

## Summary Report - Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative

Utqiagvik Steering Committee Meeting

January 9-10, 2019



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The Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative is led by a 16-member Steering Committee, comprised of ICC Alaska Member Organizations, collaborating co-management organizations, as well as an elder, youth, and hunter representative.

Doreen Fog-Leavitt, **Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope**

Willie Goodwin, **Maniilaq Association**

Mary David, **Kawerak, Incorporated**

Jennifer Hooper, **Association of Village Council Presidents**

Nicole Kanayurak, **North Slope Borough**

Nathan Hadley, Jr., **Northwest Arctic Borough**

Marvin Okitkun, **Alaska Beluga Whale Committee**

Arnold Brower, Jr., **Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission**

Taqulik Hepa, **Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council**

Millie Hawley, **Alaska Nannut Co-Management Council**

Vera Metcalf, **Eskimo Walrus Commission**

Billy Adams, **Ice Seal Committee**

James Nicori, **Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission**

James Stotts, **ICC Alaska President**

Merlin Koonooka, **ICC Alaska Elder Board Member**

Chris Apassingok, **Youth representative**

This report summarizes the outcomes of the Utqiagvik Steering Committee meeting.

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“Our laws of our land will never change what our elders passed on to us. We should keep it alive so our youngsters can keep using it. We were here way before everyone was here. We lived off land and ocean up to this day...Although the weather is changing, disrupting hunting schedules, our laws of land and ocean will never change. We must keep it alive.”

“We are often putting out fires, reactionary, tackling some huge issues. There are so many players and so many little problems attached to the bigger problem. Having a plan and strategy is good and much needed.”

“Good to hear stories, what villages are doing, what people are doing in villages. Have new knowledge just getting the wheel starting to turn to go over something bigger to happen very soon. Just starting to light that fire and keep it going. Needs to happen, we’re waiting for that moment and waiting for long time. New energy coming out of this.”

“I am thinking of those youth that don’t have fathers, grandfathers teach them traditional ways, hopefully this will be an avenue to help them out.”

“We need to make sure younger generation knows our unwritten laws and regulations. It would be good to have these written down. Have to make sure state and federal laws are in place, and some rewritten to reflect something that is meaningful to us.”

“May we always have food on the table and be thankful for what we get.”

“We all have a clear picture of what we want to see, an ideal way of working with others strengthening Inuit ways of management.”

“Every village has their own unwritten, undocumented...when to hunt, when not to take anymore, very unique to each village. Fascinating to hear from elders for those kind of things.”

“We have Kuskokwim, lower portion of Yukon, and coast in between, track two separate river systems, one international with Canada, just keeping track is not as simple. You can’t just go to one agency and request a change in regulation, one side of river can be state, one side can be federal. In areas when you have dual management, it takes a lot of energy to be lawful when hunting and fishing. That is a very severe weakness and detail of agencies that govern access to fish and wildlife.”

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## Executive Summary

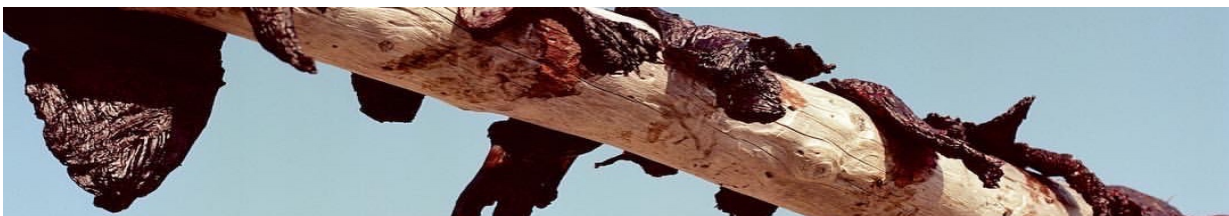
On January 9-10, 2019, the Steering Committee of the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative came together for the first of three regional Steering Committee meetings to be held in Inuit regions of Alaska. The Initiative is a three-year effort being facilitated by ICC Alaska and will run through September of 2021. ICC Alaska member organizations and co-management organizations are leading this effort. The Initiative responds to a direct call to action from Alaskan Inuit and follows up on ICC Alaska's earlier work affirmed by and reflected in the final report of Alaska Native Review Commission and published in VILLAGE JOURNEY; the Alaskan Inuit Food Security Conceptual Framework; the Food Sovereignty and Self-Governance project, and the ICC Wildlife Management Summit.

