

Arviq (Naujaat) Hunters and Trappers Organization Submission for Nunavut Land Use Plan

Community Land Use Area

The Arviq HTO recommends the major area of community land use be designated as a protected area. The HTO recommends mining, mineral exploration activity, and oil/gas activity be banned in this area, for the following reasons:

- This entire area is used for caribou hunting by hunters from Naujaat. Caribou hunting is very important economically to our community, both for local consumption and for sale of caribou meat to Qikiqtani Inuit.
- Caribou are present in different parts of this area throughout the year. Caribou migrate through different parts of this area in different seasons.
- Caribou give birth and feed their calves throughout this area. Naujaat is surrounded by caribou calving and post calving grounds.
- Our hunters have observed the impacts of mineral exploration on caribou. We have had our hunting disturbed by low-flying helicopters that scared away the caribou we were carefully pursuing.
- Most of the lakes and rivers in this area contain fish. The rivers and streams are important spawning grounds for char. All the lakes that do not freeze to the bottom in the winter contain fish (land locked char, lake trout, and whitefish).
- Fishing from these lakes and rivers is a very important source of food for our community. Our community would also like to develop a local commercial fishery in the future.
- This entire area has many heritage sites (including tent rings, graves, and sod houses). We do not want these important heritage resources disturbed.

This is consistent with the information the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) gathered during its community visit to Naujaat, contained in the NPC's community visit report.

A map of the community land use area recommended for protection is included in Appendix A.

Community Marine Use Area

The Arviq HTO recommends the major area of community marine use be designated as a protected area. The HTO recommends offshore oil/gas activity (including seismic surveys) and ice-breaking shipping be banned in this area, for the following reasons:

- This entire area is used for hunting seals, walrus, narwhal, beluga whale, and bowhead whales. Marine mammals are a very important source of food for our community.
- Marine mammals are present in different parts of this area throughout the year.
- This area contains a lot of char.
- Char fishing in this area is a very important source of food for our community. Our community would also like to see a local commercial fishery in our community in the future.
- This area contains clams and mussels, which our community harvests for food.
- This area contains smaller animals (krill and phytoplankton) which are the basis of the entire food-chain. If these animals were harmed by an oil spill, it would harm all the larger fish and mammals Inuit eat.

This is consistent with the information the NPC gathered during its community visit to Naujaat, contained in the NPC's community visit report.

A map of the community marine use area recommended for protection is included in Appendix B.

Caribou Calving and Post Calving Grounds

The Arviq HTO recommends caribou calving and post calving grounds be designated as protected areas.

The Naujaat HTO does not agree with the Government of Nunavut's maps of caribou calving grounds near our community. Hunters observe caribou with newborns all around our community, not only in the small areas the government shows on its maps. Our entire area of community land use is a calving and post calving ground.

The HTO recommends mining and exploration activity be banned in these areas, for the following reasons:

- Elders recommended caribou calving grounds be protected. Elders explained that, if caribou calving grounds are disrupted, the caribou herds will scatter and slowly disappear.
- The Kivalliq HTOs, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Dene and Metis communities and the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board have repeatedly recommended Nunavut's caribou calving grounds be protected.
- The Arviq HTO has repeatedly recommended against mining and exploration in calving grounds in the past.

Appendix C contains copies of letters and resolutions protesting mining and exploration in calving grounds, passed by the Arviq HTO in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Appendix D contains a list of letters protesting mining and exploration in calving grounds, written by Kivalliq HTOs, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, and Dene and Metis communities.

Outside of the major calving grounds, exploration and mining should cease during calving season (May and June).

During migrations, exploration and mining should cease when caribou are approaching.