



Hello Beaufort Sea Partnership!

There's been a lot going on with the Beaufort Sea Partnership, a lot of behind-the-scenes work. This newsletter has been created as one way to keep everyone up to date on what's happening, and keep all of us linked. All partners can use the newsletter to share their news, events, research, accomplishments, and interests in the Beaufort Sea Large Ocean Management Area.

This premier issue features a summary of the achievements of the past year, describes where we're at right now, and shows us hints of what's yet to come. We learn of the research being done by Jennie Knopp to develop a plan for community based monitoring of Arctic Char in Sachs Harbour. There are photos to be seen, and mugs to be won.

We hope you enjoy this update and use it to communicate what the Partnership is working on within your organization. With your input, this simple newsletter can grow into a strong connection between all the partners, the public, researchers, and anyone else interested in seeing our vision for the Beaufort Sea accomplished.

The Best of 2008

Every year-end is marked by "Top" lists. Top 100 pop songs of the year; top 25 selling autobiographies; top 40 fashions off the runway that people can actually wear; top 17 jelly bean flavours...

Here we have the **Top 10 Accomplishments of the Beaufort Sea Partnership in 2008**, in no specific order:

1. **Traditional Knowledge Working Group** The TK Working Group is made up of representatives from each of the six communities in the ISR, and has invited a Gwich'in representative to join. The TK Working Group created the Traditional Knowledge objectives and strategies for the Integrated Ocean Management (IOM) Plan.
2. **Review of the Strawman IOM Plan** The Strawman was put together to have a document for the Partners to discuss. All Partners reviewed the Strawman and provided comments which shaped the next draft of the Plan.
3. **Beaufort Sea Partnership (BSP) Meeting, March 11-13 in Inuvik** The Partners provided input into the objectives and strategies of the IOM Plan.

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Bulletin Board



Plan Review Period -
until February 13th
RCC Meeting -
March 31 - April 2 in Inuvik
Oceans Day -
Shingle Point (late July)

BSP Update

What's happening now?

Over the past year, the Working Groups have generated and put together objectives and strategies for the Plan. Comments from community tours and the Partners comments on the Strawman document have been reviewed. All of this has been put together to start 2009 with the draft Integrated Ocean Management Plan for the Beaufort Sea: 2009 and beyond out for review by the Partners, Working Groups, and other interested organizations.

4. [BSP Website](#) The Beaufort Sea Partnership webpage(www.beaufortseapartnership.ca) contains information on what the Partnership and the Plan are about, links to information and other documents of interest to the public, a calendar of events, and photos.
5. [Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report \(EOAR\)](#) Released March 2008. This report described the Beaufort Sea ecosystem, identifies gaps in our knowledge of the area, and identifies human uses and impacts on the ecosystem.
6. [Regional Coordination Committee \(RCC\) Meeting, May 13 & 14 in Inuvik](#) The RCC reviewed the work done on the IOM Plan and provided direction on the next steps in the planning process.
7. [Draft Social, Cultural and Economic Overview and Assessment Report \(SCEOAR\)](#) Released for review September 2008. This report describes the social, cultural and economic characteristics of the Beaufort Sea area.
8. [Regulatory Overview and Assessment Report - September 2008](#) This report identifies the main laws, regulations and policies that apply to the main uses of the Beaufort Sea.
9. [Two Community Tours](#) In February and March, 2008, communities reviewed and validated the objectives of the IOM Plan. In October and November, 2008, an update was given to the communities on the IOM Plan.
10. [Oceans Day in Inuvik, July 11 - 12](#) A parade, canoe races, BBQ, games, crafts - Oceans Day had it all!

Research in the Beaufort and Delta



Bridging the Gap: Linking Scientific and Traditional Knowledge with Community-Based Monitoring

Jennie A. Knopp is looking at the linkages between scientific and traditional knowledge to create an effective long-term community-based monitoring plan in Sachs Harbour for Arctic charr. This tool will build capacity in Sachs Harbour, allowing community members to be directly involved with management of their important natural resource.

For this research, Sachs Harbour community members have shared Traditional Knowledge on the environment and changes in the area over the years, and helped with fish sampling. Arctic charr were sampled in 1993-94, and again recently to see how their growth has been affected over the years. From the sampling, year-to-year growth can be seen from as far back as 30 years. Weather data from Environment Canada is also used to examine how the environment has changed.

Jennie's research compares the scientific analysis with Traditional Knowledge on changes observed in the charr populations. This determines if similar observations occurred in both local knowledge and scientific analysis, in turn creating a bridge between the two forms of knowledge. This valuable research provides novel and enlightening explanations of the connections between science and TK,

The review period for the draft goes until February 13th. The Planning Secretariat will address and respond to comments received, and work to get the final document ready in time for the upcoming Regional Coordinating Committee meeting at the end of March.

