



*Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway. (Photo: Kristian Binder, Eighty One Images.)*

JOINT SECRETARIAT  
AND IFA COMMITTEES

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021





# About the Report

Presented here are annual reports for the 2020/2021 fiscal year of five<sup>1</sup> of the six bodies established in Sections 11–14 of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), as well as the report of the Joint Secretariat (JS). The reports provide a summary of organizational mandates, membership, finance, and key activities for the year. The six bodies are:

- ▶ Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC)
- ▶ Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC)
- ▶ Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB)
- ▶ Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC),
- ▶ Wildlife Management Advisory Council – NWT (WMAC (NWT))
- ▶ Wildlife Management Advisory Council – North Slope (WMAC(NS))

These bodies are collectively referred to as the IFA committees. Each committee has unique responsibilities defined in the IFA. The efforts of each IFA committee support the effective implementation of the IFA, which is guided by three overarching principles:

- ▶ To preserve Inuvialuit cultural identity and values within a changing northern society;
- ▶ To enable Inuvialuit to be equal and meaningful participants in the northern and national economy and society; and
- ▶ To protect and preserve the Arctic wildlife, environment, and biological productivity.

Sections 11–14 of the IFA describe Environmental Impact Assessment (Section 11: EISC and EIRB); the Yukon North Slope (Section 12: WMAC (NS)); Wildlife Compensation (Section 13); and Wildlife Harvesting and Management (Section 14: IGC, WMAC (NWT), and FJMC). The Joint Secretariat is established as a Society by agreement of the parties to the IFA in order to provide technical and administrative support to the IFA committees.

These annual reports will be incorporated into the yearly Inuvialuit Final Agreement – Implementation Coordination Committee annual report. They will also be used to meet reporting requirements to various funding agencies. For more information on individual committees or the Joint Secretariat, please contact the Joint Secretariat directly or visit the website.

**\*Please note – the financial information recorded in this version of the report is subject to change based on completion of the Joint Secretariat 2020-21 audit.**

---

<sup>1</sup> The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) will report independently.

# Letter from the Chair

As Chair of the Joint Secretariat (JS), I am pleased to present the 2020-2021 Annual Report. This past year has been a period of unforeseen global challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic. The JS office and the IFA Committees were able to meet the challenges that COVID-19 brought to the workplace, adapt their regular activities and, deliver consistently on their work commitments while still protecting the health of staff, members and officers.

We welcomed our new Executive Director, Melody Nice, at the end of the last fiscal and throughout this year, she has led the JS office through a period of adjustment with her many years of expertise. Through her leadership, a number of internal initiatives have commenced including a record managements project, re-establishment of the JS Newsletter and the modernization of the JS Human Resources Policy. Through the improvements of internal infrastructures, communication and policies, we hope build on the good solid foundation that the Joint Secretariat has been built on.

During this past year, we have also increased the number of staff to provide support for the IFA Committees in an effort to meet their needs and growing workload and responsibilities. The COVID pandemic brought to the forefront the need for local capacity in the region and the JS was able to quickly respond to this need. The JS office provided technical and administrative support to ensure that research and monitoring work could continue, in light of COVID travel restrictions. In addition, the JS Office was able to proactively pivot to a work-from-home model and secure additional office space for additional and existing staff to return to in order to maintain their safety during these times.

Many of the IFA committees faced changes in leadership. The Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Inuvialuit Game Council, Environmental Impact Screening Committee and Environmental Impact Review Board all saw changes in their Chairpersonship throughout this past year. With every change in the leadership there is always a test to the stability of the systems and processes in place. Thanks to the steadfastness of committee members who stepped up to provide their leadership, we were able to provide constancy in the delivery of our work.

I would like to thank the JS Management Team and Staff for rising to these challenges and continuing to meet the needs of our committees and external partners with exceptional professionalism and commitment. We look forward to continuing the good work and build on the advancements made from this past year.



**Larry Carpenter**  
Chair, Joint Secretariat

# Table of Contents

About the Report	3
Letter from the Chair	4
Table of Contents	5
Meet the Members	6
List of Acronyms & Abbreviations	7
Inuvialuit Game Council	10
Environmental Impact Screening Committee	18
Environmental Impact Review Board	28
Fisheries Joint Management Committee	36
Wildlife Management Advisory Council	43
Joint Secretariat Inuvialuit Settlement Region	52

# Meet the Members

## INUVIALUIT GAME COUNCIL

P.O. Box 2120, 107 Mackenzie Road  
Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0  
(p) 867-777-2828  
(f) 867-777-2610

---

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SCREENING COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 2120, 107 Mackenzie Road  
Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0  
(e) [eisc@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:eisc@jointsec.nt.ca)  
(p) 867-777-2828  
(f) 867-777-2610  
(w) [www.screeningcommittee.ca/](http://www.screeningcommittee.ca/)

---

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

P.O. Box 2120, 107 Mackenzie Road  
Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0  
(e) [eirb@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:eirb@jointsec.nt.ca)  
(p) 867-777-2828  
(f) 867-777-2610  
(w) [www.eirb.ca](http://www.eirb.ca)

---

## FISHERIES JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 2120, 107 Mackenzie Road  
Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0  
(e) [fjmc-fisheries@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:fjmc-fisheries@jointsec.nt.ca)  
[marissa.murphy@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:marissa.murphy@jointsec.nt.ca)  
[issiac.elanik@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:issiac.elanik@jointsec.nt.ca)  
(p) 867-777-2828  
(f) 867-777-2610  
(w) [www.fjmc.ca](http://www.fjmc.ca)

---

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 2120, 107 Mackenzie Road  
Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0  
(p) 867-777-2828  
(f) 867-777-2610

---

## JOINT SECRETARIAT

P.O. Box 2120, 107 Mackenzie Road  
Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0  
(e) [adminjs@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:adminjs@jointsec.nt.ca)  
(p) 867-777-2828  
(f) 867-777-2610  
(w) [www.jointsecretariat.ca](http://www.jointsecretariat.ca)

---

# List of Acronyms & Abbreviations

ACCWM	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
ANMPA	Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam Marine Protected Area
ASFAR	Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk
CA	Contribution Agreement
CARMA	CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment Network
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
CBMP	Community-Based Monitoring Program
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CMA	Conference of Management Authorities
CMAC	Canadian Marine Advisory Council
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CPM	Committee Program Manager
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
DEW	Distant Early Warning
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DOEIA - GNWT	Department of the Executive and Indigenous Affairs – Government of the Northwest Territories
DOE - YG	Department of Environment – Yukon Government
DVIMPF	Dolly Varden Integrated Fisheries Management Plan
ECCC	Environment Canada and Climate Change
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIRB	Environmental Impact Review Board
EISC	Environmental Impact Screening Committee
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources
FJMC	Fisheries Joint Management Committee
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
HTC	Hunters and Trappers Committee
ICC	Inuit Circumpolar Council
IFA	Inuvialuit Final Agreement
IGC	Inuvialuit Game Council
ILA	Inuvialuit Land Administration
IOMP	Integrated Oceans Management Plan
IRC	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

ISR	Inuvialuit Settlement Region
IT	Information Technology
ITH	Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway
JS	Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees
MPA	Marine Protection Areas
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NT	Northwest Territories
NTI	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporation
NS	North Slope
PAME	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
PBAC	Polar Bear Administrative Committee
PBTC	Polar Bear Technical Committee
PCWG	Paulatuk Char Working Group
RAs	Regulating Agencies
RC	Resource Coordinator
RMC	Resource Management Coordinator
RP	Resource Person
RSEA	Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment
RRWG	Rat River Working Group
SARC	Species at Risk Committee
SSU	Shared Services Unit
SRRB	Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
TK	Traditional Knowledge
TLK	Traditional and Local Knowledge
TNMPA	Tarium Niryutait Marine Protected Area
UCWG	Ulukhaktok Char Working Group
WAMPA	Western Arctic Marine Protected Areas
WG	Working Group
WMAC (NS)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)
WMAC (NWT)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)
WRRB	Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
WSWG	West Side Working Group
YG	Yukon Government
YT	Yukon Territory





# Inuvialuit Game Council

## MANDATE

In accordance with the IFA, the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) represents the collective Inuvialuit interest in wildlife and environmental matters. The IGC derives its mandate from Section 14(74) of the IFA. It is one of the major Inuvialuit organizations established to implement the IFA and works in parallel with the IRC.

The IGC is responsible for upholding and administering Inuvialuit harvesting rights as well as representing the collective Inuvialuit interest in all matters related to renewable resource management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). The IGC appoints Inuvialuit representatives to all the joint wildlife and environmental co-management committees established under the IFA. In addition to its responsibilities under the IFA, it acts as the regional representative of Inuvialuit hunters, trappers and fishermen.



# Year At A Glance

---

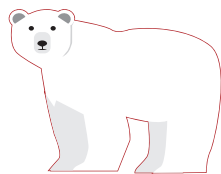
**6** council meetings

at least **23** meetings attended by council members

---

**7+** committees / boards IGC has appointed members to

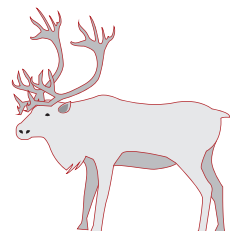
focus areas



POLAR BEARS



SHIPPING



CARIBOU

## MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The IGC is comprised of two representatives from each of the six Inuvialuit Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs). Each HTC appoints from its Board an IGC Director – the voting member – and an IGC Alternate, who may or may not be an HTC Director.

The IGC Chair is elected by all 42 HTC Directors. The Chair can be any active HTC member that is 18 years of age or older. During the period of February 2020 to March 2021, the Vice and Acting IGC Chairperson was Mr. Jim Elias, who represented the IGC on the IFA-ICC. The IGC Chair Election took place March 19-20, 2021 and the newly elected Chairman is Mr. Dennis Arey. Information on the IGC can be found online at [jointsecretariat.ca/inuvialuit-game-council](http://jointsecretariat.ca/inuvialuit-game-council)

### Membership and Officers of the Inuvialuit Game Council during 2020/2021

Community	Position	Name	Appointment
<b>Executive</b>			
Aklavik	Chair	Dennis Arey	March 20, 2021 – PRESENT
N/A	Chair	VACANT	February 2020 – March 19, 2021
Tuktoyaktuk	Acting Chair	Jim Elias	February 2020 – March 2021
Tuktoyaktuk	Vice-Chair	Jim Elias	February 2020 – March 2021
Inuvik	Treasurer	Hans Lennie	April – July 2019
Inuvik	Treasurer	Douglas Esagok	March 2020 – March 2021
<b>Directors and Alternates</b>			
Aklavik	Director	Billy Archie	April – July 2019
Aklavik	Director	Danny C Gordon	September 2019
Aklavik	Director	Johnnie Storr	December 2019 – March 2021
Aklavik	Alternate	Johnnie Storr	April – December 2019
Aklavik	Alternate	Dean Arey	January 2020 – March 2021
Inuvik	Director and Treasurer	Hans Lennie	April – July 2019
Inuvik	Director and Treasurer	Douglas Esagok	July 2019 – March 2021
Inuvik	Alternate	Eric Cockney	August 2019 – March 2021
Tuktoyaktuk	Director	Jim Elias	April 2019 – March 2021
Tuktoyaktuk	Alternate	Richard Gruben	April – December 2019
Tuktoyaktuk	Alternate	Charles Gruben	January – March 2020
Tuktoyaktuk	Alternate	Richard Gruben	June 2020 – March 2021
Paulatuk	Director	Joe Illasiak	April – October 2019
Paulatuk	Director	Lawrence Ruben	December 2019 – March 2021
Paulatuk	Alternate	Lawrence Ruben	April – November 2019
Paulatuk	Alternate	Jody Illasiak	January 2020 – March 2021

Community	Position	Name	Appointment
Sachs Harbour	Director	Manny Kudlak	April – December 2019
Sachs Harbour	Director	Joseph Carpenter	January – December 2020
Sachs Harbour	Director	John Lucas Jr.	January – March 2021
Sachs Harbour	Alternate	Warren Esau	April – July 2019
Sachs Harbour	Alternate	Dustyn Gully	August 2020 – March 2021
Ulukhaktok	Director	David Kuptana	April – December 2019
Ulukhaktok	Director	Joseph Haluksit	January 2020 – January 2021
Ulukhaktok	Director	Pat Klengenber	January – March 2021
Ulukhaktok	Alternate	John Alikamik	April – December 2019
Ulukhaktok	Alternate	Pat Klengenber	January 2020 – January 2021
Ulukhaktok	Alternate	Joseph Haluksit	January 2020 – January 2021

## Support

The Joint Secretariat in Inuvik provided support staff for the Inuvialuit Game Council with two Resource Management Coordinator (RMC) positions. Davonna Kasook and Leanne Gordon fulfilled these roles for the Inuvialuit Game Council in 2020-21.

