

**Non-Technical Project Summary for  
National Wildlife Area and Migratory Bird Sanctuary**



**ADVENTURE  
CANADA**

**Project Title:** Adventure Canada - Expeditions 2020

**Applicant name and contact information**

Applicant Name: Cedar Bradley-Swan, CEO of Adventure Canada, e:  
cedar@adventurecanada.com

Authorized Secondary Contact: Brittany Manley, Operations Coordinator  
e:brittany@adventurecanada.com

Mailing address: 55 Woodlawn Ave, Mississauga, Ontario, L5G 3K7,  
Phone Number: 1.800.363.7566 x221

Number of personnel and/or visitors that will be covered under the permit

200 passengers

35 expedition staff

100 ship's crew

**Project Objectives**

During our cruises we provide educational travel for Adventure Canada clients. We will provide clients with the opportunity to view and photograph wildlife in a manner that is respectful, educational, and supervised by appropriate guides. Guides onsite will assist in the interpretation of the wildlife and their surroundings.

Project locations, geographical locations, and proposed date. Please see sail plans for proposed travel route.

**Nirjutiqavvik (Coburg Island), 74°1'59N 90°4'59W**

Proposed dates: Currently not in sail plan, if we did go it would likely be between Sept 13<sup>th</sup> - Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as we sail from Devon Island to Grise Fjord. Visit would be 1-4 hours.

**Prince Leopold Island, 74°04'30N 89°58W**

Proposed dates: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 & September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Visit would be 1-4 hours.

**Bylot Island, 73°16N 78°30W (Cape Hay & Tay Bay)**

Proposed dates: August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 & August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Visit would be 1-4 hours.

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**Ninginganiq (Isabella Bay), 69°37N, 67°33W**

Proposed dates: Currently not in sail plan, visit would be 1-4 hours.

**Method of transportation(s)**

1 Expedition cruise vessel, 137 meters x 21 meters, on ship for duration of trip

20 Zodiacs, 14 feet, to transport passengers from ship

Duration: 1 hour to 1 ½ hours for a Zodiac cruise, 5-10 minutes for shuttle to shore for landings at site

4 Single Kayaks, 17 feet for touring, photography & observation from the water

8 Double Kayaks, 19.5 feet for touring, photography & observation from the water

Duration: 2-3 hours for Kayaking in area

**Summary of Activities and rationale**

Zodiac Cruise at Prince Leopold Island, Coburg Island & Isabella Bay

Clients (max 198 & 35 staff) will be in Zodiacs with 10 people in each boat with an average of 18-20 Zodiacs in the water at one time, with a maximum of 20 in the water at one time. We are on average cruising for a max of 1 ½ hours on Zodiacs at each stop. Zodiac cruising will be the main way of viewing wildlife. If weather permits, we will deploy kayak.

We may land at Tay Bay and Kaparoqtalik Glacier on Bylot Island and go on a hike. All passengers will be briefed by staff to leave sites as they were when we land and not to take anything or disturb habitat/wildlife. No structures will be erected at any of the sites. We are obtaining permits with Parks Canada on our visit here.

At all of these locations, we may launch our kayaks if the conditions are favourable. We will follow an approved kayak guide to kayaker ratio.

As a cruise operator, we hope to visit these areas for the duration of our permit in the summer months from July to October. We will comply with the Guidelines for Seabird Colony Viewing for Cruise Ships set out by Environment Canada. As well we will comply with the Canadian Wildlife Service Guidelines for Visiting Seabird Colonies. We will comply with Federal whale-watching regulations while protected areas and we will comply with any recommendations given by HTO and community boards.

Adventure Canada wishes to carry out Scuba Diving and snorkelling activities during the 2020 season in conjunction with the Sedna project. All divers will have advanced certification, and appropriate certifications

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for cold water diving such as dry suit certifications as per Adventure Canada's criteria. Safety of divers and sites are an utmost importance. The decision to dive will be based on the Dive Master, Expedition Leader and Captain each day depending on favourable wind, weather and ice conditions. They will assess to determine best dive location in area for safety. All dive/snorkel's will be logged and recorded by Dive Master. There will be a ratio of one Dive Master to six participants, With a maxim of 14 divers in total.