2009 promises to be an exciting year for the Partnership as we finalize the Plan and move into Implementation!

Trivia Challenge

- win a BSP Mug!



The BSP Website has been running for several months - take 5 and test your knowledge!

Prizes for the first three people to email the following: the correct answers; and 3 suggestions for the website

How many organizations are part of the Beaufort Sea Partnership?

How many areas are included in the Tarium Niryutait MPA, and what are they called?

How many EBSA's are there within the Beaufort Sea LOMA?

Name the Working Groups of the Beaufort Sea Partnership.

Name two of the steps in the Beaufort Sea IOM Planning Process.

What are four of the "useful Links" on the BSP website?

What date did the last Community Tour meeting take place in Sachs Harbour?

Who is the BSP Web Administrator?

Email your answers and suggestions to:

beaufortseaproject@dfo-mpo.gc.ca



and will tell us what some local indicators are of climate variability and change in northern ecosystems.

We had a few questions for Jennie about her research in the Beaufort, and herself:

When are you planning to come to the Beaufort area, where will you go, and what will you do there? "I have been in Sachs Harbour, Banks Island on Thesiger Bay in the Beaufort Sea for almost three months over four visits in 2007 and 2008. In 2009 I will be in Sachs Harbour in February as well as late summer to conduct TK interviews, field sampling with local assistants and work with the community on an Arctic Charr community-based monitoring plan."

How have people from the communities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region been involved in your research? Will they be involved in further research or monitoring? "The people of the community of Sachs Harbour have been extensively involved in the research. Since this is a community-based monitoring plan, the community is directly involved in the creation of the plan. Community members have been trained in scientific sampling techniques and assisted with field program. The long-term community-based monitoring plan will continue in the community after the research is complete and will serve as an early warning system for changes in the resource. This monitoring plan will be applicable to other communities in the ISR."

What are the benefits of your research? "At this time there is a lack of understanding of how changes in climate will impact many northern species on which the Inuvialuit rely for sustenance and which are important to aspects of culture and tradition. This research will identify appropriate indicators to use in a community-based monitoring program for climate change and changing charr populations in the ISR and the Canadian Arctic. This research and the creation of an effective community-based monitoring plan are critical for the management of northern species in the face of unprecedented environmental change."

What interests you most about the Beaufort Sea, and why? "The Inuvialuit people and other Indigenous people of Beaufort Sea area have had an intimate relationship with the Beaufort Sea for thousands of years. The Beaufort has provides living natural resources, a means of travel, culture and beliefs for the people who rely on it. It is very intriguing, the intimate relationship the people of this region have with such a rich and expansive natural resource."

Jennie's research links to several objectives in the Integrated Ocean Management Plan for the Beaufort Sea. Her research:

- helps assess and develop a response to changes resulting from climate change (Governance Objective),
- helps assess and manage for a safe and accessible supply of culturally important species (Cultural Objective),
- increases awareness and provides opportunities for people to participate in research projects (Social Objective),
- uses Traditional Knowledge in resource management, monitoring and science (Traditional Knowledge Objective),
- contributes to developing baseline information and determining rates of change in a component of the ecosystem (Environmental Quality Objective).

Jennie A. Knopp is currently a M.Sc. candidate at Trent University. Her research is part of the International Polar Year Climate Variability and Change Effects on Char project that was awarded to Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee.

Partner Update

The **Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC)** spent the greater part of 2008 working on its *new* Website and Online Registry Site.

The Registry site is in its final test phase and the both sites are scheduled to be launched before February 20.

Check it out later this month at www.screeningcommittee.ca

At the same time the **Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB)** ran a Logo Design Contest early in 2008 and will be launching their new website with the winning logo design on February 20.

Check it out at later this month at www.eirb.ca

Photos taken in Tuktoyaktuk, NT



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A poster for her project placed third in the social sciences category at the Arctic Change 2008 conference in Quebec City, the largest international Arctic research conference ever held in Canadian history.

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J.Knopp

Vision for the Beaufort Sea

The Beaufort Sea ecosystem is healthy and supports sustainable communities and economies for the benefit of current and future generations.

BSIMPI BSSrPA CPAWS CARC CEEA
EC DFO FJMC GNWT GRRB INAC IC IPY
IGC IRC ILA ND NRCan PC TC NRCan NEB
OMRN OSTP RCMP WMAC WWF YG



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Next time...

In addition to what you've seen here, the next issue will include an interview with one of our Partners, which will provide some insight into how we can work together on achieving the objectives of the IOM Plan. It could be you and your organization! To volunteer for this opportunity, or to submit news of upcoming events and updates from your organization for inclusion in the next issue, email us at

beaufortseaproject@dfo-mpo.gc.ca