



Wildlife Watch

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Review of Plans and Planning Initiatives

Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan Completed

The Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan is now completed. It can be viewed on the internet at www.taiga.net/wmac/researchplan. This Plan identifies the needs and priorities for environmentally-related research and monitoring on the Yukon North Slope and presents current issues and concerns along with proposed actions. The Plan was completed by intern Mike Gill, under the direction of WMAC (NS), through extensive consultation with IFA established co-management bodies, federal, territorial and Alaskan government agencies, Canadian and Alaskan universities, non-governmental organizations, and interested residents of Aklavik, Inuvik, and Old Crow.



The Plan has been developed to direct and support the planning and research activities of resource managers and researchers, and address the information needs of the people who live in the region and rely on its resources. It is intended to promote cooperative initiatives among government agencies, communities and universities, and to facilitate projects across settlement region boundaries and state and territorial borders. The Plan builds on past and ongoing wildlife and environmental research and also identifies important information gaps. It provides a guide to community involvement in projects, and the use of traditional and local knowledge. In this way, the Plan can be used to help develop programs that involve local communities and their knowledge of ecosystem health and functioning.

Arctic Tern image courtesy www.corbis.com

Herschel Island Management Plan Review Underway

There have been many changes on Herschel Island since the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan was completed in 1991. Among other issues, increased visitor use of the park has raised concerns about impacts on the land, wildlife, and areas of cultural importance. Yukon Government's Parks Branch has begun a review of the Herschel Island Management Plan to identify issues and concerns. These concerns need to be addressed so that the management plan better reflects the current situation on Herschel Island.

WMAC (NS) will be very active during the review and will provide both a resource and a vehicle for Inuvialuit and public input through regular updates to the Inuvialuit Game Council and participation in public information sessions in Inuvik, Aklavik and Whitehorse. Other interest groups and communities will be consulted throughout the review process. This initial consultation will be the basis for a draft document, expected to be completed late this fall. The draft will then go out for wider review.

Coming Events:

Sept 15-18: Beaufort Sea Conference, Inuvik

Sept 27-28: Wildlife Management Advisory
Council (North Slope) Meeting,
Whitehorse

Sept 29- Oct 2: Inuvialuit Game Council,
Whitehorse

WMAC(NS) and Parks Canada Work Together

Parks Canada is reviewing the Ivvavik National Park's Management Plan. Every five years a review takes place to help set priorities and guide the management of the Park. WMAC (NS) is currently working with Parks Canada to identify issues which should be addressed during the management plan review. Extensive public, community and Inuvialuit comment will be invited over the next year as work on the plan proceeds.

Parks Canada is also updating its Ecosystem Conservation Plan for Ivvavik. Identified issues and actions will be integrated into the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. Bringing the two plans together will create a more comprehensive document that covers the entire Yukon North Slope and will be easier for managers and interested community organizations to use and refer to.

Aklavik Community Conservation Plan is Being Updated

WMAC(NS) representatives participated in the Community Conservation Plan Workshop, held in March 1999 in Inuvik. This workshop was part of a process to review and amend the Inuvialuit Community Conservation Plans, including the plan for Aklavik and Inuvik. These community-based planning documents were developed to provide guidance in the conservation and management of renewable resources and lands within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Each plan contains a brief description of the current conservation and resource management system and a strategy to address five broad goals, including the identification of important wildlife habitat and describing the role of communities in land use decisions.

Participants at the workshop updated the current plans by adding and changing information and by confirming task commitments by communities, co-management bodies and government agencies. The Aklavik Community Conservation Plan was originally completed in 1993. The revised version will ensure that the Aklavik Plan remains current, accurate and useful.

WMAC (NS) Explores Coastal Zone Planning

The coastal zone of the Yukon North Slope stretches along the coast from Alaska to the Northwest Territories border and out to sea about sixteen kilometers. It is an important area for sea ducks, shorebirds and dabbling ducks for molting, migrations and feeding. The coastal zone is also used for feeding and reproduction by fish, beluga whales and bowhead whales. Increased use of marine and coastal areas, such as Workboat Passage, may affect this sensitive area.

Coastal zone planning was identified as an objective in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. Under



the direction of WMAC (NS), intern Andrea Hoyt has been studying coastal planning done in other places around the world and has examined its relevance to the Yukon North Slope. People in Inuvialuit communities were interviewed with respect to their interest in coastal zone planning and what such planning might achieve. The next step in this process will be for the Council to meet with interested parties to discuss whether coastal zone planning is a good idea and whether it is useful on the Yukon North Slope.

Beluga tail fin image courtesy www.corbis.com

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

- **Inuvialuit Game Council:** Danny C. Gordon; Herbert Felix; Alternates: Billy Archie, and Carol Arey
- **Government of Canada:** Joan Eamer, Canadian Wildlife Service; Alternate: Alan Fehr, Parks Canada
- **Government of Yukon:** Brian Pelchat, Renewable Resources; Alternate: Dorothy Cooley, Renewable Resources
- **Chairperson:** Lindsay Staples
- **Secretariat:** Aileen Horler

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