

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**May 2017**

**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada Update – *Oceans Act* Marine Protected Areas

**Updates:**

In June 2016, Canada announced a five-point plan to reach its national and international marine conservation targets (MCTs), which includes the establishment of additional Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The purpose of establishing MPAs is to afford protection to important fish and marine mammal habitats, endangered marine species and their habitats, unique features, and/or areas of high biological productivity or biodiversity. The first step in this process is to identify potential Areas of Interest (AOIs).

1) AOI Working Group:

- Was established in August 2016 to work towards determining potential areas in Nunavut for designation as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under the *Oceans Act*.
- Members include Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and representatives from each of the Regional Inuit Associations.
- Members of the AOI WG have recommended that one AOI per Nunavut Region be considered for MPA establishment.
- A list of potential AOIs were refined down to three areas per Nunavut Region using a number of social, biological, and feasibility considerations.
- The RIA Boards will review information from the AOI Working Group to recommend one AOI per Nunavut Region to move into the second stage of the MPA consideration/designation process. The second stage is where further detailed ecological, socio-economic, and resource assessments will occur.
- An MOU between DFO, NTI and the RIAs outlining how the parties intend to work together to identify areas for potential MPA designation is in approvals with NTI and DFO

2) Community Consultations

- In March, the AOI Working Group carried out consultations with the Hunters and Trappers Associations and community members in the vicinity of the nine potential AOIs. The main purpose of these consultations was to gauge the level of support for the consideration of an MPA near their community.

- Due to weather, the Pangnirtung and Clyde River consultations were rescheduled. These were both completed during the month of April.
  - Overall, the consultations have demonstrated an interest in marine protection including the use of *Oceans Act* MPA designation.
  - Additional consultations will be carried out through the different stages of the MPA process in the Nunavut Settlement Area.
- 3) Recommendations from the Regional Inuit Association (RIA) Boards
- The AOI Working Group is developing an information package to provide RIA boards with information on the MPA process in Nunavut (including outcomes of community consultations).
  - Using this information package and their knowledge of the area, the RIA boards will then recommend one of the three areas in their region to advance to the second stage of the MPA consideration/designation process.
  - Once the recommendations are received, engagement with communities in the vicinity of the recommended areas will be carried out to confirm support.
- 4) Nunavut MCT Steering Committee
- A steering committee is being developed to provide coordination and information sharing among the various planning and conservation initiatives underway in Nunavut.
  - It would in no way take away from the process and structures as described in the Nunavut Agreement.
  - It would be an opportunity to provide those decision-making bodies the assurance that any recommendations have benefited from integrated review and advice from this Committee.
  - Membership is anticipated to include federal departments, government of Nunavut, and co-management organisations.

**Prepared by:** Central and Arctic Region – Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Oceans Program  
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