

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8-9

Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting
• Lulea, Sweden • www.arctic-council.org

November 14-15

IPCOMM Board Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska • www.ipcommalaska.org

November 18-19

Arctic Council-Arctic Biodiversity Symposium
• Ottawa, Ontario • www.arctic-council.org

November 28-December 2

BIA Tribal Providers Conference • Anchorage, Alaska • www.biaprovidersconference.com

November 28-December 9

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change • Durban, South Africa • unfccc.int

December 6, 2011

University of the Arctic Board Meeting • Fairbanks, Alaska • www.uarctic.org

December 13-14

Arctic Council Oil Spill Task Force Meeting • St. Petersburg, Russia • www.arctic-council.org

January 16-20

Alaska Marine Science Symposium • Anchorage, Alaska • alaskamarinescience.org

January 22-27

Arctic Frontiers 2012 • Tromso, Norway www.arcticfrontiers.com

January 24-25

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks Board Meeting • Tromso, Norway • www.arcticobserving.org

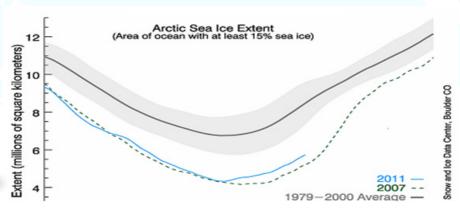
February 6-10

Alaska Forum on the Environment • Anchorage, Alaska • www.akforum.com

March 4-10

ArcticWinterGames • Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada • www.awg2012.org





Credit: National Snow and Ice Data Center (Oct., 2011).

Building TK/Science Capacity in a Changing Environment

By ICC Alaska Staff

ICC Alaska's capacity to engage the Arctic community through Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Science, as well as the international community within the Arctic Council, is growing with the development of their new TK/Science advisor position. This position will take on many projects to promote the use of TK and engage the multiple actors entering into the Arctic, such as industry, environmental groups and scientific research interest.

Many Arctic communities are voicing concerns regarding the changes in ice coverage, animal behavior and wellness, changes in plants, of pollutants being transferred through water currents up to the Arctic, hunters having to travel much further in unsafe conditions to find the animals they are in search of, and much more. The world is constantly changing and yes people of the Arctic hold high adaptability constructs within their social systems. Yet recent years have brought on accelerated ecological changes, ultimately stemming from climate changes, which threaten the Arctic food web. For example, changes in pH levels affect planktonic and benthic invertebrates with calcified shells. A decrease in their abundance could ripple through the food chain and decrease prey availability for the marine mammals that the Inuit hold a close cultural connection with, such as the bearded seal or beluga whale.



Credit: Arctic Ocean Diversity. (Oct., 2011).

Additionally, while the growing interest in oil/gas exploration, opening up new shipping routes, developing commercial fisheries and tourism hold economic opportunities, they also hold the potential to increase the pressure on Arctic life further threatening the food web and Arctic ecosystem.



ICC Executive Council

Iim Stotts, President

Vera Metcalf, Vice President

North Slope Region

Eugene 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)

Carl Weisner (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

Sustaining Arctic Communities...

On average I receive several invitations a week to participate in some conference on some issue concerning the Arctic. The topics for discussion are varied and the meeting places are all over the world. Apparently it's quite fashionable to have Arctic conferences in the tropics. The Arctic has become a hot topic of interest.

Many of these gatherings have an economic focus. With climate change it's becoming easier to access resources for development. So, we have conferences on the development of oil, gas, coal, mining, timber, water and food. There are conferences about support activities for resource development in the fields of finance, logistics, technology, engineering and transportation. There are meetings about Arctic tourism and others about Arctic commercial fishing. It seems everyone has an economic interest in the Arctic.

Other meetings focus on environmental issues. Climate change again often forms the foundation for these discussions. With a warmer climate melting snow, ice and permafrost; the number of topics to talk about is almost endless. The effects of climate change on ecosystems, habitats, animals, weather patterns, and traditional knowledge are all frequent topics of discussion on the Arctic environment.

