

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 24 - 26 Saami Council Parliament 2009 - Kiruna, Sweden http://www.saamicouncil.net

September 15 - 17 5th Annual Alaska Oil and Gas Congress *Anchorage, Alaska* http://www.alaskaoilandgascongress.com

September 22 UN High-level Event on Climate Change *New York, New York* http://www.un.org/en/events

September 28 - 29 Alaska Seminar: Private Philanthropy, Indigenous Capacity & Environmental Stewardship -Anchorage, Alaska www.alaskaconservation.org

September 30 - October 2 Arctic Council PAME Working Group Meeting -Oslo, Norway - http://pame.arcticportal.org

September 30 - October 1 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council Meeting - Nome, Alaska http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/Calendar.htm

October 19-21 International Arctic Fisheries Symposium -Anchorage, Alaska http://www.nprb.org/iafs2009/index.htm

October 22-24 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention -Anchorage, Alaska - www.nativefederation.org





Arctic fisheries management area. (Source: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council)

Commercial Fishing in the Arctic By ICC Alaska Staff

Climate change with a resulting loss of sea ice is creating extreme interest in the riches of the Arctic Ocean. Offshore oil and gas development, Arctic marine shipping, and commercial fishing are three areas in particular receiving a lot of attention.

The Arctic Council (AC) recently completed the Updated Arctic Offshore Oil & Gas Guidelines and the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment. Commercial fishing in the Arctic Ocean is a subject that does not fall under the purview of the AC. Member nations have declined to include fisheries as an area for discussion, perhaps its time to reconsider this stance and include this subject for deliberation.

Last February, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council voted unanimously to create an Arctic Fishery Management Plan for US waters in the Arctic Ocean from the Bering Strait to the Canadian Border. The Council then voted to ban commercial fishing in the area pending further scientific research. ICC believes the Council made the right decision. The Council should ensure Inuit on the Arctic Ocean coast are consulted on any plan to establish a new fishery in the region including an exempted fishing permit for Inuit use.

Before commercial fishing is allowed, there is a need to understand how fishing will affect the Arctic Ocean and those who depend on it. There is very little information on fish stocks currently available and base line studies are necessary. There is a need to better understand how commercial fishing will affect the environment and the food chain that marine mammals depend on for life. There is a real possibility that marine mammals could be disrupted by fishing fleets as they feed, mate and migrate. Finally, it must be shown that commercial fishing will not adversely affect the Inuit hunting way of life.

If you are interested in more information on this subject, an international conference is planned for October 19-21 in Anchorage, Alaska. Conference information on the "Arctic Fisheries Symposium 2009" can be found at www. nprb.org/iafs2009/index.htm . Q

Q

ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>ICC Executive Council</u> Edward Itta, President Chuck Greene, Vice President

> <u>North Slope Region</u> Eugene Brower (North Slope Borough)

George Edwardson (Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope)

Richard Glenn (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation)

Northwest Arctic Region

Marie Greene (NANA Regional Corporation)

> Jackie Hill (Maniilaq Association)

Martha Whiting (Northwest Arctic Borough)

> Willie Goodwin Jr. (Elder Representative)

<u>Bering Straits Region</u> Melanie Edwards (Kawerak, Incorporated)

Roy Ashenfelter (Bering Straits Native Corporation)

> Lee Ryan (Youth Representative)

<u>Southwest Region</u> Vivian Korthuis (Association of Village Council Presidents)

A Message from ICC-AK President Edward S. Itta



New Leadership, Same Mandate

Things have changed for ICC since our last newsletter, but they also remain the same. ICC Chair Patricia Cochran has resigned her position after three years of hard work. I want to congratulate her for her achievements during that time, and I know we all wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

The Executive Council has appointed James Stotts as Acting Chair until the chairmanship

rotates to Greenland during the General Assembly in Nuuk at the beginning of July 2010. In the meantime, Jim has his eye firmly focused on the goals laid out in the Utkiagvik Declaration at the last General Assembly gathering (he discusses this further in his report on page 5 of DRUM). We can expect substantial progress on these tasks based on Jim's extensive experience with ICC and his achievements in other leadership positions over the years.

Jim's appointment as ICC Chair created a vacancy in his previous position as Executive Director of ICC-Alaska. Fortunately, Kelly Eningowuk is ready to step up to that position. Kelly has been Jim's assistant as ICC-Alaska's Director of Administration for the past one and a half years. She has demonstrated her grasp of issues and her organizational skills during that time, and I want to welcome Kelly to her new and very challenging position.

