

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSED LANCASTER SOUND NMCA

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013

Consultation team members:

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 Linda Vaillancourt (Government of Nunavut)
 Danny Wright (Natural Resources Canada)

Schedule:

Location	Date	Participants
<i>Pond Inlet</i>	November 19 14:00 – 15:00 15:30 – 17:00 19:00 – 23:00	Hamlet Council meeting – 5 HTO/CLARC meeting – 3 Community meeting – 68
	November 20 09:00 – 11:30	HTO/CLARC mapping – 7
<i>Resolute Bay</i>	November 20 15:00 – 16:00 19:00 – 23:00	Hamlet meeting – 3 Community meeting – 10
	November 21 10:00 – 15:30 15:30 – 17:00	HTA/CLARC meeting/mapping – 8 Community mapping – 8 (teenagers)
<i>Arctic Bay</i>	November 22 19:00 – 23:00	Community meeting/mapping – 31
	November 23 09:00 – 12:00	HTO/CLARC meeting/mapping – 2
<i>Grise Fiord</i>	November 25 09:30 – 16:00 19:00 – 21:30	Hamlet/HTO/CLARC meeting/mapping – 8 Community meeting/mapping – 18
	November 27 19:00 – 23:15	Community meeting/mapping – 25
<i>Clyde River</i>	November 28 09:30 – 11:45 14:00 – 17:00	CLARC meeting/mapping – 4 HTO meeting/mapping – 8
	December 2 09:00 – 11:15 13:00 – 15:00 19:00 – 21:30	Government departments – 12 Non government organizations – 8 Community meeting – 6

HTO/HTA = Hunters and Trappers Organization/Association

CLARC = Community Lands and Resources Committee

Community Comments/Questions

Implicated communities (Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord and Clyde Inlet)

Boundary: *[we should include a map showing federal boundary, QIA boundary we went out with, and the areas communities wanted to include/exclude from this consultation round]*

- Communities overwhelmingly support the establishment of an NMCA in this area and each community indicated that the boundary should be extended to include important ecological areas closer to their community. It was noted that the current proposal protects mostly the migratory routes for various marine mammals, but little of their critical habitats (breeding, feeding, nursery, moulting).
- All in agreement that the boundary should extend eastward to cover the entrance to Lancaster Sound, including the existing Shell leases. The main reasons given are that the area is very important to marine mammals and birds and that all the animals going to their communities pass through this region. It was very clearly stated that they fear the impacts an oil spill could have in this area as currents would bring it to all of them, particularly as we don't have the technology to properly clean up a spill.
- Most of the communities thought it would be a good idea to exclude an area offshore their communities to facilitate local management.
- Also make it clear that would want to exclude areas of importance for sport hunting is this activity will not be permitted in NMCA [it is and this was repeated].

Concerns:

- General concerns about increases in shipping and cruise ships, including the apparent current lack of management with respect to cruise ships that seem to go anywhere they please, going too close to haul out areas and calving areas and disturbing wildlife. However, if cruise ships were properly managed, could be good economically.
- How could Inuit profit from increased tourism? Would cruise ships pay to go through the NMCA for instance? If international shipping increases, would there be user fees charged by the NMCA?
- Much interest in being able to monitor vessel movements and being able to report their activities or register complaints about ships to someone. Like the idea of a Haida Watchmen-type program involving Inuit.
- Worried about tourist activities interfering with harvesting activities.
- Worried about the effects of noise – icebreakers, cargo ships, and cruise ships, seismic – frightening animals, increasing mortality, and destroying travel routes.
- Want to make sure that commercial fishing would be allowed, as there appear to be several projects being developed (fisheries for turbot, halibut, char).
- Wondering how the area would be enforced/monitored.
- Want to ensure that IQ is used more for management decisions, and not just as an afterthought.

General comments:

- Inuit have a very strong emotional link to the land and wildlife. The establishment of an NMCA is important for our traditional lifestyle and country food – the ocean is like a forest to us, and we feed on the animals in the ocean.
- Money comes and goes, but when the animals are gone, they are gone; cultural trumps economic every time for Inuit.
- How do we compromise between protection and possible economic opportunities? Are we closing off opportunities for future generations?

