

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD – March 7, 2019

FOR : Information: X

Decision: N/A

Issue: Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (TINMCA) establishment

Background:

Tallurutiup Imanga region is of outstanding global ecological significance and one of the most productive marine environments in the Arctic Ocean. It serves as the primary eastern gateway to the central Arctic for large numbers of migrating marine mammals and as breeding and foraging habitat for immense colonies of seabirds. The ecosystem and its wildlife have sustained the life and culture of Inuit for thousands of years, serving as the heart of High Arctic Inuit existence and supporting a traditional way of life strong in language, culture and customs.

Parks Canada Agency, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Government of Nunavut are pursuing the establishment of the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act (2002)*. The creation of an NMCA will protect biodiversity and ecosystem functions, Inuit rights, and ensure Inuit benefits are enhanced including, continued access to healthy country food, and engagement in traditional practices.

The Lancaster Sound Steering Committee completed a feasibility assessment in February 2017 and submitted its findings and recommendations in *A National Marine Conservation Area Proposal for Lancaster Sound – Feasibility Assessment Report*. After reviewing the results of a series of studies and community and stakeholder consultations, the Steering Committee concluded a national marine conservation area in the Tallurutiup Imanga region was feasible and recommended an enlarged boundary of approximately 109,000 square kilometres in size for marine conservation.

As part of the establishment process under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act (2002)* for a national marine conservation area, requirements include: assessing the feasibility potential of the NMCA/MERA (completed February 2017); negotiating an IIBA (underway); undertaking interim management planning, including a consultation report (underway); and establishing the NMCA in legislation.

A Tallurutiup Imanga Planning Committee (consisting of 2 QIA representatives; 1 Government of Canada/Parks Canada representative; and 1 GN representative) has been established to:

- a) lead the development of an interim management plan for the national marine conservation area including consultation on the draft plan;
- b) consider small modifications to the boundary; and
- c) provide advice and context on specific issues to the IIBA.

Once the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area of Canada is designated under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*, the exploration for and exploitation of hydrocarbons, minerals, aggregates and any other inorganic matter, including any related seismic testing activities, will be prohibited in perpetuity.

Future milestones for the TINMCA interim management plan process include:

- February 2019: Draft interim management plan to be completed
- March-April 2019: 2nd round of community consultations
- March 2019: Update to NWMB with final draft of interim plan
- June 2019: Final interim management plan completed and ready for review/approval by NWMB and forwarding to the Minister for signing

This is the second information update for the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area. Parks Canada, QIA and the GN will update the NWMB as the development of the interim management plan progresses.

Approximately 8-10 minutes is expected for the attached presentation.

Consultation:

- During the first round of consultations, five communities were consulted between May-July 2018: Grise Fiord; Resolute Bay; Arctic Bay; Pond Inlet; and Clyde River through a series of face-to-face meetings (hamlets, HTOs, CLARCs, CLOs, ACMCs, JPMCs) and open house sessions with community members. Approximately 300 individuals have attended these sessions.
- In addition to the communities, engagement with other government departments and key stakeholders were conducted through face-to-face meetings including: DFO, Transport Canada, Government of Nunavut departments, NPC, NIRB, Canadian Wildlife Services, Department of Defence, INAC, Canadian Coast Guard, Border Control Services, Global Affairs Canada, Environment Canada, CanNor, NRCAN, ENGOS, Baffinland, marine shipping industry, fishing industry and tourism industry players. Approximately 60 individuals have been consulted.
- A second round of consultations will take place with the above community members and other government departments and key stakeholders along with the Canadian public.
- A confirmation of what was recommended in the *A National Marine Conservation Area Proposal for Lancaster Sound – Feasibility Assessment Report* was confirmed with the communities and concerns, opportunities and expectations were listened to and captured during the consultation process.
- These will be addressed in the initial draft of the management plan and any questions raised by communities during consultation will be followed up through direct communication.

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Date: March 7, 2019.