

Written Submission No. 40

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

Community Areas of Interest – Multiple Values:

40A. Home Bay, Baffin Island, and

40B. Merchants Bay, Baffin Island

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) of Qikiqtarjuaq

Background Information:

Multiple resources are highly valued by the Inuit of Qikiqtarjuaq in two areas (i.e., Multiple Value Areas or MVAs). One of these areas (MVA 40A) includes both marine and terrestrial resources in and around Home Bay, while the other area (MVA 40B) also includes marine and terrestrial areas in the fiords south of Merchants.

Without protection of these two areas, plus others important to the Inuit of Qikiqtarjuaq, the Nunavut Land Use Plan will fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut's residents and communities as a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

Both Home Bay with its fiords extending to the west (MVA 40A) area and Merchants Bay with its four major fiords extending to the south (MVA 40B) have been major harvesting and cultural centres for Inuit of the Qikiqtarjuaq region since time immemorial. The waters and islands of these areas are important for narwhal calving and harvesting areas, polar bear summer and winter habitats, bowhead whale feeding areas, summer marine waters for Arctic char, and homes for ringed, bearded, harp and hooded seals, and killer whales. Inuit harvest eggs and meat from King and Common Eiders and Arctic Terns on several islands. Several rivers that flow into Home Bay (MVA 40A) and Padle Fiord (MVA 40B) are important harvesting areas for Arctic char for much of the year. Arctic cod are fished in the Merchants Bay area. The Inuit of Qikiqtarjuaq also harvest caribou in the coastal areas of Baffin Island among the fiords of Home

Bay, usually up to 10 kms inland but sometimes farther. Inuit harvest both Snow and Canada Geese inland from Padle Fiord (MVA 40B), and Snow Geese inland from fiords in the Home Bay area (MVA 40A). Arctic hare and foxes are also harvested, while there are several walrus haul-outs, in both these areas.

Both of these areas are critically important to maintain the health, culture and heritage of the Inuit of Qikiqtarjuaq.

Industrial development in or near these areas would degrade their value. Such development must be prohibited.

Notes: Not all of the important features within these MVAs could be mapped individually because the many intersecting lines and overlapping areas became too confusing to distinguish the individual features. Arctic char fishing areas in or near these MVAs should be designated separately as indicated in WS 28.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Protected Area

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Obnoxious Land Use;
- Quarries;
- Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure;
- Linear Infrastructure;
- Seismic testing;
- Disposal at sea;
- Sonar; and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiaq, Ukiuq, Upingaktsaaq, and Upingaaq.
- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the setbacks in Table 2 (as amended based on WS-14 from the QWB and member HTOs) for all seabirds, and

coastal waterfowl and sea ducks during the issuance of permits, licences, and authorizations.

- No vessel may approach within five (5) km seaward of a walrus haul-out, any time during the year.
- When walrus are present, fixed wing aircraft must maintain a minimum vertical setback of 460 m (1500 ft) above ground level (AGL) while within 310 m (1000 ft) of a group of walrus. Helicopters should remain at altitudes greater than 910 m (3000 ft) AGL when traveling within 1,610 m (1 mile) of a group of walrus.
- When walrus are present, walrus must not be approached by terrestrial vehicles closer than 800 m (0.5 mile) while the vehicle remains out of sight of the walrus.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Areas of Interest – Multiple Values Areas: 40A and 40B:

- 40A: As per the attached maps and shp files, all waters, islands and coastal lands and glaciers enclosed in the mapped boundaries, extending at least 10 km inland from the marine high tide onto Baffin Island.
- 40B: As per the attached map and shp files, all waters, islands and coastal lands and glaciers enclosed in the mapped boundaries in Merchants Bay and its four major fiords, and extending inland about 16 km from the head of Padle Fiord to include the snow goose harvesting area as mapped.

Date of this draft: October 15, 2018

