Inuit Qaujimajatuganqit in Decision Making and Inuit Led Research

Pond Inlet Monitor September, 2017

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QIKIQTANI INUIT ASSOCIATION

Pond Inlet Pilot Community Based Monitoring

- This project emerged from community concerns over seismic testing and increased ship traffic in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.

- Community members identified the need for some level of wildlife or environmental monitoring to be able to track and respond to changes.

- Qikiqtani Inuit Association responded to these concerns and supported community members in launching a pilot Community Based Monitoring Project in Pond Inlet.

Photo Courtesy Nunatsiaq News

Driven by Inuit in Communities

Winter 2015:

- The need for monitoring was voiced during a QIA community tour to listen to concerns over a proposed seismic testing project.

May 2015:

- At a community workshop the idea of Community Based Monitoring was pitched and participants helped to develop a harvester survey.

March 2016:

- Project is developed by QIA and presented to the Pond Inlet CLARC, HTO, and Hamlet. Funding options are explored and support for the project is given.

March 2017:

- Funding is secured and additional consultation with community is held to explain project.
- Community support for the project is given.
- The HTO becomes an active partner appointing monitors for consideration.

Monitors at the HTO Cabin May, 2017

What is Community Based Monitoring ?

- It is a form of baseline research that is led by Inuit in the community and available for their use.

- Environmental/wildlife monitoring driven by community members gathering local information for the benefit of the community. The "study area" is home.

- The information gathered is used to strengthen decision making, create public awareness on issues, and be used to influence policy or regulations

- The CBM will only be successful if people believe in it and have ownership of it.

Pond Inlet September, 2017

Inuit Led Research

The Harvester Survey is central to the CBM:

- It is meant to track when and where animals are being harvested.

- General observations on the health of the animal are noted too.

- Over time the baseline data being collected will help identify areas of wildlife concentration, the distribution of various species, track invasive species, and given enough time, trend analysis.

Delivery of the Community Based Monitoring Program

Field Training May, 2017

In Town Exercise May, 2017

Seal Harvest September, 2017

How IQ is used in Decision Making

IQ Collection is holistic approach:

- IQ map on Lancaster Sound is a great example of how IQ gathered and analyzed by Inuit is being used to fight for Inuit rights.

- The Relative Importance Map and associated IQ report was instrumental in advocating for a much larger boundary as supported by communities.

- It shows Inuit land use from multiple sources.

QIA Relative Importance Map
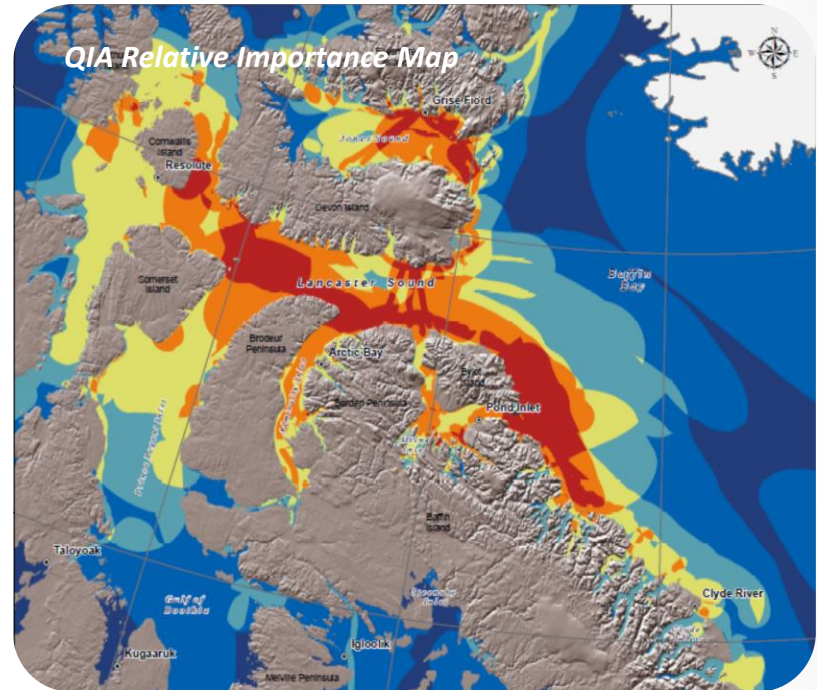
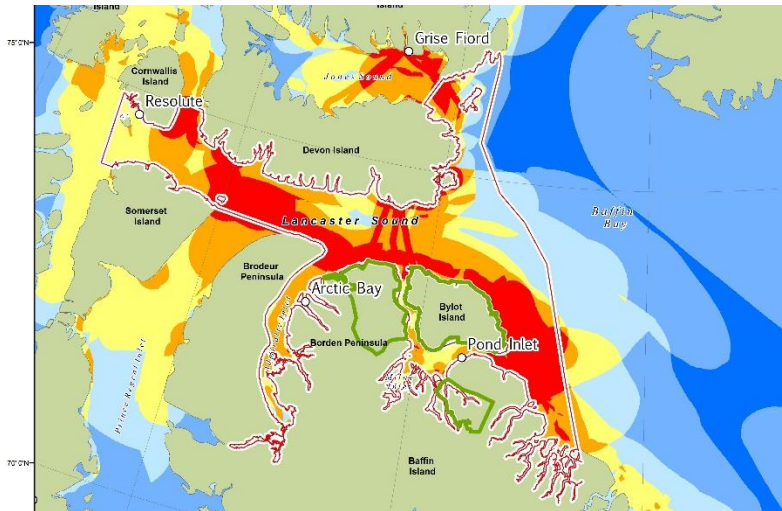# Collecting Inuit Qaujimajatuganqit (IQ)

