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*INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL (ICC)*

**Session III Protection and Conservation of Oceans, Seas  
and Marine Resources  
Environmental Conservation in Polar Regions**

By

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Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council



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Sea ice is the Inuit highway

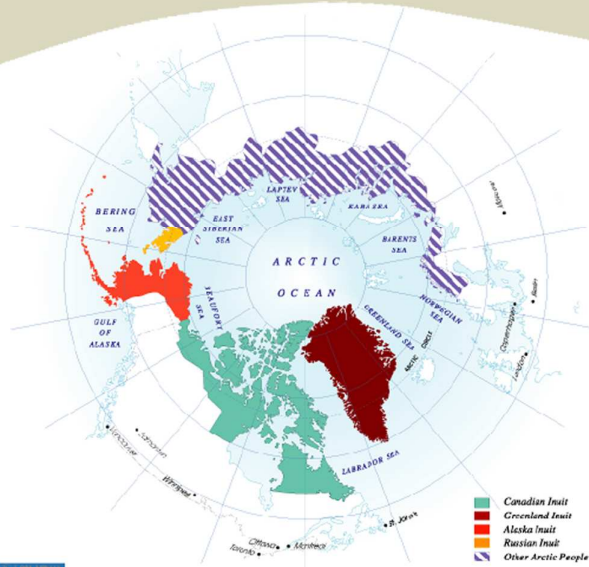


BL 2008



## The Circumpolar Region

THE INUIT  
CIRCUMPOLAR  
REGION



## Excerpts from Inuit Arctic Policy on shipping

- It is important that an Arctic waters management regime address conflicting uses. Such uses may include shipping, hydroelectric power, interbasin transfers, mining, oil, and gas developments. As a general rule, pre-existing Inuit uses should have priority over proposed new water projects or activities, unless otherwise agreed. Probable impacts and ramifications on the land, wildlife and people of dams, channel modifications, and other projects must be fully taken into account.
- Marine, atmospheric, and terrestrial ecosystems in the Arctic are interdependent. This interrelationship must be appropriately recognized in the development of Arctic marine management plans. The increased use of Arctic waters for tourism, shipping, research and resource development also increases the risk of accidents and, therefore, the need to further strengthen search and rescue as well as clean-up capabilities around the Arctic Ocean to ensure an appropriate response from states to any accident. Co-operation, including the sharing of information, is a prerequisite for addressing these challenges. ICC should work to promote safety of life at sea in the Arctic Ocean, through bilateral and multilateral arrangements among relevant states.





## ICC position on Rio+20

- ICC supported declaration by Grand Council of the Crees criticising the final document of Rio+20 to accept Ngoya protocol – especially lack of recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in Ngoya Protocol of CBD



## Selfgovernment arrangement in 2009

- Political agreement between Greenland and Denmark – in reference to international law.
- People in Greenland has right to selfdetermination as defined in international law.
- Government of Greenland and Government of Denmark are equal partners.
- Majority rule is the principle for the Parliament of Greenland and the executive body is the Government of Greenland.
- Greenland has its own judiciary system on all areas of its own responsibilities.
- Block grant or payment of services in Greenland are "frozen". The amount is adjusted based on inflationrate in Greenland.
- List of other responsibilities in two categories are enlisted as attachment to the Act that can be taken over.





## Regulation of fisheries and hunting

- Greenland has been responsible for regulation of all living resources since 1979
- All fish and shell fish are subject to regulation – locally, regionally, internationally
- TAC on fish and shell fish are decided by the Government based on advice by Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
- Utilization of marine mammals are all subject to national regulations, according to regional and international management and cooperation
- Utilization of migratory marine birds are all subject to national regulations, according to regional and international cooperation
- Terrestrial mammals and birds are all regulated according to national regulations
- Greenland is a party to CITES, Convention on Biological Diversity, RAMSAR and many other international conventions



## Utilization of fish and shell fish

- Most economically important commercial species of fish and shell fish are:
  - Cold Water Prawns – 90.000 MT in West Greenland and 12.000 MT in East Greenland
  - MSC Certificate awarded to Cold Water Prawns in West Greenland in March 2013
  - Greenland Halibut – 21.400 MT in Inshore management zones
  - Greenland Halibut – 13.500 MT in West Greenland
  - Greenland Halibut – 9.800 MT in East Greenland
  - Cod – 15.000 MT



