

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
September 2017

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Oceans Protection Plan – Nunavut Pilot Site.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2016, the Prime Minister announced the \$1.5 billion, five-year national Oceans Protection Plan (OPP). The plan brings together a large number of diverse initiatives designed to enhance the protection of Canada's oceans and waterways, increase safety and improve the marine environment. Its impacts will be felt by Canadians, not just on the coasts, but across the country and has implications for all of Canada's regions.

The OPP will balance significant investments in cutting-edge science to understand and protect our marine environment; design, enhance and deploy the most effective world-leading technologies and systems to enhance our spill prevention and environmental response abilities and create a state-of-the-art marine safety regime.

The Federal Government has made cooperation between Federal Government departments a key component of the implementation of OPP. The plan must also bolster public confidence by advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through genuine partnerships. Government departments will work closely with Provinces, Territories, industry, environmental organizations, indigenous peoples, coastal communities and the public.

COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE PROGRAM:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) – Central and Arctic Region has been tasked with recommending one pilot site within Nunavut to collect baseline data to characterize the ecosystem. This Coastal Environmental Baseline Program will support an Assessment of the Cumulative Impacts of Marine Shipping (led by Transport Canada). The objective of this program is to respond to concerns regarding the lack of baseline environmental information in areas of current/projected high vessel traffic activities and coastal development. The study duration for this pilot site will be 3-4 years.

Community support and capacity are essential to ensure the success of this initiative. Furthermore, a large amount of the funding for this initiative will be in the

form of grants and contributions that would be provided to our partners (e.g. community organizations, Universities, etc.) to enable them to participate in and contribute to this program.

PILOT SITE CANDIDATES:

DFO will be discussing pilot site candidates with our Nunavut co-management partners.

Prepared by: Central and Arctic Region – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: Aug. 1, 2017