

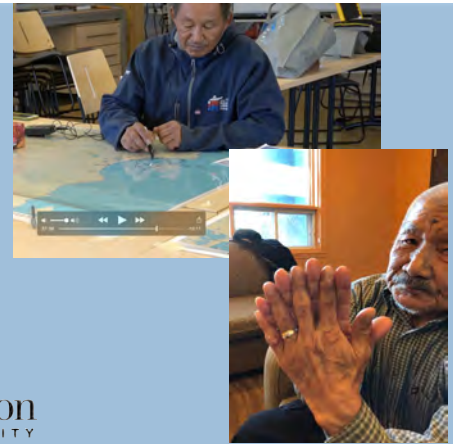


# Inuit Knowledge of the Cumulative Impacts of Environmental Change in Eastern Hudson Bay

## **Kuujuaapik Trip Report**

**April 2018 & October 2019**

Megan Sheremata



### **Purpose of the trip:**

Two trips were made to Kuujuaapik in April and in October 2019 to meet with hunters to clarify the outcomes of results from previous interviews conducted in 2017 to understand sea ice and salinity changes since the 1970s. Two workshops were conducted with Alec Tuckatuck, Jimmy Paul Angatookalook, Joana Fleming, and Simeonie Papialuk, and an additional interview with Alec Tuckatuck was conducted.

Similar workshops were also conducted in 2018 and 2019 in Inukjuak, Sanikiluaq, and Umiujaq. Many elders in Umiujaq spoke extensively of their time in and around Kuujuaapik. Currently, all of the workshop recordings and notes are being reviewed and compiled.

### **Purpose of this report:**

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

### **Some Key highlights:**

- Many features of sea ice and sea water – ice texture, colour, clarity, hardness – have acted as important indicators of salinity changes since the 1970s
- Observations of seals sinking in winter at saltwater hunting sites is an important indicator of salinity change in southeastern Hudson Bay
- Seals began to sink to deeper and deeper levels through the 1980s at places where they were always known to float in winter
- Sea ice between the mainland and the Belcher Islands has become thinner, rougher, and much less extensive
- Conditions change every year, but overall, ice is less stable, thinner, and less predictable
- Delayed freeze-up and earlier breakup has had a major impact on seasonal hunting in fall and spring
- Sea ice has changed so much that in recent years, according to Alec Tuckatuck, “there is no freeze-up”
- There is a need to share Inuit knowledge, and to build road infrastructure to help hunters get to their camps

### **Next steps:**

- Fall 2019 – Return to community with project reports for community feedback. This will also allow us to talk with key community members who were not available in 2018 workshops
- December 2019 to April 2020 – finalize publications for public dissemination of results.

*I would like to thank the community of Kuujuaapik for warmly welcoming me back and to everyone who participated in the workshops and interviews, particularly those elders who have shared of their extensive experience on the land. Thank you to Salamiva Weetaluktuk of Sakkuq Landholding and Peter Paul Cookie of Kuujuaapik Hunter Support for your time and advice, interpretation, and coordination with workshop contributors. Thank you to the Northern Village of Kuujuaapik for providing space and resources for conducting these interviews. Thank you to Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board for financial support and to Air Inuit for their generous sponsorship of the Arctic Eider Society. Many thanks to Avataq's Nunatop program for providing Inuktitut place names for maps. And 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 their*

**Do you have questions or suggestions about this project? Please contact me:**

**Email:** [megan.sheremata@utoronto.ca](mailto:megan.sheremata@utoronto.ca)

**Phone:** 416-702-2491

**Facebook:** MB Sheremata

