

Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit

Nome, AK - Summit Report



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Facilitated by Jered Stewart
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"Going back to managing our own resources, as hunters and the ladies on the land, we know what is most important. I think that many people try to have a say on how to manage our food, and they don't know what is going on. We do." – JakyLou Olemaun, North Slope Youth Delegate from Utqiagvik, Alaska.

"I come from the Yukon. My favorite [season] is King Salmon [fishing] in early summer. It was taken away from us before. It hurt because we need that resource to feed us during the winter. It would really hurt if it was taken away again because of low return numbers. We have to fight real hard." – Donovan Okitkun, Yukon-Kuskokwim Region Youth Delegate from Kotlik, Alaska.

"In 1966, the international human rights Conventions affirmed that we have the right of self-determination and further explicitly affirmed that '*In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.*' This standard, combined with other human rights norms, must be considered when we ask if we are using these instruments to full potential to support our collective human rights." – Dalee Sambo Dorough, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council

"There has to be harmonization of laws and policies concerning wildlife management between state, federal, and international wildlife policies. Right now, we are at odds with the State, and we need to get beyond that. These laws and policies should be harmonized to include us instead of going to 9 federal agencies for hunting and fishing." – James Stotts, ICC Alaska President

"What is real near and dear to my heart is what my grandfather told me about our sovereignty, 'our sovereignty cannot be touched.' Sovereignty is a God given gift to all of man on this earth. Sovereignty can never be taken away by force or taken away by a piece of paper. Sovereignty can only be trespassed on." – Delbert Pungowyi, Savoonga

"Outside managers are always expecting us to come sit at their table and advise them. Maybe they should come and sit at our table with our Tribes through a qasgiq style public process. For Yup'ik, we had community homes called a qasgiq where you would go to school and be taught by elder professors." – Jacqueline Cleveland, Quinhagak

"When federal and state [agencies] manage the resources that we depend on, we are left as advisors. We should have a vote on the Federal Subsistence Board or call it something else. Their management hinders our way of life, our gathering of food." – Fenton Rexford, Kaktovik

"Our approach is based on our culture. It is what we live to sustain ourselves. We need to keep teaching our way of life to the next generation." – Taqulik Hepa, Utqiagvik

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Executive Summary

The Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit was held in Nome, Alaska at the Nome Covenant Church on September 10-12, 2019. The Summit brought together 79 Inuit participants from across the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait, and Yukon-Kuskokwim regions of Alaska to discuss food sovereignty and the lack of direct Inuit management of the resources that we depend on. Summit participants focused on developing a collective way forward to secure consistent¹ access, management authority, and rights over Inuit traditional food resources.

The Summit is the centerpiece of the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative, which aims to unify and organize Alaskan Inuit through three meetings and one Statewide Summit. Two Steering Committee meetings were held prior to the Summit, one in Utqiagvik in January of 2019 and another in Bethel in April of 2019 to launch the Initiative and prepare for the Summit. The Summit provided the opportunity to hear directly from community members to gather recommendations that will inform the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan.

It was an enriching three days with passionate conversation and engagement. The main themes highlighted were:

- Commitment to move forward with unity and solidarity
- Importance of Indigenous Knowledge and traditional laws
- The harmonization of regulatory frameworks and approaches to Inuit management of our traditional food resources for adaptive, holistic management
- Need to build equity and roles for Inuit in wildlife management with consistent access, management authority and rights over our traditional food resources

¹ Consistent in terms of continuity over time, without exceptions.

- Management systems that promote and protect our culture
- Understand and leverage human rights instruments
- Unify our Tribes and formally develop resolutions to support the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan
- Communicate with one voice and disseminate our work throughout our communities

The next steps recommended by participants are to:

- Develop a brand name for communications, outreach, and education
- Gain formal buy-in and support from Tribes across our regions²
- Consider best structural approach - being organized by region with simplicity, and unity as the main organizing principle
- Keep our hunters, gatherers, food preparers and communities at the forefront of decision-making, as the first inhabitants of the Arctic and recognizing the inherent status, rights and government systems of Inuit

Citation

This report reflects the Knowledge and perspectives of Alaskan Inuit leaders, resource managers, elders, and youth. The report should be cited as: Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska. 2019. *Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit Report*. Anchorage, Alaska.

² Inuit regions of Alaska (North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait, and Yukon-Kuskokwim)

Introduction

The Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative is a three-year effort being facilitated by the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska. ICC Alaska member organizations and co-management organizations are leading this effort. The Initiative was a direct call to action from Alaskan Inuit and follows up on the ICC Wildlife Management Summit. It also evokes the recommendations reflected in VILLAGE JOURNEY, the Report of the Alaska Native Review Commission, conducted by ICC from 1983-1985; the Alaskan Inuit Food Security Conceptual Framework; and is being carried out alongside the Food Sovereignty and Self-Governance (FSSG) project.