## IGC ACTIVITIES DURING 2020/2021

### Directors' and Regular Meetings

IGC Directors' meetings are attended by the appointed Directors (with the December IGC meetings attended by Directors and Alternates) from the HTCs. During the IGC meetings, each HTC reports on issues and concerns from their respective community.

Regular Members' meetings are open to the various co-management committees, government departments and others that wish to update the IGC on their activities within the ISR.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns for the health and safety of Directors and staff, the Council held virtual Director-only meetings during the months of May and June 2020. In August 2020, the Council held a full virtual meeting that included both Directors and Regular Members. The IGC held three of its four quarterly board meetings in full: September 2020, December 2020, and March 2021.

## Meetings Attended by Inuvialuit Game Council Members or Appointed Representatives in the 2020/21 fiscal year

IGC members, representatives and staff attend a wide range of meetings, workshops and conferences at the local, territorial, national and international levels on matters related to the IGC's mandated responsibility for the wildlife rights of the Inuvialuit and wildlife habitat in the ISR.

Through its participation in these fora, the IGC has been involved in addressing a broad range of important issues and initiatives over the reporting period.

In addition to the IGC quarterly meetings and numerous teleconferences, IGC Chair and Directors attended, participated and presented at a number of meetings and conferences including:

Meeting Name	Location
ENR Minister Meeting	Virtual
ACCWM Annual Status Meeting (Nov 2020)	Inuvik, NT/Virtual
Inuvialuit-Inupiat Polar Bear Joint Commission Meeting	Inuvik, NT/Virtual
Inuvialuit-Inupiat Beluga Whale Management Committee Meeting	Inuvik, NT
IGC ISR Community Tour	ISR Communities
National Inuit Wildlife Committee/Inuit Wildlife Working Group	Virtual
Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting	Virtual
Inuvialuit Boreal Caribou Range Plan Working Group Meetings	Inuvik, NT/Virtual
Beaver Management Workshop	Inuvik, NT
North American Caribou Workshop	Virtual
Beaufort Sea Partnership Meeting	Inuvik, NT/Virtual
Fall PNR Canadian Marine Advisory Council Meeting	Virtual
Wildlife Act Section 15 Meeting	Virtual
Tuktoyaktuk HTC Annual General Meeting	Tuktoyaktuk, NT
Fisheries Joint Management Committee Meeting (Jan 2021)	Inuvik, NT
RSEA Co-Chairs Meeting	Inuvik, NT/Virtual
Regional Coordination Committee Meeting & Co-Chairs Meeting	Inuvik, NT/Virtual
Grizzly Bear Threat Assessment Meetings	Virtual
Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik Meeting of Parties	Inuvik, NT/Virtual
Polar Bear Range State TEK Meeting	Inuvik, NT/Virtual
Polar Bear Technical Committee Meeting	Virtual

Meeting Name	Location
Polar Bear Administrative Committee Meeting	Virtual
Taking Care of Caribou Annual Meeting	Virtual

## COMMITTEE SUMMARIES AND ACTIVITIES DURING 2020/2021

Over the years, a range of committees were established to address on-going issues (including national and international issues) related to the management of wildlife species that directly or indirectly affect the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic. These committees are separate from and in addition to the co-management structures established under the IFA. Following is a list of some of the additional committees and boards, which the IGC has appointed members to:

### Inuvialuit-Inupiat Beluga Management Committee

The Beaufort Sea Beluga Whale Agreement was signed on March 3, 2000. As per the Agreement, the FJMC has been sending ISR beluga harvesting data to Alaska. The committee meets to exchange research and harvest data and to coordinate future initiatives. This committee met virtually in October 2020 with the beluga technical advisors to follow up on previous recommendations put forth by the committee and provided direction on future initiatives.

### Inuvialuit-Inupiat Polar Bear Joint Commission and Technical Committee

These two committees discuss the status, health and harvesting of the shared population of polar bears in the Southern Beaufort Sea (SBS) region. The Commission makes recommendations to the Technical Committee and to co-management partners in Canada and Alaska on the research and monitoring of the SBS polar bear subpopulation. The joint commissioners met virtually in October 2020.

### NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) Implementation Advisory Committee

The PAS Strategy was approved in September 1999. This Committee guides the establishment of protected areas. Several regions outside of the ISR have established protected areas in the Northwest Territories under the PAS. This is ongoing. The Inuvialuit set aside 29% of land within the ISR with some form of protection. This 29% includes three national parks, five migratory bird sanctuaries, one territorial park, one marine protected area and numerous national historic sites. It also includes the Beluga Management Zones (being established as marine protected areas) and two Bird Sanctuaries.

### Polar Bear Technical Committee

The Polar Bear Technical Committee reviews scientific research and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge in order to advise and support the Polar Bear Administrative Committee, a subcommittee of the Canadian Wildlife Director's Committee that serves as a forum for the cooperative management of polar bear populations. The Polar Bear Technical Committee is comprised of Indigenous knowledge holders and provincial and territorial scientists from Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec and Yukon. An annual meeting of the committee is held in February.

### Porcupine Caribou Management Board

The Porcupine Caribou Herd is one of the largest migratory caribou herds in North America. The Porcupine Caribou Management Board was established to support the collaborative management of the herd, including protecting and maintaining its habitat. The Board is comprised of federal, territorial and Indigenous government representatives who work

collaboratively with users of the herd and scientists in an effort to ensure the long-term sustainability of the herd. The IGC appoints a member to this board. The IGC also attended the virtual Annual Harvest Meeting in February 2021 and provided an update on Inuvialuit harvest of this herd to the PCMB.

---

## Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board

The Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board was established by Canada and the Inuvialuit to advise Parks Canada on the planning, management and operation of Tuktut Nogait National Park. The Board, which includes IRC, IGC, GNWT and Heritage Canada representatives, was set up to share information and provide input on the management of Tuktut Nogait National Park.

---

## Inuvialuit-Inuit (West Kitikmeot) Joint Commission on Polar Bears

This Commission meets to discuss the status, health and harvesting of the shared population of polar bears in the North Beaufort Sea and Viscount Melville Polar Bear subpopulations. The Commission makes recommendations to the Technical Committee and to co-management partners in Canada and Alaska on the research and monitoring of these polar bear subpopulations.

---

## IHAP Review Committee

The Committee's responsibility is for considering, approving or rejecting all IHAP applications from outside the ISR, endorsing all community IHAP Committee approvals, hearing all appeals, submitting an annual report on the operation of the IHAP to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and recommending revision to the IHAP Policy and Procedures to the Board of IRC. The Committee has (4) Members: (2) appointed by the IRC Board of Directors and (2) appointed by the IGC.

---

## Polar Bear Administrative Committee

The PBAC provides a forum for provincial, territorial and federal governments, wildlife management boards and land claim organizations to work together to manage polar bears in Canada to ensure that Canada fulfills its obligations as a party to The Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, as well as any other agreement involving polar bears; to promote awareness, both nationally and internationally, regarding the status of polar bears in Canada, and the research, management and conservation programs that are in place to maintain or improve the species' status; and promote awareness, both nationally and internationally, regarding Canada's system of polar bear subpopulation co-management. The IGC Chair sits as a member of the PBAC.

---

# INUVIALUIT GAME COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY

## Wildlife and Environment Initiatives and Issues

Over the last several years, there has been increasing international focus on issues related to polar bears. The IGC has taken a proactive role to ensure that it continues to be involved and have a say in any management decisions for polar bears that would affect the ISR.

Over the reporting period, the IGC continued to work closely with other Inuit groups in Canada and with the federal and territorial governments to ensure proper and robust adaptive management of this species on a regional, national and international level. Over the reporting period, IGC staff participated in a number of meetings focused on polar bear management, such as Polar Bear Technical Committee meetings and Polar Bear Administrative Committee meetings.



- ▶ The IGC hosted the Inuvialuit-Inupiat Polar Bear and Beluga Whale Joint Commission meetings virtually in October 2020. The IGC has been involved in the planning for the next round of polar bear population surveys in the Beaufort Sea.
- ▶ Council and staff also participated in and assisted with various meetings related to the region including the Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting, Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway Corridor Working Group meetings, Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM), Bluenose West, Bluenose East and Cape Bathurst Management Plan and Action Plans meetings and Annual Status Meeting.

---

## 42 HTC Directors Meeting Planning

The IGC is in the last phase of the planning stages to host a 42 HTC Directors Meeting. Proposed meeting dates are being considered for the Fall of 2021. This meeting will be the first time all the Directors from the six HTCs of the ISR will meet. The event will provide an opportunity to discuss a range of topics including HTC level issues and wildlife management and research matters. IGC anticipates a mutually beneficial discussion that will help increase the integration of community input and better align decision-making processes within the co-management system specific to the setting of research priorities.

---

A variety of research projects are supported and co-developed with the Inuvialuit Game Council including:

- ▶ Ivvavik National Park Documentary
- ▶ Dolphin and Union Caribou Survey
- ▶ Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik – Conservation Area Meeting of Parties
- ▶ Country Foods for Good Health – Northern Contaminants Program
- ▶ Munaqsiyit Program
- ▶ Inuvialuit Traditional Knowledge Research Policy

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A variety of research projects are supported and co-developed with the Inuvialuit Game Council. Some of the planned research activities for 2019-20 were cut short in March 2020 due to the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Planned meetings and other year end activities were also affected due to the COVID-19 related closure of the Joint Secretariat office.

# Environmental Impact Screening Committee

## MANDATE

Pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), the Environmental Impact Screening Committee's (EISC) mandate is to undertake a preliminary assessment of a proposed development and its environmental effects to determine whether a proposed development "... could have a significant negative environmental impact."

If the proposed development is determined to have a significant negative environmental effect, then the proposed development will be referred to an environmental impact review process for further assessment and review.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
SCREENING COMMITTEE

# Year At A Glance

---

**43** project proposals received

---

**6** proposals screened

---

**9** committee meetings  
& 8 Screening Committee teleconferences

---

**12** meetings, conferences and workshops attended

## INTRODUCTION

On June 5, 1984, the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement (representing the Inuvialuit) and the Federal Government of Canada signed the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), which was subsequently legislated under the Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act [S.C. 32-33 Elizabeth II C.24.].

Provisions of the IFA enable the Inuvialuit to participate and be meaningful partners in all decisions-making processes dealing with the management of the environment and wildlife within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). Section 1 of the IFA expresses the following principles:

- ▶ To preserve the Inuvialuit cultural identity and values within a changing northern society.
- ▶ To enable the Inuvialuit to be equal and meaningful participants in the northern and national economy and society.
- ▶ To protect and preserve arctic wildlife, environment and biological productivity.

As one of five co-management groups established under the terms of the IFA, the EISC plays a vital role in achieving these goals through implementing the screening component of the IFA Environmental Impact Screening and Review Process.

The EISC's mandate is to undertake a preliminary assessment of a proposed development and its environmental effects to determine whether a proposed development "...could have a significant negative environmental impact." The EISC is not required to determine whether a proposed development "will" have a significant negative impact. Rather, the decision is whether it "could" have a significant negative environmental impact. This test of significance has a relatively low threshold, which is appropriate at a preliminary environmental screening stage. If the EISC determines that the proposed development "could" have a significant negative environmental effect then the proposed development will be referred to an environmental impact review process for further assessment and review. Further responsibilities of the EISC, as outlined in the IFA, can be found in Appendix A.

