutiup Imanga planning committee's consultations with Inuit, partners, stakeholders, and the Canadian public through meetings, workshops, open houses, and community events that played an integral role in the development of the interim management plan and what we heard during the consultation process, including validating what we heard with communities.

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

Trappers Organizations, and the Nauttiguqtiit. Fifty-one individuals attended the meetings. Community members had questions and comments but were overall satisfied with the draft IMP, which allowed the Planning Committee to move to public and stakeholder consultations.

- **2025 public engagement:** Engagement was held online from June 23 to July 21. The draft IMP was posted in Inuktitut, English, and French on parks.canada.ca. It was shared on Facebook (@ParksCanadaNunavut, @ParksCanada, @QikiqtaniInuit @GovofNunavut), X (@ParksCanNunavut), and on the website Consulting with Canadians. The draft IMP webpage was visited 258 times in English and 25 times in Inuktitut. The public was offered to provide comments by email. Only one comment was received. No modifications to the draft IMP were made following the public engagement.
- **2025 stakeholder engagement:** From May 22 to August 1, 86 stakeholder groups were engaged, including the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. They each received a copy of the draft IMP. Meetings were held with representatives of the mining, shipping, cruise ship, tourism, and fisheries industries. Follow-up meetings were then held with the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators and Baffinland Iron Mines Corp. Non-government organizations and academia were provided with an opportunity to submit feedback in writing. A total of 125 comments were received from all stakeholders. Following this stakeholder engagement, the Planning Committee recommended making a few changes to the IMP.
- **2025 community check-in:** Before officially integrating the changes based on stakeholder engagement into the draft IMP, the Planning Committee checked in with each of the five communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The hamlet councils and Hunters & Trappers Organizations of each community were sent a letter that provided an overview of the proposed changes. They were also offered an opportunity to meet and discuss the changes with the Planning Committee, ask questions, and clarify any of the edits. Communities did not raise concerns regarding the proposed changes. Therefore, these changes were made to the draft IMP.

Who We Engaged:

The consultation report (enclosed) provides a comprehensive description of the Tallurutiup Imanga planning committee's consultations with Inuit, partners, stakeholders, and the Canadian public through meetings, workshops, open houses, and community events that played an integral role in the development of the interim management plan and what we heard during the consultation process, including validating what we heard with communities.

On April 24, the Aulattiqatigiit Board passed a resolution to approve the final draft of the IMP. As part of this process, QIA received the approval from the Imaq, an advisory committee to QIA whose members are the QIA community directors from the five TINMCA communities.

Recommendation

The Planning Committee recommends approval of the interim management plan from the NWMB.

Prepared By:

Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA IMP Planning Committee

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Addenda

Annex I: Fishing Restriction Tables

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Zone 1 – Ice and Open Water Season

Not allowed

= Limitation on Harvesting for Non-Inuit*

Access and extractive uses are prohibited throughout all Zone 1 areas for Non-Inuit

	Wreck of Breadalbane NHS of Canada	Walrus haul-out sites	Seabird colonies	Ikpikittuarjuk/Moffet Inlet	Tremblay Sound
Recreational fishing	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Commercial fisheries	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Hunting, trapping, gathering (non-rights based)	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Bottom trawling	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed

*No restriction on sport hunting as per the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA

Zone 3 – Ice Season

Not allowed

= Limitation on Harvesting for Non-Inuit**

	Peary Caribou sea ice crossings*	Other key sea ice habitat*	Significant Benthic Areas
Recreational fishing	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Commercial fisheries	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Hunting, trapping, gathering (non-rights based)	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Bottom trawling	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed

*Commercial shipping is not allowed

**No restriction on sport hunting as per the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA

Zone 3 – Open Water Season

Not allowed

= Limitation on Harvesting
for Non-Inuit*

	Walrus haul-out buffer	Seabird colony buffers	Significant Benthic Areas	Beluga summer aggregation areas	Narwhal summer aggregation areas	Underwater cultural resource area
Recreational fishing	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Commercial fisheries	Not allowed	Not allowed	Allowed	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Hunting, trapping, gathering (non-rights based)	Not allowed	Not allowed	Allowed	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Bottom trawling	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed

*No restriction on sport hunting as per the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA