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QIKIQTANI

INUIT ASSOCIATION

**SARVARJUAQ AND
QIKIQTAIT: INUIT
STEWARDSHIP AND
THE BLUE ECONOMY
IN NUNAVUT'S
QIKIQTANI REGION**



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QIKIQTANI

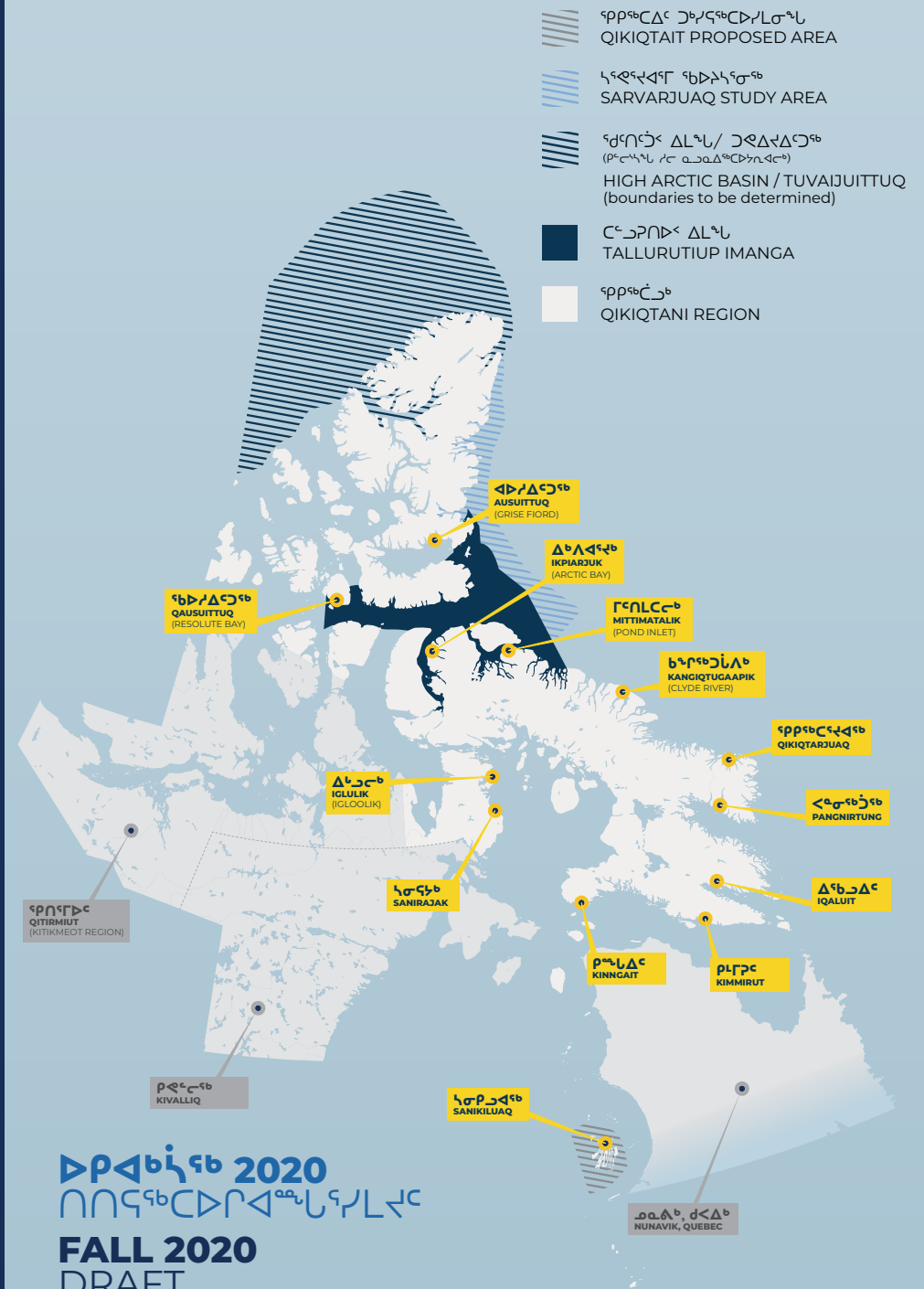
INUIT ASSOCIATION

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) is a not-for-profit society, which represents approximately 15,500 Inuit in the Qikiqtani region of Nunavut. The Qikiqtani region includes 13 communities from Grise Fiord, in the High Arctic, down to Sanikiluaq, on the Belcher Islands.

QIA was established to protect, promote and advance the rights and benefits of Qikiqtani Inuit. It is a Designated Inuit Organization under the Nunavut Agreement. The Nunavut Agreement gives the Regional Inuit Associations the power to negotiate Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements (IIBAs). QIA negotiates IIBAs on behalf of Qikiqtani Inuit.

QIA is one of three Regional Inuit Associations affiliated with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.; the other associations include the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Kivalliq Inuit Association. We work closely with our partners, such as Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada, as well as different levels of government, to represent Inuit in the Inuit Nunangat.

Two other organizations operate under the QIA umbrella: Kakivak Association, responsible for community economic development and small businesses; and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, created to manage economic development on behalf of QIA.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 2019 we did something different, we thought outside the box and collaborated with the Government of Canada to knock down departmental silos as we worked to protect two of the largest marine areas in the country. By establishing Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and providing interim protection for Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area, we not only tackled climate change, protected a significant multi-year ice area in the High Arctic, and safeguarded key wildlife habitat, we also created a new economic development model for Nunavut's Inuit communities based on a blue economy.

Our work proved that the future of Inuit and the Inuit Nunangat is not solely tied to extraction industries at the cost of our land and waters – mining and drilling for oil are not the only path to jobs and economic opportunities for our children. We can create jobs that connect our past to our future, empower our communities and secure opportunities in conservation and sustainable industries, such as fisheries.

Now, we are ready to take the next steps to expand this model and protect even more of our oceans and multi-year sea ice in Canada. Part of that work requires us to think globally and collaborate across borders with Inuit partners in the circumpolar world.

For Inuit, these relationships and partnerships are engrained in our fabric as a people.

You don't see many borders or checkpoints where I come from. The tundra and sea ice dictate boundaries of where you can travel and who your neighbours are. As a child raised in Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord), Canada's most northern High Arctic community, I always considered kalaallit, Greenlandic Inuit, as neighbours and kin.

Our communities were connected by family ties, harvesting routes, language and culture – the sea ice that expanded from my childhood home to Qanaaq was a lifeline bringing our worlds together. The sea also held our shared genesis stories – Nulijuk, the sea goddess that gave birth to marine life, known in Greenland as Sassuma Arnaa.

Is informed by Inuit Qaujimanituqangit



Is Inuit-led and managed



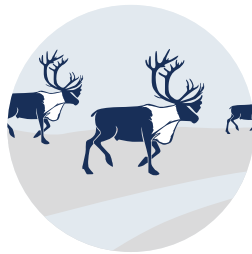
Is guided by Inuit-led research

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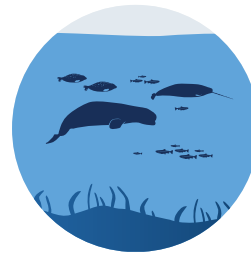
INUIT VISION OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

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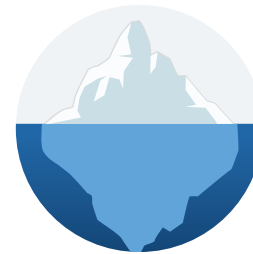
PROTECTS AND PRESERVES



 tundra



$\Delta L \Delta^b$
sea



ice



σῴζῳ
wildlife

ՀԻՄՆՈՐԴԵՍԿԻ
PROMOTES



sustainable fisheries



food sovereignty



diverse economic development

ኢንታርኔት ለሰራተኛ ልማት
Creates Meaningful Jobs



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ወይም ለሰራተኛ ልማት
ጥሩ ልማት ይፈጥራል
Protects coastal
communities from the
impacts of climate change



ለሰራተኛ ልማት
ለሰራተኛ ልማት
ለሰራተኛ ልማት
Empowers Inuit and strengthens our
culture and language



ኢንታርኔት ለሰራተኛ ልማት
Improves the lives of Inuit



உடைதல்

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INTRODUCTION

On August 1, 2019, Qikiqtani Inuit and Canada proudly celebrated a significant affirmation of Inuit stewardship and self-determination in our homelands and waters with the signing of the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) and the announcement of interim protection for Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area.

These agreements mark an important milestone in real reconciliation between Inuit and the Crown. Recognizing Inuit as stewards lays the foundation for a local conservation economy rooted in sustainable renewable resource use, including fisheries, harvesting, and research and monitoring of our globally important Arctic environment during a time of rapid change.

The investments in jobs and infrastructure arising from Tallurutiup Imanga are already having positive impacts for Inuit in the High Arctic. These contributions strengthen Canada's ability to provide for scientific research, marine security, and Arctic sovereignty, and help ensure the safety and resilience of our coastal communities.



ბერძენი-მეცნიერებმა, რომლებმაც აღმოაჩინეს, რომ ჩრდილოეთის ზღვაში მდებარეობს ბევრი უცხო სახეობა, რომლებიც ბევრს უწყობს ჩვენი საზოგადოების განვითარებას. ამიტომ ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები.

დღეს ჩვენს ქვეყანაში მდებარეობს ბევრი სახეობა, რომელიც დღესაც არ არის დაცული. ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები, რადგან ისინი არ არის მხოლოდ სახეობები, არამედ ისინი არის ჩვენი საზოგადოების ნაწილი. ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები, რადგან ისინი არ არის მხოლოდ სახეობები, არამედ ისინი არის ჩვენი საზოგადოების ნაწილი. ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები, რადგან ისინი არ არის მხოლოდ სახეობები, არამედ ისინი არის ჩვენი საზოგადოების ნაწილი.

ჩვენს ქვეყანაში მდებარეობს ბევრი სახეობა, რომელიც დღესაც არ არის დაცული. ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები, რადგან ისინი არ არის მხოლოდ სახეობები, არამედ ისინი არის ჩვენი საზოგადოების ნაწილი. ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები, რადგან ისინი არ არის მხოლოდ სახეობები, არამედ ისინი არის ჩვენი საზოგადოების ნაწილი. ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები, რადგან ისინი არ არის მხოლოდ სახეობები, არამედ ისინი არის ჩვენი საზოგადოების ნაწილი.

ამიტომ ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები, რადგან ისინი არ არის მხოლოდ სახეობები, არამედ ისინი არის ჩვენი საზოგადოების ნაწილი. ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები, რადგან ისინი არ არის მხოლოდ სახეობები, არამედ ისინი არის ჩვენი საზოგადოების ნაწილი. ჩვენ უნდა დავიცვათ ეს სახეობები, რადგან ისინი არ არის მხოლოდ სახეობები, არამედ ისინი არის ჩვენი საზოგადოების ნაწილი.

This 21st century approach to stewardship and cooperative management is a necessary step toward Inuit self-determination, effective conservation, and the socio-economic well-being of our communities. Our collective accomplishment serves as a testament to what we can achieve together when Inuit and Canada work as equal partners in the spirit of reconciliation.

Environmental changes such as record-breaking warming in the Arctic and a substantial increase in access to Northern waterways present new threats to the Qikiqtani Inuit environment. As climate change quickly reduces sea ice and changes familiar patterns, it increases access by vessels from around the world to our Arctic seascape, sensitive wildlife, and sacred cultural sites. Simultaneously, the reduction of ice severely limits Inuit access to these same areas. Changes in sea ice formation and breakup are making ice travel more difficult and dangerous, while less multi-year ice and stronger storms mean we must face rougher seas when hunting and travelling in the open water season.

