



DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN

Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA

Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14-15

Bering Strait Region Food Security Workshop • Nome, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org

April 16-17

ICC Alaska Education Workshop • Nome, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org

April 24-25

7th Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference • Kotzebue, Alaska • <http://Seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/waisc>

May 6-7

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission • Anchorage, Alaska • <http://www.akarctic.com/2014-meetings/>

June 16-17

Arctic Council Task Force on Oil Pollution Prevention • Canada • www.arctic-council.org

July 16-17

U.S. State Department Conference "Our Ocean" • Washington D.C. • www.state.gov/ourocean

July 21-24

ICC General Assembly • Inuvik, NWT Canada • www.iccalaska.org

August 26-27

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission • Kotzebue-Nome, Alaska • <http://www.akarctic.com/2014-meetings/>

October 31-Nov 2 2014

The Arctic Circle • Reykjavik, Iceland • www.arcticcircle.org



Delegates from the five Arctic coastal states meet on high Arctic fisheries. Photo by Unknown.

Coastal States Meet to Discuss Arctic Fisheries

By ICC Alaska Staff

There are major fisheries in the seas just south of the Arctic Ocean. The pollock fishery in the Bering and the cod fishery in the Barents are examples. The shrimp fishery off Greenland is another. Climate change with warmer water and reduced ice cover could lead to northward migration of capelin and polar cod causing speculation that commercial fishing could start in the central Arctic Ocean.

The central Arctic Ocean is approximately 2.8 million square kilometers or four times the size of the North Sea and lies beyond the jurisdiction of the five Arctic coastal states of Russia, United States, Canada, Denmark, and Norway.

Norway hosted a meeting between government officials from the five states in Oslo in 2010. This meeting resulted in a request to marine research institutes to assess the situation regarding fish stocks and relevant research in the central Arctic Ocean.

The U.S. hosted a meeting of scientists in Anchorage during summer 2011 that concluded commercial fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean were not likely in the near term and that further research was needed.

The U.S. hosted a second meeting between government officials in Washington D.C. during spring 2013. This meeting resulted in a request to scientists to evaluate the probability of commercial fishing in the central Arctic Ocean and discussed measures to prevent unregulated fishing.

Norway hosted a second meeting of scientists in Tromsø during fall 2013 to assess existing arrangements for surveying Arctic Ocean ecosystems and their fish resources and to make recommendations on this topic. The scientists again concluded that commercial fishing in the high seas is not likely in the near future.

Denmark hosted a third meeting between government officials in Nuuk last month where they agreed to: continue the scientific research effort; introduce interim measures to prevent illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing beyond the jurisdiction of the five coastal states; start a process involving more countries by the end of 2014. A draft agreement was negotiated and now goes to the state capitols for further refinement and approval. The hoped-for end result would be a binding international agreement.

The five coastal states all agree that they will abide by existing international agreements including the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention and the 1995 UN

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President's Message

James Stotts

ICC's Arctic Council Effort Needs Support...

It's time for Arctic Council states to support the efforts of their Permanent Participants. I'm talking about financial support. Increased global interest in the Arctic is accelerating the Council's work and ICC finds itself struggling to keep up with its obligations and responsibilities. Sadly, this is at a time when indigenous contribution to Arctic policy is needed more than ever. We consider the Council to be one of the most important international forums for ICC to be engaged in.

The Arctic Policies of the Arctic states all include language about the importance of including indigenous peoples in discussions leading to policy development. The U.S. Arctic Policy calls for meaningful inclusion of its indigenous peoples in all discussions. We all know the old saying: actions speak louder than words. It's about time Arctic governments step up to the plate with adequate funding support.

I'm not sure exactly how this condition came to be. Lack of funding for our participation is nothing new. It's been talked about since the very beginning of the Council. ICC now finds itself having to skip some important Council meetings. Our input on important issues is not being heard. This makes the work of the Council less than it could and should be. This makes the work of the Council incomplete.

In recent years the discussion on indigenous funding has been under the guise of the strengthening of the Council; we agree with this characterization. Adequate funding for the Permanent Participants would strengthen the Council in many different ways. It's hard for me to believe that the Arctic states can't find the funds to support this effort. The eight Arctic states are among the most prosperous in the world.

