

Activity Report 2004-05

Fisheries Joint Management Committee

What is the FJMC?

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement sets out the terms of the contract between the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement, representing the Inuvialuit of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and the Government of Canada, representing all citizens of Canada.

As outlined in that Agreement, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee was established to provide advice to the Inuvialuit and Department of Fisheries and Oceans on fishery management and related issues within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

During the reporting year the Fisheries Joint Management Committee continued to work closely with government agencies, renewable



Long time FJMC member, Billy Day makes a presentation to DFO's Doug Chipertzak,.

resource user groups, and resource councils and committees established under the Agreement and by other land claim settlements on a variety of activities and programs. The Committee maintains an office at the Joint Secretariat in Inuvik, receives administrative support from that organization, and employs one resource biologist to manage its programs.

This report provides a summary of the Committee's activities for the fiscal year commencing April 2004 and concluding March 2005.

Committee Activities

Consultation and Planning

In keeping with the co-management philosophy of the IFA, consultation with local Hunters and Trappers' Committees (HTCs), the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), the DFO, and other government agencies formed an important part of the Committee's activities. The Committee held a speci

ne mammals, and research priorities for the region. One of the regular meetings was held in Winnipeg at the DFO's Freshwater Institute to facilitate information exchange and project planning with the Department's scientific and management staff. The process by which the FJMC sets its research priorities and develops a work plan is unique among Inuvialuit Joint Implementing Bodies. Community meetings in June and November, discussions with scientific staff at the Freshwater Institute in January and Committee planning sessions in March, all comprise the essential elements in the Committee's annual work plan and budgeting cycle for the next fiscal.

Research and Monitoring

The FJMC was active in numerous research, monitoring, and management programs in 2004-05. A total of 27 projects were conducted through joint efforts between the FJMC and DFO.

Support continues for char monitoring projects in Paulatuk and Holman that provide information for existing community-based char fishing plans for the Hornaday and Kuujjua rivers near Paulatuk and Holman respectively. Also in support of the Hornaday plan, the Committee continues to contribute to a baseline water quality and quantity monitoring project for that river system.

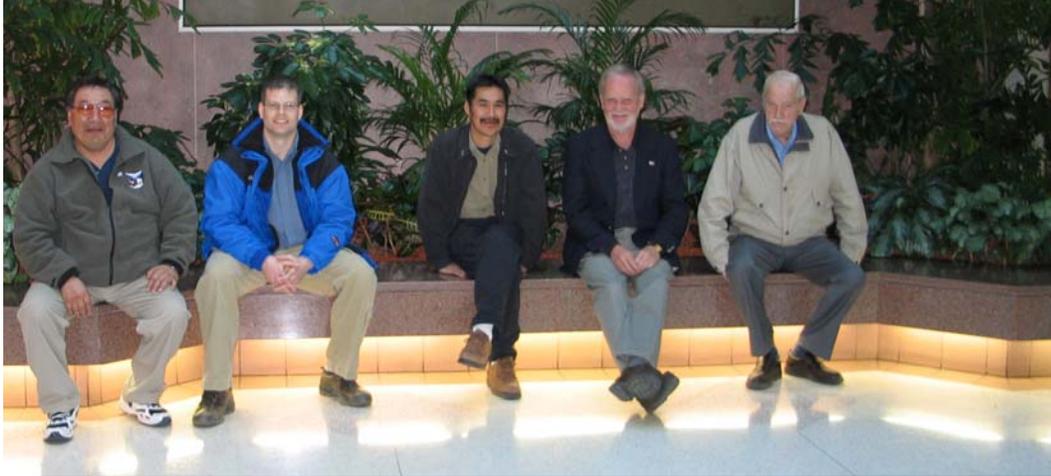
The FJMC continued to support the West Side Working Group in its efforts to develop a community-driven integrated fishing plan for the Yukon North Slope and West Side rivers from the Big Fish River west to Fish Creek near the Alaskan border. The Working Group continues to assemble critical scientific and traditional knowledge information on North Slope fisheries, information that will form the foundation of the developing management plan. Preliminary planning of a community-based monitoring

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program of the Big Fish River has begun, with elders and youth from the community of Aklavik, along with DFO and FJMC staff. The West Side Working Group also set as research priorities the monitoring of char harvests from Shingle Point and the tagging of dolly varden char at Shingle Point and along the Yukon North Slope.

decisions.

