

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 6-10 Alaska Forum on the Environment • Anchorage, Alaska • www.akforum.com

February 13-16 Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission Mini-Convention • Barrow, Alaska

February 14-15 SDWG Working Group • Gallivare, Sweden • http://portal.sdwg.org/

February 28 – March 1 CAFF Board Meeting • Salekhard, Russian Federation • http://www.caff.is/

March 4-10 Arctic Winter Games • Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada • www.awg2012.org

March 12-14 Developing a Coalition of Alaska Native Organization to Address Threats to Subsistence Resources and Uses from Commercial Shipping in the Arctic • Anchorage, Alaska •

March 26-27 PAME Working Group Meeting • Stockholm, Sweden • http://pame.arcticportal.org/

March 28-29 Arctic Council: Senior Arctic Officials Meeting • Stockholm, Sweden • www.arctic-council.org

April 16-20 Meeting with Congressional Leadership and Federal Agencies • Washington, D.C. •

April 22-23 ICC Executive Council Meeting • Montreal, Quebec, Canada

April 22-27

International Polar Year Conference: From Knowledge to Action • Montreal, Quebec, Canada • http://www.ipy2012montreal.ca/

April 24-26 Kawerak Regional Conference • Nome, Alaska • www.kawerak.org

May 15 Arctic Council Deputy Minister Meeting Stockholm, Sweden • www.arctic-council.org





Sustainable Development Working Group

SDWG Update

ICC Language Project receives Arctic Council go ahead...

By ICC Alaska Staff

ICC involvement in the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) continues to be a high priority. The SDWG is the Arctic Council (AC) working group that concerns itself with sustainability in the Arctic with a focus on the human dimension. More information on the SDWG can be found on the updated AC website: www.arctic-council.org.

The goals of the sustainable development program of the Arctic Council include:

- to propose and adopt steps to be taken by the Arctic States to advance sustainable development in the Arctic, including opportunities
- to protect and enhance the environment and the economies, culture and health of Indigenous Peoples and Arctic communities, as well as
- to improve the environmental, economic and social conditions of Arctic communities as a whole.

Source: http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/sdwg

The most recent SDWG meeting was held in Stockholm, Sweden during October. One highlight from the meeting was the approval of the ICC led project proposal titled "Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages: A Five Year Plan." This project will implement the recommendations from the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium held in 2008. The symposium recommendations can be found at www. arcticlanguages.com.

The Nuuk Declaration recognizes that the Inuit language is a critical component to Inuit identity and mandates ICC to advocate for the implementation of the symposium recommendations. This effort is being led by our Canadian office. After receiving approval from the SDWG, the project was sent to the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) and approved at that level as well. As a first step, ICC plans to facilitate a workshop to develop the implementation plan. At this workshop, language experts will be engaged to draw out the plan. More information on the workshop will be sent out as it becomes available.

Another ICC led project; "A Circumpolar-Wide Inuit Response to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment" (AMSA) was presented at the meeting. The project proposal was sent back for further clarification at the urging of the SAOs, it will be presented again at the next SDWG meeting for approval. Through this project ICC will educate Inuit communities in our four countries about AMSA and gather concerns about shipping to report back to the AC. The second part of the project is to expand "The Sea Ice is Our Highway" study that was done in Canada to include the other three Inuit countries. Work on this initiative will begin later this year.

The Alaska office has also been working on a project proposal to inform the AC about Inuit perspectives on the issue of food security. An informational *continued on page* 5

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President's Message

Jim Stotts

Northern Waters Task Force Completes Work...

The Northern Waters Task Force (NWTF) finished two years of hard work completing its hearings and report this quarter. The final draft report with recommendations to the State of Alaska is available

online at http://www.housemajority.org/coms/index.php?c=104.

I want to thank task force members for their effort, especially Representative Reggie Joule who chaired the NWTF. The task force held hearings in northern communities within the State as well as urban centers ensuring a good cross section of opinions, including the perspectives of Inuit and their organizations.



Northern Waters Task Force hearing in Nome. Photo by: Sharon Kelly

In my opinion the NWTF was created partially as a reaction to the cessation of the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. It was a reaction to an inability to have meaningful local input into discussions concerning Arctic development. I'm happy to say that the public initiative to reinstate a Coastal Zone Management Program is well on its way. This supports recommendations made by ICC Alaska at the NWTF hearings. You can read my presentation to the NWTF hearing held in Barrow on our website: www.iccalaska.org.

