

Guide 1

Overview of the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board

This guide introduces the NMRIRB – including its mandate, functions and principles – the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR), as well as the other institutions of public government in Nunavik



Nunavik Marine Region
Impact Review Board



Photo by Robbie Ningiuruvik

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This document is intended as a guide and as a public communications tool; it is not a NMRIRB governing document or legally binding. Proponents and parties before the NMRIRB are directed to review and rely on the provisions of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claim Agreement, the NMRIRB by-laws and the NMRIRB Rules of Procedures, as those documents legally binding and are the governing documents of the NMRIRB.

Note:

The abbreviations 'NMRIRB' and 'the Board' are used interchangeably throughout this document in reference to the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board.

Cover Photo by Emma Cain



Photo by Felix Willie

The Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board (NMRIRB or Board) is an institution of public government responsible for the assessment of proposed development projects impacts on the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR). The Board was established by the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA). The NILCA was signed on December 1, 2006 and came into force on July 10, 2008 following the adoption by the Parliament of Canada of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act (S.C. 2008, c.2).

Article 7 of the NILCA defines the NMRIRB's functions and objectives, which guide the NMRIRB's process.

What are the Mandate and Objectives of the NMRIRB?

The NMRIRB screens project proposals to determine whether they have the potential to significantly impact either the environment or people. In doing so, the NMRIRB conducts ecosystemic and socio-economic assessments. The NMRIRB utilizes Nunavik Inuit Knowledge along with the knowledge gained through scientific research in order to evaluate and monitor potential impacts of project proposals.

In carrying out its functions, the NMRIRB's primary objectives are to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of persons and communities that reside in or use the Nunavik Marine Region (NMR), and protect the ecosystemic integrity of the NMR. The NILCA also instructs the NMRIRB to take into account the well-being of residents of Canada outside the NMR (NILCA Section 7.2.5).

What are the NMRIRB's Functions?

