DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20 ICC Alaska Roundtable on Food Security Washington D.C.

April 20-22 The Arctic Science Summit Week 2012 • Montreal, Quebec, Canada • www.assw2012.org/

April 21-22 ICC Executive Council Meeting • Montreal, Quebec, Canada

April 22-27 International Polar Year Conference: From knowledge to Action • Montreal, Quebec, Canada • www.ipy2012montreal.ca/

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

April 27-28 USARC Commission Meeting • Montreal, Quebec, Canada • www.arctic.gov

April 30-May 3 Arctic Forum 2012 • Washington D.C., U.S • http://sites.agu.org/spconference

May 14-15 Arctic Council: Meeting of Deputy Ministers Stockholm, Sweden • www.arctic-council.org

May 15-17 CAFF Terrestrial Expert Working Group Anchorage, Alaska U.S • www.caff.is

May 15-18 International Funders for Indigenous Peoples • San Francisco, California, U.S. • www.internationalfunders.org/english

June 26-28 IUCN Workshop on Ecological and Biological Significant Areas • Nome, Alaska U.S. • www.iucn.org

August 24-28 The Arctic Imperative Summit • Girdwood, Alaska U.S. • http://www.arcticimperative.com/





Photo by Mary Sage

Arctic Council Approves ICC Shipping Project

By ICC Alaska Staff

The ICC led project; *Circumpolar Inuit Response to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA),* was endorsed by the Arctic Council at the last meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) was completed in 2009 through the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) working group of the Arctic Council. Seventeen recommendations around the following three themes were made: Enhancing Arctic Marine Safety; Protecting Arctic People and Environment; and Building the Arctic Marine Infrastructure.

As a contribution to the 2009 report, ICC Canada produced a report titled *"The Sea Ice is Our Highway: An Inuit Perspective on Transportation in the Arctic,"* The project focused in particular on the Inuit of Canada but demonstrated the importance of the sea and sea ice to Inuit survival and provided Inuit perspective on the human dimension of shipping. For further information, please go to our website to find a copy of the report.

"Inuit are primarily a marine indigenous people and, as such, have strong interest in seeing the AMSA recommendations be implemented in a timely manner and have knowledge that would be of benefit in assisting the Arctic Council in doing so," –Taken from the *Circumpolar Inuit Response to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment* project proposal.

AMSA is currently in the implementation phase and there are several projects occurring within the Arctic Council. A status report on the implementation of AMSA released May 2011 is available online at www.pame.is.

The *Circumpolar Inuit Response to the AMSA* project is a direct response to the AMSA recommendations. There are two parts to the project: first, the project will expand the *Sea Ice is Our Highway* report to further demonstrate the importance of the sea and ice to the Inuit way of life and cultural identity; and second, ICC will communicate AMSA findings and seek guidance from Inuit to move the AMSA recommendations forward. A survey of Inuit concerns regarding Arctic marine shipping will be conducted and presented to the Arctic Council as a collective Inuit voice to contribute to the AMSA implementation.

ICC Canada will lead the project but each of the country offices will assist in collecting the information to include in the project. The project timeline calls for the final report to be completed by the next Ministerial 2012. For more information on the project, please feel free to contact our office. Q

ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ICC Executive Council

Jim Stotts, President Vera Metcalf, Vice President

North Slope Region

Charlotte Brower (North Slope Borough)

George Olemaun (Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope)

Richard Glenn (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation)

Northwest Arctic Region

Marie Greene (NANA Regional Corporation)

> Percy Ballot (Maniilaq Association)

Hendy Ballot (Northwest Arctic Borough)

> Willie Goodwin Jr. (Elder Representative)

Bering Straits Region

Melanie Bahnke (Kawerak, Incorporated)

Roy Ashenfelter (Bering Straits Native Corporation)

> Kelsi Ivanoff (Youth Representative)

Southwest Region

Vivian Korthuis (Association of Village Council Presidents)



President's Message

Jim Stotts

What about TK?

The Arctic Council; national, state and local governments; and civil societies of all types; have expressed the need to consult with Inuit to obtain their perspectives and traditional knowledge (TK) on a wide range of issues. Despite this stated need,

it's been an uphill battle to capture and integrate TK into the process.

In Alaska the federal government is generally obligated to consult with Inuit tribal organizations on matters affecting them. The quality of these consultations varies greatly depending on which federal agency is involved, often with inconsistent results. The Arctic Council is also mandated to capture TK in its work products, but struggles at times to capture this information. Why?

There are reasons. First, the economic crisis affects everyone seeking funds. TK often finds itself in competition for funding with science instead of cooperating together to complement each other.

Second, no one seems to know how to approach Inuit to obtain TK. There seems to be the thought that TK will be obtained for free from Inuit. Science isn't obtained for free, it's paid for, and the effort to capture TK needs to be paid for too. Third, Inuit have yet to create institutions to capture and hold TK so it can be utilized in a systematic way.

