



Topic: Indigenous Stewardship and Protected Areas Working Group

Date/Time: 2:00-3:30pm ET, May 26, 2025

Location: Online Zoom Meeting

Chair: Colleen Parker (WG Leader)

Attendees: Lucassie Arragutainaq - Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association
Paul Angutetuar – Sapujiyiit Society
Laura Harris – Government of Nunavut
Richard Paton – Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chelsi McNeill-Jewer – Sapujiyiit Society
Billy Nicoll – Tasiujaquiaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi Secretariat
Ryan Barry – Tasiujaquiaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi Secretariat
Erin Keenan – World Wildlife Fund
Graham Sorenson – Birds Canada
Joel Heath – Arctic Eider Society
Charlotte Sharkey – Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Faith Maelzer - Sapujiyiit Society
Lauren Candlish – Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Sharlyne Umphrey - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Christopher Beck – Cree Nation Government
Justin Hack - Government of Nunavut
Erica Guth – World Wildlife Fund
Martine Giangioppi - Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Notes on Agenda Items:

1. Opening Remarks

2. Introductions

3. SINAA Agreement Lessons Learned - Presentation by Richard Paton, QIA

- Overview of SINAA
 - On Feb 27, 2025 the QIA and Government of Canada Signed the SINAA
 - Major Milestone: an opportunity for Inuit to lead the way in conservation.
 - Covers 12% of the 30% protection promised by 2030 by the federal government
 - Once SINAA closes (10-15 years) - we will have the largest Indigenous Protected Marine Landscape
- Pathway that led to SINAA
 - Began in 2013 with Tallurutiup Imanga Agreement and led to 2025 SINAA signing
 - Involved 32 community engagement sessions with all Qikiqtani communities

- Inuit Regional Approach to Sustainable Conservation
 - Recognizes that southernmost waters of Hudson Bay and last ice area above Ellesmere are part of a single functioning ecosystem - cannot be managed in isolation or with a fragmented approach
- Deepening Partnership with Canada on IPCAs
 - The QIA's vision is for conservation to be Inuit-led and to be governed through IPCAs
- One challenge with SINAA: bottom trawling
 - MPAs include bans on bottom-trawling. QIA is aligned with this on industrial-level trawling, but not community-level trawling.
 - Need to protect Inuit harvesting rights and sustainable fisheries
- Achieving Regional Conservation
 - Started with Tallurutiup Imanga communities
 - SINAA now adds additional communities
 - Future funding will help add remaining Qikiqtani communities
- SINAA also includes a commitment from Parks Canada to open the current IIBAs
 - These haven't changed since 1999
- Implementation to occur in phases
 - Phase 1: Build Capacity and Early QIPCAP Implementation (Sep 2024-Mar 2027)
 - Phase 2: Nauttiqsuqtiit Expansion (Apr 2027-Mar 2029)
 - Phase 3: SinAA outcomes and benefits across all 13 communities (Apr 2029+)
- SINAA includes
 - Existing Protection: Protected Areas, Tuvajuittuq, Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA, Marine Refuges
 - To be established by 2025: Savarjuaq, Qikiqtait
 - Proposed Future Marine Conservation Area: Cumberland Sound, Merchants Bay, Amittuq
 - Kingait and Kimmirut have other conservation outcomes they'd like to seek
 - Every community would like some level of marine and/or terrestrial conservation

Questions & Comments:

- Colleen Parker - Are the Proposed Conservation Areas earmarked in the agreement?
 - Richard Paton: They are annexes to the SINAA agreement. Commitments to negotiate IIBAs in the coming years. The first is the Baffin IIBA / National Parks in 2027.
- Laura Harris - Noticed that on the map provided, existing areas use "protected" and proposed use "conservation." Is the term conservation being used for a different type of measure than PAs?
 - Richard Paton: The current federal tool for Qikiqtait and Savarjuaq will be marine PAs under ministerial orders, but we'd work with DFO to make them conserved areas. We want outcomes for IPCA-only for future conservation areas. We're advancing Inuit led conservation areas but want IPCAs.
- Colleen - When amending the legislation, is this where you'd look to amend the legislation about bottom trawling?
 - Richard Paton: We are advancing conservation outcomes through an IPCA-only lens. MPAs are tied to the federal tools that have the ban on bottom trawls. We want to look into using a variation order under the Oceans Act for communal trawl with size and scale of no more than 8 feet.