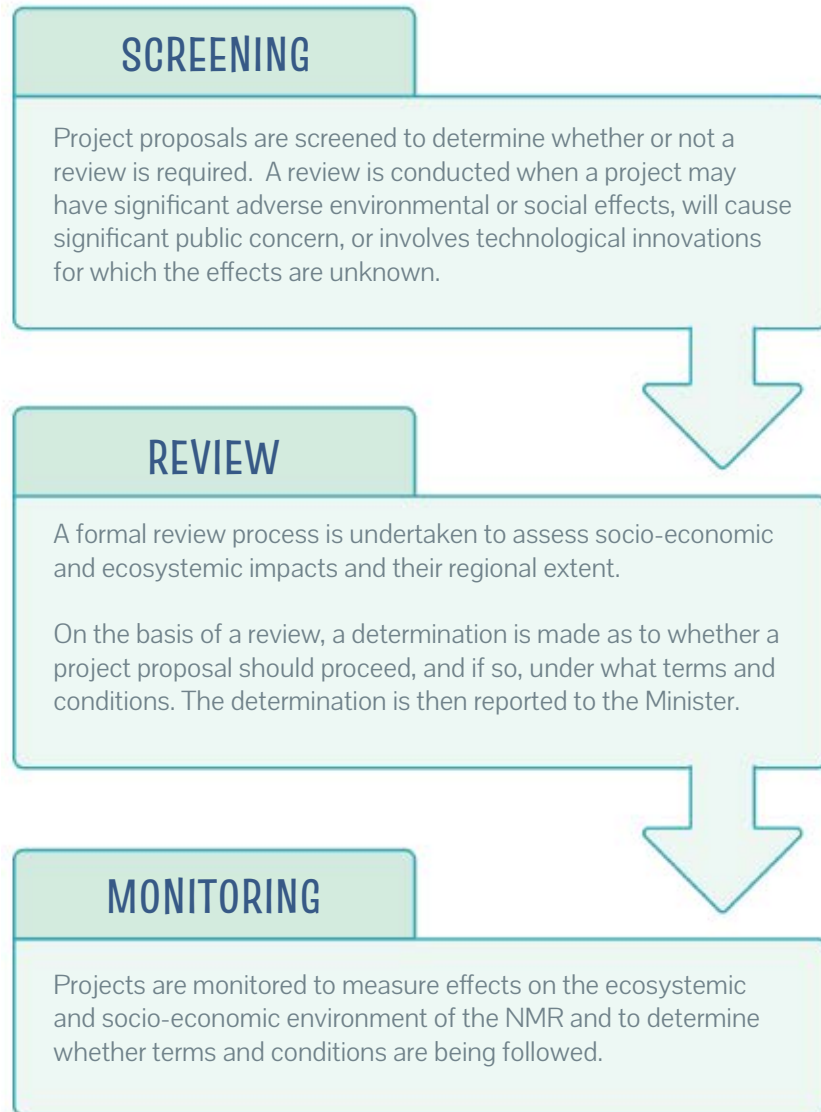


Figure 1: Primary Functions of the NMRIRB

Pathway for a Project from Application to Implementation

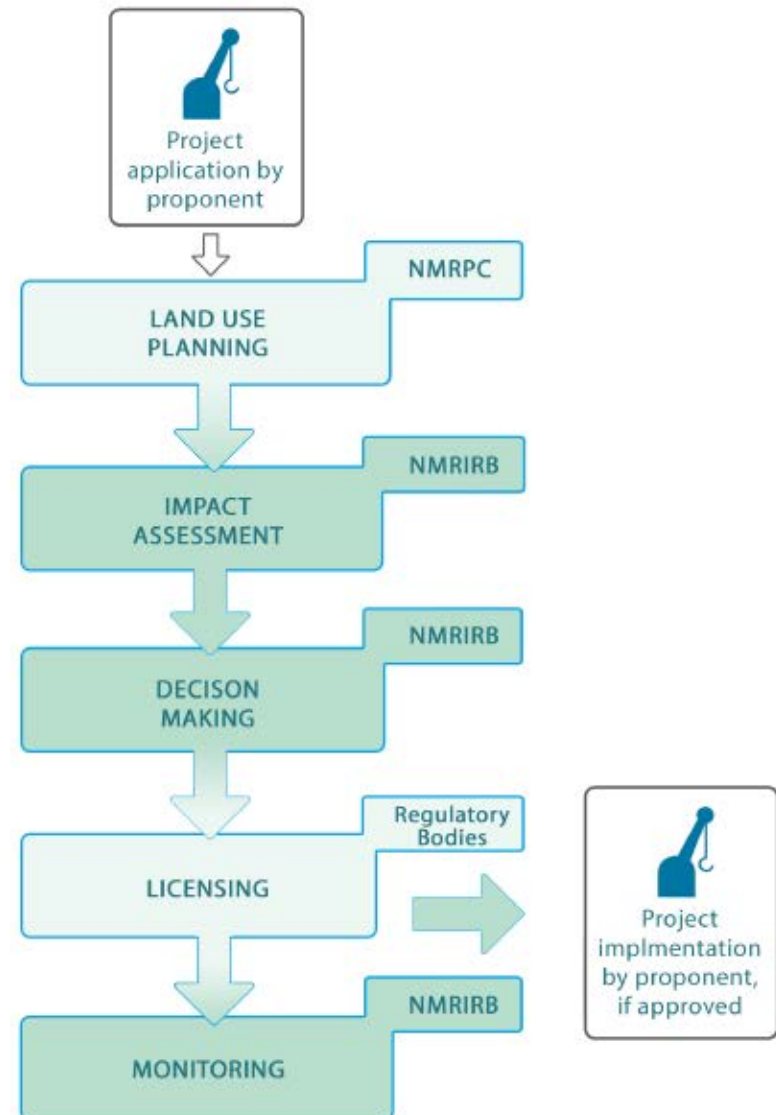


Figure 2: Pathway for a Project from Application to Implementation

What Principles does the NMRIRB use in Fulfilling its Mandate?

Credibility

The NMRIRB works hard to establish and maintain credibility with its partners, including Nunavik organizations, government, industry and the public.

Respect

Within its mandated powers, the NMRIRB strives to exercise due respect for the culture, values, and interests of all Nunavimmiut.

Fairness

The NMRIRB makes every effort to carry out its mandate with fairness to all Parties. In making its determinations, the NMRIRB members are, at all times, guided by impartiality and due process. Over time, the NMRIRB's prior decisions may provide a useful benchmark to indicate how the Board will view particular types of proposals. However, while the NMRIRB will generally try to decide similar project proposals in a consistent manner, as a matter of law, the Board must evaluate each proposal on its own merits and with respect to its own context.

Nunavik Inuit Knowledge / Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

The NMRIRB recognizes the Nunavik Inuit Knowledge of wildlife and the environment, whose guiding principle is the social, cultural and economic importance of wildlife to Nunavik Inuit.

