

QWB Submission
to the Nunavut Planning Commission
in response to the 2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP)
regarding
Wildlife Harvesting Areas
No. 2023 – C
Technical Memorandum, No. 2023-C-TM

Prepared By: Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), with support from Firelight Research Inc.

In response to: The 2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Date: February 10 2023

1. Why is QWB sending a separate submission for some Community Areas of Interest - Wildlife Harvesting Areas, instead of including them in the joint QWB – QIA submission?

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association is in the process of negotiations with the Government of Canada on the Interim Management Plan for Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The Interim Management Plan is expected to take time to complete, and full zoning and land-use restrictions may not be finalized for some years once the Final Management Plan comes into effect.

The QIA will be submitting separate recommendations on how TI NMCA should be managed as a Limited Use area on an interim basis through their own submission to NPC. These recommendations (e.g., requested land use activity prohibitions) may differ slightly from those requested by QWB in updated versions of submissions WS-03, WS-20, WS-21, WS-25, WS-28, and WS-36, and as a result QIA and QWB have decided to not pursue joint recommendations for these submissions at this time.

The QWB does not agree that important Wildlife Harvesting Areas and sensitive ecological areas should have little or no protection from impactful, deleterious land and marine uses for an unknown period of years. The affected HTOs in the Tallurutiup region represent all Inuit in that part of Nunavut, and are pushing for protection. This perspective was reinforced in many presentations during the NPC's public hearings in Pond Inlet and Iqaluit.

Therefore, the QWB is sending further submissions based on mapped areas that have some Wildlife Harvesting Areas that may overlap with the Tallurutiup Imanga area. The QWB requests that NPC give these submissions all due consideration and incorporate them into the final NLUP.

In principle QIA supports QWB's submissions for areas intersecting with TI NMCA, but until negotiations with the GOC are completed, QIA is unable to commit to the details of QWB's independent submissions for intersecting areas. QIA indicated that they fully support the remaining QWB submissions (WS-03, WS-28, WS-36) where they do not intersect with the TI NMCA.

Once the TI NMCA final Management Plan comes into effect in the future, the QWB understands that the NPC can adopt that plan, and rescind the provisions in the NLUP that may overlap or duplicate those in the TI final Management Plan.

2. Existing Land Use Rights of Inuit for Wildlife Harvesting

Sub-section 11.2.1 (b) of the Nunavut Agreement states:

the primary purpose of land use planning in the Nunavut Settlement Area shall be to protect and promote the existing and future well being of those persons ordinarily resident and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area taking into account the interests of all Canadians; special attention shall be devoted to protecting and promoting the existing and future well-being of Inuit and Inuit Owned Lands (https://nlca.tunnngavik.com/?page_id=1094).

In the opinion of the QWB as representatives of Inuit and managers of Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit in Qikiqtaaluk Region, revisions of the DNLUP are required in order for the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) to ensure that the Final Nunavut Land Use Plan (FNLUP) to meet the above stated *primary purpose*.

In 2018 the QWB and all HTOs in the region requested protection of specific Wildlife Harvesting areas, but in the 2021 DNLUP few if any of these high priority areas were designated for the level of protection needed,

The QWB and the region's HTOs recognize that Inuit have existing rights for full and protected access to their primary harvesting areas, whether those areas are marine,

land or freshwater. Every month and year, Inuit invest huge amounts of time and resources in the on-going exploration and production of food, skins, bones, ivory and other materials from their specific harvesting areas. Inuit and their ancestors have been investing and caring for their harvesting areas within Qikiqtaaluk Region for about 3,500 years, based on archeological records. The modern financial value of Inuit investments is priceless, beyond comparison with more recent investments by largely non-Nunavut-based industrial corporations.

The QWB has estimated the food replacement cost of wildlife harvested by Inuit in Qikiqtaaluk Region, as a partial surrogate for the recent annual investment that Inuit make in harvesting of wildlife in the Region. This information will be provided in Appendix A of this submission. Despite Inuit investments in exploration and production, Inuit land-use have not been acknowledged to clear area-specific rights,.

Section 1.4.1 of the 2021 DNLUP (and Plan Requirement 1.4.2-1) states that the plan does not *govern* the harvesting of wildlife, which is dealt with exclusively by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) pursuant to Article 5 of the Nunavut Agreement. However, the NPC's recognition of the role of the NWMB and Article 5 of the Nunavut Agreement leaves no clear and consistent pathway for *protecting* Inuit rights to harvest wildlife in the specific areas that they have invested and continue to invest in terms of exploration and production of critical sustainable resources. On the other hand, areas subject to existing mineral and oil and gas rights have been given a clear pathway to protection through 2021 DNLUP Section 6.1.8 and Appendix A.

Furthermore, Section 1.3.3 of the DNLUP states in part that
... land use planning has critical aspects, including: ... b) recognizing the need to make productive and responsible use of the land and resources for social-cultural, community health, economic and environmental priorities, objectives and benefits (e.g., ... harvesting ...)