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 and will work 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).

This Initiative is a direct follow up to the ICC Wildlife Management Summit to carry this work forward, aiming to create a movement to unify and organize Alaskan Inuit thorough three regional meetings and one statewide Summit. The Summit is the centerpiece of the Initiative and will bring together Inuit from the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait, and Yukon-Kuskokwim regions of Alaska to hear directly from community members on a way forward, to set the framework for the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan.

The Action Plan will empower our people to seek reform and justice as we collectively work towards securing access and management rights over our traditional food resources and to create long-term systematic and policy change that will advance food sovereignty and benefit Inuit communities throughout our four regions of Alaska.

Through this 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 progress towards this collective aspiration for international collaboration of wildlife management across Inuit Nunaat.



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## Special Acknowledgement

Special acknowledgement goes out to ICC Alaska member organizations: North Slope Borough, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, NANA Regional Corporation, Northwest Arctic Borough, Maniilaq Association, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Kawerak, Incorporated, the Association of Village Council Presidents, Nicole Kanayurak (former ICC Alaska Youth Board Member) and the partnering co-management organizations: Alaska Beluga Whale Committee, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, Alaska Nannut Co-Management Council, Eskimo Walrus Commission, Ice Seal Committee, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission who supported and committed to this collective Inuit-led effort.

A special thank you also goes out to the community of Utqiagvik who welcomed us well. This appreciation also extends to the Inupiat Heritage Center who donated their meeting space for this meeting to take place. Special thank you to Coleen Lemen for going out of her way to get coffee started in the mornings and to the rest of the Inupiat Heritage Center staff for ensuring our needs were met. Thank you to Nicole Kanayurak, Taqulik Hepa, and Billy Adams for driving Steering Committee members from the hotel to the meeting space and everywhere in between. Special thank you to Billy Adams also for preparing us a nigipiaq<sup>1</sup> lunch, for cooking caribou soup while attending the Meeting and for cutting up and sharing bowhead whale maktak<sup>2</sup> and quaq<sup>3</sup> with everyone. Also, special thank you to James Nicori for bring and sharing your smoked salmon strips with everyone.

And special thank you to all of the Steering Committee members for your time and commitment to serve on behalf of your regional communities/the Initiative's project beneficiaries, who live within 83 Alaskan Inuit communities that span across our four Inuit regions of Alaska.



This Initiative is supported by Grant #90NA8335-01-00 from ACF. Its content are solely the responsibility of ICC Alaska and do not necessarily represent the official views of ACF.

## 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. Summary Report: *Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative Utqiagvik Steering Committee Meeting*. Anchorage, Alaska.

The Utqiagvik Steering Committee meeting was facilitated by Jered Stewart and Vernae Angnaboogok. This report was written by Vernae Angnaboogok.

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<sup>1</sup> Inupiaq word for traditional food- also spelled nikiipiaq by other Inupiaq dialects

<sup>2</sup> Inupiaq word for bowhead whale skin and fat

<sup>3</sup> Inupiaq word for raw, frozen meat to be eaten



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### Meeting Participants

The workshop was attended by 15 of the 16 Alaskan Inuit Steering Committee members, with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission excused and unable to make it. Three others joined the Meeting as observers, including two youth interns from the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management (NSB-DWM) and one community elder and longtime leader and advocate. See below for a list of participants and observers.

Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Steering Committee Members Present:

Doreen Fogg-Leavit	Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
Willie Goodwin	Maniilaq Association
Mary David	Kawerak, Incorporated
Jennifer Hooper	Association of Village Council Presidents
Nicole Kanayurak	North Slope Borough
Nathan Hadley, Jr.	Northwest Arctic Borough
Marvin Okitkun	Alaska Beluga Whale Committee
Taqulik Hepa	Alaska Migratory Birds Co-Management Council
Rose Panik	Alaska Nannut Co-management Council
Vera Metcalf	Eskimo Walrus Commission
Billy Adams	Ice Seal Committee
James Nicori	Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
James Stotts	ICC Alaska President
Merlin Koonooka	ICC Alaska Elder Board Member
Chris Apassingok	Youth Steering Committee Member