Iqaluit meetings

1) Government departments:

In attendance – AANDC, DFO-Coast Guard, DND, EC, GN Fisheries and Sealing, GN DOE Wildlife

Questions:

- Any discussion regarding inclusion and use of land? Do you anticipate including land resources in expanded boundaries?
- Will boundaries overlap/abut other protected areas (i.e. Prince Leopold Island MBS)
- How are you planning on incorporating Nunavut Land Use Plan, shipping activities? Will there be regulations to deal with cruise ships? `
- How do you deal with Nunavut Planning Commission if boundaries change?
- Have you thought of the enforcement implications, once established? There will likely be issues of bilge disposal and others? What about emergency response plans?
- If there is a new boundary proposal will that open up discussion for seismic testing and new information regarding non renewable resources?

Comments/information:

- DND confirms that there is only passive sonar in Lancaster Sound
- Make sure Nunavut Planning Commission knows that NMCA boundary may possibly be larger so that doesn't go against Land Use Plan zoning – should do before February when NPC asks for final comments from federal government
- Coast Guard can and does monitor all ships (including cruise ships) and knows where they are at all times

2) ENGOs/Boards/Academic

In attendance – Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Research Institute, Oceans North, World Wildlife Fund

- **Boundaries:**
 - When doing community consultation getting a push to expand boundaries – at a certain point may not be workable because is too large; potential for an impasse if get mandate for boundaries that are far bigger and what to do vis other MERA studies etc. How do

you get to yes for boundaries; maybe one of ways out is to include language about if and when becomes available (i.e. leases) in negotiation etc. – consolidate where there is consensus and defer some areas (i.e. aspirational areas) via negotiation or as part of agreement.

- **Oil and gas:**
 - What role does oil and gas information have in this project, particularly as don't have technology yet to extract it? Is feasibility about development and should you really be concerned about that when defining a boundary? Is there actually a trade-off that needs to be done?
 - USGS estimates indicate potential in Baffin Bay is far greater. Likely there is far more in Baffin Bay and would not need a trade-off.
 - How do reserves in Lancaster compare to those in Sverdrup Basin?
 - Why do we say that there is great oil and gas potential in Lancaster Sound, but factsheet mentions that on Greenland side, where doing all the drilling, as yet have no commercial findings?
 - Are there other ways to protect these areas? Are you looking at other options that might allow for oil and gas? Trillions of dollars possible. Is there a plan B if governments want oil and gas to proceed? What about other activities? This is NW Passage and likely to see more and more ships going through.
- **Governance:**
 - Who decides on the final boundary? Is it possible another department (other than PC/GN/QIA) could trump decision?
 - Does the Steering Committee make recommendations on management as well? Jobs?
 - Do you have to take proposed boundaries to NWMB for recommendation to Minister?
- **General:**
 - Will the NMCA affect traditional harvesting, sports hunting, commercial activities?
 - WWF will be generating new polynyas map soon (coming out next year) and may be useful for our work

3) Community:

- Any plans to gather information on groups for which have less information (i.e., fish and invertebrates)?
- Found a lot of oil and gas in region, how does that jeopardize the feasibility study of the NMCA? How does it affect the boundaries?
- Federal boundary obviously affected by Shell lease – how long will the lease last?

APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COMMENTS AS REVIEWED BY CONSULTATION TEAM

Pond Inlet:

- Shipping – can NMCA regulate/control? Cruise ships particular concern. Increased shipping via NW Passage; Baffinland shipping; cruise ships chasing wildlife (narwhal in particular in Milne Inlet); increase in international shipping; user fees; can NMCA charge fees for cruise ships/cargo to enter and return \$ to community
- Harvesting – will we be able to continue harvesting? Traditional diet important; rights for beneficiaries
- Garbage – blamed for garbage coming from elsewhere
- National Park regulations – impacts on commercial activities; firearm restrictions – same for NMCA? Restrictions on cabins, use of shipwreck for wood, etc.
- Proposed boundary doesn't touch all five communities so why are the other communities included in IIBA? This is mainly Pond Inlet waters
- Research – methods disturb wildlife; helicopter over flights affecting geese
- Oil and gas: Expand boundaries east to cover oil and gas and leases; if leave oil and gas outside boundary, seems to defeat purpose of NMCA because currents would take any spill into Lancaster Sound
- Are commercial fisheries allowed in NMCA?
- Training: search and rescue; guides and tourism industry
- Have you contacted DFO and involved them in planning NMCA? What about Defense (submarines, sonars)?
- Would be good to have observation posts to monitor ship activity
- Does NMCA include surface (i.e., ice) too? Ice is also migratory route for terrestrial animals (i.e. caribou and muskox), need to remember that and protect those routes.
- Wanted to make sure consulting with other communities because of marine mammal migration patterns
- Milne Inlet – Koluktoo Bay – called it a narwhal sanctuary but no one had heard of this
- Letter from member – communication infrastructure; sports hunts without fees or restrictions; Bowhead – want to ensure harvesting protected without having to pay; cultural centre; ensuring positions go to Inuit beneficiaries; scholarship programs and contribution to education programs; maintain Inuit harvesting rights and levels (doesn't want NMCA management to affect harvesting rights and levels—status quo)
- Community of Pond Inlet supported the NMCA
- Boundary:
 - Sports hunting – will not include sport hunting areas in NMCA if NMCA will not permit
 - Exclude area offshore the town to be able to put in a dock
 - Want to expand east to include the leases
 - Community wants to discuss if should include the Jan-Feb floe edge which goes beyond the QIA boundary

