

**Written Submission No. 39**

**2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan**

**Proposed Land Use Designation:**

**Community Area of Interest – Scott Inlet**

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

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

**Background Information:**

Protection of the environmental integrity of Scott Inlet and adjacent fiords and waters in Baffin Bay is important to maintain the health, culture and heritage of the Inuit of Clyde River. Without protection of these waters the Nunavut Land Use Plan would fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut's residents as a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

Herein, "Scott Inlet" refers to Scott Inlet, Clark Fiord, Gibbs Fiords, Pilattuaq (Scott Island), Qikiqtaaluk (Sillem Island) and all adjacent marine waters, extending into Baffin Bay about 70 km off shore from Scott Island, and all islands in these waters (as indicated on the attached map).

Scott Inlet is an important area for both summering and migratory narwhal. Narwhal calve and nurse their young here. And Narwhal are of vital importance to the nutrition and culture of Inuit in Clyde River. Narwhal use of this area should not be affected by human development.

The fjords of Scott Inlet are surrounded by important caribou harvesting areas. Caribou cross the fjords both on the sea ice and in open water, in order to access important seasonal habitats. These movements should not be interrupted by shipping at any time of year.

Scott Inlet is the home of a major nesting colony of Northern Fulmars, made up of the unusual light phase of this species. The area is also used by migrating Ivory Gulls and Black Guillemots.

Scott Inlet has the only known cold hydrocarbon seep on the east coast of Baffin Island. Development of oil and gas in this area could have many negative impacts on wildlife and Inuit.

**Source of information:** Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

**Proposed Designation:** Protected Area

**Proposed Restrictions:**

**Prohibited Uses:** The following uses are prohibited:

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

**Conditions:**

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiq, Ukiq, Ukiq, and Ukiq.
- Closed to all ship traffic year-round south and west of a line drawn from latitude 72.28°N, 71.16°W to 71.12°N, 70.78°W, except for emergency search and rescue purposes.
- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the aerial, marine and terrestrial setbacks as per a modified Table 2<sup>1</sup> for all migratory birds, all seabirds, and coastal waterfowl and sea ducks during issuance of permits, licences, and authorizations.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

**Proposed Boundaries of the Community Area of Interest - Scott Inlet:**

See the attached maps and the associated shp files.

Note: Scott Inlet has been identified as a potential Marine Protected Area, a program sponsored by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and their co-management partners. Nevertheless, the QWB and HTO propose that Scott Inlet should be included as a Community Area of Interest under the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Modified Table 2 refers to a version of Table 2 that incorporates modifications recommended in Written Submission No. 14 from the QWB and its associated HTOs.

**References:**

Cressey, D. 2008. Sonar does affect whales, military report confirms. Nature.  
doi:10.1038/news.2008.997.

Morell, V. 2015. U.S. Navy to limit sonar testing to protect whales. Science.  
doi:10.1126/science.aad1763

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