These environmental changes threaten our ability to harvest wildlife and provide our communities and families with country food. This ability to provide food is vital to our health and culture and is central to achieving food sovereignty. We must continue to be the eyes and ears of change to identify emerging risks and drive solutions. Support for Inuit stewardship is crucial to monitor and take action on the impacts of climate change.

The opportunities and risks we face together inspire and motivate us to continue the Qikiqtani Inuit-Crown partnership that established Tallurutiup Imanga and brought interim protection to Tuvaijuittuq. This prospectus is an initial submission to help open the door to formal negotiations, anticipating a continuing and iterative process of community engagement before, during, and after negotiations to establish interim protection.

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Investments in the blue economy bring life to the Government of Canada's apology to Qikiqtani Inuit on August 14, 2019, that acknowledged:

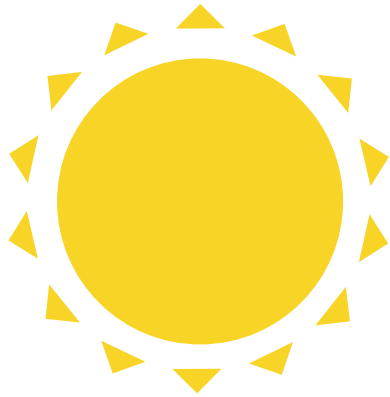
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Multiple government policies dramatically impacted the lives of Inuit in the decades following the 1940s. Canadians are only just beginning to understand the history of healthcare, education, and housing policies and programs imposed on Inuit, and how those misguided and underfunded initiatives have lasting impacts that are seen today.





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Permafrost is melting 70
years ahead of predictions.

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CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARCTIC

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2.3 degrees
Celsius-ᓂᓪ ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪ 1950-ᓂᓪ.

Arctic is warming at two times the global
average. The Arctic temperature has
increased 2.3 degrees Celsius since 1950.

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CANADIAN WILDLIFE DEPEND ON THE LAND
AND WATERS OF INUIT NUNANGAT.

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75% ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪ
Narwhal:
75% of the global
population



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20% ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪ
Beluga:
20% of the Canadian
population



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Polar bears:
largest subpopulation
in Canada



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Seabird species:
some of the largest colonies in the
Canadian Arctic

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4.6% ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪ
ᓂᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪᓴᓂᓪ.

Arctic sea is decreasing
at 4.6% per decade.





ԳՐԲԵՇԺԸ ՆԵՂԳԵՇՐԸ HIGHLIGHTS OF QIA'S ASKS

ΔΕΛΤΑ ΕΠΕΝΔΥΣΕΩΝ

- Եթե ԴՊՀ-ում զբոսայգիներ չկան՝ ԴՊՀ-ում
 Կանգնեցնել, ԴՊՀ-ում, ԴՊՀ-ում, ԴՊՀ-ում
 Կանգնեցնել, ԴՊՀ-ում, ԴՊՀ-ում
- Եթե ԴՊՀ-ում զբոսայգիներ չկան՝ ԴՊՀ-ում
 Կանգնեցնել, ԴՊՀ-ում, ԴՊՀ-ում, ԴՊՀ-ում

INUIT STEWARDSHIP

- Bolster the existing Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit Steward program in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet and Clyde River
- Expand the Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit Steward program to Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq



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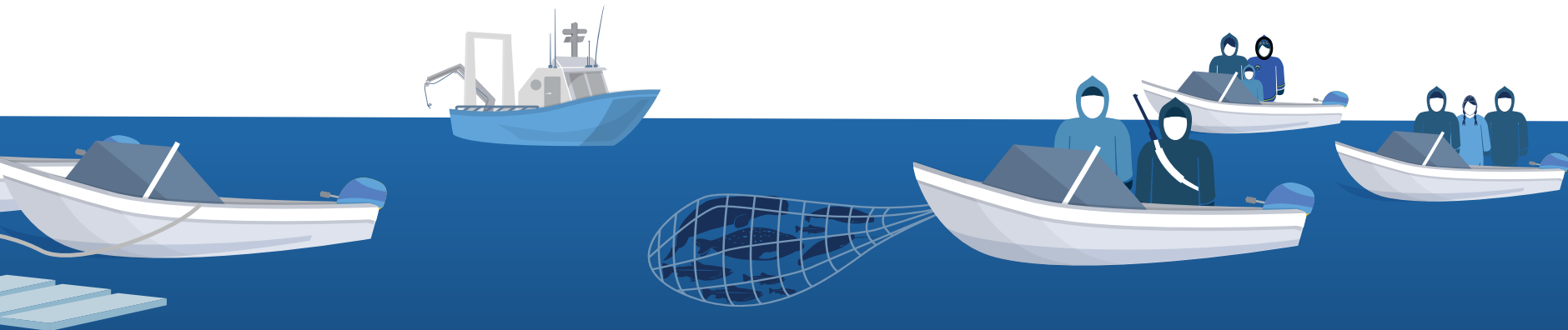
Sarvarjuaq adjacent communities: Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq
Qikiqtait adjacent community: Sanikiluaq

ΔΙΟ ΛΕΩΝΑΝΤΙΝΟΣ
ΛΕΩΝ

- [illegible]

BLUE ECONOMY INFRASTRUCTURE

- A Sarvarjuaq Centre in Grise Fiord for research, monitoring and exchange between Canada and Greenland
- Multi-use facilities in Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq
- Small craft harbours in Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq
- Support for a deep-water port in Qikiqtarjuaq
- Support for increased land access through terrestrial roads, trails and bridges in Sanikiluaq