Public Participation

The NMRIRB operates under the principle that public participation is an important element of an open, honest, and balanced review process. Effective public participation strengthens the quality of the review process and helps to avoid potential misunderstandings and conflict. The NMRIRB has a role to ensure that affected communities are aware of the project and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.

Public, Rights-Holder and Stakeholder Participation and Input

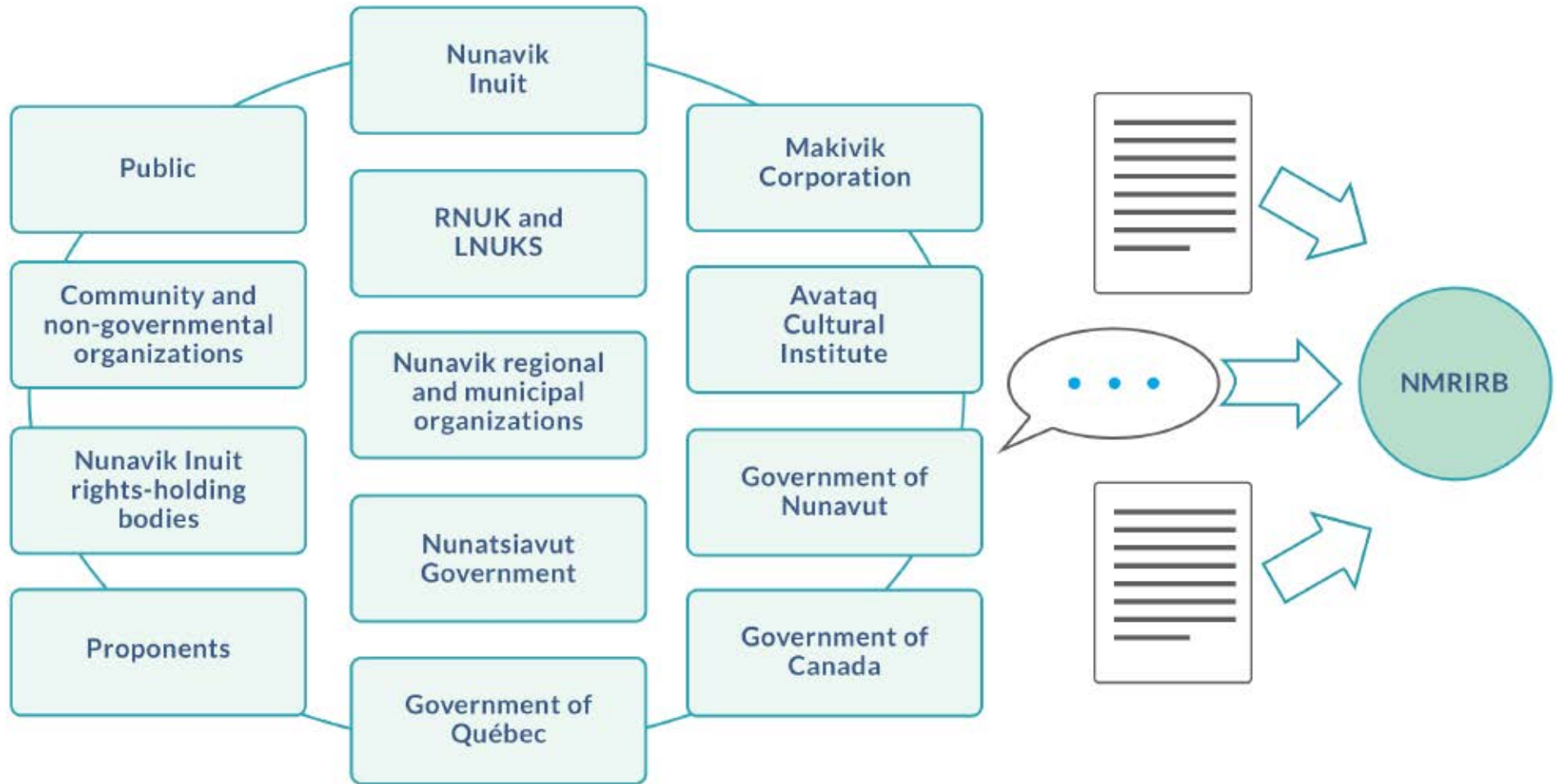


Figure 3. Participation and input in NMRIRB process

How is the NMRIRB Organized?