Still, other meetings focus on the human dimension. There are conferences and workshops on health and well-being, language and culture, food safety and security, biodiversity, community energy and infrastructure needs, and pollution and contamination. These are topics that Inuit and other Arctic peoples are quite concerned about. With all this interest from outside, what happens to those already living in the Arctic?

Last June I participated in yet another one of those many Arctic conferences, *The Arctic Imperative: Cooperation, Investment, Development.* The conference was held in Girdwood at the Alyeska Resort. This gathering drew an impressive group of national and international leaders to focus on what does it take to create the right conditions for attracting investment in the Arctic. I presented ICC's Declaration on Responsible Resource Development Principles which was formulated last February in Ottawa. The Declaration states Inuit conditions for resource development.

I said, "I'd like to suggest that the next time Alaska Dispatch decides to hold a summit that the topic could be, *The Arctic Imperative: Sustaining Arctic Communities*. I would invite back all the people that are attending this summit. Now that's a topic ICC could sink its teeth into."

I was serious; let's organize a conference that seriously considers what it will take to sustain our communities through the coming changes. We're running out of time.

Check Out Our Website

www.iccalaska.org

"DRUM" is now online!

Executive Council Meets in Nome

By ICC Alaska Staff

The Executive Council met September 7-8 in Nome, Alaska. During the same time Nome was hosting the "Beringia Days Celebration" which created an opportunity for ICC to mingle and network with the many visitors from Chukotka.

After dispensing with opening statements and the minutes, the Council reviewed the Chair's report. Aqqaluk Lynge highlighted his activities including work done at the Arctic Council (AC) Ministerial meeting last May. He discussed Greenpeace attempts to sabotage oil exploration in Davis Straits and other Greenpeace activities within Greenland. The Chair reported on the recent UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) session in New York, and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. ICC's work at the UN is led by the Greenland office and is a major focus of the Chair. Aqqaluk stressed the importance of two upcoming events that he felt ICC should be involved in, the International Polar Year Conference to be held in Montreal, Canada in 2012, and the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be held in 2014.

Tatiana Achirgina reported on Chukotka. In addition to numerous meetings with government and scientific organizations, Tatiana was able to attend the recent UNPFII session in New York. Most of the meetings concerned relations with the Russian government on social, cultural and educational issues. Hunting and resource extraction issues also occupy much time and effort. Tatiana stated that all ICC Chukotka work is carried out on a voluntary basis.

Duane Smith reported that Canada is drafting a proposal for the Canadian government and others on implementing the "Inuit Declaration on Resource Development." Canada has worked closely with Alaska on Arctic Council (AC) work such as: developing the Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON); follow up on the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA); a five-year plan to assess, monitor and promote indigenous languages through the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG); and many other initiatives including health, biodiversity, contaminants, and wildlife and sustainable utilization. Canada and Alaska co-lead the AC effort for ICC. Canada has developed a concept paper for a Chukotka Capacity Building project and has distributed it to the other offices and to the European Union.

Jim Stotts and Vera Metcalf presented the Alaska report. Alaska has been working on AC matters together with Canada as discussed above. Alaska has been active attending meetings within the State ever since the ICC Alaska board stated it wants ICC to maintain a higher profile within Alaska. As a result, Alaska has attended several state and local events and conferences recently. Finally, it was noted that two former ICC Executive Council members recently passed away, Oscar Kawagely and Caleb Pungowiyi both succumbed to cancer.

Carl Chr. Olsen (Puju) and Hjalmar Dahl presented the Greenland report. Greenland was active at the AC Ministerial and UNPFII as reported above. Greenland has been active in the

debate over development issues within Greenland, including: offshore oil and gas exploration; the ALCOA aluminum smelter project near Maniitsoq; licensing for mining projects, and being involved in the public hearing process on resource development. It was mentioned that the Kingdom of Denmark has presented its Arctic Strategy.

After the country reports each office presented their financial reports, the meeting was then adjourned to the next day.