Kelly's advancement has left an opening for an Administrative Director. The position is currently being advertised and we hope to have it filled by the end of July.

This reorganization poses new challenges and new opportunities for our staff. But our mission and our focus remain the same, and it will be business as usual for ICC during the coming year.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! O

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

Puju Elected SDWG Co-Vice Chair

By ICC Alaska Staff



In this photo are Marianna Lykke Thomsen, SDWG Chair and Carl Christian "Puju" Olsen, SDWG Co-Vice Chair taken at the SDWG meeting in Nuuk, Greenland, June 2009. Photo by ICC Alaska.

The Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) met in June in Nuuk, Greenland. ICC-Alaska's representation at the meeting included Rosie Barr with NANA Regional Corporation and Kelly Eningowuk with ICC-Alaska. They were joined by Carl Christian "Puju" Olsen and Lene Kielsen Holm of ICC Greenland.

This meeting was the first for SDWG since the change in Arctic Council Chairmanship from Norway to Denmark and it that brought changes to the tone of the leadership. This change was evident when ICC Executive Council member, Carl Christian "Puju" Olsen from Greenland, was named Co-Vice Chair along with Marten Ehnberg of Sweden. The position of Vice Chair of SDWG had been shared between ICC and the Saami Council (another Permanent Participant to the Arctic Council) in previous years, but this is the first time that the position has been officially confirmed. This development is significant for Permanent Participant's role in the Arctic Council.

SDWG was established in 1998 with the objective to protect and enhance the economies, culture and health of the inhabitants of the Arctic in an environmentally sustainable manner. This working group of the Arctic Council deals specifically with the human dimension of the Council's work.

Ongoing projects identified in the 2009-2011 Work Plan for SDWG include the Arctic Energy Summit, the Circumpolar Information Tool Kit on Minerals and Oils and Gas for Indigenous Peoples and Northern Communities, EALAT-Information: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land, ArcticStat, and Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic.

In addition, one topic that will receive a lot of attention within SDWG under the Danish Chairmanship is Arctic human health where the Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG), created under SDWG in 2007, will coordinate a number of ongoing projects and activities.

A new project being considered and subject to approval by the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council include an Assessment of Cultural Heritage Monuments and Sites in the Arctic. Other topics that possibly may have follow on projects or activities under the SDWG include work on Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change, Ecosystems-Based Oceans Management, Arctic Energy, and Arctic Cultures and Languages.

The next SDWG meeting will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, November 10-11, 2009.



Permanent participants at the SDWG meeting. L to R: Gunn-Britt Retter, Saami Council, Lene Kielsen Holm, ICC Greenland, Rosie Barr, ICC Alaska, Carl Christian "Puju" Olsen, ICC Greenland. Photo by ICC Alaska.

Executive Council Meets in Nuuk By ICC Alaska Staff

The Executive Council (EC) met June 18-20 in Nuuk. The meeting was shortened due to competing activities surrounding Greenland self-rule celebrations. In addition to ICC-Alaska council members and staff, George and Pauline Olemaun were there representing the North Slope Borough. Greta Schuerch also attended in her capacity as Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council thanks to travel support from NANA.

After dispensing with the minutes, Chair, and Country reports, the discussions focused on United Nations and Arctic Council matters. Under UN matters, there was discussion on the selection of a nominee to represent the Arctic-Europe seat on the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. ICC and Sami Council rotate this seat between them, and ICC will occupy the seat beginning 2011. There was also discussion on the upcoming Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples meeting to be held August 10-14 in Geneva, Switzerland.



Arctic Council issues included the recent AC Ministerial meeting held last November in Tromso, Norway and the upcoming Danish

Photo by Lene Kielsen Holm, ICC Greenland.

AC chairmanship. Several items under the AC Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) were discussed including: the appointment of a SDWG co-chair, implementation of recommendations from the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium held last November, and the Human Health Expert Group.

The AC Arctic Contaminants Action Plan Working Group (ACAP) Health Assessment Meeting held June in Iqaluit, Nunavut was also talked about. Finally under AC matters, recent developments within the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS) were highlighted.

Other agenda items included: the ICC Inuit Health Summit in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, the Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change in Anchorage, Alaska, and the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP15) to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark this coming December.

The ECM wrapped up with decisions on the ICC Restructure Plan, an update on the ICC Arctic Policy Revisions, and an update on planning efforts for the 2010 General Assembly.





COP 15 Copenhagen United Nations Climate Change Conference December 7-18, 2009

For more information go to: http://en.cop15.dk

Photo by Lene Kielsen Holm, ICC Greenland.

