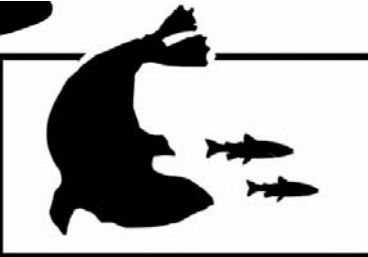




Canada-Inuvialuit Fisheries Joint Management Committee:
Co-Management of Beluga
in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region

John Noksana Jr., FJMC Member
International Science and Policy Conference
Fairbanks, Alaska, August 24, 2016

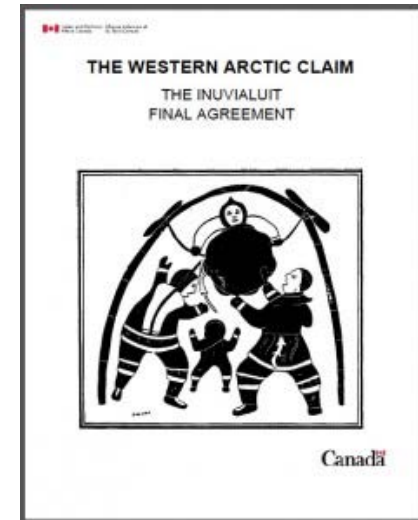


Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA)

The IFA is a comprehensive land claim agreement that came into effect in 1984.

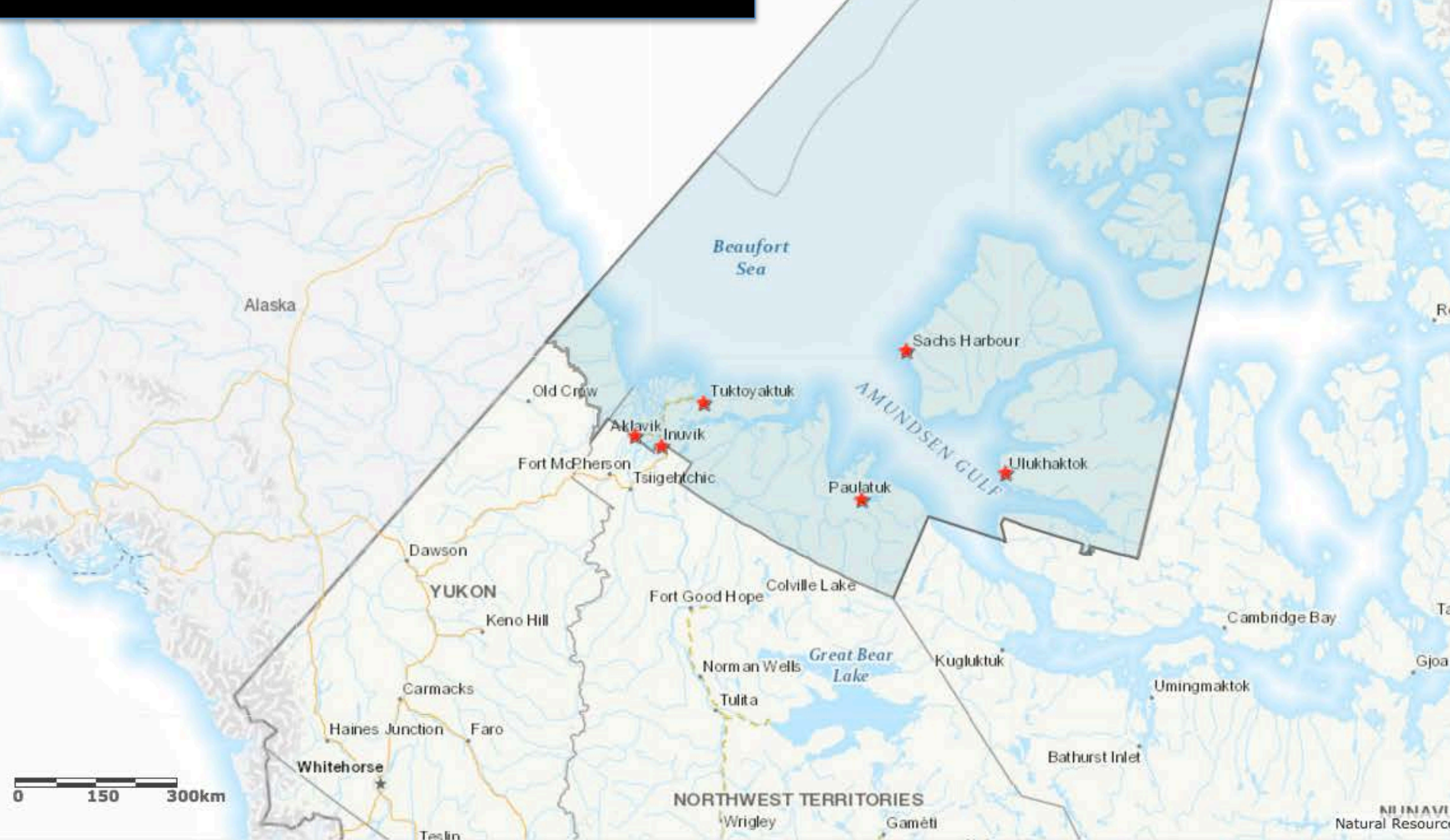
Main goals of the IFA:

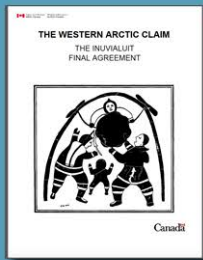
1. To preserve Inuvialuit cultural identity and values
2. To enable Inuvialuit to be equal and meaningful participants in the economy and society
3. To protect and preserve Arctic wildlife environment and productivity



Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR):

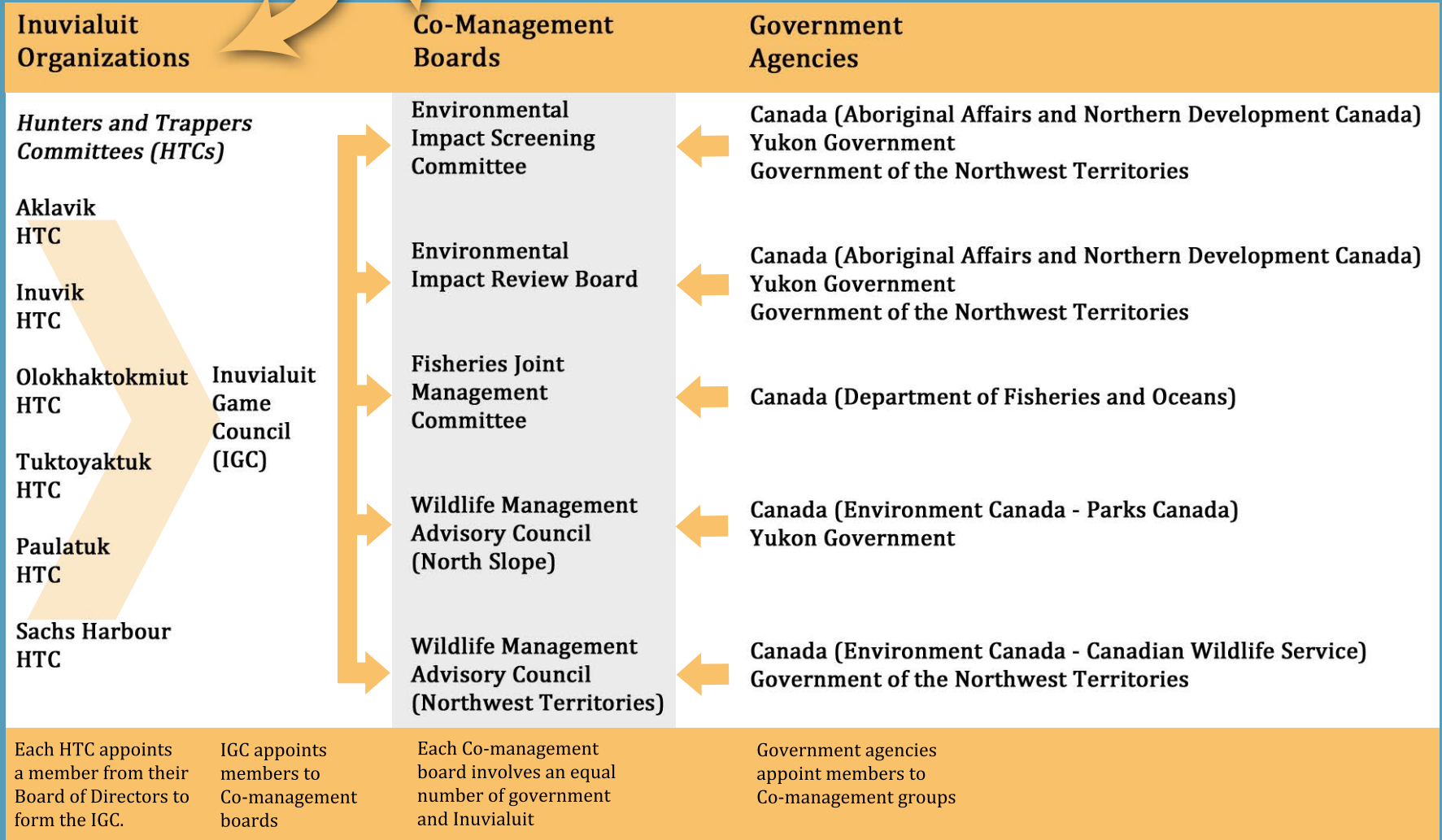
- 6 communities: Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok
- Approximately 1.09 million square km of land, water and ice