This Annual Activity report summarizes the EISC's activities for the fiscal period of April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

## MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

There are currently no vacant positions on the Committee. Mr. David Livingstone was reappointed as the Chair of the EISC on October 6, 2020 by the Government of Canada after a two-month hiatus. Ms. Shannon O'Hara-Nadeau was the Acting EISC Chair for the period of August 14, 2020 to October 6, 2020. It is noted that Gerald Inglangasuk's appointment is ending on September 30, 2021 and Mr. Inglangasuk has expressed interest in being reappointed to the EISC.

### Membership and Officers of the EISC during 2020/2021

Community	Position	Name	Appointment
Yellowknife, NT	Chair	David Livingstone	Nominated by Canada. Present Term: October 6, 2020 – October 5, 2023 Appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council
Paulatuk, NT	Member	Ray Ruben Sr.	Present Term: October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2022 Previous Term: October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2019
Inuvik, NT	Member	Gerald Inglangasuk	Appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council Present Term: October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2021 Previous Term: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2018 Previous Term: October 17, 2012 – September 30, 2015
Inuvik, NT	Member	Shannon O'Hara	Appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council Present Term: October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2022 Previous Term: October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2019
Whitehorse, YT	Member	Bengt Pettersson	Nominated by the Yukon Government Present Term: August 5, 2019 – August 4, 2022 Previous Term: August 5, 2016 – August 4, 2019
Yellowknife, NT	Member	Todd Slack	Nominated by the Government of Canada Present Term: August 23, 2019 – August 22, 2022
Calgary, AB	Member	Ronald Wallace	Nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories Present Term: March 22, 2019 – March 21, 2022

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES DURING 2020/2021

Members attended screening meetings approximately every six weeks and participated in other activities on behalf of the EISC as required to fulfill the mandate of the EISC and to “expeditiously determine if the proposed development could have a significant negative environmental impact” as stated in section 11.(17) of the IFA.

### EISC Scheduled Meetings

Dates	Meeting Name	Location
<b>April 2020</b>		
April 23, 2020	EISC Regular Meeting	Teleconference
<b>May 2020</b>		
Nil		
<b>June 2020</b>		
June 4, 2020	EISC Regular Meeting	Teleconference
<b>July 2020</b>		
July 17, 2020	EISC Regular Meeting	Teleconference
<b>August 2020</b>		
August 12, 2020	Special Meeting	Teleconference
August 27, 2020	EISC Regular Meeting	Teleconference
<b>September 2020</b>		
September 21, 2020	Special Meeting	Teleconference
September 30, 2020	Special Meeting	Teleconference
<b>October 2020</b>		
October 8, 2020	EISC Regular Meeting	Zoom Video Conference
October 16, 2020	Special Meeting	Zoom Video Conference
October 21, 2020	Special Meeting	Zoom Video Conference
<b>November 2020</b>		
November 6, 2020	Special Meeting	Zoom Video Conference
November 19, 2020	EISC Regular Meeting	Zoom Video Conference
<b>December 2020</b>		
December 17, 2021	EISC Regular Meeting	Zoom Video Conference
<b>January 2021</b>		
January 8, 2021	Special Meeting	Zoom Video Conference
January 21, 2021	Special Meeting	Zoom Video Conference
January 27, 2021	EISC Regular Meeting	Zoom Video Conference
<b>February 2021</b>		
Nil		
<b>March 2021</b>		
March 10, 2021	EISC Regular Meeting	Zoom Video Conference/ In person

EISC Decision Type	Number of Projects
Not Development	10
Exempt	27
Screened	6
Pending Decision	2

Table 1. The Project Submissions Received by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee Broken-down by Decision Type for the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year

Project Type	Number of Submissions
Research	11
Tourism	19
Cruise Ships	0
Infrastructure	6
Reclamation	1
Monitoring	3
Oil & Gas	1
Education	1
Film	1

Table 2. The Project Submissions Received by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee Broken-down Categorically for the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year

## Submissions

It is the responsibility of the proponent to submit a project description to the EISC for environmental screening. Under IFA s 11.(36), “no license or approval shall be issued that would have the effect of permitting any proposed development to proceed unless the provisions of [IFA section 11(36)] have been complied with.” This requirement has the effect of requiring competent authorities to give notice of applications for licenses, permits or other authorizations to the EISC. These applications for proposed developments must be reviewed by the EISC to determine if they are subject to environmental impact screening.

A pre-screening decision as to whether a project proposal requires an environmental impact screening is made by a subcommittee, which consists of three of the seven EISC members. A panel of five EISC members makes Environmental Impact Screening decisions. The Panel consists of the Chair, two Inuvialuit members, a Canada member, and a territorial member nominated by the territory (YT or NT) within which the project is to occur. Decisions are made on a majority vote basis with the Chair voting in the case of a tie.

Over the period of the 2020/2021 fiscal year, a total of forty three (43) projects were submitted to the EISC. Table 1 and Table 2 provide a breakdown of the projects submitted to the EISC over the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year.

In addition to developments that are screened, the EISC asks to be informed of other projects proposed for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region that for various reasons may be exempt from the screening process. This enables the EISC to have a broad picture of the activities being carried out within the ISR for the purposes of cumulative impact assessment.

The EISC greatly appreciated the efforts of the other Joint Secretariat co-management groups, government agencies, Aurora Research Institute, and Inuvialuit Land Administration during the reporting year to keep the EISC apprised of such activities.

## Other Activities

Internal administrative projects were undertaken by the EISC during the 2020/2021 reporting period to fulfill section 11.(14) under the IFA, i.e., “The Screening Committee may establish and adopt by-laws and rules for its internal management and procedures in order to ensure reasonable and expeditious consideration of applications.”

### EISC Guidelines

The EISC Guidelines require the Screening Committee to review the Screening Guidelines at least every five years in order to maintain procedural consistency, fairness and transparency in its processes. The last comprehensive review took place in 2013/2014. The review will be completed by May 30, 2021.

### EISC Registry

The EISC is currently developing a new Registry. Freshworks Studio was contracted to assist in its development. The scheduled completion date is set for the end of June 2021.

### Presentations and Guests

The EISC routinely accepts presentations from proponents, particularly when the proposal is potentially controversial or complex. Other guests are invited to speak on topics of mutual interest. The following summarizes the presentations and guests received during 2020/2021.

#### **November 19th, 2020**

- ▶ Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation – Inuvialuit Energy Security Project: Development and Production of the M-18 Gas Well
- ▶ Ms. Kate Darling and Mr. Alan MacDonald

#### **December 17th, 2020**

- ▶ Environment and Climate Change Canada – Mould Bay High Arctic Weather Station Remediation Project
- ▶ Ms. Deniz Baykal and Ms. Claudia Simonato

#### **January 27th, 2021**

- ▶ Transport Canada – Navigable Waters Act
- ▶ Mr. Gordon Chamberlain



## Other Meetings Attended by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee Members or Appointed Representatives

During the fiscal year, the Chair, Members, and Coordinator attended other meetings related to their duties and the work of the EISC. These include the meetings, conferences, and workshops listed below. Due to COVID-19 restrictions these meetings were primarily attended virtually.

Dates	Meeting Name	Attendees	Location
<b>May 2020</b>			
May 14, 2020	Environmental Assessment Improvement Initiatives	David Livingstone	Video Conference
<b>June 2020</b>			
June 3, 2020	Prairie & Northern Region – Canadian Marine Advisory Council	Todd Slack & David Livingstone	Video Conference
<b>August 2020</b>			
August 4, 2020	Environmental Assessment Improvement Initiatives Meeting	David Livingstone	Video Conference
August 20, 2020	Inuvialuit Game Council Meeting	Michel Lindsay	Video Conference
<b>September 2020</b>			
September 22-23, 2020	Inuvialuit Game Council Meeting	Michel Lindsay	Inuvik, NT
<b>October 2020</b>			
October 6-7, 2020	Arctic Oil & Gas Symposium	Ron Wallace	Video Conference
October 20-21, 2020	Beaufort Sea Partnership Meeting	Ray Ruben Sr.	Video Conference
<b>December 2020</b>			
December 1-2, 2020	Inuvialuit Game Council Meeting	Michel Lindsay	Inuvik, NT
December 2-3, 2020	2020 Pan-Canadian SDI Summit	Todd Slack	Video Conference
December 7-10, 2020	ArcticNet	David Livingstone, Ray Ruben Sr. & Shannon O'Hara	Video Conference
<b>February 2020</b>			
February 10, 2021	Pan-Territorial Board Forum Meeting	David Livingstone	Video Conference
<b>March 2020</b>			
March 9-10, 2021	Inuvialuit Game Council Meeting	David Livingstone & Michel Lindsay	Inuvik, NT

## FUNDING

Funding of all renewable resource-related activities associated with the implementation of the IFA is provided by Canada and coordinated by CIRNAC. Funding in 2020/2021 represented the fourth year in a new 10-year funding commitment.

The overall process of the funding agreement is coordinated by CIRNAC, while the Joint Secretariat is responsible for overseeing the budget forecasts for the block submission to the Treasury Board. The resulting allocations for the EISC become part of the committee's annual budget. The funds received under the contribution agreement between CIRNAC and the Joint Secretariat support the operational activities of the Committee.

The Yukon and Government of the Northwest Territories members' costs are directly billed back to the respective nominating Governments.

## APPENDIX A: EISC RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE IFA

As described in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, The Environmental Impact Screening Committee shall, among its other activities:

**Section 11.(1)** The developments subject to environmental impact screening include:

- a. developments described in subsection 13(7);
- b. developments in the Yukon North Slope region described in section 12;
- c. developments in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in respect of which the Inuvialuit request environmental impact screening; and
- d. subject to any agreement between the Inuvialuit and the Dene/Metis, developments in areas including the Aklavik land selections where the traditional harvest of the Dene/Metis may be adversely affected, on request by the Dene/Metis or by the Inuvialuit

**Section 11.(14)** The Screening Committee may establish and adopt by-laws and rules for its internal management and procedures in order to ensure reasonable and expeditious consideration of applications.

**Section 11.(15)** A register shall be kept of all decisions of the Screening Committee and the decisions shall be made available to the public on request.

**Section 11.(17)** On receipt of a project description, the Screening Committee shall expeditiously determine if the proposed development could have a significant negative environmental impact and shall indicate in writing to the governmental authority competent to authorize the development that, in its view:

- a. the development will have no such significant negative impact and may proceed without environmental impact assessment and review under this Agreement;
- b. the development, if authorized subject to environmental terms and conditions recommended by the Screening Committee, will have no such significant negative impact and may proceed without environmental impact assessment and review under this Agreement.
- c. the development could have significant negative impact and is subject to assessment and review under this Agreement; or
- d. the development proposal has deficiencies of a nature that warrant a termination of its consideration and the submission of another project description.

**Section 11.(37)** No licence or approval shall be issued that would have the effect of permitting any proposed development to proceed unless the provisions of this section have been complied with.

# Environmental Impact Review Board

## MANDATE

The mandate of the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) is to conduct reviews, through a public hearing process, of projects referred to it by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) and recommend what development projects should move forward and any terms and conditions for those projects.

Proposed developments in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) that have the potential for significant adverse environmental effects are referred to the EIRB. In making recommendations, the EIRB considers the need for wildlife compensation, mitigation measures and remedial measures.



# Year At A Glance

---

**5** meetings attended by board representatives

---

**1** shared best practices workshop – MVIRB

---

**1** project – updating the EIRB Guidelines

## FOREWORD

It is my privilege to be the Co-Chair of the Environmental Impact Review Board.

The Board did not conduct any reviews during the Past Year. Its activities were restricted to administrative matters, ongoing training of members and, as required, public outreach and education in respect of the system of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) found in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA).

The past year was a challenging year; due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person meetings were cancelled. The Board did have a few meetings by teleconference. The EIRB did start on a project to update the current EIRB Guidelines. The EIRB went into a contract with Firelight Group, who has extensive experience in working with Impact Review Boards. This was a project that that board sees as a priority. This also gave the new members a good opportunity to learn more about what a Review board does and what is involved in a Review. The board also met with the MVIRB in early January of 2021. This was a good meeting to learn more about MVIRB and their Cultural best practices and community engagement when conducting a review. The EIRB looks forward to more meetings with MVIRB.

There was some turnover on the Board in early 2021 and we offer sincere thanks to past members, the Chair John Donihee, Yukon member Ian Robertson and Canada member Jim Umpherson. Currently the EIRB is waiting for the new appointments to fill these positions. The Board remains prepared to address any referrals, which might result from the screenings in 2020/21.