- Joel Heath - Bottom trawling issue is complex. If community fishery areas are excluded, there would be less conservation in the long term. Don't want to exclude an area because there are scallops on the bottom. Appreciate QIA's support in these complexities.
- Martine - Are other Inuit Orgs approaching QIA to learn from you? Nunavik may be interested.
 - Richard Paton: Yes. All four Inuit regions have reached out to QIA. We've offered similar presentations to outline what's been done. Continue to offer the opportunity to connect. We've also worked with Inuit in Alaska and Greenland.
- Lucassie Arragutainnaq - How are the square kilometres determined? Shorelines?
 - Richard Paton: Sq. kms for Belchers were determined by a GIS specialist, but also were based on work done in the 70s in the land selection committees that identified areas of importance. Also looking at terrestrial conservation in the High Arctic. Bathurst Island for Caribou protection, and looking at areas near Pangnirtung to advance their protected areas.
 - Lucassie: I will need to spend time to understand the agreement
 - A: Our SINAA agreement have all been translated. The funding commitment has to go through Federal Appropriations Act - unknown whether this will be in Spring or October.
- Colleen Parker - It would be great to hear back from you in the fall
 - Richard Paton: Happy to join again, and happy to join the Working Groups calls regularly
- Paul Angutetuar - This is great for the people of Qikiqtani. I'm with the Sapujiyiit society which is similar to the SINAA project.
 - Colleen: We could consider having presentations from both groups at the Summit

4. Round Table Debrief

- 2025 Roundtable was held in Montreal, Feb 25-27
 - Community-Based Research and Monitoring theme
 - Has received positive feedback from participants, steering committee, & working groups. Youth participation was particularly appreciated as well as the chance to connect.
 - Reports can be found at <https://tsconsortium.com/meeting/2025-roundtable/>

5. 2026 Summit Planning

- Ryan Barry - Summit is being tentatively planned for the last week of Feb 2026 in Ottawa
 - Larger than Roundtable - up to 250 participants
 - Still determining venue
 - Focus will be on community reps, sharing updates and receiving info on themes relating to the working groups
 - Welcome feedback on how to make this a productive meeting
- Joel Heath - Based on discussions in the 2025 Roundtable one topic of discussion could be stewardship of the Area of Equal Use and Occupancy in East Hudson Bay. This would be an exercise in connecting the region, but also in understanding interjurisdictional processes.
- Ryan: Once we have save the date out, we'll send out a survey for additional feedback for directed feedback on the event

6. Items of Interest

- Paul Angutetuar - There have been a lot of tragedies due to climate change. SmartICE and SIKU have been very useful for helping with harvester safety. We're also using it for monitoring at the Sapujiyiit Society.
 - Lucassie Arragutainaq - Important to also bring your harpoon and learn from Indigenous Knowledge. SIKU and SmartICE are meant to complement this, not replace it.
- Lucassie Arragutainaq - Using our own Inuit management tools is the simplest way to run MPAs and IPCAs. We should do what we already do, and then consider if anything else is needed in addition. We understand our methods.
 - The regulatory method, based on the number, is a much more challenging approach for wildlife management
 - We keep talking about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit but we aren't actually using it. It is difficult for people who don't live it to understand and it gets dismissed. But we lived it for thousands of years and it worked.
 - Inuit understand it. At public hearings scientists speak and community members are silent. But when wildlife is brought up, all of them want to participate.
 - Can we find a parallel of this in management? We need to talk about this more.
 - Sometimes wildlife management is spiritual. When this is brought up it is usually dismissed. But it worked for us for thousands of years in managing wildlife and the environment. We can still use the good parts of this to manage the environment. We can make this understandable to people that don't live in it.
 - There is nothing wrong with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit or Science. We just need to make them work together.
 - Colleen Parker - Suggest adding this subject to the agenda
 - Richard Paton - Agreed that management plans must take Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into account. We will have a management plan that involves the voices of Inuit by the time of the Summit. We have agreed that the MPA will not require a joint Inuit management committee. The mgmt plan will be created by Inuit. In the context of our vision - natural environment, sustainable use, Inuit informed decision making, coordinated opportunities across communities. I would be happy to speak to this at the Summit

7. Date for Next Meeting

- Proposed timing: third Wednesday of September
- Colleen will reach out

8. Closing Remarks



Tasiujaquiaqmiut Sheewetaganapoi blends Inuktitut and Cree; *those living in the big bay and saltwater*, or more inclusively *the inland sea*, and reflects the interconnected ecosystem of flora, fauna, and people that call this marine region home.