Resolute Bay:

- Prince Leopold Island MBS – include up to shoreline (abut island, not marine component)
- Research needed for invertebrates, shorebirds; baseline studies should be done before deciding where boundary should go; possibly some TK on invertebrates could use
- Support NMCA, notably for threat of oil and gas because currents would bring any spills there

- Have you spoken to Central Arctic communities west of here (Cambridge Bay, Taluyook and Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven)?
- Do you have an inventory of all the species in the area like for the oil and gas?
- Kelp forests in the area
- Problem with where ships anchor – Coast Guard were anchored near Griffith Island in middle of migratory route and whales and seals went elsewhere – none went through this area; don't mind them anchoring just the location
- Also, afraid that if tell us where the animals are, the cruise ships will go there – if walrus disturbed they don't come back for years sometimes
- Noticing changes in ice conditions and currents – ice melting from bottom up rather than top (?)
- General problem with increase in shipping and cruise ships (cruise ships going to haul out areas and calving areas – not illegal but really going too close and disturbing animals)
- Concerns with the increase of anchored ships (we are now calling it boat parking lots) ... blocking way to marine mammals
- Establishment of NMCA important for traditional lifestyle and country food; ocean is like a forest to us; we are feeding off animals in the ocean
- Seeing more birds now that have never seen, including ravens
- Seismic can be heard many miles away and affect animals, including killing some
- Watchmen program good idea
- Listening devices (sonar) between Devon and Somerset – what are they doing?
- Boundary discussions:
 - Include Cunningham Inlet, Cape Anne and inlet to west of it and Limestone Island (beluga, moulting area)
 - Include between Cornwallis and Bathurst up to polynya north of Cornwallis (walrus, hunting, polynya – wintering walrus, and other marine mammals)
 - include Beechey Island to Barlow Inlet
 - include between Somerset and Prince of Wales Island, south to just N of Prescott I. to top of Island and just w of Russell Island (beluga)
 - Along Devon Island – all fjords and inlets are important for marine mammals and polar bear
 - move boundary between Cornwallis and Devon – from Lovell Point -- Depot Point across Wellington Channel a bit further south
 - proposed boundary protecting the migratory route but not where they are going (critical habitat – feeding, nursery, moulting, breeding)

Arctic Bay:

- Community benefits from NMCA would be good (don't benefit from Sirmilik); want benefits from cruise ships if come here; can we commercially fish
- Don't want to see oil and gas in Lancaster Sound; don't have technology to clean up spill
- Don't have problem with cargo ships, but cruise ships yes; if cruise ships managed properly, could be good economically; Nowhere to register complaints for ships
- Worried about tourist activities interfering/observing harvesting activities/cultural use zones – can we restrict where visitors go?
- Monitor vessel activity – have observers on boats and have small ships (non-Inuit) should report somewhere
- Money comes and goes, but then animals gone they are gone cultural trumps economic all the time for Inuit. If all animals gone, then maybe economic OK. Elders only eat country foods and if don't protect that, telling elders that not important