Our Resource Coordinator, Jerome Gordon, was hired in the fall of 2020.



Co-Chairs Catherine Cockney, Ethel J. Gruben  
Environmental Impact Review Board

## MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

The EIRB was established under section 11(22) of the IFA and consists of seven (7) permanent members, three (3) appointed by Canada, three (3) appointed by the Inuvialuit and a Chairman appointed by Canada with the consent of the Inuvialuit. Of the three (3) appointed by Canada, each of the Governments of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon shall designate one (1).

Each member is appointed for a three-year term and is eligible for re-appointment.

### Membership and Officers of the Environmental Impact Review Board during 2020/2021

Community	Position	Name	Appointment
Kingston, Ontario	Chair	John Donihee	Nominated and appointed by the Government of Canada Consent given from the Inuvialuit Game Council Present Term: January 17, 2018 – January 16, 2021 Currently, the EIRB is waiting for a new Chair appointment.
Inuvik, NT	Member	Catherine Cockney	Nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories Appointed by the Government of Canada Present Term: October 31, 2016 – October 30, 2019 Previous Terms: Member since December 2006
Inuvik, NT	Member	Ethel-Jean Gruben	Appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council Present Term: October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2021 Previous Terms: Member since July 2015
Whitehorse, YT	Member	Ian Robertson	Nominated by the Yukon Government Appointed by the Government of Canada Present Term: February 8, 2018 – February 7, 2021
Yellowknife, NT	Member	Jim Umpherson	Nominated and appointed by the Government of Canada Present Term: March 2nd, 2018 – March 1, 2021 Previous Terms: Member since 2011
Ulukhaktok, NT	Member	Robert Kuptana	Appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council Present Term: October 3, 2019 – September 30, 2022
Inuvik, NT	Member	Debbie Gully	Appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council Present Term: October 3, 2019 – September 30, 2022

## Staff

### Joint Secretariat Staff

The EIRB receives administrative, technical and clerical support from the Joint Secretariat (JS) office staff in Inuvik, NT.

### JS Senior and Administration Staff

Executive Director	Melody Nice
Office Manager	Eunice Thrasher
Committee Program Manager	Jen Lam
Administrator	Bernice Joe
Casual Admin Staff	Dorothy Amos
Travel Coordinator	Shannon Jensen-Clark
Senior Finance Officer	Arsalan Milak
Finance Officer	Eliana Joe

## BOARD ACTIVITIES DURING 2020/2021

### Board Meetings

#### February 11, 2020

JS Boardroom — Inuvik, NT

Chair: John Donihee

Participants: Jim Umpherson, Ian Robertson, Catherine Cockney, Ethel J. Gruben, Robert Kuptana

#### August 18, 2020

Zoom / Teleconference — Inuvik, NT

Chair: John Donihee

Participants: Ethel-Jean Gruben, Jim Umpherson, Catherine Cockney, Ian Robertson, Debbie Gully, Robert Kuptana

#### November 04, 2020

Zoom / Teleconference — Inuvik, NT

Chair: John Donihee

Participants: Ethel-Jean Gruben, Jim Umpherson, Catherine Cockney, Ian Robertson, Debbie Gully, Robert Kuptana



## January 07, 2021

The Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife — Teleconference

Chair: John Donihee

Participants: Catherine Cockney, Ethel J. Gruben, Debbie Gully, Jim Umpherson, Ian Robertson, Robert Kuptana

## March 25, 2021

The Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife — Teleconference

Co-Chairs: Catherine Cockney, Ethel J. Gruben

Participants: Robert Kuptana, Debbie Gully, Bruce McLean

## Meetings attended by EIRB representatives in the 2020/21 fiscal year:

Dates	Meeting Name	Attendees	Location
January 2021	EIRB / MVIRB	John Donihee, Catherine Cockney, Ethel J. Gruben, Debbie Gully, Robert Kuptana, Ian Robertson, Jim Umpherson	Yellowknife

## EIRB / MVIRB joint meeting

The Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) met with the Executive Director from the Mackenzie Valley Impact Review Board in early January. The purpose of the meeting was to meet some of the staff and also to learn more about what the MVIRB does during a Review. The MVIRB shared a lot of what they have done in the past to include their Shared practices in Culture and Community engagement. This was a good tool to for the EIRB to consider in any upcoming reviews.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency in March 2020 staff were required to work from home, which interrupted previously scheduled meetings and business.

# APPENDIX A: EIRB RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE IFA

## IFA Section 11 – Roles and Responsibilities

11.(22) The Environmental Impact Review Board is hereby established to be the review body for any development referred to it pursuant to this Agreement. The Review Board shall have seven (7) permanent members, three (q) appointed by Canada, three (3) appointed by the Inuvialuit and a Chairman appointed by Canada, with the consent of the Inuvialuit. Of the three (3) permanent members appointed by Canada, each of the Governments of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon shall designate one (1). The representation of the Government of Yukon Territory for matters north of the watershed and of the Government of the Northwest Territories for matters in the Western Arctic Region shall increase as their respective jurisdictions increase and shall form a majority of appointees for matters exclusively within their respective jurisdictions. The membership of the Review Board may be increased or decreased from time to time at the discretion of Canada, but the same proportion of representation for Canada and the natives shall be maintained.

*As amended by P.C. 1987-26, January 15, 1987*

11.(23) The Review Board shall deal with each development subject to environmental assessment and review in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Agreement. For greater certainty, subsections (9) to (12) apply to the constitution of the Review Board panels, with such modifications as the circumstances require.

*As amended by P.C. 1987-26, January 15, 1987*

11.(24) The permanent members of the Review Board shall be appointed, remunerated and replaced by the respective appointing parties. The term of office of all permanent members, including the Chairman, shall be three (3) years and they are eligible to be re-appointed on the expiration of the term.

11.(25) The remuneration required for the Inuvialuit members appointed to the Environmental Impact Review Board, referred to in subsection 11(24), and reasonable travel and accommodation costs, to attend regular meetings of the Review Board shall be reimbursed by the Government of the Northwest Territories, as provided through funding agreements between Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories as are negotiated from time to time. These funding agreements shall not form part of the Agreement.

11.(26) Where any of the parties fails to nominate a sufficient number of persons within a reasonable time, the Review Board may discharge its responsibilities with such members as have been appointed.

*As amended by P.C. 1987-26, January 15, 1987*

11.(27) A person may be a member of both the Screening Committee and the Review Board.

11.(28) Canada shall provide to the Review Board the staff required to enable it to fulfil its functions. The Review Board may establish and adopt by-laws and rules for its internal management and its procedures.

11.(29) The Review Board shall expeditiously review all projects referred to it and on the basis of the evidence and information before it shall recommend whether or not the development should proceed and, if it should, on what terms and conditions, including mitigative and remedial measures. The Review Board may also recommend that the development should be subject to further assessment and review and, if so, the data or information required.

11.(30) Decisions of the Review Board shall be made by majority vote of the panel appointed, shall be in writing and shall be signed by all panel members.

11.(31) A register shall be kept of all decisions of the Review Board and the decisions shall be made available to the public on request.

11.(32) The decision containing the recommendations of the Review Board shall be transmitted to the governmental authority competent to authorize the development. That authority, consistent with the provisions of this section and after considering, among other factors, the recommendations of the Review Board, shall decide whether or not, on the basis of environmental impact considerations, the development should proceed and, if so, on what terms and conditions, including mitigative and remedial measures.

11.(33) If, pursuant to subsection (32), the competent governmental authority decides that further impact assessment and review is required, the proposed development shall be subject to further impact assessment and review based on the same or different information, requirements or specifications as the governmental authority considers appropriate.

11.(34) If the competent governmental authority is unwilling or unable to accept any recommendations of the Review Board or wishes to modify any such recommendations, it shall give reasons in writing within thirty (30) days, stating why it has not accepted the recommendations.

*As amended by P.C. 1987-26, January 15, 1987*

11.(35) The decision of the competent governmental authority shall be transmitted to the interested parties and made public.

11.(36) No licence or approval shall be issued that would have the effect of permitting any proposed development to proceed unless the provisions of this section have been complied with.

11.(37) For greater certainty, nothing in this section restricts the power or obligation of the Government to carry out environmental impact assessment and review under the laws and policies of Canada.

# Fisheries Joint Management Committee

## MANDATE

The Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) advises the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada on matters of fish and marine mammal management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), as well as assisting the Minister in administering Canada's rights and obligations for the management of fisheries under the IFA.

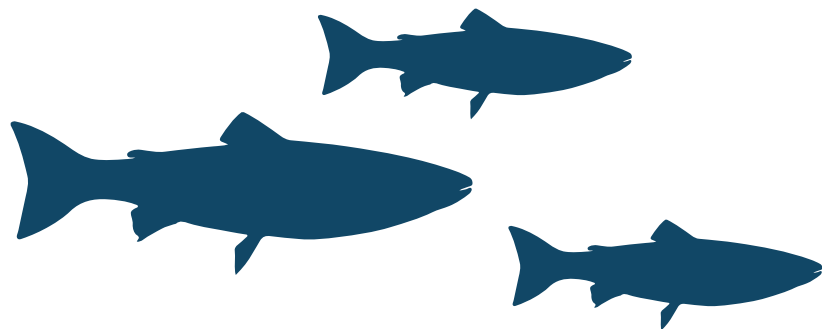


# Year At A Glance

at least **49** meetings attended by committee representation

**26** projects will be supported by the committee in 2021

**27** projects were supported by the committee in 2020



## MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

Pursuant to section 14(61) of the IFA, the FJMC is comprised of two (2) members appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council, two (2) members appointed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and a (1) chairperson appointed by the four members. The Committee meets on a quarterly basis and works with government and renewable resource user groups in Canada and Alaska to oversee common migratory stocks.

### Membership, Officers and Staff of the Fisheries Joint Management Committee during 2020/2021

Community	Name	Position	Appointment
<b>Chair</b>			
Yellowknife, NT	Lois Harwood	Acting Chair/Canada Member	Appointed January 2021
Tuktoyaktuk, NT	John Noksana Jr.	Acting Chair/Inuvialuit Member	Acting from January 2020 – January 2021
<b>Government Members</b>			
Winnipeg, MB	Burton Ayles		Started 1997
Sarnia, ON	Kevin Bill	Interim Acting Member	Started January 2021
<b>Inuvialuit Members</b>			
Paulatuk, NT	Lawrence Ruben		Started October 2019
Tuktoyaktuk, NT	John Noksana Jr.		Started October 2015
<b>Inuvialuit Alternate Members</b>			
Inuvik, NT	Richard Binder Sr.		Started October 2020
Inuvik, NT	Stan Ruben		Started October 2019
<b>Staff</b>			
	Thomas Kiyoo Campbell	Resource Specialist	Started August 2019
	Marissa Murphy	Resource Specialist	Started April 2020
	Issiac Elanik	Resource Specialist	Started November 2020

### Chair, Members and Staff Update

Lois Harwood is the current acting Chair of the FJMC, effective January 2021. John Noksana Jr. was acting in the Chair position until January 2021. John Noksana Jr. and Lawrence Ruben are the Inuvialuit representatives on the FJMC appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council. Burton Ayles and Lois Harwood are the Canada appointed members to the FJMC by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Kevin Bill is the interim acting Canada Member while Lois Harwood acts in the Chair position. Marissa Murphy and Issiac Elanik started their staff positions with the FJMC in April 2020 and November 2020, respectively. Kiyoo Campbell started in August 2019.

# COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES DURING 2020/2021

Meetings attended by FJMC representatives in the 2020/21 fiscal year

Dates	Meeting Name	Location
April 22, 2020	Western Arctic Marine Protected Areas Steering Committee Meeting	Teleconference
April 28-29, 2020	FJMC Quarterly Meeting – April	Videoconference
June 3, 2020	FJMC Planning Meeting	Videoconference
June 25, 2020	FJMC Quarterly Meeting – June	Videoconference
June 26, 2020	Imaryuk Monitoring Program Steering Committee Meeting 14	Videoconference
June 29, 2020	Regional Coordination Committee Meeting	Teleconference
July 16, 2020	FJMC internal discussions	Videoconference
July 20, 2021	Dolly Varden Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Steering Committee meeting	Teleconference
July 22, 2021	DFO Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program Engagement Session	Videoconference
August 4, 2020	JS Board Meeting	Inuvik, NT
September 9, 2020	Regional Coordination Committee Meeting	Teleconference
September 14-15, 2020	Tarium Niriyutait Marine Protected Area Working Group Meeting	Teleconference
September 17-18, 2020	Anguniaqvia Niiqiyuam Marine Protected Area Working Group Meeting	Teleconference
September 22, 2020	Inuvialuit Game Council September Meeting	Videoconference
September 28-30, 2020	FJMC Quarterly Meeting and HTC Presidents Meeting – September	Inuvik, NT
October 19, 2020	Inuit Engagement in the Central Arctic Ocean Agreement Virtual Workshop #2	Videoconference
October 20-21, 2020	Beaufort Sea Partnership Meeting	Videoconference
October 22, 2020	UNDOS Arctic Ocea Task Force Meeting	Videoconference
October 29, 2020	Inuvialuit-Inupiat Beluga Whale Commission	Inuvik, NT / Videoconference
November 5, 2020	UNDOS Arctic Ocea Task Force Meeting	Videoconference
November 13, 2020	NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Working Group	Videoconference
November 13, 2020	FJMC Planning Meeting and Inuvialuit Energy Security Project Presentation	Videoconference
November 24, 2020	ITH Highway Corridor Working Group Meeting	Inuvik, NT / Videoconference
December 1, 2020	Inuvialuit Game Council December Meeting	Inuvik, NT

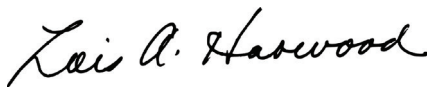
Dates	Meeting Name	Location
December 2, 2020	Inuit Engagement in the Central Arctic Ocean Agreement Virtual Workshop #3	Videoconference
December 8, 2020	UNDOS Alaska/Inuvialuit/Western Arctic Discussion Session	Videoconference
December 14, 2020	Anguniaqvia Niqiqyuam Marine Protected Area Working Group Meeting	Teleconference
December 15, 2020	DFO Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program Engagement Session	Videoconference
December 17, 2020	Tarium Nirytutait Marine Protected Area Working Group Meeting	Teleconference
January 11, 2021	FJMC January Preparation Meeting	Videoconference
January 12, 2021	Tarium Nirytutait Marine Protected Area Working Group Meeting	Teleconference
January 22, 2021	Tagging Advisory Committee Meeting	Videoconference
January 25-29, 2021	FJMC Quarterly Meeting — January	Inuvik, NT / Videoconference
February 16, 2021	FJMC Quarterly Meeting follow-up discussions	Videoconference
February 23, 2021	FJMC THTC Special Meeting — Husky Lakes Ecological Assessment	Tuktoyaktuk, NT / Videoconference
February 24, 2021	FJMC IHTC Special Meeting — Husky Lakes Ecological Assessment	Inuvik, NT
February 25, 2021	Paulatuk Char Working Group Meeting	Paulatuk, NT / Videoconference
February 28, 2021	Wildlife Management Advisory Council February Meeting	Yellowknife, NT
March 2-3, 2021	Regional Coordination Committee Meeting	Videoconference
March 2, 2021	Rat River Working Group Meeting	Videoconference
March 3, 2021	West Side Working Group Meeting	Aklavik, NT / Videoconference
March 5, 2021	Western Arctic Marine Protected Areas Steering Committee Meeting	Videoconference
March 9, 2021	DFO Species At Risk - Dolly Varden Management Plan engagement session	Videoconference
March 9-10, 2021	Inuvialuit Game Council March Meeting	Inuvik, NT
March 16-17, 2021	JS Board meeting	Inuvik, NT
March 25-26, 2021	FJMC Community Tour	Sachs Harbour & Paulatuk, NT
March 31, 2021	Beaver Management Workshop — Wildlife Management Advisory Council	Inuvik, NT



## YEAR IN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the FJMC has worked successfully with their DFO and Inuvialuit partners to ensure that fisheries research, monitoring and management activities have continued in the ISR. This allowed for 27 different FJMC-supported projects to proceed in 2020-21, as well as the regular co-management activities and programs such as the ISR beluga monitoring program (ongoing since 1980).
- ▶ This year, the FJMC reorganized their work into five streams: community priorities; marine protected areas; Stock-specific Management; Habitats and Ecosystems; and ISR-wide, National and International topics.
- ▶ The FJMC was able to meet with the ISR HTC presidents in the fall of 2020 and conduct a modified version of their annual community tour in March and April 2021, visiting Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk and Ulukhaktok, NT. Using information gathered at these and past meetings with community representatives, the FJMC conducted a review of documented community priorities/concerns and assessed their present status. This work has been used to inform discussions with DFO and Inuvialuit partners and will contribute to the development of a new project to assess “The State of Fish and Fisheries in the ISR.”
- ▶ During a hiatus in the Inuvialuit Harvest Study, the FJMC was able to conduct a focused harvest study on fishing in the Husky Lakes to assist in understanding sustainable harvest levels for the area. This work contributes to a larger multi-year project starting in 2021 to conduct an ecological assessment of Husky Lakes.
- ▶ The FJMC participated in discussions on the Central Arctic Ocean Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries.

Sincerely,



Lois Harwood

Fisheries Joint Management Committee – Acting Chair

## APPENDIX A: FJMC RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE IFA

As described under Section 14(64) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee shall, among its other activities:

- a. review information on the state of fishing in waters on 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) lands and Crown lands in any areas where the Inuvialuit have an interest and fishery related activities on 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) lands;
- b. identify areas of waters on 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) lands where fishing has taken place and predict where fishing may in the future take place;
- c. determine current harvest levels;
- d. develop, maintain and control a public registration system for fishing in waters on 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) lands and for entry on 7(1)(b) lands for the purpose of fishing;
- e. restrict and regulate the public right to enter on 7(1)(b) lands for the purpose of fishing where such restriction and regulation is required for the conservation of a stock, to prevent serious conflict with Inuvialuit activities, to prevent interference with other Inuvialuit use of the land to which they have title or to prevent unreasonable interference with Inuvialuit use and enjoyment of the land;
- f. deny entry to persons who abuse the right;
- g. allocate subsistence quotas among communities;
- h. determine the reporting requirements and review the role of “the Hunters and Trappers Committees” in regulating the subsistence harvest and collection of harvest statistics;
- i. make recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on subsistence quotas for fish, harvestable quotas for marine mammals, Inuvialuit commercial fishing, allocation of the preferential fishing licences to be granted under subsections (29) to (32), regulations regarding sport and commercial fishing in waters on 7(1)(a) and (b) lands and the identification of waters where such fishing may be prohibited; and
- j. advise the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on regulations, research policies and administration of fisheries generally affecting the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and on any new international agreements being developed that might apply to Inuvialuit fisheries.

# Wildlife Management Advisory Council

## MANDATE

The Council was created under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), to give effect to the principles of co-management of wildlife by Inuvialuit and governments, as specified in the IFA Section 14. The Council began its first full year of activities in 1987/88. This thirty third annual report describes the activities of the Council during fiscal year 2020/2021 (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021).

The Council's mandate is to advise appropriate government agencies, the Inuvialuit Game Council, Hunters' and Trappers' Committees and other co-management boards or councils on policy, legislation, regulation and administration respecting wildlife, habitat, harvesting, conservation, research and management in the Western Arctic Region within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. For the purpose of these procedures, the Western Arctic Region is that portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region which falls within the Northwest Territories.



**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)**

# Year At A Glance

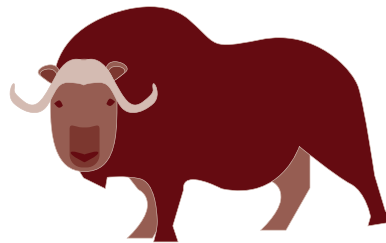
---

**9** committees of which WMAC (NWT) is a member

---

**4** Wildlife Management Acts  
WMAC (NWT) is involved with through comment and advice as required

**23** research projects  
in 2 areas



ENVIRONMENT AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES



CANADIAN  
WILDLIFE SERVICE

## FOREWORD

In 2020/21, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) (the Council) continued to implement its business processes under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. The Council was created under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), to give effect to the principles of co-management of wildlife by Inuvialuit and governments, as specified in the IFA Section 14.

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING SUMMARY

The Council's membership consists of three (3) members appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), two (2) members appointed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), one (1) member appointed by the Government of Canada, and a Chair. The Chair is appointed by the Government of the Northwest Territories with the consent of the Inuvialuit and Canada.

The Council focuses on the conservation of terrestrial wildlife species (including polar bears) and birds. For that reason, the Northwest Territories appoints representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), and Canada appoints a representative from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS).

### Staff and Membership Summary for 2020/2021

Name	Position	Appointment
Staff		
Name	Position	Appointment
Rosemin Nathoo	Wildlife Biologist	Since November 2018
Alexandrea Inglangasuk	A/Resource Coordinator	Since October 2020
Jodie Maring	Resource Coordinator	Since September 2016
Chair		
Larry Carpenter		Re-appointed August 2016, expires August 2021
Inuvialuit Members		
Dennis Arey		Appointed July 2018, expires September 2021
Bradley Carpenter		Appointed September 2018, expires September 2021
John Lucas Jr.		Resigned December 7, 2020 Expires September 2023
Inuvialuit Alternate Members		
Dang-Dang Gruben		Appointed September 2018, expires September 2022
Jimmy Kalinek		Appointed September 2019, expires September 2022

Name	Position	Appointment
James Pokiak		Appointed December 2020, expires September 2021
<b>Government Members</b>		
Rob Gau	ENR Headquarters, GNWT	Appointed September 2008 for an indeterminate period
Marsha Branigan	ENR Inuvik Region, GNWT	Appointed March 2008 for an indeterminate period
Eric Reed	Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada	Appointed May 2015 for an indeterminate period
<b>Government Alternate Members</b>		
Joanna Wilson	ENR Headquarter, Government of the Northwest Territories	Appointed April 2013 for an indeterminate period
Norman Snowshoe	ENR Inuvik Region, Government of the Northwest Territories	Appointed August 2017 for an indeterminate period
Nathalie Lowry	Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada	Appointed October 2020 for an indeterminate period

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES DURING 2020/2021

The Council activities for fiscal year 2020/2021 included:

- Meetings
- By-law Development, Quotas, Seasons and Zones for Wildlife Harvesting
- Legislation Affecting Wildlife Management
- Research
- Other

### a) Meetings:

During the 2020/2021 fiscal year the Council met:

Dates	Meeting Name	Location
June 16/29, 2020	WMAC (NWT) Meeting	Virtual
August 11, 2020	WMAC (NWT) Meeting	Teleconference
September 17-18, 21, 2020	WMAC (NWT) Meeting	Inuvik, NT/Virtual
November 25-27, 2020	WMAC (NWT) Meeting with alternates	Inuvik, NT
February 26-28, 2021	WMAC (NWT) Meeting	Yellowknife, NT

To enable the Council to adequately and knowledgeably fulfill its mandate, Council chair and members participated in a number of committees and meetings during the fiscal year.

A summary of committees of which WMAC (NWT) is a member:

### **Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM):**

The ACCWM has a membership comprised of the chairs of the WMAC (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB), Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB), Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB), Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), and the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB), as well as the Chair of the Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board. The *Bluenose Caribou Herds Management Cooperation Agreement*, signed in March 2000, established the Committee. The roles of the Committee are to: oversee the implementation of a management plan; recommend a system for determining quota limitations; and share harvest information among regions where these herds range.

Some of the members from the management boards of ACCWM are appointed to two separate working groups: the ACCWM working group and the Communication and Education working group. These working groups have discussions through a variety of teleconferences.

The Annual Status Meeting was held November 17-19, 2020 virtually with Larry Carpenter, Marsha Branigan, Rosemin Nathoo and Alexandra Inglangasuk attending. Marsha Branigan, Rosemin Nathoo and Jodie Maring participated in ACCWM Working Group and Communication and Educations Working Group Teleconferences in 2020/2021.

