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Tallurutiup Imanga

National Marine Conservation Area

Interim Management Plan

2026



2026

Tallurutiup Imanga

National Marine Conservation Area

Interim Management Plan

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Foreword

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Text and signatures to come during signing.

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[Director, Qikiqtani Inuit Association]*

*Co-Chair, Aulattiqatigiit Board
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Photo: Nicole McFadden

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Glossary of Terms

Associated communities: For Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, the associated communities are Arctic Bay, Resolute, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Grise Fiord.

Aulattiqatigiit Board: The joint Inuit and Canada management board established through the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement in accordance with section 8.4.11 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Commercial tourism: The practice of providing recreational activity services with the intent of generating revenue. It can involve services such as tours, charters, excursions, outfitting, accommodation, and equipment rental.

Country food: Traditional Inuit food, including game meats, migratory birds, fish, and foraged foods. In addition to providing nourishment, country food is an integral part of Inuit identity and culture and contributes to self-sustainable communities.

Cultural heritage: Includes both tangible cultural resources and intangible cultural heritage, such as cultural traditions, practices, knowledge, skills and beliefs.

Cultural resource: A human work, object, or a place that has evidence of human activity or has spiritual or cultural meaning, and that has been determined to be of heritage value and includes tangible and intangible elements. For greater certainty, intangible elements may include Inuit stories, legends, history, spirituality, practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills.

Ecological sustainability: A state in which marine ecosystems are self-regulating and resilient, and whose structure, function, and capacity to provide ecosystem services are not compromised.

Ecologically sustainable use: Use of marine resources in a manner that meets the needs of present and future generations without compromising ecological sustainability.

Ecosystem: A dynamic complex of animal, plant and microorganism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Fishing: Understood to mean “fishing” as defined under the *Fisheries Act*. For greater certainty, includes the harvest of any marine animal, including invertebrates, such as clams or shrimp.

Innocent passage: Passage of a vessel is considered innocent so long as it is not prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of the coastal State; such passage shall be continuous and expeditious. Full definition and context in Articles 18 and 19 of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*.

Interim management plan: The interim management plan for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA required under paragraph 7(1)(d) of the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*.

Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA): The Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, required under Article 8 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Inuit Nunangat: The homeland of the Inuit, where Inuit live and use the lands, waters and sea ice. In Canada, Inuit Nunangat includes Nunavut and the northern parts of Labrador, Quebec, Northwest Territories and Yukon.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit: The traditional, current, and evolving body of Inuit values, beliefs, experience, perceptions, and knowledge, regarding the environment including land, water, wildlife, and people, to the extent that people are part of the environment. This Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit definition refers to knowledge passed on from generation to generation and describes what it means to be Inuit, how to interact with others, and how to survive on the land.

Inuit use: Past, present, or future Inuit activities or endeavors related to natural, economic, social, or cultural resources and identified as Inuit rights by the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Management Advisory Committee: The advisory committee required under subsection 11(1) of the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* to advise the Minister on the formulation, review, and implementation of the Management Plan for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.

Management plan: The management plan for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA required under section 8.4.13 of the Nunavut Agreement and Section 9 of the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*.

Marine protected area: An area in the marine environment that is defined and managed through legal and/or other effective means to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values (adapted from the International Union for Conservation of Nature). In the context of NMCAs, “marine” includes both ocean environments and the Great Lakes.

National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA): A national marine conservation area of Canada named and described in Schedule 1 of the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*.

Nunavut Agreement: The *Agreement between Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* that was ratified by a vote of the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and by the enactment by Parliament of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act*, S.C. 1993 c. 29.

Parks Canada: The Parks Canada Agency, the body corporate established by the *Parks Canada Agency Act*.

Precautionary principle: Where there are threats of environmental damage, lack of scientific certainty is not used as a reason for postponing preventative measures (*CNMCAA* preamble).

Recreational activities (non-extractive): Activities that are non-commercial that individuals engage in for enjoyment and well-being. These activities do not involve extracting renewable or non-renewable resources from the environment (for example, fish, whales, minerals, seaweed, etc.). Recreational activities could include things like boating, wildlife viewing, photography, traveling by snowmobile, or underwater exploration. This definition does not apply to Inuit use.

Sensitive ecosystem element: An ecosystem element that is at risk of being lost or compromised due to its intolerance to disturbance.

Small vessel: means small vessels as described in the *Small Vessel Regulations* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-2010-91>).

Special feature: A natural or cultural feature of outstanding or unique value within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA due to its rarity or particular importance.

Stakeholder: A person or group with an interest or concern related to the establishment and/or management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA (for example, environmental non-government organizations, fisheries associations and unions, commercial tourism operators and shipping organizations).

List of Acronyms Used

ASI	Area of Special Importance
CNMCAA	<i>Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act</i>
IIBA	Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement
NMCA	National Marine Conservation Area
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Photo: Nicole McFadden

1.0 Introduction

Located in Nunavut, the boundaries of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) encompass the length of Lancaster Sound, stretching from Resolute Bay in the west to Baffin Bay in the east, beyond the territorial waters into Canada's Exclusive Economic Zone (Figure 1). At approximately 108,000 km², Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA represents nearly 2% of Canada's total marine area. It is the ecological driver for much of the eastern Arctic and provides important habitat for nearly all Arctic marine species. Its waters are a migratory corridor for numerous species and essential habitat for polar bears, seals, walrus, bowhead whales, narwhal, beluga whales and migratory birds. The area has sustained Inuit for generations and is an artery connecting communities and allowing travel throughout the High Arctic. Access to wildlife resources found in the NMCA is essential to food sovereignty and Inuit well-being and is critical for the region to remain a source of healthy country food.



The origin of the name Tallurutiup Imanga connects Inuit traditions and the land. Inuit believe that Devon Island resembles facial tattoos on a jawline. Tallurutiup is the Inuktitut name for Devon Island and Imanga means a body of water surrounding an area.

The establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga as a National Marine Conservation Area reflects decades of work by Inuit, and supporting partners, to conserve this magnificent place. An Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) towards the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA was signed in 2019 between the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Government of Canada, as represented by Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard, and Transport Canada. The IIBA provides benefits to Inuit and directions on the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, including the inclusion of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in decision-making, research and monitoring, cultural heritage, management planning, exploratory fisheries, marine shipping, and the promotion of Inuit rights.

In addition to transferring benefits to Inuit, the IIBA established the governance structure for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The Aulattiqatigiit Board, the consensus-based joint Inuit and Canada management board, examines all steps, decisions, initiatives, and undertakings relating to the planning, operation, and management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The Aulattiqatigiit Board consists of three members appointed by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and three appointed by the Government of Canada. Canada's appointees include senior representatives from Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and a third member as determined by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, who is currently an official from Transport Canada. Board members for the Qikiqtani Inuit Association are two senior officials from the organization and the Chair of the Imaq Committee, an Inuit advisory committee for the Qikiqtani Inuit Association which provides the perspectives of Inuit from the communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The governance structure of the NMCA is completed by the Operations Committee, a joint Inuit and Canada committee which cooperates on operational aspects of managing the NMCA following the directions set by the Aulattiqatigiit Board.

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Photo: Nicole McFadden

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The Board is responsible for the implementation of this interim management plan and future management plans. It works by consensus to make decisions on the operations and management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, in accordance with the *Nunavut Agreement*, the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act (CNMCAA)*, and the *Policy on the Establishment and Management of National Marine Conservation Areas* ("NMCA Policy"). The Board may consult with communities, engage with industry, and/or seek advice and expertise from any individual or organization, on any matters related to the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The Board can also use management tools, such as temporary closure, to adapt to changing conditions, based on recommendations from subject matter experts.

1.1 Purpose and scope of the interim management plan

Consistent with the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act (CNMCAA)*, this interim management plan provides guidance for the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The vision, management objectives and targets, and zoning plan address key themes related to the protection and conservation of important habitats and biodiversity; the ecologically sustainable use and management of marine resources; protection for Inuit rights and promotion of benefits from the NMCA; recognition of Inuit cultural heritage and stewardship; the inclusion of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, and collaborative research and monitoring strategies.

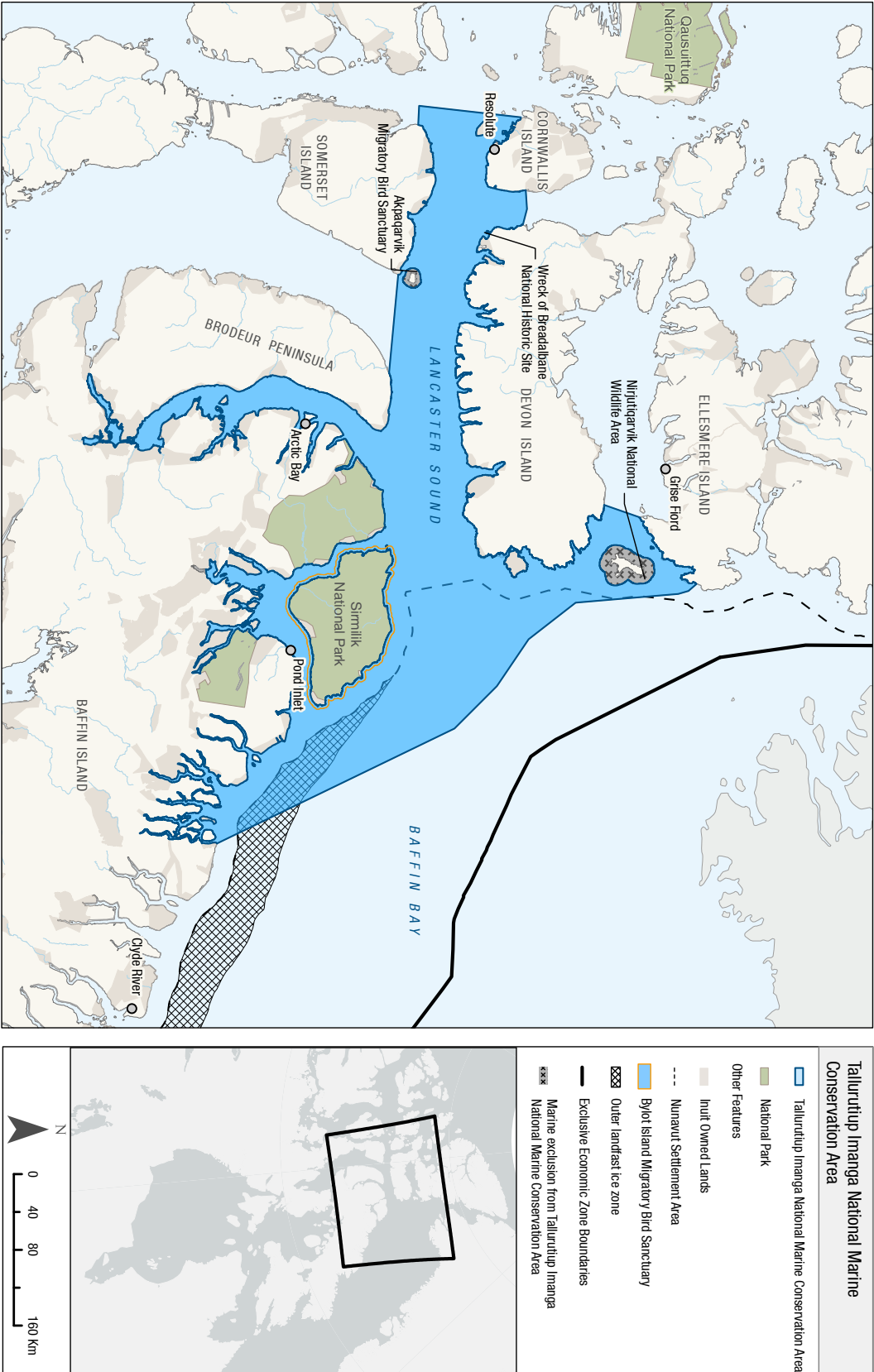


Figure 1.1 Map showing the location of Tallurttup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area

This interim management plan was developed by a Planning Committee consisting of representatives from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Government of Nunavut, and the Government of Canada (Parks Canada). The Planning Committee held extensive consultations with the five communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA (Resolute, Grise Fiord, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, and Clyde River) and key stakeholders including the commercial tourism, fishing, and shipping industries, environmental non-governmental organizations, academia, and other Federal government departments in 2018 and 2019. These consultations informed the development of the content of this plan. In 2024 and 2025, consultations were again held with the associated communities to finalize this draft of the interim management plan.

This interim management plan will remain in place until a full management plan for the NMCA is developed and tabled in parliament within five years following establishment under the *CNMCAA*. The development of the full management plan will also rely on extensive consultations to identify a long-term vision for the NMCA, and provisions for ecosystem protection, human use, zoning, public awareness, and performance evaluation. The management plan will replace the interim management plan as the guiding document to manage the NMCA for up to ten years. Under the *CNMCAA*, management plans undergo review cycles at least every ten years and any amendments to the plan are required to be tabled in parliament.

Progress toward achieving the objectives and the effectiveness of the interim management plan are monitored on an ongoing basis. Reports on progress toward achieving the interim management plan objectives and targets will be shared with communities, partners, and stakeholders and made publicly available. Parks Canada shares its annual implementation report in June; this report is presented to the Aulattiqatigiit Board at a public meeting. Any feedback received is documented and used as input for the creation of the next management plan.

1.2 Establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area

NMCAs are established for the purpose of protecting and conserving representative marine areas for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of the people of Canada and the world (*CNMCAA* s. 4(1)). The *CNMCAA* enables Parks Canada to establish and manage a system of NMCAs that are representative of the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific Oceans, and the Great Lakes.