In co-operation with the HTC's, the FJMC delivers the beluga harvest monitoring program. Local Inuvialuit whale monitors employed by HTC's are stationed in each of the active whaling camps within the ISR. They collect biological information



FJMC members waiting for their meeting with DFO Minister Geoff Regan.

The multi-year program designed to assess the ecology and fisheries resources of Husky and Sitidgi Lakes was completed this year by DFO researchers. These lakes support important local subsistence and recreational fisheries. In coming years, the Committee anticipates growing pressures associated with accelerating hydrocarbon development on surrounding lands and increased public access through seasonal ice roads and a proposed all-weather road to Tuktoyaktuk.

The Committee also contributed to an ongoing project designed to monitor the reproductive status and condition of ringed seals in Amundsen Gulf. In 2004-05, the project was expanded to include monitoring in Sachs Harbour. The quality of country foods also continues to be a significant concern for the communities. Therefore, the allocation of funds for research involving the collection of samples from harvested marine mammals (*including ringed seals and beluga*) for contaminant and disease analysis was continued. In addition to annual research project funding, the Committee also supported long-term harvest monitoring programs that provide essential harvest data required by the Committee and DFO biologists as a basis for making sound management

from each harvested whale. Committee staff provided training, program and logistic support, coordination of special sample collections, and data collation. Monitors also keep track of aircraft traffic over whale camps and submit detailed incident reports in cases where aircraft may have harassed or disturbed whales and/or harvesters. At season's end, these harassment incident reports were turned over to DFO Conservation and Protection for follow-up with air charter companies as required.

Following the cancellation of the Inuvialuit Harvest Study, the Committee continued its support of the collection of Inuvialuit subsistence fisheries harvest data by DFO in 2004-05.

In accordance with Section 14.(64) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Committee continued with FJMC's Private Lands Sport Fishing Registry. The promotional campaign initiated in 200102 to better educate the fishing public was continued with the renewal of large wall displays at major air and road travel gateways into the ISR; the provision of private lands wall maps for all fishing licence vendors and HTC's in the region; the reprinting and distribution of information brochures to vendors and HTC's; and the placement of advertisements in NWT Explorers

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Guide / Guide to Hunting and Fishing in the Northwest Territories and the Beaufort Delta Attractions Guide.

In order to facilitate the distribution of information related to research within the ISR, the reactivated FJMC Technical Report series was continued. The reports are being published and distributed, as well as posted on the

accelerating oil and gas industry activities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The Committee and staff have been regular participants in pre-submission community and agency consultations by industry. Prior to every Screening meeting, the Committee continues to review all proposals before EISC that have the potential to impact on fish, marine mammals, and/or aquatic habitat in the

FJMC members with Minister Regan. From the left, Robert Bell, Kevin Bill, Max Kotokak Senior, the Minister, Donald Inuktalik, Donovan Dowler and Burton Ayles..



Committee's website. Several reports are currently being produced and will be released during the 2005-06 fiscal year.

Researchers who received funding from the Committee participated in the annual Comanagement IFA Research workshop, initiated by the Inuvialuit Game Council, held on December 8th, 2005 in Inuvik. This workshop allows beneficiaries the opportunity to see the results of co-management funded research conducted within the ISR during the year.

Hydrocarbon Development

The FJMC continues to be well positioned to provide sound advice on issues related to

ISR, including those related to oil and gas.

Committee members and staff also attending numerous public meetings and workshops relating to the Mackenzie Gas Project, as well as the Devon Canada Inc.'s proposed Beaufort Sea Exploration Drilling Program and Comprehensive Study Report, which was subsequently approved by the EISC with operations beginning in the winter of 2005-06.