Report from ICC Chair Jim Stotts



One Year to Go...

One year from now, the ICC General Assembly will elect a new Chair from Greenland to a four-year term. I want to take this opportunity to tell you what we will be focusing on during this last year of Alaska's term as Chair.

The mandate for this current term is stated in the Utqiagvik Declaration passed in 2006 by the ICC delegates at Barrow, Alaska.

The Declaration essentially sets the goals and objectives that the Chair and Executive Council work towards during this term. We will continue working hard to accomplish these goals and objectives.

Another priority is to step up our involvement with the Arctic Council (AC). In particular, we will urge the Arctic nations to begin implementing the many assessments and projects that the AC has conducted over the years. This means encouraging our countries to take the next step to create national policies and international treaties on a broad range of issues including: arctic marine shipping, oil and gas development, other resource extraction, environmental issues, climate change, health issues, language and culture issues, and game management concerns, to name a few. Obviously, Inuit must be full participants and stakeholders in any decisions taken by our countries.

ICC will attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark (COP15) next December. We will promote the "ICC 2012 Climate Change Roadmap" as captured in the Amundsen Statement. This statement outlines the goals and objectives ICC will undertake on climate change issues in the Post Kyoto-2012 process.

We will continue to promote the Arctic Sovereignty Declaration that resulted from the Inuit Leaders Summit held last winter in Kuujjuaq, Quebec. We want to engage our nations in a dialogue on sovereignty to ensure Inuit rights are considered in any decisions taken by our respective countries on this important issue. On a related issue we will continue to lobby our countries to ratify the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Finally, with one year to go, there is a lot of work to be done in preparation for our General Assembly next summer in Nuuk, Greenland. The suggested theme for the Assembly is Inoqatigiinneq – Sharing Life. It seems Inuit everywhere are looking forward to sharing in this celebration of our culture.





FROM OUR PAST...

ICC Continues to Advocate for Arctic Policy Development By ICC Alaska Staff

Alaskan Senator Mark Begich recently proposed new policy initiatives regarding the Arctic and one called for giving Arctic residents a voice at the national level in what affects them. He proposed the creation of an Arctic Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) modeled after the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Regional Citizens Advisory Council. The

Arctic RCAC would give local residents of the Arctic a forum to voice development concerns.

In the Inuit Arctic Policy Review, Issue 1/1984, appeared an article written on a bill proposed to enact the Arctic Research and Policy Act, a comprehensive Arctic national policy. Eugene Brower, then Mayor of the

In this photo, Eugene Brower, then Mayor of North Slope Borough and Hans-Pavia Rosing, then President of ICC are talking with Congressman Buddy McKay after testifying at a committee hearing on the Arctic Research and Policy Act. Taken from Inuit Arctic Policy Review Issue 1/1984, pg 5.

North Slope Borough and current ICC-Alaska Board member, and Hans-Pavia Rosing then President of ICC, testified at a congressional committee hearing on the bill. In their testimonies, both Brower and Rosing called for Inuit participation in the development of the Arctic policy.

As in the past, ICC continues to push for Inuit involvement at all levels and all areas affecting Inuit. In 1992, ICC's Principles and Elements for a Comprehensive Arctic Policy was published to be used as a tool to communicate very important issues

continued on page 7





From Home-Rule to Self-Rule By Aqqaluk Lynge

Greenland Takes Big Step Towards Full Autonomy

On June 21, 2009, Greenland moved one step closer to independence from Denmark, and ICC was an active participant in the event. In the capital city of Nuuk, Greenlanders celebrated with an inauguration ceremony, addresses by Greenlandic and Danish dignitaries, cultural performances and traditional feasts.

In 1979, Greenland, which is mostly Inuit, negotiated a form of home rule. Today, Greenlanders exercise self rule through the recent Act on Greenland Self-Government that Queen Margrethe II of Denmark brought with her to Nuuk.

Dressed in traditional Greenlandic clothing, Queen Margrethe presented the Act to the Speaker of the Greenlandic Parliament, Josef Tuusi Motzfeldt. Her husband, Prince Henrik, recited a poem he had written for the occasion. Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Speaker of the Danish Parliament Thor Pedersen, and Nuuk Mayor Asii Chemnitz Narup were among the many dignitaries to express official congratulations in honour of the inauguration of self-rule.

ICC Chair Jim Stotts and his wife Karo, along with ICC Greenland President Aqqaluk Lynge and his wife Erna attended the official inauguration ceremony. The other members of the ICC Executive Council also participated in the festivities following the ICC Executive Council Meeting held June 18-19, also in Nuuk.

