

July 9, 2018

National Advisory Panel Secretariat
Oceans Management
Aquatic Ecosystems Sector
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

RE: response to the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area (MPA) Standards

Since time immemorial, the Inuvialuit have managed the resources which they depend on with the intent of maintaining healthy environments and wildlife populations for future generations (Section 2, Definition of "Conservation", Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) 1984). This precautionary environmental and wildlife management approach of the Inuvialuit is incorporated in the IFA, which explicitly establishes the protection and preservation of the arctic wildlife, environment and biological productivity as a Principle of the agreement. Many conservation initiatives were negotiated under the IFA including: the Pingo Canadian Landmark, the Nelson Head Canadian Landmark, the Husky Lakes / Cape Bathurst Areas, the Herschel Island Yukon Territorial Park, and Ivvavik National Park; emphasizing the investment of the Inuvialuit in conservation.

Since the signing of the IFA in 1984, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) work diligently to ensure that the economic and conservation goals of IFA are implemented effectively. The IFA established an environmental impact assessment and wildlife management regime where Inuvialuit and Government work cooperatively to achieve sound decisions related to wildlife and harvest management in the ISR. Specific to the management of fisheries in the ISR the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) was established to assist Canada and the Inuvialuit in administering the rights and obligations under the IFA and advises the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) on all matters related to fisheries within the ISR (IFA 1984). It is through these cooperative management organizations that the Inuvialuit and Canada continue to be guardians for the Arctic environment. IGC, IRC and DFO have subsequently established two (2) marine protected areas within the ISR in accordance with Canada's Oceans Act. The Tarniutit Marine Protected Area (TN MPA) was designated in 2010 and is currently undergoing a six (6) year review of the management and monitoring plans. The Anguniaqvia Niqiqyuam Marine Protected Area (ANMPA) was designated in 2016 and is the first MPA with a conservation objective based solely on Traditional Knowledge (TK).

The IRC, IGC, DFO, and the local Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) have endorsed the creation of the two (2) existing MPAs in the ISR and provide oversight to the day-to-day management of MPAs which occurs through a cooperative steering committee and working group structure. Each MPA has a working group (TNMPA and ANMPA Working groups) consisting of representatives from local HTC and FJMC. The Working Groups provide input on management and monitoring activities within their respective MPA's to the Western Arctic Marine Protected Area Steering Committee (WAMPA SC). The WAMPA SC is comprised of one (1) member each from DFO Science, DFO Oceans, DFO Northern Operations, FJMC, and the Chairs of each of the TNMPA and ANMPA working groups and provides guidance for MPA management and coordination among MPA's in the ISR.

Both the IRC and IGC feel strongly that the co-management system as outlined in the IFA is the only appropriate and proven method to be followed should any Government desire to pursue any new environmental and/or wildlife conservation efforts in the ISR, including the development of a new MPA. It is the position of the Inuvialuit, as per section 14. (4) of the IFA, that "the effective integration of the Inuvialuit into all bodies, functions and decisions

pertaining to wildlife and land management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region is the most effective means for protecting and preserving the Arctic wildlife, environment and biological productivity”.

The current process for establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the ISR, which ensures Inuvialuit involvement in all stages of development, has seen the successful establishment of two (2) MPAs. These successes do not come without their challenges. The Inuvialuit have continuing concerns regarding the implementation and management of the existing MPA's, specifically, the lack of sufficient resources and capacity in the ISR to manage and monitor the MPA's, and the need to identify consistent and long-term indicators for monitoring the health of the MPA's. The Inuvialuit gave up certain development opportunities in the interest of conservation through the establishment of the current MPA's within the ISR. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to the Inuvialuit that the MPA's are provided adequate resources to meet their conservation objectives. The value of these MPA's to Canada must be quantifiable to the Inuvialuit because they are assuming the sacrifice in the name of conservation. The newly established Marine Protected Area Coordinator position with the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat works closely with Inuvialuit organizations and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to address some of these ongoing issues.

As you may be aware, there are currently several research projects being completed under the Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (RSEA) that will provide the baseline information for a strategic assessment of industrial development operations in the Beaufort Sea. The strategic assessment that results from RSEA will position Inuvialuit organizations and the Canada to make informed decisions regarding industrial development, including oil and gas operations, increased shipping, and other environmental stressors in the Beaufort Sea. The IRC and the IGC have expressed the importance of incorporating the results of RSEA into future decisions regarding resource use and/or development in the Beaufort Sea. Furthermore, IRC and IGC have advised that until the results of RSEA are made available and the concerns regarding the management and monitoring of current MPA's are addressed, initiatives to identify future areas for marine protection shall be postponed.

The 'Guidelines for Applying the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas' are vague in their descriptions of the mechanisms to be employed in applying such categories. It is the position of the Inuvialuit that the application of national or international categories to marine protected areas within the ISR must flow through the cooperative wildlife and harvest management process outlined in the IFA.

We would like to express our appreciation to the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Areas for providing us the opportunity to present in person on June 1, 2018. The Inuvialuit look forward to continued collaboration and building on the current successes in cooperative marine management and conservation in the ISR.

Sincerely,



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