

Written Submission No. 21

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

**Community Area of Interest –Multiple Values and Narwhal Calving,
Post-calving and Harvesting, 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 Calving, Post-calving and Harvesting Area (PINCHA) refers to 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).

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

PINCHA is a critical area for both summering and migratory narwhal, 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 PINCHA. Koluktoo Bay is well-known as a narwhal calving area. After calving, some narwhal females and calves remain in Koluktoo, while others disperse in other parts of PINCHA. All of PINCHA must be protected from industrial development and disturbance by ships, smaller vessels and watercraft that may be involved in non-traditional activities.

PINCHA 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. Many of these 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: Protected Area

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, Upingaksaag, 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 Mittimatilik Hunters and Trappers Organization of Pond Inlet.
- 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.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

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.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Area of Interest – Multiple Values, and Narwhal Calving, Post-calving and Harvesting, Pond Inlet:

The boundaries of the PINCHA is 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

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