

**People of the ice bridge:  
The future of the Pikialasorsuaq  
National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected  
Area Standards, Iqaluit, Nunavut**

**June 9, 2018**

**FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS  
FROM THE PIKIALASORSUAQ COMMISSION**



Map of Pikialasorsuaq between Nunavut, Canada and Greenland

# CONTEXT: INTERNATIONAL

- Growing momentum in ocean protection by applying conservation measures to designated marine areas
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Target 11: >10% of marine and coastal areas to be conserved
- The Arctic Council's working group Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment has created toolboxes to help Arctic countries and regions develop Marine Protected Areas.
- Many organizations supporting and promoting marine protection of key areas in Circumpolar Arctic (WWF, IUCN)

# CONTEXT: CANADA

- Federal commitment to Aichi Target
- Mechanisms under different federal departments, e.g.:
  - Marine Protected Areas (DFO)
  - National Wildlife Areas (ECCC)
  - National Marine Conservation Area (Parks Canada)
- 2017 proposal by Mary Simon—create Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA)

# PIKIALASORSUAQ COMMISSION

- Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) initiated the Inuit-led Pikialasorsuaq Commission



Commissioners Kuupik Kleist,  
Okalik Egeesiak, Eva Aariak

# PIKIALASORSUAQ COMMISSION

- Commission was mandated to:
  - Conduct consultations in communities in Canada and Greenland closely connected to Pikialasorsuaq
  - Communicate how Inuit communities envision the future of this marine region



Commission arriving in Qaanaaq, Greenland

# PIKIALASORSUAQ COMMISSION

- **Meetings in Canada:** Ajuittuq (Grise Fiord), Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay), Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay), Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet) & Kangiqtugaapik (Clyde River)
- **Meetings in Greenland:** Siorapaluk, Qaanaaq, Savissivik, Kullorsuaq, Nuussuaq & Upernavik



Meeting in Savissivik, Greenland

Expert meeting in Savissivik, Greenland



Photo credit: Kuupik Kleist



Ham Ikkarrialuk Kadloo, Mittimatalik



Rhoda Koonoo, Ikpiarjuk

Photo credit: Vincent Desrosiers

Photo credit: Vincent Desrosiers



# WHAT THE COMMISSION HEARD

- Interdependence and intimate relationship with the land & specifically with the polynya

*[Going out on the land] depends on the weather and the conditions of the ice. And, a lot of that will be dictated by the condition of the polynya.*

–Marty Kulluguktuq, Ajuittuq (Grise Fiord)

*Pikialasorsuaq as the provider has been known since time immemorial.*

–Mads Ole Kristiansen, Qaanaaq



# WHAT THE COMMISSION HEARD

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- Impacts on travel across ice bridge



# WHAT THE COMMISSION HEARD

## FOOD SECURITY

- Importance for food security and physical and mental well-being



# WHAT THE COMMISSION HEARD

## DEVELOPMENT: SHIPPING, FISHERIES, TOURISM, MINING

- Understanding of economic benefits of exploration and mining, but also concern about environmental damage
- Concern around the greater number of ships and negative effects on wildlife
- Caution around increased tourism & awareness of potential benefits



Vessel Adolf Jensen, chartered for consultations, anchored in Kullorsuaq

# WHAT THE COMMISSION HEARD

*The desire is not to prohibit tourists from coming, but rather to make sure they do not have a negative impact upon wildlife in the polynya.*

–Marty Kulluguktuq, Ajuittuq (Grise Fiord)



Clipper Adventurer tourist ship

# WHAT THE COMMISSION HEARD

## MILITARY ACTIVITIES

- History of military activities in area; potential contamination from rocket debris and unspent fuel requires attention



Thick-billed murre near Bylot Island, Nunavut

# RECOMMENDATION #1: INUIT-LED MANAGEMENT REGIME

Establishment of a management regime with an Inuit Management Authority (IMA):

- IMA membership from communities near Pikialasorsuaq
- Would oversee monitoring, research, & promote protection of living resources & related community wellbeing



# RECOMMENDATION #2: ESTABLISHMENT OF MANAGEMENT ZONE

Identification of a protected area:

- Comprised of the polynya plus a larger management zone
- Area to be identified in consultation with communities near Pikialasorsuaq



Photo credit: Byarne Lyberth

Qaernгааq Nielsen at meeting in Savissivik



# RECOMMENDATION #2: ESTABLISHMENT OF MANAGEMENT ZONE

## MECHANISMS

- International law instruments:
  - Current state rights under UN Convention on Law of the Sea
  - Adoption of Particularly Sensitive Sea Area designation (International Maritime Organization)
- Bilateral agreements (e.g. Joint Development Agreement) and regional initiatives
- Domestic legal instruments
- Indigenous Protected Areas