The NWTF report makes recommendations in the following topical areas: governance; oil and gas exploration and development; marine transportation; planning and infrastructure investment; fisheries; and research. The report is comprehensive and well thought out. We welcome the fourth recommendation under the governance section that encourages the State to support and encourage greater international cooperation with the Arctic Council and Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska.

Here at ICC Alaska, we look forward to building a positive relationship with the State and hope that the NWTF recommendations will be implemented in their entirety. We also hope that the recommendations will result in the State becoming more engaged in Arctic policy development currently occurring at the national and international level.

What Does Salmon Mean to You?

By Carolina Behe

This is the first in a three part series on salmon and food security.

For countless generations the Bering Sea has been a rich source of traditional food for Native societies residing within coastal and riparian communities. This includes three subspecies of salmon: Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Chum (*O. keta*), and Coho (*O. kisutch*). The close relationship that many communities have had with salmon throughout their history is clear and evident in the Yup'ik language: the term 'real food' and 'salmon' both share the same Yup'ik word, Neq'pik.

Recently drastic decreases in salmon numbers have affected the food security of these communities leading to speculation that the decline involves more than just natural fluctuations known to occur within salmon runs. The Walleye Pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) fishery has been identified as one cause for the decline. The Walleye Pollock fishery intercepts Chinook and Chum salmon bound for western and interior Alaska. This by-catch steadily increased through the mid to late 2000s with Chum by-catch reaching a high in 2005 of 704,586 salmon before decreasing. Chinook by-catch reached a high in 2007 of 130,139 salmon before decreasing.

In 2009, Amendment 91 to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Fishery Management Plan was passed which required 100 percent observer coverage and implemented limits on intercepting species. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implemented this program for the 2011 BSAI Walleye Pollock fishery in addition to the existing rolling hot spot management scheme.

Under Amendment 91, industry is encouraged to group together under Incentive Plan Agreements (IPAs) within each sector. Chinook salmon incidental take is now denominated into the catch; once the limit is reached all fishing for that sector must stop. Each sector receives an allocation of Chinook salmon not to exceed 60,000. If the industry does not form an IPA the allocation is set at 47,591 Chinook salmon.

NMFS continues to address Chum salmon by-catch through rolling hot spots and area closures. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) is currently considering Chum by-catch caps of between 50,000 to 353,000 Chum salmon.



Photo by: Jackie Cleveland

Efforts to decrease by-catch are to be applauded. Additional effort must continue to lower the set caps. A question remains of what to do with the salmon that is pulled on board. One solution could be to donate the fish to food banks within indigenous communities through the NMFS prohibited species donation program.

One might think this is a viable solution; however it shows a lack of understanding of food security within indigenous communities. The trade-off involved in obtaining salmon from a food bank when compared to catching that salmon yourself is high. Problems continue to occur when the assumption is made that community needs are met by picking up salmon from the food bank. This solution ignores the crucial processes involved in harvesting salmon; the environmental education and cultural connections developed through the fishing process.

Moving forward it will be a struggle to create fishing management schemes; based on traditional knowledge and science; between deep-sea commercial fishery needs and indigenous community fishing needs; between managing resources with the intent of maximizing profits while holistically managing the ecosystem. However, placing strong by-catch limits on the largest commercial fishery in the United States is a good start.



Seal Outbreak Declared As An UME

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have declared the current pinniped (seals, sea lions and walrus) Arctic disease event a multi-species Unusual Mortality Event (UME). The declaration of an UME allows for more funding to be allocated toward aiding in the disease investigation. Hunters and scientist are working together

to find answers to what may be causing this outbreak. If you find a seal or walrus acting abnormally or showing signs of illness contact your local wildlife authority and utilize your traditional knowledge in handling the animal.



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Inuit Call on Global Leaders at CoP 17

By ICC Alaska Staff

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) convened its 17th Conference of Parties (CoP) in Durban, South Africa in December. ICC continues to monitor and engage in the climate change discussion to ensure adequate awareness of the affects of climate change on Inuit and the Arctic including the need for governments to develop adaptation strategies.

In an effort to bring attention to concerns regarding climate change and affect the CoP 17, ICC updated its Call to Action document that outlines ICC's position and practical ways to address climate change effects in the Arctic. Press releases on the CoP 17 meeting and the document "Inuit Call to Global Leaders at CoP 17: Binding Agreement Urgently Needed to Ensure the Future of our Arctic Homeland" can be found on our website under the media tab at www.iccalaska.org.

ICC also supports the Arctic Council (AC) efforts to bring attention to the urgency of climate change in the Arctic. The Inuit Call to Action begins by quoting the AC statement to CoP17: "Combating climate change is an urgent common challenge for the international community and requires immediate global action."