The ICC Wildlife Management Summit brought together Inuit from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland in November 2017 and resulted in the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Strategy, which seeks to ensure a sustainable future for Inuit use of wildlife through the establishment of the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Committee and the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Network. The Committee is the interface between Inuit wildlife management experts, groups, committees, and organizations. The Committee intends to recognize and build onto existing bi-lateral and multi-lateral relationships, mechanisms, and agreements at the international level to advance Inuit food sovereignty. The Committee and Network aims to unify Inuit to collectively promote, develop, and maintain our rights to self-determination, culture, food sovereignty, and sustainable use of our food resources across national and international borders throughout Inuit Nunaat (homelands).

As an element of the objectives described, through the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative, we hope to gain recognition of and respect for our rights to access and manage our wildlife and other resources in Alaska to ensure that we can realize the collective aspiration for international collaboration of wildlife management across Inuit Nunaat.

Opening Ceremony

After giving a warm welcome to her home community of Nome, Mary David, Executive Vice President of Kawerak Incorporated, brought attention to our collective effort to unite and work together to build a pathway to advance Inuit food sovereignty over the coming days. An opening prayer was done by Pastor Bertha Koweluk of the Community United Methodist Church of Nome who gave a blessing for everyone gathered at the Summit.

Welcoming Remarks by Dalee Sambo Dorough



ICC International Chair, Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough, provided opening remarks addressing the important linkage between our human rights and food sovereignty. She shared the pivotal elements of international human rights instruments that support our cultural integrity and affirm our rights to the management and control of the resources that we depend upon. She emphasized the nature of human rights as universal; inalienable, they cannot be destroyed or extinguished; emphasized the interrelated, interdependent, and indivisible nature of our human rights and responsibilities; and that our rights are inherent or pre-existing- they are not created or given by government.

Dr. Dorrough commented on what is needed to fully exercise and ultimately enjoy these inherent rights:

There are numerous ways for us to assert the rights affirmed in the UN Declaration and other instruments in order to improve the day to day lives of our people and to ultimately enjoy and exercise our fundamental human rights through Inuit wildlife management...The issue, right here, is what is at the heart of our people. Through this Initiative, it is my hope that we can link arms to stand up for our food sovereignty and work together.

Following Dr. Dorrough's opening remarks, Mary David, Vera Metcalf, and Chris Apassingok led an icebreaker, which took a traditional Inuit spin on rock, paper, scissors. They demonstrated for us how to play rock, seal skin, ulu, mentioning that rock crushes ulu, seal skin covers rock, and ulu cuts seal skin. This activity embodied elements of Inuit culture and values, including the spirituality and value of humor. Laughter was shared, with Inuit getting to know each other across our regions to build relationships, trust, and unity as we prepared to build a pathway to advance Inuit food sovereignty over the coming days.

Background and History of the Initiative

James Stotts, President of ICC Alaska, turned the attention of Summit participants to the three young Inuit hunters on the Summit banner that stood at the podium. Left to right are Charlie Katchatag, Taylor Kulukhon, and Keenon Jackson from Shaktoolik, Alaska. The photo is from ICC Alaska's I AM INUIT project and was taken as the young boys were returning from duck hunting. In addition, a moment of silence was taken to pay tribute to and to honor the memory of Charlie Katchatag who had since passed away two years ago.



In his presentation, Mr. Stotts called for Inuit to stand together in solidarity and to pull together collectively to assert our rights and responsibility to protect our environment and our culture as the first inhabitants and the stewards of the Arctic. He stated that the issue of hunting and fishing rights is not a new issue and has affected Inuit for the past 50 years. He also emphasized frustration with decisions that are often made solely on Western science and are not place- or culture-based. Mr. Stotts added:

We are not able to manage our food resources using our knowledge and practices due to 'outside' imposed policies, regulations, and other intervening factors. Elements of our culture and way of life are being outlawed. Today we face uncertainties with a management system that's fragmented between international agreements and state and federal government. Further fragmentation occurs within the many government agencies concerned with different aspects of fish and game management. The management of our traditional food resources has become a political issue.

Mr. Stotts pledged ICC Alaska's full support and underscored the importance of the collective effort it will take to implement this Initiative to obtain food sovereignty for our people.

Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management

Vera Metcalf and Taqulik Hepa presented on their efforts in serving as Alaskan Inuit members of the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee, which was formed as a direct outcome of the 2017 ICC Wildlife Management Summit. Both Metcalf and Hepa attended and participated in the 2017 Summit and have remained committed to the process to formalize the Committee. They emphasized that Inuit currently are working under many imposed processes that guide a single species approach to management and further emphasized the need to formally move towards an Inuit approach that is holistic in nature, informed by Indigenous Knowledge, and considers multiple species and interconnections.