The QWB is concerned that the lack of a clear and consistent pathway for protecting harvesting rights and investments could result in many of the identified Wildlife Harvesting Areas being severely degraded or destroyed in future through potentially impactful industrial and other projects or land uses. We recommend that the NPC clearly recognize and enable protection of specific lands and waters for Wildlife Harvesting, as identified by Inuit, to enable this critical aspect of land use planning.

The lack of recognition of existing rights of Inuit for protection of their harvesting areas may appear to some as potentially biased against the Inuit at a time when colonial governments talk extensively about reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. In particular, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* received Royal Assent and came into force on June 21, 2021. From the QWB's perspective, adjustments to the 2021 DNLUP can bring it more in line with UNDRIP, sub-section 11.2.1 (b) of the Nunavut Agreement, and the Government of Canada's own

“Principles respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples” (<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/principles-principes.html>). There are also strong legal and constitutional arguments regarding the right of indigenous peoples to harvest preferred wildlife at preferred locations (e.g., *West Moberly First Nations v. B.C. (Chief Inspector of Mines)*, 2011 BCCA 247).

While land use designations developed to protect critical or sensitive habitat types (e.g., caribou and whale calving, walrus haul-outs, polar bear denning areas) can certainly influence wildlife survival and productivity, and thereby availability of wildlife species for harvesting, habitat designations do not necessarily protect specific areas that are most important and accessible to Inuit for harvesting purposes. For example, areas where Inuit can reliably harvest wildlife are selected not only based on animal abundance and seasonal distribution, but also because of the absence of major geophysical barriers, and temporal variations and distance issues that may enable accessibility for harvesters (e.g., lack of deep or steep terrain, favourable wind effects on sea ice formation and break-up, adequate snow accumulation and melt, long- and short-term animal movement patterns). In addition, successful harvesting by Inuit often depends on intimate, place-based knowledge of specific harvesting areas.

In the QWB's perspective, it is just as important to protect areas identified as important and accessible for wildlife harvesting by Inuit as it is to protect other areas on the basis of the ecological value or sensitivity of habitats, in order to maintain productive and sustainable wildlife populations.

Chapter 2 of the 2021 DNLUP addresses NPC's goal 2 of "Protecting and Sustaining the Environment", based on the intent to "conserve Nunavut's air, land and water, which are of critical importance to the sustainability of those living in the Nunavut Settlement Area". The chapter continues by stating that "for long-term sustainability", "existing patterns of natural resource use", "cultural factors and priorities", as well as "special local [and] regional ... considerations" are among the factors that should be taken into account during the land use process.

From the QWB's perspective, assigning land use designation categories that primarily to protect some sensitive wildlife habitats, while not protecting high priority Wildlife Harvesting areas that Inuit have identified and invested in, is unlikely to address existing patterns of natural resource use, cultural factors and priorities, and local and regional considerations.

Chapter 4 of the 2021 DNLUP addresses NPC's goal 4 of "Building Healthier Communities", based on the intent to "support community needs and cultural priorities, taking into account factors such as: ... cultural factors and priorities; and ... special local, [and] regional ... considerations".

Within this chapter, there is a general “Community Areas of Interest” land use designation category. Within the Qikiqtaaluk region, this designation includes three Limited Use areas including Sanirajak (Hall Beach), Foxe Basin, and Nettilling Lake, which were largely assigned high environmental and cultural importance based on the identification of several important wildlife habitats and Wildlife Harvesting areas. The designation of these areas suggests that NPC is somewhat willing to protect some areas on the basis of their importance to communities for harvesting purposes.

In their written submissions to the NPC in 2018, the HTOs in Qikiqtaaluk Region and the QWB requested the equivalent of “limited use” protection for several specific Wildlife Harvesting areas, which were not incorporated into the 2021 DNLUP.

From the QWB’s perspective, these areas need to be included as requested. Incorporation of such high priority areas into the FNLUP may be accomplished either as:

- “Community Areas of Interest” already present in Chapter 4, with the addition of a factor such as “historical and existing patterns of sustainable resource use for the local and regional economy”, or as
- a new designation category of “Wildlife Harvesting Areas” under Chapter 2.

“Community Areas of Interest” could readily address Wildlife Harvesting Areas if the above factor is added in the introduction for Chapter 4.

Alternatively, “Wildlife Harvesting Areas” could fit in Chapter 2 which emphasizes on “protecting and sustaining the environment”, especially with the factors: “[historical and] existing patterns of natural resource use”, “cultural factors and priorities” and “special local [and] regional ... considerations” already listed in that chapter.

In summary, the QWB recommends that the NPC:

- 1) Commit to protecting specific areas in the Final Nunavut Land Use Plan based on their importance for Wildlife Harvesting, land-use areas critical to Inuit culture, food security, self-employment and economics;
- 2) Recognize specific limited-use harvesting areas as either “Community Areas of Interest” or as “Wildlife Harvesting Areas” to clearly protect their future high values for which Inuit have invested and provided stewardship for generations.
- 3) Accept the updated and previously submitted 2018 QWB-HTO areas (Table 1 and Submissions QWB 2023-C) identified as important for terrestrial, marine and freshwater Wildlife Harvesting Areas as limited use areas with the requested prohibitions and conditions as either “Community Areas of Interest” or as “Wildlife Harvesting Areas” with the appropriate designation and land use prohibitions or seasonal restrictions originally requested by QWB, updated with relatively minor modifications or qualifiers.

