



## Committee Meeting Minutes: April 30-May 1, 2022

Clyde River, NU

### ACMC Participants:

**Present:**

Sam Palituq  
Danica Hogan  
Jaysie Tigullaraq  
Josie Enuaraq

**Regrets:** Enuusiq Jaypoody (absent for medical reasons), Leah Tassugat (on the land for work), James Qillaq (past member and expert advisor), QIA (Geneva Noble), Ittaq (Shari Fox), HTO (note that Jaysie is also on the HTO and will pass on the info about the shipping report to them).

Quorum present? **Yes**/No

*Others Present:* Daniel Jaypoody (translation), Alan Cormack (Mayor of Clyde River-morning of May 01 only)

**Proceedings:**

**Day 1, April 30, 2022**

***The Meeting was called to order at 1pm by Sam Palitug (delayed start time due to flight cancellation)***

1. Chair and Vice-Chair Opening Remarks
  - a. Sam and Danica welcomed the committee and indicated that it had been over two years since the committee was able to meet due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Danica asked if everyone had received their letters from the Minister of ECCC, indicating that they received a CWS award for their completion of the Ninginganiq Management Plan. Everyone present had received their letters.
  - b. Committee reviewed and approved the agenda, with changes: Jaysie suggested adding the number and name of cruise ships to item 5 on the agenda.
2. ACMC Appointments

- a. Danica explained that QIA chose to replace James Qillaq and welcomed his replacement, Josie Enuaraq, to the committee. Sam indicated that he had asked his QIA contacts why they replaced James, but no one was able to provide him with a reason for the replacement. The committee agreed that they would continue to invite James to future meetings as an expert, given his long history with the ACMC and Ninginganiq NWA.
  - b. Josie Enuaraq gave the committee some information about his background with Ninginganiq NWA; he was part of the committee that originally proposed establishment of the NWA. He also indicated that he is a member of the Hamlet council and could relay information to the council, as needed.
  - c. Danica asked the QIA appointees if they had received their appointment letters. Sam indicated that he had, but Josie wasn't sure.
  - d. The committee reviewed the ACMC operating documents (Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Operating Procedures) together. There was significant discussion about what a conflict of interest could be, and how the committee will deal with conflict of interest, as well as members who repeatedly do not attend meetings without reasonable cause.
  - e. Present members signed the operating documents.
3. Shipping Report Summary
- a. Danica gave a presentation outlining the main findings of a shipping report that CWS commissioned for Ninginganiq NWA. The report outlines shipping traffic inside and outside the NWA from 2012-2020 based on AIS data. It also provides some preliminary modelling of vessel noise inside and outside the NWA. The report was written by Bill Halliday and his colleagues from Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (WCS).
  - b. Danica also provided a summary of plans for CWS to conduct marine acoustic monitoring in the NWA in 2022-2024. The plan is for 1 acoustic recording device to be moored in Ninginganiq NWA in summer 2022 and picked up in summer 2023. Data will be processed and analyzed in partnership with Bill Halliday at the Wildlife Conservation Society. There is a possibility of sharing data with Ittaq, as the Ninginganiq data will compliment their already existing monitoring program in the shipping channel.
  - c. The committee discussed the results of the shipping report and it was determined that although the ACMC cannot influence permitting decisions outside the NWA, the report highlighted the need to consider finding alternative ways to reduce vessel noise that is travelling to the NWA from outside the NWA. Danica suggested that one way to do this would be to have CWS update the Notice to Mariners (NOTMARS) to request that ships enforce a voluntary speed reduction in the zone (10 knots max, based on report and standards in the western Arctic) immediately adjacent to Ninginganiq NWA. The committee supported this idea.

**END OF DAY 1: 4:30pm**

***Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm by Sam Palituaq.***

**Day 2, May 01, 2022**

***The Meeting was called to order at 10am by Sam Palituq. Alan Cormack (Clyde River Mayor) was able to join the committee for part of the day.***

**3. Shipping Report Summary Continued**

- a. Danica summarized what the committee had discussed the previous day regarding the shipping report, and provided Alan with a hard copy of the presentation and the report.
- b. The committee discussed various parts of the report and reiterated the need to try to do something about noise outside the NWA.
- c. Danica proposed that the results of the report indicated that the committee also had to consider stricter and clearer guidelines for cruise ships on permits, based on the fact that cruise ships were found to spend several more days in the NWA than they were indicating on their permit applications. The committee agreed that they would discuss new permit conditions when reviewing permit applications.
- d. Alan indicated that the Hamlet was looking into making vessel traffic data available to anyone in the community and the ACMC could get in touch with him via email to get details on how to get access; he thought the data was available via something called the Shipping Routes App.