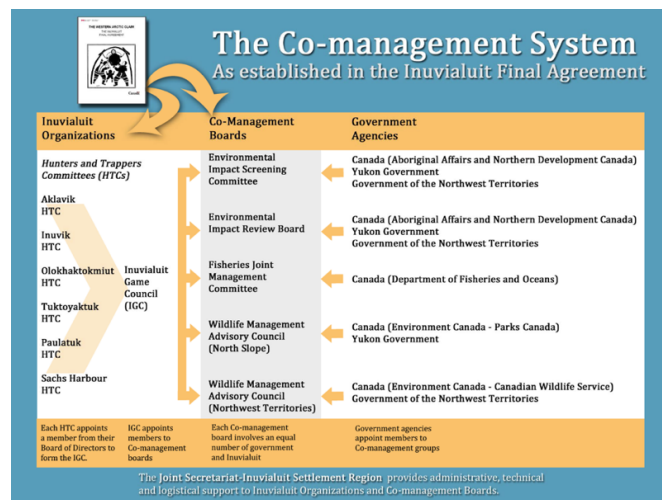
Metcalf and Hepa expressed that ultimately, the Committee is working towards international collaboration on wildlife management to foster unified Inuit positions across Inuit Nunaat that will influence national and international discussion, decisions, policies, and regulations to support Inuit self-determination and food sovereignty. The Committee is comprised of two Inuit from each of the ICC countries (Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and includes a placeholder for Chukotka). They are in the process of establishing a Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Network, which will connect Inuit wildlife management experts, groups, committees, and organizations to share information on

partnership agreements, presentations, reports, and positions in order to communicate and coordinate a unified Inuit voice at various international meetings.

In closing, they emphasized the importance of our Initiative and Action Plan, which will bring us closer to realizing our aspiration to participate in international collaboration on wildlife management across Inuit Nunaat.

A Working Co-management System in Canada

Alaskan Inuit were very fortunate to have John Noksana, Jr. from Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) share the Inuvialuit experience in co-management, as he serves on the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC). His presentation provided an opportunity for Summit participants to learn about significant Inuit co-management practices within the FJMC and the ISR.



Mr. Noksana emphasized that:

Our co-management regime works because of our land claim, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). You will never see another like it ever. We negotiated not only surface and subsurface rights but also the power to participate in the future for economic gain and to also protect our animals and habitat, whether it be fish, marine mammals, or ungulates. We have a say. If we are going to be impacted directly or indirectly by development, governments, NGOs, we have a seat at their table protecting our rights that Canada is a signatory to also.

Within the IFA, the Inuvialuit along with the government of Canada, Northwest Territories, and the Yukon Government share management responsibilities. Co-management in the ISR is carried out through one Inuvialuit board and five co-management boards: The Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB), Environmental Impact Screening Committee, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories).

The IGC is comprised of representatives appointed by the Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) within each of the six ISR communities. Within these management boards, Inuvialuit and government interests are equally represented. The FJMC board is made up of 2 Inuvialuit members appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council and 2 Canada members appointed by the Government of Canada. The Chair of the board is elected by all 4 members of the FJMC. The FJMC carries responsibilities from the IFA to protect Inuvialuit interests in fishing, harvest levels, allocating subsistence quotas among communities, utilizing both scientific and “traditional” knowledge, etc. The FJMC works to ensure effective co-management of resources within the ISR with the Inuvialuit Game Council, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and in cooperation with Hunters and Trappers Committees. They have a working system of co-management.

Plenary Discussion – Options for Inuit-led Management

John Noksana and Taqulik Hepa recognized the Inuvialuit-Inupiat Polar Bear Management Agreement and Inuvialuit-Inupiat Beaufort Sea Beluga Whale Agreement. For over 32 years, the polar bear and beluga whale management efforts have brought Inuit from the North Slope of Alaska and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region together to collaborate on Inuit-led management of shared resources across borders.

In response to John Noksana's presentation, Alaskan Inuit expressed that one of the largest takeaways was the unity the Inuvialuit have. They have one group, one people, and one structure that communicates well and is very efficient. Participants were inspired by the Canadian Inuit approach to wildlife management and will consider it as a model that could work for Alaskan Inuit. Canadian Inuit work in collaboration and cooperation with government, and they have respect and recognition of their rights as Inuit. It was mentioned that here in Alaska, Inuit do not have that distinct recognition and stature and in particular, clear recognition of hunting, fishing, and harvesting rights that are recognized and upheld in their land claims agreement. In moving forward, Inuit insisted that we need to advocate for our rights to be recognized and that it should be a central focus moving forward.

Presenting the Inuit-led Management Options

Following Mr. Noksana's presentation, Vernae Angnaboogok of ICC Alaska presented the three options for consideration, developed by the Initiative Steering Committee, for an Inuit-led approach to the management of our traditional food resources: 1) Management by culture, 2) Management by region, and 3) Managing through an overarching organization.

- **Managing by Culture** Managing by culture would focus on managing resources by Inupiat, Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and St. Lawrence Island Yupik cultures. It would allow for Inuit to focus management on resources that are highly dependent upon by

those distinct communities. For example, salmon fishing for those from the Yukon-Kuskokwim region or whaling among the Inupiat and St. Lawrence Island Yupik.

