



Crown-Indigenous Relations  
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones  
et Affaires du Nord Canada

# Strategic Environmental Assessment in Canada's Arctic

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Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

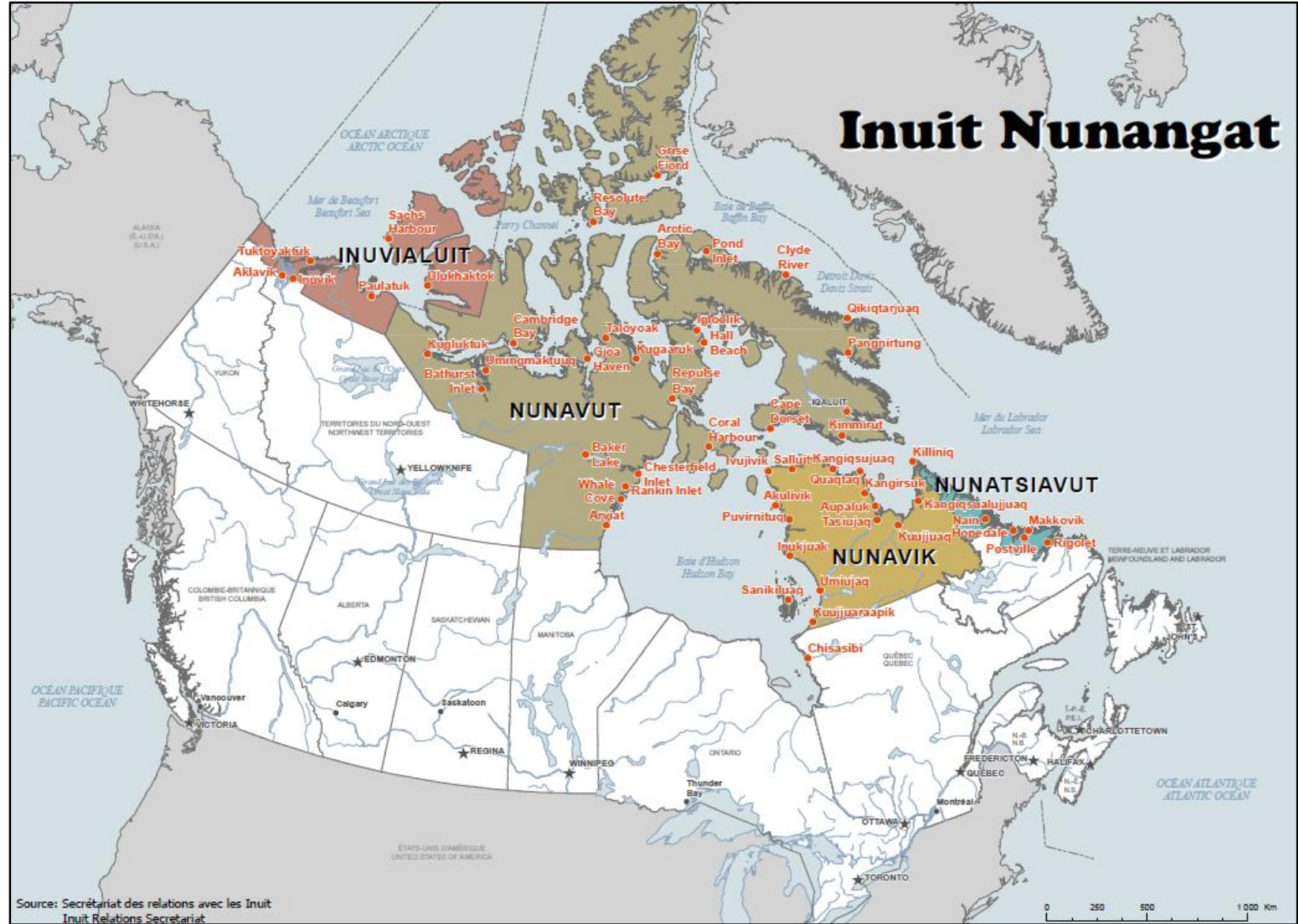
June 27, 2019



Canada



# Canada's Arctic



Source: Secrétariat des relations avec les Inuit  
Inuit Relations Secretariat





# Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs)