A few years ago a group of foundations commissioned a study to look at the feasibility of creating a mechanism to fund indigenous activities at the Council. Unfortunately, after a few meetings with the consultant and discussions between some of the Permanent Participants this study stalled out without any concrete results.

Recently the World Wildlife Fund has written a proposal to present to the Council to create a Capacity Fund to build indigenous capacity. Financial contributors to the fund could include Council Observers and other entities external to the Council. We will consider this proposal although we have trepidation with some of the proposed management processes. We look forward to discussing the WWF proposal with the other Permanent Participants.

The Council under the leadership of the Canadian chairmanship has hired a consultant to research the current status of Permanent Participant capacity, including a compendium of options for enhancing capacity, including potential funding sources. The compendium would contribute to discussions and a workshop leading to recommendations to the Council Ministerial Meeting in 2015.

ICC seeks funds from its membership, foundations, corporations and governments and has been doing so for many years. The only caveat we insist on is that any strings attached will not compromise our agenda or position on the issues. We have always been firm in that regard.

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Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Arctic Council (AC) project Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) was sanctioned in May 2012 at a Deputy Ministers Meeting. The project is organized into three parts.

Part A was an overview of assessments carried out by the AC's working groups over the past 10 years; this effort was led by the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). This compilation looked at 10 years of AC findings and recommendations that can inform adaptation actions; all together about 65 assessments were identified and reviewed.

Part B was an overview of existing adaptation actions taken in the Arctic; this effort was led by the governments of Canada and Russia. They looked at adaptation activities being implemented by AC member states at the local,


regional and national level. Many of the activities involved infrastructure issues. These first two steps were reported on at the May 2013 Ministerial Meeting.

This brings us to Part C which is set to begin now. The specific goal of AACA-C is to consider climate and integrated environmental frameworks to improve predictions of climate change and other related drivers of Arctic change. The project expects to lay the scientific foundation for making adaptation decisions about the future of the Arctic in the face of ongoing and future climate, environmental, and socio-economic change. This is an ambitious undertaking with completion set for spring 2017.

The AACA-C project has projects in three pilot regions: Barents Sea which is collaboration between Norway and Russia; Davis Strait/Baffin Bay which is collaboration between Denmark and Canada; and Bering, Beaufort, and Chukchi Seas (BBC) which is collaboration between the USA, Canada, and Russia. All three projects include both marine and terrestrial areas.


ICC Alaska has undertaken discussions with its membership from the Bering Straits, Northwest, and North Slope to determine if they want to be involved in this work and to select points of contact for the three regions.

The BBC Regional Implementation Team is organized on a two-tier basis: a core group and an extended advisory group. The core group includes: 3 co-chairs from Russia, USA, and Canada; 1-2 permanent participant representatives; 3-4 identified experts. The extended group includes: representatives from AC working groups; stakeholder representatives; and representatives from cooperating organizations. The size of the extended group is not set. Secretariat support for the two groups is provided by the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) working group.

The first workshop of the BBC Regional Implementation Team is tentatively scheduled for next September. Future progress on the AACA-C will be reported in DRUM. 



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The notion of approaching others, both in and outside of the Council, for funding support is acceptable to us. However, what troubles ICC is the impression that the Arctic states are passing the buck to others and not living up to their commitments stated in Arctic Council founding documents, including the need for **“active participation and full consultation”** with the Permanent Participants. There's no time like the present, it's time for the Arctic states to budget financial support for the Permanent Participants now. 

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“DRUM” is now online!

Dorough Elected as UNPFII Chair

By ICC Alaska Staff

On March 28, 2014, Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough was elected as the Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The election took place at the UNPFII pre-session meeting in Mexico City, which was hosted by the Government of Mexico.

Comprised of sixteen independent experts, the members report to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Eight of the members are nominated by Indigenous peoples' organizations and eight are elected by UN member states and they serve in equal capacity.

Since the inception of the UNPFII by the ECOSOC in July 2000, the UNPFII has worked to saturate the United Nations system with the distinct cultural context of Indigenous peoples and to "provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations." The UNPFII has actively engaged diverse UN agencies, Indigenous peoples, and member states in all areas of concern to Indigenous peoples, including the Inuit of the Arctic.