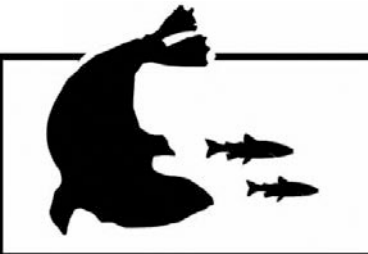


The Co-management System

As established in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement

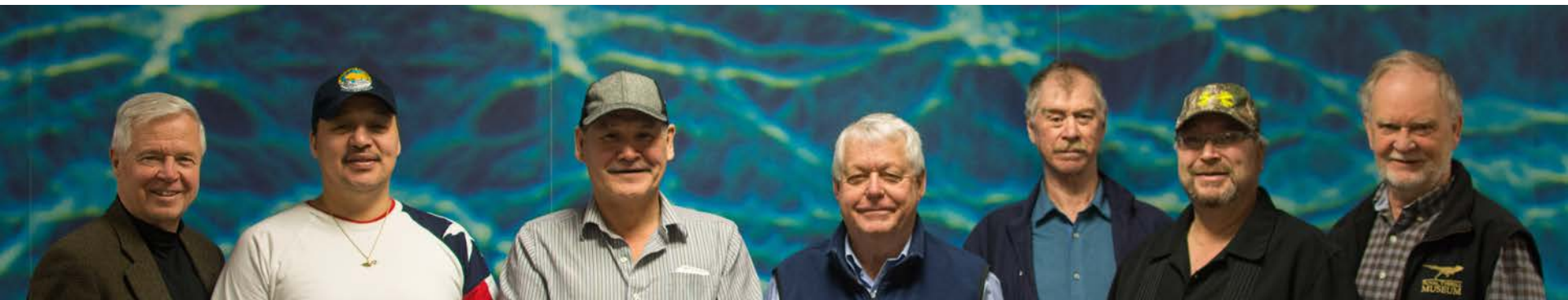


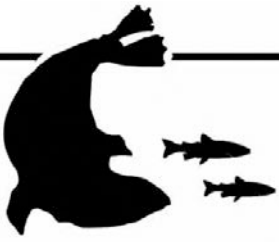
The **Joint Secretariat-Inuvialuit Settlement Region** provides administrative, technical and logistical support to Inuvialuit Organizations and Co-management Boards.



Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC)

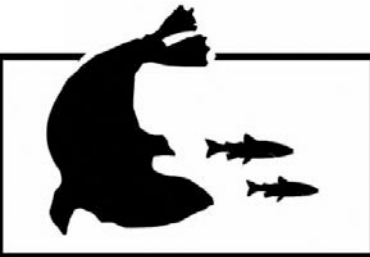
- The FJMC is a co-management body established in 1986, pursuant to the IFA.
- Focused on the co-management of fish, marine mammals, and their habitat in the ISR.
- Main co-management partners:
 - Inuvialuit (Inuvialuit Hunters and Trappers Committees, Inuvialuit Game Council)
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- FJMC Chair, Members, Staff
 - 4 Members:
 - 2 Inuvialuit Members appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council
 - 2 Canada Members appointed by the Minister of DFO
 - 1 Chair: appointed by FJMC members
 - 2 Staff





Authorities transferred from the federal government to the FJMC

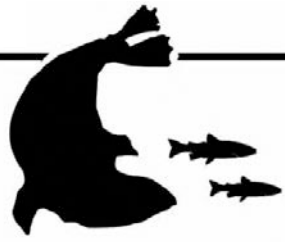
- Decision making
 - Allocating subsistence quotas among communities
 - Restricting and regulating fishing on Inuvialuit Lands
 - Setting conservation limits on total catch
- Advising
 - Sport and commercial fishing
 - Research priorities, habitat management and environmental protection
- Operational roles
 - Coordinating interaction between government agencies and Inuvialuit communities
 - Monitoring of harvest levels and Conducting stock assessments



Direct reporting and advice to the Minister of DFO

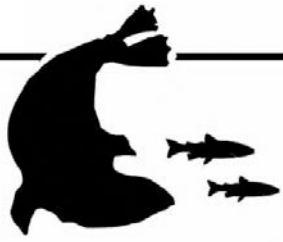
Discuss critical issues, concerns, and priorities for
fish and marine mammals in the ISR





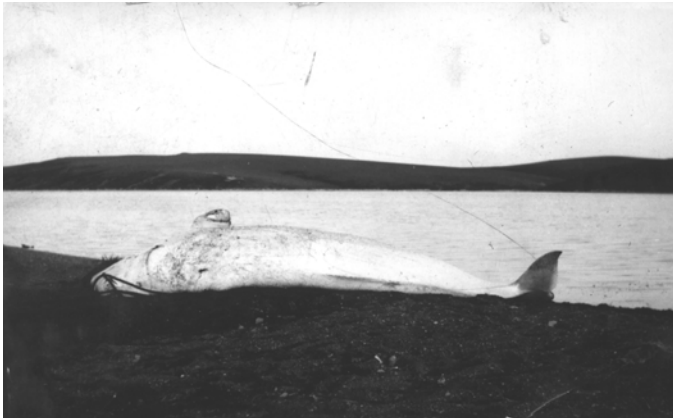
What has made the co-management of fish and marine mammals successful in the ISR?

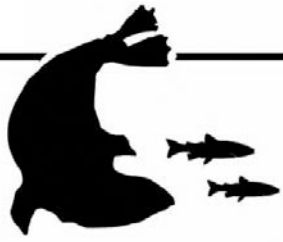
- The FJMC has legislative authority through the IFA
- Federal funding for fisheries management in the ISR is provided to the FJMC
- Shared responsibility
- The FJMC is formed by Inuvialuit and DFO members and bridges the gap between these two worlds
- FJMC commitment
- Transparency
- Constant communication between FJMC, DFO and HTC: essential to effective co-management
- Trust and respect: co-management partners have developed strong working relationships over the years by incorporating different views, knowledge sources (science and traditional) and opinions into management decisions.
- Focus on adaptive co-management: a continuous cycle of reviewing and revising management measures (e.g., identifying management options → establishing monitoring programs → development of stock indicators for assessment → tracking management decisions → evaluating management measures → revising management strategies as needed)



Beaufort Sea beluga

Beluga whales are an important part of Inuvialuit culture and subsistence, and have been for generations.