The *CNMCAA* requires that marine conservation areas are:

“...managed and used in a sustainable manner that meets the needs of present and future generations without compromising the structure and function of the ecosystems...with which they are associated” (*CNMCAA* s. 4(3))

NMCAs are places where Indigenous peoples continue their traditional and cultural practices—including accessing traditional foods—and fulfill their roles as stewards. Protecting marine biodiversity and ecosystems is of primary importance.

Between 2009 and 2017, the Lancaster Sound National Marine Conservation Area Feasibility Assessment Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from the



Photo: Nicole McFadden

Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Government of Canada, and Government of Nunavut, worked together on an assessment to determine whether an NMCA was feasible and desirable in Lancaster Sound. The Steering Committee led years of consultations with local communities and stakeholders, and conducted studies related to ecological and Inuit knowledge, commercial tourism, fishing, and hydrocarbons. The committee found that the establishment of an NMCA to conserve and protect the Lancaster Sound region was both feasible and desirable. The process culminated in 2017 with *A National Marine Conservation Area Proposal for Lancaster Sound – Feasibility Assessment Report* which recommended the establishment of a NMCA and recommended a preliminary boundary of approximately 109,000 km² influenced significantly by Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

The recommendations included in the feasibility assessment were accepted through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Government of Canada (Parks Canada) and the Government of Nunavut in August 2017. The Memorandum of Understanding also established a Planning Committee responsible for the development of this interim management plan and for recommending the final boundary for the NMCA. At the same time, Parks Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association signed Terms of Reference to launch the negotiation of the IIBA towards the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, as required by the Nunavut Agreement. The Planning Committee finally recommended a slightly revised boundary of 108,000km², as described in the 2019 IIBA (Figures 1.1 and 1.2).

1.3 Inuit and the Environment: Cultural and Historical Background

Approximately 4,100 people currently live in communities, use camps, and access traditional sites along the shores of the NMCA. Throughout the year, the ecological abundance of this area provides for Inuit today as it has for generations. Inuit who call this place home are deeply connected to it by their history, culture, language, and traditions. Through harvesting, travel, and living within this area, Inuit have helped maintain ecological balance since the arrival of their ancestors, thousands of years ago. The many species that have co-existed with Inuit in this area continue to provide food and resources for clothing, shelter, and economic benefits. Inuit

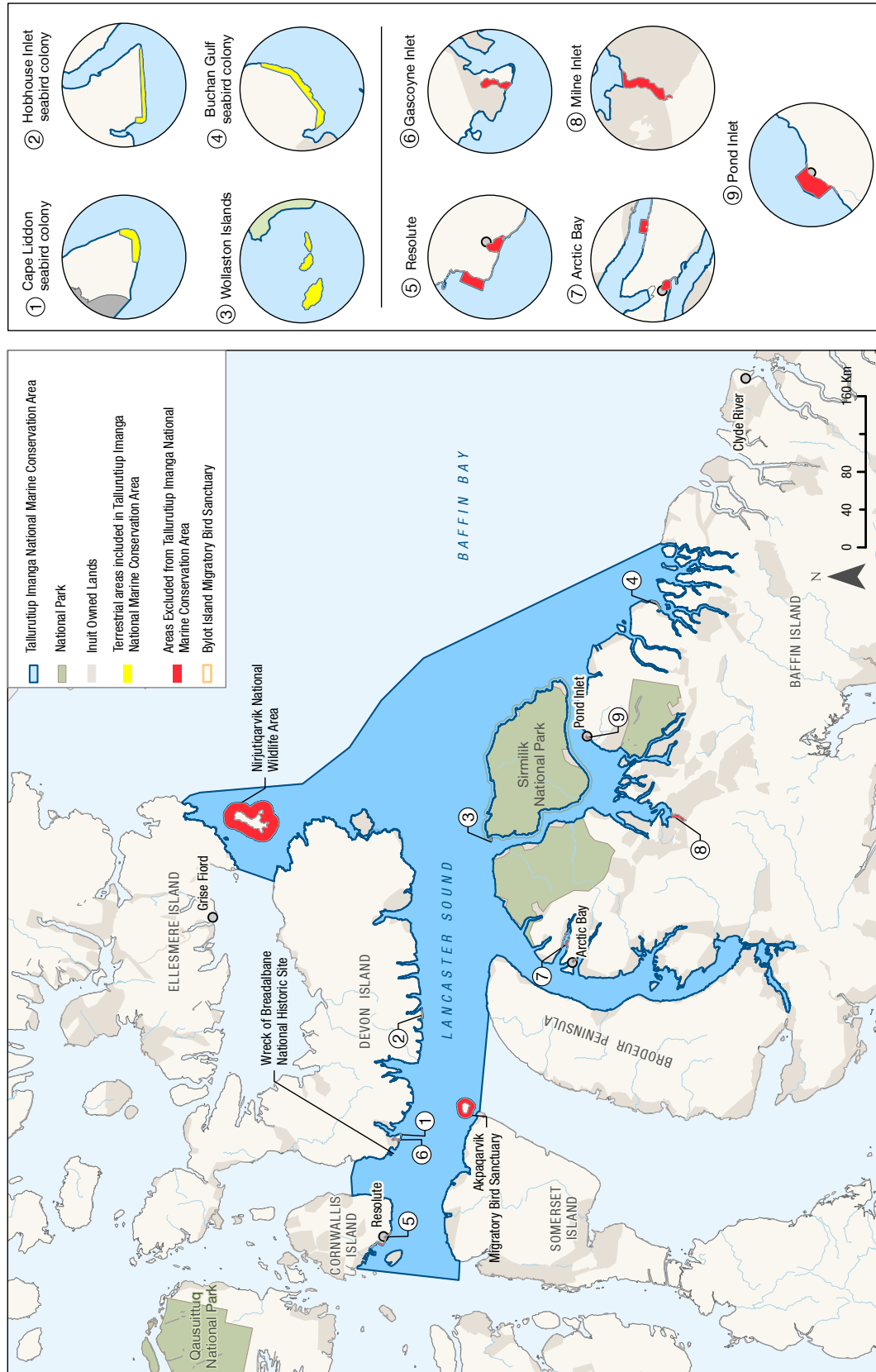


Figure 1.2 Map showing detail of the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA boundary. Yellow areas are terrestrial areas that are included within the NMCA boundary; red areas are areas excluded from the NMCA.

have a deep knowledge of the animals of this area, as well as their habitats, biology, and behaviour. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit encompasses all things important to Inuit relationships with the environment and, as such, is part of all decision-making. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit is constantly generating new knowledge, and its application is critical to governance and management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.

1.4 Importance of Conserving Tallurutiup Imanga

Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is recognized as one of the most biologically productive and diverse Arctic marine areas in the world. Lancaster Sound is a major east-west waterway, encompassing significant portions of the maritime route from the North Atlantic, through the Canadian Archipelago and Arctic Ocean, and onwards to the Pacific Ocean. The region has supported Inuit year-round for millennia, as demonstrated by at least 46 known archaeological sites and continued subsistence use to this day. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit carries the collective experience and harvesting traditions used in the area for generations.

At a national level, protecting Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA contributes to Parks Canada's long-term goal of establishing at least one NMCA in each of the 29 distinct marine regions of Canada. Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA represents the Lancaster Sound marine region in the Arctic Ocean and is the sixth region to be represented within the system of NMCAs.



"Conservation and management of Tallurutiup Imanga is important because we have to protect the marine mammals, like seals and narwhals—especially when they are our main source of food."

James Simone, Pond Inlet

Lancaster Sound was identified by an International Union for the Conservation of Nature-Natural Resource Defense Fund 2011 report as a 'Super Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area' for the Arctic. The extent of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA includes all or part of eight Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas identified in the Canadian Arctic by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and three Key Terrestrial Habitat Sites for migratory birds. In addition, Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, along with Sirmilik National Park, has been added to Canada's Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage Sites as an exceptional representation of the high Arctic coastal ecosystem.

Current scientific data for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA are relatively limited. However, two notable components to the biological features of the area are major concentrations of nesting and migratory marine birds, and nationally and globally

significant concentrations of marine mammals including 75% of the global narwhal population. Populations of several marine mammals classified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as “Special Concern”, including bowhead whales, beluga, walrus, and polar bear, rely on Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA and its adjacent shores for critical life stages such as foraging, breeding, and migration to and from summer habitats. The ecological importance of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA also extends to the sea floor: there are areas of significant concentrations of corals and sponges within the NMCA.

A major reason for the abundant marine life in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is the presence of polynyas, large areas of open water surrounded by sea ice. Formed by a combination of ocean currents and winds, the nutrient rich waters of these polynyas provide abundant food and productive habitat for marine mammals, Arctic birds, and other species that make the Arctic ecosystem their home.

Ice breakup also begins earlier in certain regions of the NMCA than in the surrounding area because of these currents and winds: in early spring along the ice floe edge, nutrients well up to the surface, combining with sunlight to create ‘hot spots’ of biological productivity. The resulting abundance at the base of the food chain provides critical spring foraging habitat for fish such as Arctic cod and other species such as narwhal, beluga, bowhead whales, and large aggregations of marine birds. As ice gives way to open water, critical travel routes open for marine animals and people.

1.5 Economic Activities and Uses within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA

In addition to subsistence hunting, fishing, gathering, and other traditional uses of Inuit harvesting marine resources, the core economic activities within the NMCA include commercial shipping (resupply to local communities and marine transportation for the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation) and the commercial tourism industry (such as cruise and yacht excursions, kayaking, sport hunting, floe edge commercial tourism, wildlife viewing, dogsledding, snowmobiling and cultural education).

Commercial and exploratory fisheries are an emerging activity within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA and of great interest to the associated communities as an opportunity for economic development. Inuit regularly harvest Arctic char for subsistence and as part of small-scale commercial fisheries. Other marine transportation activities include research vessels, international cargo ships transiting Lancaster Sound and Eclipse Sound, government vessels (for example, Canadian Coast Guard icebreakers, Department of National Defence activities, and resupply to the Nanisivik Naval Facility), as well as local and non-local pleasure craft.

1.6 Guiding Principles for the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA

1. Use of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit

Inuit values, experience, and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit inform and guide all aspects of management for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.

2. Inuit Identity and Relationship with the Physical Landscape

Inuit are part of the land and sea and Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is part of Inuit Nunangat. The physical, mental, and spiritual health of Inuit is dependent on a healthy ecosystem and the continuity of Inuit cultural practices, such as harvesting. Inuit rely on the environment and its wildlife for physical sustenance and cultural renewal, and in turn, Inuit are stewards of the NMCA dedicated to ensuring its long-term health and sustainability.

3. Cooperative Approach to Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is both a deliberate process for dealing with uncertainty and responding to new information by adjusting management to improve operational outcomes, and also an iterative process that learns from real-world outcomes of past management actions to improve future strategies. In managing Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA and implementing the interim management plan, the Aulattiqatigiit Board will make decisions through consensus governance, taking into consideration new information about changes to the environment, about changing human use, and about needs of Inuit in the associated communities, as well as results of past management actions. As new information becomes available, the Aulattiqatigiit Board will use various tools available to them (Appendix D) to adapt management strategies and address emerging changes.

4. Precautionary Principle and Ecosystem Approach

Management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA will be rooted in the precautionary principle and the twelve principles of an ecosystem approach from the Convention on Biological Diversity, which considers humans to be an essential component of the ecosystem (<https://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/principles.shtml>).

5. Whole of Government Approach

A whole of government approach with relevant federal and territorial government departments will be taken towards the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA to ensure integrated and consistent decision making, the efficient use of resources, and to ensure administrative processes are as streamlined as possible.

6. Alignment with Canadian and International Law

The management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA will be consistent with the *Nunavut Agreement*, applicable federal and territorial laws, comply with Canada's domestic and international legal obligations, and allow for the proper conduct of the external affairs of Canada.



2.0 Planning Context

2.1 Legislative and Policy Context

The *CNMCAA* provides the legal authority and framework for Parks Canada to establish and manage Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Minister of Transport Canada maintain their respective regulatory authorities within the NMCA and must agree on any management provision that relates to their respective areas of responsibility (Table 2.1). Parks Canada ensures coordination and collaboration among federal departments who have jurisdiction in the NMCA. The management of the NMCA will also be supported through regulations under the *CNMCAA* (currently in development and expected to come into force in 2026).

All parties with jurisdiction in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA ensure their responsibilities are carried out in accordance with the enabling legislation and regulations, consistent with the *Nunavut Agreement*, the *CNMCAA*, the *IIBA*, other

Federal Body	Responsibility
Parks Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public lands (implications for managing Species At Risk, impact assessment) • All matters not the responsibility of another Minister • Coordination of federal management efforts
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing, aquaculture and fisheries management , safe navigation, and ocean science
Canadian Coast Guard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for search and rescue, icebreaking, environmental response
Transport Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine navigation and marine safety • Aviation
Environment and Climate Change Canada (Canadian Wildlife Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area, Akpaqarvik Migratory Bird Sanctuary, and Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Table 2.1 Shared Federal Responsibility

applicable legislation, regulations, NMCA Policy, NMCA management plans, and other policy instruments (Appendix C).

The Marine Safety and Security Branch of Transport Canada has the responsibility for ensuring that marine navigation in Arctic waters is conducted to mitigate the safety and environmental risks associated with marine navigation through the *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* and the *Canada Shipping Act*. In the Arctic, both Acts, along with the *Marine Transportation Security Act*, and their associated regulations are applied to provide Canada's operational regulatory regime governing marine safety, security, and environmental protection matters. The Marine Safety and Security Branch administers and enforces these Acts and associated Regulations.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has responsibility for fisheries management and aquaculture in NMCAs, including Indigenous fisheries. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for the provision of aids to navigation, marine communication and traffic services. The Canadian Coast Guard is responsible for icebreaking, marine pollution response, and maritime search and rescue to ensure safe and accessible waterways.

In addition to the above, Environment and Climate Change Canada is mandated to protect migratory birds according to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. Parks Canada is responsible for administering the *Species at Risk Act* for federal lands and waters administered by Parks Canada, including Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.

