

commonground



Bulletin of the Joint Secretariat
Summer 2003 Vol 4-1

Marine Protected Areas

In 1997 the federal government passed the *Oceans Act*. Under Section 35 of this legislation, **Marine Protected Areas (MPA)** can be established for special protection of sensitive areas and/or resources. The area(s) can be designated for one or more of the following reasons:

the conservation and protection of commercial and non-commercial fishery resources, including marine mammals, and their habitats;



Beluga Whales

the conservation and protection of endangered or threatened marine species, and their habitats;

the conservation and protection of unique habitats;

the conservation and protection of marine areas of high biodiversity or biological productivity; and

the conservation of any other marine resource or habitat as is necessary to fulfill the mandate of the Minister.

In 2000, the FJMC initiated the establishment of the Beaufort Sea Integrated Planning Initiative (BSIMPI), comprised of representatives from the Inuvialuit, government and industry. The main task of BSIMPI was to determine the community interest in designating the Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan Beluga Zone 1a's (Traditional Harvesting/Concentration Areas) as a MPA, and, over time, find out if communities desire any other areas protected. Extensive community consultations occurred throughout 2002 and into 2003 resulting in greatly appreciated support for a MPA from communities.

The next steps in the process are to draft regulations and a regulatory plan for the MPA through continued consultations with communities and other stakeholders.

For more information contact the BSIMPI Secretariat by phone (867) 777-7502 or email BSIMPI@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or the FJMC Resource Biologist,

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Field Development in the Mackenzie Delta: Mackenzie Gas Project

Consultation, planning and information sharing on the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) continues. An "Issues Scoping Workshop" was held April 8th and 9th, 2003 at the Midnight Sun Recreation Complex in Inuvik. These two days were the latest opportunity for people in our region to discuss their concerns about the proposed development with people from the MGP. The workshop included Inuvialuit and Gwich'in community members, representatives of the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees, Joint Secretariat staff, government, non-governmental environmental organizations, and the MGP. Workshop results will be used as a part of the ongoing consultation and scoping for the Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact Statement (EIS / SEIS).

What is the MGP? The MGP is a proposal to extract and transport natural gas from three sites in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) south to a national pipeline distribution network. Three companies — Imperial Oil, Conoco Phillips and Shell Canada — hold "significant discovery licences" to the Taglu, Parsons Lake, and Niglintgak natural gas production sites respectively. The natural gas from these three areas will be gathered to a Northern Terminus (somewhere close to Inuvik), where it will be separated into gas and liquid components and transported in two separate pipes to the pipeline network in Alberta.

The workshop was part of the information sharing process central to MGP consultations. The goal of the workshop was not to provide answers, but to ensure that the topics raised by communities in previous meetings were discussed in a forum that brought many of the stakeholders face to face. It is hoped the issues resulting from the workshop and future community meetings will help alert people to issues and concerns, which should be addressed in the EIS / SEIS submission.

Preliminary Information Package

As we go to press, spring has sprung and the snowbirds have arrived — but the PIP hasn't! The PIP (aka Preliminary Information Package) is the project description for the Mackenzie Gas Project, which is the gas field development in the Delta with delivery of products up the Mackenzie Valley to the southern Canadian pipeline distribution system. The PIP was written last year, but not filed as a result of other delays, and has since been revised to reflect subsequent changes in the project design. The region has been consulted regarding these changes on an ongoing basis, as recently as the workshop in Inuvik in April (reported above). The PIP is expected to run to 100 – 200 pages and it should not be confused with the Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact Statement to be filed along with a formal application (anticipated later this year). In the meantime, consultations and issue scoping will continue.

Most of the actual work of the workshop was carried out in "break-out" groups composed of those present. These break-out groups allowed for exchanges of the many different views of those in attendance. The groups examined the issues in three areas of impact: physical and environmental; biological and cumulative effects; and social and economic.

To give some sense of the wide-ranging discussions in this workshop, here are some examples of the topics raised. The MGP is a proposal to bring a high-tech resource extraction and transportation activity to a culturally important and fragile ecological area. How can this be done beneficially for stakeholders without permanently changing the environment? Potential issues raised included the effects of emissions, spills, and the scale and timing of construction and drilling. How might fish and wildlife habitat be affected by flooding and erosion? Will non-resident fishing and hunting pressures further affect fish and wildlife? Will there be significant disturbance of migration patterns and the traditional uses of wildlife? What consideration will be given to monitoring the practices of the companies involved, to the cumulative effects of these and future developments, and to future reclamation of the land?

