

Written Submission No. 01

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Additions to:

On-Ice Marine Transportation Routes

Qikiqtaaluk Region

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, Sanikiluaq, Hall Beach and Igloolik

Background Information:

From freeze-up to break-up, Inuit use many routes on the sea ice throughout Qikiqtaaluk Region. During winter and spring, these sea-ice routes are critical for travel between communities and harvesting. Inuit use these routes to access areas on land, on and under the sea ice, and at and beyond the floe edge to harvest many species of seals, whales, fishes and migratory birds, as well as caribou, polar bears and walrus.

Throughout winter and during early break-up, it is critical for the nutrition and health of all Inuit that the sea ice remain unaffected by ice breakers and other shipping along these routes. Inuit harvest wildlife across wide areas of sea ice between these main routes, and therefore, it is important that shipping does not disturb or break ice between the mapped routes.

These routes must be protected from ice-breaking activity of ships, regardless of the ships' ownership or purpose. This includes the Canadian or other Coast Guard or military vessels, tourism-related ships, cargo ships, exploration or survey ships, and any other ships with potential ice-breaking capabilities.

The locations of the floe edges change throughout each winter, as well as from year to year. Inuit search for marine wildlife on ice routes along most floe edges throughout Qikiqtaaluk Region, wherever those changing floe edges may happen to be at any given time. Routes along floe edges would obviously be very approximate and subject to annual and seasonal changes. Ships should not break ice at or near any floe edge without prior, informed and written consent from all of the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) within 250 km. HTO Directors are

often on the sea ice, at the floe edge or elsewhere, and therefore may not be available to respond without notice several months in advance. Lack of response from an HTO can never be assumed to indicate consent.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Special Management Area

Proposed Restrictions:

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiaq, Ukiuq, Upingaksaq, and Upingaaq.
- All floe edges are closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiaq, Ukiuq, Upingaksaq, and Upingaaq without prior, informed and written consent from all of the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) and Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs) within 300 km, and subject to any conditions requested by the HTOs and RWOs. Lack of response from an HTO or RWO does not indicate consent.
- Any project in Nunavut that involves shipping that would violate these conditions is prohibited.
- This condition may be waived through submission of a robust ice-bridging plan.

Description of Area Boundaries and Mapping:

Routes are as indicated on the attached maps, and associated shp files.

Date of this draft: November 21, 2018