Table 1: 2018 Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board Submissions Recommended by QWB for Acceptance into the Final Nunavut Land Use Plan as limited-use areas designated as either “Community Areas of Interest” or “Wildlife Harvesting Areas”.

| 2018 Submission Number | 2023 Submission Number | Title | Species Harvested ¹ |
|------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| WS-03 | QWB 2023-C-16 | Community Area of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Area, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Sanirajak | Walrus |
| WS-20 | QWB 2023-C-17 | Community Area of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Areas (Admiralty Inlet), Arctic Bay | Narwhal (most important and sensitive), Ringed, Harp and Bearded Seals, Polar Bear, Arctic Char, Arctic Cod, Sculpins, Crabs, Clams, Snow Geese, King and Common Eiders, Brant, Bowhead Whale, Beluga, Red-throated Loons, Sandhill Cranes, Gulls, Terns, Fulmars, Other seabirds and Others |
| WS-21 | QWB 2023-C-18 | Community Area of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Area (Navy Board and Milne Inlets, Tremblay Sound and Koluktoo Bay,), Pond Inlet | Narwhal (most important and sensitive), Ringed and Bearded Seals, Polar Bears, Arctic Char, Arctic Cod, Snow Geese, King and Common Eiders, Brant, Bowhead Whales, Gulls, Terns, Seabirds and Others |
| WS-25 | QWB 2023-C-19 | Community Area of Interest - Wildlife Harvesting Areas (Eclipse Sound), Pond Inlet | Narwhal, Seals, Fish (Arctic Char, Turbot, etc.), Migratory Birds, Polar Bear and Other Species |
| WS-28 | QWB 2023-C-20 | Community Area of Interest - Wildlife Harvesting Area, All Communities | Sea-run Fish |
| WS-36 | QWB 2023-B-21 | Community Areas of Interest - Wildlife Harvesting Areas, Resolute Bay | Ringed, Bearded and. Harp Seals, Beluga, Narwhal, Bowhead, Walrus, Peary Caribou, Muskox, Wolf, Snow Geese, Brant, Common and King Eider, Polar Bear, Arctic Char and Other Species. |

1. Some of these submissions may have been identified also as important wildlife habitat (e.g., migration, calving, nesting); however, for the purposes of focusing on recognition and protection of Wildlife Harvesting Areas, these ecological values are not listed in this table. Please refer to Submissions section 2023-B-01 for further information.
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Appendix A

Surrogate Valuation of Annual Inuit Investments in Exploration and Production of Wildlife Harvesting Areas

Each year, many Inuit have made extensive investments in exploration and production needed to develop, maintain and sustain long-term harvesting of wildlife in Qikiqtaaluk Region. They have been making these investments for generations, even millennia through their ancestors. These are well known facts that are beyond question, yet existing rights of Inuit to use specific land and water areas have not been recognized in past drafts of the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

In the meantime, the NPC has devoted section 6.1.8 and Appendix A of the 2021 DLNUP to existing rights of industrial development proponents based on much short tenures of recent exploration and production investment.

The QWB suggests that Inuit investments in harvesting must be recognized in the FNLUP, and at least one chapter or section of the FNLUP should be devoted to Wildlife Harvesting on specific lands and waters, and identified in the FNLUP for protection from other land uses with limited use designations.

Documenting the investments of Inuit in wildlife harvesting in Qikiqtaaluk Region would be difficult to produce well expensed estimates of harvesting investments by Inuit. Some of the challenges include: the sheer number of Inuit that spend significant amounts of time in self-employment related to the land use activity of wildlife harvesting, the capital and maintenance costs of snowmobiles, boats and motors, rifles, traps, nets and other equipment, the time for arrangement and other costs for processing, storage and shipment of country foods, skins, bones, ivory and other products, and many more investments. Although two regional harvest studies have estimated the numbers of Inuit self-employed as harvesters in Qikiqtaaluk Region in the early 1980s (Donaldson 1988) and the late 1990s and early 2000s (Priest and Usher 2004), many more Inuit are self-employed in meat processing, clothing production, bone and ivory carving, related tourism and other work.

Industrial proponents may also expense their research on the environment related to their activities as exploration and production investments. Inuit utilize mainly their Qaujimajatuqangit to manage and mitigate any impacts on the environment. We are not aware of any efforts to estimate the investments of Inuit related to wildlife harvesting land-uses on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. It cannot be assumed to just come out of thin air.

As a surrogate valuation of Inuit investments in harvesting land use, the replacement cost of meat and food production may be used. However, such estimates are likely to significant underestimates, at least because non-food products are not considered

Nevertheless, to provide some guide to the annual investments by Inuit in wildlife harvesting, the QWB estimated the annual value of harvested food, based on results of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's 1996-2001 Nunavut Harvest Study from communities in Qikiqtaaluk Region. The study was not fully operational in two communities for all of the first two years; therefore, we used only the results from the last three years, 1998 – 2001.

