

The Irniurviit Area Co-Management Committee visited Qaqsauqtuuq East Bay and Ikkattuaq Harry Gibbons Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs) on 12-15 August 2017. We spent two days in each sanctuary.

Thirteen people participated over four days. We traveled to the sanctuaries by helicopter from Coral Harbour and returned each evening. The committee explored the sanctuaries from the helicopter and stopped at important sites.

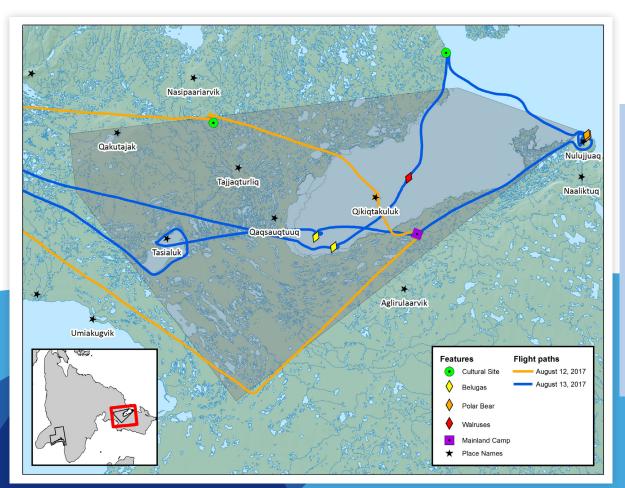
Qaqsauqtuuq East Bay MBS

August 12th

The tour started along the western and southern boundaries of the sanctuary. The western part of the sanctuary has many lakes and wetlands (photo 1). We spent a few hours at ECCC's Mainland research camp (photos 2-4). Later, we flew above ECCC's Island research camp (photo 5), and then went to a cultural site at the northern boundary of the sanctuary. We walked around the site to view and record tent rings and food caches (photo 6).

August 13th

The committee travelled to Tasialuk Lake - the largest lake in the sanctuary. The committe had identified it as an area that was overgrazed by Snow geese (photos 7-8). Hundreds of belugas were observed along the shallow southwest portion of East Bay (photo 9). Next, we went to Nulujjuaq at

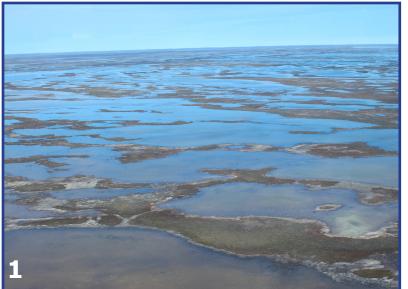


Wildlife **Observations**

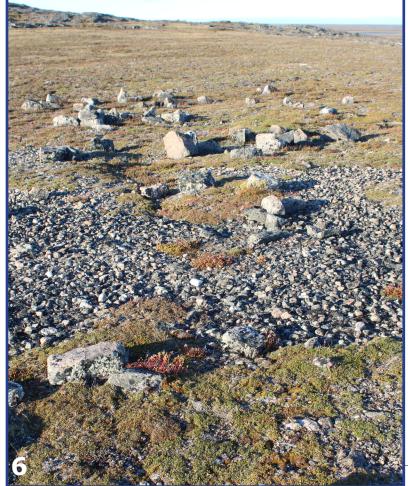
Polar bear: 6

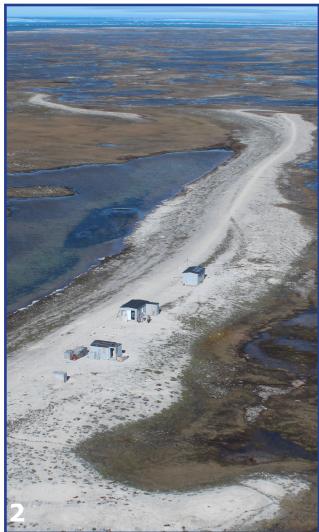
Beluga: ~300 Bowhead whale: 2

Walrus: 60 Caribou: ~10 Snow geese Cackling geese Red-throated loons Herring gulls











