

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**December 2018**

**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

**Issue:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada Update – Marine conservation initiatives

**Background:**

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 regions. 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 Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area 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.

DFO and PCA are proposing the following phased approach to protecting this area (see attached proposal for additional information).

- Phase 1 - Use interim protection under the proposed amendments to the Oceans Act to secure the area and provide the time needed to collect additional information and work with our partners and stakeholders.
- Phase 2 - Seeking support for long term protection measures from our partners and stakeholders. Work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to consider the new information, determining the boundary and conservation tool or tools for the area.
- Phase 3 – Implement long-term marine protection measures if supported by our partners and resources and capacity are available.

**Consultations**

Kivalliq Region

- At the end of September the Oceans program visited the communities of Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet and Nauyasat to confirm support for pursuing an Area of Interest for Marine Protection around Southampton Island. The communities were supportive of the process.
- In October the Ocean Program attended the Annual general meetings for the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA) and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB). The program gave an update on the Marine Protected Area process, including outcomes of the community engagement sessions. At the KIA meeting the Oceans Program requested further direction from the KIA Board and support for advancing Southampton Island as an Area of Interest for an *Oceans Act* Marine Protected Area.

#### High Arctic Basin

- Letters regarding Marine Protection in the High Arctic Basin were sent in June 2018 to Eastern and Western Arctic Inuit representatives and Territorial Governments (Nunavut Tungavik Incorporated (NTI), Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), Government of Nunavut (GN), Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC), Government of the Northwest Territories, and Government of Yukon Territory) outlining a proposed phased approach to provide interim protection to a portion of the multi-year ice pack EBSA.
- A proposal to advance marine protection in the High Arctic Basin was sent in September 2018 on behalf of DFO and PCA to other relevant stakeholders including NIWS, Nunavut Fisheries Association, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board/Nunavut Marine Council, Nunavut Impact Review Board, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Qikiqtaaluk Corp., World Wildlife Fund, Oceans North, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Ecology Action Centre and Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord & Arctic Bay Hunters and Trappers Organizations.
- The High Arctic Basin proposal was presented at the June face-to-face meeting of the Nunavut Steering Committee Meeting (June 2018) which NTI, GN, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and NWMB attended, QIA (July 2018), IGC (August 2018), NWMB and FJMC (September 2018).
- The Government of Nunavut raised concerns about involvement and engagement in the process as well as potential impacts on economic development for Nunavut. We will be working directly with the GN to resolve this issue. No other concerns were raised.

#### **Recommendation:**

The NWMB provide comments to DFO on the Phase 1 of the High Arctic Basin proposal to use proposed interim protection measures under the Oceans Act for the portion of the High Arctic Basin marine region outside of the land claims areas and within the EEZ (see attached map). Comments requested by January, 7, 2019.

**Prepared by:** Central and Arctic Region – Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Oceans Program  
**Date:** October 26, 2018