- Managing by Region would be carried out through each region - the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait, and Yukon-Kuskokwim complimented by the realization that we would still need cooperation between those with shared resources. This approach is reflective of the divisions of regions put in place after the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which requires cooperation in relation to the shared resources that transcend regions.
- **Managing through an Overarching Organization** would tie together all four Alaskan Inuit regions and cultures and utilizes an Inuit ecosystem approach to management. This could be understood as management through the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering Sea ecosystems. This approach could be achieved through organizing an Inuit co-management committee built from the community up that could include hunters, elders, youth, hunter and trapper organizations, regional and community members.

Following the presentation of the management options, participants were guided through a series of questions to weigh the pros and cons while focusing on 1) the options they identified with the most; 2) what ideas might be missing; and 3) which options they feel the strongest about.

Six breakout groups discussed the three proposed management options. The following table highlights the pros and cons of each option. **All bold text in the following tables represent supporting or contrasting points that were mentioned more than once.**

	Managing by Culture	Managing by Region	Overarching Organization
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounded by Indigenous Knowledge, especially elder knowledge* • Connected to our land • Our Knowledge is still the same • Leveraging similar values and strengths • Our values and customary practices within each of our cultures are similar or the same • Makes our cultural relevancy known to the state and feds • Safeguards our unwritten laws to be passed down • Sharing would be understood in management • Build unity amongst local Tribal offices • Inuit driven • Humble 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We know each other • Just the right size • Foundation for a stronger beginning • Allows for more political buy-in • Differences can be accommodated by region • Communication is easier by region • Resource specific • Will bring in more outside resources • Pride and ownership of management • Can find commonalities between regions • Already ingrained in us through land claims • Each region has a different timeline and different seasons • More economical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds Unity and Strength • Stronger communication • One voice • Could have representatives from each region • Greater resources • Our value of sharing is inherent • No boundaries • Can have an overarching principle that recognizes each element of the option with no hierarchy • Community based • Ecosystem-based • Will help inform the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee and other entities • Our culture is the foundation • Ability to hunt freely, continues our ancestors' path • No disturbances in migration patterns • Tribes would Unite • Model after IRC and Nunavut

	Managing by Culture	Managing by Region	Overarching Organization
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of support and communication • Lack of progress due to lack of support and communication • Stolen Indigenous Knowledge • Separating by culture divides our unity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information would not be easily accessible for cross migration for species • Hinders cross-region communication • Makes cross-region agreement more difficult • Affects our relationship with the state and federal government if we are divided amongst regions • Restriction on hunting for specific species • Seasonal and environmental differences to resources • Lack of resources • Not as united and divides us • Can't manage with regional boundaries • Too narrow focus • Remain bound by federal, state, and corporate land ownership • Our animals know no boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfying competing views • Challenging due to vast size and distance of each regional area • How do we include non-natives or non-Inuit residents in management? • How would this approach affect our relationship with the state and federal government? • Lack of communication with the rest of the community • Slower progress

A fourth option emerged from the breakout discussion, a hybrid option that brings the regional approach and the overarching approach together in a stepwise process. There were no cons associated with this option. However, in the table below, some important considerations for this approach are listed along with the points raised to support this approach.

Managing Through a Hybrid Approach	
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has our culture inherently embedded and also feeds into a regional approach • Regional organizations could include hunters, elders, and youth • Organized by 4 regional members plus an at-large to make an overarching organization • Includes all our Inuit language dialects • Feeds from the community level to the international level • Model it after the IRC and Nunavut model • More economical • Strength in unity • Truly inclusive • Approach bubbles up • Captures customary laws • Includes knowledge of plants and medicine • Holistic approach is not reductionist • Includes all our spirituality • Opportunity to build our own credentials based on our values, like humility • Truly inclusive with our culture, all regions in an overarching organization
Consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider blending of cultures and practices across the regions • Consider Inupiaq, Yup'ik, and St. Lawrence Island Yupik language dialects



Summit participants: Fenton Rexford, Elizabeth Rexford, Doreen Fogg-Leavitt, Dolly Swan, Replogle Swan, John Orr, and Nicole Kanayurak

Day 2 - Youth Panel – Our Future: What do our youth want to see?

Youth from across ICC Alaska's four regions opened day two of the Summit to bring forward Inuit youth priorities and recommendations to shape the Action Plan.



Alaskan Inuit Youth (L-R): Dolly Swan, Kivalina; Donovan Okitkun, Kotlik; Christian Apassingok, Gambell; and Jakylou Olemaun, Utqiagvik

The youth shared their experiences in response to the following questions:

- How have our cultural values and relationship with our environment shaped your hunting and fishing experience?
- How do you envision being involved in the management of our resources?
- What are your top three priorities that we address in our Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan?