Canada is undertaking two SEAs pertaining to offshore oil and gas:

## Western Arctic

Beaufort Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (BRSEA)

## Eastern Arctic

Strategic Environmental Assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait (SEA)







## CIRNAC's Role in Offshore Oil and Gas

- The management of oil and gas resources in Canada's Arctic offshore waters is the responsibility of the Minister, under the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act*.
- One of the objectives of CIRNAC is to ensure responsible decision-making related to potential rights issuance, while safeguarding the environment, health, and heritage of Northern regions, in partnership with communities and Inuit and Land Claims organizations.





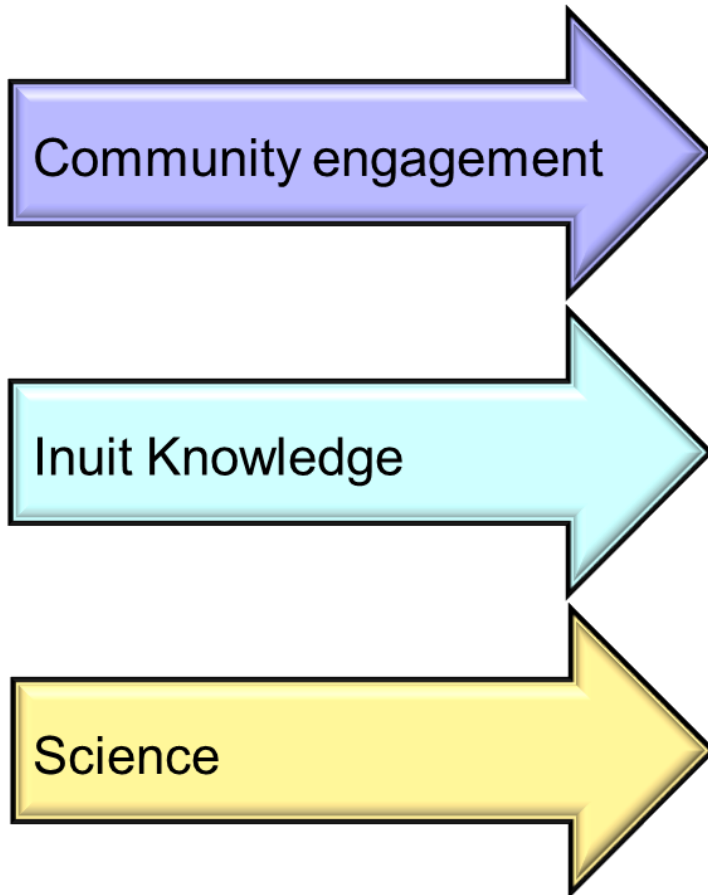
# What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Innovative tool used more and more across the world to identify risks and benefits of development in a region, before development happens
- Look at the connections between land, sea, animals, people, culture, food, economy to understand opportunities, challenges and impacts of potential oil and gas activities