Once the NMCA is established under the *CNMCAA*, Parks Canada will replace the Nunavut Planning Commission in conducting conformity reviews for project proposals occurring within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The requirements set out by, or under, any law for which Parks Canada has authority will replace any approved

land use plans in conformity determinations. This interim management plan and subsequent full management plans will be tools used in both conformity reviews and subsequent impact assessment processes.

2.2 Roles of Other Government and Co-Management Bodies

Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is a vast area, and cooperation with others is key for successful management.

Territorial Government

The Government of Nunavut will continue to play a role in such things as Nunavut Research Institute research permits, cultural heritage management, commercial tourism development, promotion and supports for a strong sustainable commercial tourism sector, investor confidence and promotion, wildlife management, and licensing within Nunavut.

Further to the IIBA, the Government of Nunavut shall remain involved in such matters as capacity building and training activities for Inuit (IIBA s. 10.4.1) and improving the understanding of the marine ecosystem and the potential for sustainable fishing opportunities (IIBA s. 16.1.4).



Photo: Nicole McFadden

The Government of Nunavut will seek active and continuous participation in the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, including seeking a seat on the Management Advisory Committee that will be responsible for the formulation, review and implementation of the Management Plan as per s.11(1) of the CNMCAA.

Institutions of Public Government

The institutions of public government as set out in the Nunavut Agreement will continue to play an important role within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will continue its role in decisions related to wildlife management. The Nunavut Impact Review Board will continue its role of screening and reviewing projects. When a project is proposed to take place both within and outside of the NMCA, the Nunavut Planning Commission will consider the components of the project outside of the NMCA and the Aulattiqatigiit Board will review the portions of the project inside the NMCA.

Protected areas within and adjacent to Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA

Governance of the NMCA provides continuity and alignment between protected areas that lie adjacent to or within the NMCA boundary and their associated co-management regimes and IIBAs (for example, Sirmilik National Park administered by Parks Canada and Akpaqarvik and Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada). This alignment will not diminish protection in either the NMCA or the other protected areas.





Photo: Nicole McFadden

3.0

A Vision for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA

Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area is a thriving, globally significant ecosystem that sustains and empowers Inuit for generations to come and welcomes visitors to experience, appreciate, and respect its meaning to Inuit, Canada, and the Arctic region.

The structure and function of the ecosystems of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA are protected, remain strong and healthy, and are cooperatively managed by Inuit and the Government of Canada. The management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA acknowledges the key role that Inuit play as part of the Arctic ecosystem and as stewards of the NMCA. The cooperative management approach safeguards Inuit harvesting areas and activities, and supports Inuit self-determination over their general well-being, including economic, social, and cultural development. Marine resources are managed in an ecologically sustainable manner for the lasting benefit of coastal communities.

Inuit continue to directly rely on this region for sustaining their lives, enjoying year-round access to marine wildlife; practicing their culture and traditions such as hunting, being stewards of the land and waters; continuing to accumulate their vast knowledge, and maintaining strong connections with their youth, other Canadians, and the world. Ecologically sustainable and culturally respectful visitation are promoted, and Inuit play a central role in managing commercial tourism activities and sharing their knowledge with visitors.





4.0

Management Objectives

The following management objectives and targets consider the recommendations of the report resulting from the 2017 feasibility assessment and the additional consultations conducted by the Planning Committee with the five associated communities and key stakeholders during 2018, 2019, 2024 and 2025. They guide the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA over the anticipated five-year lifespan of the plan. The objectives describe the broad aspirational outcomes; the targets are more specific and serve to measure and report on progress toward each objective. The years specified in the targets refer to when within the five-year lifespan of the plan the target will be completed. The managing partners of the NMCA develop their respective annual workplans using the guidance of these objectives and targets in addition to the guidance provided in the IIBA.



Objective 1: The natural and cultural heritage of Tallurutiup Imanga is protected and conserved.

Tallurutiup Imanga is the ecological driver of the eastern Canadian Arctic marine ecosystem, providing sustenance and essential habitat for a diversity of species, including species at risk. A healthy, productive marine ecosystem is critical for these marine species and for Inuit, who depend on the marine environment for livelihood, food security, and cultural continuity. Healthy ecosystems also have enhanced resilience to natural and human-induced disturbances and changes, including climate change. Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA managers will prioritize the protection and conservation of the rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, from the flourishing colonies of marine animals living on the bottom of the ocean floor, to the sea ice on the surface that supports Inuit self-sufficiency, provides critical habitat, and drives biological productivity.

Managers will also ensure there is effective management of sites of cultural importance within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, which include Inuit cultural and spiritual sites, archaeological sites, and the Wreck of Breadalbane, to ensure they are cared for and protected. An effective zoning plan gives management the tools to protect natural and cultural heritage. Users must also be aware of the rules and guidelines in place to reduce impacts on wildlife habitat, sea ice, areas of importance to communities for sustenance and cultural activities, and the unique features of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. Clear, simple, and streamlined processes for issuing permits and authorizations will ensure users know when and where authorizations are required and ensure the impacts of activities are minimized.

Achieving the following targets will help accomplish this objective:

Target 1. The effectiveness of the interim zoning plan in protecting and conserving natural and cultural heritage is evaluated to improve the zoning plan if needed (for example, changes to zone boundaries, or the need for additional management tools to support zoning) by the end of year five.

Target 2. A plan that identifies effective communication tools to inform NMCA users about the protection and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is completed by year two. Implementation of the identified tools begins in year three.

Target 3. Processes for issuing authorizations (such as permits or licenses) for activities in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA are developed, and documented in a format that is publicly available, by the end of year two. These processes prioritize the protection of wildlife and Inuit use of the area in the management of other uses and activities within the NMCA. To the extent possible, these processes are streamlined with existing procedures.

Target 4. As per the Federal Marine Protected Areas Protection Standard, an assessment of the compatibility of the use of bottom trawl gear with the NMCA's conservation objectives is conducted in collaboration with communities and stakeholders, and a report delivered to the Aulattiqatigiit Board by the end of year five.

Target 5. A Cultural Resources Management Plan, or alternative management tools as directed by the Aulattiqatigiit Board (IIBA s. 12.2), is completed, and implemented by year two.

Target 6. An assessment of the need for increased protection of colonial seabirds and their habitat is completed in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Service, and a report with findings and recommendations delivered to the Aulattiqatigiit Board by year three.



Objective 2: The sustainable use of marine and terrestrial resources in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA respects Inuit rights, results in economic and social benefits for Inuit, and enhances the well-being of the associated communities.

Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA has seen significant increases in ship traffic related to commercial shipping and tourism over the past 25 years, with this growth projected to continue. Communities have expressed concerns about the impacts of ship activity on wildlife habitat and behaviour, and on the use, safety, and enjoyment of hunting, camping, and travel areas. Inuit access to wildlife resources found in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is essential to food sovereignty and Inuit well-being, and it is critical that the region continues to remain a source of healthy country food.

Ecologically sustainable economic activities are welcomed and encouraged in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. These activities will be managed to minimize adverse impacts on Inuit travel and rights; to provide benefits to the communities, and overall, to increase the wellbeing of those living in and around Tallurutiup Imanga. NMCA managers will actively work with communities and partners to identify and facilitate opportunities to realize social, economic, and cultural benefits from the NMCA. Community input will also be sought to develop and assess key indicators to measure and understand the impacts of the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA on the wellbeing of the associated communities to better inform management decisions.

Achieving the following targets will help accomplish this objective:

Target 1. As part of the development of processes to issue authorizations (Objective 1, Target 3), terms and conditions are developed that require project proponents to document how their proposals respect Inuit rights and benefit the associated communities within two years.

Target 2. The tools needed to manage visitor behaviour in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA and associated communities (for example, guidelines for cruise ships), to reduce the impact of visitation and increase the economic benefits to communities,

are developed in collaboration with the communities and stakeholders, implemented, and communicated to users within two years.

Target 3. An assessment of effective methods of informing communities about marine vessel movements (across the range of vessel size), commercial activity, and marine navigation matters in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is completed within two years. Upon completion, the recommendations from the assessment are ready to be implemented.

Target 4. A strategy that outlines opportunities to build local capacity to benefit from economic opportunities in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, including, but not limited to, ecologically





Photo: Jovan Simic

sustainable and culturally appropriate commercial tourism activities, is developed in partnership with communities and stakeholders within five years.

Target 5. Social, cultural, and economic indicators to assess the impact of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA on the well-being of adjacent communities are co-developed with communities. The monitoring of these indicators commences within five years.

Target 6. In collaboration with the associated communities, an infrastructure plan is developed and ready to be implemented within two years to identify infrastructure needs to support operations and management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA (for example cabins or visitor reception center(s)). This infrastructure plan may include guidance on the implementation of the four infrastructure agreements made in 2019 related to Tallurutiup Imanga (community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute, Small Craft Harbours in Clyde River and Arctic Bay, multi-use infrastructure in the five associated communities, regional training center in Pond Inlet) if requested by one or more of the parties to those agreements. Such guidance is supplementary and not a prerequisite for implementation of those agreements.



Photo: Nicole McFadden

Objective 3: Collaborative research and monitoring increases awareness of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, informs decision making, and promotes knowledge collection and sharing.

Effective conservation of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA requires current, sound information derived from a robust and active research and monitoring program. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and western science together will form the basis for decision making. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit is an active knowledge base that must be used, applied, and shared on a continual basis to evolve and realize its full value. This emphasizes the importance of establishing opportunities for Inuit to participate in research and monitoring, and to share knowledge about Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. Inuit in the associated communities have expressed

concerns about the way research has been conducted and the impacts on their communities. The active participation of communities is key to shaping research and monitoring initiatives in the NMCA, to ensure that community concerns are addressed, and community priorities are reflected.

The Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit principle of *Ikajuqtigiinniq* (working together for a common cause) will guide the work under this objective. Collaboration with communities to design and conduct research and monitoring will increase community capacity. Further, collaboration and community involvement will result in a better understanding of ecosystem health and threats, and ensure resources are used wisely. As data is collected, used, and shared, the level of awareness of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA and its significance to the Arctic region and the world will increase. Information sharing provides an opportunity to communicate to visitors and the public the central role that Inuit have played since time immemorial, and continue to play, as stewards and knowledge keepers of this valuable area.

Achieving the following targets will help accomplish this objective:

Target 1. A minimum of three indicators to monitor ecological sustainability that are based on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and western science are co-developed with communities and approved by the Aulattiqatigiit Board. The monitoring of these indicators commences within five years.

Target 2. Ensure there is a Research and Monitoring Strategy for the NMCA that meets all the requirements as listed in Article 13 concerning Research and Monitoring of the IIBA. The implementation of the strategy starts in year one.

Target 3. A plan to increase Inuit participation in, and benefit from, research and monitoring activities and that further supports the implementation of Article 13 of the IIBA concerning Research and Monitoring is developed and implemented by year four.

Target 4. Beginning in year two, an annual event is held in one of the five associated communities each year on a rotating basis, in partnership with the communities, for sharing stories, knowledge, and experiences related to Tallurutiup Imanga. This event fosters direct community engagement and contributes to cultural and environmental awareness.

Target 5. Guidelines for reporting results from research and monitoring activities are co-developed with communities within four years. Aligned with guidelines, research authorizations include requirements for results to be shared with the involved communities within 12 months of the completion of the project and for community feedback to be documented so it can inform future research and monitoring activities within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.



Photo: Nicole McFadden

Objective 4: Collaborative and coordinated prevention, preparedness, and response planning increases safety of the associated communities and NMCA users and the protection of Tallurutiup Imanga.

Increased human activity, pollution, the threat of oil spills, and the effects of climate change all pose threats to the protection and conservation of the marine environment, and the users of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. Increased vessel traffic and visitation increase the likelihood of requiring search and rescue or emergency response. However, the current capacity to respond to incidents is limited. Incident response and the enforcement of rules and regulations in the NMCA is currently decentralized and must be coordinated among a variety of parties, including federal departments, the Government of Nunavut, local search and rescue teams, harvesters, the Canadian Rangers, and communities.

With the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, and the corresponding change in Parks Canada's responsibilities, there is an opportunity to work together to increase resourcing and reduce the challenges related to emergency preparedness and enforcement. Cooperation and coordination between parties will clarify roles and responsibilities, improve the use of resources and infrastructure, increase the capacity to respond to emergencies; allow for better enforcement of rules and regulations, and overall improve the safety of users and the protection of the environment. The knowledge and experience held in the communities associated with the NMCA are crucial to developing and implementing measures needed to protect the public and the environment. Marine safety will be further supported through clear communication of safety measures needed to reduce the chance of an emergency or search and rescue operation. Further, the implementation of appropriate navigation aids will contribute to the overall ongoing protection of the marine area, communities, and other users.

Achieving the following targets will help accomplish this objective:

Target 1. A plan to improve emergency preparedness and response is developed in collaboration with relevant partners and implemented within three years. This plan includes, at a minimum, marine environmental and hazard response, and search and rescue.

Target 2. Needed safety measures in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, for both open water and sea ice seasons, are identified with partners and communities and compiled in a report, and these measures are communicated to the NMCA users within two years.

Target 3. A strategy to align prevention, compliance, and enforcement across governments, agencies, and other partners, which includes stronger and increased Inuit presence and representation in compliance and enforcement roles, is developed by year three and implemented by year five.

Target 4. A method for communities to report suspicious vessel activities or observations in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA (for example, incidents of wildlife disturbance, pollution, or illegal hunting), and inquire about shipping activities, is implemented by the end of year one.

Target 5. A plan to identify navigation and communication aids needed to improve navigational safety (for example, buoys, markers, identification of safe harbours, improved charting of navigation routes) in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is developed with communities and stakeholders within four years.