It is also important to mention the social and economic issues of the proposed MGP. A project of this scale will change the ISR. During the construction and drilling phases, thousands of workers will be required. Are the skills needed available in local communities? If not, are there plans to provide training? How will this influx of waged workers affect traditional practices? What plans are being made to meet the increased demands on community services?

So, that is a taste of some of the questions that the workshop chewed over for two days. What comes next?

The MGP is involved in a detailed consultation process. The Issues Scoping Workshop helped stakeholders voice some of their issues. Consultations and community meetings will continue, but they will become more focused. In the upcoming months, we can expect the submission of a Preliminary Information Package (PIP) to both the regulators and the Environment Impact Screening Committee. The PIP will outline the project description at this stage of the process. Once the PIP is received, the Joint Secretariat Community Support Unit (CSU — please take time to read our article on the back page) will be visiting local communities to help Inuvialuit people understand the scope, scale and potential impacts of the MGP.



Photo Source: Mackenzie Gas Project

The CSU will continue to visit local communities through the entire regulatory process.

Now is the time to think about your concerns and interests in the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. The Joint Secretariat staff look forward to seeing you soon.

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The Minister of DIAND, Hon. Robert Nault, was in Inuvik in April, and during his visit he re-affirmed his commitment to research on arctic contaminants, now that the second phase of the National Contaminants Program has all but ended. This is indeed reassuring.

Since the last issue we had Mabel Sharpe's help out front and have now hired Evelyn Bullock as the full-time Finance Officer. Thank you Mabel and welcome Evelyn!

Although the rest of the year looks to be very busy again, we hope you all have a great summer!

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polar Bear Photo Source: stock image

IGC News

Inuvialuit-Inupiat Polar Bear Meetings

The IGC sent a delegation to Barrow, Alaska in February for the annual meetings of the joint commissioners and technical advisors of the IGC and the North Slope Borough to the Management Agreement for Polar Bears of the Southern Beaufort Sea. During these meetings the Inuvialuit and Inupiat members (joint



Joint Commissioners and Technical Advisors during the South Beaufort Polar Bear meetings in February Photo Source: Duane Smith

commissioners) received updates on research and harvesting from the technical advisors, who are primarily biologists with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (GNWT), and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The joint commissioners then met separately and made recommendations to the technical advisors for this coming year's research and harvest data collection.

One of the recommendations of the joint commissioners was to keep the quota set at 80 polar bears for the South Beaufort population until after the population study that is now being conducted is complete. The current population estimate is 1800, which is based on work that was done several years ago. The quota of 80 is split evenly between the Inupiat on the North Slope of Alaska, and the Inuvialuit.

IGC Quarterly Meeting

The IGC meets four times a year, usually in March, June, September, and December.

The most recent meeting was in Inuvik, March 26 – 29. The IGC members heard updates from the co-management bodies, various government agencies, Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) representatives, and the Inuvialuit Land Administration. They also addressed concerns brought to the Council by the Members from the six ISR communities.

During the March meeting the Council amended their Constitution and By-laws to reflect changes requested by the six Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs) and to also revise sections that had become outdated. Each HTC must approve the amended IGC Constitution and By-laws before they take effect.

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Inuvialuit Game Council



Environmental Impact Review Board



Review Board Update

In 2002, the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) referred two projects to the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) for public review.

Commander Resources' Proposed Diamond Exploration Program, Victoria Island, NT was referred on September 6, 2002. The developer submitted its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the EIRB in late November. Public meetings were then held in Holman on February 5 and 6, 2003 to hear the views of the community regarding this project. The EIRB Review Panel considered all of the information before it and their decision, contained in a final report, was released on February 18, 2003. The Review Panel

recommended that the project proceed subject to certain terms and conditions, which included mitigative and remedial measures.

WesternGeco Mackenzie Delta River 2D Seismic Program 2002 was referred on June 18, 2002. The developer postponed submission of an EIS to carry out research on their project during the summer of 2002. The developer then submitted its EIS, which included their research results, on January 7, 2003. Public meetings were held in Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, and Inuvik in mid April. The Review Panel released its report on May 8, 2003 and recommended that the development proceed with certain mitigative and remedial measures.

The EIRB appreciates the services provided by Joint Secretariat staff during these overlapping reviews. The EIRB would like to recognize the efforts of Peggy Madore (Senior Administrative Officer), Myrna Button (Librarian/ Office Clerk), Bernice Joe (Secretary/Receptionist), Heather Hansen (Travel Accommodation Coordinator), Evelyn Bullock (Finance Officer), Mabel Sharpe (Casual Office Clerk), Amir Hassanzadeh (GIS Specialist) and Barbara Berg (EIA Resource Person).