ԳՐԲԸԾԵԺ ԵՆԴԳԵՇՐԸ HIGHLIGHTS OF QIA'S ASKS

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▶ 47C 006

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INUIT-LED GOVERNANCE

- Oversight through an Inuit Advisory Committee
- Creation of a co-management board similar to the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area Aulattiqatigiit Board
- Collaboration with Inuit in Kalaallit Nunaat



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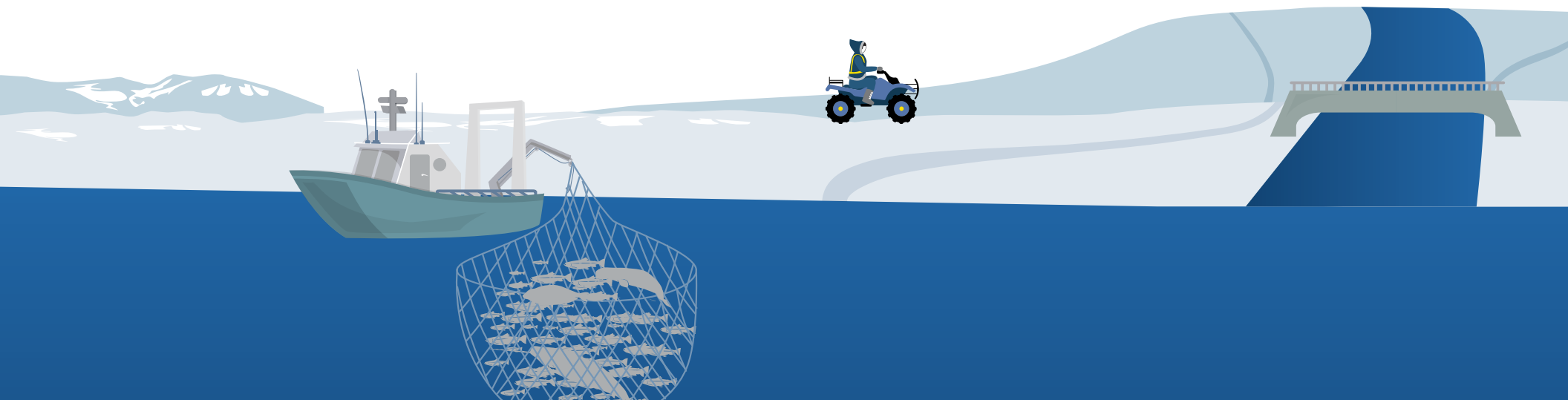
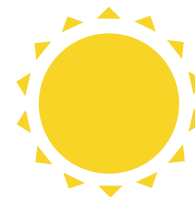
Sarvarjuaq adjacent communities: Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq
Qikiqtait adjacent community: Sanikiluaq

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FISHERIES

- Bolster sustainable inshore fisheries
- Ensure Inuit have access to and benefit from fisheries in the waters adjacent to our communities through repatriation of quotas



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ABOUT SARVARJUAQ

75,456 KM²

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APPROXIMATELY 1.3% OF CANADA'S 2025 MARINE CONSERVATION TARGET

ለሂሲክሲክ ዲፕሎማሲክ ልማትና ልማት
ዘመናዊ ልማትና ልማት ልማትና ልማት
ልማትና ልማት ልማትና ልማት

Key habitat for various species. Feeding area and migration corridor for marine mammals.

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 နေ့စဉ် နေ့စဉ် နေ့စဉ်

Foraging and breeding area for seabirds.

$$\triangleleft \Delta \dot{\Delta}^c \triangleright^c \ulcorner^c \triangleright \rho \triangleright^b d^c \triangleleft \triangleright \ulcorner^b d^c \urcorner.$$

Walrus winter and summer haul out sites.