- Would there be restrictions on icebreakers in NMCA? Make a lot of noise and frighten animals – affect seals and killing small fish (polar cod) with propellers; destroy travel routes
- Name of area we have in Inuktitut means “Devon Island ocean or waters”; discussion about changing name (contest), but may be OK too
- Public safety related to outfitters, who is liable (insurance)?
- Can military still train in NMCA?
- Boundary discussions:
 - In Prince Regent Inlet – include coastal areas along W Brodeur Peninsula down to channel which runs between Prince Regent and admiralty (polar bear, seals, hunting grounds, fishing sites, beluga, narwhal, old camp sites; polar bear migration going S. In spring and N. in fall); on E side of Somerset Island including Creswell Bay (beluga, and narwhal, seals, fish)
 - Include all of Admiralty Inlet down to channel which connects with Prince Regent Inlet; at end of Admiralty Inlet (beluga in shallow areas, fish, lots of seals)
 - Exclude Nanisivik and bay in front of Arctic Bay
 - Cape Crawford – important cultural sites and walrus
 - Extend east to end of NSA (important migratory route for animals); also if drill just on boundary will still impact marine mammals because of sound – only way marine mammals can come in
 - Arctic Bay hunters, usually don’t go beyond floe edge at N of Admiralty, but go throughout Admiralty Inlet
 - Killer whales are increasing with lessening of ice and pushing whales to shore
 - Kelp in areas with strong currents
 - Bowhead – everywhere but concentration areas along north coast of Bylot (hundreds); in Navy Board (75 seen at a time from points) and to Tremblay Sound near Milne; also into Admiralty Inlet all the way down

Grise Fiord:

- Military like to have a large area for their exercises – did we consult with them? What about Nanisivik? Does Navy require permission to go through NMCA (inc. on snowmobile)?
- Garbage that comes from Greenland because of currents
- If people want to go through NW Passage, would there be permits there that would send other people through Jones Sound instead – worried that greater regulation because of NMCA would send ships to go through Jones Sound instead of Lancaster Sound
- What is renewable vs non renewable?
- Are you meeting with the Nunavut Planning Commission? Do they know about this proposal?
- Is there a waiting period for the NMCA if want to expand after its created?
- Cruise ships – allowed in our hunting areas? Will they pay to go through NMCA? They are going onto Coburg Island which is a protected area and disturbing the birds.
- What would be cost to buy back leases?
- Will the Steering Committee be coming back?
- Will tourism be encouraged?
- What about our future? Are we closing off opportunities for next generations? How do we compromise between protection and possible economic opportunities?
- Do all countries except Canada consider Lancaster Sound international waters?
- Support NMCA but for Grise Fiord, have only so many people that could help monitor the area
- Boundary:

- Include area around Coburg Is to Philpots island; gateway for marine mammals, lots of seabirds, beluga, narwhal, walrus haulouts
- Indicate sport hunting area – if not allowed, want it excluded
- Include fjords to limit access by cruise ships to protect marine mammals
- Entrance to Lancaster Sound important and should be included to QIA proposal, not because hunt there but because is migratory route for the species that come to Jones Sound
- Support QIA boundary, but extend north a bit to Cape Norton Shaw on Kane Basin

Clyde River:

- 12 NM limit or Inuit use area – how far to take out
- Very strong emotional link to the land and wildlife
- Is IQ important to this exercise? Will it really be used? Should be used for management decisions
- Upset about how government did not consult in the past; seem to go ahead with projects even when we don't want them; Inuit should have a veto on projects and get revenue from any development; IQ should be solid foundation, not an afterthought; way of life was never about making money, was about survival
- Clyde River also want to protect Lancaster Sound because if develop oil and gas, spill would affect Clyde because of currents
- Considering development of commercial fisheries, so want to make sure would be permitted (fisheries for turbot, halibut and char)
- Why is bowhead not mapped?
- How will Ninginganiq NWA (Isabella Bay bowhead sanctuary) fit with the NMCA? Hope to develop economic opportunity for whale watching
- Qaqqulluit NWA (Scott Inlet) – northern fulmar numbers have decreased considerably in last 20 years
- Where is the proposed territorial park?
- Increase in shipping could bring in invasive species.
- Cruise ships/tourists never let us know where they go and that anchor/go to important wildlife areas; watchman program would be way of monitoring
- When will Shell leases expire?
- If the boundary changes, will there be an oil and gas study?
- Can company do seismic offshore this area?
- Upset that companies/researchers do studies but don't report back on what they found/did.
- Community supports the idea of the NMCA in principle.
- Boundary:
 - Area south of QIA proposal – green line down to Cape Raper; lots of discussion about OK to include, but others want parts excluded for oil and gas (notably Scott Inlet area) – need more discussion on this within the community
 - Off Scott Inlet and fjords – baby Greenland sharks, halibut/turbot
 - All fjords, inlets important for char, narwhal hunting and ice there is important for caribou hunting
 - Within green line – all fjords and inlet important because are calving areas; important for bowhead, narwhal, beluga, seals
 - Exclude area around town – bay and possibly buffer along coast of municipal lands