



Sanikiluaq Trip Report
Trip #1: August 7-11, 2017
Trip #2: November 3-10, 2017
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Purpose of trips:

Two visits were made to Sanikiluaq in August and in November, 2017. The goal of these visits was to conduct interviews with Elders and hunters to learn how marine waters, sea ice, and wildlife around the Belcher Islands 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: Working with Lucassie Arragutainaq (Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association), Elders and younger hunters in the community were identified as having important knowledge and experience on the land. The following ten community members were interviewed: Joe Arragutaina, Peter Kattuk, Charlie Takatak, Johnassie Inuktaluk, Johnny Kudluarok, Lucassie Ippak, Johnassie Ippak, Philipoosie Arragutainaq, Peter Qavvik, and Puasi Ippak. Video recording and maps were used in interviews to help document observations.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2017 interviews were also conducted in Umiujaq, Kuujjuaraapik, and Inukjuak. Thirty-nine interviews have been conducted in all four communities. Currently, all of the interview recordings and notes are being transcribed and maps are being compiled.

Key highlights:

- Many people discussed that conditions are always changing for many different reasons
- However, notable changes have been noted in sea ice since the 1970s, and particularly over the past 20 years
- Other changes include changes in weather patterns, winds and in marine wildlife populations

Next steps:

- December 2017 - Discuss the project at the 2017 Arctic Change conference in Quebec City
- December 2017 to February 2017 - analyze transcripts of interview recordings, maps and notes
- Spring 2018 – Hold small group workshops in each of the project communities to verify our interpretations before preparing a first draft of the final report. This will also allow us to include key community members who were not available to be interviewed in August or November

I would like to thank the community of Sanikiluaq for warmly welcoming me, and the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq 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 Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association, and to Lucassie Arragutainaq (regional project advisor and Sanikiluaq project liaison) for his guidance here in Sanikiluaq, and across the region. Thanks to Johnny Cookie for his work translating project documents, and Caroline Meeko for her interpretation. Thanks to Mike Rowan and the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq for providing the space and resources for conducting these interviews. Additional thanks to Johnny Kudluarok for his help in preparing for interviews and for assisting the project – and to his family for sharing reindeer meat. Thank you to Ajia Ainalik, who worked as a research assistant. Thank you to the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board for financial support and Air Inuit for their generous sponsorship. Thanks to the Nunavut Heritage Trust for 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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