During 1998 – 2001, Priest and Usher (2004)¹ estimated that 24% (2,818) of 11,741 Inuit in the region were harvesters, showing that harvesting as a land use is a major source of self-employment. It is notable that the proportion of Inuit who were self-employed as harvesters apparently increased from 20% (1,394) among 6,968 Inuit in the region during 1981-82 (Donaldson 1988)². This suggested that as a sustainable land use, harvesting has the capacity to keep up with Inuit population growth and provide a reliable source of self-employment. As more Inuit require more food, harvesters endeavour to provide that food.

During 1998-2001, Qikiqtaaluk Inuit obtained nutrition by harvesting at least 45 different species (Priest and Usher 2004)¹. In total, Wildlife Harvesting provided at least 1.6 million kg of food annually in Qikiqtaaluk Region, for an average of 139 kg per Inuk via self-employment, probably financed largely by Inuit themselves. The average annual food production included: 491,879 kg from terrestrial mammals, 825, 048 kg from marine mammals, 31,630 kg from birds and eggs, and 284,043 kg from fish and clams.

Inuit harvesters provided their families and communities with an average of 380 g of meat daily, while the Canada food guide recommends only 225 g per person. Harvesting keeps Inuit very well fed, and as a sustainable traditional land use, industrial land uses should not be allowed to put Wildlife Harvesting at risk.

¹ Priest, H. and P.J. Usher. 2004. The Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study. Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Iqaluit, Canada. 822 pp.

² Donaldson, J.L. 1988. The Economic Ecology of Hunting, A Case Study of the Canadian Inuit. Ph.D. Thesis, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA. 243 pp.

Based on average results in Priest and Usher (2004)¹ during 1998 - 2001, the QWB has estimated that the replacement cost of food alone from Wildlife Harvesting had a value of at least \$59 million annually. This total was based on mean regular retail prices of ground beef and beef steaks advertised by Northmart in Iqaluit in October and June 2022, respectively. The average annual replacement cost of food provided by Inuit harvesters included: \$17,855,209 for terrestrial mammals, \$29,949,225 for marine mammals, \$1,148,180 for birds and eggs, and \$10,310,393 for fish and clams.

The QWB requests that the NPC formally recognize Wildlife Harvesting as a legitimate and the most sustainable form of land use in Qikiqtaaluk Region, providing significant on-going self-employment to residents across the region. During 2017-18 the QWB held land-use planning workshops in all 13 communities, and HTO Boards were asked if and where temporary land use restrictions might protect important Wildlife Harvesting areas that they identified, and other important wildlife habitats. Each HTO responded that if a major new development occurred, it is highly unlikely that affected wildlife would return to any seriously disturbed area in future. They generally did not support temporary or mobile mitigative measures.

The QWB are deeply concerned that the nutritional, self-employment and economic values of Wildlife Harvesting in specific areas has not adequately guided decision-making leading to the 2021 DNLUP. The FNLUP should fully recognize Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit as the most valued and actively sustainable land use that it is, at least by Inuit in Qikiqtaaluk Region.

Submission QWB 2023-C-16

Updated from 2018 QWB Written Submission No. 03

2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

**Community Areas of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Areas (Walrus),
Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Sanirajak**

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and
the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) of Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond
Inlet and Sanirajak

Background Information:

Atlantic walrus are important to the nutritional, cultural and economic well-being and traditions of Inuit. They are vital components of the ecology of marine environments of Baffin Bay, Jones Sound, Lancaster Sound, Foxe Basin, Hudson Bay and other arctic marine waters.

Walrus often congregate in areas with shallow water where food is readily available annually, and on terrestrial and ice haul-outs. These areas are important for Inuit where they harvest walrus according to the traditional rules of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ). Such important walrus areas are well known to Inuit in Foxe Basin, Baffin Bay, Lancaster Sound, Jones Sound and elsewhere. Walrus may occur in these areas throughout the year. These same areas also often have abundances of narwhal, bowheads, ringed seals and other marine species. These are important areas for harvesting of walrus and other marine mammals by Inuit of Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Grise Fiord and Hall Beach.

These areas need to be protected from human development and disturbance under the final Nunavut Land Use Plan.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Limited Use

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Seismic testing;

- Disposal at sea; and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiaq, Ukiuq, Upingaksaq, and Upingaaq.
- When walrus are present, no vessel may approach within five (5) km seaward of a walrus harvesting area at 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.

Note: The QWB would like to meet with the Nunavut Planning Commission to determine the best locations of shipping lanes through these areas during Aujaq and Ukiaksaq, as may be needed. These shipping lanes could be added to the maps after these meetings. The vessel setback distance may be modified for such shipping lanes.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Areas of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Areas (Walrus), Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Sanirajak:

See the attached maps and the associated shp files.

