



## Umiujaq Trip Report:

**Trip #1: May 22 – June 3, 2017**

**Trip #2: July 22 – August 4, 2017**

Megan Sheremata, PhD Student



### Purpose of the trip

Two trips were made to Umiujaq this spring and summer, one in late May, and the second in late July/early August. The goal of these trips was to conduct interviews with Elders and experienced hunters to learn about how coastal waters, sea ice, and marine wildlife have changed in the 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 Perty Tookalook (Town Manager of Umiujaq, project liaison for Umiujaq and translator), and Annie Novalinga (project research associate and translator), the following community members were interviewed: Davidee Niviaxie, Joshua Sala, Alec Sala, Willie Kamarluk, Noah and Annie Inukpuk, Markoosie Sala, Alicee Tooktoo, Charlie Kamarluk, Zach and Dorah Niviaxie, Alec Niviaxie, Christine and Willie Anorak, and one anonymous individual. Interviews were recorded on video and/or audio, and maps were used to help accurately document observations.

In the summer and fall of 2017 interviews were also conducted in Kuujjuarraapik, Sanikiluaq, 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 observations by community members have included:

- Changes in salinity and sea ice composition since the 1970s
- Changes in the predictability of the weather since the 1990s, including changes in wind speed, wind direction,

and in the seasonal nature of wind storms

- Significant changes sea ice since the 1990s, especially over the past few years

### Next steps:

- December 2017 – Present on this project at the 2017 Arctic Change conference in Quebec City with Perty Tookalook
- December 2017 to February 2018 - analyze transcripts of interview recordings, maps and notes
- Early Spring 2018 – Hold small group workshops in the four project communities to verify our interpretations before preparing the first draft of a final report. This will also allow us to talk with some community members who were not available in 2017.

*I would like to thank the community of Umiujaq for welcoming me, and for your guidance and support for 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 Perty Tookalook for your help in coordinating interviews, translating, for your friendship, and for your overall guidance on this project. And thank you Annie Novalinga for your translation, long hours and friendship, and for my first taste of real smoked iqaluk. Thanks to all the staff at the Northern Village office where the interviews were held, and for providing the space, resources, staff time, and coffee necessary to make these interviews happen. Thank you to the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board for financial support, and thank you to Air Inuit for sponsorship of this project. Thank you to Nally Weetaluktuk and Avataq's Nunatop program for providing Inuktitut place names, and to Johnny Cookie for written translation. 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?

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

Phone: 416-702-2491

Facebook: MB Sheremata

