

**Written Submission No. 28**

**2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan**

**Proposed Land Use Designation:**

**Community Area of Interest – Sea-run Fish Harvesting**

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTOs) of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, Igloolik and Sanikiluaq

**Background Information:**

Arctic Char and other fish are staple foods for Inuit. Fish are extremely important to the health, culture and economy of Inuit throughout Qikiqtaaluk Region. Without adequate protection of the lakes, rivers, and watersheds where Inuit harvest Arctic Char and other species, the Nunavut Land Use Plan would fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut's residents, a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

The Inuit of the Qikiqtaaluk Region utilize specific lakes, rivers and nearby coastal waters to harvest Arctic Char throughout the year. Although the sea-run species that Inuit most commonly fish in these rivers and lakes is Arctic char, Inuit also harvest other species where they are present, including but not limited to: landlocked Arctic char, Arctic cisco (whitefish), lake trout, landlocked cod and fish of uncertain species (e.g., ivisaruk in Stanwell Fletcher Lake).

Sea-run fish must be protected from potential development impacts:

- in the lakes and rivers where Inuit harvest them,
- in the downstream rivers and lakes, and the coastal marine waters through which the fish migrate seasonally, and
- upstream from the fishing areas where development could have detrimental impacts on water flow, sedimentation and effluent on harvested fish and their habitats.

After extensive discussions with HTOs in Qikiqtaaluk Regional, the QWB and HTOs propose a two-level protective regime for sea-run fish in watersheds where Inuit harvest these resources:

- Protected Areas, extending 5 km around each fishing lake and river continuing downstream to the mouth of the river, and out into marine waters from the mouth of each river. These areas may extend beyond watershed boundaries because human activities on adjacent lands may impact sea-run fish population while the fish are migrating or in marine waters.
- Special Management Areas, extending upstream in the watershed of each fishing lake and river up to 50 km from the farthest upstream fishing area.

Note: Where sea-run fish and landlocked fish co-exist in the same lake and river system, the entire system should be protected as a sea-run watershed.

**Source of information:** Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

**Proposed Designation 1:** Protected Area (PA)

**Proposed Restrictions for PA Designation:**

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

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Quarries;
- Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure;
- Linear Infrastructure;
- Seismic Testing;
- Disposal at Sea; and
- Related research except Non-Exploitive Scientific Research

**Proposed Designation 2:** Special Management Area (SMA)

**Proposed Restrictions for SMA Designation:**

**Conditions:**

- Within the watershed up to 50 km upstream from any fishing lake or river, any fish populations harvested by Inuit must not be impacted by any of the following land uses:
  - Mineral Exploration and Production;
  - Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
  - Quarries;
  - Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure; and
  - Linear Infrastructure.

- Any project in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

**Proposed Boundaries of the Community Areas of Interest – Sea-run Fish Harvesting:**

See pairs of Sea-run Fish Protected Areas and Special Management Areas on the attached maps and associated shp files.

**Date of this draft:** November 9, 2018.