5.0 Zoning

5.1 Zoning Framework

Zoning is a spatial management tool that sets the management intent for different areas of an NMCA by dividing it into specific zones, each with a defined purpose and level of protection, objectives and categories of allowable uses and activities. As per the CNMCAA, each NMCA must have at least two zones, one that fosters and encourages ecologically sustainable use of marine resources, and one that fully protects special features or sensitive ecosystem elements. Ensuring that zones are of sufficient size and effective configuration is important to achieve the objectives of each zone. Zoning is implemented through a range of voluntary, policy, and regulatory measures by the appropriate authority or authorities (see section 2 and Appendix D).

Zoning provides certainty and predictability to managers and NMCA users and strives to minimize negative socio-economic impacts to Indigenous peoples,

stakeholders, and coastal communities. In addition to the primary objectives laid out for each zone, the zoning plan may incorporate objectives to reduce conflicting or competing uses. As part of Parks Canada’s regular management planning cycle, annual reporting and long-term monitoring studies are used to inform the evaluation of zoning efficacy within the NMCA and address conservation and ecosystem objectives and the needs of users.

This first zoning plan for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is based on the national Parks Canada NMCA zoning framework (Appendix A). The NMCA framework comprises four zones, each with a specific purpose, objectives, and set of allowable activities and uses. The purpose of each zone is described in Figure 5.1.

ZONE 1 STRICT PROTECTION	ZONE 2 GENERAL PROTECTION	ZONE 3 HABITAT PROTECTION	ZONE 4 MULTIPLE USE
<p>PURPOSE Strictly protects special features and sensitive ecosystem elements that are susceptible to disturbance. Access and extractive uses are prohibited.</p>	<p>PURPOSE Protects special features, sensitive ecosystem elements and representative characteristics of the marine regions while providing for compatible access and non-extract uses. Extract use is prohibited.</p>	<p>PURPOSE Protects specific habitats while providing for compatible uses and extractive uses. Some uses are prohibited to support specific habitat conservation objectives.</p>	<p>PURPOSE Sustains the greatest range of uses that do not compromise, ecological sustainability, cultural resources, or heritage values.</p>

Figure 5.1 The purpose of each zone in the NMCA zoning framework (Source: Directive on the Management of National Marine Conservation Areas).

The following activities are prohibited in all zones:

- Use or disposition of public lands without authority (CNMCAA s. 12);
- Exploration and exploitation of non-renewable resources (CNMCAA s. 13); and
- Disposal of substances in waters except as authorized by a permit (CNMCAA s. 14) or as required for vessel safety and security.

In general, activities and uses that are consistent with the purpose and objectives of the zone are allowed, subject to applicable legislation, regulations, site-specific review processes, authorizations and permitting requirements. For all zones, impact assessments to assess and manage the impacts of proposed projects will be conducted as per the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act and Parks Canada’s policies and guidance on impact assessment. Cumulatively, all activities and uses in an NMCA must be conducted in a manner and at a rate and scale that are ecologically sustainable. More details on the allowable activities and uses in each zone, and what additional permissions or authorizations may be required (for example a permit or license), are described in Appendix A.

Inuit rights, as set out in the Nunavut Agreement, and traditional use of the NMCA by Inuit are not subject to zone restrictions. Inuit rights are often exercised to support food sovereignty, cultural practices, and community health and well-being. The zoning regime for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA recognizes and protects Inuit rights, particularly where use conflicts exist or are anticipated.

In addition, the zoning regime and management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA does not restrict, prohibit, or have the effect of restricting or prohibiting activities or uses with respect to national security or sovereignty, safe navigation, defence, law enforcement and activities allowing for the proper conduct of the external affairs of Canada, including navigation through the ice. Canadian Coast Guard activities shall not be restricted, including those related to the resupply of northern communities, icebreaking, vessel safety, marine pollution prevention and response, and in the event of an emergency or in relation to search and rescue. Additional exceptions for activities such as research, compliance monitoring and the placement of navigational aids may be warranted to avoid unintended impacts to these important activities. Resupply of northern communities by private shipping companies is not restricted. In addition, provisions are not to apply to an individual vessel movement if the sole purpose of the vessel movement is to engage in innocent passage through the waters of the Canadian Arctic, without intending to stop while engaging in said passage through the Arctic waters.

5.2 Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Zoning Plan

The Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA zoning plan is based on currently available Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, science, and discussions with local communities, stakeholders, Inuit organizations, and federal and territorial departments, who identified areas and ecosystems in greatest need of protection.

Given the seasonal differences between open water and sea ice coverage, and the annual migration patterns of wildlife in the area, Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA has been divided into two seasonal zoning plans: one for the time of year when the area is largely ice-covered and one for the time of year dominated by open water. This seasonal approach to zoning helps manage the range of anticipated uses and wildlife conservation needs within the NMCA throughout the year. The dates for the ice season and open water season zoning plans are based on the Inuit seasonal cycle, which in Nunavut consists of six seasons with dates varying by region (Figure 5.2) and on consultations with the five associated communities.

Both the ice and open water season zoning plans contain only zone 1, 3 and 4 areas (Figures 5.3 and 5.4). There are currently no zone 2 areas in the NMCA.

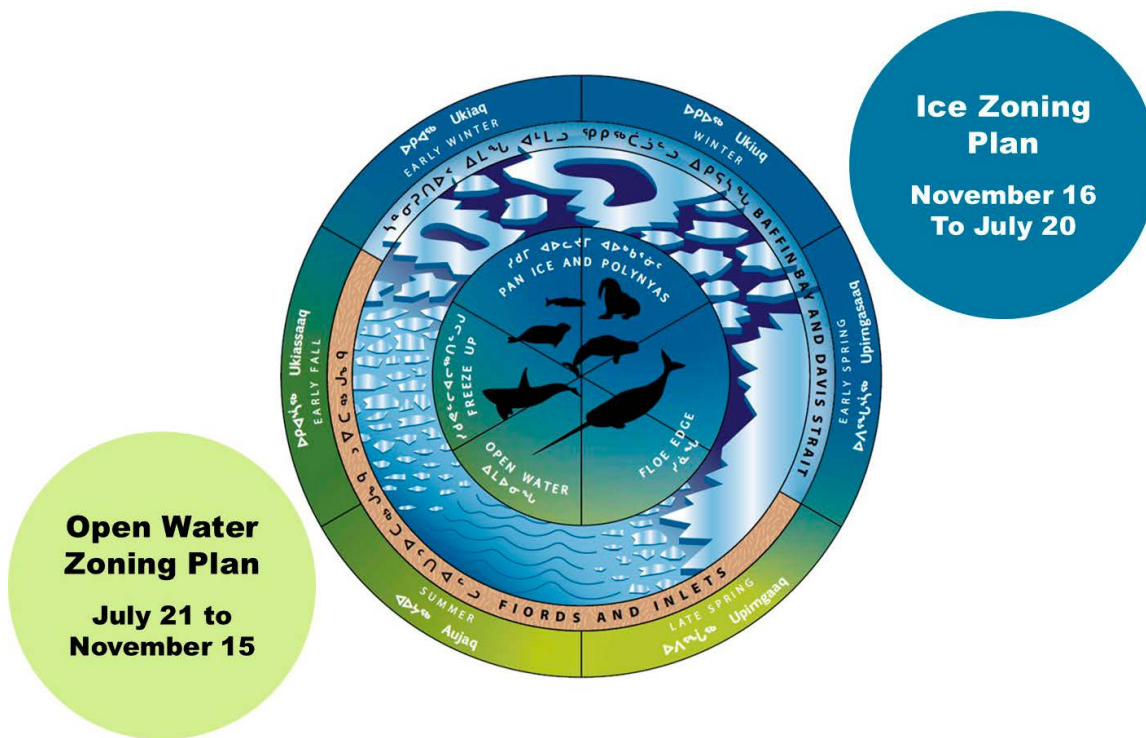


Figure 5.2 Effective dates and seasons for the ice season and open water season zoning plans for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA based on the traditional Inuit cycle of seasons in the North Baffin region and community consultations.

5.2.1 Zone 1: Strict Protection

Zone 1 strictly protects special features and sensitive ecosystem elements that are susceptible to disturbance. Access and extractive use are prohibited. Research and monitoring activities consistent with the purpose and objectives of the zone and supporting the protection and conservation of the site may be permitted. Inuit rights, as set out in the *Nunavut Agreement*, and traditional use of the NMCA by Inuit are not subject to zone restrictions. Refer to Appendix A for details of allowable activities and applicable authorizations.

Zone Objectives:

- To protect special features and/or sensitive ecosystem elements in as undisturbed a state as possible.
- To restore or recover depleted or degraded special features and/or sensitive ecosystem elements.
- To provide reference areas for research.
- To contribute to maintaining biodiversity.

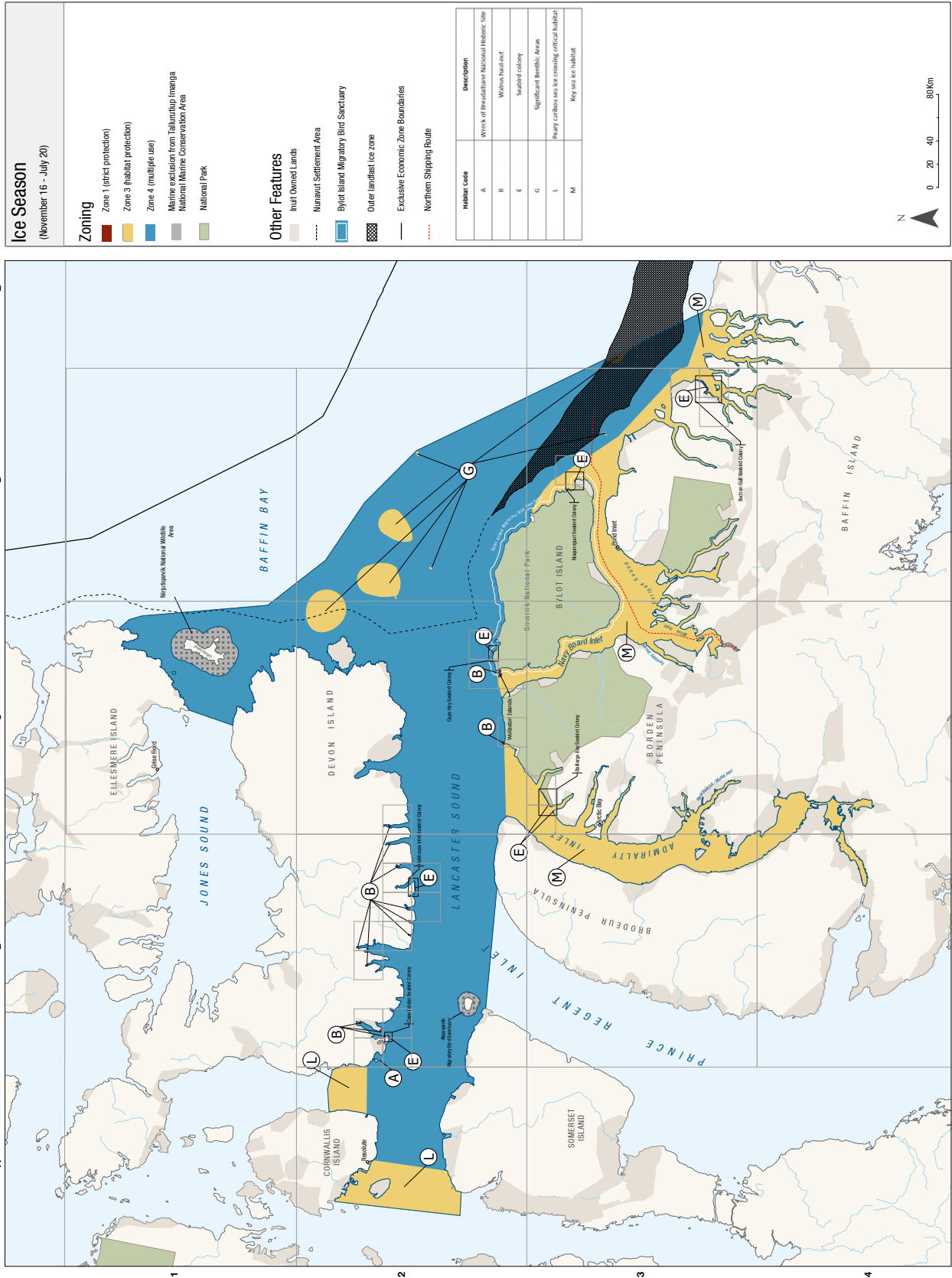
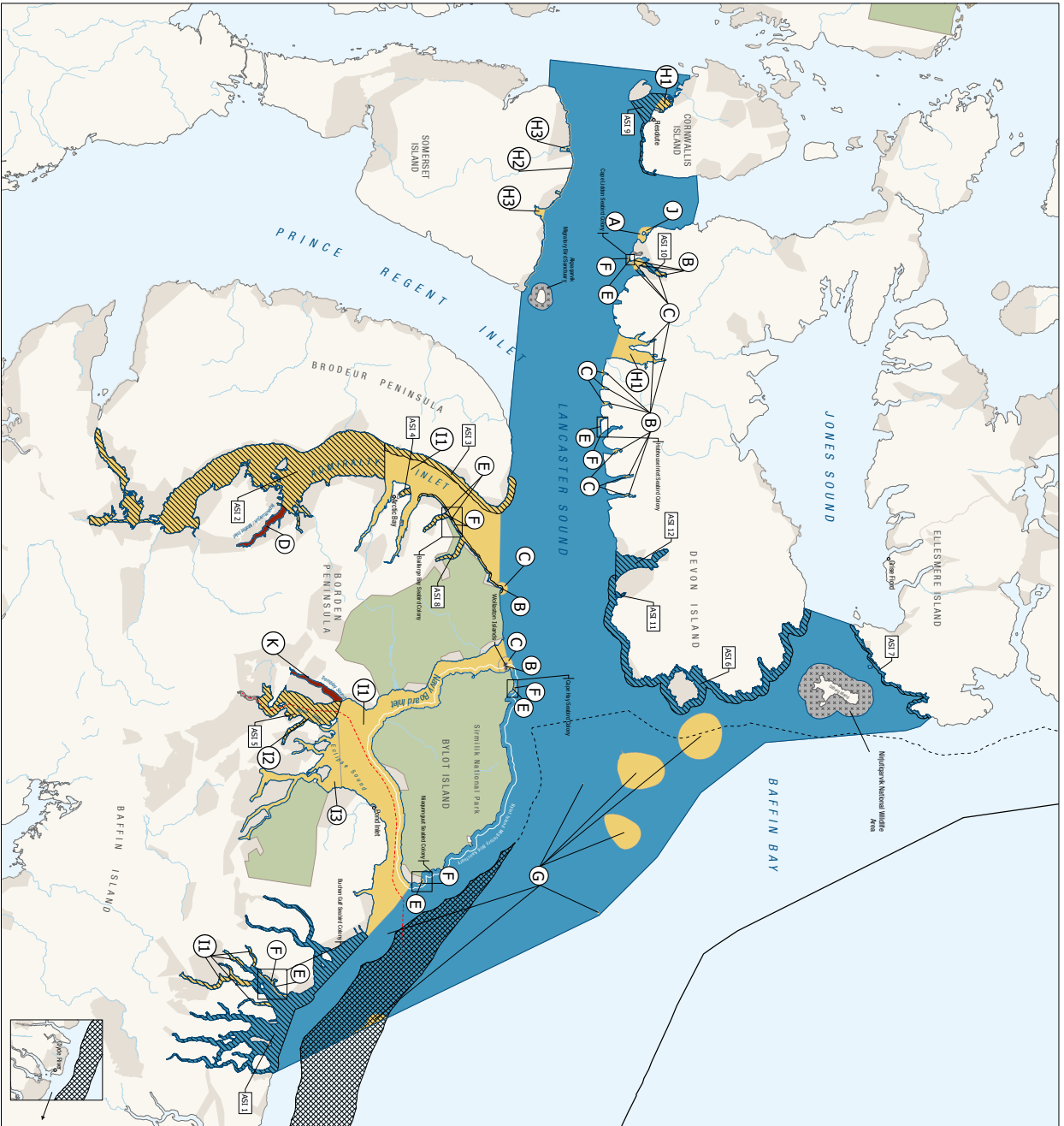