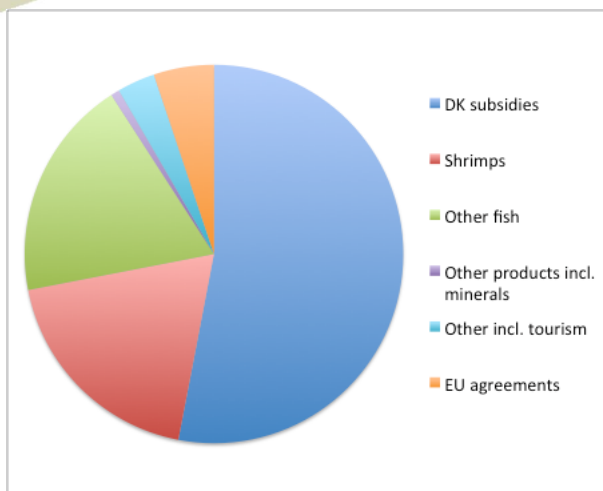


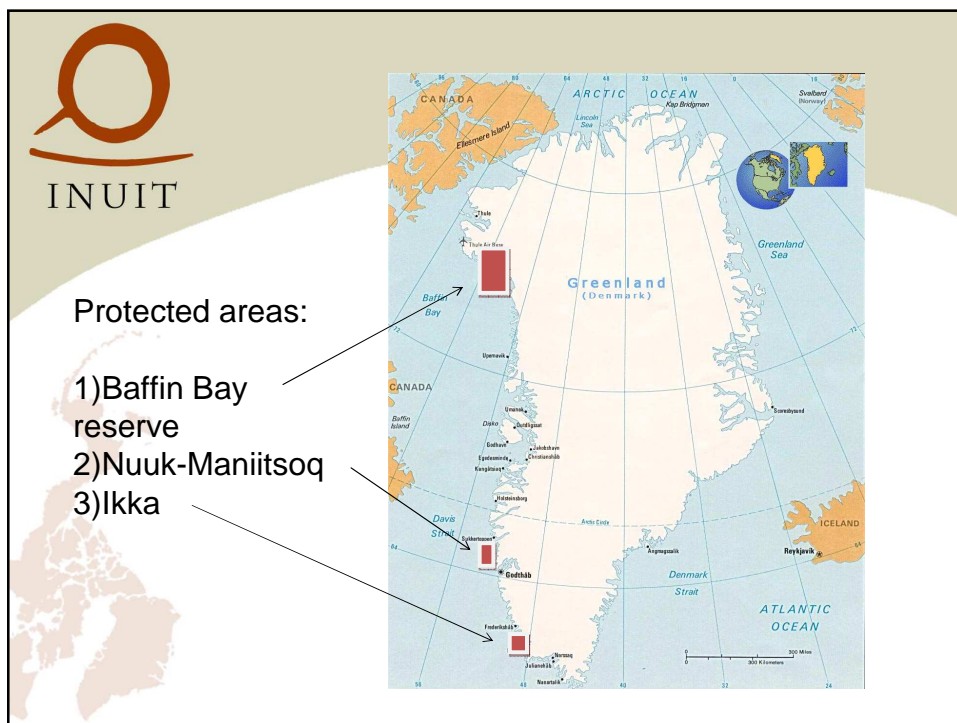
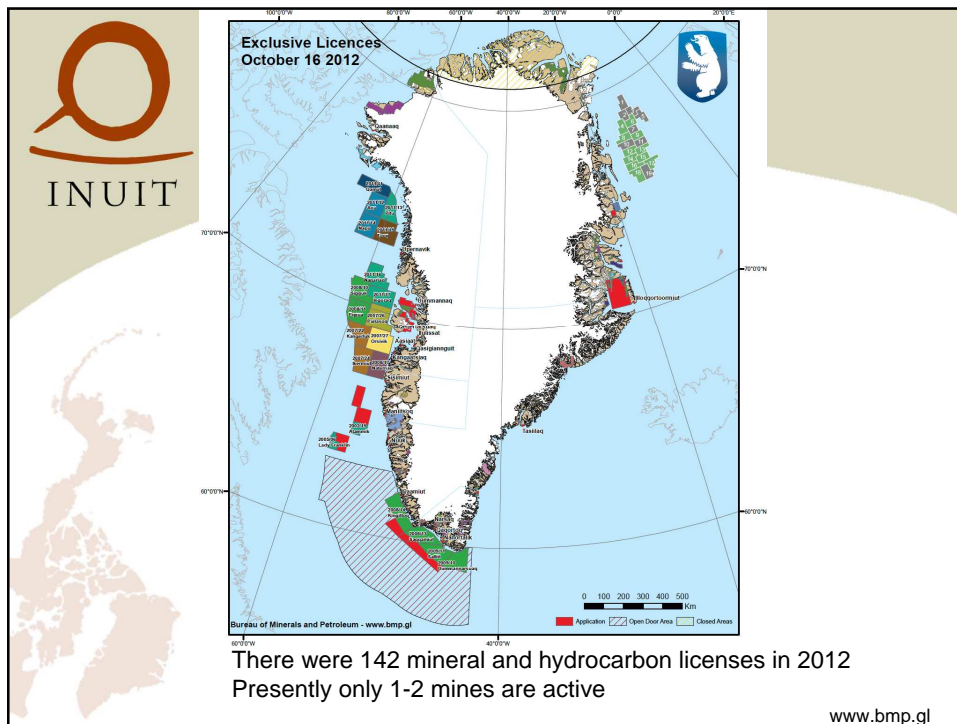
## Utilization of marine mammals