The EIRB also thanks Debra Fendrick (EIRB Legal Counsel) and its Technical Advisors Peter Krizan (Commander Review) and Bill Griffiths (WesternGeco Review) for their time and expertise.

JONATHAN W. ALLEN, EIRB Secretary
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Screening Business

The EISC office has been fairly quiet this past winter likely due to the reduced gas exploration in the region and a policy change to not screen non-government research. Since last reporting in October the EISC decided that the drilling programs submitted by Devon (Narpartok, SDL 62); the seismic programs submitted by EnCana (Kugmallit 2D, Atigi 3D) and Petro-Canada (Napoiak 2D); and the geotechnical investigation programs of Imperial Oil (field) and Devon (on-ice) would have no significant negative environmental impact.

Other projects approved since early winter include those from the River League (rafting), Rivers Oceans and Mountains (rafting), the Sierra Club (hiking), Hank Rogers (cabin lease), E. Gruben's Transport (water licence, land use permit for access), Parks Canada (emergency shelter), Canadian Rivers Expeditions (rafting, hiking), and McGill University (ice/granular deposits study).

In addition to routine presentations made by developers, the EISC received an interesting presentation from Devon in November. The company plans to submit a proposal to the EISC in 2003 regarding a proposed Beaufort Sea Offshore Drilling Program. In March the EISC gratefully accepted an offer from Petro-Canada to tour its Nuna drilling site to view the facilities and rig.



Tour of Petro-Canada's Nuna drilling site

Keeping Our Eyes Open

Several topics have been of particular interest to the EISC: the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project, which would come before the EISC for environmental assessment screening should it be formally proposed; and drafting of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act which will supercede the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act in the Yukon. It has been a long standing concern of the EISC that the new Act will duplicate the screening process carried out by the EISC on the Yukon North Slope.

Comings and Goings

Welcome Randy Lamb! Our new Yukon Member replaces Chuck Hubert, who resigned in October. Randy joins fellow Members Bill Klassen (Chair), Cathy Cockney, Billy Day, Alex Kaglik, Johnny Lennie, and Frank Pokiak.

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Environmental Impact Screening Committee



Managing Fisheries Within the ISR

FJMC Work Plan for 2003-04

Three FJMC regular meetings have taken place since our last issue. In addition to dealing with regular business, these meetings have contributed to our annual 4-stage process to determine this year's FJMC work plan. In the 1st stage, the FJMC asks for community input about required research through our community tour, Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs), and the Inuvialuit Game Council. Next, the FJMC compiles a list of community issues and concerns and puts out a Call for Proposals that is circulated to interested researchers. Stage 3 involves an annual meeting with Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) scientists and technicians at the Freshwater Institute, where summaries of projects are discussed and a shortlist of proposals is identified. Finally at the March budget meeting members further prioritize the projects to fit the available funding.

Thirty projects with a total value of \$500,000 were approved for 2003-04. They include stock assessment and harvest monitoring projects, ecological monitoring of lakes, development

or review of fish management plans, contaminant and disease sampling of marine mammals, and several projects relating to hydrocarbon exploration.



FJMC members Billy Day (L) and Don Dowler (R) present Brian Wong (C) a Holman print as part of his 2002 FJMC Co-op Award.

FJMC Annual Co-operative Management Award

The FJMC is pleased to announce that DFO Program Officer Brian Wong was chosen as the recipient of the 2002 FJMC Co-operative Management Award in recognition of his significant contributions to fisheries co-management in the ISR. The presentation took place during a dinner held in his honour in Winnipeg, MB, on January 29th, 2003. Congratulations Brian!

Oil & Gas Environmental Regulators Gathering

FJMC participated in the second Canada/Alaska Oil & Gas Environmental Regulators Gathering, held in Fairbanks March 19 – 20, 2003. This year, the gathering expanded to include fisheries, wildlife and other regulatory agencies from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska. In addition, some of those attending participated in a tour of oil production facilities on the North Slope of Alaska.