References:

Ristoph, B. 2016. Pacific Walrus Protection and Management in a Changing Climate: Findings from the 2016 Arctic Science Summit Seminar. Pacific Environment, San Francisco, USA. 45 pp. http://www.pacificenvironment.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/walrus-mgmt-report_final_gl.pdf

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2018. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Approach & Viewing Guidelines for Pacific Walrus. USFWS, Anchorage, USA. 2 pp. <https://s3.amazonaws.com/arc-wordpress-client-uploads/adn/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/08093104/walrus-viewing-guidelines-2018-1.pdf>

Date of this draft: February 10, 2023

Submission QWB 2023-C-17

Updated from 2018 QWB Written Submission No. 20

2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

**Community Areas of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Areas
(Admiralty Inlet), Arctic Bay**

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

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

Background Information:

Protection of the environmental integrity of Admiralty Inlet, Bell Bay and Berlinguet Inlet is critically important to maintain the health, culture and heritage of the Inuit of Arctic Bay. Without protection of these bodies of water 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, "Admiralty Inlet" refers to Admiralty Inlet, Bell Bay, Berlinguet Inlet and interjacent marine waters and all islands in these waters (as indicated on the attached map).

Admiralty Inlet provides Inuit with both important cultural and subsistence resources, and year-round access routes to most of Arctic Bay's family and community camp sites and terrestrial harvesting areas.

Admiralty Inlet is a critical area for both summering and migratory narwhal, an extremely important cultural, nutritional and economic resource for the Inuit of Arctic Bay. In summer, narwhal tend to concentrate off the western shores of Admiralty Inlet, and must be protected from industrial development and disturbance by ships, smaller vessels and watercraft that may be involved in non-traditional activities.

Admiralty Inlet is home to many other species that are important components of the environmental integrity and functioning of this complex ecosystem. These species include but are not limited to: Ringed Seals, Bearded Seals, Polar Bears, Arctic Char, Arctic Cod, sculpins, crabs, clams, Greater Snow Geese, King and Common Eiders, Brant, Bowhead Whales, Belugas, Harp Seals, Killer Whales, Red-throated Loons, Peregrine Falcons, Gyrfalcons, Sandhill Cranes, gulls, terns, fulmars, jaegers, seabirds and many others. Many of these species are utilized directly by Inuit.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has identified Berlinguet Inlet as a Key Migratory Bird Habitat Site. Among Inuit, southern Admiralty Inlet is known as a feeding and breeding 'home' for snow geese.

There is evidence that military sonar has negative effects on marine mammals (Cressey 2008). A federal US court has found that the US Navy's use of sonar has illegally harmed numerous populations of whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions (Morell 2015). The Canadian Navy is developing a facility at Nanisivik in Strathcona Sound off Admiralty Inlet. The use of sonar by any military and other ships, and smaller vessels should be prohibited from the time that they enter Admiralty Inlet until they leave.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Proposed Designation: Limited Use

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Seismic testing;
- Disposal at sea;
- Sonar
- Related research except Non-Exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiaq, Ukiuq, Upingaksaq, and Upingaaq.
- Closed to all ship traffic south of latitude 72°55'N year-round, except for emergency search and rescue purposes.
- Closed to all ship traffic, smaller vessels and watercraft within 10 km of the west shore of Admiralty Inlet during Aujaq and Ukiaqsaaq, except for emergency search and rescue purposes
- Closed to tourism activities without prior, informed, written consent from the Ikajutit Hunters and Trappers Association of Arctic Bay.
- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the aerial, marine and terrestrial setbacks 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 - Wildlife Harvesting Area (Admiralty Inlet), Arctic Bay:

This Community Area of Interest includes Admiralty Inlet, Berlinguet Inlet, Bell Bay, all adjacent and interjacent bays, inlets and other marine waters, and all islands within these waters, except for Lancaster Sound and Moffet Inlet. See the attached maps and the associated shp files.

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

Date: February 10, 2023

Submission QWB 2023-C-18

Updated from 2018 QWB Written Submission No. 21

2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Community Areas of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Areas
(Navy Board Inlet, Tremblay Sound, Milne Inlet and Koluktoo Bay,
Pond Inlet

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

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

Background Information:

Protection of the environmental integrity of Navy Board Inlet, Tremblay Sound, Milne Inlet and Koluktoo Bay is critically important to maintain the health, culture and heritage of the Inuit of Pond Inlet. Without protection of these bodies of water 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, Pond Inlet's Narwhal Harvesting Area refers to proposed designated areas of Navy Board Inlet, Tremblay Sound, Milne Inlet and Koluktoo Bay, and all islands in these waters (as indicated in the Proposed Boundaries section below and on the attached map).

The Area provides Inuit with both important cultural and subsistence resources, and all-season access for many of Pond Inlet's family and community camp sites and terrestrial harvesting areas.

This Area is critical for narwhal throughout the open water period, an extremely important cultural, nutritional and economic resource for the Inuit of Pond Inlet. In summer, narwhal tend to concentrate off the western shores of the Area. Narwhal are always moving so their abundances and distributions can vary within a single open-water period and between years. Only in recent years has there been a noticeable scarcity of narwhal in this areas during mid-summer. This is probably due to increases in shipping traffic in the Area, having impacted the food security of Inuit in Pond Inlet. Migrating narwhal in the later part of the open water period still do pass through the Area.

Koluktoo Bay has been well-known as a narwhal calving area. After calving, some narwhal females and calves remain in Koluktoo, while others disperse in other parts of the Area. All of the Area must be protected from further industrial development and disturbance by ships, smaller vessels and watercraft that may be involved in non-traditional activities.

