



Kuujuaapik Trip Report

Trip #1: June 4-9, 2017

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Purpose of the trip:

A trip was made to Kuujuaapik in June 2017 to conduct interviews with Elders and hunters to learn about how coastal waters, sea ice, and wildlife have changed in the region since the 1970s.

Purpose of this report:

To update everyone who participated in interviews, and any community members interested in learning about the project's progress.

Overview of the interviews:

With the help of Peter Paul Cookie (Kuujuaapik Hunter Support, and Kuujuaapik liaison for this project) and Council Member Mary Hannah Angatookalook (translator), the following four people were interviewed: Samwillie Quarak, Alec Tuckatuck, Jimmie Paul Angatookalook, and Vincent Tooktoo. Video and maps were used to help document observations.

Throughout summer and fall of 2017 interviews were also conducted in Umiujaq, Sanikiluaq, and Inukjuak. 39 interviews have been conducted in the four communities. Currently, all of the interview recordings and notes are being transcribed and maps are being compiled.

Key highlights:

- Changes in sea ice and salinity following dam construction in the 1970s were observed, and significant changes in ice extent and thickness have been significant recently, particularly over the past few years
- Changes in sea ice extent and salinity have been observed since the 1980s following hydroelectric development and construction of the James Bay
- Changes in the timing of sea ice freeze-up and break-up have been observed over the past 15 years

- Changes in wildlife populations, such as new species in the region, have been also observed
- Observed changes have had a significant effect on hunters, but many of those interviewed are confident that future generations will adapt as long as younger Inuit continue to hunt

Next steps:

- December 2017 - Discuss preliminary project details at the 2017 Arctic Change conference in Quebec City
- December 2017 – February 2018 - analyze transcripts of interview recordings and notes
- Spring 2018 – Conduct small group workshops in all four project communities to clarify and verify our interpretations of the interviews before preparing a first draft of the final report.

I would like to thank the community of Kuujuaapik for welcoming me, and for supporting this project. A special thank you to everyone who participated in the interviews, especially to the Elders who shared extensive details of their experiences and observations. Thank you to the Northern Village of Kuujuaapik's Hunter Support Program and to Peter Paul Cookie, the project community research liaison, for providing guidance and for coordinating interviews. Thank you to Mary Hannah Angatookalook for interpreting, and to the staff at the CEN Whapmagoostui-Kuujuaapik Research Complex, for providing space in which to hold the interviews and for logistical support. Thank you to the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board for financial support and to Air Inuit for their generous sponsorship. Thank you to Nally Weetaluktuk and Avataq's Nunatop program for providing Inuktitut place names. Thank you to the Arctic Eider Society, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Ontario Ministry of Research Innovation and Science, and the Northern Scientific Training Program for financial support.

Questions or suggestions?

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