---

### **Conference of Management Authorities**

The Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) was established under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. Membership of the Conference is comprised of wildlife co-management boards and governments that share management responsibility for the species at risk in the NWT.

The CMA held two face-to-face meetings and

teleconferences. Larry Carpenter, Rosemin Nathoo, and Jodie Maring attended the virtual meeting on May 13, 2020. Larry Carpenter, Rosemin Nathoo and Alexandra Inglangasuk participated in the CMA teleconferences February 23-25, 2021 virtually.

---

### **Species at Risk Committee**

The Species at Risk Committee (SARC) was established under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The SARC members are appointed by the CMA members based on their knowledge of NWT plants and animals. In December 2020, the WMAC (NWT) extended the appointment for Allison Thompson as a member and Rosemin Nathoo as an alternate for SARC.

Allison Thompson and Rosemin Nathoo attended the SARC virtual meeting on April 22, 2020 and one workshop in August 2020.

---

### **Wildlife Act meetings:**

The Section 15 *Wildlife Act* is an annual meeting hosted by the GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources to promote cooperative and collaborative working relationships for effective wildlife management at the local, regional and territorial levels. Larry Carpenter, Rosemin Nathoo, Alexandra Inglangasuk and Jimmy Kalinek attended the virtual meeting held by ENR on November 10, 2020.

---

### **Polar Bear Administrative Committee**

The Polar Bear Administrative Committee (PBAC) is comprised of federal government representatives and representatives from Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Nunavut, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The PBAC provides a forum for the collaborative management of polar bear populations by relevant jurisdictions in Canada to ensure that Canada fulfils all obligations for polar bear conservation, including obligations under the *International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears and Their Habitat*.

Larry participated in teleconference calls on May 11, 2020; May 25-26, 2020; June 30, 2020 PBAC and PBTC Norway DF Briefing joint teleconference; and January 20, 2021.

## Polar Bear Technical Committee

The PBAC established the Polar Bear Technical Committee (PBTC) in 1970 to provide support to PBAC by reviewing scientific research and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and providing an annual status assessment of the polar bear subpopulations in Canada.

The representatives for PBTC are from each jurisdiction where polar bears are found (Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Québec and the Yukon).

Larry Carpenter attended the annual F2F meeting on February 1-4, 2021 via Microsoft Teams. Other teleconferences included June 12, 2020 and June 30, 2020 joint meeting with PBAC. There was no WMAC (NWT) participation for the November 26, 2020 teleconference due to meeting conflicts.

---

## Inuvialuit Game Council Regular Meetings

Larry Carpenter and Jodie Maring attended to the IGC meeting on August 20, 2020 (virtually); Larry Carpenter, Marsha Branigan, Rosemin Nathoo and Jodie Maring attended the IGC meeting on September 22-23, 2020; Larry attended the November 30 - December 4, 2020 and March 9-10, 2021 meetings in person.

---

## Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway Corridor Working Group Meeting

Jimmy Kalinek attended the meeting on November 24, 2020 via Zoom.

---

## Beaver Management Teleconferences

Alexandrea Inglangasuk worked with FJMC, IGC, Inuvik HTC, Aklavik HTC and Tuktoyaktuk HTC to hold a beaver management workshop on March 31, 2021 to discuss long-term planning, coordination, and reporting.

---

## WMAC (NWT and NS) Joint Meeting

Larry Carpenter, Marsha Branigan, Rob Gau, Bradley Carpenter, Jimmy Kalinek, Rosemin Nathoo and Jodie

Maring attended the joint meeting on September 16, 2020 in a virtual meeting.

---

## Species at Risk ISR Community Tour

Rosemin Nathoo, Larry Carpenter and Marsha Branigan held meetings in the ISR communities. The Tuktoyaktuk community meeting was held October 20, 2020; Inuvik community meeting held January 18, 2021; Paulatuk community meeting held January 19, 2021; Aklavik community meeting held January 21, 2021; and Sachs Harbour community meeting held January 27, 2021. The meeting with Ulukhaktok via Zoom was held on January 29, 2021.

---

## Arctic Net

Larry Carpenter, Rob Gau, Bradley Carpenter, Eric Reed, Marsha Branigan, John Lucas Jr., Dennis Arey, Rosemin Nathoo and Alexandra Inglangasuk attended Arctic Net Virtual Conference December 7-11, 2020.

---

## Dolphin-Union

Rosemin Nathoo participated in the Dolphin and Union working group and worked closely with the OHTC on DU monitoring and management actions.

---

## Tuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst Sensitive Habitat Working Group

The WMAC (NWT) co-facilitated with the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) on the Tuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst (TP/CB) sensitive habitat working group meetings held January 22, 2020 in Tuktoyaktuk, which Rosemin Nathoo attended.

---



## b) By-law Development, Quotas, Seasons and Zones for Wildlife Harvesting

### By-law and Associated Regulation Development

In September 2013, the WMAC (NWT), Inuvialuit Game Council and ENR signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for by-law development within the ISR.

All parties remain committed to the development, approval and enactment of HTC bylaws as regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. Up to March 31, 2021 there were several bylaws and regulations in development or in the process of being amended. The following is a brief summary:

Tag increase for I/GB/06 from 13 to 20	Completed March 17, 2020. (no regulation change required)
Mandatory moose harvest reporting for Resident Hunting License holders	Requests received by ENR from the WMAC (NWT) on March 13, 2016; the GRRB on May 26, 2016 with follow-up formal motions sent June 28, 2018; and the IGC on July 5, 2019 for application in Wildlife Management Zones I and G for Resident Hunting License holders. The topic was discussed at the November 10, 2020, Section 15 <i>Wildlife Act</i> meeting. This issue is undergoing internal ENR review as of March 31, 2021.
Addition of 30 tags for RES/NRA/NRA outfitting opportunities in I/MX/05	Completed May 6, 2020.

## c) Legislation Affecting Wildlife Management

The WMAC (NWT) continues to be involved through comment and advice as required. This includes:

### *Federal Species at Risk Act*

- ▶ Proposed up-listing consultations for Dolphin and Union Caribou
- ▶ Peary Caribou Recovery Strategy
- ▶ Horned Grebe Management Plan
- ▶ Boreal caribou range planning
- ▶ Grizzly bear management plan
- ▶ Yellow-banded bumble bee management plan

### *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*

- ▶ Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy
- ▶ Peary caribou status report for re-assessment
- ▶ Boreal caribou status report for re-assessment
- ▶ Management plan and recovery strategy implementation

## *Migratory Birds Convention Act*

- ▶ Biennial updates to Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations
- ▶ Modernization of Migratory Birds Regulations
- ▶ Bird Sanctuary management workshop

## *Wildlife Act*

- ▶ Section 15 regulations — boreal caribou harvest reporting
- ▶ IFA related regulations

## d) Research

Wildlife research is essential to the WMAC (NWT) in order to make decisions and recommendations on conservation and quotas. Wildlife research in the ISR is supported primarily by IFA implementation funds (funds provided by Canada in fulfillment of its continuing obligations under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement) along with regular ENR and CWS expenditures and in-kind support. ENR and CWS propose research programs and priorities for the ISR based on continuing consultation with the HTC's. The WMAC (NWT) considers these proposals, sets the priorities for IFA implementation-funded research each year and advises the agencies and the Inuvialuit Game Council of its recommendations. The Council also reviews and advises on wildlife research proposed by other agencies and supported by other funds.

Inuvialuit knowledge directs and informs wildlife research in several ways. The consultation process between ENR, CWS and the HTC's helps set priorities about what research needs to be done and how best to do it. The WMAC (NWT) requires that such consultation takes place prior to approving any research project and also requires assurance that research is conducted in a manner satisfactory to the HTC's. The Council itself also considers the development, design, conduct and interpretation of research on the basis of both Inuvialuit and scientific knowledge. Traditional Knowledge has been collected on specific species.

In November 2020, the Council approved the following wildlife research projects for 2020/21:

### **Environment and Natural Resources projects:**

Total IFA allocation: \$803,000 for 17 projects and other expenses. Due to COVID-19, the Southern t-Northern Beaufort Sea Polar Bear DNA Recapture work was postponed.

### **Projects funded by Inuvialuit Implementation Funding under the IFA:**

- ▶ Arctic Borderlands
- ▶ Beavers — Management
- ▶ Caribou — BG and PCH — Body Condition and Health
- ▶ Caribou — Barren Ground — Monitoring
- ▶ Caribou — Barren Ground — Management Planning
- ▶ Caribou — Reindeer / Caribou Hybridization
- ▶ Caribou — PCH Harvest Management Strategy
- ▶ Caribou — PCH Collars — YG
- ▶ Caribou — Peary — Genetics/Body condition

- ▶ Data Acquisition
- ▶ Grizzly Bear - Harvest Monitoring
- ▶ Muskox - Health Monitoring
- ▶ Muskrats
- ▶ Polar Bear — Beaufort Sea Assessment
- ▶ Polar Bear — Viscount Melville
- ▶ Wolf — Harvest Monitoring
- ▶ Wolverine — Harvest Monitoring
- ▶ Administration and Salaries

### **Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) projects:**

Total IFA funds allocated for research in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: \$280,500 for six projects, including administration related to the WMAC (NWT).

### **Projects funded by Inuvialuit Implementation Funding under the IFA:**

- ▶ Western Arctic Snow Goose and Brant Banding Program (Banks Island)
- ▶ Aerial Survey of Snow Goose Colonies in the ISR (Kendall Island & Anderson River)
- ▶ ISR Cackling/Canada Goose Traditional Knowledge
- ▶ Banks Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary No. 1 Habitat Assessment — Fuel Clean-up
- ▶ ISR Program Administration
- ▶ South and North Beaufort Sea Polar Bear Indigenous Knowledge and Integrated Population Model

### **e) Other**

The Joint Secretariat provides administrative support to the IGC and co-management committees, including maintaining a website. The WMAC (NWT) portion of this website contains information about the Council’s activities and mandate and downloadable versions of many of the Council’s documents (e.g. Inuvialuit Community Conservation Plans).



Larry Carpenter

Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

## **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Due to the global pandemic, COVID-19, most of the WMAC (NWT)’s usual business including meetings and scheduled projects has been cancelled, postponed and/or adjusted to follow the safety guidelines and restrictions during this time. However, the WMAC (NWT) staff maintained the daily office operations while working from home, and the Council remained functional and available to conduct its mandate the best way possible with the prospects of returning to its usual business when safe to do so.

# Joint Secretariat Inuvialuit Settlement Region

## INTRODUCTION

The Joint Secretariat (JS) provides administrative and technical support to the six bodies established in Sections 11–14 of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). These bodies include the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC), Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB), Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC), Wildlife Management Advisory Council – NWT (WMAC (NWT)) and Wildlife Management Advisory Council – North Slope (WMAC (NS)). The JS was incorporated as a society in 1987 with the agreement of the parties to the IFA. The six chairs of the committees listed here constitute the society’s members and directors.

The core duties of the Joint Secretariat are:

- ▶ To support and facilitate the interests and activities of the IFA committees established pursuant to Sections 11–14 of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement in any matters relating to their responsibilities and interests.
- ▶ To provide administrative (financial/clerical) support to IFA committees and to arrange logistics of meetings pursuant to the business therein.



- ▶ To record and make available all materials associated with the business of IFA committees as required by their Chairs and other appropriate agencies.
- ▶ To establish and maintain working liaisons between the Joint Secretariat and other Inuvialuit organizations, Government, Industry, the Academic sector and other relevant agencies or organizations.
- ▶ To provide technical resource support to IFA committees as required by their Chairs.

The JS administers all funding (receivable and payable) on behalf of IGC, EISC, EIRB, FJMC and WMAC (NWT). The majority of IFA committee funding is provided through Contribution Agreements with the Federal Government and Territorial Governments. Outside funding sources are also administered by the JS.

The JS administers Inuvialuit Participation Costs only on behalf of the WMAC (NS).

The JS administers all HR matters in support of IGC, EISC, EIRB, FJMC and WMAC (NWT). The WMAC (NS) administers its own HR requirements.

