



Parks Canada - Nunavut Field Unit
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Brian Aglukark, Director Regional Planning
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Dear Mr. Aglukark,

Please find Parks Canada's response to the Agency specific questions raised by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) in your March 26 2014 letter.

1. Is Parks Canada presently able to identify any zone(s) in the proposed NMCA where shipping and navigation may be restricted or prohibited by regulation or management plan under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* (S.C. 2002, c. 18) at this time, or alternatively, is Parks Canada able to advise of a potential corridor in which no such restrictions are anticipated at this time prior to the NPC making its decision on the Joint review of the ERP?

Parks Canada response:

The proposed establishment of a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in Lancaster Sound is presently the subject of a feasibility assessment that involves PCA, the Government of Nunavut and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), following the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the Parties in 2009. In December 2010 the Government of Canada announced its position regarding a proposed boundary for the NMCA, as a basis for consultation with local communities and other interests. Most of this area, totaling approximately 44,300 sq km, is in Lancaster Sound proper, but it also includes the waters of Pond Inlet, Eclipse Sound, Milne Inlet and Navy Board Inlet.

Recommendations to the federal and territorial Ministers of environment and the President of QIA regarding NMCA feasibility and final NMCA boundaries are likely a year away. Afterward, further steps toward NMCA establishment will include the negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement and the development of an interim management plan, including an interim zoning plan.

The identification of zones would not occur until the development of an interim zoning plan. As a result, Parks Canada is not able to identify or advise on any zones at this time.

2. Is the NMCA being prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines to Establish, Assess and Review Conservation Areas in Nunavut Through the Land Use Planning Process Definition of Conservation Area* in Appendix N of the NBRLUP (enclosed), and when is it anticipated that an application to amend the NBRLUP will be submitted to the NPC?

Parks Canada response:

While the process for establishing a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) is not relevant to the current Early Revenue Phase proposed amendment to the NBRLUP, Parks Canada will attempt to address your question for information purposes.

The proposed NMCA in Lancaster Sound is being established in line with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Article 8.2.9 of the Agreement does state that that the establishment of new national parks is subject to Article 11 and therefore to the provisions of the applicable Land Use Plan.

As noted in the response to question 1, the proposed National Marine Conservation area is still in the feasibility assessment stage and it would be premature to propose a timeline for a submission to the NPC for amending the relevant Land Use Plan. There are a number of processes associated with the establishment of a NMCA including:

- Identifying and selecting the area;
- Feasibility assessment;
- Negotiation;
- Interim Management Plan; and
- Establishment

If you have any further questions, please contact Allison Stoddart, Environmental Assessment Specialist, at allison.stoddart@pc.gc.ca or 819-934-2807.

Sincerely,



Nancy Anilniliak
Nunavut Field Unit Superintendent

c.c. Allison Stoddart, Parks Canada