

Written Submission No. 30

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

Community Area of Interest – Multiple Values:

Blunt Peninsula – Loks Land

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and
the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) of Iqaluit

Background Information:

Multiple resources that are highly valued by the Inuit of Iqaluit occur on the land and in the adjacent waters of Blunt Peninsula, Loks Land and nearby islands (i.e., a Multiple Value Area, MVA). The important waters extend to at least 8 km from Blunt Peninsula, Loks Land and the outer-most associated islands.

Without protection of this area, plus others near Iqaluit, the Nunavut Land Use Plan will 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.

Throughout the year, this MVA is an important community harvesting area for wildlife and fish, including but not limited to: polar bears, beluga, walrus, Arctic char, waterfowl, and other species. The area is also a known denning area for polar bears.

The protection of this MVA is critically important to maintain the health, culture and heritage of the Inuit of Iqaluit. Industrial development in or near these areas would degrade the value of the area. Such development must be prohibited.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Protected Area

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Obnoxious Land Use;
- Quarries;
- Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure;
- Wind turbines for electrical generation and related infrastructure;
- Linear Infrastructure;
- Seismic testing;
- Disposal at sea;
- Sonar; and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiq, Ukiuq, Upingaksaq, and Upingaq.
- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the setbacks in Table 2 (as amended based on WS-14 from the QWB and member HTOs) for all seabirds, and coastal waterfowl and sea ducks during the issuance of permits, licences, and authorizations.
- No vessel may approach within five (5) km seaward of a walrus haul-out, any time during the year.
- When walrus are present, fixed wing aircraft must maintain a minimum vertical setback of 460 m (1500 ft) above ground level (AGL) while within 310 m (1000 ft) of a group of walrus. Helicopters should remain at altitudes greater than 910 m (3000 ft) AGL when traveling within 1,610 m (1 mile) of a group of walrus.
- When walrus are present, walrus must not be approached by terrestrial vehicles closer than 800 m (0.5 mile) while the vehicle remains out of sight of the walrus.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Area of Interest – Multiple Values: Blunt Peninsula-Loks Land:

As per the attached maps and associated shp files.

References:

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