



## **Opening Prayer, Remarks, and Housekeeping**

This session was dedicated to the presentation of verbal final statements by the parties concerning the issue of lowering the Arc Boundary, as requested by Anguvigaq. Anguvigaq had requested that the Board move the northern boundary of the Arc TAT area south from the line north of Inukjuak to a boundary further south.

### **Anguvigaq Final Statement**

Anguvigaq stated that they would submit their final written statement by May 28 and looked forward to considering the inputs from others.

Billy Palliser reminded those in attendance that beluga issues are significant and impact everyone in Nunavik. However, the current discussion focuses solely on the boundary issue. Although beluga management in Nunavik encompassed many issues, the priority for the day is the boundary. For many years, this beluga stock has not grown. The current boundary did not appear to be based on reliable or complete information and needs reconsideration. The area in question is known as a migratory route, not a summering ground, and the management system should reflect Inuit knowledge and manage accordingly.

Dan Oovaut highlighted that Inukjuak is not a community where Eastern Hudson Bay beluga summer; it is a migratory route. The Anguvigaq has advocated for this decision and supported Inukjuak being treated like Puvirnituk and Akulivik, which are other communities on the migration route without quotas.

Billy Palliser added that the official final statement would be submitted by May 28. He emphasized that this would be a good step towards reconciliation and the restoration of the beluga population. Inuit live with the beluga and possess the most knowledge on these matters because it is their home too. It is crucial for Inuit to be heard and to be given the power to manage their wildlife matters, as their recommendations were often ignored over the past 40 years. The beluga population has not recovered with Inuit in the backseat, and they need the opportunity to manage the population.

### **Remarks from Inukjuak Anguvigaq**

Jobie Oweetaluktuk stated that younger generations are losing knowledge because hunters have to travel far to harvest beluga and cannot bring youth with them for safety reasons. The current boundary line is too far north, making it dangerous to travel. It would be so much better to be able to harvest close to home so young people can participate and so it's safer. Citing that they could teach their youth. Having to travel far to beluga hunt has been hazardous and dangerous. Asking for support for the Inuit way of life and to allow them to teach their youth.

*Tommy reminded speakers to state whom they represent, whether their community or Anguvigaq, to ensure accurate notetaking.*

### **Inukjuak Anguvigaq Final Statement**

Jobie Oweetaluktuk mentioned that they submitted their summer closure plan. The closure would be from July 15 to September 31 in the EHB TAT Arc, conditional on moving the boundary line further south. If the boundary is not moved, the summer closure will not be implemented. Instead, a quota of seven whales per community was agreed upon.

Jackie Williams, speaking on behalf of Inukjuak Anguvigaq, mentioned that they were developing their own harvesting by-laws with the assistance of NMRWB legal and Makivvik legal. They had also consulted with the public via radio.

Ricky Moorhouse confirmed that the development of bylaws regarding beluga harvesting in Inukjuak is ongoing. Inukjuamiut will ensure sampling is done of the 7 beluga allocated to the Inukjuaq LNUK under the current allocation.

### **Inukjuamiut Final Statement**

Davidee Inukpuk, representing Inukjuak beluga harvesters, had reviewed the submissions from DFO and Anguvigaq. The DFO submission indicated insufficient sampling in Inukjuak, attributed to restricted harvesting. Davidee requested a pilot project similar to one in Kuujjuaraapik if the line cannot be moved, to teach youth safely during the summer months and also aid in proper handling of the catch and prevent food poisoning.

### **Umiujaq Anguvigaq Final Statement**

Eddie Kumaluk apologized for the absence of Umiujarmiut and stated that they would submit a written final statement by May 28.

### **Kuujjuaraapik Anguvigaq Final Statement**

Due to technical issues, expected statements from Daphnee Tooktoo, Serena Weetaltuk, Lizzie Calvin, and Mary Silarqi Sala were not presented. They would submit a final written statement.

Kuujjuaraapik Anguvigaq representatives were reminded to provide their final statements by May 28.

### **Makivvik Final Statement**

Makivvik stated they would submit their final written statement by May 28.

## **DFO Final Statement**

The DFO stated they would provide a written final statement by May 28.