



**PRESS RELEASE:** October 11, 2023 Iqaluit, Nunavut

## **Qikiqtaaluk Corporation Embarks on a New Era with the Saputi II Factory Freezer Trawler**

Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC) is proud to announce a significant milestone in its commitment to sustainable fishing and economic development in the North. On September 26, QC concluded the signing of an agreement with Freier Shipyard in Vigo, Spain, for the construction of its cutting-edge Factory Freezer Trawler, the Saputi II. This remarkable vessel, designed by Skipsteknisk, and supported by Allswater Marine Consultants, marks a new chapter in our mission to provide the highest quality seafood products while fostering prosperity within our communities.

### **Setting Sail with Saputi II: A Glimpse of the Future**

The Saputi II will be a vessel of exceptional capabilities and efficiency, measuring 79 meters in length and 17 meters wide. Designed as a multi species, factory freezer vessel, it will play a pivotal role in harvesting shrimp and Greenland halibut sustainably. At the heart of this endeavor is our commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible fisheries management. With a chosen engine that sets a new standard for efficiency in its class, we aim to not only provide top-quality seafood to the world but also to protect the pristine Arctic environment we call home.

Comparing the capacities of the Saputi and Saputi II, the Saputi II will handle 750T (versus 580T) of shrimp and around 1,100T (versus 900T) of turbot, representing a significant increase in our capacity to provide the highest quality seafood products to the world, while increasing our operational efficiencies. Having the latest in technology for fishing, processing and crew comfort, the vessel will employ 28 to 30 personnel per trip. QC looks forward to training and mentoring even more Inuit to work on this new vessel.

The Saputi II Factory Freezer Trawler stands as a symbol of progress, sustainability, and community empowerment. QC looks forward to the vessel's completion and its vital role in creating prosperous and sustainable fisheries for the North.

“QC and its wholly owned subsidiary QFC have been pioneers in the development of the Nunavut offshore shrimp and turbot fishery and this latest endeavor shows our ongoing commitment to the fishery and maximizing benefits to Nunavummiut” states **Tommy Akavak, Chairman of Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.**

**Harry Flaherty, President and CEO Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, states** “Qikiqtaaluk Corporation is proud to sign this contract with Friere for the construction of the Saputi II. I wish to thank



Skipsteknisk, Allswater and our dedicated staff at QC and QFC for all their hard work in getting us to this important milestone.”

“We are grateful for being awarded this significant project for QFC in Canada. We feel really proud to be the selected shipyard for building this state of the art arctic freezer trawler.”

**Marcos Freire, General Manager, Freire Shipyard.**

### **About QC:**

[Qikiqtaaluk Corporation \(“QC”\)](#) is a wholly owned Inuit birthright development corporation created by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Created in 1983, QC’s purpose is to provide employment and financial opportunities for Inuit in the region. QC has a remarkable track record in Inuit training, capacity building and employment successes.

[Qikiqtaaluk Fisheries Corporation \(“QFC”\)](#) is a wholly owned subsidiary of QC. QFC owns and operates the multi species factory freezer vessel the Saputi. In addition to harvesting offshore shrimp QFC is also actively involved in the harvesting of offshore turbot in NAFO fishing areas of OA and OB.

### **About Freire Shipyard:**

[Freire Shipyard](#) (Construcciones Navales P. Freire) is a family-owned company established in 1895 by Paulino Freire in Vigo, Spain. The Freire family continues leading and managing the company. Today, Freire Shipyard is one of the leading shipyards in the world and specializes in the design, building, and repair of the most sophisticated and innovative ocean research and fishing vessels.

### **For more information Contact:**

**Harry Flaherty,**  
President & CEO  
Tel: 867 979 8400  
[HFlaherty@qcorp.ca](mailto:HFlaherty@qcorp.ca)

**Jerry Ward**  
Director of Fisheries  
Tel: 867 979 8400  
[jward@qcorp.ca](mailto:jward@qcorp.ca)

**Peter Keenainak**  
Vice President  
Tel: 867 979 8400  
[PKeenainak@qcorp.ca](mailto:PKeenainak@qcorp.ca)



ᐱᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᐃᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ  
ᐱᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ  
**QIKIQTAAALUK CORPORATION**  
& Group of Companies  
1-867-979-8400 | www.qcorp.ca

