

A Timeline of Environmental Stewardship Efforts for the greater Hudson Bay Marine Region: Background of the Hudson Bay Consortium Initiative*

1992

Hudson Bay Program was started to address cumulative impacts of the region, including human activities, and promote sustainable development.

1997

“Voices from the Bay: Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Inuit and Cree in the Hudson Bay Bioregion” published – a project involving 28 Inuit and Cree communities around Hudson Bay. Carried out in 1992-95, the project aimed to build an integrated regional-scale picture of environmental change from the point of view of Hudson Bay/James Bay communities. “As such, this body of research represents a key foundational resource for any future initiatives concerning the ecological protection and integrity of Hudson Bay and has set of standard of cooperation, innovation and excellence that future endeavours would do well to emulate.”

Oceans Act adopted by Canadian Parliament. Gave the Department of Fisheries and Oceans the mandate to lead integrated management for all marine/coastal/estuary activities, including the Hudson Bay Region.

2000

Hudson Bay Ocean’s Working Group – Fisheries and Oceans began a planning process for Hudson Bay focused on Western side of the Bay. Working groups were initially active and published two documents on coordinated management and ecosystem health. This group became largely inactive by 2003.

2004

Nunavut Hudson Bay Inter-Agency Working Group (NTK) was formed. Scientific and technical assessments were prepared in partnership with the Municipality of Sanikiluaq on influx of freshwater from La Grande Complex on Hudson Bay Marine Ecosystem in relation to Rupert River Eastmain 1-A Hydroelectric development.



2006

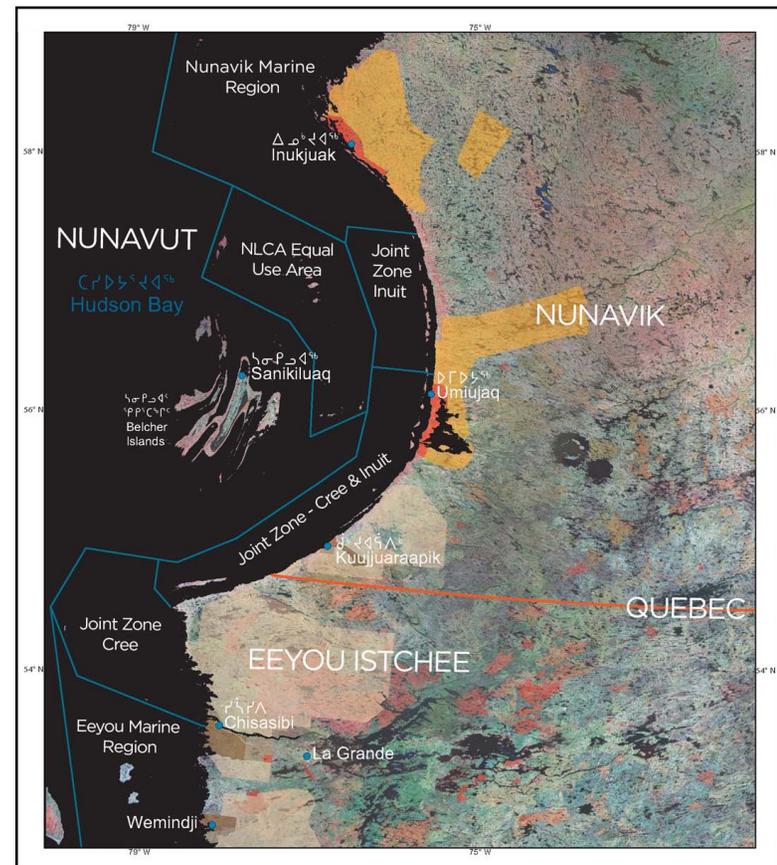
Recommendation 34 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) Report on the Rupert River Eastmain 1-A hydroelectric proposal in Northern Québec states: “The issue of cumulative effects affects several jurisdictions, including the federal government, the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, the territory of Nunavut as well as several government departments linked to these various levels of government. Assessing cumulative effects therefore goes far beyond the responsibility of a single proponent. Within this context, it would be imperative for the federal government to implement large scale research and monitoring programs for James Bay and Hudson Bay ecosystems. Such a program could be coordinated by an independent body whose structure is akin to that of the International Joint Commission. Such a structure could foster the pooling of efforts and resources of all concerned government agencies, as well as those of the academic community, which is already working on various problems related to cumulative effects in this sector. Whatever the chosen structure, it would be essential for the various Aboriginal communities affected to be stakeholders in this research and monitoring program, in order to integrate into it traditional knowledge and local expertise.”

Condition 8.1 of the Certificate of Authorization for that project states: “The evaluation of the cumulative impacts of the hydroelectric projects of James Bay and Hudson Bay, by reason of their scope, concerns several jurisdictions and goes beyond the responsibility of one single proponent. The analysis of the impacts cannot be done without setting up some large-scale research and follow-up program carried out by a consortium comprised mainly of government authorities concerned and including participation by academic circles and by all stakeholders responsible for this issue which devolves only partly on the proponent. The program should take into account traditional knowledge with a view to better defining the lines of research.”