The Area is also home to many other species that are important components of the environmental integrity and functioning of this complex ecosystem. These species include but are not limited to: Ringed Seals, Bearded Seals, Polar Bears, Arctic Char, Arctic Cod, Greater Snow Geese, King and Common Eiders, Brant, Bowhead Whales, Killer Whales, Gyrfalcons, gulls, terns, seabirds and many others. In recent years, Inuit have noticed declines in the abundance of Arctic char, again suspected to be caused by increasing shipping traffic. Many of the species are utilized directly by Inuit and are also important components of nutritional and cultural Inuit life.

There is evidence that military sonar has negative effects on marine mammals (Cressey 2008). A federal US court has found that the US Navy's use of sonar has illegally harmed numerous populations of whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions (Morell 2015). The use of sonar by any military and other ships, and smaller vessels should be prohibited from the time that they enter Navy Board Inlet from the north and Eclipse Sound until they leave.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Limited Use

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Seismic testing;
- Disposal at sea;
- Sonar
- Related research except Non-Exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiaq, Ukiuq, Upingaksaaq, and Upingaaq.
- Closed to all ship traffic, smaller vessels and watercraft during Aujaq and Ukiaqsaaq, except for emergency search and rescue purposes.
- Closed to tourism activities without prior, informed, written consent from the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization of Pond Inlet.
- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the aerial, marine and terrestrial setbacks 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 – Multiple Values, and Narwhal Calving, Post-calving and Harvesting, Pond Inlet:

The boundaries of the Area are designed to allow passage of some ships outside of the most important Wildlife Harvesting Area, and most important and sensitive habitats for narwhal and other species. The boundaries are described as follows (for clarity, refer to the attached map and shp files):

1. Including all waters in Koluktoo Bay;
2. Extending eastward from the western shore of Milne Inlet to a straight line drawn from the southern tip of Stephens Island to the southeastern point of Bruce Head;
3. Extending eastward from the western shore of Milne Inlet to the western shore of Stephens Island;
4. Extending eastward from the western shore of Milne Inlet at least 6 km and up to a maximum of 7.5 km or half-way across Milne Inlet, starting from the northern tip of Stephens Island and continuing to the mouth of Tremblay Sound;
5. All waters of Tremblay Sound, and extending eastward into Eclipse Sound 7.5 km from the mouth of Tremblay Sound;
6. Extending eastward into Eclipse Sound 7.5 km from the western shore of Eclipse Sound, starting from Alfred Point and continuing to Lavoie Point;
7. Extending eastward from the western shore of Navy Board Inlet at least 5 km and up to a maximum of 7.5 km or half-way across Navy Board Inlet, starting from Lavoie Point and continuing to the mouth of Lancaster Sound.

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

Date: February 10, 2023

Submission QWB 2023-C-19

Updated from 2018 QWB Written Submission No. 25

2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

**Community Area of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Area
(Eclipse Sound), Pond Inlet**

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

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

Background Information:

For generations, the Inuit of Pond Inlet have been actively utilizing and investing in this highly accessible Wildlife Harvesting Area to harvest narwhal, seals, fish, migratory birds, polar bears and other species. The community of Pond Inlet is actively exploring and producing a young turbot fishery in Eclipse Sound. Protection of this very important Area will be important to maintain the health, culture and economy of the Inuit of Pond Inlet. Without protection of the community's Wildlife Harvesting Area in Eclipse Sound, the Nunavut Land Use Plan will fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut's residents, a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

Industrial development, especially oil and gas and seismic testing, would destroy the economic benefits of this accessible Area to the Inuit of Pond Inlet. Such development must be prohibited. There is evident that shipping in Eclipse Sound is already impacting Wildlife Harvesting by Inuit. There is a very urgent need to control and limit shipping in Eclipse Sound.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Limited Use

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Seismic Testing; and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiaq, Ukiuq, Upingaksaag, and Upingaaq.
- Closed to all ship traffic, smaller vessels and watercraft within the green mapped Area during Aujaq and Ukiaqsaaq, except for emergency search and rescue purposes. Specific vessel traffic may be permitted in this zone during Aujaq and Ukiaqsaaq based on advance negotiations with the Mittimatalik HTO and subject to the HTO's prior, informed, written consent.
- Closed to tourism activities without prior, informed, written consent from the Mittimatalik TO.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Area of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Area (Eclipse Sound), Pond Inlet:

See the attached maps and the associated shp files.

Note: The NPC may approach the QWB and HTO of Pond Inlet to discuss possible modifications to the mapped boundaries.