**Additional equipment:** Oxygen Tank for divers, 16 tanks with 10.94 liters each

For all dive sites the following protocol will be followed;

- Before the dive all divers/snorkelers will have a full safety and site briefing with Dive Master.
- Another safety/dive briefing will also occur on Zodiac just before entering the water.
- Prior to divers entering the water, an electronic or manual sounding will occur to determine depths.
- Oxygen and First Aid kit will be readily available.
- A recall device will be in each Zodiac at all times, along with a throw line.
- Diver Delay Surface Marker Buoy's will be used per buddy team.
- There will be a bear monitor (with firearm) at each dive site to keep watch for potential polar bear threat.
- There will be no more than 6 divers/snorkelers in the water per Dive Master.
- Two Dive Masters will be running the operation to ensure safe and professional diving/snorkeling.
- All divers will dive in buddies.
- Warm water in coolers will be kept in Zodiac

Diving/snorkeling at the site will be based on the decision of the Expedition Leader, Captain and Dive Master. The site will be based on good visibility and safety within the location. All rules and regulations as per CWS guidelines and recommendations will be followed. The integrity and safety of the CWS site will be of utmost importance. The depth of the dive will not exceed 60 feet at this site to ensure safety. There will be no more than 6 divers/snorkelers in the water per Dive Master. With a maximum of 14 divers. Each diver will have a single tank, with dry suite and will be in the water no-more that 45 minutes. Dive flags will be used at site of



dive to ensure safety and the dive site will not be close to any other boat traffic area with passengers visiting the site. ROV may be used for filming purposes.

### **Waste Disposal**

Waste that will be produced:

Oil: Approximately 0.3 cbm per week, disposal method is per ship plan in accordance with Marpol Annex I

Sewage: Approximately 20 cbm per week, disposal method is per ship plan in accordance with Marpol Annex IV

Garbage: approx. 8 cbm per week, disposal method is per ship plan in accordance with Marpol Annex V

### **Potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures**

Species at risk: Ivory Gull, Polar Bear, Ringed Seal

With the number of passengers (198 at a time) kayaks and Zodiacs in the water (approx. 18-20 at a time) there is the potential of disturbance or stress on the wildlife we are visiting. Oil spill is also a potential hazard that could endanger large number of sea bird and marine mammals as well as their feeding grounds.

As listed above we will follow all guidelines set in place by AECO. We will comply with the Guidelines for Seabird Colony Viewing for Cruise Ships set out by Environment Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service Guidelines for Visiting Seabird Colonies. We will follow federal and local guidelines set out for whale watching set out for whale watching in Ninginganik area. We will also follow any recommendations set forth from the communities, and the Hunters and Trappers Organizations.

There will be no storage, refueling, disposal or transport of fuel or waste within the sanctuaries and wildlife areas. We will also ensure that all Marpol regulations are followed. In addition to this, we will educate all passengers on proper behavior when viewing wildlife. All of our staff are also charged with monitoring behaviour at all sites we visit.



There is the potential of disturbance or stress on the wildlife. We have strict criteria and mitigation in place to ensure all divers have experience to minimize the potential harm to the underwater world. This would include items such as proper awareness of buoyance. In addition, all diving will be from a Zodiac and there will be no shoreline disturbance.

**Measures to avoid dangerous wildlife encounters**

Prior to any landing, kayak excursion or Zodiac cruise, our expedition team will scout the area to ensure it is clear of dangerous wildlife. If the site is on land, polar bear monitors will go out first to scout and set a safe perimeter. Once clear, staff will come ashore and then passengers. Bear monitors will stay in set locations for duration of visit and will be the last to leave a site. If a bear is spotted, landing site evacuation will commence. For the kayak excursions, we will have a Zodiac driver follow the group and carry a firearm.

For diving, there will be a bear monitor (with firearm) at each dive site to keep watch for potential polar bear threat. There will be no more than 6 divers/snorkelers in the water per Dive Master. A recall device will be in each Zodiac at all times, along with a throw line.

**Community consultation and involvement**

We plan to connect with associated communities regarding our visits to the associated CWS sites by phone in the months between November – December. If we are unable to connect by phone and email will be sent.

Name of Group	Contact	How	Participating?
Grise Fiord Hunters and Trappers Organization	Chariman: Amon Akeeagok	Monday, January 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2020. Phone call: Spoke with Office manager Inger-lise Christ and she advised me to send request via email to Chairman Amon. Email sent on January 7th, 2020 with English	Awaiting response

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		& Inuktitut translation of non-technical summary.	
Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Organization	Reception	Monday, January 6th, 2020.  Phone call: No answer, left voice mail. Email sent on January 7th, 2020 with English & Inuktitut translation of non-technical summary.	Awaiting response
Resolute Bay Hunters & Trappers Association	Philip Manik	January 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2019: Spoke with Philp on the phone. He said CSW manages this site and will receive our details directly from them. Any recommendations CWS makes he will follow. Follow for future years	Did not want to receive emails from us regarding our activities. Will follow any guidelines from CWS
Mittimatalik Hunters Band Trappers Organization	Amy Killkipee	January 6th, 2020: called, no answer. Email sent on January 7th, 2020 with Inuktitut translation of non-technical summary.	Awaiting response