Pre-IFA: beluga management and monitoring in the ISR

- 1960s: beluga hunting quotas, and Beluga Fishing Permits issued by DFO to Inuvialuit
- 1968-69: GNWT whaling pilot projects at Whitefish station and the Mackenzie Delta
- 1972: First hunter-collected harvest information - coordinated by Inuvik Region, NWT Wildlife
 - Successful program
 - Whale hunters chose monitors
 - Monitors taught proper hunting and conservation practices as well as recording harvest data
- 1980: Data collection standardized for all Mackenzie Delta whaling camps, and DFO took over program

Form 756A
No. 3

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

BELUGA FISHING PERMIT
(1st January, 1961 to 31st December, 1961)

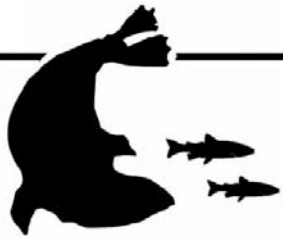
The Minister of Fisheries hereby authorizes
OLD HARRY ENOKIKLAK of AKLAVIK

to fish for or kill belugas during 1961 in the tidal waters of the Northwest Territories in the vicinity of Mackenzie Delta subject to the following provisions:

1. The licensee shall observe the provisions of the Fisheries Act and of any regulations thereunder made;
2. The licensee shall not take or kill calves or suckling belugas or female belugas which are accompanied by calves or suckling belugas;
3. The local fishery officer or other person authorized by the Minister of Fisheries may determine the site or place where fishing gear or other apparatus for fishing for or taking belugas may be used or operated;
4. This permit shall be invalid when twenty belugas have been taken or killed in 1961 in the waters above mentioned under the authority of this or other similar permit.

G.R. CLARK,
Deputy Minister of Fisheries

Countersigned and dated at AKLAVIK 15 JULY 1961
T. M. Nicholls
Issuing Officer



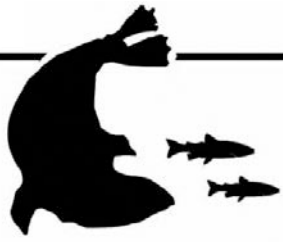
Post-IFA: beluga co-management and monitoring in the ISR

- 1987: Beluga monitoring program transferred from DFO to FJMC
- 1989: Paulatuk joins beluga monitoring program

What is collected through the monitoring program:

- Harvest numbers (including struck and loss)
- Length and other basic measurements
- Sex
- Lower jaw (age)
- Tissue samples
- Unusual observations
- Flight traffic logs