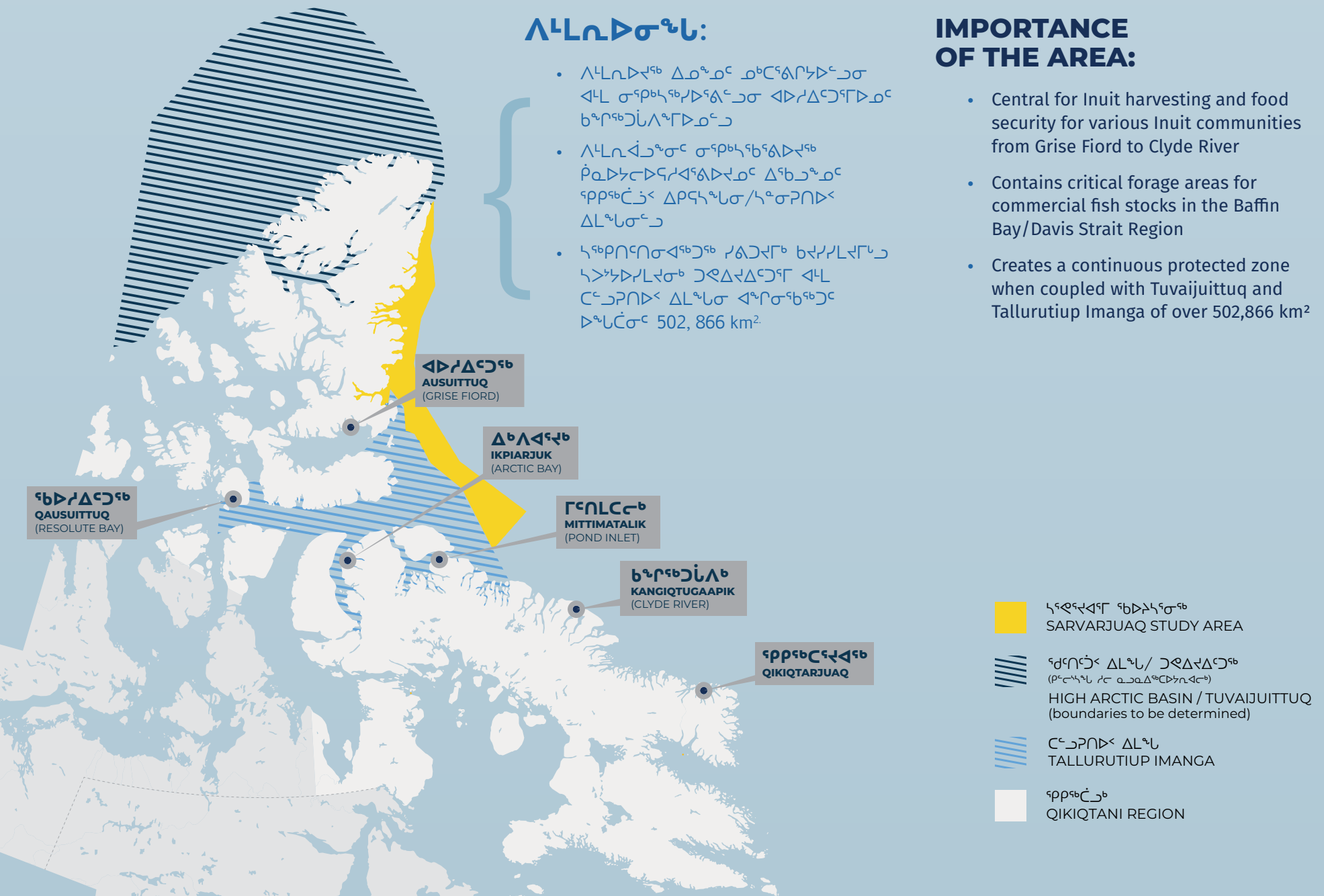


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IMPORTANCE OF THE AREA:

- Central for Inuit harvesting and food security for various Inuit communities from Grise Fiord to Clyde River
- Contains critical forage areas for commercial fish stocks in the Baffin Bay/Davis Strait Region
- Creates a continuous protected zone when coupled with Tuvaijuittuq and Tallurutiup Imanga of over 502,866 km²



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SARVARJUAQ

Sarvarjuaq is the name Qikiqtani Inuit give to an area of year-round open water and surrounding ice known to Greenlandic Inuit as the Pikialasorsuaq (“Great Upwelling”), or North Water Polynya. Located in the High Arctic and northern part of Baffin Bay, Sarvarjuaq is profoundly interconnected with Tuvaijuittuq, Tallurutiup Imanga, and the whole of Baffin Bay. Sarvarjuaq is the most biologically productive polynya in the Arctic, a place of globally unique ecological, biophysical, economic, and cultural interconnectivity.

In 2017 the Pikiilasorsuaq Commission, an independent commission supported by the Inuit Circumpolar Council, noted that “the Pikiilasorsuaq is an extraordinary place. It is an Arctic haven where sky, ocean, and ice meet, teaming with marine life that has nourished Inuit subsistence culture for thousands of years.” QIA supports the Pikiilasorsuaq Commission’s recommendations to establish an Inuit management authority, management zone, and freedom of movement for Inuit between historically connected communities in Canada and Greenland.

On April 4, 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Inuit leaders released the Pikialasorsuaq Leaders Statement, affirming their shared commitment:



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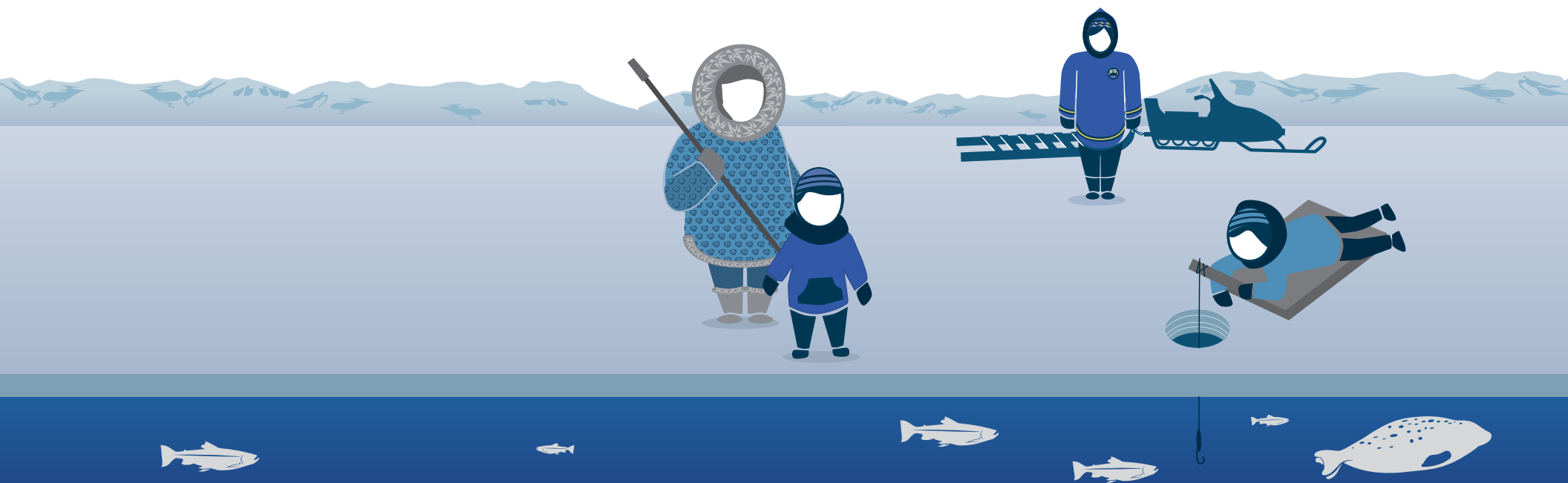
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SARVARJUAQ: INUIT STEWARDSHIP

Nauttiguqtiit, Inuit stewards, will support Inuit-led management of Sarvarjuaq. The success of the Nauttiguqtiit pilot program in Arctic Bay, established through the Tallurutiup Imanga IIBA, has already resulted in expansion of this unique form of Inuit employment in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet and Clyde River.