# Strategic Environmental Assessments in Canada's Arctic



**Informed decision-making**  
on whether offshore oil and  
gas activities might proceed in:

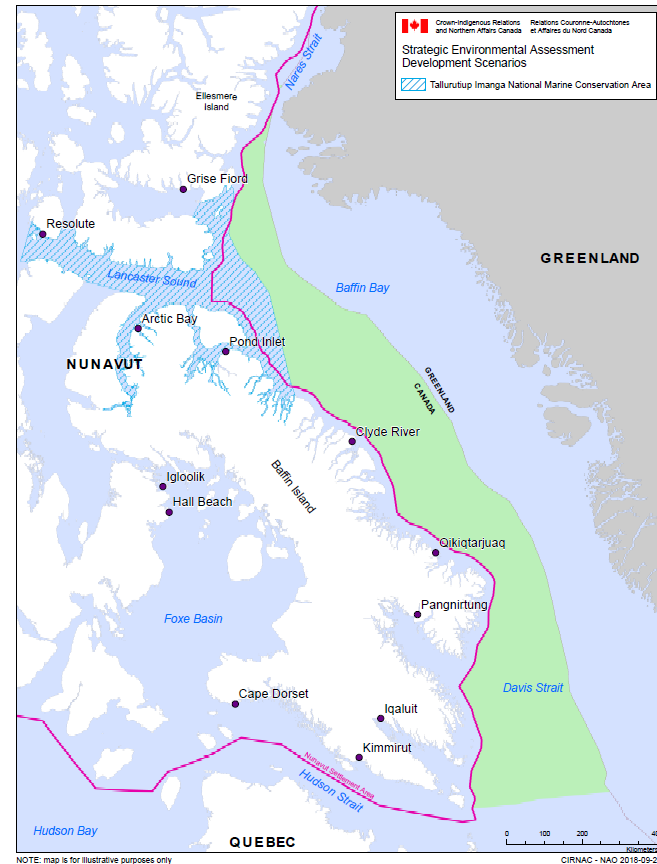
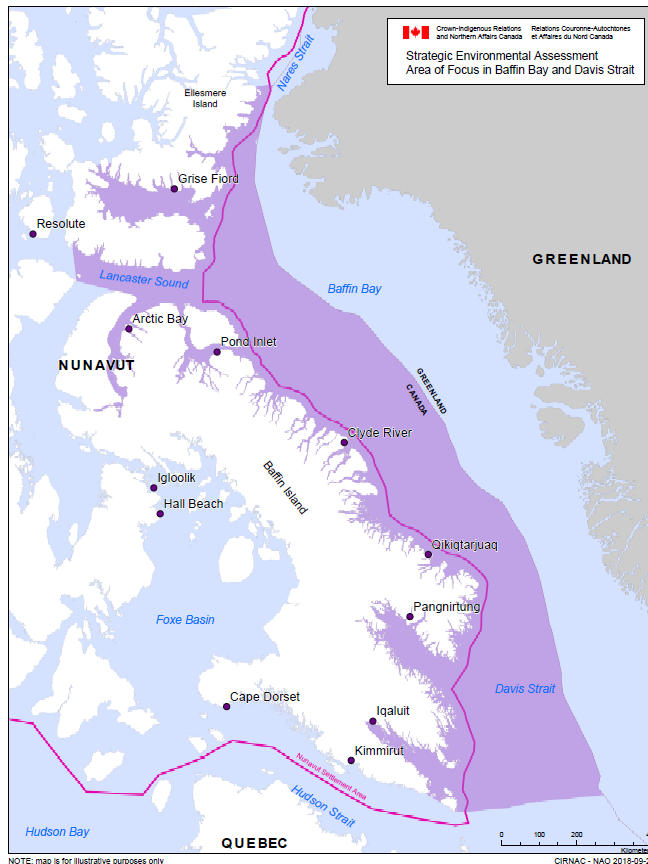
- Baffin Bay and Davis Strait
- Beaufort Sea