**4. Discussion of Marine Acoustic Monitoring in Ninginganiq NWA**

- a. Danica reviewed the information she provided about marine acoustic monitoring in the presentation the previous day.
- b. The committee review Danica's permit application to conduct acoustic monitoring in the NWA, with Danica present to answer questions. Danica indicated that while the CCGS Amundsen was approached to help with deployment of the monitoring station, it was looking like the ship might be too busy to help, and she may need to find an alternative vessel in the area to help deploy the acoustic recorder. She also indicated that the date of deployment might be extended to as late as October (instead of the August/September deployment originally indicated in the permit application).
- c. Alan suggested that alternatives to the Amundsen might be a ship called the Nuliaquk (Nuliaguk?), which he thinks is a GN or Coast Guard ship. GN Parks also purchased boats for Agguttinni, so could ask them if they could help. Finally, the committee also discussed the idea that the recorder could be deployed through the ice, if no ships were available to help.
- d. Alan asked if the ACMC had plans for building cabins in Ninginganiq. Sam indicated that Inuit can build cabins for their own use, but that the ACMC does not build cabins right now. Danica clarified that there are provisions for the Hamlet to request a permit to build a cabin for tourism at Nuvutiapik, but that CWS is not planning to build anything at this time.
- e. Alan asked about whether a weather station could be added to the NWA. Danica indicated that that is a good idea, and maybe something that Ittaq could be asked to help with in the future.
- f. Danica then excused herself from the voting process for the acoustic monitoring permit application, citing a conflict of interest on her part, and left the room while the committee discussed the permit.
- g. The committee (excluding Danica) approved the permit for 3 years (2022-2024). The committee indicated that it would be important to try to get the recorder out in 2022 and that it is acceptable to use ships other than the Amundsen and at different times of

the year, if needed. If ice deployment is required, the committee recommends approaching the ACMC for help organizing this, as they can get in touch with the HTO, who can help with this sort of thing. Ice deployment is not preferred.

- h. Alan excused himself from the meeting at this point in time.

#### 5. Cruise Ship Permits

- a. FK Warren- MV Greg Mortimer: committee approved for 2 years, as requested, because the ACMC has dealt with FK Warren before and they have their dates all sorted for 2 years.
- b. FK Warren- MV L'Austral: committee approved for 1 year, as requested.
- c. Lindblad Expeditions- MS National Geographic Resolution: committee approved for 1 year, as requested. ACMC wants to add flexibility to the dates since July is very early to come to Ninginganiq. ACMC recommends that they choose another date, as ice conditions not likely to be good for a visit in July.
- d. Quark Expeditions- MV Ultramarine: committee approved for 1 year, as requested.
- e. Silver Seas Cruises- MS Silver Wind: committee approved for 1 year, instead of the multi-year permit requested, since this is the first time the ACMC has dealt with Silver Seas Cruises. The committee also discussed the use of a drone; committee is supportive as long as all wildlife viewing guidelines are followed.
- f. All cruise ship permits were approved with the following recommended conditions:
  - i. No anchoring in Ninginganiq NWA
  - ii. No shore visits in the NWA
  - iii. No discharge of wastes or harmful materials in the NWA
  - iv. Speed of vessels must not exceed 10 knots in the NWA
  - v. The cruise ship and related vessels must not spend more than 12 hours inside the NWA.
  - vi. The permittee must notify the ACMC 12 hours prior to entering the NWA and 12 hours after leaving the NWA. Notifications can be sent to the ACMC Vice-Chair at [danica.hogan@ec.gc.ca](mailto:danica.hogan@ec.gc.ca)
  - vii. All DFO regulations and guidelines for marine mammal watching must be followed while inside the NWA- more information can be found at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/mammals-mammiferes/watching-observation/index-eng.html>
  - viii. The Cruise ship must ensure that no more than 10 additional crafts (including kayaks and zodiacs) are in the NWA at one time. If other cruise ships are in the area at the same time, the total number of additional crafts from all cruise ships in use in the NWA must still not exceed 10. Cruise ships may need coordinate their activities in order to ensure this.
  - ix. All wildlife sightings, including numbers of individuals, species (where possible), and coordinates, must be reported to the ACMC and CWS in the permit annual report.
- g. The committee discussed that it is okay for ships to be in the NWA for more than 12 hours, and that people can go ashore in emergency situations.

#### 6. Budget and Work Plan

- a. The committee review the budget and work plan
- b. Committee agreed to try to hold another face-to-face meeting in Feb 2023, after Sam and Danica go to the IMPAC 5 conference (Feb 3-9, 2023).

- c. Jaysie suggested that as part of the ACMC SWAG in the budget, the committee could get James a jacket with the ACMC logo on it to thank him for his many years of service on the committee. The committee approved this suggestions.
7. Other
- a. Danica indicated that the Hamlet would be providing payment for meetings moving forward.
  - b. The committee discussed how to hold teleconference/zoom meetings in the future. Jaysie indicated that he could ask the HTO to use their office for teleconference or zoom, if needed in the future.

**END OF DAY 2: 3pm**

***Meeting adjourned at 3 pm by Sam Palituq.***

**Action Items:**

1. Danica will clarify with QIA that they received signed acceptance letters from all of their recently appointed members.
2. Jaysie will answer any questions the HTO has about acoustic monitoring.
3. Danica will investigate updating NOTMARs to include voluntary speed reduction zone outside of Ninginganiq NWA (10 knots).
4. Danica will follow up with Alan about ship tracking data available via the Hamlet.
5. Danica to write a letter to CWS on behalf of the ACMC to outline the permit decisions and recommended permit conditions.
6. Danica to look into getting a jacket made for James as a thank you gift.



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*Signature of Chair*

Sam Palituq, (date \_\_ March 25 2023 \_\_)



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*Signature of Vice-Chair*

Danica Hogan, (date \_\_ March 25 2023)