The Council opened the next day with discussions on where ICC is with implementing the Nuuk Declaration. Topics discussed included: an Inuit Education and Culture Summit planned for 2013 in Nuuk, Greenland; implementation of the Inuit Health Strategy; a potential follow up SDWG project on Arctic indigenous languages; food security; the upcoming IPY Conference in Montreal; and two potential projects with the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), one on "The Last Ice Area", and another on capacity building for the impact assessment process in Greenland.

The next item discussed was activity at the UN. Topics included: the recent UNPFII and EMRIP meetings; the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; UN Mercury Negotiations held in Nairobi, Kenya; UN Convention on Climate Change held in Durban, South Africa; and implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Council then discussed AC activities which are reported on elsewhere in this issue of DRUM.

Finally, the Council talked about the upcoming 20th Anniversary of ICC Chukotka and our plans to hold an Executive Council meeting in Anadyr, Chukotka in 2012. The next meeting will be held in Greenland in the spring.



Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Bob Papp, Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Homeland Security Alice Hilland, Commander of the Seventeenth Coast Guard District Rear Adm. Tom Ostebo met with Jim Stotts and Kelly Eningowuk in Anchorage last August to discuss Coast Guard presence in the Alaskan Arctic. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.

Arctic Council Agenda Heating Up

By ICC Alaska Staff

Arctic Council (AC) activities are heating up again after a brief lull following the Ministerial meeting last spring in Greenland. This fall has a full schedule of working group and other meetings. Here's an update of recent and upcoming activities.

Working Group Meetings:

The Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) Arctic Human Health Experts Group (AHHEG) met 17 September in Umea, Sweden. Leanna Ellsworth from ICC Canada and Gert Mulvad from ICC Greenland attended.

The group met to discuss food and water security issues. This has been a priority issue for ICC and we will present a project proposal at the next SDWG meeting on food security. SDWG will meet in Stockholm, Sweden on 3-4 October. The next AHHEG meeting will be held in 2012 in Fairbanks, Alaska and will focus on mental health.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) held a workshop 18-19 September in Reykjavik, Iceland on ecosystem based management in the Arctic

marine environment. This was the third in a series of workshops on this topic. A final report from the workshops will be presented at the next Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting.

The Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group met twice in Reykjavik following the IUCN workshop. The first meeting was a workshop on the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) phase II project on 20-21 September. The purpose of the workshop was to follow up and include information left out of the project's first phase. The purpose of the AOR is to review international and regional measures that are in place for protection of the Arctic marine environment and to address gaps or weaknesses. The second meeting was a regular PAME meeting held 21-23 September where we discussed follow-up work to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) and the 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines. We also discussed the AOR phase II project and ecosystem based management. Duane Smith and Stephanie Meakin from ICC Canada and Jim Stotts from ICC Alaska attended the Iceland meetings.

There is an upcoming Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group meeting 4-6 October in Moscow, Russia. The Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group will hold a workshop on Oil Spills in the Arctic Ocean October 19-20 followed by a two-day regular meeting. These meetings will be reported on in the next issue of DRUM.

Task Force Meetings:

ARCTIC COUNCIL

The AC Task Force on Institutional Issues (TFII) met 26-27 in Stockholm, Sweden to plan the establishment of an AC permanent secretariat in Tromso, Norway. The TFII also discussed issues concerning the terms of reference

> and conditions for observers to the AC. Jim Stotts attended. The task force will continue its work through the Swedish chairmanship.

The AC held an Arctic for need

Resilience Report workshop 26-28 September in Stockholm. The aim of the workshop is to undertake an assessment of the resilience of Arctic socialecological systems including the necessary transformational change. The purpose of a resilience analysis is to prepare decision makers for managing Arctic socialecological systems during a

period of rapid change with large uncertainties. Stephanie Meakin attended the workshop.

Jim Stotts and Stephanie Meakin attended an AC Arctic Change Assessment (ACA) scoping workshop 28-30 September in Oslo, Norway. The purpose of the workshop was to invite experts to discuss terms of reference for the ACA to determine the consequences of and actions needed to address cumulative effects on ecosystems, societies and people brought about by climate change and other drivers of change. A workshop report will be presented to the upcoming SAO meeting.