# Strategic Environmental Assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait

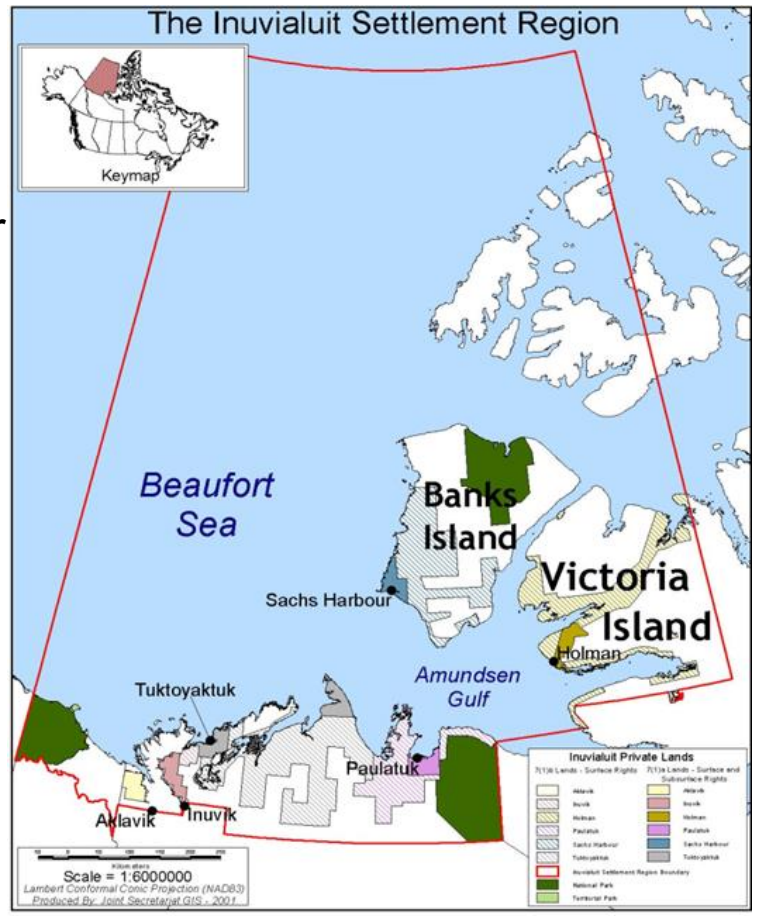
- The SEA will inform decision-making around whether, and under which conditions, offshore oil and gas activities might proceed in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.
- The knowledge and perspectives gathered will help with the broader management of the offshore including traditional and modern community subsistence activities, commercial fisheries, transportation and conservation.





# Beaufort Regional Strategy Environmental Assessment

- Partnership with Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Inuvialuit Game Council
- Advisory Committee comprised of relevant stakeholders provides advice and feedback throughout the assessment
- Research priorities are identified by local communities and funding provided each year to address stated priorities
- Final Report: Spring 2020







# Community Engagement: an Essential Component of SEA

- Community engagement allows for identification of research priorities and identification of Valued Ecosystem Components.
- Helps with collection of Traditional and Local Knowledge
- Used for dissemination of findings and gathering of comments on the initiative

- Clyde River
- Pond Inlet
- Arctic Bay
- Resolute Bay
- Grise Fiord
- Qikiqtarjuaq
- Pangnirtung
- Iqaluit
- Kimmirut
- Cape Dorset
- Aklavik
- Ulukhaktok
- Inuvik
- Paulatuk
- Sachs Harbour
- Tuktoyaktuk





## Recommendations from reports

- SEA reports will make recommendations to Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs based on both Science and Indigenous Knowledge
- Recommendations could include:
  - Whether offshore oil and gas activity should proceed
  - Specific needs for additional information
  - Location and timing of potential oil and gas activity
  - Actions to prevent or reduce potential effects from oil and gas activities
  - Options to maximize benefits for Inuit