The 2010 Nuuk Declaration talks about TK in several places. First, it talks about the need to incorporate TK with western science for taking action and decision making. Second, there is support for Greenland's effort to create an *Inuit Center for International Understanding* which would focus on indigenous human rights. Third, there is support for Canada's effort to create an *Inuit Knowledge Center* for developing Inuit leadership in scientific research. Finally, the Declaration calls for ICC to develop a *Clearinghouse* to record and protect TK and facilitate TK exchange between Inuit. These are all admirable goals which have yet to be realized.

At the Arctic Council there is a renewed effort to ensure TK is utilized in all Council work products. Inuit traditional knowledge can greatly impact and improve information and decision making at all levels in the Arctic. ICC will be working with the Arctic Council and other permanent participants to develop the processes necessary to routinely include TK in its work.

These efforts are all fine and well but fall short of what is really needed. Our traditional knowledge is built upon our unique way of thinking. Understanding the Arctic will require knowledge from both TK holders and western scientists. Our people and communities need to come together and form bodies to mange TK for the benefit of ourselves and others. We need to create the Clearinghouse that the Nuuk Declaration talks about. With the rapid changes going on all around us, we need to get started, and we need to start now. **O**

Inuit Hunters Consider Coalition

By ICC Alaska Staff

ICC-Alaska joins with Inuit organizations to consider developing a coalition to address the many changes occurring and increased threats to food security throughout the Arctic. On March 12-13, Inuit representatives from regional and marine mammal organizations, including the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission; Eskimo Walrus Commission; Ice Seal Committee; Alaska Beluga Committee; Kawerak, Incorporated; Association of Village Council Presidents; North Slope Borough; and Northwest Arctic Borough attended a workshop addressing potential risk to Inuit communities as it related to projected increased marine shipping in the Arctic. ICC-Alaska and the Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Council on Marine Mammals also participated. The Nanuaq Commission was invited to the workshop but was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

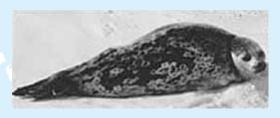
On the first day of the workshop, attendees heard from the following presenters: Lawson Brigham, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Dr. Craig George, North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife; Captain Adam Shaw, US Coast Guard; Layla Hughes, World Wildlife Fund; Jeff Schester, Oceana; Raychelle Daniel, PEW Environment; Dr. Tim Ragen, U.S. Marine Mammal Commission; Jessica Lefevre, Counsel and Earl Comstock, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commision; and James Stotts, ICC-Alaska. Each presenter discussed areas of concern and potential tools that may be utilized in mitigating the impacts of shipping. James Stotts offered insight on how the many rapid changes occurring within the Arctic may affect food security.



Photo by ICC Alaska

The following day Inuit representatives held a closed meeting for further discussions. As the day progressed, the conversation evolved into a much larger discussion around food security. Organization representatives agreed with the benefits that will come from building a coalition and have returned to their communities to determine a final decision. The coalition will be used to address numerous issues within the Arctic such as, economic development, increased shipping, food security and more.

The gathering was hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Jessica Lefevre and funded by the Oak Foundation. A follow up meeting of the group is planned for late fall. Q



Unusual Mortality Event Update (UME) By ICC Alaska Staff

Since last July, nearly 150 seals have been reported in Alaska with symptoms. Most of the seals were ringed seals with one ribbon seal found as far south as Yakutat. Similar symptoms have been discovered in Pacific walruses at haulouts near Point Lay.

Raphaela Stimmelmayr, North Slope Borough (NSB) wildlife veterinarian and on-site coordinator for the UME, has provided the following update on the pinniped investigation. "Although scientists still don't know what is causing the disease, they have ruled out numerous bacteria and viruses known to affect marine mammals. Advanced testing techniques for unidentified infectious agents is continuing as well as further testing for potential other causes including man-made and biotoxins, radiation, contaminants, auto-immune diseases, nutritional, hormonal and environmental factors. Recently, tests for domoic acid and PSP/saxitoxin were negative or of such low readings as to be clinically insignificant."

A recent report released by the US Geological Survey, working with the NSB Wildlife Department, indicates the sighting of 9 polar bears, between March and April, with loss of fur and skin lesions in the southern Beaufort Sea region near Barrow. Scientists are collecting blood and tissue samples from the bears to determine potential causes. Close attention is directed towards determining any connection between the bears and pinnipeds.

A full updated report and more information on the UME can be found at the following website: http://alaskafisheries.noaa. gov/newsreleases/2012/icesealrpts040512.htm .

What Does Salmon Mean to You

By Tim Andrew and Carolina Behe

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

Last month we introduced a three part series on *What Does Salmon Mean to You*. Salmon are an intricate part of food security to many coastal communities. The first part of this series highlighted the decline in salmon runs entering the rivers of western Alaska. This issue we take a look at the variations in chum salmon returning to rivers and tributaries in western Alaska and the associated controversy of the False Pass interception management area.