According to the UNPFII website: <http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples.aspx>, "in response to demands from indigenous peoples for a high level permanent body at the United Nations" the UNPFII was established to provide expert advice to the UN system concerning "indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights."

The UNPFII holds annual two-week sessions at the UN Headquarters in New York and its first ever meeting was held in May 2002. It is one of four UN bodies that is mandated to deal specifically with indigenous peoples' issues. The others




Dalee and eleven of the sixteen PFII members nominated and elected for the 2014-2016 term at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Mexico, Mexico City. The Ministry and the National Commission for Indigenous Affairs hosted our pre-session meeting in Mexico City from March 26-28, 2014. Photo by Mirian Masaquiza.

are the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples; the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In the spirit of Arctic cooperation, the Inuit and Sami have chosen to rotate their voluntary service on this important Indigenous-specific UN mechanism. The first Chairperson of the Forum was our Sami colleague, Ole Henrik Magga of Norway, who served as a Forum member from 2002-2004. He was followed by Aqqaluk Lyngø, who was a member of the PFII from 2005-2007. His successor was Lars Anders Baer, a Sami from Sweden, who served from 2008-2010. In late 2010, both the Sami and Inuit agreed that the three-year term of an Arctic region representative was too short and adjusted the term of service to two consecutive three-year terms. In this way, Dalee was originally nominated by the ICC and Sami Council in 2011 and this past year, she was re-nominated to serve another three-year term. She was elected as the seventh Chairperson of the UNPFII.

The theme for the Thirteenth Session is "Principles of good governance consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" as well as two half-day discussions devoted to Indigenous peoples of the Asian region and the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

With the assistance of the University of Alaska Anchorage and the Model UN Program, Dalee has been able to engage Alaska Native students in this work by having them accompany her to the PFII sessions at the UN Headquarters in New York. Fortunately, a couple of the students that have joined her are Inuit from Alaska – it is her hope that they will continue to be engaged in this international work and become future Arctic region nominated UNPFII members. 



Shown L to R, 2012 Chairperson of the PFII, hereditary Chief Edward John of Canada, Hilary Upicksoun of Kotzebue, and Bridget Wolgemuth of Barrow -- the two Inuit students that accompanied Dalee to the UN PFII session at the opening ceremony of the Eleventh Session of the PFII, UN General Assembly, New York. Photo by D S Dorough



Chair's Message

Aqqaluk Lynge

Finn Lynge: April 22, 1933 – April 4, 2014

Finn Lynge, author, politician and a good friend of Inuit passed away just days before his 81st birthday in Qaqortoq, Greenland.

For ICC and the Inuit he was well known for his unrelenting work on indigenous subsistence hunting and

fishing rights. Finn was Greenland's first and only Member of the European Parliament. While working as Greenland Representative to the Danish Embassy in Bruxelles from 1979-1985, he secured Greenland withdrawal from the European Union.


It was through his coordination of the ICC Environmental Commission from 1985-1987 that he became well known among Inuit. We remember his speech at the ICC General Assembly in 1986 in Kotzebue. "I am a smuggler..." after a long pause he explained what he meant, the problem Inuit had with the USA's Marine Mammal Protection Act that forbid the sale or transport of seal products across U.S. borders. Ten years later, ICC President Caleb Pungowiyi spoke at a U.S. Senate hearing and was instrumental in passing amendments that allow Inuit to exchange seal products among themselves. With the capable help of Finn Lynge, the Inuit Conservation Strategy was conceived, the first of its kind in the Arctic.

His deep involvement in Greenland development expressed in hundreds of articles, including his books: "Thoughts in a Bulldozer Track"; "Arctic Wars- Animal Rights – Endangered Peoples"; "Independence for Greenland"; "The Difficult Tango"; "What Now?"; and especially his memoirs, "A Long Life Across", made him a popular guest lecturer far away from Greenland.

Finn helped ICC bring important hunting rights issues before many wild life management regimes around the globe. Those close to Finn used his vast international knowledge. His ability to engage in dialogue with adversaries and the animal rights movement helped ICC take up this fight and make new friends for our cause.