# Thank You



**Daniel Van Vliet**

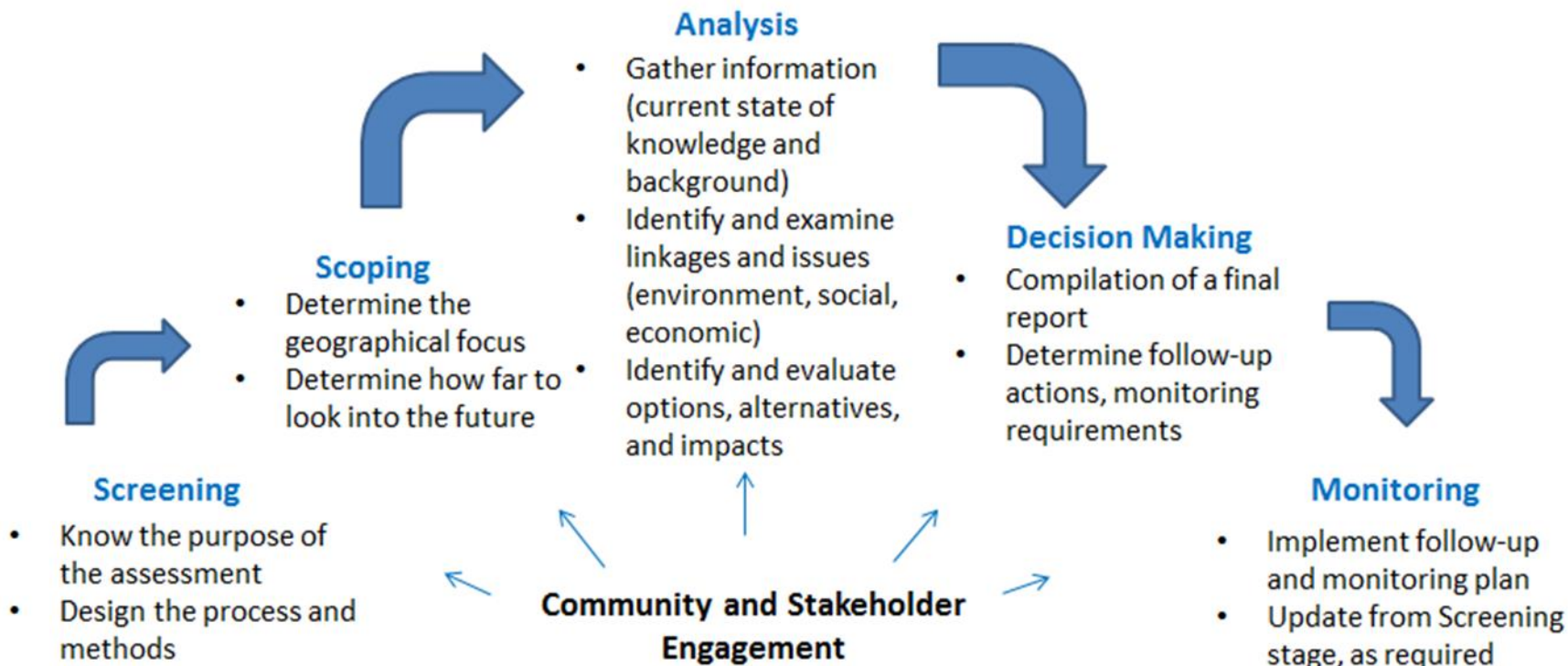
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# Additional Information:



Overview of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process







# Who is involved with the BRSEA

## Co-chairs

- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

## BRSEA Advisory Committee

- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Government of Yukon
- National Energy Board
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Canadian Coast Guard
- Polar Knowledge Canada
- ArcticNet
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

## Other organizations involved:

- Inuvialuit Shared Services Research Unit
- Hunters and Trappers Committees
- Community Corporations & Elders Committees
- Fisheries Joint Management Committee
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- University of British Columbia
- Amundsen Science (Laval University)
- University of Windsor





