

**Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment:  
Marine Protected Areas Workshop**

Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

March 19-21, 2019

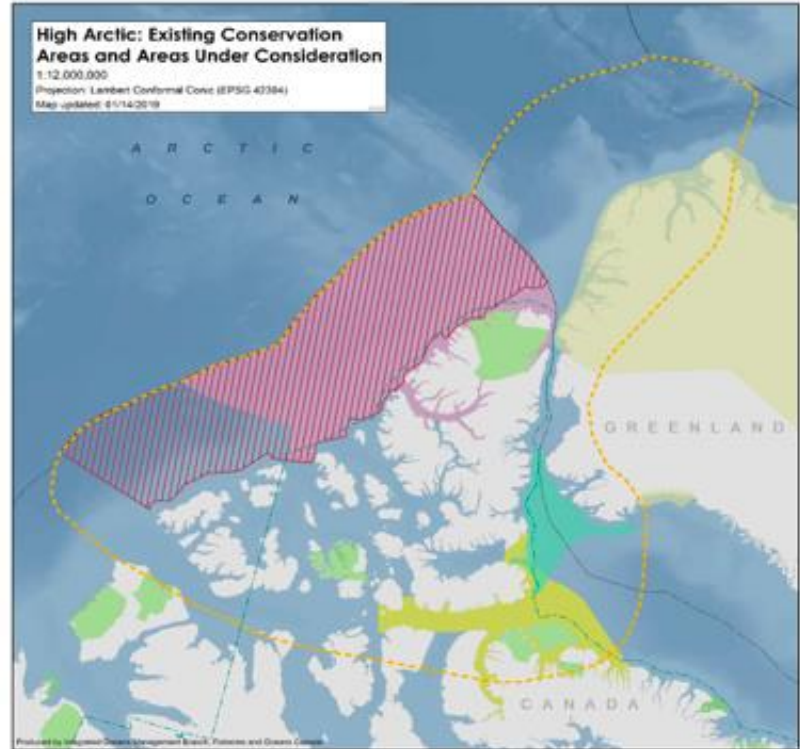
Stephanie Meakin, ICC Canada

---

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

# HIGH ARCTIC CONTEXT

- Talluritiup Imanga NMCA  
Inuit Impact and Benefit  
Negotiations
- Link to High Arctic Basin  
protection measure  
proposal
- Pikialasorsuaq - Inuit led  
management and  
monitoring
- Other federal protected  
areas
- Draft Nunavut Land Use  
Plan (not shown on map)



# PIKIALASORSUAQ: POLNYA AND REGION

- Abundance of marine life in polynya significant to biological, economic, social and cultural health of its people
- Inuit communities are expressing concerns about food security and environmental integrity in the face of climate change
- Likely to increase: shipping, tourism, development (causing concerns)
- Opportunity for unprecedented initiative - Kingdom of Denmark, Government of Canada, Nunavut Government, Government of Greenland and Inuit leaders working together on a management plan based on centuries of Inuit knowledge and environmentally sustainable practices.
- Inuit-led protection and conservation efforts will protect this unique marine environment for the communities that depend upon its resources and for the globally important ecosystem the polynya and region provide.

# 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

Photo credit: Christopher Debicki

# Pikialasorsuaq Implementation Committee (PIC)

The PIC was officially formed in December of 2018 after the Pikialasorsuaq Commission convened consultative meetings with Inuit communities of Canada and Greenland and delivered its report.

The PIC is charged with overseeing and implementing the following 3 recommendations:

# RECOMMENDATION # 1

- A management regime, Inuit Management Authority (IMA), led by Inuit representatives from communities in Pikialasorsuaq region
  
- This management authority could:
  - Oversee monitoring and research
  - Promote the conservation of living resources
  - Elevate the wellbeing of Inuit communities that depend on these resources

## INUIT-LED MONITORING

This was very strongly supported by consultations. Engagement and collaboration between Nunavut and Greenlandic regions near the Pikialasorsuaq, and between Inuit knowledge holders and the academic community, is critical to the success of managing this region for the future.



## ESTABLISHMENT OF INUIT-LED MANAGEMENT REGIME

- What do we want to manage in the Pikialasorsuaq?
- What are the community priorities in Canada and Greenland for the Pikialasorsuaq?
- What issues do we want a say in regarding the future use of the Pikialasorsuaq?
- What is already in place to build upon in the Pikialasorsuaq and in Inuit Nunangat?

We will consider all tools available, to achieve an Inuit-led management regime, recognizing there are many available, each with benefits and consequences.

We hope to create a regime that best suits the needs of the communities and the future of the Pikialasorsuaq.



## RECOMMENDATION # 2

Identify a protected area that encompasses the polynya and a larger management zone that reflects the connection between Inuit communities and the natural resources they rely on.



Map of Pikialasorsuaq between Nunavut, Canada and Greenland

# RECOMMENDATION # 3

Establish a travel-free zone for Inuit across the Pikialasorsuaq region

# ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE TRAVEL ZONE

- Global Affairs Canada (GAC) is leading discussions for a travel-free zone
- Joint Declaration of the Canada-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) meeting “agreed to explore how to facilitate the mobility of Indigenous Inuit across the Canada-Greenland border to enhance economic, social and cultural opportunities for isolated northern Indigenous peoples in the Arctic, which would reflect a renewed relationship with Indigenous peoples based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.”
- GAC has hired a consultant conducting an assessment of possible short-term and longer-term options for more flexible border requirements
- GAC is leading a whole of Government Process on Indigenous Mobility, with this objective embedded

# UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

*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*

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

Qullissat, Greenland. Kuupik Kleist's birthplace.

Photo credit: Bjarne Lyberth

## POSSIBLE MECHANISMS

**International law instruments:**

**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 (MPA, NMCA)**

**Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA)**

**IUCN Other Effective Conservation Mechanism (OECM)**

## A Priority for the Government of Canada

- **Global Affairs Canada** has been mandated to explore how to facilitate the mobility of Inuit across the Canada-Greenland border
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada** has direction to advance negotiations with the Government of Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on agreement to developing a framework for implementation of the management and conservation objectives of the Commission
  - **A lead negotiator has been appointed**

NEXT STEPS...





## Next Steps

- Identifying data and knowledge gaps: creating a baseline
- Understanding the threats and potential impacts from human activities
- Assessing the economic interests and potential for the area
- Defining management and monitoring objectives
- Defining the structure, roles and functions of the potential joint Canada-Greenland Inuit led Management Authority
  - Role for communities and regional organizations
  - Role for Nunavut regional and land claim agreement bodies
  - Role of existing bilateral multilateral bodies: Polar Bears; Bowhead Whales
- Defining the boundary of the Pikialasorsuaq management area

# MOVING FORWARD

The Pikialasorsuaq Implementation Committee will be inclusive to all views and perspectives.

*“Joint Leaders Statement”* that will launch engagement and negotiations to define an implementation framework for the Pikialasorsuaq Commission recommendations

And specifically:

- Work with Canada and Greenland through appropriate local and regional bodies and organizations
- Create a management plan including an Inuit-led monitoring program
- Continue to work with Global Affairs Canada on easing mobility issues for Inuit across the Pikialasorsuaq



# MORE INFORMATION

## Trilingual report



## Website

[www.pikialasorsuaq.org](http://www.pikialasorsuaq.org)

