



Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission

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Commission
d'aménagement
de la région marine
du Nunavik

Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission (NMRPC)

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Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators

Frigg Jørgensen, Executive Director: [frigg\(a\)aeco.no](mailto:frigg(a)aeco.no)

Grønnegata 53, 9008 Tromsø, Norway

March 17, 2023

RE: Arctic Expedition Cruise activity in the Nunavik Marine Region

We are providing this letter as a reminder to the Association and its members of their obligations under the Nunavik Inuit Land Claim Agreement (NILCA) as it relates to the regulation of physical works and physical activities within the Marine Region (NMR). Any project proposed for the NMR, including tourism and expedition cruise ships, including research expeditions, must go through the regulatory processes prescribed in the NILCA before they can commence.

The NMR includes the offshore region abutting northern Quebec and northern Labrador, including portions of James Bay, Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, and Ungava Bay. The NMR includes overlapping interest areas with the Cree of Eeyou Itschee and the Nunavik Inuit/Labrador Inuit Overlap Areas. See the enclosed map for assistance.

The Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission (NMRPC) is the first point of entry into the NILCA NMR regulatory process. Proponents are required to submit their project proposal to the NMRPC. Once a project proposal is received the NMRPC assesses project proposals to determine and ensure their conformity with a Marine Use Plan (NILCA section 6.4.4 (k)) and to determine whether a project is exempt from screening by the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board (NMRIRB) (NILCA 7.3.2, 7.3.5). In the absence of an approved Marine Use Plan for the NMR the NMRPC role is limited to assessing project proposals in accordance with 7.3.2 of the NILCA and to assess whether a project is exempt or not from screening by the NMRIRB, as per Schedule 7-1 of the NILCA. Projects that are not exempt from screening are forwarded to the NMRIRB and subject to screening by the NMRIRB. No licences can be issued by government departments or agencies prior to the completion of the process prescribed under the NILCA.

The NMRPC and NMRIRB process requires meaningful and effective engagement with rights holders and other interested parties as per the NILCA, and in accordance with the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice. As such the process can take several weeks and even months, depending on the nature of the activity. Therefore, the NMRPC cautions proponents to be mindful of the timelines in place and to submit proposals for the 2023 season with that in mind.

In addition to the obligations of proponents with respect to the NMRPC and the NMRIRB, we remind you of the obligations of proponents when it comes to the regulation of Entry and Access to Nunavik Inuit owned land. Entry and Access permits are granted by the landowners themselves. In the case of the islands in the NMR the majority (80%) are owned in fee simple by Makivvik Corporation (Article 12 of the NILCA) on behalf of the Nunavik Inuit. Therefore, a proponent wishing to enter and access those lands as part of their project will have to seek permission from Makivvik in accordance with Article 12 of the NILCA and Makivvik's own policies and procedures.

Please note that Makivvik, as well as the Federal and Territorial agencies and/or departments associated with the approval of the types of projects you commonly undertake have been copied on this correspondence.

We will forward by email following this letter the guidelines we currently have in place for project proposals. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Janelle Kennedy

Executive Director

Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission

jkennedy@nmrpc.ca

CC:

- Billy Dan May, Chairperson, Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission (NMRPC)
- Barrie Ford, Chairperson, Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board (NMRIRB)
- Adam Lewis, Executive Director, NMRIRB
- Honorable Marc Miller, Minister, Crown-Indigenous Relations (CIRNAC), Canada
- Honorable Dan Vandal, Minister, Northern Affairs (CIRNAC), Canada
- Honorable Pamela Hakongak Gross, Minister, Department of Culture and Heritage, Government of Nunavut
- Honorable Joyce Murray, Minister, Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard (DFO), Canada
- Adamie Delisle Alaku, Executive Vice-President, Makivvik Corporation
- Gregor Gilbert, Political Advisor, Makivvik Corporation