The Board is composed of five members, one of whom acts as chairperson. Members are appointed for a three-year term following the method shown in Figure 4 and described below.

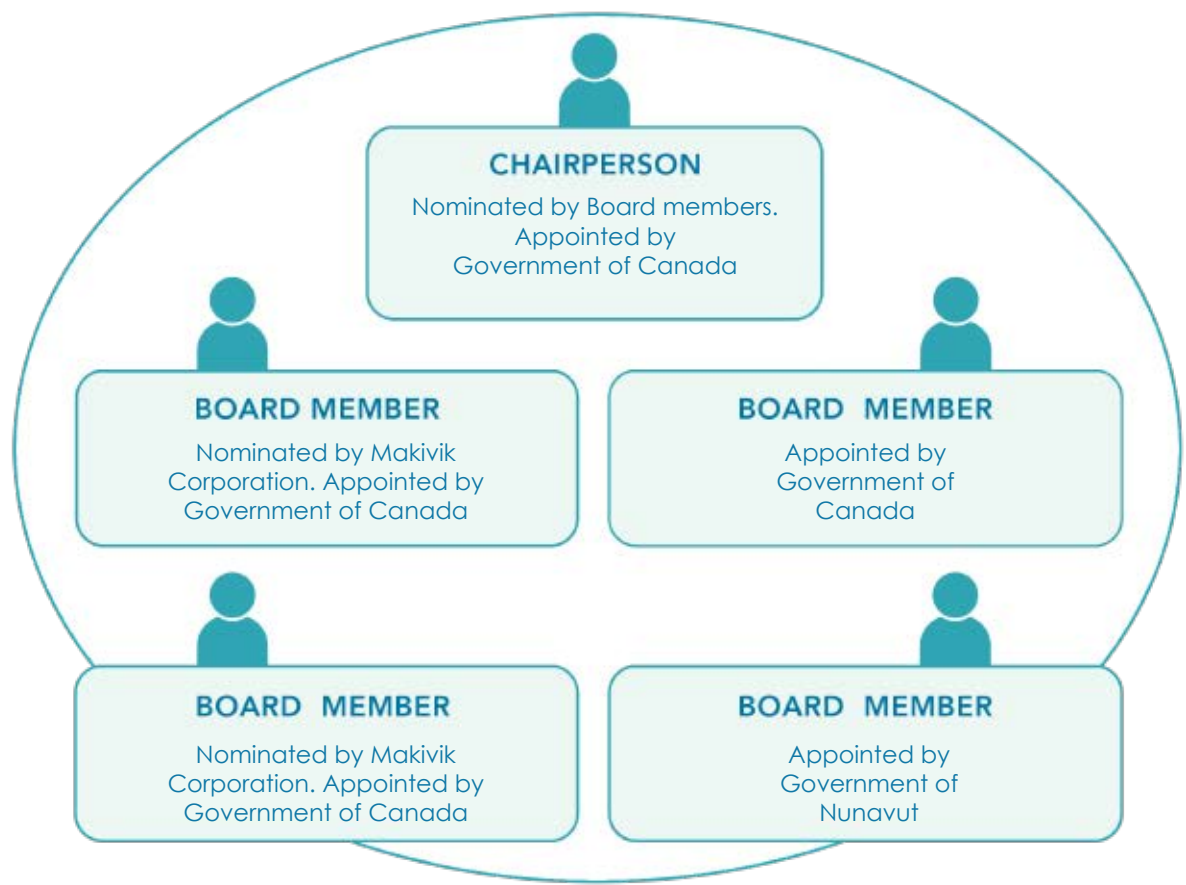


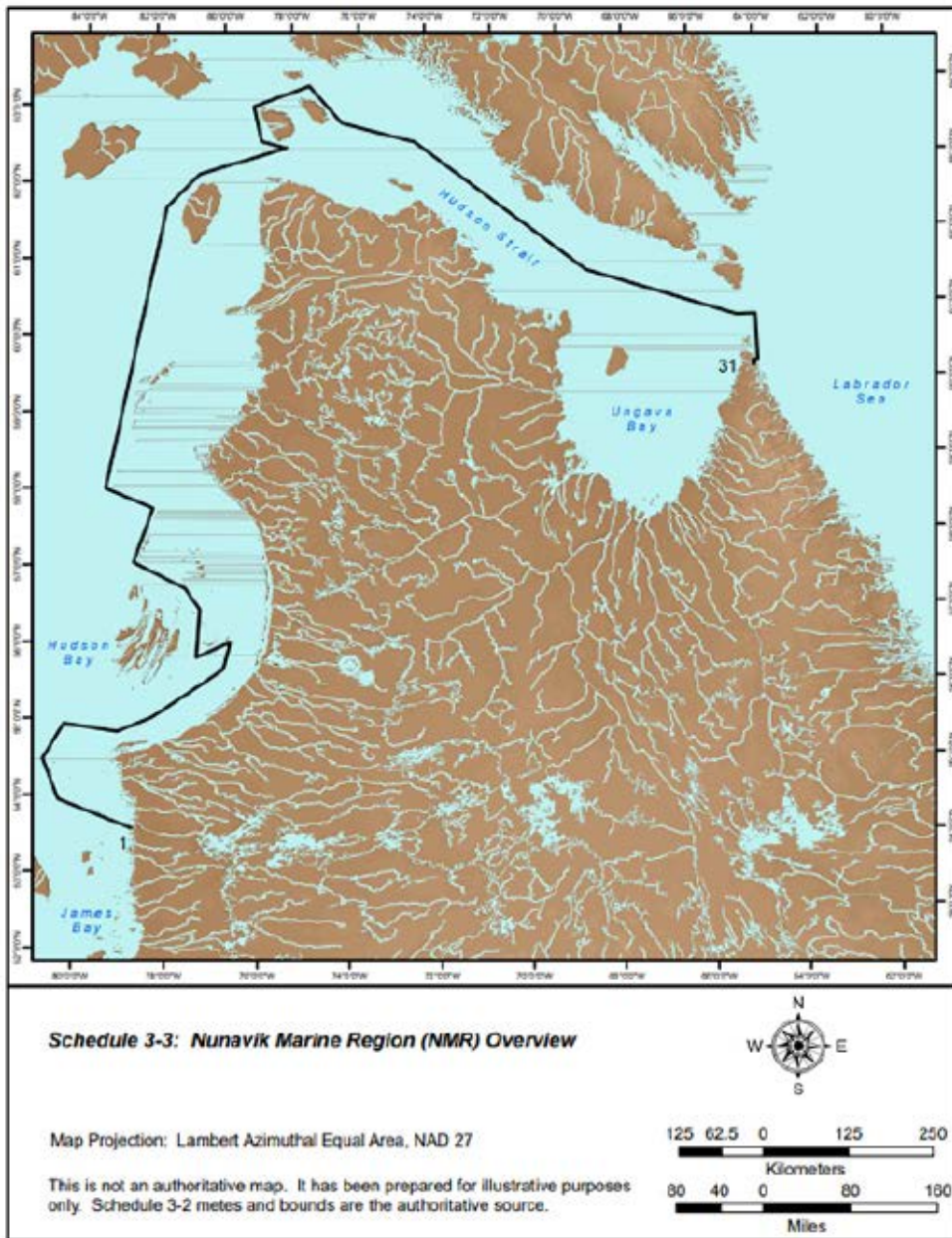
Figure 4. NMRIRB Board structure



Photo by Emma Cain

All decisions of the NMRIRB are decided by a majority of votes cast and are required to have a quorum of members (generally 3 members). Each member other than the chairperson, have one vote on any matter requiring a decision of NMRIRB. If there is a tie, the chairperson shall have the final vote.

To what Geographic Area does the NMRIRB's Authority Apply?



The NMRIRB's authority applies to both land and marine areas within the NMR.

Please see Article 3 and Schedule 3-3 of the NILCA, and the map of the NMR from the NILCA on the left.

The Board's authority also extends to projects with potential transboundary impacts.

What is the Relationship Between the NMRIRB and other Nunavik Boards Established Under the NILCA?

The NILCA created three institutions of public government (IPGs), as shown below in Figure 5.