Date: February 10, 2023

Submission QWB 2023-C-20

Updated from 2018 QWB Written Submission No. 28

2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

**Community Areas of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Areas
(Sea-run Fish), All Communities in the Region**

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTOs) of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait, Sanirajak, Igloolik and Sanikiluaq

Background Information:

Arctic Char and other fish are staple foods for Inuit. Fish are extremely important to the health, culture and economy of Inuit throughout Qikiqtaaluk Region. Without adequate protection of the lakes, rivers, and watersheds where Inuit harvest Arctic Char and other species, the Nunavut Land Use Plan would fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut's residents, a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

The Inuit of the Qikiqtaaluk Region utilize specific lakes, rivers and nearby coastal waters to harvest Arctic Char throughout the year. Although the sea-run species that Inuit most commonly fish in these rivers and lakes is Arctic char, Inuit also harvest other species where they are present, including but not limited to: landlocked Arctic char, Arctic cisco (whitefish), lake trout, landlocked cod and fish of uncertain species (e.g., ivisaruk in Stanwell Fletcher Lake).

Sea-run fish must be protected from potential development impacts:

- in the lakes and rivers where Inuit harvest them,
- in the downstream rivers and lakes, and the coastal marine waters through which the fish migrate seasonally, and
- upstream from the fishing areas where development could have detrimental impacts on water flow, sedimentation and effluent on harvested fish and their habitats.

After extensive discussions with HTOs in Qikiqtaaluk Regional, the QWB and HTOs propose a two-level protective regime for sea-run fish in watersheds where Inuit harvest these resources:

- Protected Areas, extending 5 km around each fishing lake and river continuing downstream to the mouth of the river, and out into marine waters from the mouth of each river. These areas may extend beyond watershed boundaries because human

activities on adjacent lands may impact sea-run fish population while the fish are migrating or in marine waters.

- Special Management Areas, extending upstream in the watershed of each fishing lake and river up to 50 km from the farthest upstream fishing area.

Note: Where sea-run fish and landlocked fish co-exist in the same lake and river system, the entire system should be protected as a sea-run watershed.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation 1: Limited Use (LU)

Proposed Restrictions for LU Designation:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

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

Proposed Designation 2: Conditional Use (CU)

Proposed Restrictions for CU Designation:

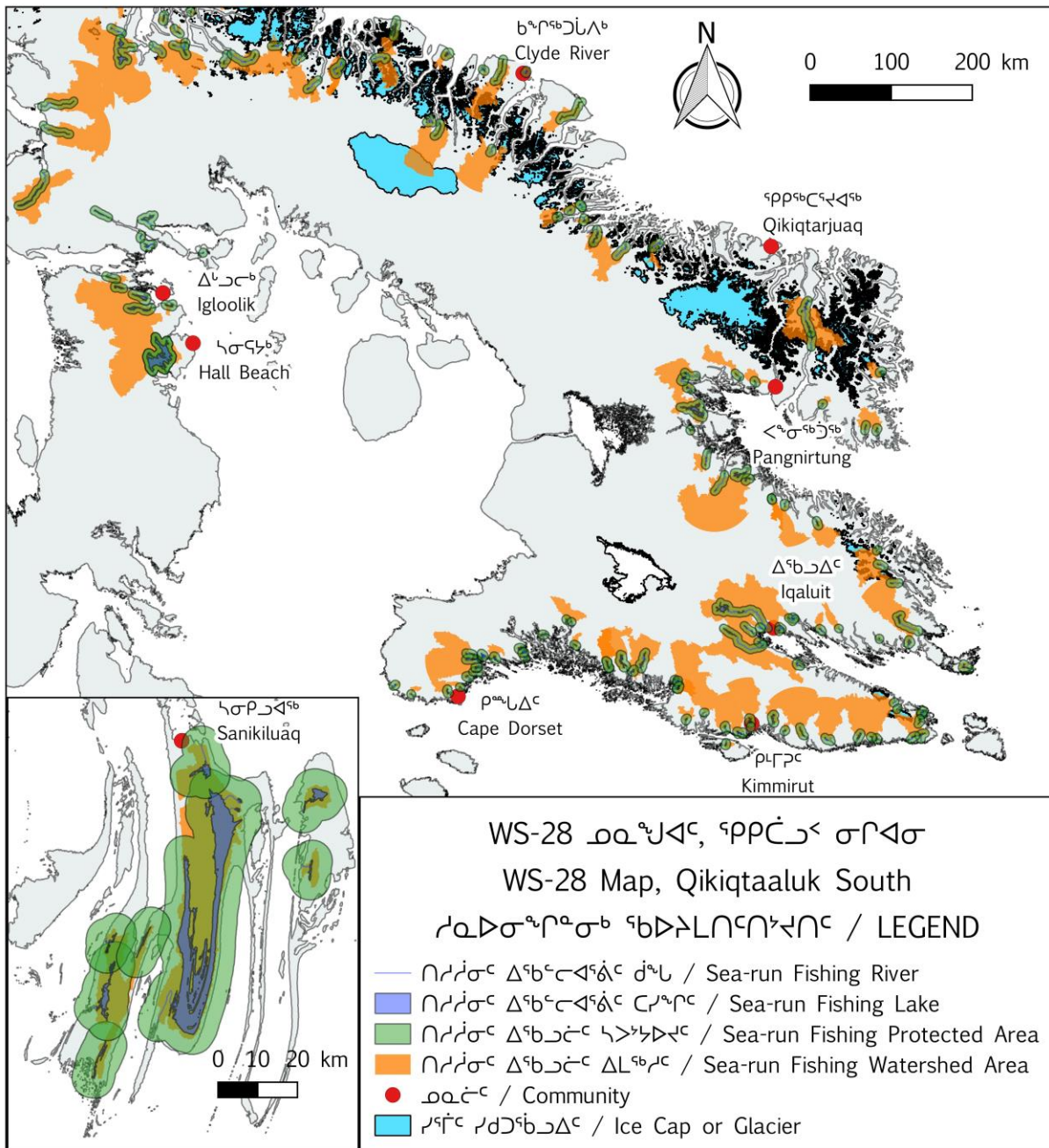
Conditions:

