

**Written Submission No. 22**

**2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan**

**Proposed Land Use Designation:**

**Community Area of Interest – Clearwater Beluga Calving and Post-Calving**

**To:** The Nunavut Planning Commission

**From:** The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and  
the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) of Pangnirtung

**Background Information:**

Cumberland Sound beluga are a distinct population of beluga that remain in or near Cumberland Sound year-round. In recent years, science has started to finally agree with the extensive Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) about this population; however, more is known about the population than science. Government considers this population to be “threatened”.

Cumberland Sound beluga is a keystone species for the maintenance of Inuit culture and well-being for the community of Pangnirtung. It is also a keystone species for the functioning, resilience and well-being of the marine ecology of Cumberland Sound itself. The Inuit of Pangnirtung have their own system of rules and best practices to protect this vital population.

Clearwater Fiord and nearby inlets comprise the only known calving and post-calving habitats for this population. During the calving and post-calving season, the beluga are very sensitive to disturbance by humans.

The 2016 draft NLUP failed to give any protection for the critical beluga calving and post-calving area of Clearwater Fiord and nearby inlets. Any industrial development in or near this area will threaten an already officially “threatened” population.

Without protection of the waters and islands at the head of Cumberland Sound, the final Nunavut Land Use Plan would fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut’s residents and communities as a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

**Source of information:** Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

**Proposed Designation:** Protected Area

**Proposed Restrictions:**

**Prohibited Uses:** The following uses are prohibited:

- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Seismic Testing;
- Sonar;
- Disposal at sea;
- Obnoxious Land Use;
- Quarries;
- Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure;
- Linear Infrastructure;
- Tourism and
- Related research except Non-Exploitive Scientific Research

**Conditions:**

- Closed to all ship traffic, smaller vessels and watercraft year-round.

**Proposed Boundaries of the Community Area of Interest – Clearwater Beluga Calving and Post-Calving:**

The waters and islands of Clearwater Fiord and nearby inlet at the head of Cumberland Sound, as per the attached maps and the associated shp files.

**Date of this draft:** October 17, 2018