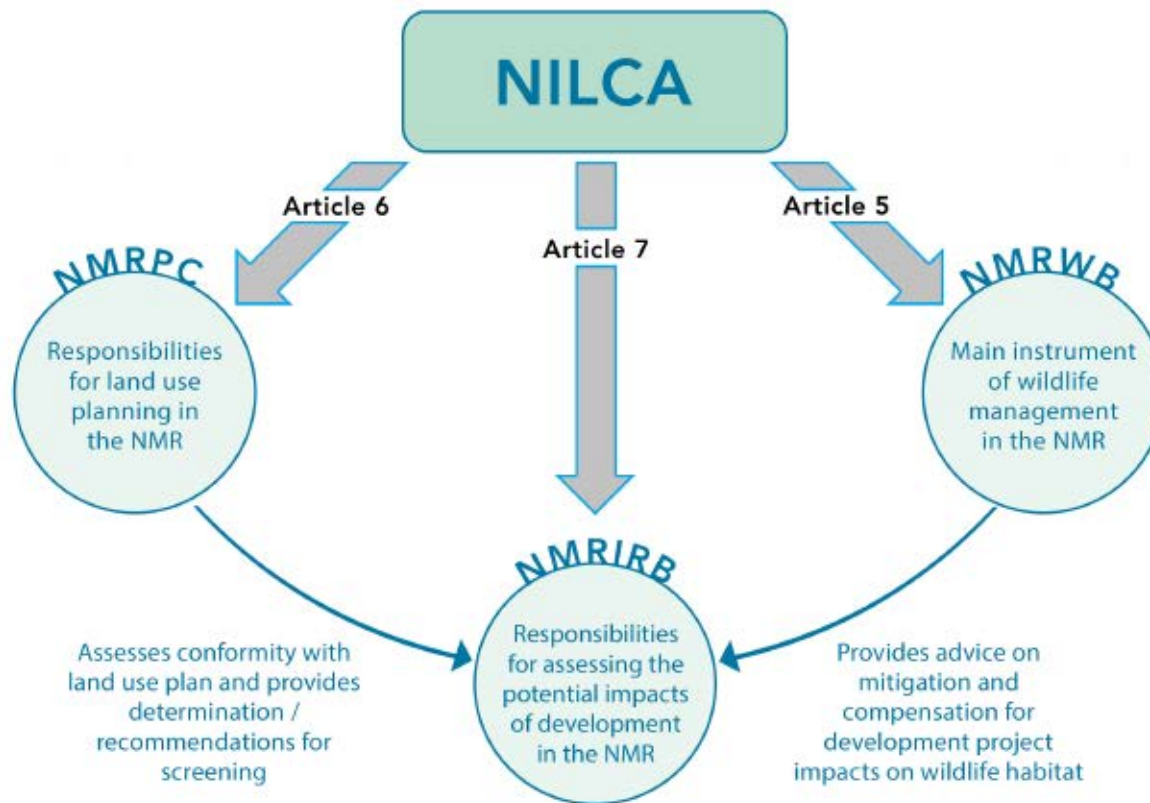


Figure 5. Key relationships between the NMRIRB and other IPGs established under the NILCA

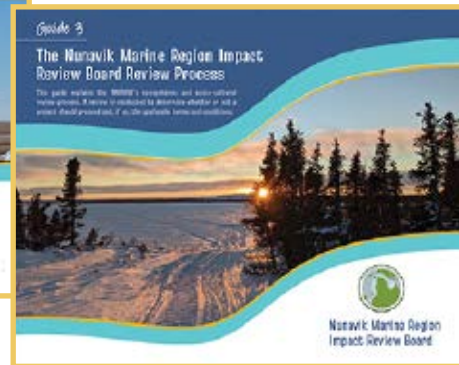
NMRIRB's can also engage in marine management individually or jointly with the NMRWB and NMRPC as stated in Section 5.4.21 of the NILCA:

The NMRIRB, the NMRPC and the NMRWB may jointly, as a Nunavik Marine Region Council, or individually, advise and make recommendations to other government agencies regarding marine areas outside of the NMR and Government shall consider such advice and recommendations in making decisions which affect marine areas outside of the NMR.

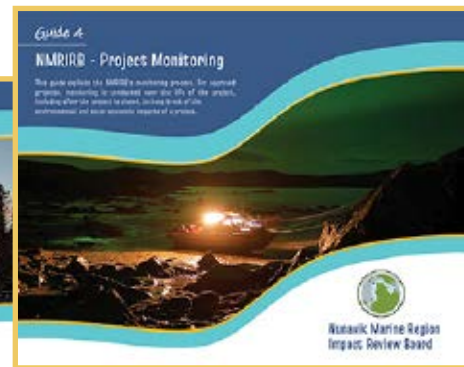
What Additional Information Regarding the NMRIRB EA Process is Available?



Guide 2: Screening Process



Guide 3: Review Process



Guide 4: Project Monitoring



Guide 5: Terminology and Definitions

Contact the NMRIRB

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