The program is already a valued foundation for mentorship, training, and economic development for Inuit. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the strength and versatility of program, with Nauttiqsuqtiit providing healthy country food for our communities. Protecting Sarvarjuaq presents an opportunity to continue support for this model in these communities, while extending it to Qikiqtarjuaq, a community in Baffin Bay with profound ecological, cultural, and socio-economic connections to Sarvarjuaq.



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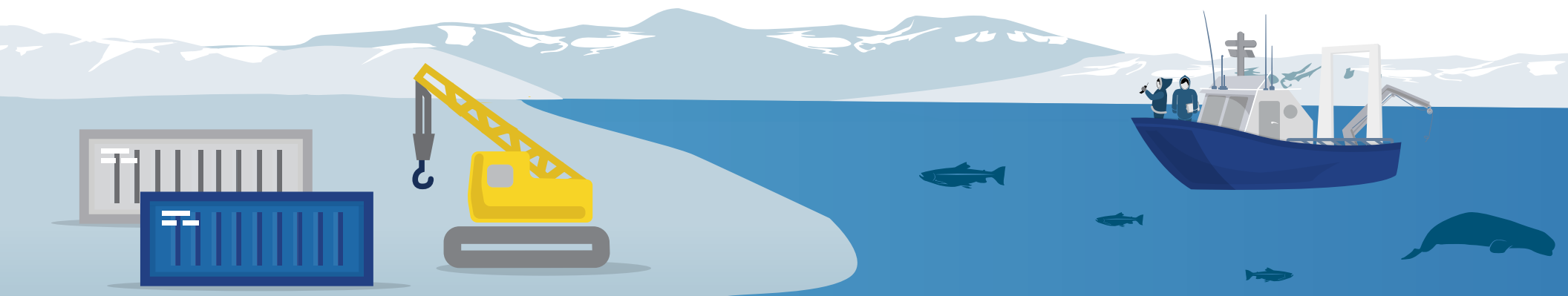
SARVARJUAQ: INFRASTRUCTURE

The Inuit Nunangat Declaration on Inuit-Crown Partnership recognizes “the disproportionate socio-economic and cultural inequity facing Inuit compared to most other Canadians, and commits [Inuit and the Government of Canada] to working in partnership to create socio-economic and cultural equity between Inuit and all other Canadians.”

Infrastructure investments in communities adjacent to marine protected areas are essential for community participation in the blue economy, for the long-term viability and success of marine protection, for achieving just sovereignty in Arctic Canada, for research and monitoring in a region facing rapid climate change, and for achieving equity and reconciliation between Inuit and all Canadians.

In Sarvarjuaq, our approach aligns and builds upon the model Inuit and the Government of Canada developed together for Tallurutiup Imanga. As the five Tallurutiup Imanga communities are also adjacent and dependent on the Sarvarjuaq ecosystem, our approach brings investments to ensure multi-use facilities are ready to support Nauttigsuqtiit across this new and larger area of operations.

Grise Fiord's unique proximity to the Sarvarjuaq makes it the ideal location for the proposed Sarvarjuaq Centre. This unique facility will be a centre for research and monitoring in the Sarvarjuaq,



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 IMAQ: INUIT ADVISORY
 COMMITTEE

▶ԼՂԺՂՈՒԺԸ ԵՈՒԴՅՐԸ

Hunters and Trappers
Organization members

ΔΕΔΕ ΉΜΕΡΑ

Inuit Knowledge Holders

ՀԱԼԸԾԸ ԵՈՒԴՅՐԸ

Hamlet Council members

ጠቅላይ ሚኒስትር
አብነት

Community Lands and Resources Committee Members

ΔΕΔΕ ΔΕΠΣΔΕ

Inuit Elders

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SARVARJUAQ: INUIT-LED GOVERNANCE

Working together, Qikiqtani Inuit and the Government of Canada have created a new model of for Inuit-led management and Inuit-Crown co-management of protected areas. As we continue living this new approach together in Tallurutiup Imanga, it provides a helpful starting place for Inuit-led governance in Sarvarjuaq.

The IMAQ (translated as “water”) Inuit Advisory Committee, composed of community representatives, including harvesters, is the heart of this model. IMAQ will deliberate on Inuit concerns, guide the Nauttiguqtiit program, and advise QIA on achieving maximum benefits for Inuit.

We also propose creation of a co-management board composed of IMAQ members, QIA, and our government partners to address all management, planning and operations of the proposed conservation areas using a consensus decision-making model. Like the Aulattiqatigiit Board for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, this board will include senior officials from QIA and government departments working equally on issues. QIA remains open to options for Inuit-led governance innovations that reflect the interconnectedness of Tallurutiup Imanga, Tuvaijuittuq, and Sarvarjuaq.

Inuit are one people, and the Sarvarjuaq is one system stretching across an international border. QIA recognizes the interconnectedness of Inuit in the Qikiqtani Region with Inuit in Kalaallit Nunaat, and the indivisibility of the Sarvarjauq/Pikialasorsuaq.

Negotiating an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement process detailed in the Nunavut Agreement is essential for providing certainty for Inuit and the Crown, and to facilitating a Ministerial Order for interim protection under the Oceans Act. This is also an essential step in a complementary process, as Qikiqtani Inuit work as part of “Team Canada”, and with Greenlandic Inuit, to secure protection for the whole of the Sarvarjuaq/Pikialasorsuaq through agreement with Naalakkersuisut and the Kingdom of Denmark.