In the Inuit Call to Action, ICC specifically urges global leaders to support Inuit in sustaining our ice-dependent lands and livelihoods by taking the following actions:

Recognize the role of the Arctic in sustaining global climate systems and supporting life on earth. Global leaders should designate avoidance of further climate change impacts on the Arctic as one of the key benchmarks for effectiveness of a Post-2012 process.

Support the integration of Inuit and indigenous knowledge and local monitoring into regional and global environmental assessment processes by: a.) Integrating traditional knowledge into IPCC reports and encouraging Inuit experts to serve as authors, and; b.) Supporting community-based monitoring of environmental change and developing global databases to integrate local observations and monitoring systems into regional and global scale models.

Support Inuit and indigenous peoples with adaption and sustainable technology development by: a).

Creating a Green Technology Fund that will allow developed (Annex I) countries to allocate a percentage of their contributions for indigenous peoples from their own regions; b). Assisting Arctic, indigenous, and remote communities in developing renewable energy options that will increase their economic viability and decrease dependence on energy imports and outside resources.

Recognize the fundamental human right of Inuit to a healthy environment, and respect Inuit sovereignty and the rights of indigenous peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as custodians of their homelands. We call on the international community to recognize the human rights implications of climate change for Inuit and indigenous peoples, and to respect Inuit sovereignty over all decision-making processes in the Arctic.

Acknowledge the important role of the Arctic Council as a model for cooperation between states and indigenous peoples, and encourage states to develop similar forums for addressing environmental challenges in their own regions. The Inuit Circumpolar Council calls on global leaders to develop collaborative decision-making forums that include indigenous peoples as formal participants through which to tackle the issues raised by global environmental change and intersecting, trans-boundary environmental issues.

Unfortunately CoP17 did not result in a binding agreement amongst the nation states, and Canada withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol. The world apparently isn't ready to do something meaningful to combat global climate change.

Check Out Our Website **www.iccalaska.org** "DRUM" is now online!



Aqqaluk Lynge Reconnecting – ICC to visit Chukotka for the first time since 2001...

First I want to thank ICC Alaska's executive, staff, and members for the past year and wish everyone all the best in 2012.

Chair's Message

ICC has been associated with the United Nations (ECOSOC Category II membership) for

nearly thirty years. Since 2002 our participation has concentrated on the annual meetings of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). I was a member of that body from 2005-2007. Last year, ICC together with the Saami Council, nominated the well respected Dr. Dalee S. Dorough as the member representing the Arctic/Europe seat.

This year's meeting theme is: "The Doctrine of Discovery: its enduring impact on indigenous peoples and the right to redress for past conquests (articles 28 and 37 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)." ICC continues to use UNPFII meetings to connect with indigenous peoples around the world, and this year's theme will probably be used to discuss the continuing oppression in many areas of the world where armed conflicts are affecting the lives and territories of the indigenous peoples.

Our activities with the Arctic Council and its six working groups will continue taking much of our resources in 2012. However, the upcoming meeting in Chukotka next July will be a most important event. We are planning to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the membership of Chukotka's Yupiget who officially joined ICC in 1992. In 2001, I had the privilege on behalf of Inuit, to enter into a cooperative agreement between the Association of Indigenous Minorities of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug and Governor Roman Abramovich. Since then several organizations, including ICC Canada, have cooperated on joint projects through the agreement.

Through the efforts of Charles Johnson, former ICC executive from Nome, visa free travel was established between Chukotka and Alaska and still works today (although 9/11 did create some restrictions). The North Slope Borough assisted Chukotkan hunters with equipment and reintroduced traditional whaling methods. The meeting this summer will renew the close cooperation between ICC and the indigenous peoples of Chukotka and Russian authorities. Much has happened since our last visit; no wonder we look forward to fly from Nome to Anadyr to spend some time with our friends and relatives.

I remember vividly my first visit to Chukotka in 1988. Although everything we encountered in the Soviet Union was much different from what we knew, it was extremely emotional and great fun. In the Yupiget village of Sirinike our entourage was placed in a school dormitory. The men stayed in a section with a bathroom where the door wouldn't close. It had been a long day and we were anxious to rest and sleep. Naturally we needed to use the bathroom and one after another we returned from the bathroom.

The late Caleb Pungowiyi was one of the last and as he returned, not closing the door, one of us said; "Close the door Caleb, were you born in a barn?" I remember looking at him as he replied with a big smile; "No. I was born in a tent." Of course we laughed and continued telling jokes long into the night.

I'm sure that my colleagues are looking forward to our historic trip next July.

