



## 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







## Kuujuaapik Trip Report

Trip #1: June 4-9, 2017

Megan Sheremata, PhD Student



### 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.*

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## Inukjuak Trip Report

Trip #1: August 12-21, 2017  
Megan Sheremata, PhD Student



### Purpose of the trip:

A trip was made to Inukjuak in August 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 Aali Naluktaruk (LNUK General Manager and Inukjuak project liaison), Annie Weetaluktuk Rousseau (NMRWB Wildlife Officer) and Laura Iqaluk (research assistant and translator), the following nine community members were interviewed: Abraham Kusudluak, Davidee Nastapoka, Charlie Eliasiapik, Eliassie Weetaluktuk, Sakariasie Paulusie, Johnny Mina, Peter Echalook, Nellie Nastapoka, and Josie Nastapoka. Video recording and maps were used in interviews to help document observations.

Throughout summer and fall of 2017 interviews were also conducted in Umiujaq, Sanikiluaq, and Kuujjuaraapik. 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:

- Changes in sea ice and salinity, particularly since the 1990s, have been widely noted, including a shortened ice season, changes sea ice roughness, and reduced sea ice extent and thickness over the past few years
- Other changes include changes in weather patterns and in wildlife – although many people discussed that wildlife is always changing numerous reasons

### Next steps:

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

*I would like to thank the community of Inukjuak for warmly welcoming me, and to the Northern Village of Inukjuak 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 Aali Naluktaruk for his guidance in coordinating this project. Thanks to Annie Weetaluktuk Rousseau and Laura Iqaluk for their interpretation, translation, advice, and work coordinating the interviews. Thank you to the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board for financial support, and for generously providing space and resources for conducting these interviews, and thank you to Air Inuit for their generous sponsorship. Thank you to Nally Weetaluktuk and Avatag's Nunatop program for providing Inuktitut place names. Additional thanks to the Ohaituk family for their advice and friendship, and for introducing me to akutaq and muktuq. Thank you to the Breton-Honeyman family and to Mark Basterfield for opening up their homes. 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 financial support.*

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