

Asungasunga Area Co-management Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 22 & 24, 2018

Nattinak Visitors Center, Pond Inlet



Day 1 – May 22, 2018

Attendees:

Karla Abbott – Vice-chair
Paniloo Sangoya - Member
Elijah Panikpakoochoo - Member
Jimmy Pitseolak – Member (PM only)
Titus Arnakallak – Interpreter

Meeting started at 9:20 AM

Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Paniloo.

Review of Agenda

Members reviewed and approved the meeting agenda.

Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Karla read out the meeting minutes from the last ACMC meeting in February 2018. Members present approved the minutes.

Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area: Implications and options for the Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Karla gave a presentation on the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) process to date and what implications the boundary of the NMCA may have on Bylot Island MBS and the Asungasunga ACMC. Parks Canada, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Government of Nunavut are in Pond Inlet this week and invited the Asungasunga ACMC to the community consultation meeting on May 23 regarding the interim management plan for the NMCA. Three existing protected areas co-managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada and ACMCs, including the Bylot Island MBS, are within the proposed boundary of the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The ACMC reviewed four boundary options proposed for the NMCA with respect to the boundary of the Bylot Island MBS, including:

1. No change – The Bylot Island MBS is excluded from the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA;
2. Complete overlap – The Bylot Island MBS is also protected by the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA;
3. Reduce the size of the MBS – The Bylot Island MBS is reduced in size and only protects the land portion that includes the Inuit Owned Lands (remaining land area protected by Sirmilik National Park only and marine portion protected by Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA only); and
4. De-listed – The Bylot Island MBS is delisted as a MBS and both the lands and marine portions of Bylot Island are protected by the Sirmilik National Park and Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA (would involve trading the parcels of Inuit Owned Lands for other parcels of land in the Qikiqtani region).

The ACMC members present discussed the pros and cons of each option (see pros/cons comparison table in meeting binder). The ACMC will have to make a decision on which option they support. This decision does not have to be made until the next ACMC meeting in early fall 2018. Informed by the ACMCs' recommendations, ECCC will provide the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Planning Committee with its decision regarding the boundary of the NMCA.

After discussing the options, the ACMC decided it is against option 4, as this would mean that the Asungasungaat ACMC would be abolished. At this time, the ACMC is recommending that ECCC recommend option 2 to the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Planning Committee. The Asungasungaat ACMC feels that the different overlapping legislation will allow more protection and possibly more flexibility, while still allowing the ACMC to maintain its jurisdiction. For example, the Asungasungaat ACMC will still have the opportunity to review permit applications for cruise ships, but will be able to rely on both the NMCA and MBS legislation to help enforce their recommendations. The ACMC also liked the idea of having zoning in the marine portion of the MBS. In addition, the ACMC thinks that the overlapping areas will force the various organizations involved to work more closely together when managing the area. The ACMC has been recommending this for a while and feels that engaging multiple organizations will provide more knowledge and different perspectives when making decisions.

This agenda item was revisited on May 24th when additional ACMC members were present. The ACMC maintained their above recommendation of option 2. This will be confirmed at the ACMC's fall 2018 meeting.

Review of 2018 permit applications for activities in Bylot Island MBS

The ACMC reviewed six permit applications for cruise vessels and one application for a yacht, including:

- Adventure Canada – M/V Ocean Endeavour
- Students on Ice – M/V Ocean Endeavour
- One Ocean Expeditions – M/V Akademik Ioffe
- One Ocean Expeditions – M/V Akademik Sergey Vavilov
- Silversea Cruises – MS Silver Cloud
- Lindblad Expeditions – MS National Geographic Explorer
- Complete Expeditions – MY Ice Angel

The ACMC approved the six cruise ship applications with the following recommendations:

- That the permittee adhere to the marine setback recommendations submitted to the Nunavut Land Use Plan by Environment and Climate Change Canada;
- That the permittee adhere to the CWS guidelines for viewing seabird colonies and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans guidelines for viewing marine mammals, and that ship noise is kept to a minimum;
- That the permittee be respectful of any hunters or scientists in the areas and maintain a safe distance from any of these boats;
- That the permittee avoid travelling through Eclipse Sound and Navy Board Inlet;
- That the permittee obtain a copy of World Wildlife Fund Canada's Eastern Arctic Mariner's Guide and that they follow the guide's recommendations, especially with respect to the Tourism Exclusion Zone in Milne Inlet;
- That an Inuit guide from Pond Inlet accompany the passengers while visiting Bylot Island MBS;
- That no artifacts of specimens are removed from the Bylot Island MBS;
- That the permittee notify wildlife officers of their intended entry into the Bylot Island MBS 72 hours prior to entry; and
- That the permittee provide a copy of the annual permit report, in both English and Inuktitut, to the ACMC

In addition, two cruise ships, Adventure Canada and Lindblad Expeditions, requested to operate a remote operated vehicle (ROV) in the MBS. The ACMC decided that it wasn't comfortable permitting the use of ROVs at this time, mainly due to concerns about the impact of ROVs on marine mammals. The ACMC recommended that the two companies give a demonstration or presentation in the community on the use of ROVs in the near future.

The ACMC voiced some concerns about Lindblad Expeditions. In previous years people from Pond Inlet reported their vessel, the National Geographic Explorer, to the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization. The ACMC decided to ask the HTO if they have any concerns before they send their letter of support.