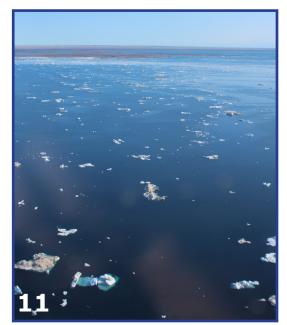
















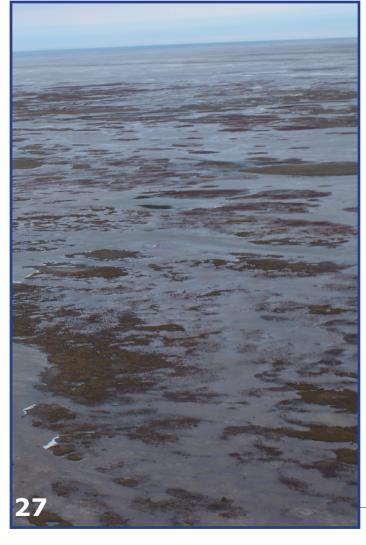














M'Clure Point, before crossing East Bay along the eastern boundary of the sanctuary (photos 10-11). There, we saw a cultural site near the northeast corner of the sanctuary (photos 12-13). The site had many tent rings and food caches.

Ikkattuaq Harry Gibbons MBS

August 14

We committee began the tour at Itijuarjuk at Manico Point along the southeastern coastline of the sanctuary (photos 14-15). From there, we watched an impressive lightning storm. We flew north along the coastline (photos 16-18) to Unhealing Brook and followed it inland to the HTO cabin (photo 19). After lunch, we traveled up the Boas River to the northeastern corner of the sanctuary. From there, we followed the northern boundary to the northwestern corner (photo 20) then flew

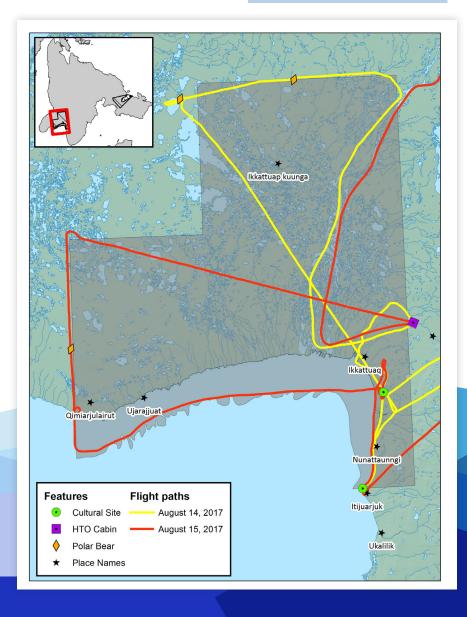
southeast across the sanctuary to a fuel cache. We spent an hour near the southeastern coastline walking around a significant cultural site containing several shelters, food caches, and a kayak rack (photos 21-22).

August 15

We flew directly to Itijuarjuk at Manico Point and continued north along the coastline. We viewed the extensive tidal flats along the way, and then went inland to return to the cultural site. After, we flew across the Bay of God's Mercy along the low tide line that is the boundary of the sanctuary (photo 23). Once we reached the southwest corner of the sanctuary we turned north inland (photo 24). At the next boundary corner (photo 25), we flew southeast across the sanctuary to the HTO cabin at Unhealing Brook for lunch (photo 26). Finally we flew along the Boas River to the northeastern corner of the sanctuary (photos 27-28).

Wildlife Observations

Polar bear: 6 Caribou: 12 Snow Geese Cackling geese Migrating shorebirds



Participants

- Noah Kadlak, ACMC Chair, Days 1-4
- JF Dufour, ACMC Vice-Chair, Days 1-4
- Ronnie Ningeongan, CLO, Kivallig Inuit Association, Days 1-3
- Lucassie Nakoolak, Community Elder, Day 1
- Jimmy Ningeocheak, Community Resident, Day 1
- Dino Bruce, Local Outfitter, Day 2
- Johnny Kataluk, Community Elder, Day 2
- Peter Nakoolak, Community Elder, Day 3
- Mark Paniyuk, Community Elder, Day 3
- Paloosie Nakoolak, Community Elder, Day 4
- Natalie Carter, Lead IQ Researcher, Days 1-2 & 4
- Bobby Saviakjuk, Community IQ Research Assistant, Days 1 & 4
- Lenny Emiktowt, Community IQ Research Assistant, Day 2

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Custom Helicopters for providing aerial support for the site visit. A very special thanks to our pilot, Robert Hardgrave, who ensured everyone returned home safely at the end of each day.