ICC Greenland is celebrating the beginning of Greenlandic self-government in a special way because we have always staunchly supported increased autonomy for Greenland. For two years Aqqaluk Lynge was a member of the Greenlandic-Danish Self-Government Commission that painstakingly negotiated the terms of the self-government agreement between Denmark and Greenland over a period of four years. As such, we were very pleased with the result of the November 25, 2008 referendum in which 76% of Greenlanders voted in favour of accepting that agreement as a basis to move forward with self-government.

Under the Self-Government Agreement, Denmark cedes control to Greenland over all aspects of government except for military and foreign affairs. As has already been the case, Denmark will invite representation from the Greenlandic government at international meetings and negotiations whenever possible.

Because this arrangement does not offer Greenland complete freedom to conduct its foreign affairs, and in order to signal the deep connection Greenlanders continue to have with other Inuit, newly elected Premier and former member of ICC's executive council, Kuupik Kleist, stated his intention to work closely with ICC on international matters. Greenland will continue to ask ICC to utilize its standing as a UN-recognized indigenous peoples' organization with international respect to further the positions that the Government of Greenland will advocate as it exercises its new form of self rule.

For further reading on this great event, please go to the Greenland newspaper Sermitsiaq website at www.sermitsiaq.gl/ english. \underline{O}



Greenland celebrates self-rule. Photo by Lene Kielsen Holm, ICC Greenland.



& YOUTH...

Elders and Youth Meet in Bethel By ICC Alaska Staff

The ICC-Alaska Elders Committee with representatives from the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council (ICYC)-Alaska came together in Bethel in May. This was a follow-up to an earlier meeting held in Kotzebue in March.

A joint resolution was passed at the meeting approving ICC's Restructure Plan which eliminates separate ICC Elders and ICC Youth conferences during ICC General Assemblies and mandates that elders and youth are represented as delegates to General Assemblies. The resolution further requested that four elders and four youth be included as part of the Alaska delegation. Finally, it called upon the ICC Executive Council to include youth and elders as voting members of the Executive Council.

The ICC Executive Council met in Nuuk, Greenland in June and decided that each country will ensure at least one youth and one elder shall be included in each country's delegation.



L to R: Angela Joule, Native Village of Kotzebue staff, Robert Aloysius, Southwest Region Elder Rep., Lee Ryan, ICYC-Alaska Co-chair, Priscilla Sage, North Slope Region Elder Rep., Deanna Latham, ICYC-Alaska Co-chair, Faye Ongtowasruk, Bering Straits Region Elder Rep., Vincent Pikonganna, Bering Straits Region Elder Rep., Willie Goodwin Jr, Northwest Arctic Region Elder Rep. and Chair, Nichk Andrew, Southwest Region Elder Rep., Raymond Hawley, Northwest Arctic Region Elder Rep., Jim Stotts, ICC-Alaska Executive Director. Photo by ICC Alaska.

continued from page 5

like Inuit involvement in Arctic policy development. ICC is in the process of completing an update of this document as directed in the Utqiagvik Declaration passed at the last General Assembly held in Barrow, Alaska in 2006. The updated version is expected to be completed before the next General Assembly to be held in Nuuk, Greenland in 2010.

Inuit Health Summit Concludes

By ICC Alaska Staff

Organized by ICC-Canada, the first-ever Circumpolar Inuit Health Summit concluded on July 10 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The Summit was immediately followed by the International Conference on Circumpolar Health, also in Yellowknife.

The Inuit Health Summit findings and recommendations will be highlighted in the next issue of DRUM.





Inuit Circumpolar Council

ALASKA OFFICE 3000 C STREET, STE. N201 ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

PHONE: (907) 274-9058 FAX: (907) 274-3861 www.iccalaska.org

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.

Newsletter Distribution

Save money, save time, save trees by signing up for email delivery of the DRUM.

To save paper and postage, we will be moving away from mailing out hard copies of our newsletter. If you want to continue to receive a hard copy in the mail, please call (907) 274-9058 or email icc@iccalaska.org.

Here's a better option. Join our e-mail list and receive the newsletter within moments of its publication. Send a message to icc@iccalaska.org if you want to receive the newsletter by email.

If we do not hear from you, you will no longer receive the DRUM. However, our newsletter will always be available online at: www.iccalaska.org.

Photos

Do you have nice cultural or community photos that you would like to share?

We need photos for our newsletter and website! Please contact us at icc@iccalaska.org

