

Written Submission No. 17

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

Community Areas of Interest – Seabird Harvesting

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

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

Background Information:

There are several important seabird nesting and feeding areas known to Inuit that are not protected under 2016 draft NLUP. These areas are important to several species of seabird. The main species at each site are listed, but other seabird and waterfowl species may also occur at these sites. These seabirds are an important to the health, well-being and culture of Inuit throughout Qikiqtaaluk region.

These islands and coastal areas can be expected to draw increased attention from tourists and others as boat, yacht and ship traffic increases throughout the region. These locally important populations will be at risk to increased harassment and pollution if not protected.

Without protection of these important seabird areas, the Nunavut Land Use Plan will fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of Nunavut's residents and communities, which is a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

Because several species of migratory birds occur in these areas, all setbacks for all types of migratory birds should apply at each site.

Three seabird colonies near Pond Inlet are designated as Key Migratory Bird Habitat at Cape Graham Moore and in Buchan Gulf, but because of their importance to the Inuit of Pond Inlet, we are requesting that they are also recognized as Community Areas of Interest.

Special Note: The QWB and the HTOs have chosen not to indicate these areas as Key Migratory Bird Sites (KMBS). In section 2.1, the 2016 draft NLUP sets criteria for KMBS based on percentages of a species national population or on recognition of critical habitat under the

federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). These KMBS criteria consider the interests of all Canadians, but do not “... protect and promote the existing and future well being of those persons ordinarily resident and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area” (Nunavut Final Agreement Article 11, Section 11.2.1 (b)). In order to meet that objective, IQ and needs of Inuit in the communities must be taken fully into account.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Special Management Area

Proposed Restrictions:

Conditions:

- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the aerial, marine and terrestrial setbacks in a modified Table 2¹ for all migratory birds, all seabirds, and coastal waterfowl and sea ducks during issuance of permits, licences, and authorizations.
- Wind turbines for electrical generation should be prohibited within 10 km of seabirds nesting areas until they can be proven to be safe for seabirds and will not impact Inuit harvesting.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Boundaries of Community Areas of Interest – Seabird Harvesting:

The following table gives the map numbers and general location of these important seabird nesting and feeding areas, as shown on the attached maps and the associated shp files.

Seabird Nesting Site #	Description of Location	Species Present
17A	Cape Hotham, Cornwallis Island	Thick-billed Murres and Black Guillemots
17B	Southern Griffith Island	Thick-billed Murres and Black Guillemots
17C	Browne Island	Black-legged Kittiwakes
17D	Button Point and Cape Graham Moore, Bylot Island	Black-legged Kittiwakes and Thick-billed Murres

¹ Modified Table 2 refers to a version of Table 2 that incorporates modifications recommended in Written Submission No. 14 from the QWB and its associated HTOs.

17E	Buchan Gulf, Baffin Island	Northern Fulmars
17F	Qaqqulluit (at head of Exeter Sound south of Cape Dyer, NOT Qaqqulluit National Wildlife Area which is north of Cape Dyer)	Northern Fulmars and Glaucous Gulls
17G	East and South of Imigen Island (10 islands), Cumberland Sound	Thick-billed Murres and Black Guillemots

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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