



Departementet for Erhverv, Arbejdsmarked, Handel og Energi

mlsa@nanoq.gl
isiin@nanoq.gl

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Regarding Pituffik Titanium project pre-hearing respond

Departementet for Fiskeri og Fangst (Department for Fishery and Hunting) acknowledges this opportunity to comment on Bluejay Mining Ltd's pre-hearing of the Terms of Reference for the SIA and EIA's for the Titanium project at Pituffik.

Walrus

The population of Walrus in the North Water winters in the eastern Greenlandic part of the North Water and in summer the Walruses migrate to the western part of Canada.

In its most recent advice concerning Walruses NAMMCO noted that when the village Moriusaq was still populated there were not many walruses in the area. But since it was depopulated Walruses moved into the area which suggests that the presence of people affects the distribution of Walruses.

It is mentioned that there are practically no Walruses in Northwest Greenland during the period with open water and since the south-west coast of Steensby Land normally is ice free from the end of June until the beginning of October it appears unlikely that Walruses over summer within the study area.

Ships with 60,000 tons dead weight will be used and it is expected that between 5 and 8 freight ships will call in at the mine each season. It must be expected that there can be an overlap at the start of the season or the end of the season where Walruses are impacted since they are sensitive to human activities.

Belugas and Narwhales

Narwhales are important targets of hunting in North Greenland. APN is concerned that potential conflicts might arise due to shipping in connection with the projects because Narwhales are particularly sensitive to human generated noise.

Seismic investigations in 2012 caused Narwhale to be observed closer to the coastline. It is possible that the whales can stay at or move back to their summer areas due to noise during their migration. Human generated noise can potentially change the availability of Narwhales for the hunters.

Other marine mammals

Seals are of large socio-economic importance to hunters and their families. It has previously been shown that Ring seal and other species of seals easily can be affected by noise. In particular Ring seal and Bearded seal are of large importance to the hunters in the Qaanaaq area.

Seabirds

Traditional hunting of birds mainly comprise Thick-billed murre, Little auk and Eider duck and these birds are only present in the Qaanaaq area during summer, which is situated north of the study area. This means that the described project activities can disturb the bird populations in the area as well as the hunting activities.

With kind regards

Masaana Dorph

mado@nanoq.gl

Telephone 34 53 42