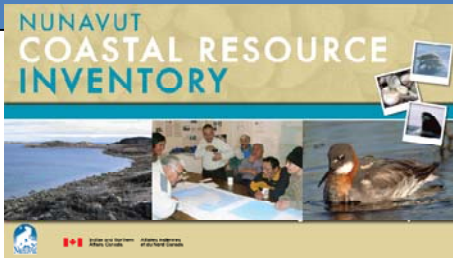
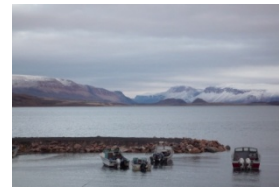
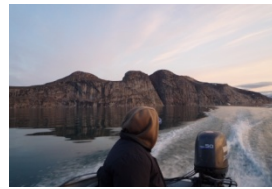


- *Eastern Arctic profile*
- *Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory (NCRI)*

## Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory



*The Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment has been conducting coastal inventories since 2007*



## Eastern Arctic profile #2 – December 2010

## Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory project

## Summary

Coastal resource inventories have been conducted in many jurisdictions throughout Canada, notably along our Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

The term “coastal inventory” refers to the collection of information on coastal resources and activities, gained from community interviews, research, reports, maps, etc., which can be spatially mapped, to assist in management, development and conservation of coastal areas.



## Collection of information on coastal resources and activities

Inventories are used as a means of gathering reliable information on coastal resources so as to permit their strategic assessment leading to the promotion of economic development opportunities, coastal management and conservation.

Due to a shortage of information on Nunavut's coastal and marine resources, the principle sources of information for these coastal inventories are interviews with community members; including elders, active hunters, and women.

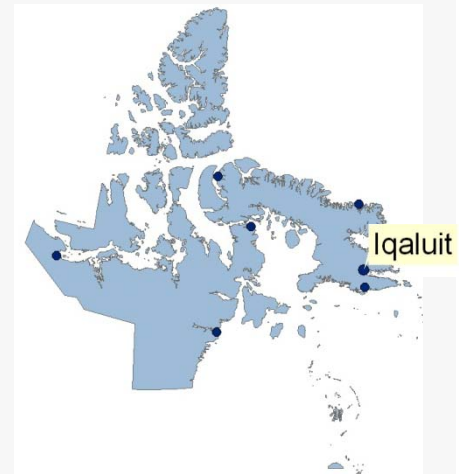


## Community interview session in Iqululik

A semi-structured survey document is used to collect information on coastal landscapes and plant and animal resources on beaches, on and around islands, above and below the surface of the ocean, above and below the sea ice, and on the ocean bottom. Other sources of information for the inventory include existing reports, maps, and visual surveys of the coastline and community.

This project is an important opportunity for Inuit knowledge to be recognized and included in marine science, planning and management.

## Location



*Based out of Iqaluit, Nunavut, the project team travels to the participating communities as many as 3 times in order to plan, process and deliver back an inventory to the community. Inventories have been completed for Iglulik, Kugluktuk, Arctic Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut and Qikiqtarjuaq*

## Collaborations

The project has a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory panel and is made up of Territorial and Federal government departments, Inuit organizations and the NCRI project team. Every effort is also made to discuss the project, on an ongoing basis, with other researchers within and outside the territory.

The project has been supported by many people and organizations; including, the hamlets and HTO's of Kugluktuk, Chester, Arctic Bay, Kimmirut and Iglulik, regional Inuit associations, local hunters, interpreters and students, Government of Nunavut, Environment Canada, Dalhousie University, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Inuit Heritage Trust, Jim Richards (Arctic Bird Specialist), local companies, NOAA/NMFS Auke Bay Laboratory, Nunavut Research Institute, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and Parks Canada.

## Question session

We ask each of our respondents to answer the same 3 questions to help identify knowledge opportunities and gaps and potential or existing collaborations with ArcticNet.

### *1) What types and sources of scientific data does your program use to inform policy/decision making?*

The type of data we collect is community based individual recollections of the places and species seen in areas of familiarity. The types of scientific data we use are primarily support data. Interviews produce information that does not often address the 'causality' aspect of species interactions or environmental changes. We use science to explain, verify and highlight information given to us in interviews. For example; we may explain how telemetry works, climate change, population dynamics, how noise affects marine mammals, or even get into the anatomy of an animal.

On another level we also use existing scientific data and reports to guide and verify the data we have collected. For example, looking at existing maps of Walrus populations and comparing the data from our surveys. A coastal inventory is really a ground level project, where the data can be pulled into everything from a tracking study, to work on marine protected areas, to harvest studies and even environmental impact assessments.

### *2) How does your organization link with knowledge produced by ArcticNet science and/or others?*

So far, we haven't made the time, but the potential is there. Our project is limited by staff, time and funds; leaving us with an uncertain future as far as completing more coastal inventories. Collecting the data itself is an intensive process and is time sensitive. Opportunities to partner or link with ArcticNet scientists should definitely be looked at. The knowledge base within ArcticNet is immense, and very relevant to our work.

### *3) Can you identify knowledge gaps from your organization's perspective?*

Knowledge gaps exist in the data we review before going to a community; for example, harvest data, old species maps, test fisheries. This information helps us define the scope of the inventory, as well as gives us a baseline for what old information can be updated and what new information can be discovered. Mainly this data is difficult to find or doesn't exist. As examples, we may be limited by the journals accessible to us, old reports never catalogued, infrequent linkages with academics, or the data simply has not been gathered yet by anyone. Knowledge gaps also exist in the data we collect. After every review of our project we realize that we could have clarified or expanded on the information given, there were more questions we could have asked or asked better, more topics that would be relevant, and more species that should be included.

Going forward there will be data gaps for all the areas that community members do not travel in; such areas can be seen in the inventory maps and so scientists could use that information to decide where data needs to be collected.

## NCRI Contact information

**Janelle Kennedy**  
Science Advisor  
Department of Environment  
Fisheries and Sealing Division  
Tel: 867.975.7706  
Email: [jkennedy1@gov.nu.ca](mailto:jkennedy1@gov.nu.ca)

Visit our website at:  
<http://env.gov.nu.ca/node/68>

The IRIS-2 team would like to thank Janelle Kennedy who offered her time and insight to this "Eastern Arctic newsletter profile" series.

## ArcticNet IRIS-2 contact

**Philippe LeBlanc**  
ArcticNet IRIS Coordinator  
Eastern Arctic Region  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
[pleblanc@mun.ca](mailto:pleblanc@mun.ca)

Visit our website at:  
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## Upcoming Newsletter

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