Others present:

Oliver Leavitt	Elder and longtime leader and advocate from Utqiagvik
Kimberly Pikok	Intern: NSB Department of Wildlife Management
Doreen Leavitt	Intern: NSB Department of Wildlife Management
	Both interns are from Utqiagvik
Jered Stewart	Cultureflo Facilitator
Vernae Angnaboogok	ICC Alaska Project Director

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## Introduction

The **objectives** of the Utqiagvik Steering Committee meeting were to **1)** lay the foundation for the Initiative; **2)** Receive update on the state of wildlife management across our four regions; **3)** Build off of the outcomes and recommendations of the ICC Wildlife Management Summit; **4)** Develop a shared vision on Inuit co-management for a collective way forward; and **5)** Plan for the Bethel meeting.

The Committee discussed the status of wildlife management, assessed existing management approaches and concluded by agreeing that a holistic ecosystem-based management system that would support Inuit traditional practices, protect the environment, and enhance biodiversity conservation plans is what would be ideal. They identified existing barriers, then strategized how to get beyond the barriers through a practical, realistic approach. The meeting concluded with the Committee reaffirming the shared vision for Inuit to be meaningfully engaged in wildlife management decision-making, a pathway towards achieving food sovereignty.

**Outcomes of Utqiagvik Steering Committee Meeting included Steering Committee members agreeing upon:**

- a holistic ecosystem-based management system that will support Inuit traditional practices, while protecting the environment and enhances biodiversity conservation plans is ideal
- a shared vision: for Inuit to be meaningfully engaged in wildlife management decision-making as a pathway towards achieving food sovereignty
- the need to ensure everyone is on board and to be equipped with a strong communications and outreach campaign to build momentum
- the need for consistent messaging both internally (to our communities our people) and externally (as the momentum builds, we expect inquiries to come from the state, feds, and others who are involved in governance of resources)



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### Key Recommendations Building off of the ICC Wildlife Management Summit

Steering Committee members worked through a number of breakout activities to propose a way forward that builds off of the outcomes and recommendations of the ICC Wildlife Management Summit, which was held in November of 2017 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. They worked together to determine what they can carry forward and build upon through this Initiative.



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Topics	Recommendations
Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Strengthen discussions, build support, start petitions through village visits by the Steering Committee</li><li>Attend townhall meetings, regional corporation meetings to promote the Initiative</li><li>Need a professional approach with media involvement, radio shows, television, announcements, newsletters</li></ul>
Organize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Design an organizational structure</li><li>Develop consistent messaging</li><li>Build a strategy to respond with our own voice from our own people</li><li>Need a body/group to strategize a proactive approach to go up against animal rights activists to protect Inuit culture</li><li>Build off of what works (AEWC, Canadian co-management system, etc.)</li></ul>
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Take an Inuit ecosystem approach to manage animals and fish</li><li>Communicate with hunters</li><li>Look for funding support</li><li>Identify our allies</li></ul>
Inuit Ecosystem Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Realize that the system in place is not working for Inuit today</li><li>Build our foundation and credibility</li><li>Define Inuit ecosystem approach to management from an Indigenous perspective, from an Inuit perspective</li><li>Write a white paper and concept map</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Include hunters in developing the framework</li><li>▪ All co-managements need to be on the same page, jointly organized and collaborating</li><li>▪ Need grassroots buy-in as well as State/Federal management systems to buy-in</li></ul>
Leverage Indigenous Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Utilize UNDRIP<sup>4</sup></li><li>▪ Utilize the MMPA<sup>5</sup></li><li>▪ Realize major unintended consequences of the law, such as the ivory ban and actively pursue them</li><li>▪ Broaden the understanding and strengthen our unity</li><li>▪ Leverage human rights for Inuit management at the community level for all Inuit</li><li>▪ Exercise self-determination</li><li>▪ Turn the system back around so they have to adapt to our system</li></ul>
Utilize International Fora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ United Nations</li><li>▪ Arctic Council</li><li>▪ Understand how regulations and policies affect us to effect change</li></ul>
Build Equity around Indigenous Knowledge (IK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Talk about how IK is used in research and act to strengthen and improve that</li><li>▪ IK use needs to be strengthened by including hunters</li><li>▪ Engage youth</li><li>▪ Other agencies need to develop an understanding for our traditional management practices and Indigenous knowledge</li></ul>
Identify Pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Work to build bridges and relationships that are equitable (with State and Feds)</li><li>▪ Strengthen our representation so that we are working side by side our nation states, as Canada and Greenland do internationally</li></ul>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Need to assign names to carry this work forward</li><li>▪ Build timelines with organizations taking ownership and accountability</li><li>▪ Determine the boards/commissions that we need to push for our own people to be a part of</li></ul>