They shared how their earliest experiences of being first taken out to hunt, fish, and gather taught them their place within our environment, how to survive, hunt, and manage our traditional food resources through our cultural values.

The youth put forward their top priorities for the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan, which includes the following:

- Importance of sharing, respecting all of life and each other
- Learning from the animals and the Elders, and the importance of our traditional foods to our identity
- Need to build pathways to always engage and include youth in resource management
- Work together, communicate, and cooperate more
- Make sure decisions are being informed by our Indigenous Knowledge
- Engage both male and female youth to bring their perspectives, unique to their roles and experiences

Summit participant Millie Hawley from Kivalina powerfully stated:



"The image of the youth on our Summit program and stage banner is the perfect representation of our culture, of our future, of our way of life. We need to think beyond the laws and everything else, think of our future- the next generation. We are visionaries, through seeing and looking, not so much with words. Our next generation is coming into an era very much different from this world our elders were raised in. We need to see and understand through our child's eye and pave the way for them to be free, to be the people that they should be."

Inuit Traditional Management Practices

Participants broke out into six small groups to discuss our strengths drawing upon Inuit traditional management practices while working through the following questions:

- What Inuit traditional management practices should be at the forefront of wildlife management?
- What is different about the way Inuit manage vs. the system of management that has been imposed on us?
- How could we strengthen and protect our culture and food security through true co-management?

After discussing the contrasting views of Inuit wildlife management vs. Western wildlife management, participants put forward our strengths in terms of what should be at the forefront of wildlife management as outlined below.

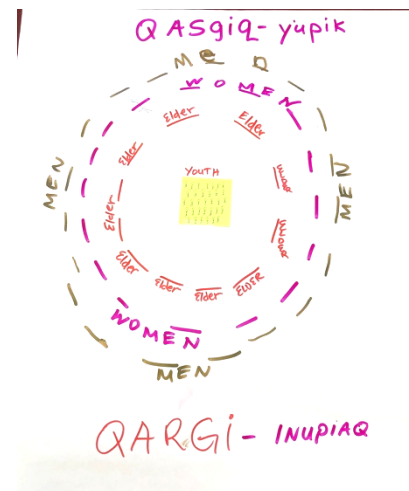
Inuit Wildlife Management	Western Wildlife Management
Hunters know the populations of our animals very well and are not dependent on old data	Modeling for population estimates are not always accurate
No management units, just Inuit family use areas that everyone respects	They use game management units that are too confusing and restrictive to artificial boundaries
We have the capacity and need equity built within the boards of game management with decision-making and voting power for Inuit	They favor commercially recognized bodies and interests over Inuit interests
We have the ability to manage without quotas, calendars, and bag limits	They manage with an individualized system that is not in line with our collective values
We have our own definitions of food security, food sovereignty, Indigenous Knowledge that are not respected or considered in management	They use their definitions that do not fit our culture and way of life
We are naturally in line with our environment and are adaptable	Their season's do not align with ours and our weather
Our system is based on spirituality and social health to sustain our culture for the coming generations	Their system is for profit

Informed by Indigenous Knowledge	Only informed by science and bound by academic qualifications
Our public process is inclusive	Their public process is exclusive
We believe in spirituality	They believe in data
We have continuity through our hunters, elders, and community	Their managers and agencies have too much turnover, hindering progress
We have an age-old management system already established by Inuit	Duplicating agreements are not good

Strengths within Inuit Traditional Management Practices

Participants brought forward the following strengths that should be at the forefront of wildlife management:

- Unity across communities to work together (Atauchikun)
- Base quotas on our Indigenous honor system
- **Sharing must be taken into consideration**
 - We feed many families
- We take only what we need, no waste
- We manage while adapting to the changing seasons and rather than having strict open/closed periods and quotas
- Inuit management is less complex
- We adapt and manage resources through Indigenous Knowledge
- Our spirit, feeling, and customary laws tell us when to hunt
- Our spirituality and interpretation must be included in co-management
- Hunting, to mealtimes, to celebration of successful hunts are all a part of food security
- We survive without boundaries, as instilled by our ancestors
- Indigenous rights must be honored



- We are managers of the past, present, and future of the environment we live in
- Qargi/qalgi/qasgiq style public process should be brought back
- **We think collectively and think of the community vs. individual harvests**

Day 3 - Vision for Advancing Inuit Food Sovereignty

Moving forward, participants broke out to work through a visioning activity where they were asked to draw a map that shows a path moving from our current state to our future state while also focusing on:

- What needs to happen to advance Inuit food sovereignty
- What are the impediments and how do we overcome them?
- What procedural and substantive changes are needed?
- Who are the key actors, and how do we influence them?



Steering Committee members: Jennifer Hooper, AVCP; Willie Goodwin, Maniilaq Association; and Mary David, Kawerak, Inc.