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presentation was made at the SDWG meeting on the Alaska led project titled "A Research Framework to Assess Food Security from the Inuit Perspective." At this time, ICC is trying to determine how the project can best contribute to the AC work and is considering involvement in the SDWG as food and water security is a priority for the Swedish chairmanship. Further developments on this effort will be reported on in the future.

The next meeting of the SDWG will be held in Gallivare, Sweden in February. The first day will be an open discussion focused on Permanent Participant involvement in SDWG. It will be an opportunity for Permanent Participants to discuss items of common interest or concern. The second day will be a regular meeting to follow up on directions from the last SAO meeting, consider project proposals, receive updates on current projects, and prepare for the upcoming SAO meeting to be held in March. Look forward to further SDWG developments in future editions of DRUM.



Senior Arctic Officials Meet in Sweden

By ICC Alaska Staff

Arctic Council (AC) Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) held their first meeting under the Swedish chairmanship November 8-9 in Lulea, Sweden. Prior to the start of the meeting SAOs and Permanent Participants (PPs) held a closed session to discuss internal issues and enjoyed a tour of the Swedish Icebreaker, *Oden*.

Chairman Gustaf Lind opened the meeting and introduced Nauja Bianco, the new SAO from Denmark and Asa Larsson Blind, the new Head of Delegation (HOD) for the Saami Council. Nauja Bianco introduced Naja Lund the new representative for Greenland, and Hanna i Horni, the new representative for the Faroe Islands.

Administrative Issues:

The Chair presented his team and the employees of the AC Secretariat in Norway. He gave an overview of Sweden's plans for their chairmanship. He stressed Sweden will take an action oriented approach to meeting challenges in the arctic. Sweden's SAO gave an update on the work of the Task Force on Institutional Issues (TFII). The TFII is charged with instituting measures to strengthen the AC, creating a permanent secretariat and addressing observer questions. The Task Force will also undertake the new task of producing an Observer Manual.

Climate, Environment and Biodiversity:

The Arctic Change Assessment (ACA) was presented. The purpose of the ACA is to: first, consider how different changes in different sectors impact arctic communities, and; second, develop adaptation strategies for the changes occurring. It was stressed the key words for the ACA are *integration* (what is the outcome when all assessments are considered together) and *regionalization* (what is the outcome when different regions and different scales are considered – how are the regions affected differently by changes). The ACA would involve all AC working groups (WGs) with a time frame of five years. It was decided to have an updated ACA proposal prepared by early 2012 for consideration at the SAO meeting in May 2012.

Sweden's proposal for an Arctic Resilience Report (ARR) was introduced. The purpose of the ARR is to understand arctic changes by identifying potential shocks and large shifts in ecosystem services, and to analyze how that might affect societies. Resilience is about the ability of a system to cope with shocks and at the same time maintain its essential functions. The ARR can be seen as supporting the ACA and the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Expert Group. The SAOs sanctioned the ARR as an AC project.

There was a report from the Short-lived Climate Forcers Task Force (SLCF). SLCF's work is being integrated with other international organization work on short-lived climate forcers including the UNEP, IMO, and IPCC, which are affiliated with the United Nations. SLCF will begin to focus on methane and tropospheric ozone in addition to its work on black carbon. The SAOs encouraged the task force to work closely with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) and the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) WGs. There is a need to start concrete demonstration projects under ACAP.

There was a presentation from the EBM Expert Group. In response to questions why it is necessary to have this group since the AC has supported the principle of EBM for many years, it was noted that for the first time EBM will be looked at in an integrated way in all areas of the arctic: marine, terrestrial, near-coastal and coastal. The experts have agreed to work in two groups, one on EBM definitions and principles and one on commonalities and gap analysis. The PPs noted this holistic approach to managing the ecosystem is appreciated and will be a useful tool for indigenous peoples.

The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) Steering Committee gave an update on its activities. There are three components to the project: 1) trends report which was done in 2010; 2) scientific assessment which will be completed in 2013, and; 3) policy recommendations which will be submitted to the SAOs for review in the autumn of 2012. SAOs said the committee should start planning already how to implement recommendations.

The ACAP chair expressed frustration with the current set up of ACAP. In two ACAP projects the first and second phases are completed, that is identifying and localizing the contaminants. However, the third phase of destroying and removing the contaminants cannot begin due to a lack of funding and appropriate technology in the Russian Federation. There was discussion on the Project Support Instrument (PSI) which could be used to fund the third phase of ACAP projects. ACAP chair asked if AC approval of ACAP projects was enough for implementation within the PSI framework. SAOs requested to see a plan developed for implementation and eligibility criteria for the PSI.

