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Thursday, May 30, 2024

To whom it may concern

Baffin Fisheries Company (BFC) of Nunavut Canada is an NGO combining the management inputs from Hunters and Trappers Organisations of 5 different northern communities including Clyde River, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Kimmirut, and Pond Inlet. The primary focus of the BFC is to deliver social and economic benefits to these communities, under the auspices of providing infrastructure supporting the development sustainable commercial fisheries in each community. BFC fully supports new technologies, and scientific research initiatives aiming to sustainably manage fisheries resources in the North and protect critical habitat and ecosystems supporting such fisheries (See <https://www.baffinfisheries.ca/stewardship/>).

BFC works closely with industry stakeholders and regulatory agencies (Government of Nunavut) to continuously develop conservation and sustainable policies for the long-term benefit of all Nunavut residents, while fully respecting Inuit harvesting rights and priorities. Our seasonal fishing plan is developed around sensitive marine cycles and use trawl monitoring technology to minimise environmental impact. However, we are always cognisant of possible new data that could provide additional insights into maintaining sustainable harvests and promoting the safe use of marine resources.

Thus, the proposed research through both the CASTAF: *Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Arctic Fisheries*, and the FISHSENS: *Building ecological knowledge to assess the sensitivity of Canadian marine fishes to Atlantification* projects, fit well with the mandate of the BFC and we fully support this joint initiative. By the present letter, BFC commits to collaborate on the CASTAF/FISHSENS proposals under the Nordic-North America joint call “Sustainable Development of the Arctic”. The BFC agrees to provide administrative support to collaborator Harvey Nutarak to assure successful Stage II submission, and potential contract implementation. We understand that the deadlines for both projects are June 4th, 2024 and May 30th, 2024 for CASTAF, FISHSENS, respectively.

Sincerely,

Chris Flanagan,
Baffin Fisheries CEO
Iqaluit, Nunavut May 30th, 2024