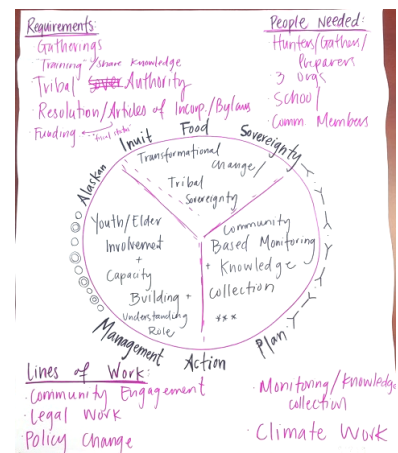
Co-management Recommendations

A number of co-management recommendations were put forward as participants envisioned our future role in managing our traditional food resources. They include:

- Inuit need a seat at the table as partners to wildlife management with the Board of Game and Fish & Game with a process built on consensus with mutual veto power.
- The State of Alaska needs to be more proactive with Tribes and work with Tribes in the management of our resources
- Our Tribes need to start documenting the resources
- Indigenous rights must be upheld by the government
- True co-management will bring unity back to our people
- Inuit are calling for the harmonization of laws, policies, and the regulatory framework between state, federal, and international authorities

Actions to advance Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty:

- Infiltrate policy making bodies
 - Federal Subsistence Board
 - Board of Fish
 - Board of Game
 - North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
 - Technical advisory bodies
 - Governor Appointees
- Regulation alignment at the state and federal level
- Coordinate and organize
 - Local governments
 - Tribal governments
- Make a for profit arm to fund lobbying efforts and a political action committee



Actions to advance Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty (continued):

- Unify within communities (trilateral agreements)
- Consider a constitutional amendment to address the rural/Native subsistence priority
- Enforce ANILCA
- Push to utilize our Inuit languages as the official language
- Build equity for Indigenous Knowledge and decrease dependence on the State's data counting system
- Draft resolutions and articles of incorporation/bylaws to support the Action Plan
- Secure funding to keep moving forward
- **Strong outreach, communication, education, brand, and campaign for our communities**
 - Villages need to come together
- Keep the dialogue and momentum going
- **Need buy-in from all tribes enlisted**
 - Draft a formal resolution from a place of sovereignty
- **We need the political will**
 - "We have to do this!"
 - "Look at the current state we are in."



Summit Participants: Jacqueline Cleveland, James Stotts, John Noksana, Charlie Brower, Arnold Brower Jr.

Actions to advance Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty (continued):

- Hold regional summits with Tribal inclusion
- Keep Steering Committee meetings going regularly
- Listen to and involve the youth
- Develop an Inuit wildlife management action plan
- Also develop a political action plan
- Prepare to negotiate the management plan
- Be vocal about it and proud as a people
- Decolonize
- Educate our people about the history up until this point
- Present at regional mini conferences
 - Share report of the Summit in easy to read bullet points
- Demand recognition for Inuit to be acknowledged as equals



Summit Participants: Millie Hawley, Mary Peltola, Delbert Pungowyi, Roland White, and Billy Adams

Regulations and Laws that Need to Change

- **State and federal government policy makers need to adapt**
- Amend ANCSA
- Change the State of Alaska law
 - Including regulations with the Board of Game, Board of Fish, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, etc.
- Document our traditional management practices
- Our rights need to be recognized to appoint the right people to tackle our enormous issues and projects
- **Push for meaningful engagement and consultation**
- **Voice our concerns, opinions, facts, and Knowledge**
- Bring decision-making back home instead of Anchorage, AK or Washington, DC
 - Stop settling for being advisors
- Stop participating in their system
 - Such as the State Board of Game and federal Subsistence Board
- Advance Tribal sovereignty

Top Priorities to address in the Action Plan

- Name the Action Plan
- **Develop a clear, unified message and stay connected**
- **Solicit regional and community support**
- **Strengthen education and outreach**
- Hold community meetings to get buy-in from Tribal governments with a formal resolution
- Decolonize to go back to traditional ways of settling matters
- Do not become dependent on outside money
- Volunteer to attend our own meetings without compensation
- **Create a management system based on Inuit principles**

- Elevate Indigenous Knowledge to management
- **Create an event to introduce our management plan**
 - Campaign
 - Use a multimedia platform
- **Formalize, organize, and develop a funding plan**
- All Summit participants to return home and report back to Tribal governments, city governments, Native corporations, and associations
- Be accountable
 - Identify leadership and show up
 - Keep the momentum going

Conclusion

In summary, the Summit resulted in strengthened unity and solidarity amongst Inuit. Participants underscored the power of Inuit moving forward together, based on our own laws and cultural values to protect and promote our hunting, fishing, and gathering culture, our identity, and overall cultural integrity. Many interests and priorities aligned across the four regions with participants committing to carry the Initiative forward and to communicate the work of the Initiative to community members back home. We felt the momentum build and understand that we need the political will of our people to move forward with drafting the Action Plan and preparing for its implementation. The Summit concluded with Inuit reaffirming that together, we are one people and will move forward as one to protect and secure our food sovereignty.