- Whaling in Greenland is recognized as aboriginal subsistence whaling under IWC regulation and utilization of large whales in Greenland is based on sound scientific data and advice and follows principle of sustainable yield of whale populations;
- In many regions around the world including in Greenland waters, seal populations are creating ecosystem unbalance; they are threatening other species, destroying fishing gears and transmitting parasites to fish stocks;
- More than 15 millions of seals in North Atlantic Ocean consume appr. 45.000 MT of fish and shell fish everyday;
- Sealing in Greenland has always been and will continue to be a valuable socioeconomic activity for many households in Greenland;
- Up to early 1980's sealing has been economically selfsustaing activity which today has become a subsidized economy due to destroyed markets around the world.



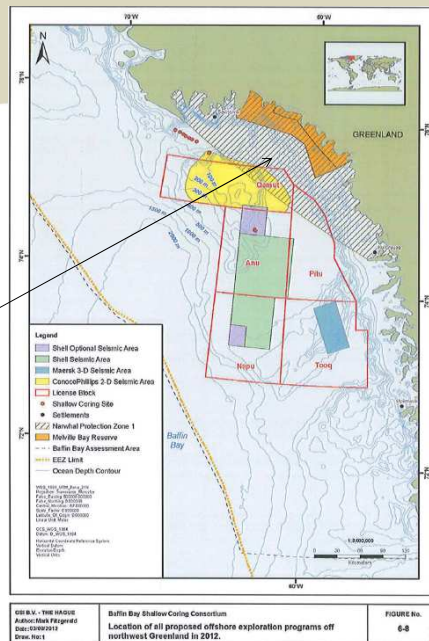
## Sources of income Greenland 2012







## Baffin Bay Reserve And seismic surveys



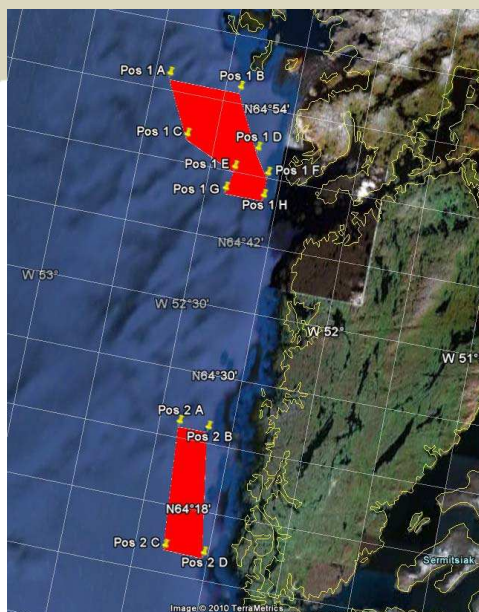
## Pikialasorsuaq / North Water Polynya

- A polynya of importance to marine wildlife and Inuit, situated in the Baffin Bay.
- Inuit Circumpolar Council and Oceans North Canada is establishing a transboundary cooperation to have the area exempt of hydrocarbon and other heavy shipping activities.
- Inuit users of the area must be initiators in any steps related to the use of areas they have traditionally used.

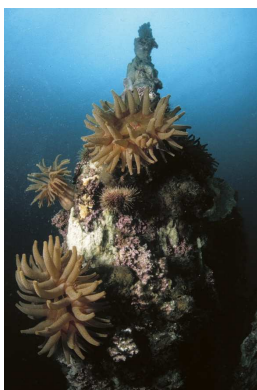




## Coral reef Protection zones



## Ikka columns







## Climate change – Inuit observations

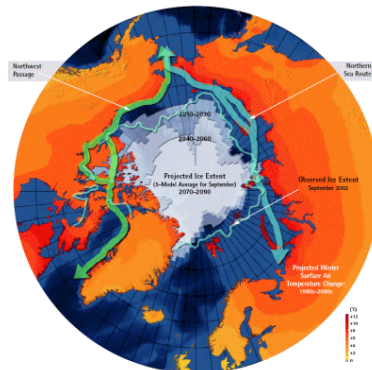
- Glaciers melting – faster
- Permafrost thawing
- Sea ice thinning, arriving late and breaking up early
- Warm periods in Winter
- Droughts and heavy rains in summer
- Unpredictable weather