- Traditional knowledge collected on migration routes, areas of concentration, denning areas, campsites, calving areas, floe edge, currents, seals, walrus, polar bears, narwhal, beluga, bowhead.
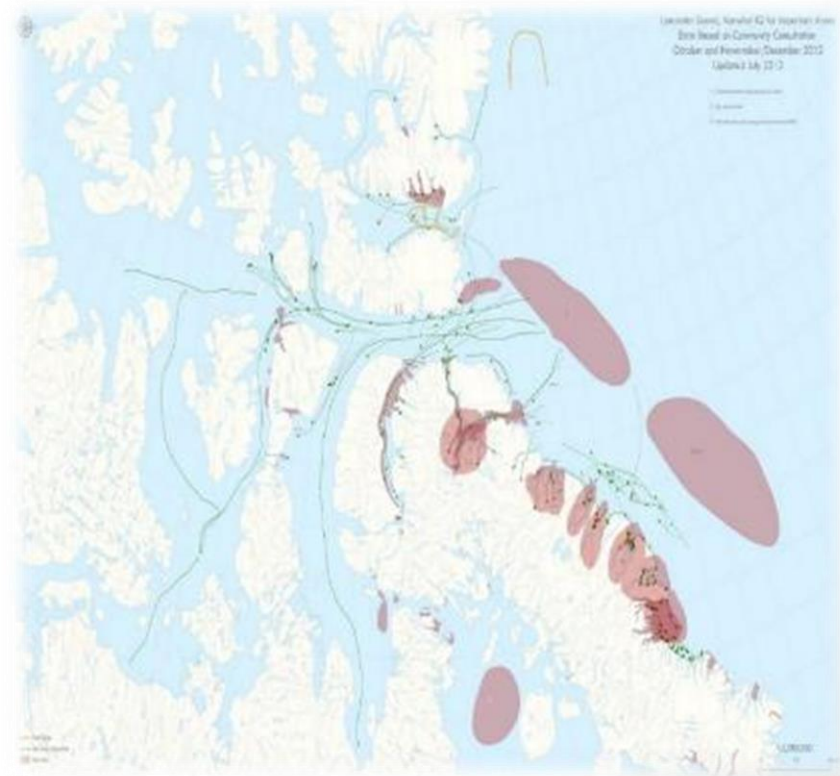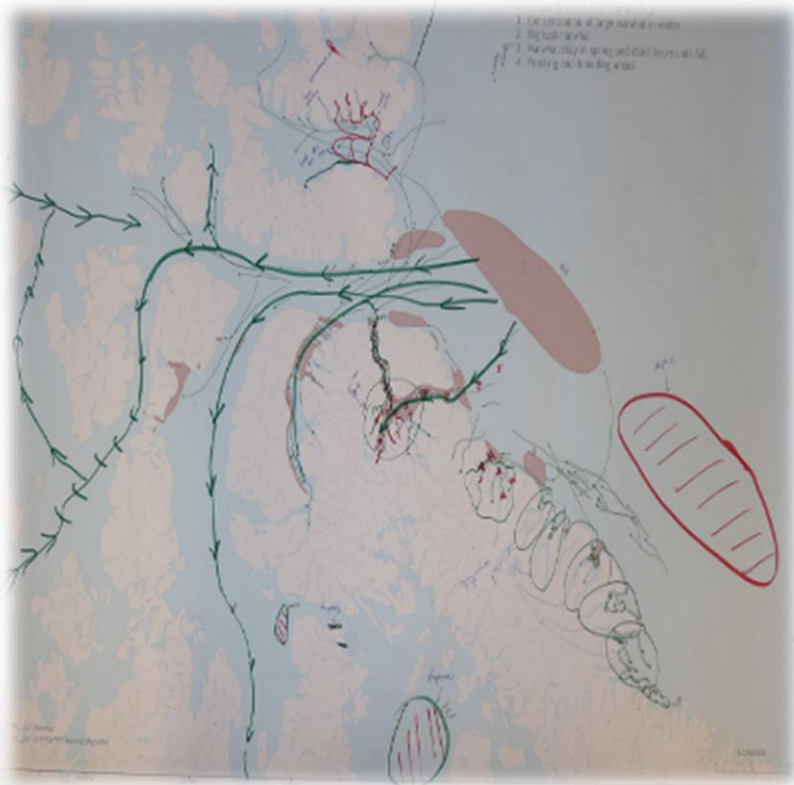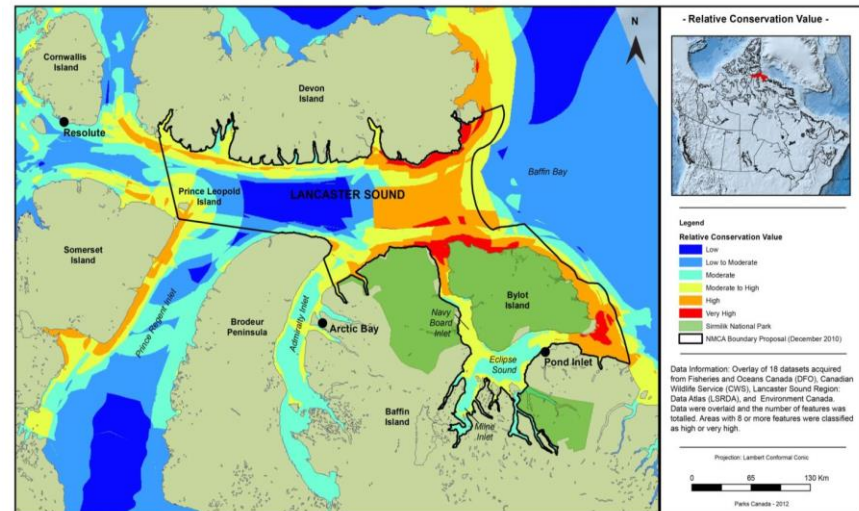
IQ and Scientific Knowledge