The priorities and recommendations contained within this report will be utilized by the Initiative's Steering Committee to draft the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan to position our people to directly and meaningfully engage in the management of the traditional food resources we depend upon. Following the Summit, the final Steering Committee meeting will be held in Kotzebue, Alaska to finalize the Action Plan.

Appendix A: Summit Photos

Photos by Element Agency. Photo album link – contains all the flipchart pictures, group photos, and other photos captured during the Summit.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cLNgVS2xSnvL5lF7u14RdC6JaX4hP0Yf?usp=s_haring







Appendix B: Agenda

Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit

“Our Food Forever”

September 10 - 12, 2019 - Nome Covenant Church

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 Day 1 - Open

8:00-9:00 **Registration**

9:00 **Opening Activities**

- a) Welcoming Remarks by the Bering Strait Region
- b) Invocation by Pastor Bertha Koweluk, Community United Methodist Church of Nome
- c) Welcoming Remarks by Dalee Sambo Dorough, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
- d) Icebreaker led by Mary David

Presentation: Background and History of the Initiative, James Stotts, President, ICC Alaska

Presentation: Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management, Vera Metcalf and Taqulik Hepa, Alaskan Inuit Members of the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee

Presentation: A working co-management system in Canada: Fisheries Joint Management Committee, John Noksana, Jr. from Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Break

Plenary Discussion- Reflecting on Canadian Inuit management and co-management

- a) What works about the way it is set up?
- b) What are the challenges?
- c) What can we learn to inform our approach?

12:00-1:30 **Lunch Break-** On your own and networking

Presentation: Options for an Inuit-led approach to management, Vernae Angnaboogok, ICC Alaska

- a) Outcomes of the Utqiagvik & Bethel meetings
- b) Three options for an Inuit-led approach as determined by the Project Steering Committee

Plenary Discussion- Weighing the options (Pros and Cons) and determining the best option forward led by Jered Stewart

- a) What option do we collectively identify with the most?
- b) Is there another option we should consider?
- c) Table talk debrief

4:30 **Closing:** Day one closing

- a) Small groups debrief – What have we learned that impacted us most?
- b) Closing comments

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 Day 2 - Open to Inuit Only

9:00 **Opening Activities:**

- a) Welcoming Remarks by Arnold Brower, Jr., North Slope Region
- b) Invocation by James Charles from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region
- c) Icebreaker led by Arnold Brower, Jr. and Taqulik Hepa

Youth panel: Our Future: What do our youth want to see? - moderated by Nicole Kanayurak, Deputy Director, NSB Department of Wildlife Management

- a) How have our cultural values and relationship with our environment shaped your experience in hunting, fishing today?
- b) How do you envision us being involved in management of our resources?
- c) What are your top three priorities that we address in our Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan?
- d) Table debrief

Break

Workshop: Inuit traditional management practices- Our culture and asserting our place within our environment, as its always been. Facilitated small group breakouts led by Jered Stewart

- a) What Inuit traditional management practices should be at the forefront of wildlife management?
- b) What is different about the way Inuit manage vs. the system of management that has been imposed on us?
- c) How could we strengthen and protect our culture and food security through true co-management?

12:00-1:30 **Lunch Break**- on your own and networking

Breakout: A vision for advancing food sovereignty led by Jered Stewart

- a) What is the benefit of moving in this direction? What needs to happen to get there?
- b) What are the impediments? What can be done to overcome them?
- c) What procedural changes are needed? What substantive changes are needed?
- d) Who are the key actors?
- e) How do we influence them?

Breakout: The Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan- how are we going to get there? What is needed to advance our food sovereignty? What are key steps forward?

Break

4:30 **Day two close:** Debrief- Why is this important to us?

- a) Small group discussions
- b) Debrief and closing comments

5:30 **Community Potluck & Traditional Dancing:** Open to Everyone - Nome Recreation Center

Thursday, September 12, 2019 Day 2 - Open to Inuit Only

9:00 **Opening Activities:**

- a) Welcoming Remarks by Willie Goodwin, Northwest Arctic
- b) Invocation by Popsy Kinneveauk
- c) Icebreaker by Jennifer Hooper

Breakout: Aligning our priorities for an Inuit-led approach and the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan led by Jered Stewart

- a) What areas of the current system do we need to start to shift and work on to push us in the direction of food sovereignty?
- b) What policies need to change?
- c) What partners do we need to align with?
- d) What are your top 3 recommendations for developing a clear Inuit food sovereignty plan?
- e) Report out

Break

Workshop: Implementation- committing to next steps led by Jered Stewart

- a) What dependencies do we need to strengthen, what dependencies do we need to break?
- b) What action needs to be taken next? Who will need to lead or own the activity? What is the outcome?
- c) Large group debrief