The ACMC reviewed a permit application submitted by Arctic Kingdom for tourism activities in Bylot Island MBS. The ACMC approved the application with the following recommendations:

- That the permittee adhere to the marine setback recommendations submitted to the Nunavut Land Use Plan by Environment and Climate Change Canada;
- That the permittee adhere to the CWS guidelines for viewing seabird colonies and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans guidelines for viewing marine mammals;
- That they provide an update on how the February consultation meeting in Pond Inlet went and confirm if they received a letter of support from the Mittimatalik HTO;
- That an Inuit guide from Pond Inlet accompany Arctic Kingdom while visiting Bylot Island MBS;
- That no artifacts of specimens are removed from the Bylot Island MBS; and
- That the permittee provide a copy of the annual permit report, in both English and Inuktitut, to the ACMC.

Adjourned at 4:45 PM

Day 2 – May 24, 2018

Attendees:

Karla Abbott – Vice-chair
Paniloo Sangoya - Member
Elijah Panikpakoochoo - Member
Jimmy Pitseolak – Member
Elizabeth Quassa
Titus Arnakallak – Interpreter

Guests (Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA presentation only):

Jenna Boon – Parks Canada
Marie Fernandes – Parks Canada
Carol – Parks Canada
Carey Elverum – Parks Canada
Karen Petkau – Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joshua Komangapik – Government of Nunavut
David Montevecchi – Government of Nunavut

Meeting started at 10:00 AM

Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Elijah.

Review of 2018 permit applications for activities in Bylot Island MBS (continued)

The ACMC reviewed a permit application submitted by Parks Canada to conduct an archaeological survey of the Maud Bight Wreck. The ACMC approved the application with the following comments and recommendations:

- That the permittee include the results of the archaeological survey in their annual report, in particular, the identification of the wood species and the history of the wreck;
- Inform Parks Canada that the Maud Bight Wreck is referred to as Umiarjuaviniqtaalik in Inuktitut;
- That the sonar survey is stopped if marine mammals are observed and
- That the permittee provide a copy of the annual permit report, in both English and Inuktitut, to the ACMC.

The ACMC reviewed a permit application submitted by ArcticNet to conduct river sampling. The researchers will access the river by helicopter from the Canadian Coast Guard Ship *Amundsen*. The ACMC approved the application with the following recommendations:

- That ArcticNet consider also sampling for contaminants in river water;
- That the permittee adhere to the aerial setback recommendations submitted to the Nunavut Land Use Plan by Environment and Climate Change Canada;

- That the permittee provide a copy of the annual permit report, in both English and Inuktitut, to the ACMC.
- That the permittee send copies of their research findings to local organizations, including the Mittimatalik HTO and Hamlet of Pond Inlet.

Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Planning Committee Presentation

Members of the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA Planning Committee consulted with the ACMC on the interim management plan for the Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA. The presentation was added to the ACMC meeting agenda after the community consultation meeting scheduled for the previous evening was cancelled due to a funeral in town. The Planning Committee gave an update on the feasibility assessment report, interim management planning and process timelines. During this first round of consultations, the Planning Committee is gathering community feedback on the interim management plan's vision, management objectives and zoning. The ACMC provided some feedback on zoning, such as restricting shipping in the inlets. The ACMC can provide additional comments and recommendations to the Planning Committee over the next 3-4 months. An update was also provided on the Tallurutiup Imanga Guardian Program, which will have its pilot year in Arctic Bay in 2018. If successful, the program will be expanded to other communities.

After the presentation, the ACMC further discussed the boundary options. See above for details.

Review of 2017 Annual Permit Reports

The ACMC reviewed annual permit reports submitted by the following permittees:

- Jennie Rausch, Canadian Wildlife Service;
- James Haggart, Geological Survey of Canada;
- Students on Ice Canada C3;
- Adventure Canada; and
- Crystal Cruises.

The ACMC had no concerns with any of the reported activities.

Review of 2017-2018 Asungasungat ACMC Annual Report

The Asungasungat ACMC reviewed and approved the ACMC's annual report that was drafted by Karla.

Bylot Island MBS Site Visit Planning

Karla informed the ACMC that they were able to book a helicopter from Polar Continental Shelf Program to bring the ACMC to Bylot Island on July 5th for a day trip. The ACMC will depart Pond Inlet in the morning. The helicopter will stop at Bylot Camp 2 in the goose colony and hold for 3 hours for the ACMC to meet with the researchers and observe the goose banding. The

helicopter will then bring the ACMC to Goose Camp where they will stay until early evening. The ACMC will then return to Pond Inlet. The ACMC will meet the day before to finalize plans and shop for supplies and the day after to draft the site visit report. In addition to observing research activities and touring the research facility, the ACMC is also planning on drafting its management plan vision statement during the site visit and documenting traditional knowledge. The ACMC would also like to prepare a traditional meal during the site visit.

MBS Brochure and Poster

The ACMC agreed to develop a brochure and poster for Bylot Island MBS. Overall, the ACMC want the brochure and poster to be informative while also reflecting the principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the fact that we are living in harmony with the environment.

The ACMC would like to see the following topics included in the brochure and poster:

- A description of what makes Bylot Island MBS so special and why it was designated as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary;
- A description of the ACMC and its roles and responsibilities (include the ACMC logo);
- A description of the cultural resources (e.g., historic sites, archaeological sites, etc.);
- A description of unique places and resources (e.g., some plants and rocks that are not found on Baffin Island);
- A description of the important wildlife present;
- Information on permitting requirements and contact information for how to obtain a permit; and
- Representative pictures such as pictures of the geese and hoodoos (ACMC members have some pictures that can be used).

Next Meeting Date

The ACMC will meet again from July 4th – 6th, 2018, with the site visit to Bylot Island occurring on July 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30

Action Items:

1. Karla will write and send letters of support from the Asungasungaat ACMC for the 2018 permit applications that were reviewed during the meeting.
2. Karla will develop a draft poster and brochure for Bylot Island MBS and present the drafts to the ACMC at their next meeting.