Figure 5.3 Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA ice season zoning plan.



Open Water Season
(July 21 - November 15)

- Zoning**
- Zone 1 (strict protection)
 - Zone 2 (flexible protection)
 - Zone 3 (flexible protection)
 - Zone 4 (multiple use)
 - Area of special importance to communities (ASZ)
 - Maine exclusion from Tallurutiup Imanga
 - National Marine Conservation Area
 - National Park

- Other Features**
- Indian Owned Lands
 - Natural Settlement Area
 - Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary
 - Outer territorial ice zone
 - Exclusive Economic Zone Boundaries
 - Northern Shipping Route

Habitat Code	Description
A	Wreck of pre-colonial Inuit/Inuk residence site
B	Walrus haul-out
C	Walrus haul-out shelter
D	Hiphikhuqik / Mookit inlet
E	Sealife colony
F	Sealife colony buffer
G	Significant benthic areas
H1, H2, H3	Ringed summer aggregation area
I1, I2, I3	Harbour summer aggregation area
J	Underwater cultural resource area
K	Trawl-free zone

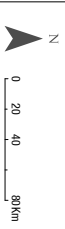


Figure 5.4 Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA open water season zoning plan.



Photo: Francine Mercier

The following areas are identified as requiring strict protection and thus have been designated Zone 1:

i. Wreck of Breadalbane National Historic Site of Canada (A in Figures 5.3 and 5.4): The Wreck of Breadalbane National Historic Site of Canada is located off the southeast coast of Beechey Island, at 74° 40' 51" north latitude and 91° 48' 57" west longitude. It is comprised of the wreckage of *Breadalbane*, a 19th-century, 500-ton sailing ship, including the hull, fragments of the vessel and the debris field caused by the sinking of the ship. It was designated a national historic site in 1983 because the ship was involved in the search for Captain John Franklin's lost expedition, and it is a well-preserved example of a mid-19th century merchant transport ship uniquely adapted for an Arctic voyage. The site is strictly protected to limit further deterioration of the archaeological site. The zone 1 area is a 250-m radius circle centered on the mid-point of the hull.

ii. Walrus haul-out sites (B in Figures 5.3 and 5.4): Walrus use pack ice for much of the year, but when suitable sea ice is unavailable, walrus haul out in herds ranging from several individuals to thousands of animals at terrestrial haul-out sites that offer easy access to the water for feeding and escape from predators or other disturbances. Walrus are known to show strong site fidelity to established haul-out sites. However, prolonged, or repeated disturbances may cause walrus to abandon their haul-outs. Their ability to recolonize these areas is unknown. Human disturbances that cause walrus to leave their haul-outs may impact population dynamics by causing stampedes (which result in mortality); interfering with feeding and increasing energy expenditures; masking walrus communications; impairing thermoregulation and increasing stress levels. Thirteen walrus haul-out sites are identified in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA as "active" by Fisheries and Oceans Canada

and/or by associated communities. For these sites, year-round strict protection has been applied as follows:

- For the Wollaston Islands (group of islands off the northeast corner of Bylot Island), the zone 1 area includes the islands themselves, plus a 1-km buffer around the perimeter of the islands.
- For all other haul-outs, the terrestrial haul-outs themselves are located on land outside the boundary of the NMCA. In these cases, any area that is located both within 1 km of the haul-out and within the NMCA boundaries is a zone 1.

The purpose of the year-round strict protection for these areas is to protect walrus and their habitat from disturbance; maintain habitat integrity and prevent abandonment.

iii. Seabird colonies (E in Figures 5.3 and 5.4): There are six key migratory bird habitat sites within and adjacent to Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA supporting multiple species of colonial seabirds:

- Cape Liddon seabird colony (southwest coast of Devon Island):** Supports approximately 4% of the national population of Northern Fulmar.
- Hobhouse Inlet seabird colony (south coast of Devon Island):** Supports approximately 11% of the national population of Northern Fulmar.
- Baillarge Bay seabird colony (northwest coast of Borden Peninsula):** Supports approximately 13% of the national population of Northern Fulmar.
- Cape Hay seabird colony (northwest Bylot Island):** Approximately 83 000 pairs of Thick-billed Murres and 12 000 pairs of Black-legged Kittiwakes, representing about 4% and 5% of the Canadian population, respectively, nest at Cape Hay.
- Niaqunnguut seabird colony (southeast Bylot Island):** Approximately 52,000 pairs of Thick-billed Murres and 3,000 pairs of Black-legged Kittiwakes, representing 2.3% and 1.1% of the Canadian populations, respectively, nest about 7 km north of Niaqunnguut.
- Buchan Gulf seabird colony (east coast of Baffin Island, southeast of Pond Inlet):** Supports approximately 4% of the national population of Northern Fulmar.

For three of these sites, the terrestrial coastal cliffs where the seabirds breed are included within the NMCA boundary: Cape Liddon seabird colony (southwest coast of Devon Island), Hobhouse Inlet seabird colony (south coast of Devon Island) and a portion of Buchan Gulf seabird colony (east coast of Baffin Island) (Figure 1.2).

These seabird colonies have high conservation value and are moderately to highly risk-intolerant. Seabirds use these areas from their spring arrival in the Arctic (starting about April 15) until their departure at the end of summer (about October 1) for nesting, chick rearing and foraging. The high concentrations of seabirds at these discrete sites, combined with their high-energy demands and sensitivity to disturbance during this life cycle stage, means that conservation of these Arctic seabird colonies has significant implications for the long-term survival of several species. The main threats to these seabird colonies are increasing disturbances from marine ship traffic, including human disturbance related to cruise ship tourism, and

the risk of oil spills and operational releases originating from ships. A risk of bycatch from commercial fishing activities may become a future threat if fisheries expand in the Arctic and further into Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.

To protect these seabird colonies, the nesting cliffs located within the NMCA boundary, where applicable, plus a 100-m buffer extending seaward from the cliff, for all colonies, are designated zone 1. Colonial seabirds exhibit strong nesting site fidelity, so zone 1 prohibitions are in place year-round to protect the nesting habitat for when the birds return.

iv. Ikpikittuarjuk/Moffet Inlet (D in figure 5.4): Ikpikittuarjuk/Moffet Inlet is valued by local communities, specifically Arctic Bay, for its abundance of bowhead whale, narwhal, walrus, and Arctic char. Local Inuit have observed a decline in char abundance in Ikpikittuarjuk/ Moffet Inlet. The area is zone 1 during the open water season (July 21 to November 15) to allow the population time to recover.

v. Tremblay Sound (K in figure 5.4): Eclipse Sound is used by narwhal during the open water season as a migration corridor between their summering and overwintering areas. Within the Eclipse Sound summer aggregation area, narwhal are concentrated within Milne Inlet and Tremblay Sound. These areas may provide refuge from killer whales which feed in Eclipse Sound. Tremblay Sound experiences little to no large vessel traffic and is an important harvesting area for Inuit. This is a contrast to Milne Inlet, where the Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation Mary River Port and associated vessel traffic is located. To maintain Tremblay Sound as a quiet refuge for narwhal, the area has been identified as zone 1 during the open water season (July 21 to November 15). Tremblay Sound has also been an important site for several narwhal research and monitoring studies. Research and monitoring activities consistent with the purpose and objectives of this zone and supporting the protection and conservation of the site will continue to be permitted when supported by the Aulattiqatigiit Board.

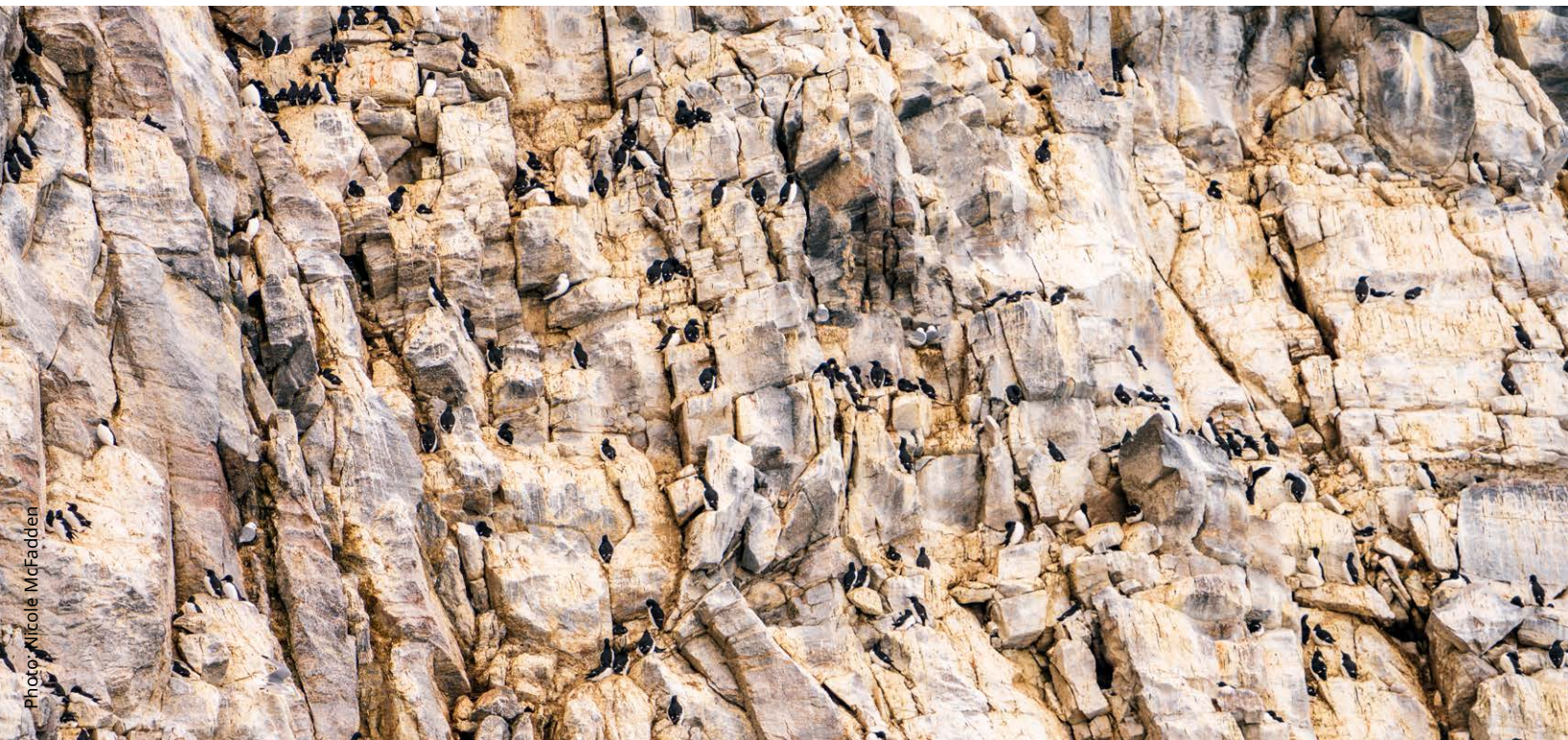


Photo: Nicole McFadden



5.2.2 Zone 2: General Protection

Zone 2 protects special features, sensitive ecosystem elements and representative characteristics of the marine region while providing for compatible access and non-extractive uses. Extractive use is prohibited. Inuit rights, as set out in the *Nunavut Agreement*, and traditional use of the NMCA by Inuit are not subject to zone restrictions. Refer to Appendix A for details of allowable activities and applicable authorizations.