12:00 **Lunch Break**- on your own and networking

Recap and Validation: Strengthening our Ties- our pathway towards Inuit Food Sovereignty led by Jered Stewart

- a) Recap of our approach and the recommendations to inform the Action Plan
- b) Does this capture our collective vision forward?
- c) Next Steps
- d) Personal commitment

3:30 **Adjourn**

- a) Closing comments
- b) Send off prayer

Appendix C: Summit Participants

Adams, Billy	Ice Seal Committee	Steering Committee Member
Adams, Eilene	Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska	Project Coordinator
Alvanna-Stimpfle, Bernadette Yaayuk	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Ahmasuk, Adelaine	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Angnaboogok, Vernae	Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska	Project Manager
Apassingok, Christian	Alaskan Inuit Youth	Youth Steering Committee Member
Apassingok, Merle	Bering Strait Region	Delegate
Ashenfelter, Anna	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Ashenfelter, Roy	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Bahnke, Melanie	Kawerak, Incorporated President	Participant
Behe, Carolina	Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska	Indigenous Knowledge/ Science Advisor
Bowser, Tayler	Element Agency	Communications and Outreach Specialist
Brandt, Henrick	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Brower, Frederick	North Slope Region	Delegate
Brower, Charles	North Slope Region	Delegate
Brower Jr., Arnold	Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission	Steering Committee Member
Charles, James	Yukon-Kuskokwim Region	Delegate
Chase, John	Northwest Arctic Region	Delegate
Cleveland, Jacqueline	Yukon-Kuskokwim Region	Delegate
Cleveland, Katherine	Northwest Arctic Region	Delegate
Danner, Lena	Bering Strait Region	Participant
David, Mary	Kawerak, Incorporated	Steering Committee Member
Dexter, Maria	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Dorough, Dalee	Inuit Circumpolar Council Chair	Participant

Elanna, Charles	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Elanna, Lisa	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Evans, David	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Ferguson, Gary	KAANGUX Consulting	Observer
Fogg-Leavitt, Doreen	Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope	Steering Committee Member
Fosdick, Rose	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Gologergen, Orin	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Goodwin, Willie	Maniilaq Association	Steering Committee Member
Gregg, Charlie	Northwest Arctic Region	Delegate
Hailstone, Agnes	Northwest Arctic Region	Delegate
Harris, Joanne	Northwest Arctic Region	Delegate
Harris, Cyrus	Northwest Arctic Region	Delegate
Hawley, Millie	Alaska Nannut Co-management Council	Steering Committee Member
Heflin, Melissa	Bering Sea Elders Group	Participant
Hepa, Raynita Taqulik	Alaska Migratory Birds Co-management Council	Steering Committee Member
Hooper, Jennifer	Association of Village Council Presidents	Steering Committee Member
House, Lee	Element Agency	Communications and Outreach Specialist
Huffines, Eleanor	Pew Charitable Trusts	Observer
Kanayurak, Nicole	North Slope Borough	Steering Committee Member
Katchatag, Darlene	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Katchatag, Laurel	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Kippi, Wanda	North Slope Region	Delegate
Kiyutelluk, Lloyd	Bering Strait Region	Delegate
Koelsch, Jeanette	Bering Strait Region	Delegate
Koonooka, Merlin	Inuit Circumpolar Council Elder Board Member	Elder Steering Committee Member
Menadelook, Eva	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Metcalf, Vera	Eskimo Walrus Commission	Steering Committee Member
Noksana Jr., John	Fisheries Joint Management Committee	Keynote Speaker
Okitkun, Donovan	Yukon-Kuskokwim Region	Youth Delegate

Okitkun, Marvin	Alaska Beluga Whale Committee	Steering Committee Member
Okleasik, Tom	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Olemaun, Jakylou	North Slope Region	Youth Delegate
Orr, John	Yukon-Kuskokwim Region	Delegate
Peltola, Mary	Yukon-Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission	Participant & FSSG Advisory Committee Member
Phillip, Fred	Bering Sea Elders Group	Participant
Phillips, Jojo	KNOM Radio Mission	Reporter
Pinson, Edith	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Pungowiyi, Delbert	Bering Strait Region	Delegate
Rexford, Fenton	North Slope Region	Delegate
Rexford, Elizabeth	North Slope Region	Delegate
Slats, Richard	Yukon-Kuskokwim Region	Delegate
Smith, Sierra	Kawerak, Inc.	Notetaker volunteer
Stewart, Jered	cultureflo	Facilitator
Stotts, James	Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska President	Steering Committee Member
Swan, Dolly	Northwest Arctic Region	Youth Delegate
Swan Sr., Replogle	Northwest Arctic Region	Delegate
Topkok, Meghan	Bering Strait Region	Participant
Walter, Susie	Yukon-Kuskokwim Region	Delegate
Wongittilin, Tanya	Bering Strait Region	Participant
White, Roland	Yukon-Kuskokwim Region	Delegate
Others:		
Stiles, Joni		