# RECOMMENDATION #3: ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE TRAVEL ZONE

- Establishment of a free travel zone for Inuit across Pikialasorsuaq region



# UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- Supports the Commission's recommendations
- Canada & Denmark are signatories and have responsibilities to uphold these rights

*Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen distinctive spiritual relationship with traditionally owned and used lands, waters, coastal seas & to uphold responsibilities to future generations in this regard*

Photo credit: Bjarne Lyberth

# MOVING FORWARD

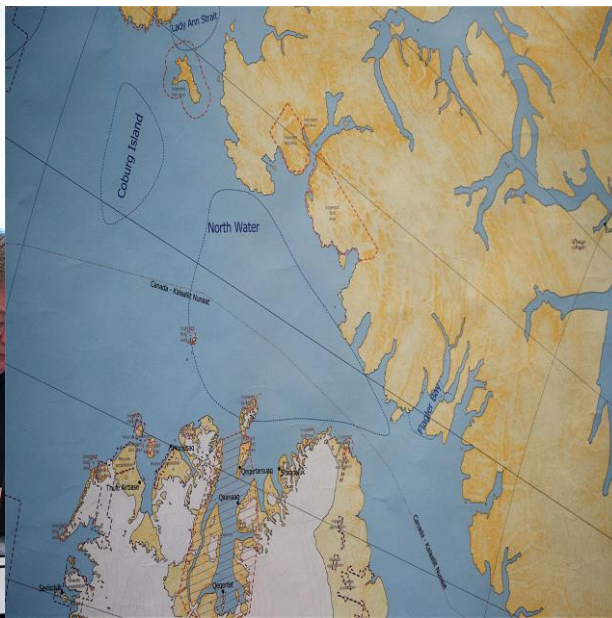
- Initiating the development of an agreement between Canada and Greenland through appropriate local and regional bodies and organizations
- Formalizing an IMA and its terms of reference
- Creating a management plan including an Inuit-led monitoring program



# THE PIKIALASORSUAQ Nuuk Outcomes

A Strong Message: The Pikialasorsuaq Commission is about Inuit first, protecting our way of life, our food security, our Nunaat. By respecting these needs the Pikialasorsuaq will be protected.

The Polynya is indivisible by two countries – any initiatives with respect to the Pikialasorsuaq must be coordinated between Canada and Greenland



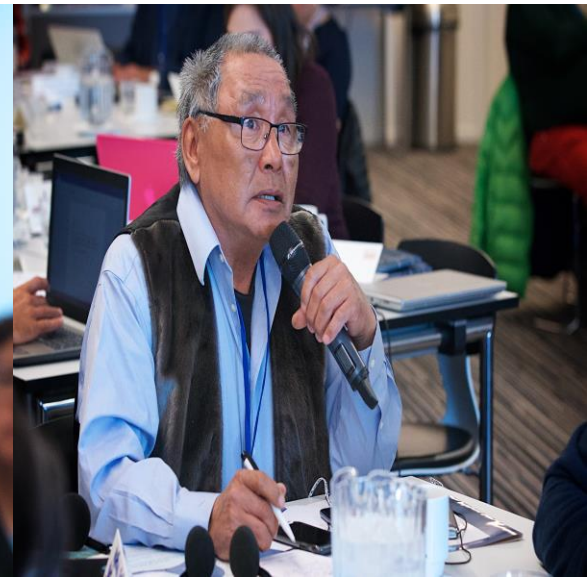
# THE PIKIALASORSUAQ Nuuk Outcomes

## Three Breakout Groups:

**Inuit management Authority:** Workshop developed a Conceptual Governance Structure – It can be done!

**Inuit Monitoring Regime:** Government and academic research community onboard – community monitoring HUBS, Guardians, building on existing projects (Inuit marine Monitors)

**Mobility:** GoC is looking at Instruments



# THE PIKIALASORSUAQ Nuuk Workshop



Photo credit: Vibeke Desrosiers

# QUJANNAMIK, QUJANAQ, AINGAI

Community members in Ajuittuq (Grise Fiord), Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay), Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay), Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet) & Kangiqtugaapik (Clyde River), Siorapaluk, Qaanaaq, Savissivik, Kullorsuaq, Nuussuaq & Upernavik



Photo credit: Vincent Desrosiers



Photo credit: Bjarne Lyberth