Zone Objectives:

- To protect representative characteristics of the marine region and contribute to maintaining biodiversity.
- To protect special features and/or sensitive ecosystem elements.
- To restore or recover depleted species or degraded habitats.
- To provide research opportunities.
- To provide opportunities for education and non-extractive recreation.
- To foster awareness, understanding and enjoyment of NMCAs.

There are currently no zone 2 General Protection areas in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. Through Article 16 of the IIBA for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, the Parties made a commitment to explore the potential for new sustainable fishing opportunities within and adjacent to Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA if compatible and consistent with management planning and the principles of conservation. Considering that there is little commercial fishing pressure in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA at the present time, and that a prohibition on extractive uses through large zone 2 areas could negatively impact the outcome of Article 16 and potential economic opportunities stemming from sustainable fisheries, no zone 2 areas are designated in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.

While the Parties are implementing Article 16 commitments, an alternative approach has been taken with respect to zoning. Rather than implementing the concept of a large area with full protection as envisioned in zone 2, zone 3 has been

used to protect sensitive ecosystem elements and representative characteristics of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA without unduly limiting potential fisheries opportunities. The use of zone 2 will be reconsidered in the next management plan when recommendations on where any future potential fishery activity may be compatible with the management objectives of the NMCA are available (IIBA s.16.4.2).

5.2.3 Zone 3: Habitat Protection

Zone 3 protects specific habitats while providing for compatible access and extractive uses. Some uses are prohibited to support specific habitat conservation objectives. Inuit rights, as set out in the Nunavut Agreement, and traditional use of the NMCA by Inuit are not subject to zone restrictions.

Zone Objectives:

- To protect, conserve or restore a specific habitat.
- To support a range of uses that do not conflict with the specific conservation objective(s) of the zone.
- To provide opportunities for research, education and appreciation of the habitat protected by the zone.

Zone 3 allows for a customizable approach to allowable uses and activities. Therefore, most of the activities and uses are identified as conditional ('C') in zone 3 in the national framework (Appendix A). The list of allowable activities was assessed during zoning development based on the habitat being protected. The list of compatible activities and uses for each zone 3 area is specific to Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA; details on the allowed and prohibited activities are identified in tables 5.1 and 5.2. The limits, permits, and exceptions outlined in Appendix A apply within zone 3. The specific prohibitions and restrictions are different between seasonal zoning plans to account for the environmental changes between the ice and open water season and corresponding wildlife migration patterns and their relationship to Inuit use of the NMCA (Figure 5.2).

1. ICE SEASON (NOVEMBER 16 TO JULY 20)

During the ice season zoning plan, the following areas have been identified as Zone 3 – Habitat Protection:

i. Key sea ice habitat (L and M in Figure 5.3): The key sea ice habitat areas described below have been identified as zone 3 to protect the structure and function of sea ice habitat important for several wildlife species (for example, seals, polar bears, Peary caribou) and the exercising of Inuit rights (such as travel, access, and harvesting). All shipping activity is prohibited in these zone 3 areas during the ice season (November 16 to July 20), subject to safe navigation, and except for:

- 1) activities and uses listed in section 5.1;
- 2) shipping activity in a project approved on or before the date the amendment to add Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA to Schedule I of the CNMCAA comes into force,

when conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the project certificate in effect at that date¹; and

- 3) valid conservation reasons that are assessed on a case-by-case basis (for example to free trapped whales).

The dates during which the prohibition on shipping activity is in effect may be varied to allow shipping before July 21 or after November 16 in all or part of these zones if the variation will not negatively impact:

- the structure and function of ice habitat and associated ecosystems;
- exercise of Inuit rights in the area;
- public safety; or
- recovery of species at risk².

The key sea ice areas included in the above are:

- a) **Peary caribou sea ice crossing critical habitat (L in figure 5.3):** Peary caribou are listed as threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*. The final Recovery Strategy* for Peary caribou included the identification of two sea ice crossings within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA as critical habitat. The critical habitat in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA is the only bridge connecting two local populations. Under the *Species At Risk Act*, it is illegal to destroy any part of the critical habitat; any activity that inhibits the safe movement of caribou between islands when needed is considered destruction of critical habitat. This includes activity that prevents ice from forming, that breaks up the critical sea ice habitat immediately prior to anticipated caribou crossings, or that leaves an open channel for a length of time that blocks caribou movement. This includes any shipping activity that breaks sea ice or prevents ice from forming.
- b) **Other key sea ice habitat (M in figure 5.3):** Admiralty Inlet, Navy Board Inlet, Eclipse Sound, and the fjords north of Clyde River have all been identified as key sea ice habitat. These areas are important wildlife habitat and valued by communities as on-ice travel routes and hunting grounds.
- **Admiralty Inlet:** Significant to Inuit especially for Arctic Bay residents who hunt narwhal, polar bear, seal, caribou, geese, and fish in the southern portions of the inlet.
 - **Navy Board Inlet:** Characterized by several short, protected bays and Sirmilik National Park on either side, this narrow inlet is lined with Inuit camps.
 - **Eclipse Sound and Milne Inlet:** Valued by communities as hunting grounds and characterized by temporal features such as the floe edge. The attraction and subsequent abundance of wildlife to the floe edge draws hunters, visitors, and tour operators alike. Ice and wildlife found here are susceptible to disturbances such as early ice breaking and disturbance through ship passage.
 - **Fjords north of Clyde River:** Valued by communities as important wildlife habitat and for hunting grounds.

1. Such as Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Mary River Project certificate term and condition no. 185

2. Sea ice can promptly reform (within a few days) after disturbance under specific conditions (such as weather conditions, and timing and frequency of the disturbance) and as such, it may be possible to transit through sea ice within areas identified as critical habitat without destroying critical habitat, if the sea ice critical habitat is available to Peary caribou when needed.

* www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/recovery-strategies/peary-caribou-2022.html

Activities and Uses	ICE SEASON ZONE 3 AREAS			Specific prohibitions and restrictions
	Peary Caribou sea ice crossings (L)	Other key sea ice habitat (M)	Significant Benthic Areas (G)	
Indigenous traditional use	✓	✓	✓	None
Research, monitoring, and restoration	✓	✓	✓	None
Recreational activities (non-extractive)	✓	✓	✓	None
Commercial tourism (non-extractive)	✓	✓	✓	Key sea ice habitat (L and M) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial tourism activities that include shipping activity (for example, cruise ships) are prohibited. Ice-based commercial tourism activities must not disturb Peary caribou.
Coastal and in-water infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	Key sea ice habitat (L and M) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure that significantly breaks ice or prevents/ temporarily prevents ice from forming may not be permitted. Significant Benthic Areas (G) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottom-contact infrastructure not permitted.
Commercial shipping	✗	✗	✓	Not applicable
Recreational fishing	✓	✓	✓	Significant Benthic Areas (G): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile bottom contact gear prohibited.
Commercial fisheries	✓	Recreational allowed	✓	Key sea ice habitat (L and M) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial fishing activities that break ice or prevent/temporarily prevent ice from forming is prohibited. Significant Benthic Areas (G): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile bottom contact gear prohibited.
Hunting, trapping, and gathering (non-rights based)	✓	✓	✓	None
Placement of artificial reefs for recreational purposes	✗	✗	✗	Not applicable
Bottom trawling	✗	✗	✗	Not applicable
Oil and gas and mineral exploration and exploitation	✗	✗	✗	Not applicable

Table 5.1 Allowable and prohibited activities and uses in ice season zone 3 areas. Applicable limits, permits and exceptions listed in Appendix A apply. Letters in column headings refer to Figure 5.3.

ii. Significant Benthic Areas (G in Figure 5.3): Seven 'Significant Benthic Areas' have been identified in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA by Fisheries and Oceans Canada due to the presence of dense aggregations of sea pens, a type of colonial coral. Sea pen stands provide valuable structure and habitat diversity; alter flow regimes leading to nutrient retention and a more favourable environment for benthic invertebrates; and are often considered to be essential nursery habitat. Bottom contact fishing gear has been identified as a habitat threat as they can remove or damage sea pens and other species of corals and sponges. This is particularly true for organisms adapted to low natural disturbance levels, such as those found in the deep, cold waters of the Canadian Arctic. It may take some coral and sponge species decades or even centuries to fully recover from bottom trawling. Mobile bottom contact fishing gear is prohibited in these zone 3 areas to protect sea pen aggregations.

2. OPEN WATER SEASON (JULY 21 TO NOVEMBER 15)

During the open water season zoning plan, the following areas have been identified as Zone 3 Habitat Protection:

i. Walrus haul-out buffers (C in Figure 5.4): A further zone 3 buffer extending 4 km seaward from the outer edge of the zone 1 boundary is applied to walrus haul-outs to provide additional protection from disturbance during the open water season when walrus are congregating. Commercial shipping, and commercial and recreational fishing are prohibited. Recreational activities and commercial tourism are allowed in the zone 3 area, with the following restrictions based on vessel size (Figure 5.5):

- Vessels under 50 ft in length, such as kayaks and zodiacs, may navigate anywhere within the zone 3 area.
- Vessels 50 to 100 ft in length may enter the zone 3 area but must always remain at least 2 km from the haul-out (1 km from the outer edge of the zone 1 boundary).
- Vessels greater than 100 ft in length are prohibited from accessing or transiting through these zone 3 areas.

In addition, it is prohibited to pilot an aircraft at an altitude lower than 5 000 ft within walrus haul-out buffers, except as required for the safe operation of the aircraft, including take offs and landings.

Exceptions may apply for the following activities:

- Scientific research vessels or scientific research activities through the research permitting process.
- Commercial tourism operators with vessels > 100 ft seeking to enter the following areas on the southern coast of Devon Island, subject to permit conditions as stipulated in their business license. Commercial tourism operators seeking this exception must demonstrate community support for the exception.
 - o **Radstock Bay.** This exception will allow vessels to transit through the Zone 3 areas associated with the two walrus haul-outs at the entrance of Radstock Bay.

These transits must maintain the maximum possible distance from the Zone 1 areas associated with these two walrus haul-outs, subject to safe navigation.

- o **Graham Harbour, Parry Channel, and Blanley Bay.** This exception will allow vessels safe shelter in these bays. Vessel must shelter as far as possible from Zone 1 areas associated with walrus haul-outs in these bays.

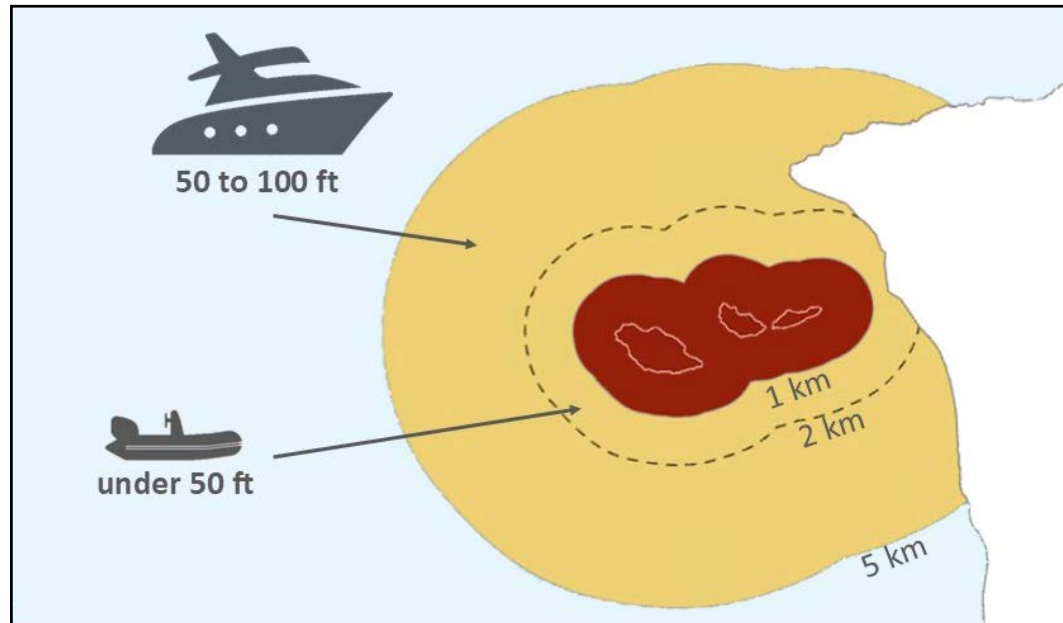


Figure 5.5 Approach distance restrictions based on vessel size for activities allowed in zone 3 walrus haul-out buffers. Dark red is zone 1, yellow is zone 3. There is no access to the zone 1 area, except with a research permit.

ii. Seabird colony buffers (F in Figure 5.4): A zone 3 buffer starting at the zone 1 boundary and extending 1.5 km seaward further protects seabird colonies during the open water season when birds are present. Commercial fishing, commercial shipping and transiting vessels are prohibited in zone 3 seabird colony buffer areas, other than as required for safety. Recreational activity, recreational fishing and commercial tourism vessels are allowed in the zone 3 area with the following restrictions based on vessel size (Figure 5.6):

- Vessels under 50 ft, such as kayaks and zodiacs, may navigate anywhere within the zone 3 area.
- Vessels 50 ft and greater in length may enter the zone 3 areas but must always remain at least 500 m from the colony.

A 500-m setback from the colony shall be observed by community resupply vessels when birds are present, except when adhering to it would prevent safe community resupply. In addition, it is prohibited to pilot an aircraft at an altitude lower than 1 100 m (3 500 ft) within the zone, except as required for the safe operation of the aircraft. Additional aerial, marine, and terrestrial migratory bird setbacks may apply for some authorized activities and uses.