Oceans:

There was an update on the Task Force on Marine Oil Preparedness and Response (OSTF) which had its first meeting 17-18 October in Oslo, Norway. The second meeting will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia. SAOs suggested that liability and compensation issues were important to discuss. SAOs hoped the agreement would be legally binding and substantially completed by 2013. It was noted that prevention issues should be coordinated with work of the Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR) WG on oil spill prevention. Future work from the OSTF will be reported in the DRUM.

EPPR presented the results from a workshop held 19-20 October in Oslo on Marine Oil Pollution Prevention. EPPR hopes to have a draft report ready by June with a final report by October 2012. It was stated by SAOs that it is important that EPPR work closely with the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) WG and the OSTF on this issue. SAOs suggested EPPR should start planning implementation strategies for recommendations early on.

PAME gave an update on phase two of the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) which is to review status and trends in the arctic maritime environment. The second report will have six thematic chapters with a synopsis on trends, challenges, suggestions for improvements, and policy recommendations. The report will include the human dimension which was lacking during phase one. The AOR will be presented for Minister's approval in 2013.

AMAP gave an update on its Arctic Ocean Acidification (AOA) project. CO2 emissions into the atmosphere create acidification of the oceans. There is research in other ocean regions on this topic with regional differences noted, with the arctic ecosystem being more sensitive to acidification. The next report will discuss biological responses to acidification, economic impact on fisheries and suggest conclusions and recommendations. It was suggested that PAME work together with AMAP on this assessment. A report will be delivered at the 2013 Ministerial.

There was a short update on follow up activity on the Arctic Search and Rescue (SAR) agreement. Canada hosted a "tabletop exercise" in Whitehorse 4-6 October. The exercise focused on Arctic state coordination and the strategic and operational aspects of aeronautical and maritime SAR in the arctic. The exercise showed the importance of each state having in place an integrated approach to SAR. Russia, the United States, Norway and Sweden have ratified the agreement with the other states working towards ratification in early 2012.

Human Dimension:

The Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) presented outcomes from the meeting held 3-4 October in Stockholm, Sweden. Based on this, SAOs approved four

projects: Arctic Human Development Report II; Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages; Reindeer Herding and Youth, and; Electronic Memory of the Arctic. Another proposal was deferred pending further work; the Arctic Maritime and Aviation Transportation Infrastructure Initiative. A proposal from the ICC on Food Security was not tabled for discussion.

Working Group Administration:

The SAO chair gave a report on his meeting with WG chairs. They discussed communications between the chair and WGs, and between the WGs themselves. Guidelines for WG progress reports will be prepared before the next SAO meeting. They also discussed the AC website. Reports from all of the WGs except for ACAP were presented.

Other Business:

There was a short discussion on the IPY Conference *"Knowledge to Action"* to be held in Montreal, Canada 22-27 April. The AC will be well represented at this event, with some SAOs in attendance and presentations by CAFF and AMAP. Several PP organizations will also attend.

There was a short report from the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) which will meet in Stockholm in the spring of 2012. The 10th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region will take place 5-7 September, 2012 in Akureyri, Iceland. The theme is *"Arctic Council and Arctic Governance"*.

The Nordic Council of Ministers introduced its Co-operation Program for 2012-14.

The World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) presented its RACER project.

The next SAO meeting is scheduled for 27-29 March, 20122 in Stockholm, Sweden.



Photo courtesy of Minnie Naylor

Minnie Naylor Joins ICC Alaska Team

By ICC Alaska Staff

Minnie Naylor has joined the ICC Alaska team as a Project Assistant. She will assist Beverly Eliason with administrative tasks and work as a liaison on our Oceana project. She will also work on special projects, including researching the development of an ICC Alaska youth program.

Minnie comes with experience working with ICC. She served on our 2010 General Assembly Planning Committee representing, assisting and coordinating participation from the Northwest Arctic region.

She is Inupiaq from Kotzebue and her parents are Virgil and Elsie Naylor. Her paternal grandparents are Dana and Minnie Naylor of Noatak and maternal grandparents are Andrew and Lucy Tocktoo of Shishmaref. Minnie was born and raised in Kotzebue. Her Inupiaq name is Kainnaaq and she was named after her late cousin from Shishmaref.

Minnie graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Rural Development with a concentration in Community Organizations and Services. We are glad to have Minnie join our team.



Inuit Circumpolar Council

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The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) representing the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka. ICC Alaska, along with other members, strives to strengthen, protect, and develop Inuit rights in the circumpolar region.