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Oil Production Facility, Conoco-Phillips Alpine Development

WMAC (NWT) Activities

CWS and RWED Research Projects

Research in the ISR proposed by our government partners is reviewed by the Council annually at its spring meeting. Funding is from Inuvialuit implementation funding, CWS (Canadian Wildlife Service), RWED (Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development), Parks Canada, the Polar Continental Shelf Project, other government departments, the oil and gas industry, universities, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Gwich'in and Sahtu organizations (for certain transboundary species). The WMAC (NWT) endorsed 33 projects for 2003/2004:

Gas exploration – effects on tundra swans, effects of previous seismic on birds and habitat in the Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary

King & Common Eiders, & Long-tailed Ducks – spring migration counts, satellite tracking to locate moulting, fall staging and wintering areas

Waterfowl – declining Snow Geese & Brant at Anderson River, mainland waterfowl surveys, harvest data collection, Snow Goose survival rates and harvest locations

Production of final reports and mapping from CWS projects

Caribou – harvest data collection, body condition sampling, mainland herds' recruitment surveys, satellite tracking for distribution and movements, and calving ground surveys

Grizzly Bears – satellite tracking for movements, distribution and numbers, harvest data and problem bear monitoring

Polar Bears – harvest data collection, population estimates, movements and boundaries

Furbearers – wolverine harvest data collection, muskrat push-up survey to monitor changes over time, wolf genetics



Larry Carpenter, Chair WMAC (NWT), Lindsay Staples, Chair WMAC (NS), and Duane Smith, Chair IGC discuss grizzly bear issues.

Community wildlife diseases workshop

Community-based ecological monitoring using local knowledge

Projects represent work begun in previous years, and community priorities identified at the Council's Grizzly and Polar Bear Workshops, RWED's Community Gaps Workshop, and through discussions with the HTCs and Council members. The Inuvialuit Game Council will discuss these projects at their June meeting.

Wildlife Harvesting Season and Zone Changes

Each year the Council reviews harvesting seasons, zones and quotas at its December meeting and sends recommendations to the Minister of RWED. Regulation changes now in force are: marten season starts October 1, muskox sport season in I/MX/06 near Paulatuk is Sept. 15 – Apr. 30, and the two muskox zones on Victoria Island are combined. The beaver season has not changed. The Council is waiting for RWED to accept and complete four other regulation recommendations.

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WMAC Boards and COSEWIC Meet

On May 26 – 27, Wildlife Management Boards (WMBs) from different regions of Canada met with the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in Whitehorse, to discuss how they could work together on species assessments in the range jurisdictions of the Boards.

The federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) assigns COSEWIC the mandated responsibility for producing a Canadian endangered species list. This list is the basis for the wildlife protection and recovery measures that are spelled out in the rest of the legislation. COSEWIC determines the national status of wild Canadian species suspected of being at risk. The Committee is required to base its decisions on the best scientific information and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge available.

SARA recognizes the authority of WMBs, established under Comprehensive Claims

Agreements like the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), to provide advice to the appropriate ministers on matters related to the management of wildlife and wildlife habitat, including species assessments and species at risk. Given their overlapping responsibilities, it is important for COSEWIC and the Boards to identify joint arrangements that avoid potential conflicts in the species assessment process.

Lindsay Staples, Bob Bell, Larry Carpenter, Duane Smith and Herbert Felix attended the meetings on behalf of the WMACs, FJMC and the IGC. They were joined by representatives from Wildlife Management Boards in Nunavut,

the NWT, Yukon, as well as the Nisga'a Lisims Government's Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The meetings concluded with the development of proposed cooperative measures for conducting species assessments. The measures will be reviewed by the respective WMBs and COSEWIC prior to a November meeting of COSEWIC. If accepted, some of the proposed measures will be incorporated into the COSEWIC Operations Manual.

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Fisheries Joint Management Committee



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NS)



Caribou Photo Source: WMAC (NS)





Photo Source: Ken Madsen

Community Support Unit Update

Have you heard reference made to the "Community Support Unit" or heard people mention the "CSU" over the past few months? If so, you may be asking yourself when was this "unit" developed? What do they do? Who are they? Hopefully this article will help to answer some of these questions.

The Community Support Unit (CSU) forms a new area of the Joint Secretariat and was started in November 2001. The idea behind the forming of the CSU was to provide technical assistance and help build understanding within Inuvialuit communities initially with regards to the expected gas field developments and pipeline gathering system, the potential increase in onshore and offshore oil

and gas exploratory activities, and development within the region in general. Community support began when the first member of this team (Robin Fonger) was hired in November of 2001. She began assisting the Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs) with understanding technical documents like the project descriptions HTCs are requested to comment on for the Environmental Impact Screening Committee. Two other CSU members have since been hired to help Inuvialuit communities: Alisha Chauhan and Chris Alway. CSU members also provide additional support to different areas of the Joint Secretariat, mostly the Inuvialuit Game Council and the IFA fish and

wildlife co-management boards. Aside from helping communities and Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees within the Joint Secretariat, members of the CSU have been active in areas such as climate change and contaminants and are dedicated to keeping current on development activities occurring in the ISR.