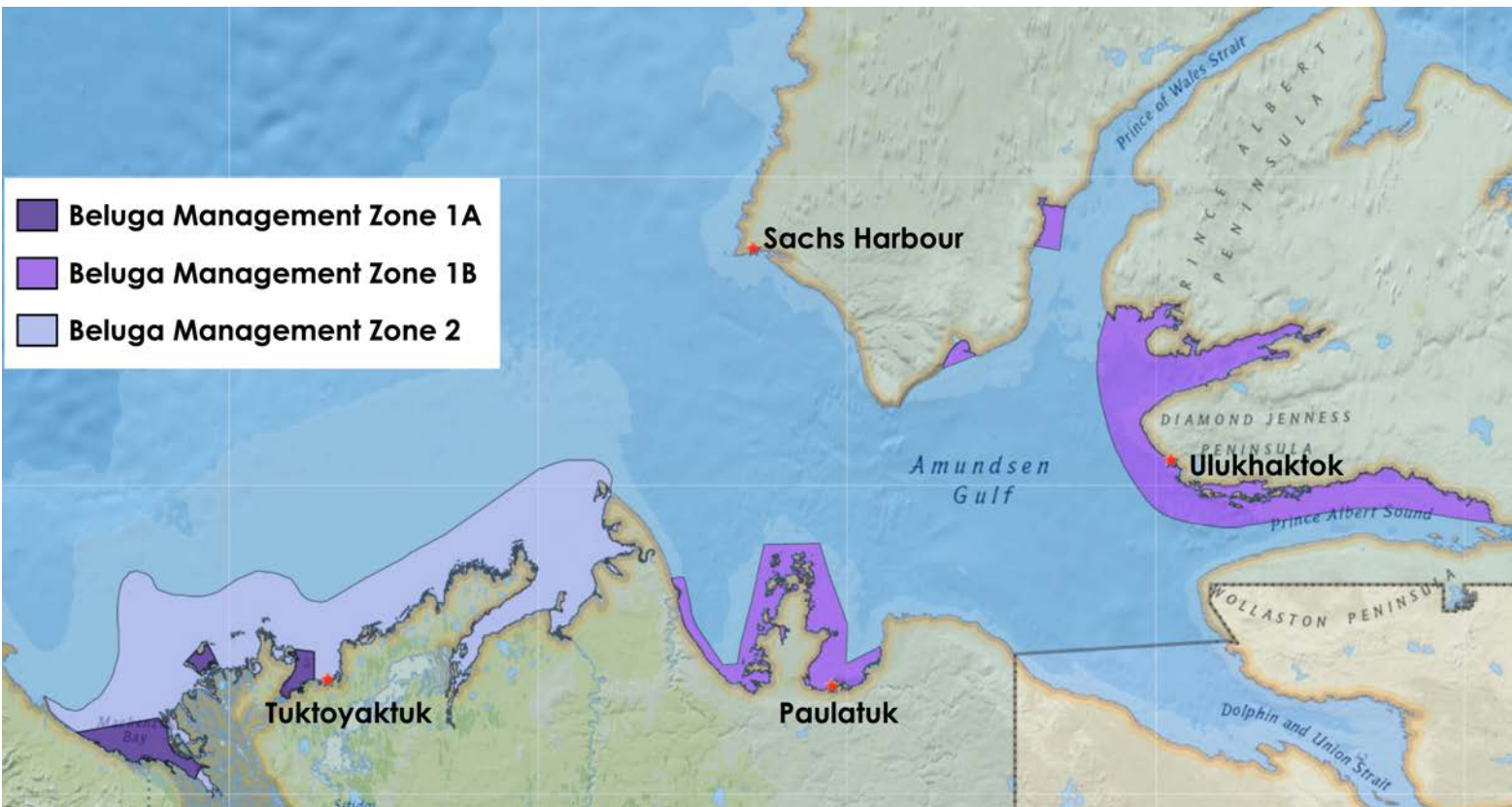
Post-IFA: beluga co-management and monitoring in the ISR

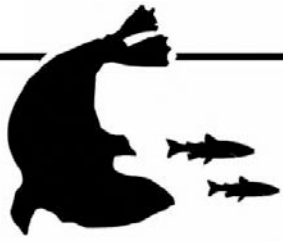
- 1990s: FJMC develops the Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan and the Inuvialuit develop HTC Beluga Hunting Bylaws and Guidelines

INUVIALUIT HUNTERS & TRAPPERS COMMITTEES

BELUGA HUNTING BYLAWS AND GUIDELINES

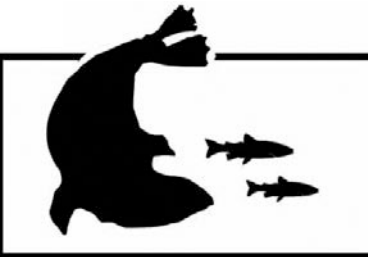
The Hunters and Trappers Committees of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, in conjunction with the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, have developed beluga hunting bylaws and guidelines. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for the enforcement of Fisheries Act and Marine Mammal Protection Regulations. The Hunters and Trappers Committees Bylaws can be enforced by a Fishery Officer under these regulations.





