

SUBMISSION TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
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FOR

Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Fisheries and Oceans Canada Update – Marine conservation initiatives

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 Areas of Interest (AOIs).

To date Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has engaged the Regional Inuit Associations to seek support to advance marine protection in their region. DFO is currently working with the Kivalliq Inuit Association to confirm support for an Area of Interest for potential marine protection.

In addition to ongoing efforts within the land claim areas, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Parks Canada Agency are now looking to advance protection measures for the high arctic multi-year pack ice called the 'High Arctic Basin'. Protection efforts are directed towards the High Arctic Basin because of the ecological significance of the area, stakeholder and partner interests as well as the potential risks from anticipated increases in Arctic shipping. Further information on the importance of the area, location and proposed phased approach to protection is appended to this note.

DFO Marine Protected Area Efforts in the Nunavut Settlement Area, as previously briefed to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board:

- An AOI Working Group comprising Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Fisheries and Oceans Canada was established in summer 2016. The AOI Working Group developed process and criteria to develop a shortlist of potential AOIs.
- In March/April 2017, the AOI Working Group carried out consultations with the Hunters and Trappers Associations and community members in the vicinity of nine

potential AOIs (three in each Nunavut region). A report summarizing these consultations has been provided to NWMB staff.

- In fall 2017, DFO Oceans staff provided overviews and updates at the Annual General Meetings of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.
- In the fall and winter, DFO Oceans staff provided similar overview and update presentations to the Kivalliq Inuit Association and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association Boards respectively. These presentations included Fisheries and Oceans' request for an Area of Interest Recommendation from the Boards, as suggested from the AOI Working Group.

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