The AC Task Force on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response will hold its first meeting 17-18 October in Oslo, Norway, and the AC Experts Group on Arctic Ecosystem-Based Management will first meet 17-19 October in Washington,

Finally, the AC Senior Arctic Officials will hold their first meeting of the Swedish Chairmanship in Lulea, Sweden November 8-9. For further information on the Arctic Council please visit <u>www.arctic-council.org</u> . **O**



Chair's Message
Aqqaluk Lynge
My first seal – and my last?

Seals are among the most numerous marine mammals in the Arctic. Still, Inuit are losing the seal battle.

When I was a child I looked forward to the coming of winter, after the wonderful summer was over, and the snow began falling around the

beginning of October. That's when we could start going by dogsled on the frozen sea ice around the archipelago of my home town, Aasiaat, on Disco Bay in West Greenland. For all young boys that was the life we were introduced to.

In the 1950's, many heads of families in West Greenland had steady incomes through government or construction jobs. During the fishing season other family members could earn even more money. When winter arrived, we only had our dogsleds to rely on.

We would set up nets through holes made through the ice near the shore or near an iceberg. If you are lucky a seal would be caught in the nets. That's how I got my first *natseq* (ring seal). It's not as dramatic as when you shoot it from your boat. Nevertheless, I was treated by my parents as if a new hunter had been born and the whole neighborhood was invited for coffee. This is how we celebrated our entrance to 'manhood.' The seal would be distributed to all our neighbors and the seal pelt would be washed and dried out in the cold. You could choose to sell the pelt or use it for clothing.

Times have changed. It's been ten years ago since steady ice has formed on the Disco Bay. The dog sled has almost disappeared from my home town with only a few teams left. There are no longer "ice highways" connecting my island home town with the area's other towns and villages. The warmer ocean has moved north so the ice covered areas of North West Greenland in the winter time are diminishing. Our dog sled culture is disappearing. We are witnessing the change of our lives with all of its aspects.

While many of our fishing and hunting families now struggle to make ends meet, the rich of the world in Europe fight the low incomes of the Arctic by not allowing us to freely trade the seal products that our families used to exist on.

The other day we got the news that the General Court of the European Union rejected our case challenging the European Union's year old ban on seal products. Last year, ICC-Greenland joined with Inuit of Canada (ITK) and the Hunter's and Fishermen's Association of Greenland (KNAPK) to fight Europe's economic sanctions against Arctic indigenous peoples.

Even before the ban the prices had gone down dramatically and there is no way that the market can be reestablished. On the other hand there is no economic compensation paid to the Greenlandic hunters. Maybe one could expect that a climate change adaptation program could step in and help the neediest families. But such a program exists only in our imagination!

So what's next? It's getting worse.

In December last year the US government issued a notification that the *natseq* and *ussuk* (bearded seal) are being proposed to be listed on the US Endangered Species Act (ESA) across their respective ranges. ICC's position is there are no scientific arguments to list these seals, as iterated at the September meeting of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) in Oslo, Norway.

To solve the problem, both Norway and Canada have put the issue before the World Trade Organization (WTO). Greenland cannot join the petition since such questions are in the hands of the Danish Government which is bound by its membership and loyalty to the European Union. A panel is being assembled at the WTO and we will see what happens next.

My first seal might have been the start to my last... Q

continued from page 1

While many projects are underway to study the decrease in ice coverage, change in walrus distribution and much more, little is focused on the human dimension of the Arctic and the relationship held between the Inuit people and the rest of life around them. Simply put, humans are part of the ecosystem in which they live. The dynamic relationship interlinking Arctic communities to animals and plants around them is easily seen within the Inuit culture, spirituality, clothing, source of nourishment and more.

ICC recognizes the crucial importance of this relationship and has launched a two-year project to develop a framework

on how to assess food security in the Alaska Arctic. The aim of this framework will be to create baselines by which food security may be accessed through the human dimension. The food security project will look through existing research to identify gaps and speak directly with communities to learn of additional threats to Arctic animals, plants and the relationship that humans hold with them. Creating a baseline by which food security may be assessed, through an Inuit perspective, will allow for proactive and adaptive management of the accelerated changes occurring in the Arctic. Ω

Introducing Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle

By ICC Alaska Staff



We are pleased to have Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle join our office as a consultant assisting our fundraising effort and strategic plan implementation.