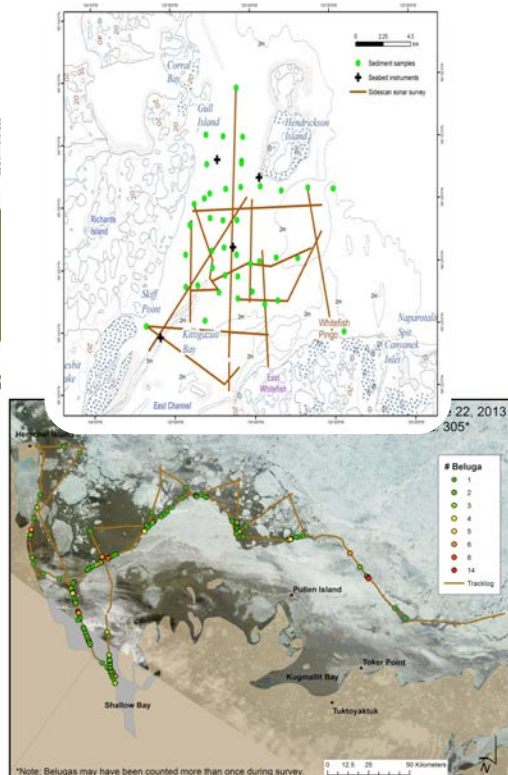
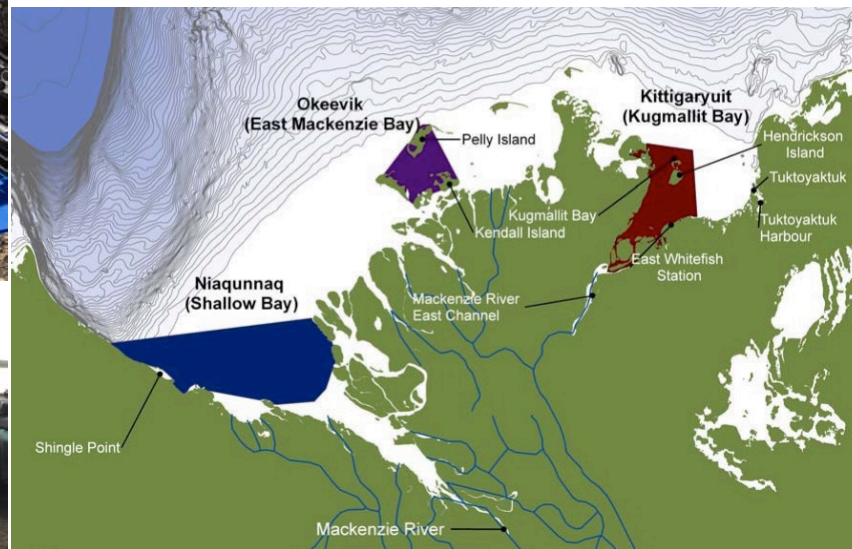
Post-IFA: beluga co-management and monitoring in the ISR

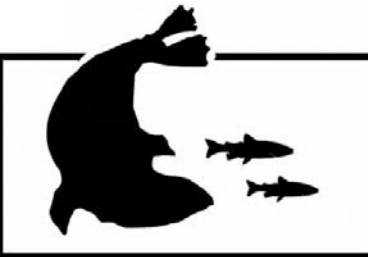
- 2000: Inuvialuit-Inupiat Beaufort Sea Beluga Whale Agreement
 - Annual meeting between the Inuvialuit and Inupiat to share, discuss and review information on the harvest, monitoring and research of beluga
- 2002: National Oceans Strategy:
 - Designation of Beaufort Sea as a management area of interest – Large Ocean Management Area (LOMA)
 - Creation of Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) as planning body for LOMA: co-chaired by DFO, Inuvialuit Game Council and Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
 - Creation of Beaufort Sea Partnership (BSP) and associated working groups as a forum for stakeholder engagement.