Finn was a keynote speaker at our last General Assembly in Nuuk and ICC Greenland gave him a lifetime achievement award in 2009.

He leaves behind two daughters, his wife Rie and her three children. As we got older we became closer, I feel that I've lost a close spiritual friend. He was a friend to so many others.

We buried him on a Friday in Qassiarsuk, by the first Christian church in North America, built by the Vikings. To the last he wanted to make a statement by insisting his coffin was painted yellow, the basic color of the campaign against uranium mining in Greenland. 

Northwest Arctic Region Food Security Workshop.

On February 5-6, traditional knowledge experts came together in Kotzebue to evaluate and validate preliminary findings of ICC Alaska's food security project, *How to Assess Food Security from an Inuit Perspective: Building a Conceptual Framework on How to Assess Food Security in the Alaskan Arctic*. The Northwest Arctic food security workshop is an important part of our overall project methodology, allowing for greater engagement of our villages and a preliminary validation process. As part of the project methodology, we have workshops in the four ICC Alaska regions. This workshop was a great success. We thank all of the workshop participants, note takers, organizers, and our member organizations for working together to create

a successful workshop. We are grateful for the support provided by: NANA, Maniilaq, the Northwest Arctic Borough, Bering Air, and Conoco Phillips. Thank you! 




Okalik Egeesiak Nominated as Incoming Chair

By ICC Alaska Staff

The ICC Chair position rotates every four years at the General Assembly between Greenland, Canada and Alaska. ICC Canada will take the Chair in the next term

(2014-2018) and has nominated (Josie) Okalik Egeesiak as the next Chair of ICC. She is expected to be confirmed by delegates at the ICC General Assembly in Inuvik next July.

Currently, Okalik is President of Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA). QIA represents approximately 14,000 Inuit of the Qikiqtani Region. She has a history of service to Inuit in various capacities and levels, including previously serving as President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Chair of the Nunasi Corporation, Chair of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation and Vice-President of the ICC.

Okalik was born and raised in Iqaluit, Nunavut. 

Alaskan Delegates prepare for Inuvik

By ICC Alaska Staff

Alaska delegates to the 2014 ICC General Assembly met in a preparatory meeting in Anchorage in early March. The General Assembly will be held July 21-24, 2014 in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada. The 2014 General Assembly theme is “*Ukiuqtaqtumi Hiouniptingnun – One Arctic One Future.*”

ICC holds a General Assembly every four years at which Inuit delegates from across the circumpolar region elect a new Chair and an Executive Council, develop policies and adopt resolutions that will guide the activities of the organization for the coming term. The General Assembly is at the heart of the organization, providing an opportunity for sharing information, discussing common concerns, debating issues and strengthening the bonds between all Inuit.

At the meeting, delegates received an up to date account of ICC activities over the last term. Such activities include Alaska specific efforts relating to food security, traditional knowledge, education improvement and resource development, there was also presentations on work being done at the international level within the Arctic Council and United Nations.

Delegates are named by ICC Alaska’s member organizations and include the following:

North Slope Region

Charlotte Brower (NSB)
George Olemaun (ICAS)
Rex Rock (ASRC)
Doreen Lampe (Regional seat)
Jim Stotts (ICC Executive Council)


Bering Straits Region

Roy Ashenfelter (BSNC)
Robert Keith (Kawerak)
Melanie Bahnke (Regional seat)
Kelsi Ivanoff (Youth representative)
Vera Metcalf (ICC Executive Council)
Denise Michels (Kawerak-Alternate)

Current events and issues in each of the ICC countries that might be discussed during the General Assembly were also presented. Finally, there was discussion on Alaska specific items that the delegation is considering bringing to the attention of the General Assembly, including issues affecting food security like the fisheries by-catch issue and migratory birds.

At the end of the meeting, delegates unanimously voted to reelect Jim Stotts, ICC Alaska President and Vera Metcalf, ICC Alaska Vice President to serve another four year term.

In addition to delegates, Alaska’s official participants include a cultural performance group. The cultural performance group rotates among the four Inuit regions in Alaska and for the Inuvik General Assembly, the Northwest Arctic region selected the Northern Lights Dancers from Kotzebue to represent Alaska at the General Assembly.

