

THE ALASKAN INUIT FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

INITIATIVE is a three-year effort led by ICC Alaska member organizations and co-management organizations and facilitated by the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska. The goal of this Initiative is to unify our people to advance Inuit food sovereignty. This Action Plan is the result of the outcomes and recommendations of the Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit (2019) and affirms our solidarity to collectively work to secure access and management rights over our traditional food resources, to create long-term systematic and policy change that will advance food sovereignty and benefit Inuit communities throughout the North slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait, and Yukon-Kuskokwim regions of Alaska.

The Steering Committee of the Initiative includes the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, Maniilaq Association, Kawerak Incorporated, Association of Village Council Presidents, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, 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, as well as the ICC Alaska President, ICC Alaska Elder Board Member, a Youth representative, and a hunter representative from the North Slope region.



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ABOUT ICC ALASKA

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Alaska is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization that exists to be the unified voice and collective spirit of Alaskan Inuit, to promote, protect and advance Inuit culture and society. ICC Alaska membership includes regional organizations that represent the Inupiat, Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and St. Lawrence Island Yupik in the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Straits and Yukon-Kuskokwim regions.

Member organizations include the 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 and the Association of Village Council Presidents. Representatives from these membership organizations, along with the President, Vice President, and Youth and Elder representatives, compose the ICC Alaska 13-member Board of Directors.

ICC Alaska is a national member of ICC International, an international, non-governmental organization founded by Eben Hopson, Sr. from Barrow, Alaska in 1977. Its creation came out of the realization that Inuit need to speak with a united voice on issues of common concern. Today, ICC represents approximately 180,000 Inuit in Chukotka (Russia), Alaska (United States), Canada and Greenland.

ICC holds Consultative Status II at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is a Permanent Participant of the Arctic Council. ICC strives to strengthen unity among Inuit of the Circumpolar North; promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level, develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment; and seek full and active partnership in the political, economic and social development of the Circumpolar North. ICC receives its mandate from Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka delegates gathered in a General Assembly held every four years.



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The **ALASKAN INUIT** *Food Sovereignty* **MANAGEMENT** **ACTION** **PLAN**



INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL ALASKA

Our goal is to unify our people to advance our food sovereignty.

The development of this Action Plan is based on the Knowledge and direction from Alaskan Inuit delegates of the 2019 Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit and the regional Action Planning Teams from the North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Strait, and Yukon-Kuskokwim regions of Alaska. Quyanapqak to our Initiative Steering Committee members for your time and commitment to serve on behalf of the 83 Alaskan Inuit communities who are the beneficiaries of this Initiative across our four regions.

STRATEGY 1:

Mobilize through a unified approach

OBJECTIVE: Commitment across our four regions & throughout communities

OUTCOME: Unity across regions

ACTION STEPS:

1. Communicate with one voice and disseminate our work throughout our communities
2. Ensure community/Tribal input
3. Collaborate across regions through implementation of the Action Plan

STRATEGY 2:

Advocate for meaningful roles for Inuit in wildlife management

OBJECTIVE: Create the framework for the management structure we want

OUTCOME: Inuit obtain equity, responsibility, and management authority to sustain our traditional food resources

ACTION STEPS:

1. Build off of existing Inuit roles and wildlife management regimes that are rooted in Indigenous Knowledge
2. Build a team to strategize and enhance the capacity and authority of Inuit institutions (Tribal governments, etc.) in the management and co-management of our resources.
3. Eliminate barriers to ensure Inuit gain recognition of and respect for our rightful entitlement to wildlife management under state and federal laws and agreements.
4. Identify policies/laws/regulations that impede our food sovereignty and determine solutions to address them

STRATEGY 3:

Ensure management decisions utilize Indigenous Knowledge and science

OBJECTIVE: Build equity for Indigenous Knowledge in resource management

OUTCOME: Adaptive management of our resources utilizing Indigenous Knowledge and science

ACTION STEPS:

1. Develop Indigenous Knowledge processes for research to ensure our Knowledge holders have a meaningful role
2. Promote and advocate for equity in funding Indigenous Knowledge participants, especially in co-production of knowledge projects.
3. Develop a terms of reference for the management structure that ensures Indigenous Knowledge and science is relied upon to inform decision-making

STRATEGY 4:

Align regulatory frameworks with Inuit management practices to achieve adaptive, holistic management

OBJECTIVE: Achieve meaningful engagement and reform of the entire co-management system

OUTCOME: Laws, regulations, and policies are changed to include Inuit as partners in co-management

ACTION STEPS:

1. Develop a political and legal action plan that includes funding a gap analysis to transform the current system into a true co-management system
2. Pull together a reference that cites Indigenous rights and how they apply to our food sovereignty
3. Identify the immediate issues that can be resolved, what actions can be taken in the next 5 years, and who is going to do lead the work
4. Strategize for the best structural approach to create a management system based on Inuit principles