Areas of importance based on IQ collected in communities

Areas of importance based on scientific knowledge

- Traditional Knowledge and Scientific Knowledge are both used to identify areas of importance, one based on Inuit use and culture and the other on ecological importance.
- They are given the same weight and used together to make decisions despite being collected in very different ways.
- Monitoring frameworks need to view science and IQ as complementary forms of knowledge (not competing).

How can the results be used ?

- Inuit led research provides relevant information on environmental and cultural baseline conditions based on harvesting data survey.

- The results can help identify potential environmental impacts or changes.

- Knowledge of sensitive or important areas to Inuit can help strengthen mitigation measures

- Inuit Led Research and IQ can be used to improve project design in EA or recommendations in a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
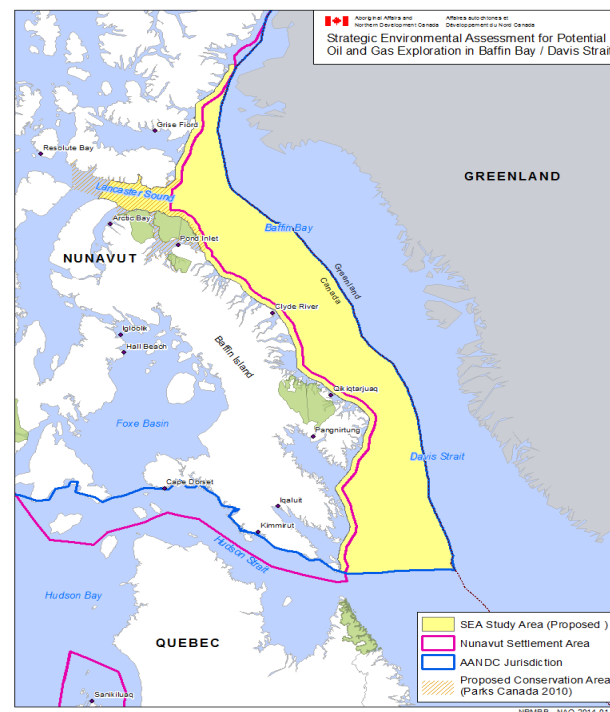
Value of Inuit Led Research and Monitoring

- Community based monitoring plans are not only biophysical in nature, there is a more holistic approach to monitoring as opposed to monitoring each component separately.

- QIA's Community based monitoring plan focuses on harvesting and access to harvesting areas.

- Provides a better understanding of food security and how changes in access to harvesting areas affect the social and cultural well being of a community.

- The process of researching, collecting baseline data and monitoring build a long term relationship between the community and organization/ proponent.

- Increases community support in the process if IQ is used in decision making

Funding Partners

Sources of funding:

- Nunavut General Monitoring Program and Oceans North are primary funders and QIA contributed internal funds

- Pilot success can lead to more funding opportunities and expansion into other affected communities.

"Braiding Seal Intestines"

"Stalking Seal"

"The ocean is like a forest to us and we feed on the animals in the ocean"