Key stakeholders that the JS interacts with regularly in order to provide appropriate administrative and technical support include:

- ▶ Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)
- ▶ Inuvialuit Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs)
- ▶ Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNA)
- ▶ Department of the Executive and Indigenous Affairs – Government of the Northwest Territories (DOEIA – GNWT)
- ▶ Department of Environment and Natural Resources – GNWT (ENR – GNWT)
- ▶ Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- ▶ Department of Environment – Yukon Government (DOE – YG)

## JOINT SECRETARIAT STAFF

As of March 31, 2018, the Joint Secretariat employed 14 full-time staff. Over the course of the fiscal year numerous casual staff have been hired as required. Please note that WMAC (NS) employs staff independently of the JS.

NAME	POSITION
Management Staff	
Melody Nice	Executive Director (vacant until January 2020)
Cheryl Williams	Office Manager (resigned in June)
Eunice Thrasher	Office Manager (began in August)
Jen Lam	Community Program Manager

NAME	POSITION
<b>Administration/Finance Staff</b>	
Arsalan Malik	Senior Finance Officer
Bernie Joe	Receptionist and Administrative Assistant
Chris Mann	Director of Finance and Administration (October to March)
Chukita Gruben	Junior Resource Person
Cora Lee Simpson	Committee Support Assistant (began in December)
Dorothy Amos	Admin Assistant
Elaina Joe	Finance Clerk (began in July)
Eunice Thrasher	Finance Officer (April to July)
Issiak Elanik	Floating Admin (September to December; moved on to FJMC)
Jerome Gordon	Senior Management Assistant
Jessi Pascal	Floating Admin and Harvest Study Support Person
Judy Gordon	HTC Support (September to December)
Kari Shanks	Records Management Coordinator
Shannon Clarke	Travel and Logistics Coordinator (began in April)
Winston Tsai	Information Technician (July to October)
<b>Resource Staff</b>	
Chanda Turner, Davonna Kasook and Leanne Gordon	Inuvialuit Game Council
Kiyo Campbell, Marissa Murphy and Issiak Elanik	Fisheries Joint Management Committee
Alex Inglangusuk , Jodie Maring and Rosemin Nathoo	Wildlife Management Advisory Committee
Michel Lindsay	Environmental Impact Screening Committee
Lenora McLeod and Hester Inuasurak	Environmental Impact Review Board (February to present)
Kirt Ruben	Community Based Monitoring Program

NAME	POSITION
Kayla Hansen-Craik	Marine Protected Area
Cassandra Elliott	Traditional Knowledge (April to October)
Gilly McNaughton and Jessi Pascal	Traditional Knowledge (began in November and January respectively)

## MEETING SUMMARY / COMMITTEE MAKEUP

During the 2020/2021 fiscal year the JS Board held the following meetings:

- ▶ July 7, 2020 — JS Board AGM (ZOOM)
- ▶ July 8, 2020 — JS Board of Directors (ZOOM)
- ▶ August 4, 2020 — JS Board of Directors (ZOOM)
- ▶ October 2 and 5, 2020 — JS Board of Directors meeting — Inuvik
- ▶ December 21, 2020 — JS Board of Directors meeting — Inuvik
- ▶ March 16-17, 2021 — JS Board of Directors meeting — Inuvik

The committee membership and directors are made up of the Chairs of the six IFA committees. The Chair of the JS Board is elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Membership of the JS over the fiscal year was as follows:

Board Position	Name	Committee Position	Appointment
<b>Chair</b>			
JS Chair	Larry Carpenter	WMAC (NWT) Chair	
JS Vice Chair	John Donihee	EIRB Chair	Until January 2021
JS Vice Chair	Jim Elias	Acting IGC Chair	February – March
JS Vice Chair	Dennis Arey	IGC Chair	Effective March 2021
<b>Regular members</b>			
	David Livingstone	EISC Chair	
	Shannon O'Hara	EISC Acting Chair	September – December
	Lindsay Staples	WMAC (NS) Chair	
	John Noksana Jr	FJMC Acting Chair	Until January 2021

Board Position	Name	Committee Position	Appointment
	Lois Harwood	FJMC Acting Chair	Effective January 2021
	Cathy Cockney and Ethel Jean Gruben	EIRB Co-Acting Chairs	Effective January 2021

## DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES

Over the course of the fiscal year, the normal day-to-day operations of the JS and IFA committees have been supported and advanced. Related responsibilities include: financial accounting and management, carrying out payroll, making travel bookings, addressing IT and infrastructure needs, regularly communicating with regional partners and other regularly occurring tasks associated with running the JS office.

### Information Management

Records and Information Management is an organizational function devoted to the management of information in an organization throughout its life cycle, from the time of creation or receipt to its eventual disposition. This includes identifying, classifying, storing, securing, retrieving, tracking and destroying or permanently preserving records. It takes 2-3 years to put a records program in place properly and effectively and we are coming up to the end of our first year and have accomplished a considerable amount thus far. Staff are engaged with the program. Over 20 people have participated in the program activities and just as many attended the two workshops. The program contributes to overall Standard Operating Procedure's by helping people name and organize their records.

Our next step is the introduction of a tutorial video being created by a UBC student and Professor with whom we've partnered with. In it they discuss the importance of naming conventions for files. They will also include a handy tip sheet for staff. The roll out is set to take place in early June. In addition to the files on our server, approximately 90 boxes of paper files have been sorted, classified and recorded. Boxes that have not been scanned/digitized and placed on the server already will be undertaken in the near future, possibly by a Summer student.

We will have a central file room to house these boxes, where staff can sign out files that they need to access. While some files will be archived indefinitely, others will be reviewed and disposed of at the end of their lifecycle (ie. Finance records after 7 years). Proper preservation of our archives are of utmost importance and offer a rich source of history for those of the Arctic region and the rest of the world for generations to come.

## FUNDING SUMMARY

In the 2020/2021 fiscal year, the Joint Secretariat (JS) received funding from various sources. The majority of funding is provided via contribution agreements (CA) with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNA) and the Government of the Northwest Territories — Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR). The remainder of received funding was provided through contributions made by other federal and territorial government departments, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and non-governmental organizations. These funds were managed by the JS on behalf of the six committees established in sections 11-14 of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). Committee operations are supported by budgets established and overseen through motion of individual committees.

As a body independent of the IFA committees, the JS is provided its own operating budget. The general expenditures associated with the JS include compensation for communal staff, certain communal costs, specific projects and other expenditures better accounted for by the Joint Secretariat, as summarized in annual audits.



## SHARED SERVICES UNIT

There are three active divisions represented within the Shared Services Unit: Marine Protected Area, Community Based Monitoring Program and Traditional Knowledge. The following is a report on the activities of these three initiatives shared between the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Joint Secretariat. The staff responsible for delivering these initiatives are employees of the Joint Secretariat.

### Marine Protected Areas

The Marine Protected Area Coordinator works closely with DFO, FJMC, Inuvialuit Organizations (IGC and IRC) and local HTCs to ensure the appropriate and effective management and monitoring of the two (2) Arctic Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the ISR. The Tarium Niryutait MPA (TNMPA) was designated in 2010 and encompasses the three areas of Niaqunnaq (Tupqaq/Shallow Bay area), Okeevik (Kendal and Baby Island area) and Kittigaryuit (Kugmallit Bay area). The Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam MPA (ANMPA) was designated in 2016 and provides protection to the coastal waters along the west side of Darnley bay and the offshore near Cape Parry near the community of Paulatuk. The Conservation Objectives for each MPA are highlighted below.

**TNMPA Conservation Objective:** To conserve and protect beluga whales and other marine species, their habitats and their supporting ecosystem.

**ANMPA Conservation Objectives:** To maintain the integrity of the marine environment offshore of the Cape Parry Migratory Bird Sanctuary so that it is productive and allows for higher trophic level feeding; and to maintain the habitat to support populations of key species (such as beluga whales, Arctic char and ringed and bearded seals).

MPAs in the ISR are co-managed through the community-level Tarium Niryutait MPA (TNMPA WG) and Anguniaqvia Niqiqyuam MPA (ANMPA WG) working groups and the Western Arctic Marine Protected Area Steering Committee (WAMPA SC).

The MPA working groups were created in 2018 to increase community involvement in MPA management and include members from the Inuvialuit Hunter and Trappers committees (HTCs), the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Western Arctic Marine Protected Area Steering Committee (WAMPA SC) provides guidance and regional coordination to the management of the MPAs and includes members from DFO, FJMC, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) and the chairpersons from each of the TNMPA and ANMPA working groups. There are youth mentorship opportunities (for 18 to 25 years of age) through youth positions on both TNMPA and ANMPA working groups. Youth positions on the working groups are appointed by the local HTC. The MPA Coordinator and DFO — Oceans biologist make up the MPA secretariat and together are responsible for the day-to-day administration of the MPA WGs and WAMPA. The Marine Program Coordinator with the IRC also sits at MPA WG meetings as an observer.

The annual MPA Research and monitoring funding allocation (200k per MPA) process is tied to the FJMC annual research priority setting and funding process. This allows for strategic financial planning and cost sharing between MPA and FJMC research funding. Priorities for MPA research and monitoring activities are gathered throughout the year at MPA working group meetings and through attendance at FJMC June tour and September FJMC/HTC Presidents meetings. Both FJMC and MPA priorities are outlined in the annual call for proposals released by FJMC and proposals are reviewed and ranked by both TNMPA and ANMPA working groups prior to January FJMC/WAMPA science meeting where MPA working groups comments and recommendations are forwarded to principal investigators and an initial budgeting exercise occurs. Once revised proposals (where necessary) have been received and reviewed and re-ranked by MPA working groups, annual MPA research and monitoring funding decisions are forwarded to WAMPA and FJMC.

## TNMPA Funded Research

Project Title	Project Lead
Shingle Point Beluga Monitor Arctic Coastal Ecosystem Study (ACES) Shingle Point Community-Based Monitoring project	M. Gruben — Aklavik HTC
Beluga Health Research and Monitoring in the TNMPA and ISR	L. Loseto — DFO
Population Assessment of North Slope Dolly Varden char	L. Loseto & S. MacPhee — DFO
Behavioural Analysis of Beluga Harpoon Pilot	C. Gallagher — DFO
Beluga Habitat Use, Coastal Observations and Environmental Conditions in the TNMPA	L. Loseto & S. MacPhee — DFO
SmartICE data collection in TNMPA	L. Loseto & D. Whalen — DFO & NRCan
	T. Raddi — Tuktoyaktuk MAIS/EMSA Program

## ANMPA Funded Research

Project Title	Project Lead
Paulatuk Beluga: Health and Knowledge	D. Ruben — Paulatuk HTC
Acoustic Monitoring in the ANMPA and ISR	S. Insley — Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Seal Diet and Condition in the ANMPA and ISR	S. Insley — Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Paulatuk Invertebrate project	D. Ruben — Paulatuk HTC
Assessment of Arctic char from Darnley Bay	C. Gallagher — DFO
Arctic Coast — ANMPA Summer Community-based survey 2020	K. Dunmall & D. McNicholl — DFO
Paulatuk Whitefish Monitoring program	D. Ruben — Paulatuk HTC
Arctic Coast — ANMPA Winter Baseline Research 2020-2021	K. Dunmall & D. McNicholl — DFO

## Tarium Niryutait Marine Protected Area

The TNMPA WG is made up of two (2) members and one (1) youth appointed by the Tuktoyaktuk HTC, two (2) members and one (1) youth appointed by the Inuvik HTC, two (2) members and one (1) youth appointed by the Aklavik HTC, one (1) FJMC member and one (1) DFO — Oceans member. The TNMPA WG chair, appointed by the Aklavik HTC, resigned in 2021. A new chairperson will be selected by the TNMPA WG members once the Aklavik HTC appoints a new member to sit at the TNMPA WG table.

The TNMPA, having been established for over five years now, is required to undergo an assessment and review of the TNMPA Monitoring and management plans to ensure they are meeting the conservation objective. However, the WAMPA SC felt that five years was an insufficient dataset to identify any trends in the data and supported a qualitative review that asked communities and Inuvialuit and government co-management partners for their input on the indicators identified in the original plan.

The “State of the TNMPA Report: Inventory of Monitoring from 2010-2016” highlights the results of the qualitative review and provides recommendations for future monitoring of the TNMPA. The “State of the TNMPA Report: Inventory of Monitoring from 2010-2016” was published in early 2021 (Brewster et al., 2021) and the final report was presented to the TNMPA WG during a meeting in April 2021. The TNMPA WG will review the report and the recommendations within will inform the TNMPA monitoring and management plan updates. The plan is to invite scientific experts to the TNMPA WG table to co-develop the draft TNMPA monitoring plan.

