

Nirjutiqarvik Area Co-Management Committee
Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
PO Box 1870
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

June 1, 2015

Sharon Ehaloak
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

Dear Ms. Ehaloak:

RE: Nirjutiqarvik Area Co-Management Committee Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan Comments

The Nirjutiqarvik Area Co-Management Committee for the Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area (Nirjutiqarvik ACMC) appreciates having the opportunity to provide participant feedback on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (Draft Plan). We discussed the Draft Plan at previous meetings and would like to submit this letter to the record as our formal input.

The Nirjutiqarvik ACMC is responsible for managing the Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area in the Qikiqtaaluk region. The Nirjutiqarvik ACMC, one of nine ACMCs in Nunavut, was created under the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement for Conservation Areas in Nunavut (IIBA-CA), which fulfils the government's obligation to ensure that Inuit benefit from the presence and operation of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas in Nunavut. The IIBA-CA ensures that Inuit have a say in how these conservation areas are managed. The ACMCs are advisory committees that are responsible for the day-to-day management of the conservation area in their affected area. The main job of each ACMC is to make sure that the protected areas are well managed by providing advice to the Canadian Wildlife Service and the federal Minister of the Environment, reviewing access permits, and developing a management plan.

Given the above stated mandate, the Nirjutiqarvik ACMC reviewed the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan and would like to comment on the zoning of the Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area as below.

First, we would like to point out that the spelling of Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area is spelled incorrectly in the Draft Plan as 'Nirjutiqavvik'. This error has been identified by the Nirjutiqarvik ACMC as incorrect and Environment Canada is undergoing the process to have it corrected. The Nirjutiqarvik ACMC requests that this spelling is corrected in the final Draft Plan.

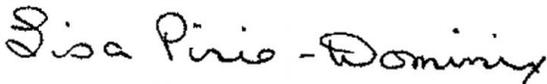
In the Draft Plan, National Wildlife Areas are zoned “ECP-1” where permitted activities are tourism, recreation and research. This zoning also states that all other activities are prohibited. The Nirjutiqarvik ACMC agrees with this zoning.

The Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area is a sensitive area that has been identified as an important seabird monitoring site. During the breeding season, Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area is the nesting site of approximately 385,000 seabirds, including 25% of Canada’s Black-legged Kittiwakes and Thick-billed Murre populations. Princess Charlotte Monument, located within the National Wildlife Area, is home to Canada’s northernmost breeding colony of Atlantic Puffins. In addition, a nearby recurrent polynya provides abundant food resources for nesting seabirds as well as throughout the year to wintering seabirds and a variety of marine mammals including polar bear, walrus, beluga, narwhal and seals. Nirjutiqarvik National Wildlife Area is also rich in cultural history and resources which need to be protected.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Nirjutiqarvik ACMC Vice-Chair Lisa Pirie (lisa.pirie@ec.gc.ca).

The Nirjutiqarvik ACMC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan and the Nunavut Planning Commission’s consideration of the recommendation.

Sincerely,



Lisa Pirie-Dominix
Vice-Chair
Nirjutiqarvik Area Co-Management Committee