Learn more about the General Assembly and sponsorship opportunities at www.iccalaska.org or by contacting ICC Alaska. More about Inuvik can be found at www.inuvik.ca. 

Northwest Arctic Region

Percy Ballot (Maniilaq)
Reggie Joule (NAB)
Don Sheldon (NANA)
Marie Greene (Regional seat)

Southwest Region

Raymond J. Watson (AVCP)
James Paul (AVCP)
Dr. Paul John (Elder representative)
Myron P. Naneng, Sr. (AVCP)


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Fish Stocks Convention. These agreements call for nations to cooperate on resource management beyond the 200 mile zone.

It should be mentioned that the five coastal states are all members of the Arctic Council and have chosen to have these discussions outside Arctic Council purview. Discussions about Arctic Ocean commercial fishing and national security issues have been off of the Arctic Council table since Council inception.


At the meeting the states recognized that harvesting of living resources for food is on going in the Arctic Ocean and that indigenous traditional knowledge needs to be integrated with scientific knowledge to better understand the living resources and their ecosystems. It was also recognized that the interests

of indigenous peoples need to be taken into consideration in the proper management of marine living resources in the Arctic Ocean.

ICC Alaska had representatives at both of the aforementioned scientific meetings and the recent meeting in Nuuk had representatives from ICC Alaska, Canada and Greenland. ICC was the only indigenous group attending this meeting. ICC wishes to express its appreciation to the governments of the U.S., Canada and Denmark for including ICC representatives in their national delegations. ICC Alaska believes this is in keeping with the spirit of the U.S. Arctic Policy and its recent Implementation Strategy. Future developments will be reported on in the DRUM. 



Traditional Knowledge (TK) highlighted in UN Assessment Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was formed under the UN to produce reports on impacts of climate change in support of the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change. IPCC's fifth assessment report on the science of climate change highlights the importance of TK, providing an entire section on the topic under, *Indigenous Knowledge*. The section briefly discusses how this source of knowledge has aided in decision making to allow for adaptability within varying environments, stating: "...Inuit knowledge of climate variability assured the source of food to hunters and reduced various risks..." The report also touches on the potential loss of transfer of knowledge and a decrease in genetic biodiversity as a result of substituting traditional livelihoods through regulations and limiting access to territories. The report is at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/> 

Arctic Council Holds TK Workshop

By ICC Alaska Staff

In light of the many changes taking place within the Arctic there is a growing appreciation of how traditional knowledge (TK) may illuminate our understanding of these changes. Many Alaskan and international entities are asking questions about how this source of knowledge can be harnessed, including the Arctic Council (AC).


In February, the Arctic Council (AC) held a workshop of Permanent Participants (PPs) as the first step aimed at increasing the use of TK within the Arctic Council. This was following the May 2013 AC Ministerial where the importance of TK was recognized: *a fundamental strength of the [Arctic] council is the unique roll played by the Arctic Indigenous peoples and the knowledge system they have to bring to the table* (Kiruna Declaration 2013).

The workshop impressed upon the importance of indigenous peoples leading the process of outlining what TK can speak to, and the fundamental principles needed for the use of TK. The PPs quickly came to a consensus on the challenges faced in creating a synergy between TK and science. These challenges often come down to everyone involved truly understanding what TK is, how it can be used, respecting guidelines for use of

TK, and agreeing that the use of TK and science together will greatly enhance the work of the AC.

ICC has always held a high recognition of TK and has promoted its utilization. Recognizing the need to increase understanding of what TK is, ICC collectively developed the following definition:

Traditional knowledge is a systematic way of thinking applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and spiritual systems. It includes insights based on evidence acquired through direct and long-term experiences and extensive and multi generational observations, lessons and skills. It has developed over millennia and is still developing in a living process, including knowledge acquired today and in the future, and it is passed on from generation to generation.

Under this definition, TK goes beyond observation and ecological knowledge, offering a unique 'way of knowing' to identify and apply to research needs and decision-making. This definition has aided ICC in advocating for the utilization of TK within the AC. 



TK Workshop participants. Photo by Unknown.

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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.

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