

Written Submission No. 23

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

Community Area of Interest – Kingnait Bowhead Calving and Mating

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

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

Background Information:

Bowhead whales have calved and mated in the waters of eastern Cumberland Sound since time immemorial. Extensive knowledge about these whales has been passed on among Inuit of Pangnirtung and their ancestors for generations, in keeping with the oral traditions of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ). Beginning Over 175 years ago, European whalers began to commercially exploit these and other marine mammals of Cumberland Sound, based out of the station on Kekerten Island. In less than 100 years, Europeans and Americans had depleted these important whales of Cumberland Sound.

Nevertheless, the bowhead remained a keystone species for the 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 for protection of this vital population.

The waters of eastern Cumberland Sound including Kingnait and 2 smaller fiords are critical to the maintenance of this population. During the open-water calving and mating season, the bowheads are very sensitive to disturbance by humans.

The 2016 draft NLUP failed to give any protection for these critical bowhead areas. Any industrial and tourism development in or near this area will threaten this important population. Without protection of these waters and islands, 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, and smaller vessels and watercraft year-round.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Area of Interest – Kingnait Bowhead Calving and Mating:

The waters and islands of Kingnait Fiord, Iqalujjuaq Fiord, Kangiqtuapik and Kangiqturjuaq, and associated islands and waters in eastern Cumberland, as per the attached maps and associated shp files.

As per the attached map and shp files, this protected area excludes Kekertan Island and the waters immediately west of Kekertan Island solely for the purpose of tourism and park maintenance access to the historic site.

Date of this draft: October 18, 2018