## Anguniaqvia Niiqiyuam Marine Protected Area

ANMPA working group (ANMPA WG) is comprised of four (4) members and one (1) youth appointed by the Paulatuk HTC, one (1) FJMC member and one (1) DFO — Oceans member. The Paulatuk HTC appointed one new member to the ANMPA WG in 2020 to fill a resignation.

The ANMPA WG has been working hard on developing the Draft ANMPA monitoring plan over the past three (3) years. The working group took the indicators identified in Scientific Advise document (CSAS 2015/025), organized them into eight (8) indicator themes (five ecological, TLK, Socio-economic and governance) and identified both short- and long-term actionable goals for each ecological indicator theme that will help guide research and monitoring efforts within the ANMPA.

A Canadian Science Advise Secretariat (CSAS) meeting occurred in February 2020 to receive science advice on indicators pertaining to the southern ANMPA CO and region, as well as the need to update current scientific knowledge of the area. The ANMPA WG decided not to attend this CSAS process as they were uncertain their TLK would be captured in a meaningful way through this science process but did support and respect this science process. The WG went ahead with developing the plan from a community focus and provided a summary table of community priority indicators and actions to the CSAS process. The formal Science advice and proceedings documents from the February 2020 ANMPA CSAS meeting are being drafted and will inform the joint science and community ecological indicator workshop. This workshop will bring the science advice to the WG and identify together what could be incorporated into the draft monitoring plan for consultation with communities and co-management partners.

*References: Brewster, J. D., Hansen-Craik, K., Harwood, L.A., and Blakeston, C. 2021. State of th Tarium Niryutait Marine Protected Area (TNMPA) Report: Inventory of Monitoring from 2010-2016. Can. Manuscr. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 3301: x + 84p.*

## Community Based Monitoring Program (CBMP)

The following major projects are associated with the CBMP:

### 1. Imaryuk Monitoring Program: Inuvik & Tuktoyaktuk

- ▶ Objective: To monitor the effects of increased access on the ITH through monitoring & outreach
- ▶ Date Range: May 2018 launch & long-term
- ▶ Funding: Joint Secretariat and CBMP successfully obtained Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP) Multi Year funding: 2020-2023
- ▶ Staffing: IHTC (2 seasonal)& THTC (2 seasonal)

### 2. Munaqsiyit Monitoring Program: 6 ISR Communities

- ▶ Objective: To support Inuvialuit monitors as the “eyes and ears of the land” in the identification, recording and notification of hazard sites, on-the-land disturbances and observations of environmental or wildlife changes
- ▶ Date Range: October 2019 launch & long-term
- ▶ Funding: 3 years confirmed funding (2019-2022)
- ▶ Staffing: 1 full time in each community (6 in total)

### 3. SmartICE: Paulatuk (2019-2020), Ulukhaktok (2020-2021), Sachs Harbour (2021-2022)

- ▶ Objective: To monitor ice thickness to ensure safe travel for community members that use Ocean Travel for Harvest Routes
- ▶ Date Range: Roll out over 2019-2022 & long-term

- ▶ Funding: 3 years confirmed launch funding (2019-2022)
- ▶ Staffing: Munaqsiyit Monitors
- ▶ 2 HTC Members will be trained and certified to help assist and operate the Smart Qamutik
- ▶ 2 Volunteer Community Members will be trained and certified to help assist and operate the Smart Qamutik
- ▶ 6 Munaqsiyit Monitors and 1 SmartICE Trainer traveled to the Community of Paulatuk to begin training and launching of the SmartICE Program in January 2020
- ▶ 6 Munaqsiyit Monitors, 2 HTC Board Members, 1 HTC employee and 2 Community Volunteers successfully completed training and were certified to operate the Smart Qamutik.
- ▶ SmartICE Training 2021. Due to COVID-19 the Munaqsiyit Monitors & SmartICE Trainers were not able to travel to the Community of Uluhaktok.
- ▶ SmartICE Training/ Refresher completed in the town of Inuvik and community of Tuktoyaktuk February 22-26, 2021 in collaboration with Marine Awareness Information System (MAIS).
- ▶ SmartICE Training. Our final stop for SmartICE will be in the community of Sachs Harbour to train/refresh the Munaqsiyit Monitors in January 2022.

The following are formalized externally partnered projects:

1. ITH Stream Biomonitoring Wilfred Laurier University — **Objective:** establish stream biomonitoring program along the Upper Dempster and Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway to assess the effects of road development in Arctic on stream ecosystem health.
2. We use water quality and study processes and organisms at the base of stream food webs that

are important for all other organisms like fish

3. Understanding lower levels in food webs helps us understand environmental stress, ecological structure and what may be impacting higher levels such as fish
4. Imaryuk Monitors assisted in field work alongside Wilfred Research Team in the summer of 2019
5. Due to COVID-19 the Wilfred Laurier Research Team was unable to travel North to Inuvik for the summer of 2020. This gave the Imaryuk Program and Monitors an opportunity to lead and drive this research study on behalf of Wilfred Laurier. The Monitors successfully collected, stored and shipped documents and data to Wilfred Laurier
6. The Imaryuk Program and Monitors will again lead this research study on behalf of Wilfred Laurier. Starting in summer June 2021 the Monitors will set Laurier equipment along selected spots of the ITH and Monitor and ensure they stable until removal in the fall of September.
7. FJMC ? Should we mention the Husky Lakes Study
8. Peary Caribou CBM (WMAC & ECCC)

There are a number of proposed partnered projects that are still in the discussion phase and smaller partnered initiatives internally.

---

## Traditional and Local Knowledge Team

### Inuvialuit co-management of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Inuvialuit Settlement Regions

Multi-year funding has been secured from Canadian Wildlife Service to work with boards, HTCs and communities to develop a framework for Inuvialuit co-management of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the ISR.

In March 2021, a preliminary meeting for this project took place in order to bring together HTC Directors to provide direction on how they would like to see their communities engaged and to provide opportunity

for discussion surrounding what this co-management framework could potentially look like. This workshop focused on achieving the following specific objectives:

1. Introducing this project that the JS will be coordinating with the HTC and communities over the next three years.
2. Providing an opportunity for a knowledge exchange between Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and HTC Directors and presenting co-management frameworks used in other locations in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
3. Determining how the HTCs and their communities would like to be engaged in this project going forward.
4. Identifying common or community-specific concerns surrounding MBSs and their management and collating feedback on ways these concerns could be addressed.

---

## Inuvialuit Regional Settlement Traditional and Local Knowledge Research Policy

The history of research on Indigenous peoples is one that is permeated with exploitation and racism. While research relationships have evolved over time, there has been a movement by Indigenous organizations and governments to implement their own research policies in order to ensure research is respectful and beneficial for Inuvialuit. For this to occur, collaboration and partnership is necessary in all stages of a research project.

In response to both this history and this need, an ISR Traditional Knowledge Research Policy was developed and has been endorsed by the IGC. It is currently undergoing legal review and final drafting.

---

## Iliuqpiq Project – Inuvialuit Game Council Traditional Knowledge Repository

Iliuqpiq is the working title of this project that means storage bag, box or storage place in the Kangiryuarmuit dictionary. Alternatively, inillaktiriyuq means to store or put away. This project was started in 2019

in response to the ongoing development of the TK research policy and the need to store traditional knowledge data and associated materials in a way that was readily accessible and that ensures the ethics of the materials are maintained.

Through this project, we seek to develop an online platform where Inuvialuit, community organizations, Inuvialuit decision-makers and researchers and JS staff can access TK data and information readily. The repository allows information to be stored in a compartmentalized unit that includes the NVivo files, audio files, interview transcriptions, consent forms and a project description that outlines the data ownership and data use as outlined in consent forms. The TLK Coordinator lends the support to assess data requests and ensures there will not be incidents of breaching ethical protocols. This is especially important since as data is repatriated from academic researchers, the parameters of data use as outlined on their consent forms will need to be followed.

After securing one-year funding in 2020, in 2021 multi-year funding was secured through DHCP/Archives Canada to support this project. Activities that took place for this project included the hiring of a staff members to complete digitization, transcription and coding of archival materials and updating of the TK repository on an ongoing basis.

---

## ISR TK Catalogue & Compendium

The ISR TK catalogue is a publicly-accessible website that allows people to search through publication records for all TK research conducted in the ISR. Each record contains detailed information about the publication. Activities that took place for this project included updating and ongoing maintenance to the catalogue.

The program has changed over time, but in the last several years local technicians were hired in Aklavik, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Old Crow to conduct interviews about several species focusing mostly on terrestrial.

There have been concerns about the accessibility of the ABEKS data in recent years. As a result, WMAC NS removed their funding of ABEKS in 2017 and reallocated it to CBMP. WMAC NWT still provides \$10,000 a year in funding to ABEKS. ABEKS also had a

large amount of funding from ECCC, but there is only one year left in that agreement. The future of ABEKS is uncertain because the program coordinator who has been in the position for four years will be leaving the organization at the end of March. Due to the concerns about the accessibility of the data and the future funding of ABEKS, Inuvialuit Game Council has requested that copies of the data be moved in house to be managed by the SSU. Once the data transfer is complete the data will be readily accessible to the Inuvialuit and co-management.

It was discussed at the last strategic meeting whether GTC would like their data — and they said they do not have the capacity to take on the management of the data. IGC agreed to lend support to GTC in the digitization and back up of data.

There will be two parts to this data-sharing agreement. Firstly, all the data associated with ABEKS' last 24 years was stored in Environment Canada cold storage in Whitehorse and tapes and maps were stored in the Program Coordinator's living room to ensure they weren't damaged. All the physical materials associated with the yearly interviews have been shipped to the JS and had arrived at the time of this report. We have \$8,000 from ECCC via ABEKS to complete the digitization of all these historical documents. We have confirmed by email that GTC and GRRB are in support of the JS doing the digitization of this data. However, we need a formal agreement for IGC, IRC, GTC, VFN and the JS to all sign saying that they are okay with the materials being in the possession of the JS and outlining the terms of the agreement.

The database is managed by a company based out of Whitehorse and we do not know much about the platform used for the management — but it is difficult to view and retrieve data. Jenn Parrott has agreed that her staff Matthew Chudek, the IRC Statistician, can provide support in discussion with the data management company and getting the database in house. The second agreement will relate to the move of the database. We don't know all the details about how this transfer will happen yet; as of the current time, it may be too soon to write an agreement. This could also be a future amendment to the first agreement, but the management of physical resources will be different.

## CWS Migratory Bird Sanctuary Work

### (Activities started 2019)

It is confirmed that there is funding from CWS for the TLK coordinator salary for the next three years. The work related to this CA will commence next fiscal. Jen Lam has been the lead on this CA with CWS.

CWS is also supporting the Traditional Knowledge Assessment of the Key Species of the Beaufort — Round 2 and there are preliminary discussions about other migratory bird traditional knowledge research in the ISR for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 fiscal years.

---

## Presentations and Workshop Facilitations 2020/2021

- ▶ Inuvialuit Harvest Study HTC Meetings – all 6 ISR communities
- ▶ Migratory Bird Sanctuary Indigenous Governance HTC Community Workshop
- ▶ TK updates provided to various Inuvialuit Game Council and co-management board meetings

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Throughout this fiscal year, there was a global outbreak of a novel coronavirus known as COVID-19. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the Joint Secretariat and the IFA Committees through the restrictions put in place by the Canadian and U.S. governments regarding travel, business operation and isolation/quarantine orders. As a result of these restrictions the Joint Secretariat took swift action to support work-from-home offices for all Joint Secretariat and Committee staff. These restrictions limited and, in many cases, paused planned activities until alternative arrangements could be developed and implemented.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 2120, 107 Mackenzie Road

Inuvik, NT, Canada X0E 0T0

(e): [adminjs@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:adminjs@jointsec.nt.ca)

(p) 867-777-2828

(f) 867-777-2610

(w) [www.jointsecretariat.ca](http://www.jointsecretariat.ca)

---