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Joint Secretariat provides administrative and technical support to the wildlife and environmental co-management boards set up pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and to the Inuvialuit Game Council.



As the Travel/Accommodation Co-ordinator for the JS, Heather Hansen ensures all Chairs, staff, and members reach their destination.

Upcoming Meetings

EISC

June 11 – 13, 2003

July 28 – 30, 2003

September 22 – 24, 2003

October 29 – 31, 2003

EIRB

TBA

FJMC

June 23 – 25, 2003, Inuvik

September 15 – 17, 2003, Inuvik

IGC

June 19 – 22, 2003, Inuvik

October 2 – 5, 2003, Whitehorse

December 17 – 20, 2003, Inuvik

WMAC-NWT

June 25 – 26, 2003, Inuvik

Sept. 30 – Oct. 1, 2003, Whitehorse

WMAC-NS

Regular meeting TBA

Yukon North Slope Conference TBA

Wildlife Monitor Training in the ISR

At the request of the Hunters and Trappers Committees a one-week training session was offered for Wildlife Monitors in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). This training session was held in the communities of Aklavik, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk in January of this year.

The purpose of this training was to provide current and new Wildlife Monitors with some of the information that is important when working on the land. Wildlife Monitors in each community are selected by the local Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) to work on different projects that occur in the ISR. It is the combination of local Traditional Knowledge along with training such as what was delivered in this program that enables Wildlife Monitors to be effective and successful in their job.

The training week included the Canadian Firearm Safety course, the Red Cross

Standard First Aid and CPR course and an orientation day where other topics related to wildlife monitoring were discussed. During the orientation session a board member from the local Hunters and Trappers Committee discussed the job and reporting expectations of Wildlife Monitors as well as the role of the Wildlife Monitor to the HTC. An industry representative (Devon and Verilluq) and local RWED officer were also present during each orientation session to discuss industry expectations, and bear and wildlife safety respectively.

Across the delta communities thirty-one beneficiaries participated in the Wildlife Monitor training. During the Inuvik session, two individuals from each of Holman and Sachs Harbour attended the training session as well.

Delivery of this program was made possible by funding from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (Cumulative Impact

Monitoring Program), the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Government of the Northwest Territories (Education, Culture & Employment).

This is the second year that this type of training has been offered in the delta communities of the ISR. The need for training and delivery of the first program was initiated by the Inuvik HTC in 2001. Discussions are currently underway to decide on future training.

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James Rogers practices his CPR skills during the First Aid/CPR course in Inuvik.

Drilling Waste TAG Update

In the spring of 2002 a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was formed to develop a document for Arctic Operations for the disposal of drilling waste. The organizations that are represented on the TAG are the Inuvialuit Land Administration, Inuvialuit Game Council, Environment Canada, DIAND, the oil and gas industry, and an environmental consulting company. Currently, drilling waste from exploratory drilling is disposed of in sumps. Under the current regulations this is the only method permitted.

The TAG has been examining the past performance of sumps, sampling protocols for sumps, and recommended practices. They are also examining all of the various options available for the disposal of drilling waste. The consulting company TAG member is currently testing a method of disposal called encapsulation in which the drilling wastes are potentially converted into an inert solid that would not need to be buried in a sump. Other options include downhole injection, a regional disposal/treatment site, etc. They are compiling a draft document for a workshop in Inuvik being

planned for later this year. The draft document will explain the pros and cons of each option, along with the recommended practices to minimize impacts. The purpose of the workshop is to come up with recommendations on the preferred methods of disposal that people in this region would like to see utilized. Regulators will be taking these recommendations into account when they revise the current regulations.

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Sump in the Mackenzie Delta Photo Source: Newpark Environmental Services

GIS Station

The computers are processing and the printers are running, it is a non-stop job in the GIS station of the Joint Secretariat.

The sites and areas of the industry activities of 2002-2003 and the base maps were overlaid, and the overall map of gas exploration and the related activities was produced. A variety of maps based on the category of the different activities (e.g. research projects and sub-classes, seismic projects, and tourism) were made.

Steve Blasco, with Natural Resources Canada, presented the Beaufort Sea Habitat Mapping project on March 7th, 2003 at the Joint Secretariat. There was discussion about the future

research plans, ongoing traditional knowledge input, mapping sites, multi-beam test trials, and the large amount of ice-scour data. This data and other related GIS documents will be shared with Joint Secretariat GIS station. Processing the data will provide the communities, committee board members and JS staff with valuable mapped information.

In October 2002 the GIS staff took part in a Programming workshop. In this workshop, the participants gained experience in how to carry out various programming tasks in GIS software packages.

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