“Assessing cumulative effects therefore goes far beyond the responsibility of a single proponent.”
– CEAA, recommendation 34

“The analysis of the impacts cannot be done without setting up some large-scale research and follow-up program carried out by a consortium”

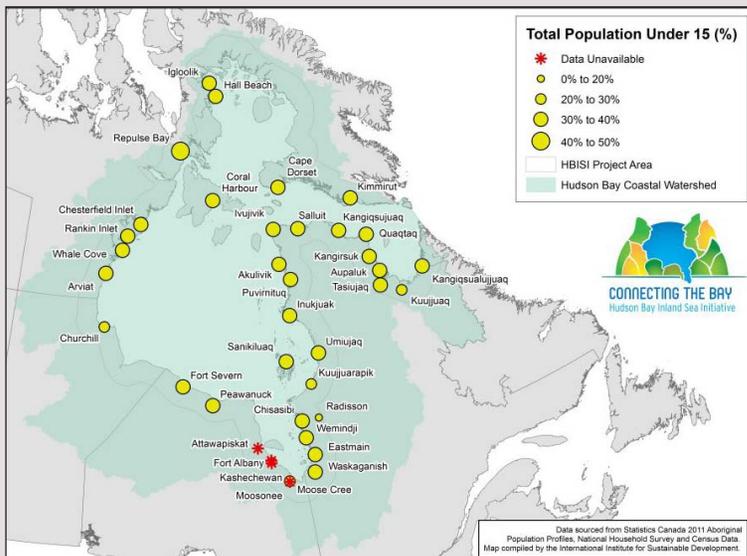
“The program should take into account traditional knowledge with a view to better defining the lines of research.”
–Developpement Durable, Environnement et Parcs Quebec, condition 8.1



Complex regions of jurisdictional overlap in east Hudson Bay/James Bay, map provided courtesy of Makivik.

2007 to 2008 **Municipality of Sanikiluaq/NTK** advocates for implementation of Recommendation 34/Condition 8.1. Workshops to initiate discussion on Hudson Bay Community Based Environmental Monitoring System with science researchers (2007) and representatives from Nunavik, Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui, Kuujuraapik, Umiujaq and Inukjuak (2008); Publishes “A Life Vest for Hudson Bay’s Drifting Stewardship” manuscript in *Arctic* (2008).

2010 to 2012 **NTK partners** with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD, in Winnipeg) to form the Hudson Bay Inland Sea Initiative (HBISI). The goal of the HBISI was to work toward Recommendation 34, specifically to hold the first Hudson Bay Awareness Summit in 2011 to bring together all the stakeholders and partners around the bays toward establishing a governance structure. Unfortunately, administrative changes in Sanikiluaq caused NTK to lose its mechanism to receive funding. As a result the Hudson Bay Awareness Summit and partnership with IISD came to a halt and NTK was unable to re-establish. HBISI shifted focus to holding smaller, grassroots efforts in west Hudson Bay.



2011 **Arctic Eider Society** founded as a registered Canadian charity, releases feature film *People of a Feather* (2012), touring Canada, U.S. and internationally (2013) raising awareness about needs for environmental stewardship in Hudson Bay.

The IISD publishes “On Thin Ice: An overview of governance of Hudson Bay”. The document paints a detailed picture of previous efforts for environmental stewardship and the challenges to cohesive governance.

2012 **Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Roundtable** (West Coast) – in 2002, the HBRRT brought together communities in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut and northern Manitoba to coordinate and advance issues of mutual concern including social, environmental and economic issues. It was revived in 2012 after a 5-year dormancy and has since been meeting twice a year, in conjunction with Kivalliq mayors meeting. Note that because Sanikiluaq uses Manitoba health services, they are part of the HBRRT.

2013 **Andrew Hamilton** develops “The Hudson Bay Complex in Flux: Contemplating the future of the world’s largest seasonally ice-covered inland sea” for IISD. The document synthesizes research and knowledge on declining sea ice and impacts of development.

Building on background and consultation conducted by NTK for a Community Based Environmental Monitoring System, Arctic Eider Society establishes a Community-Driven Research Network with ongoing programs in Sanikiluaq, Inukjuak, Umiujaq, Kuujjuaraapik and Chisasibi towards bridging jurisdictional boundaries to address cumulative impacts.

Building Momentum

2014
to
present



Building on outreach and networking efforts; the Eeyou Marine Region Symposium in Montreal; and ArcticNet's renewed focus on completing a Hudson Bay Integrated Regional Impact Study (IRIS), the Arctic Eider Society works with former NTK and HBISI partners to organize a planning meeting in Ottawa on December 9, 2014 towards forming a Hudson Bay Consortium. Over 100 stakeholders registered, a report was delivered leading to the formation of a planning steering committee, letters of support from stakeholder organizations, and preliminary funding for a secretariat.

Planning to establish an East Hudson Bay/James Bay Regional Roundtable for Fall 2016 is underway. Planning to bring together groups from across Hudson Bay to formally launch the Consortium at a Hudson Bay Summit, is also underway for Fall 2017.

** this list is not exhaustive and focuses on an overview of activities related to stewardship and coordinated efforts leading to the current Hudson Bay Consortium initiative. A more general and comprehensive timeline of Hudson Bay programs is also being compiled and we welcome your suggestions for items to include.*

Prepared by the Hudson Bay Consortium startup planning committee and the Arctic Eider Society, April 2016

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