Post-IFA: beluga co-management and monitoring in the ISR

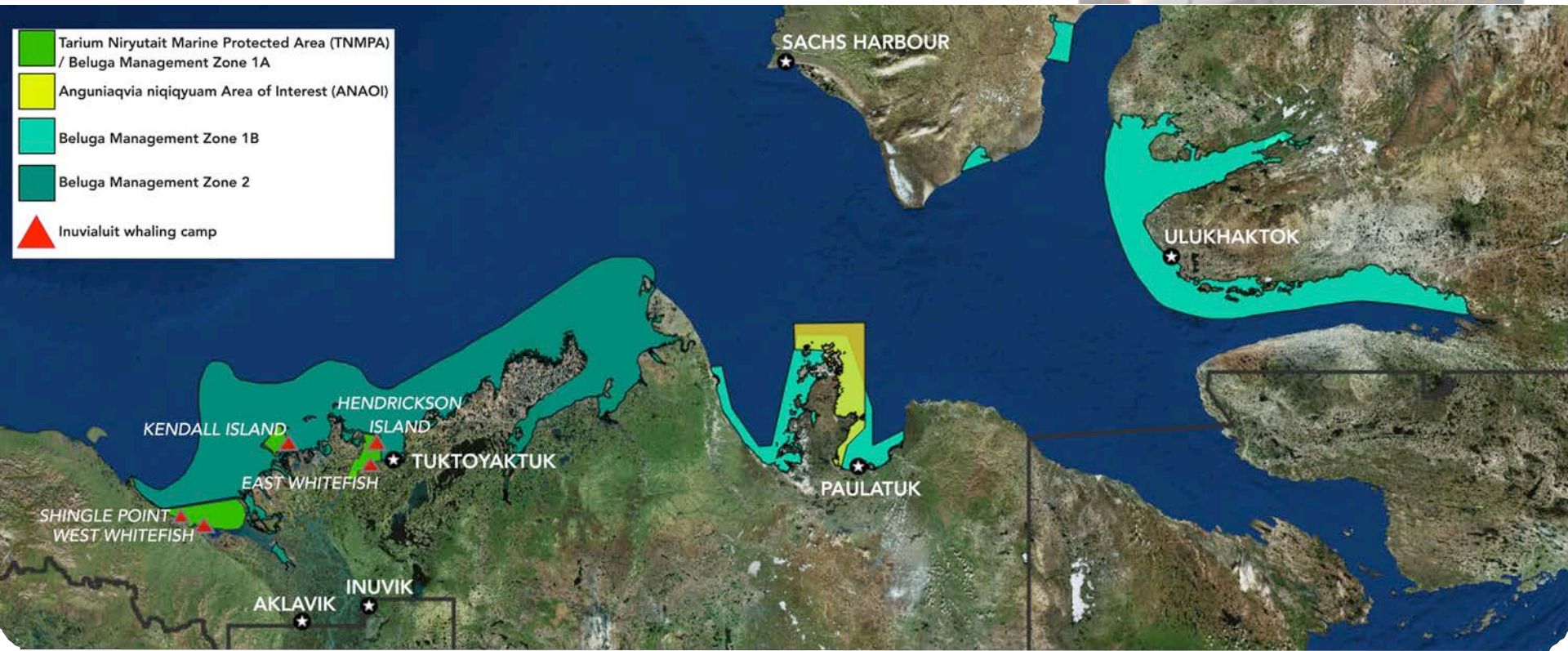
- 2010: Tarium Nirvutait Marine Protected Area (TNMPA) announced – Canada's first Arctic MPA
- Dr. Lisa Loseto (DFO) and her team continue to lead beluga and beluga habitat research in the area to support the TNMPA
 - Disease, contaminants, aerial surveys, seabed characterization, food web (fish, invertebrates, nutrients), traditional and local knowledge

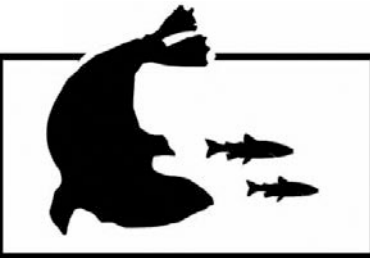




Post-IFA: beluga co-management and monitoring in the ISR

- 2014: All 6 ISR communities engaged in the sampling of harvested beluga (monitors hired at Hendrickson Island, Kendall Island, East Whitefish, and Paulatuk, and harvester reward program in Aklavik, Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok).





Present: beluga co-management and monitoring in the ISR

- 2016:
 - Beluga Summit held in Inuvik. Included Inuvialuit representatives from each of the ISR communities, DFO, FJMC, and additional researchers that came together to share information (local knowledge and scientific) on beluga, and make recommendations towards management to ensure we are adaptive to the changes in our area.
 - Strong research, monitoring and management measures in place that have all been developed through the co-management process (regularly discussed and reviewed by the Inuvialuit, DFO and the FJMC)
 - Long-term beluga harvest monitoring program remains a priority for the Inuvialuit



Questions?