# Who is involved with the SEA in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait

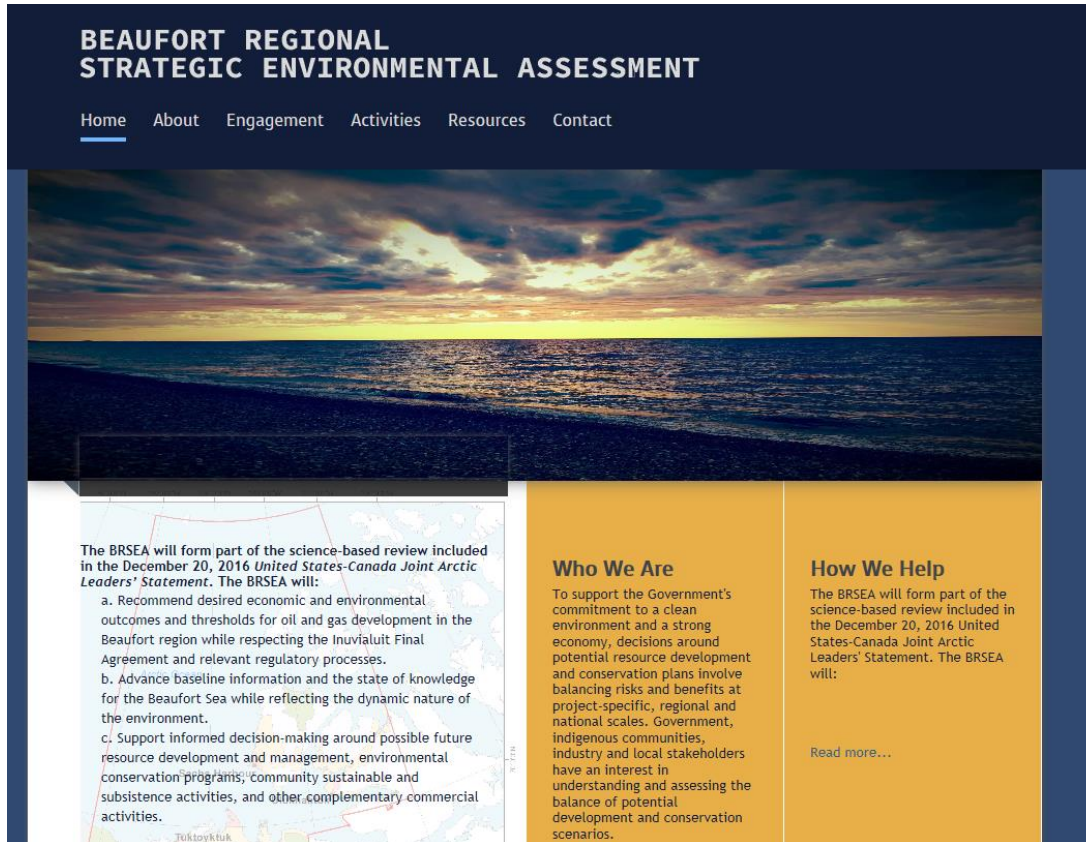
- CIRNAC referred the SEA to the Nunavut Impact Review Board
- Working Group
  - Nunavut Impact Review Board
  - Qikiqtani Inuit Association
  - Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
  - Government of Nunavut
  - CIRNAC
- Components
  - Community engagement
  - Scope, scenarios, literature review
  - Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Qaujimajangit
  - Effects assessment, mitigation, knowledge gaps, recommendations
- Final public meeting: March 2019
- Final report: July 2019





# BRSEA Website

- Link: <https://rsea.inuvialuit.com/>
- Contains information regarding the assessment including the Terms of Reference, background information, and an overview of all associated meetings, research, and engagement activities.





# Nunavut Impact Review Board – Registry

- Link: [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca), search ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment’
- Contains all documents relating to the SEA, including correspondence, comments and reports

Summary Documents (132) Notifications

**Applicant**

Nunavut Impact Review Board  
Nunavut Impact Review Board, S.E.A.  
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**Primary Contact**

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hrasmussen@nirb.ca

**Regulatory Authorities**

[Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada](#)

**External Links**

**Project Summary** [Inuinnaqtun](#) [English](#) [Français](#)

Non-technical Summary of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Strategic Environmental Assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait

Following a referral from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), received on February 9, 2017, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is initiating a Strategic Environment Assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait (the SEA). INAC had previously commenced an SEA to support the Minister's decision-making on whether, where, or when companies could be invited to bid on parcels of land for oil and gas exploration licences in the Canadian waters of Davis Strait and Baffin Bay. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) had requested that the NIRB be involved, given the Board's extensive experience leading project-specific assessments in Nunavut. After considerable discussion with the NIRB and representatives from NTI, QIA, and the Government of Nunavut (GN), INAC has formally referred this important initiative to the Board pursuant to section 12.2.4 of the Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut

**Assessment Phase / Activity**

S.E.A	
SEA File Created	2017-03-08
INAC Referral	2017-03-08
Open file and start strategic environmental assessment process	2017-03-08
Initiate SEA Process	2017-03-08
Initiate SEA Process	2017-03-09
NIRB Issues Notice of Dates and Location of Community Engagement Sessions	2017-03-24

**Region**

Transboundary  
North Baffin

**Project Images**

No images