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ABOUT QIKIQTAIT

43,068 KM²

7% ወደ

93% ልዩነት

5,000 ሺህ የሚጠጋ የፊት ለፊት ምርጫ

የፊት ለፊት ምርጫ ስርዓት

7% TERRESTRIAL
93% MARINE
OVER 5,000 KM
OF COASTLINE

ለኢሉብጋጌ ልሽ መደጋ ዲሴምበር ፩፣ ፳፻፲፭፣
፳፻፲፭ ዓ.ም. ጋር ከፍተኛ ጋርጋጥ ተደርጎታል።

Key marine and terrestrial habitat, a refuge and migratory corridor for a wide variety of wildlife.

ዲፕሎማሲያዊ ምርጫ ለፊደል
ክፍል ምርጫ ምርጫ ምርጫ
ለፊደል ምርጫ ምርጫ ምርጫ.

Habitat for Beluga and northern Hudson Bay-Davis Strait Atlantic Walrus.

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 ՄԻՎՈՒՄԸ ԸԹՎՈՐՈՒՄԸ:

Seasonally important feeding area for the southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear population.

ደረሰናል፡፡ ሌላው ጋር ሲነፃፅር ገብቷል፡፡

Year round habitat for entire population of Hudson Bay subspecies of Common Eider.



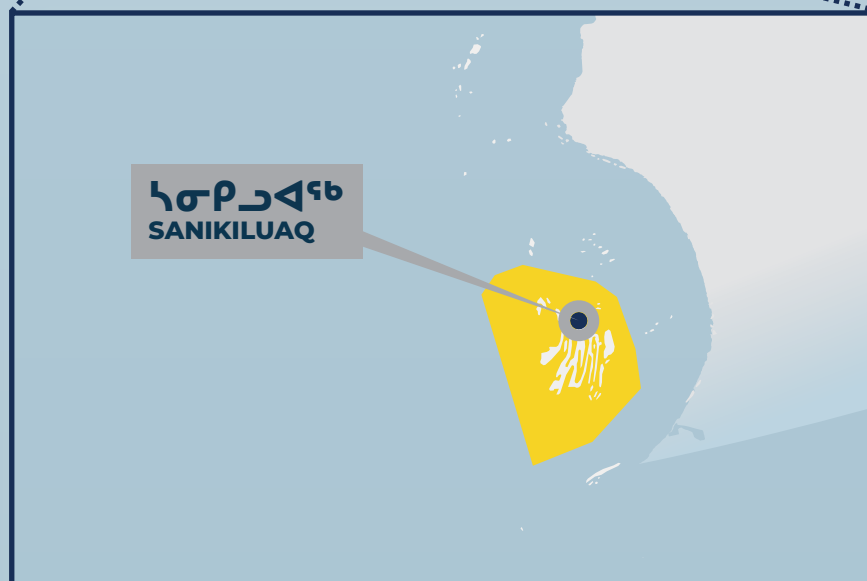


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IMPORTANCE OF THE AREA:

- Qikiqtait, the Belcher Islands Archipelago in the southeastern portion of Hudson Bay includes more than 1,500 islands, distributed over 3 million hectares
- Up to 35 recurrent polynyas in the Belcher Islands provide important habitat for wildlife
- Coldest summer sea-surface temperatures in Hudson Bay south of Southampton Island which sustain sea urchins, sea cucumbers and bivalves



-  ሞሮኖርፌር ኃይለማርያም
QIKIQTAIT PROPOSED AREA
-  ዶብሪን ልዩ / ኃይልተስፋፋ
(የሮራሊስ ስር መደበኛ ርዕረሳ)
HIGH ARCTIC BASIN / TUVAJUUITTUQ
(boundaries to be determined)
-  ሮጋህሆ ልዩ
TALLURUTIUP IMANGA
-  ነዳሪናሪ ቤት ጽሑፍ
SARVARJUAQ STUDY AREA
-  ሞሮኖርፌር
QIKIQTANI REGION

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QIKIQTAIT

The Belcher Island archipelago in the heart of Hudson Bay is a unique, complex, and sensitive region long recognized as a priority for stewardship and conservation. Over 1,500 islands and up to 35 recurrent polynyas spread over 30,000 km² act as a refuge and migratory corridor for wildlife. Inuit of Sanikiluaq have been and are the sentinels and stewards of the Hudson Bay ecosystem.

They have a rich history of mobilizing Inuit knowledge, including the ground breaking “Voices from the Bay” published in 1997 in reaction to the environmental changes witnessed by Inuit as a result of the hydro-electric dams that had been built on rivers draining into the Bay and the award-winning documentary “The People of the Feather”, released in 2011.





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QIKIQTAIT: INUIT STEWARDSHIP

The creation of Qikiqtait provides a unique opportunity to expand the Tallurutiup Imanga Nauttiguqtiit, Inuit Stewardship model to another community. As in Sarvarjuaq, Qikiqtani Inuit see the establishment of Qikiqtait as an opportunity to apply this model to the benefit of Sanikiluaq.

In Qikiqtaït, Nauttiqsuqtiit will provide crucial functions as cultural liaisons and interpreters conduct regular patrols to monitor waters, sea ice conditions, and wildlife, support Inuit harvesting and food sovereignty, actively work with community members as a bridge between Elders and youth, gather Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and assist with search and rescue efforts when needed.

ΔῶΔε εἰς τὸν ἥλιον
 THE NAUTTIQSUQTIIT INUIT STEWARDS

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟ ΚΕΦΑΛΑΙΟΝ

ልዩ ጥያቄዎችን ለማሟላት የሚያስፈልጉትን ሰነዶች ለማቅረብ
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ጋራ ልማት ለማረጋገጥና ለማረጋገጥ

Δαδσδννβνζσβ
 εδννσβνν Λννβννδνδνζ
 δαδσ, δνδνδνζνν Δδνβσ
 Δδνζσ.



