

Statement

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace welcomes cancellation of 2015 seismic testing survey in Baffin Bay

27 May 2015 (Toronto) - In response to recent news that the consortium of companies planning to conduct seismic testing surveys in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait have decided to suspend their activities for 2015, Greenpeace Canada Arctic Campaigner Farrah Khan said:

“The people and wildlife of Baffin Island and surrounding waters can breath a sigh of relief today, knowing they will be spared seismic testing for at least another year. Seismic testing involves firing extremely loud airguns underwater and presents a serious risk to local marine life and the people who depend on it for survival.

“Baffin Island Inuit have expressed strong and widespread opposition to seismic testing in their waters. The decision to cancel seismic surveys this year is good news for human rights, and hopefully both industry and the federal government will get the message that they should not be forcing projects on communities without consent.

“What this decision tells us is that people power does work; that together we are stronger than Big Oil, and that each one of us has a voice and a way to stand up and be heard. It is unlikely that the industry would have taken this decision if not for the strong and vocal opposition from Inuit, and the incredible support they received from around the world.

“The timing of this announcement is particularly auspicious, as it comes as the Greenpeace ship *MY Esperanza* carries a First Nations delegation along the BC coast to connect communities and movements, and strengthen opposition to Arctic drilling and tar sands. This announcement should give hope and inspiration to all Indigenous Land Defenders and all people fighting for a greener and more peaceful tomorrow.”

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For more information:

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NOTES:

More than 300,000 people signed on to support Clyde River’s battle, including Naomi Klein, Lucy Lawless, and Sheila Cops.