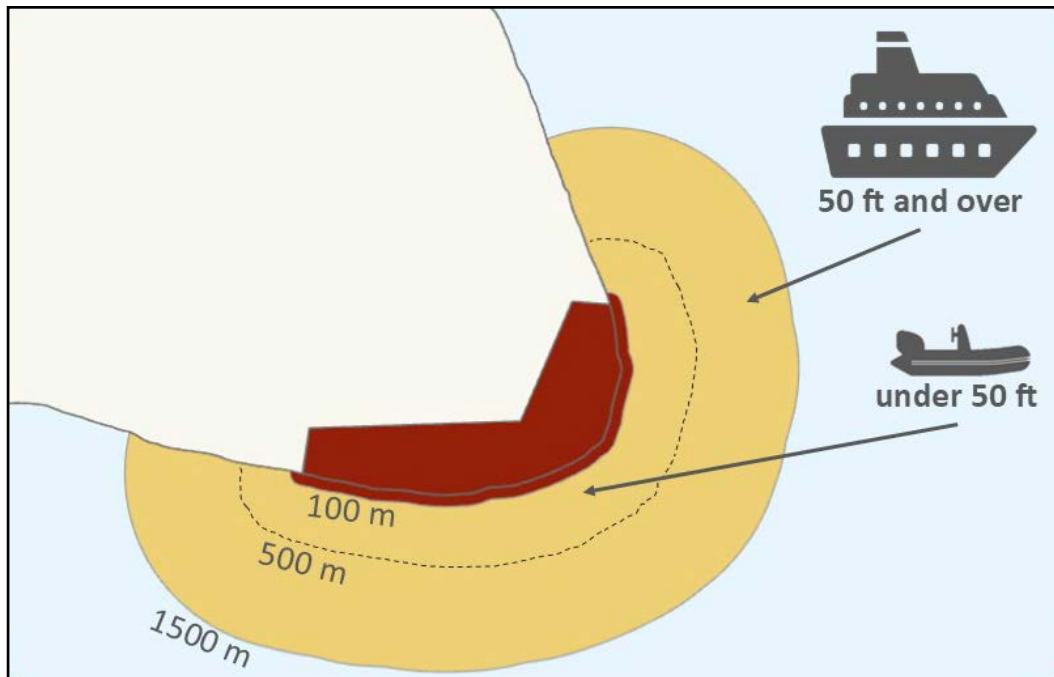


Figure 5.6 Approach distance restrictions for different vessel sizes for activities allowed in zone 3 seabird colony buffers. Dark red is zone 1, yellow is zone 3. There is no access to the zone 1 area, except with a research permit.

iii. Significant Benthic Areas (G in Figure 5.4): The seven ‘Significant Benthic Areas’ protected in the ice season are also protected in the open water season. Mobile bottom contact fishing gear is prohibited in these zone 3 areas to protect sea pen aggregations.

iv. Beluga summer aggregation areas (H1, H2, and H3 in Figure 5.4): Beluga whales from the Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay population spend the summer (approximately July to September) in the fiords and inlets around Somerset and Devon Islands before migrating to Sarvarjuaq (North Water Polynya) and west Greenland for the winter (approximately November to April). This beluga population has been assessed by the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada as ‘Special Concern’ (November 2020). Belugas are sensitive to noise and disturbance and therefore can be negatively affected by some human activities (for example, icebreaking, boat and ship traffic, seismic surveys, low-flying aircraft). Noise propagates easily in shallow water estuaries. Four shallow estuaries known to be beluga summer aggregation areas have been identified in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA and designated zone 3 to protect beluga habitat: Kippaarittuq/Cunningham Inlet, Garnier Bay, Maxwell Bay, and Allen Bay. These areas are important beluga molting and calving grounds that are revisited annually by large groups of belugas. In addition, a 1-km strip stretching along the entire northern coast of Somerset Island has been designated as zone 3 to protect aggregations of belugas. Activity restrictions in these areas are as follows:

- **Kippaarittuq/Cunningham Inlet and Garnier Bay (H3 in Figure 5.4):** To protect beluga in these small, shallow bays, no motorized access is permitted in these areas. Commercial shipping and commercial fishing are prohibited. It is prohibited to pilot an aircraft at an altitude lower than 2 000 ft except for safety reasons and for specified operational purposes such as take-offs and landings. The installation of coastal and in-water infrastructure is prohibited.
- **Maxwell Bay and Allen Bay (H1 in Figure 5.4):** In these larger bays, motorized access is allowed for commercial tourism and recreational activities. Commercial shipping and commercial fishing are prohibited. It is prohibited to pilot an aircraft at an altitude lower than 2 000 ft except for safety reasons and for specified operational purposes such as take offs and landings. The installation of coastal and in-water infrastructure is prohibited.
- **Northern coast of Somerset Island (H2 in Figure 5.4):** Motorized access is allowed for small vessels, so as not to impede terrestrial access along the coast. Commercial shipping and commercial fishing are prohibited. It is prohibited to pilot an aircraft at an altitude lower than 2 000 ft except for safety reasons and for specified operational purposes such as take-offs and landings. Small scale coastal and in-water infrastructure that would support access to terrestrial sites for commercial tourism or recreation activities may be permitted.



Photo: N. Boisvert



Photo: Diane Blanchard

v. Narwhal summer aggregation areas (I1, I2, I3 in Figure 5.4):

The narwhal that inhabit Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA are a part of the Baffin Bay population; the largest narwhal population in the world. Narwhals from the Baffin Bay population overwinter in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait before migrating to recurring summer aggregation areas in the fiords and inlets of northeastern Canada and northwest Greenland. For harvest management purposes, the Baffin Bay population is divided into four summering stocks (Admiralty Inlet, Eclipse Sound, Somerset Island, and East Baffin) and two tentative stocks (Jones Sound and Smith Sound) based on these recurring summer aggregation

areas. Although it was previously assumed that narwhal stayed in their summer aggregation area, more recent telemetry data suggests some mixing, especially between Eclipse Sound and Admiralty Inlet. Four summer aggregation areas fully or partially within the NMCA have been identified as zone 3:

- 1) Northern Eclipse Sound and Navy Board Inlet (I1) and Milne Inlet (I2);
- 2) the southern fiords of Eclipse Sound (I3);
- 3) Admiralty Inlet (I1); and
- 4) the portion of the East Baffin stock within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA (fiords north of Clyde River (I1).

There is a voluntary maximum speed limit of 9 kn for all vessels of 300 GT or more in these zone 3 areas. Tremblay Sound, which is part of the Eclipse Sound summer aggregation area, has been identified as a zone 1 (see section 5.2 Zone 1). In addition, the southern fiords of Eclipse Sound (I3) and Milne Inlet (I2) have additional prohibitions to limit the level of disturbance, including a prohibition on cruise ship access in both and a prohibition on commercial shipping in the southern fiords.

vi. Underwater cultural resource area (J in Figure 5.4): There are cultural resources in the shallow waters in the waters surrounding Beechey Island. To protect known and potential cultural resources, diving and submersible use are prohibited, to prevent disturbance of the ocean floor or underwater artefacts.

Table 5.2 Allowable and prohibited activities and uses in open-water season zone 3 areas. Applicable limits, permits and exceptions listed in Appendix A apply. Letters in column headings refers to Figure 5.4.

Activities and Uses	OPEN-WATER SEASON ZONE 3 AREAS					
	Walrus haul-out buffer (C)	Seabird colony buffers (F)	Significant Benthic Areas (G)	Beluga summer aggregation areas (H1, H2, H3)	Narwhal summer aggregation areas (I1, I2, I3)	Underwater cultural resource area (J)
Indigenous traditional use	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions: None					
Research, monitoring, and restoration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions: None					
Recreational activities (non-extractive)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<p>Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions:</p> <p>Walrus haul-out buffer (C)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessels greater than 100 ft in length are prohibited. • Vessels 50 to 100 ft in length must remain at least 1 km from the outer edge of the zone 1 area around the haul-out. • Vessels under 50 ft may navigate anywhere in the zone 3 area. • A minimum flying altitude of 5000 ft (1500 m) must be maintained, except for safety reasons and for specified operational purposes such as take offs and landings. <p>Seabird colony buffers (F)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transiting vessels are prohibited. • Authorized vessels 50 ft in length and greater must remain at least 500 m from the colony. • Authorized vessels under 50 ft may navigate anywhere in the zone 3 area. • A minimum flying altitude of 3500 ft (1100 m) must be maintained, except for safety reasons and for specified operational purposes such as take offs and landings. <p>Beluga summer aggregation areas (H1, H2, H3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum flying altitude of 2000 ft (610 m) must be maintained in H1, H2, H3, except for safety reasons and for specified operational purposes such as take offs and landings. • Vessel access to H2 limited to small vessels. • No motorized vessel access in H3 (Kipparittuq/Cunningham Inlet and Garnier Bay). <p>Narwhal summer aggregation areas (I1, I2, I3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary speed limit of 9kn for all vessels of 300 GT or more. <p>Underwater cultural resource area (J):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diving and submersible use are prohibited. 					

Activities and Uses	OPEN-WATER SEASON ZONE 3 AREAS					
	Walrus haul-out buffer (C)	Seabird colony buffers (F)	Significant Benthic Areas (G)	Beluga summer aggregation areas (H1, H2, H3)	Narwhal summer aggregation areas (I1, I2, I3)	Underwater cultural resource area (J)
Commercial tourism (non-extractive)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<p>Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions:</p> <p>Walrus haul-out buffer (C)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessels greater than 100 ft in length are prohibited. • Vessels 50 to 100 ft in length must remain at least one km from the outer edge of the zone 1 area around the haul-out. • Vessels under 50 ft may navigate anywhere in the zone 3 area. • A minimum flying altitude of 5000 ft (1500 m) must be maintained, except for safety reasons and for specified operational purposes such as take offs and landings. <p>Seabird colony buffers (F)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transiting vessels are prohibited. • Authorized vessels 50 ft in length and greater must remain at least 500 m from the colony. • Authorized vessels under 50 ft may navigate anywhere in the zone 3 area. • A minimum flying altitude of 3500 ft (1100 m) must be maintained, except for safety reasons and for specified operational purposes such as take offs and landings. <p>Beluga summer aggregation areas (H1, H2, H3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum flying altitude of 2000 ft (610 m) must be maintained in H1, H2, H3, except for safety reasons and for specified operational purposes such as take offs and landings. • Vessel access to H2 limited to small vessels. • No motorized vessel access in H3 (Kipparittuq/Cunningham Inlet and Garnier Bay). <p>Narwhal summer aggregation areas (I1, I2, I3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary vessel speed limit of 9 kn for all vessels of 300 GT or more. • Cruise ships are prohibited in the southern fiords of Eclipse Sound (I3) and in Milne Inlet (I2). <p>Underwater cultural resource area (J):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diving and submersible use are prohibited. 					
Coastal and in-water infrastructure	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<p>Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions:</p> <p>Beluga summer aggregation areas (H1, H2, H3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of coastal and in-water infrastructure in areas H1 and H3 is prohibited; coastal and in-water infrastructure for the purpose of access to terrestrial sites for commercial tourism or recreational activities may be permitted in area H2. <p>Significant Benthic Areas (G)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom-contact infrastructure not permitted. <p>Underwater cultural resource area (J):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom-contact infrastructure not permitted. 					

Activities and Uses	OPEN-WATER SEASON ZONE 3 AREAS					
	Walrus haul-out buffer (C)	Seabird colony buffers (F)	Significant Benthic Areas (G)	Beluga summer aggregation areas (H1, H2, H3)	Narwhal summer aggregation areas (I1, I2, I3)	Underwater cultural resource area (J)
Commercial shipping	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓
	Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions: Narwhal summer aggregation areas (I1, I2, I3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary vessel speed limit of 9 kn for vessels of 300 GT or more. • Commercial shipping is prohibited in the southern fiords of Eclipse Sound (I3). 					
Recreational fishing	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions: Seabird colony buffers (F): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transiting vessels prohibited. • Authorized vessels 50 ft in length and greater must remain at least 500 m from the colony. • Authorized vessels under 50 ft may navigate anywhere in the zone 3 area. Significant Benthic Areas (G): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile bottom contact gear prohibited. Beluga summer aggregation areas (H1, H2 H3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No motorized vessel access in area H3. • Vessel access to H2 limited to small vessels. Underwater coastal resource areas (J): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile bottom contact gear prohibited 					
Commercial fisheries	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓
	Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions: Significant Benthic Areas (G): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile bottom contact gear prohibited. Narwhal summer aggregation areas (I1, I2, I3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary vessel speed limit of 9 kn for vessels of 300 GT or more. Underwater coastal resource areas (G): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile bottom contact gear prohibited. 					
Hunting, trapping, and gathering (non-rights based)	X	X	✓	X	X	X
	Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions: None					
Placement of artificial reefs for recreational purposes	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions: Not applicable					
Bottom trawling	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions: Not applicable					
Oil and gas and mineral exploration and exploitation	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Activity- and use- specific prohibitions and restrictions: Not applicable					

5.2.4 Zone 4: Multiple Use

Zone 4 sustains the greatest range of uses that do not compromise ecological sustainability, cultural resources, or heritage values. Inuit rights, as set out in the Nunavut Agreement, and traditional use of the NMCA by Inuit are not subject to zone restrictions.

Zone Objectives:

- To foster a range of uses that do not compromise ecological sustainability, cultural resources, or heritage values.
- To provide research opportunities in areas with multiple uses.
- To provide opportunities for education and recreation.
- To foster awareness, understanding and enjoyment of NMCAs.