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ልዩነት ከሀገሪቱ ጋር ጥያቄ ለሚገባ
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ՀԿՃԻՇ (ԼՖՐՁԵՇՇՈՒՇ)

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QIKIQTAIT: INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure investments in Qikiqtait closely follow the Tallurutiup Imanga model, including multi-use facilities, small craft harbours, and supportive terrestrial infrastructure facilitating movement and access on the islands and their adjacent waters, an important community priority. Multi-use facilities provide essential office space for the Nauttiguqtiit Inuit stewards, storage for operational equipment, and space for processing country food.

Small craft harbours improve safety for people and equipment, support community harvesting and food sovereignty, and underpin community economy development by supporting inshore commercial fisheries in and around Qikiqtait. Ensuring that local fishing operations have access to safe harbours and landing facilities remains crucial to their development and success.

Small craft harbours also support the local harvesting economy by improving access and reducing equipment losses, improving the value for harvesters and the community. Developing this infrastructure for Sanikiluaq follows the Tallurutiup Imanga model, and affirms Canada's commitment to the people of this community.

Finally, the community of Sanikiluaq has signaled interest in infrastructure facilitating access to their islands and marine environment through a network of terrestrial roads, trails and bridges. These too will facilitate safe navigation through the unique system of polynyas at the heart of local harvesting and food sovereignty, and further adapts the Nauttiguqtiit model to this unique island and marine ecosystem.



Δ⁹ΤΗΡΟ⁹Σ⁹

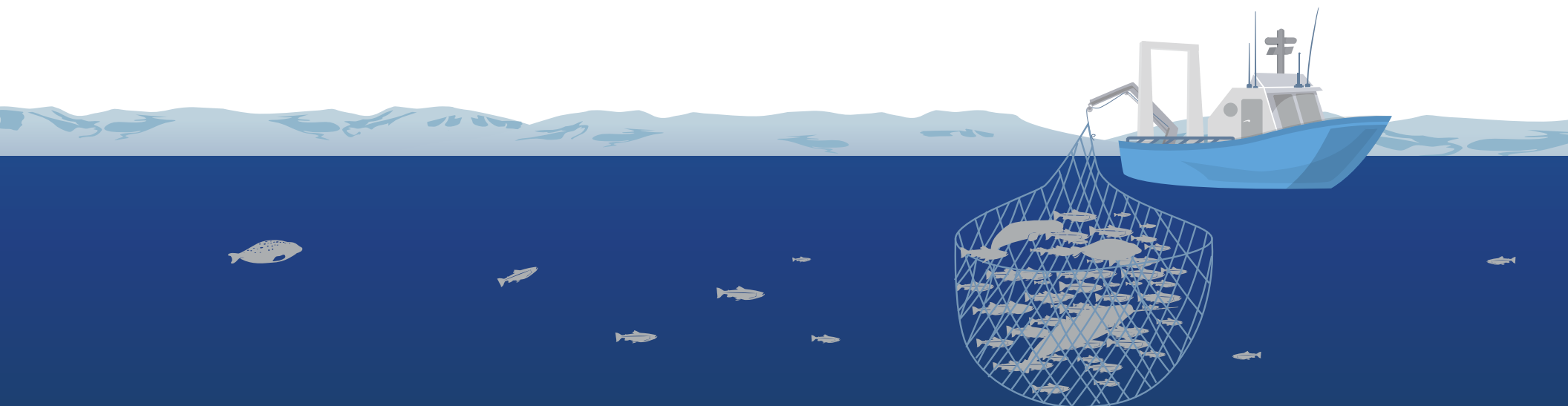
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FISHERIES

Inuit participation in fisheries is essential to the blue economy in the Qikiqtani. Qikiqtani translates as “the many islands” and fisheries have always been a part of our economic life as Inuit. Ensuring Inuit have access and benefit from fisheries in the waters adjacent to our communities reflects the spirit and intent of the Nunavut Agreement, and remains a uniquely important priority for Qikiqtani Inuit.

For too long, licenses in waters adjacent to Qikiqtani Inuit communities were distributed by Canada to non-Inuit interests. Inuit have not had opportunity to fully participate in adjacent fisheries, due to historic barriers to entry and limited quota expansion in recent years.

In division 0B, Nunavut holds only 40 per cent of the turbot allocation. Since 2004, Nunavut's share of its adjacent northern and striped shrimp stocks has only increased from 31 per cent to 37 per cent. When taking division 0A into account, Nunavut's share of adjacent stocks remains far below levels enjoyed on Canada's East Coast, where fisheries resources held by interests in adjacent jurisdictions are roughly 88 per cent of total resources. Without action by Canada and license transfers to Inuit, Nunavut will remain underrepresented. This is why Inuit and the Government of Nunavut are united in seeking action from the Government of Canada.



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CONCLUSION

Qikiqtani Inuit live at the heart of Canada's north coast, in a region that spans nearly one million square kilometers of Arctic islands and ocean from Qikiqtaik to Sarvarjuaq. Investments in Inuit governance, stewardship, infrastructure, and fisheries are essential to achieving a blue economy that sustains healthy oceans and communities for the benefit of Inuit and all Canadians.

From coast-to-coast-to-coast, equity, ecology, and economy succeed together. Inuit have always known this to be true, and this principle continues to inform our equitable approach to oceans protection and the blue economy. Inuit are ready to work in partnership with the Government of Canada to achieve Canada's oceans protection targets, advance reconciliation, and build a blue economy that Inuit and all Canadians have reason to celebrate.

Qikiqtani Inuit and Canada have an opportunity to continue collaborating on 21st century marine conservation that underpins a new blue economy. Seizing this opportunity is not only vital to Qikiqtani Inuit, but also to Canada's national conservation efforts, its reconciliation efforts, as well as its efforts to transform its economy to meet the challenges of the 21st century. It is also a vital opportunity for Inuit and Canada to demonstrate global leadership on issues that require active inspiration around the world.





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