- Within the watershed up to 50 km upstream from any fishing lake or river, any fish populations harvested by Inuit must not be impacted by any of the following land uses:
 - Mineral Exploration and Production;
 - Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
 - Quarries;
 - Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure; and
 - Linear Infrastructure.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Areas of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Areas (Sea-run Fish), All Communities in the Region:

See pairs of Sea-run Fish LU Areas and CU Areas on the attached maps and associated shp files.

Date of this draft: February 10, 2023.



Submission QWB 2023 – C-21

Updated from 2018 QWB Written Submission No. 36

2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Community Areas of Interest – Wildlife Harvesting Areas (Cornwallis and Bathurst Islands), Resolute Bay

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

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

Background Information:

Multiple resources are highly valued by the Inuit of Resolute Bay in four Wildlife Harvesting Areas on and near Cornwallis and Bathurst Islands. One of these areas (36A) is a marine area with islands close to the hamlet of Resolute Bay, and includes Allen Bay and Resolute Passage. Area 36B is a terrestrial and marine area on southeastern Bathurst Island and western McDougall Sound. Area 36C is a terrestrial area on southwestern Bathurst Island, and 36D is a marine area north of Cornwallis Island in Maury Channel.

Without protection of these four areas, plus others, the Nunavut Land Use Plan will 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.

These Wildlife Harvesting Areas are important community areas for harvesting species including but not limited to: ringed, bearded and harp seals, beluga, narwhal, bowhead, walrus, Peary caribou, muskoxen, wolves, snow geese, brant, common and king eiders, Arctic char, and polar bears.

All of these areas are critically important to maintain the health, culture and heritage of the Inuit of Resolute Bay.

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

Special Note for 36A:

The Canadian Coast Guard seems to intentionally and unnecessarily break ice in 36A even though Resolute Bay has asked them to stop. Other agencies have cooperated with the Inuit of

Resolute Bay, and stopped doing research and undertaking other activities in this area. In the opinion of the HTO, some of the Coast Guard's activities pose dangers to public safety, and harass wildlife. Coast Guard ships have been seen moving directly toward whales, as well as engaging in ice breaking in areas where Inuit harvest seals and other wildlife. The Coast Guard is the most prominent agency in terms of disrespect for this critical harvesting area for the community. They could station their ships east of the Hamlet of Resolute Bay, and use their helicopters and other vehicles to access the airport.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation (for all 4 MVAs): Limited Use

Proposed Restrictions for Area 36A:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Quarries;
- Seismic testing;
- Disposal at sea;
- Sonar; and
- All research including but not limited to Non-exploitive Scientific Research.

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiaksaq, Ukiaq, Ukiuq, Upingaksaq and Upingaaq.
- All ice-breaking must be prohibited.
- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the aerial, marine and terrestrial setbacks for all migratory birds, all seabirds, and coastal waterfowl and sea ducks during issuance of permits, licences, and authorizations.
- Any project or activity in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Restrictions for Area 36B:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Seismic testing;
- Disposal at sea;
- Sonar
- 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, year-round.
- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the aerial, marine and terrestrial setbacks for all migratory birds, all seabirds, and coastal waterfowl and sea ducks during 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 walruses. Helicopters should remain at altitudes greater than 910 m (3000 ft) AGL when traveling within 1,610 m (1 mile) of a group of walruses.
- When walruses are present, walruses must not be approached by terrestrial vehicles closer than 800 m (0.5 mile) while the vehicle remains out of sight of the walruses.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Restrictions for Area 36C:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Quarries;
- Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure;
- Linear Infrastructure; and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Restrictions for Area 36D:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Seismic testing;
- Disposal at sea;
- Sonar; and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, year-round.

- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the aerial, marine and terrestrial setbacks 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 – Wildlife Harvesting Areas (Cornwallis and Bathurst Islands), Resolute Bay:

- 36A: Resolute passage, Allen Bay and Resolute Bay and all islands in these waters as per the attached map and associated shp file.
- 36B: Southeastern Bathurst Island from Freemans Cove north to Goodsir Inlet, and McDougall Sound including all waters and islands west of a line drawn from about 3.4 km NNE of Cape Evans to about 1.5 km NE of Brooman Point as per the attached map and associated shp file.
- 36C: Southwestern Bathurst Island extending up to 30 km west of Allison Inlet as per the attached map and associated shp file.
- 36D: Maury Channel between Baillie-Hamilton and Cornwallis islands as per the attached map and associated shp file.

Date: February 10, 2023