The Committee is also a registered intervener in the review of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project, for both the Joint Review Panel and National Energy Board review processes. All correspondence relating to the review is forwarded to FJMC and scanned by staff; relevant information is brought to the Committee. The FJMC commissioned a review of the

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Mackenzie Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement in 2004-05. The report will be used to guide the FJMC's involvement in the Review of the proposed Project.

Beluga Management and Pilot Marine Protected Areas

The FJMC continued its support of the Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (BSIMPI) in co-operation with the DFO. This multi-stakeholder initiative is being facilitated through a Working Group that includes representatives from FJMC, DFO, Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Indian and Northern Affairs, and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. The group conducted community consultations throughout 2004-05 to determine support for the marine protected area under the Oceans Act. The draft Tarium Niryutait MPA Management Plan and regulatory intent were completed, and, pending approval by the BSIMPI Senior Management Committee and Working Group, will soon be sent to Ottawa for Ministerial approval. Once established, the FJMC will take over the day-to-day MPA management responsibility and operations, with support from DFO and the BSIMPI Secretariat.

Emerging Commercial Fisheries

In response to increasing interest by business entities from outside the region to develop a commercial fisheries in the Beaufort Sea, the Committee has continued to work closely with the DFO and the Inuvialuit Game Council to lay the foundations for developing a regionally managed, sustainable commercial fisheries in the Beaufort that will benefit Inuvialuit economically while not adversely impact traditional subsistence harvesting activities. Two southern fishing companies applied for and received licences for exploratory fishing operations, in partnership with the Inuvialuit Game Council in order to ensure full Inuvialuit participation

in any future commercial fishing ventures. One of the companies conducted an abbreviated operation within Beaufort Sea waters, with plans to return in 2005-06.

COSEWIC and Species-at-Risk Legislation

With the *Species at Risk Act* given Royal Assent on December 12, 2002, the Committee has taken a more active role in insuring Inuvialuit involvement in the protection of endangered fish and marine mammal species. The FJMC will continue to work with COSEWIC to better define the Committee's role in the federal assessment process for endangered species under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee participated in the preliminary stages of re-assessment of several species in 2004-05.

Communications

The FJMC continues to develop its existing website (www.fjmc.ca) as a means to better inform the public, government, and industry about FJMC and fisheries co-management in the ISR. A variety of FJMC reports and other materials are available on the site for downloading by interested parties. The FJMC reaches Inuvialuit beneficiaries within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region through its annual ISR community tour and regular contributions to the Joint Secretariat-Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committee's newsletter, *the JS Common Ground*. The newsletter is distributed to every registered Inuvialuit beneficiary each summer and winter.

Student Mentoring Program and Inuvialuit Youth

FJMC's Student Mentoring Program returned for its eighth successful season in 2004-05. The Program hosted 6 students (4 from Inuvik, and 2 from Tuktoyaktuk), enjoyed new work placement partnerships (including Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Parks Canada, the Canadian Arctic Shelf Exchange Study (CASES), ConocoPhillips Canada, GNWT

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Department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development, Shell Canada/IEG Environmental, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, and the Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development), continued funding relationships with GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and Enbridge Inc., and also received new funding from Nasivvik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments. The FJMC Mentoring Program is offered in partnership with DFO and is designed to encourage Inuvialuit youth to finish high school and continue with their studies in the sciences so that they can become the ISR's future resource managers and biologists. 2004-05 saw the largest-ever group of students to participate in the Mentoring

Program, and the FJMC were especially pleased with the high level of commitment shown by all students; this is the first year that "out of town" (non-Inuvik) students were able to stay through the summer.

The FJMC also participated in a regional career fair – Career Quest 2005 – with the FJMC tradeshow display. FJMC staff and Mentoring Students were available to answer questions about the Mentoring Program from junior and senior high school students from around the Beaufort-Delta Region.



BSIMPI Senior Management Committee, from back left, Ian Scott (CAPP), Nellie Cournoyea (IRC), Bob Bell (FJMC), Frank Pokiak (IGC), front, Hal Mills (Chair, BSIMPI Workin Group), Helen Fast (DFO).