- Loss of traditional knowledge



## Climate and maritime transport

### Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA)

Study on environmental and social impacts of changes in projected sea ice conditions 2020 to 2050

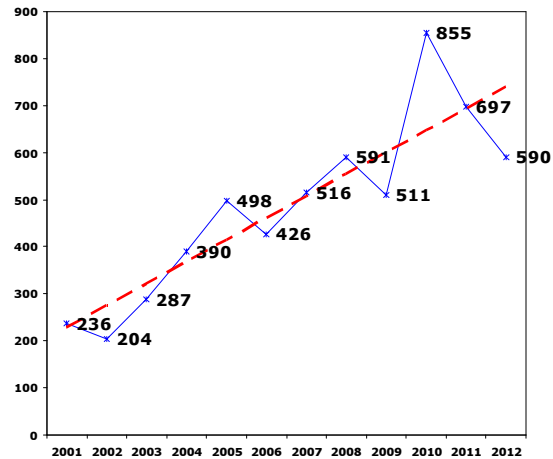


<http://swittersb.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/big20greenland20map.jpg>



## Arctic Marine Shipping

### Data of ship traffic in Greenland 2001-2012



### Ilulissat Declaration, 2008 by 5 Arctic coastal states - Arctic Ocean Conference

"We will take steps in accordance with international law both nationally and in cooperation among the five states and other interested parties to ensure the protection and preservation of the fragile marine environment of the Arctic Ocean. In this regard we intend to work together including through the International Maritime Organization to strengthen existing measures and develop new measures to improve the safety of maritime navigation and prevent or reduce the risk of ship-based pollution in the Arctic Ocean."



## IMO polar guidelines

- Guidelines for ships operating in Arctic ice-covered waters issued in 2002
- The Guidelines aim at mitigating the additional risk imposed on shipping due to the harsh environmental and climatic conditions existing in polar waters.
- Only ships with Polar Class designation, based on IACS Unified Requirements for Polar Class Ships, should operate in polar waters
- Or comparable alternative standard of ice-strengthening
- Ice description follows WMO sea ice nomenclature
- New draft guidelines from 2009 include chapters on construction; equipment; operations (including crewing); and environmental protection and damage control. [www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)



Nuuk – in february

Thank you



