

Written Submission No. 14

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Amendments:

Table 2: Migratory Bird Setbacks

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

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

Background Information:

Migratory seabirds, waterfowl and others are important nutritional, cultural and economic resources for Inuit and their culture. These birds are also vital components of the ecology of healthy marine environments in Qikiqtaaluk Region.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) informs Inuit about actions that humans should follow within and near coastal migratory birds to maintain their healthy populations. We hereby recommend important changes to Table 2 appearing on pages 81 and 82 of the 2016 draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP) before the NLUP is finalized. These changes should be applied within all of Qikiqtaaluk region, and potentially elsewhere in Nunavut depending on IQ teachings in other areas.

Young seabirds and coastal waterfowl are unable to fly for most, if not all, of July and August. During this period, they spend much of their time in the water, on ice floes near their nesting sites, and within their nesting areas. Adults are also flightless for 1-2 months during the summer. The young are especially naive about how to avoid boats and ships, and may be unable to respond to boats and ships so as to avoid death and injury. Adults may be also put themselves at risk while they attempt to protect their offspring. While flightless, they often dive to avoid ships and boats and may be sucked into propellers and trapped or struck by boats and ships, and then killed or injured. Also, groups of people should not approach nesting birds on the land in ways that may cause them to escape into the water.

Based on IQ, adequate marine setbacks will require ships to remain at least 1.5 km from all nesting colonies of seabirds, coastal waterfowl and seaducks (i.e., all categories of migratory birds except ivory gulls). Marine setbacks of at least 1.5 km should apply to “All migratory

Birds” since they are most likely to be in one of the other categories in a marine environment. Motorized zodiacs, kayaks and other small launch vessels should adhere to the following requirements:

- Remain at least 500 m from any birds in the water without restricted speed, and
- Remain at least 300 m from any birds in the water and a maximum speed of 3.5 km/h (i.e., 1.9 knots) when 300-500 m from birds.

Again, these setbacks should apply to

Terrestrial setbacks should require people to remain at least 500 m from concentrations of birds for all categories of migratory birds except ivory gulls. Please note that we assume that if a zodiac, kayak, boat, and other small launch vessel goes around birds in the water to land at or near a colony or moulting area, then the people would be immediately restricted to remain at least 500 m for any groups of birds. If that is not the case, then this should be specified in Table 2.

Further, in the preamble for Table or as an additional setback, it should state that wind turbines for electrical generation should be prohibited within 10 km of migratory bird nesting areas until they can be proven to be safe for birds and will not impact the activities of Inuit in these areas.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

Proposed Amended Restrictions:

Amendments to Table 2 (2016 draft NLUP, pages 81-82):

Bird Group	Aerial Setbacks	Marine Setbacks	Terrestrial Setbacks
All Migratory Birds	No amendments	SEASONAL (WHEN BIRDS ARE PRESENT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 km setback for ships from seabird colonies when birds are present • 500 m setback from seabirds in water without speed restriction for zodiacs, kayaks, boats, and other small launch vessels 300 m setback from seabirds in water with a maximum speed of 3.5 km/hr (1.9 knots) within 500 m for zodiacs, kayaks, boats, and other small launch vessels	SEASONAL (WHEN BIRDS ARE PRESENT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 m setback from concentrations of birds (e.g. bird breeding colonies and moulting areas)

All Seabirds	No amendments	SEASONAL (WHEN BIRDS ARE PRESENT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 km setback for ships from seabird colonies when birds are present • 500 m setback from seabirds in water without speed restriction for zodiacs, kayaks, boats, and other small launch vessels • 300 m setback from seabirds in water with a maximum speed of 3.5 km/hr (1.9 knots) within 500 m for zodiacs, kayaks, boats, and other small launch vessels 	No amendments
Ivory Gulls	No amendments	No amendments	No amendments
Coastal waterfowl and Seaducks	No amendments	SEASONAL (WHEN BIRDS ARE PRESENT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 km setback for ships from seaduck colonies and moulting aggregations of seaducks and coastal waterfowl • 500 m setback from seaducks and coastal waterfowl in water without speed restriction for zodiacs, kayaks, boats, and other small launch vessels • 300 m setback from seaducks and coastal waterfowl in water with a maximum speed of 3.5 km/hr (1.9 knots) within 500 m for zodiacs, kayaks, boats, and other small launch vessels 	No amendments

References:

Schuster, E., Bulling, L. and Köppel. 2015. Consolidating the State of Knowledge: A Synoptical Review of Wind Energy's Wildlife Effects. *J. Environmental Management* 56: 300.

Tabassum-Abbasi, M.T, T. Abbasi and S.A. Abbasi. 2014. Wind energy: Increasing deployment, rising environmental concerns. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 31: 270-288.

Wang, S. and S. Wang. 2015. Impacts of wind energy on environment: A review. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*. 49: 437-443.

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