

Written Submission No. 24

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Amendments to Site # 136 (including renaming):

Community Area of Interest – Cumberland Sound Turbot Fishing and Beluga Migration and Wintering

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

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

Background Information:

The draft 2016 Nunavut Land Use Plan suggested designation of Site # 136 as a Cumberland Sound Turbot Area as a Special Management Area with very few land use restrictions. This draft designation and level of protection was woefully inadequate.

Below is a bulleted list of the features and amendments that should be added:

- The Sound should be recognized as a Community Area of Interest based on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.
- The name of the designation should better reflect the importance of beluga whales.
- The wintering areas used by beluga should be added to the area.
- The entire area should be protected from shipping from Ukiaq to Upingaaq.
- Beluga, bowheads and other marine mammals and birds migrate throughout the Sound.
- Islands in the Sound should be protected from industrial development as this would impact the marine environment.

The 2016 draft NLUP failed to give adequate protection to the Sound. 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.

Below we describe the designation and restrictions for this area that should be implemented in the final NLUP.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit

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; and
- Related research except Non-Exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic during Ukiq, Ukiuq, Upingaksaq and Upingaaq.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Area of Interest – Cumberland Sound Turbot Fishing and Beluga Wintering and Migration

The waters and islands of Cumberland Sound and its fiords, inlets and bays, and the Beluga wintering area in Davis Strait, as per the attached maps and associated shp files.

Note: It is assumed that the Clearwater Beluga Calving and Post-calving Area (WS 22), and the Kingnait Bowhead Calving and Mating Area (WS 23) will also be designated in the final NLUP to recognize their special values and the prohibition of shipping during Aujaq and Ukiaksaq in those areas.

Date of this draft: October 18, 2018