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

<sup>5</sup> Marine Mammal Protection Act



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### **The State Wildlife Management in Alaska: existing approaches to management**

The Steering Committee held a discussion to update one another on the state of wildlife management amongst Inuit in Alaska today. They emphasized that Alaskan Inuit do not have legal authority over the management of the resources that we depend upon. They also stressed the need to align co-management groups and consider alternate approaches that will work better for our people. The following concerns and solutions were proposed.

<b>What does not work?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Laws and Policies need to change. Alaskan Inuit do not have authority.</li><li>▪ MMPA is not enough.</li><li>▪ Our human rights are being violated. We are being denied the right to feed ourselves.</li><li>▪ The government and agencies are not listening to us</li><li>▪ The government is not upholding their obligation to consult with us.</li></ul>
<b>Proposed Solutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Need to start saying no more loudly</li><li>▪ Need a new approach that includes Inuit as partners with the government</li><li>▪ Build off what works, such as AEWC who are self-funded, partners with the government, have hunters directly engaged in their meetings, decisions made reflect that.</li><li>▪ Once we are organized, the Steering Committee should pursue asking each Tribe for a resolution to support our call to action.</li><li>▪ Need a communications and outreach specialist to help get our message out</li></ul>

### **Barriers and Pressures in Advancing Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty**

Steering Committee members identified a significant barrier during this breakout activity, stressing that our people are being divided by the management system in place with the state and federal government setting the organizational structure for how management is carried out with Inuit being party to that system rather than being partners in co-management.

It was further emphasized that in order for Indigenous Knowledge to be accepted by the government to inform management decisions, it must be brought through the Western science framework, written down by and interpreted by others. Agency and government research priorities also differ from ours because we are not included as partners as they are developed. The Steering Committee stressed the need for us to build our own plan of action forward so that the next generation does not have to fight this same fight.

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A collective list of barriers were developed by the Steering Committee through smaller breakout groups. These barriers relate to state, federal, and international management practices not supporting Inuit traditional management practices and as a result are impeding Alaskan Inuit food sovereignty. The barriers identified include:

Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Too many</li><li>▪ Too restrictive</li><li>▪ Opportunistic hunt with regulations<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Emperor geese example, 3-4 years ago hunters were in trouble and hunting gear was confiscated</li></ul></li><li>▪ Conflict with timing of seasons</li></ul>
Fragmented, Numerous Structures of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Divides us</li><li>▪ Different priorities not aligned or co-created</li><li>▪ Terminology used not aligned with us</li><li>▪ Lack of true understanding of resources</li><li>▪ Barriers differ per region</li><li>▪ Lack of communication</li></ul>
Lack of Authority or Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Lack of management or even co-management authority</li><li>▪ No partnership at or with the State</li><li>▪ We are often viewed as a stakeholder</li><li>▪ Lack of respect in discussions</li><li>▪ Lack of respect for Indigenous Knowledge</li><li>▪ Co-management is not co-equal management</li></ul>
Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Unpredictable and divided</li><li>▪ Trying to have authority in user agreements (i.e. beluga, polar bear)</li><li>▪ However, feds have been easier to work with than the state up until now</li><li>▪ US President</li></ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Structure of funding</li><li>▪ Linear siloed organizations and agencies</li><li>▪ No adequate funding, staffing, and legal assistance</li></ul>

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Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Japan pulling out of the International Whaling Commission (IWC)</li> </ul>
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A collective list of pressures were developed by the Steering Committee through smaller breakout groups. The identified pressures include:

Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shipping</li> <li>▪ Tourism</li> <li>▪ Pollution</li> <li>▪ Commercialization</li> </ul>
Sports Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste Impacts</li> <li>▪ Other sports hunters impacting “subsistence”</li> <li>▪ Seasons and bag limits are to accommodate them</li> <li>▪ Competition for resources (esp. fish &amp; Caribou)</li> </ul>
Over Harvesting/Not Knowing or Being Aware of Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Younger generation awareness of management</li> <li>▪ Lack of education for youth and families</li> </ul>
NGO’s Animal Rights Activists & Some Environmental Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Endangered species</li> <li>▪ True outside perception, better education and outreach is needed</li> <li>▪ Environmental groups threaten our “subsistence” way of life</li> </ul>
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New species in our waters</li> <li>▪ New management issues</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need to remember reindeer</li> <li>▪ Social media, outside media sources, other media- posting can have consequences</li> <li>▪ Lack of our own management resources</li> <li>▪ Not viewed holistically</li> <li>▪ Other Natives forming entities</li> </ul>

### Addressing Barriers and Pressures to Advance Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty

In response to the above-mentioned barriers and pressures, Steering Committee members proposed solutions to advance our food sovereignty. The proposed solutions are presented in the following table:

Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Buy-in from our co-management organizations, our people, hunters, agencies</li> <li>▪ Build a strong team: Alaska Native Organizations (ANO)s, hunters, legal, technical experts</li> <li>▪ Financial Support must be a priority</li> <li>▪ Vision of where we are going, what it will take to get there, any accomplishment should be celebrated to build momentum</li> <li>▪ Unity is key to being successful</li> <li>▪ Build support from ANO’s, Native community that our vision and plan is positive and is the way forward</li> <li>▪ Our own professional people on board, from biologists to lawyers, accountants, etc.</li> </ul>
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Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Education and communication is important</li><li>▪ Respect Inuit traditional values</li><li>▪ Creating Inuit international policy focused on shared resources, an ecosystem approach from the ground up</li><li>▪ Management needs to be adaptable</li><li>▪ Understand/leverage existing powers (MMPA, Human Rights, Tribal Sovereignty)</li><li>▪ Infrastructure (research, labs), a pathway for how we can collectively as a larger group get to the point where we need to be, with our own labs, our own agendas for research</li><li>▪ Look into potential agency loopholes and points of entry</li><li>▪ Build a unified approach to government agencies and managers</li><li>▪ Look at other approaches and why they work, such as the Canadian Inuit having their rights to co-manage enshrined in the Canadian government constitution</li><li>▪ Write a white paper explaining the system we want</li><li>▪ Set restrictions for self-enforcement</li><li>▪ Set our own bag limits</li></ul>
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### Vision for Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty

The Steering Committee then worked together to create a shared vision to advance Alaskan Inuit food sovereignty as outlined below.

Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Would not be so confusing</li><li>▪ Varies from village to village, down to the details, specific rules</li><li>▪ Need for modern management, research game management together with Inuit traditional management</li><li>▪ Meshing Indigenous management with what “they” are doing, make it understandable</li><li>▪ Current framework does not support adaptive management: seasons, changing environment, our own ways of identifying when to go out and hunt</li><li>▪ Combination of Inuit, federal , state, international management needs to come together</li><li>▪ There are different practices in different areas over time</li><li>▪ Need management to take account for sharing, preparation, butchering, processing</li></ul>
Need for new, out of the box thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Bring old and new ways together</li><li>▪ Eye opening for our youth to identify and be able to learn/practice what our ancestors have laid down for us</li><li>▪ Outside managers’ views of hunting does not capture our spiritual/cultural underpinning; hunting is way more for us then what they define: spiritual, cultural, family.</li></ul>