Megan is a King Island Inupiaq from Nome, Alaska. In January of this year, she returned to Alaska after 8 years in Washington D.C. In Washington D.C. she worked as a legislative assistant to Senator Lisa Murkowski responsible for issues under the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Native corporation 8(a) issues, domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and rural infrastructure projects. She received a B.S. in Economics from George Mason University and a M.A. in Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University.

Welcome Megan, we are glad to have you on our team. 🔎





TK/Science Advisor Joins Office

By ICC Alaska Staff



Carolina Behe recently joined the ICC Alaska office as the Traditional Knowledge/ Science Advisor. Carolina will lead ICC Alaska efforts to build organizational capacity to better engage in Arctic research. We are glad to have Carolina join our team.

Carolina has a deep interest in marine conservation and incorporating traditional knowledge in scientific research. She explained, "Growing up on the Oregon coast I developed a strong connection to the aquatic environment. My childhood education of the environment began outdoors and with an understanding that multiple ways of knowing exist. As a young adult my education continued upon fishing vessels in southeastern Alaska. Here, I was drawn to the adventures of becoming a commercial salmon

and shrimp fisher. I was quickly exposed to new marine species, as well as the ins-and-outs of the fishing industry. My love for the ocean and marine life stayed with me, even while living in New York City, and as I traveled to different parts of the world. Experiencing diverse cultures and witnessing their interactions with the environment continued to sharpen my interest in marine science and build an awareness of different sources of knowledge. These experiences additionally impressed upon me the gross importance of effective management that holistically considers natural systems, flora and fauna populations, dependent cultures and is built upon multiple ways of knowing."

These interests drove Carolina to pursue a multidisciplinary Master's degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Within this degree program her research focused on subsistence salmon fishers and the use of traditional ecological knowledge within salmon resource management decisions along the Yukon River Delta.

"After many years I have returned to Alaska as the Traditional Knowledge and Science advisor for ICC Alaska. It is my honor to be part of the ICC team and I look forward to working within the Arctic community in support of ICC's vision," said Carolina.

A Tribute to Caleb Pungowiyi

Kuupik Kleist, Premier Government of Greenland

It is with sadness that I have received notice of Caleb Pungowiyi's death.

The people of Greenland have lost a good friend, a highly respected leader, a Yupik, who represented his people in

Photo courtesy of Oceana.

his own way – wise, hard working, very down to earth yet visionary. We will always remember him as a humble man, yet he was also able to engage effectively in the ways of the modern society.

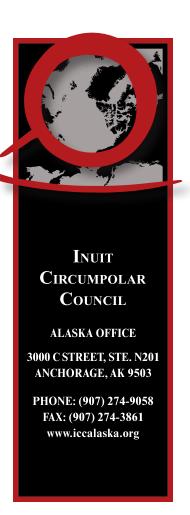
I personally got to know Caleb through our involvement in ICC back in the eighties. He served as a member of the Executive Council as well as President from 1992-95. In office, he displayed excellent leadership skills and managed to highlight the rights of Inuit on a number of occasions, at home as well as abroad. For that, we owe him gratitude for the good things he did for all of us, the Inuit. In particular, I wish to highlight his crucial role in the days of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. I know how he loved to work with issues of environment and community development.

Caleb was also a professional capacity in many ways, for instance in committees and commissions. In particular, I wish to mention his role as Special Advisor on Native Affairs at the Marine Mammal Commission, this advocating the interests of Inuit. A knowledgeable person, he also dedicated much time to advice researchers and scientists.

Caleb was born in 1941 in the village of Savoonga, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. He died of cancer at the age of 69. My heartfelt compassion goes to his beloved wife Gladys and their children.



ICC pays tribute to Caleb Pungowiyi at the Alaska Federation of Natives conference. Photo by Minnie Naylor





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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