The False Pass fishery, also known as the "Area M" fishery, is an open sea mixed stock fishery, located in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands management area, focused on non-local sockeye salmon. Families from the eastern Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula have relied on the resources around them, including sockeye salmon, for thousands of years. The sockeye caught in this area are cherished around the world, with bright red meat and a flavor that persuades consumers from picking up farmed salmon and reaching for wild salmon instead.

Area M stocks of salmon consist of sockeye and chum salmon. While sockeye is the objective of this fishery; chum salmon heading for rivers and tributaries in western Alaska are intercepted, becoming by-catch. These chum salmon are headed for rivers and tributaries in the Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim regions, where thousands of families rely on chum salmon for food security. With the decline of chinook salmon, chum salmon have become more important, not only for food security, but sustaining small-scale commercial fisheries on the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Unalakleet Rivers.

Recognizing that there may be a connection between Area M fishery chum by-catch and low returns in western Alaska has supported a chum salmon cap on the fishery since 1986, which has resulted in closures throughout some years. Additional management strategies include area closures and non-fishing areas. Decreasing quotas and calling fishing periods early has an impact on the surrounding native communities who rely on commercial fishing to support a subsistence way of life and ultimately food security.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has since determined that the socio-economic impact that regulations were having on the Area M fishing communities was high, and that the impact of the chum by-catch associated with the sockeye fishery on other communities is inconclusive. Consequently Area M fishing time has been increased by 290% for chum, coho and sockeye bound for western



Photo by Jacqueline Cleveland

Alaska and Bristol Bay. This increase in time will allow for a larger take of sockeye salmon to support these communities. The increase in sockeye salmon will also result in an increase in chum by-catch.

Are the chum by-catch numbers high enough to actually affect the number of chum salmon returning to western Alaska Rivers? Area M stocks are highly mixed and it is unclear how much take is directly linked to a particular stock. For example, many of the chum salmon found in Area M come from Japanese hatcheries.

A more appropriate question may be based on equality of allocations. Are large scale commercial fisheries being favored over food security? Many Alaska native communities are experiencing food insecurity as regulations decrease fishing periods and change fishing areas in an attempt to curtail overfishing and waste.

These regulations impact communities catching salmon in the open seas and those catching salmon along the coast and up the rivers. There are no easy solutions here. Regulations based on equality, setting priorities between subsistence fishing and commercial fishing, recognizing the connection between small-scale native community fishing and subsistence needs, understanding food security, and more, need to be focused on before solutions are found.





Chair's Message Aqqaluk Lynge Alfred E.R. Jakobsen new Executive Director in Nuuk

For many of us at the ICC he is not a new face since he worked at the ICC Greenland office from 1992-94 and served as a member of the ICC Executive Council from 1997-99 until he was appointed Minister for Health and Environment for the Greenland Government from

1999-2001.

He helped shape the foundation of the first Greenland Self Governance Commission and was the coauthor of the Commission's Report which was delivered in 2003. He has broad executive experience from various public administrations and organizations and meets the necessary educational background and experience that this job requires. He is fully trilingual, speaking and writing Greenlandic, Danish and English. I hope that his

appointment will enhance cooperation among the ICC member country offices.



Alfred E. R. Jakobsen. Photo by: Leiff Josefsen





Photo by Carolina Behe

The Conservation for Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) bi-annual board meeting took place in Salekhard, Russia February 28 – March 1. Salekhard is located in NW Siberia, near the Ob River and is home to a mixture of indigenous cultures. Salekhard welcomed the CAFF members warmly, offering historical and cultural information about the region and treating the board to a traditional Nenets dinner of reindeer stew, fish soup, wild berries and much more.

ICC Alaska attended the meeting and offered technical feedback on numerous projects, including the following: Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme, CAFF communication activities, etc. Overall, ICC continues to advocate for increased involvement of Permanent Participants and use of Traditional Knowledge in all CAFF projects.



Photo by Anne Henshaw

The Northwest Arctic Borough and the Oak Foundation hosted a regional mapping workshop in Kotzebue in early March. With multiple valuable mapping projects focused on subsistence use, and ultimately food security, the workshop offered a platform to share knowledge about research design and methods being used to document subsistence and traditional knowledge. Presentations and updates were provided from various communities and experts, such as Kawerak's social scientist Lily Ray. Lily is the lead investigator on the Walrus and Ice Seal mapping project. The project works to document Traditional Knowledge of ice seals and walrus and subsistence use. Such projects and additional mapping projects are utilizing maps as a communication tool between Traditional Knowledge and science.

Another successful Cama-i Festival!



















Photos by John Wallace • www.bethelarts.com





Inuit Circumpolar Council

ALASKA OFFICE

3003 MINNESOTA DRIVE, SUITE 204 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.

