



An Inuit Perspective on the Future of Arctic Fisheries

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Inuit Circumpolar Council

INUIT: Who we are



Inuit Circumpolar Council

Inuit are Part of the Arctic Ecosystem



Inuit are a marine people and rely on fish, marine mammals, and other country food

- Inuit culture and identity
- Will continue despite climate change, likely with increased emphasis on fish, whales, and species accessible by boat.

Changes to Arctic Ecosystem Affect Inuit



- Weather patterns
- Melting permafrost
- New species moving north
- Receding ice conditions
- Bigger storms causing erosion
- Increased levels of contaminants and mercury, & acidification of arctic waters

Disputed Territory

Disputed Territory

- ▶ Who owns the Arctic?
- ▶ How can we resolve the disputes we may have among us regarding the Arctic Ocean?



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Action Point 1: Inuit Must be Involved

- Respect and build upon the successful management processes with the land claims agreements
- Inuit have been stewards of our Arctic homeland for centuries. It is right that we be meaningfully involved in managing it into the future.
- Internationally recognized International agreements on Marine Management

Steps for Arctic States



- Recognition that marine resources are a common resource;
- Commitment to develop a coordinated approach to better understand the arctic ecosystems
- Utilize present resources and structures such as the Arctic Council and its Working Groups, PAME/AMAP
- Sustainability and subsistence use are priorities

Action Point 2: Precautionary Approach

- Arctic ecosystems are fragile and already under extreme stress
- Fishing must begin very slowly in order to observe effects on the ecosystem and ensure sustainability





Action Point 3: Opportunity to Prepare Regulatory Framework

Now is a brief window of opportunity to prepare effective regulations before activity increases

- Exploratory and commercial fisheries
- Oil and gas exploration
- Mineral exploration
- Shipping

Sustainable Livelihoods



QUYANAINNI!