All other remaining areas within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA are zoned as Zone 4 Multiple Use. The spatial extent of this zone is different in the ice and open water season zoning plans because of variations in the extent of zone 1 and 3 areas between the two plans. A broad range of ecologically sustainable activities and uses are allowed within this zone, including fishing, shipping, and commercial tourism, subject to applicable legislation, regulations, site-specific review processes, authorizations and permitting requirements. Activities and uses that enhance opportunities for local businesses and contribute to the well-being of Inuit and the associated communities are promoted in this zone. Limits, permits and exceptions outlined in Appendix A apply within zone 4.

5.3 Area of Special Importance

Several areas have been identified as being of special importance to communities predominantly for subsistence harvesting and camping (Area of Special Importance or ASI). These activities are part of Inuit cultural practices and maintaining cultural continuity. These activities are important for passing on knowledge and skills between generations through observation and practice and for making room for new approaches or practices to achieve the same ends. The disturbance of wildlife, of traditional camping areas, and of Inuit harvesting activities by recreational activities and commercial tourism during the open water season have been identified as concerns for these areas. The management of activities in these areas require more flexibility than is provided in the zoning plan to adapt to changing conditions and patterns of use. The designation of an ASI is a way to highlight that an area is of particular importance and requires a particular management focus to reduce disturbances to Inuit activities. **ASI designation complements zoning: any prohibitions and restrictions associated with the underlying zoning also applies in an ASI.**

Initial management strategies are identified in Table 5.3. This approach may be adjusted over time, with community consultation. Strategies could range from, for example, educating visitors on best practices to respect the reasons areas are important to the communities and avoid disruption of Inuit activities, to area

closures. The approach to managing individual areas can be changed as needed. For activities requiring permits, conditions specific to an area may be added to the permit.

- **ASI 1 (fjords north of Clyde River):** Historically, this area was used by Pond Inlet and Clyde River Inuit for hunting and fishing. Currently the area is predominantly used by Inuit from Clyde River. There are also important camping sites in this area.
- **ASI 2 (southern Admiralty Inlet):** This is an area of abundant wildlife. It is significant to Inuit, especially for Arctic Bay residents, who hunt narwhal, polar bear, seal, caribou, geese and fish in the southern portions of the inlet. This area is also a Zone 3.
- **ASI 3 (strip along eastern shore of Brodeur Peninsula):** Valued by Arctic Bay residents as an important area for wildlife and as a hunting ground with traditional camping areas. The shallow waters off Cape Crawford, at the northeastern tip of Brodeur Peninsula, are a walrus feeding area. This area is also a Zone 3.
- **ASI 4 (Victor Bay):** Important hunting and camping area for Inuit from Arctic Bay. Ice stays in Victor Bay longer than in Arctic Bay, providing longer access to the floe edge. Victor Bay may become more heavily used with changing ice conditions. This area is also a Zone 3.
- **ASI 5 (Milne Inlet):** Abundant wildlife; current and historical harvesting area for Pond Inlet residents. Koluktoo Bay is a calving area, animals used to be more abundant in Milne Inlet. There are concerns that high levels of commercial shipping, low flights and use of acoustic devices are disturbing wildlife in the area; recreational use and commercial tourism add to the effects on wildlife. This area is also a Zone 3.
- **ASI 6 (southeast and northeast coasts of Devon Island):** Important hunting grounds for polar bear, narwhal, and walrus. There are also archaeological sites here.
- **ASI 7 (southeast coast of Ellesmere Island):** Abundance of wildlife in this area (walrus, polar bears, seals, narwhal, beluga). Although there is some hunting in this area, poor travel conditions limit use by Inuit. Archaeological sites show evidence of Inuit occupation; Greenlanders used this area.
- **ASI 8 (western shore of Borden Peninsula):** This area is rich in cultural resources, including traditional Inuit campgrounds (sod houses, tent rings) and ancient burial sites, demonstrating its continued use by Inuit over centuries. It is still used by Inuit today for hunting and camping. The area is used by marine mammals (bowhead, narwhal, seals, orcas) and is a polar bear denning area. This area is also a Zone 3.
- **ASI 9 (Resolute area and along coast of Cornwallis Island):** This area is used by Inuit from Resolute for harvesting and camping. The area is characterized partially by kelp beds. This area is also a Zone 3.

- **ASI 10 (Radstock Bay):** An important hunting area, both historically and at present, with an abundance of seals, walrus, and narwhal. There are also important cultural areas located on land around the bay.
- **ASI 11 (Dundas Harbour):** There is abundant wildlife in this area, and it is an important hunting area for walrus and for access to muskox. There are important cultural sites located on the shores of Dundas Harbour and it is historically important for its history with relocation.
- **ASI 12 (Croker Bay):** There is an abundance of whales (narwhal and beluga) in this area. There are also cultural resources (for example, ancient burial sites) on the shores.

Management approach	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Recreational activities will be managed to reduce impact on Inuit use of area and valued components of the area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
All permits will require registration and orientation, and area specific conditions may be added as needed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Restrictions may be developed as needed for recreational and commercial tourism activities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreational activities, commercial tourism operators and recreational fishers are encouraged to hire a local guide	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potential impacts of vessel traffic are of concern: support enhanced communications between communities and other users to respect communities' interests	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreational fishing: catch and release discouraged									✓	✓	✓	✓
Preferred routing to community for cruise ships and commercial shipping is identified									✓			
Closure at start of open water season	✓											
No taking of glacier ice												✓

Table 5.3 Management approach for the Areas of Special Importance (ASI). Blank cells signify that the management approach does not apply for an area.



Photo: Diane Blanchard

6.0 Appendix

APPENDIX A – NMCA Zoning Framework

The NMCA zoning framework is comprised of four zones, each with a specific purpose, objectives and set of allowable activities and uses. Table A1 indicates the allowable activities and uses in each zone, and Table A2 lists the limits, permits, and exceptions to these activities and uses. Indigenous traditional use and rights-based activities consistent with section 35 of the *Constitution Act* continues in all zones.

Table A1. NMCA Allowable Uses and Activities³

✓ **Allowed.** Activity or use is generally consistent with the purpose and objectives of the zone and is allowed, subject to applicable legislation, regulations, site-specific review processes, authorizations and permitting requirements.

C Conditional. Activity or use is assessed at the site level during zoning development. Activity may be allowed (✓) if it aligns with the purpose and objective(s) of the zone. Section 5 describes what conditional activities (marked with **C** in the tables below) are allowed (✓) or not (✗) in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA zones.

✗ **Not allowed.** Activity is inconsistent with the purpose of the zone or the NMCA and is not allowed.

Activities and Uses	FULL PROTECTION ZONES		ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE USE ZONES		Limits/Permits/Exceptions
	Strict Protection	General Protection	Habitat Protection	Multiple Use	
	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3 ⁴	Zone 4	
Indigenous traditional use	✓	✓	✓	✓	Traditional use of an NMCA by Indigenous peoples will not be subject to zoning restrictions except for conservation, public health or public safety reasons, determined in consultation with Indigenous rights holders.
Research, monitoring, and restoration	C	✓	✓	✓	A research and collection permit from Parks Canada, and other applicable permits, are required.
Recreational activities (non-extractive)	✗	✓	✓	✓	Permits may be required.
Commercial tourism (non-extractive)	✗	✓	C	✓	A business license is required.
Coastal and in-water infrastructure	✗	C	C	✓	Authorization from Parks Canada is required.
Commercial shipping	✗	✓	C	✓	Conducted in accordance with Transport Canada's legislative and regulatory framework and consistent with international maritime law. Anchoring may be restricted to ensure bottom protection.
Recreational fishing	✗	✗	C	✓	Conducted in accordance with Transport Canada's legislative and regulatory framework and consistent with international maritime law. Anchoring may be restricted to ensure bottom protection.
Commercial fisheries	✗	✗	C	✓	Conducted in accordance with the Fisheries Act and its regulations, provincial/territorial regulations (for example, stated limits and licensing requirements) and the Interdepartmental Principles for Fisheries Management in Federal Marine Protected Areas.
Hunting, trapping, and gathering (non-rights based)	✗	✗	C	✓	Conducted in accordance with applicable regulations, including stated limits and licensing requirements.
Placement of artificial reefs for recreational purposes	✗	✗	✗	✗	Not permitted in NMCAs.
Bottom trawling	✗	✗	C	✓	Bottom trawling is not permitted in all zones in the national NMCA zoning framework as per the Government of Canada marine protected areas protection standard. The bottom trawling protection standard currently does not apply within Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.
Oil and gas and mineral exploration and exploitation	✗	✗	✗	✗	Prohibition under the <i>Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act</i> .

3. Activities related to Canadian sovereignty or security, other activities that are consistent with the purposes of the CNMCAA (for example, public safety, environmental protection, law enforcement) and emergency activities are not restricted by NMCA zoning.

4. Zone 3 is a customizable zone. The list of allowable activities depends on what habitat is being protected. Therefore, most of the activities and uses are identified as conditional ('C') in zone 3 in the national framework. Refer to tables 5.1 and 5.2 for list of allowable activities and uses within each zone 3 area in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA.

APPENDIX B – Summary of Environmental Assessment

A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) was conducted on the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area interim management plan. The purpose of the SEA is to incorporate environmental and socio-cultural considerations into the development of the interim management plan. Individual projects undertaken to implement management statement objectives at the site will be evaluated separately to determine if an impact assessment is required under the appropriate impact assessment regime.

The scope of this assessment includes the area within the boundary of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, and the period considered is five years from the date of the plan, at which time the interim plan will be replaced by the first management plan. The valued components considered include natural and cultural resources, visitor experience and the well-being of the associated communities.

The primary effects of this plan will be to increase protection in the marine area, and increase Inuit involvement, capacity, and benefit from the implementation of the NMCA objectives. Multiple customized processes, and guidelines will be developed in the next few years. All these tools will be developed collaboratively to inform decision-making and promote knowledge collection and sharing. The zoning in the interim management plan or new authorization of activities may be perceived as restrictive to some users, however, predictability in authorization processes or land or seabed use is beneficial for all users. This will protect and conserve the natural and cultural heritage of Tallurutiup Imanga and assure that sustainable use of marine and terrestrial resources in Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA respects Inuit rights, results in economic and social benefits for Inuit, and enhances the well-being of the associated communities.

There are positive environmental or sociocultural effects from providing a holistic vision and protection for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA and no important negative environmental or sociocultural effects anticipated from the implementation of the interim management plan.



Photo: Hugues Michaud

APPENDIX C – Supporting Regulations

Adapted from NMCA Policy document.

This appendix outlines the major pieces of Government of Canada legislation, formal agreements, regulations, and other policy instruments that inform or guide general NMCA establishment and management, as well as documents that guide the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA establishment and management more specifically.

Legislation and Regulations

Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act and associated regulations
Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act and associated regulations
Canada Shipping Act, 2001 and associated regulations
Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 and associated regulations
Canadian Navigable Waters Act and associated regulations
Coastal Fisheries Protection Act and associated regulations
Fisheries Act and associated regulations
Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 and associated regulations
Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act
Species at Risk Act and associated regulations
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act

Among the regulations that deal with shipping in the Canadian Arctic, the following are of note for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA:

- *Arctic Shipping Safety and Pollution Prevention Regulations*
- *NordREG (Arctic Canada Traffic Zone)*
- *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Regulations*
- *Navigation Safety Regulations*

Formal Agreements

Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)
Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (2019)
Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area (2016)
Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaaq and Sirmilik National Parks (1999)

Parks Canada Policy Instruments

Directive on the Management of National Marine Conservation Areas (2022)
Directive on Impact Assessment (2019)
Mapping Change: Fostering a Culture of Reconciliation within Parks Canada (2019)
Policy and Directive on Partnering, Sponsorship and other Forms of Collaboration (2019)
Policy on the Establishment and Management of National Marine Conservation Areas (2022)

Other Policy Instruments

Government of Canada marine protected areas protection standard (announced in 2019)
Interdepartmental Principles for Fisheries Management in Federal Marine Protected Areas (2019)
Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples (2018)
Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (2019)
Inuit Nunangat Policy (2022)

APPENDIX D – Zoning and Management Tools

A variety of management tools may be used in the management of Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA in addition to zoning. These tools include:

- Regulatory tools administered by other federal departments (for example, *Fisheries Act*, *Oceans Act*, *Canada Shipping Act (2001)* or *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*)
- NMCA regulations under the CNMCAA. General regulations are nationally consistent and enforceable tools that will apply to all NMCAs established under the *Act* from coast to coast to coast and including the Great Lakes. These regulations are anticipated to come into force during the life of this interim management plan.
- Permits and other authorizing instruments that give individuals, organizations, or businesses the authority to carry out and activity or use in an NMCA, subject to conditions.
- The designation of special management areas to allow for customized activity prohibitions or restrictions within a specific part of an NMCA to manage specific activities on a temporary, seasonal, or longer-term basis. Special management areas are identified and implemented with Indigenous governing bodies, relevant government departments and other partners in NMCA management.
- Temporary closures to restrict specific activities or access to certain areas on a case-by-case basis in response to an urgent issue (for example, temporary prohibition on access to an area due to a temporary public safety hazard).
- Voluntary measures (for example voluntary vessel speed reduction).
- The development and publication of best practices and guidelines (for example, Cruise Industry guidelines, mariner's guides) to guide user behaviour.
- Pro-active education, awareness, and communication with users.
- Notice to Mariners (NOTMAR): monthly and annual publications for mariners that provide important information for marine navigation in Canada, published by Canadian Coast Guard.
- NAVWARNs (Navigational Warnings) – information for mariners about changes to navigational aids and current marine activities or hazards, published by Canadian Coast Guard.
- Ship Safety Bulletins published by Transport Canada.
- Program development for users such as mariners, cruise ship operators, resupply companies, and private vessels.
- Other information products for mariners – for example Low Impact Shipping Corridor charts from the Canadian Hydrographic Services, electronic navigational charts, GPS shapefiles showing zoning.
- International Maritime Organization protocols and guidance for mariners.



Photo: Nicole McFadden