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Management needs to be done at the global level- Inuit ecosystem management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We need International collaboration on wildlife management, cross border organizing with in an ecosystem</li> <li>▪ We need cooperation</li> <li>▪ Need partnerships across boundaries</li> </ul>
Indigenous Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We have access to the best Knowledge and information about our animals, their health and population numbers</li> <li>▪ Focus on what is taught to youth by elders                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Example: Take only what you need or what you can share with elders/widows</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Utilize IK to build better plans for research - population estimates etc.</li> <li>▪ If we were managing, a lot more of the management roles would be filled by our own people (scientists, researchers, etc.)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Example: in Canada you have to get permission from Inuit. With the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) they define what and who will be involved.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Too often we are told you don't have "the skills, capacity, capability to do it." We have precedence, and it is already being done. (Canada &amp; Greenland)</li> <li>▪ Important to share our knowledge across borders                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Example: sharing knowledge about whaling with communities who are having a hard time</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Ownership of unwritten laws (traditional customary laws)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Governs over resource management</li> <li>▪ Self-governance with no outside imposed restrictions – we know our own restrictions</li> <li>▪ Documentation of customary laws- proof of how we have managed years before the government took over</li> </ul>
Set the rules and the foundation to manage our own resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ugruk<sup>6</sup> tagging example, showing them we are in the lead, listen to us or nothing will be done right</li> <li>▪ Our traditional ways of hunting cooperation of hunting was done together – reducing struck and loss. Quotas changed mindset/ways.</li> <li>▪ Use our traditions and values to create Tribal ordinances</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bring back families teaching and giving youth an opportunity to learn from experienced hunters and family, preparing both roles – men and women</li> <li>▪ Bring back a lot of our culture</li> <li>▪ Put pressure on parents</li> <li>▪ Ensure no one is left behind – make pathways for those without a pathway to learn</li> </ul>

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<sup>6</sup> Inupiaq word for bearded seal

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### **Conclusion**

The meeting ended with the Steering Committee committing to the next steps to 1) create a press release on the Initiative kicking off in Utqiagvik; 2) plan to organize teleconferences to plan for the Bethel Steering Committee meeting to be held on April 24-25, 2019; 3) ICC Alaska to attend co-management meetings, including upcoming AEWC in January and ANCC meeting in March.

Our elder Steering Committee member closed with the following blessing, “May we always have food on the table and be thankful for what we get.”

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## Appendix: Utqiagvik Meeting Agenda

### Meeting Objectives:

1. To lay the foundation for the Initiative
2. Receive update on the state of wildlife management across our four regions
3. Build off of the outcomes and recommendations of the ICC Wildlife Management Summit
4. Develop a shared vision on Inuit co-management for a collective way forward
5. Plan for the Bethel meeting

### DAY #1 Wednesday, January 9, 2019

- 9:00 Welcome & Introductions  
Opening prayer
- 9:15 **Review of Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative**  
Overview of Food Sovereignty Initiative  
Goal, Objectives, & Work Plan  
Timeline  
Reschedule Bethel SC Meeting to 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of April
- 10:00 **Break**
- 10:15 **Co-management Organizations Update**  
ABWC, AEWC, AMBCC, ANCC, EWC, Ice Seal Committee, and the KRITFC
- 12:00-1:00- Lunch on your own
- 1:00 **Outcomes and Recommendations from ICC Wildlife Management Summit**  
Canadian Inuit co-management, a model that works
- 1:30 **Facilitated Dialogue**  
Building off of ICC Wildlife Management Summit
- 2:15 **State of Wildlife Management in Alaska-** Existing approaches to management.  
What works, what does not, why?  
Overview of the legal structures governing fish and wildlife management within our four regions  
What do decision-making pathways look like?  
Shifting our focus to traditional Inuit management practices  
St. Lawrence Island Tribal Marine Mammal Resource Ordinances – Vera Metcalf
- 3:15 **Break**
- 3:30 **Facilitated Discussion-** Challenges, successes and gaps in regulation

### DAY #2 Thursday, January 10, 2019

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- 9:00      **Welcome & Introduction of Day 2**
- Morning Breakout Activity**
- 9:15      **Inuit Traditional Management** - if we could manage our own resources, what would it look like?
- 10:15     **Break**
- 10:30     **What are the Barriers**
- Where and when do state/federal/international management practices not support traditional management practices? What pressures are being placed upon our food security?
- 11:30     **Facilitated Discussion-** Report out collective challenges
- 12:30     **Lunch**
- 1:30  
wildlife    **Strategize how will we get beyond the barriers?** - How do we envision Inuit-led management?
- 2:30  
Inuit-      **Facilitated Discussion-** Opportunities, building a foundation for a collaborative, led way forward.
- 3:30      Preparation for Bethel Steering Committee Meeting (April)
- 4:00      Other & Meeting Adjourns