



OCT 27 2016

MR. HERBERT NAKIMAYAK  
MLA, NUNAKPUT

**Oral Question: 344-18(2) Darnley Bay Marine Protected Area**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on October 18, 2016 regarding the Darnley Bay Marine Protected Area, also known as the Anguniaqvia Niqiqyuam Marine Protected Area (ANMPA).

The ANMPA is going through the final stages of the regulatory process and is expected to be designated as a Marine Protected Area under the *Oceans Act* in the fall of 2016. Upon designation, this area will be co-managed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, and the community of Paulatuk.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has participated in the consultation process throughout the development of the proposed ANMPA, which includes receiving quarterly updates as part of the Regional Coordination Committee. This Committee includes two Regional Superintendents; one from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and one from Department of the Executive. The GNWT has also participated in receiving annual updates through the Beaufort Sea Partnership meeting, which includes staff from ENR, the Department of the Executive, and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

DFO is currently drafting the ANMPA management and monitoring plans and will consult with the GNWT when the drafts are ready. This is tentatively scheduled for early 2017. The ANMPA will follow adaptive management, which means there will be a review every five years of the management and monitoring plans to ensure the area continues to meet its conservation objectives.


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The GNWT also participates in the Oceans Task Group; a working group composed of federal, provincial and territorial partners to discuss national marine conservation issues. The current member on this Task Group for ENR is Regional Superintendent, Stephen Charlie. This Committee is discussing ways to advance the federal government's commitment of protecting 10% of marine coastal areas by 2020. The GNWT will be consulted on any future Marine Protected Area (MPA) initiatives in the Beaufort region.

The GNWT is also participating in Marine Protected Area network planning in the Western Arctic bioregion, which includes the Inuvialuit Settlement region and the Kitikmeot region. DFO is leading this initiative and a biologist from ENR in Inuvik participates on the Marine Protected Area Network Working Group. The goal of this initiative is to identify priority areas within the bioregion that require additional conservation.

The GNWT has also been involved in consultation on the Tarium Naryutait Marine Protected Area (TNMPA). This MPA was created in 2010 and is co-managed by DFO, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee and the communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik and Inuvik. A state of the MPA report is being prepared to determine if the TNMPA's management and monitoring plans are achieving its conservation objectives. This report will be shared with the GNWT upon completion.

Sincerely,



Robert C. McLeod  
Minister  
Environment and Natural Resources

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive