

Coastal Restoration Nunavut Project Highlights

May 1-2021

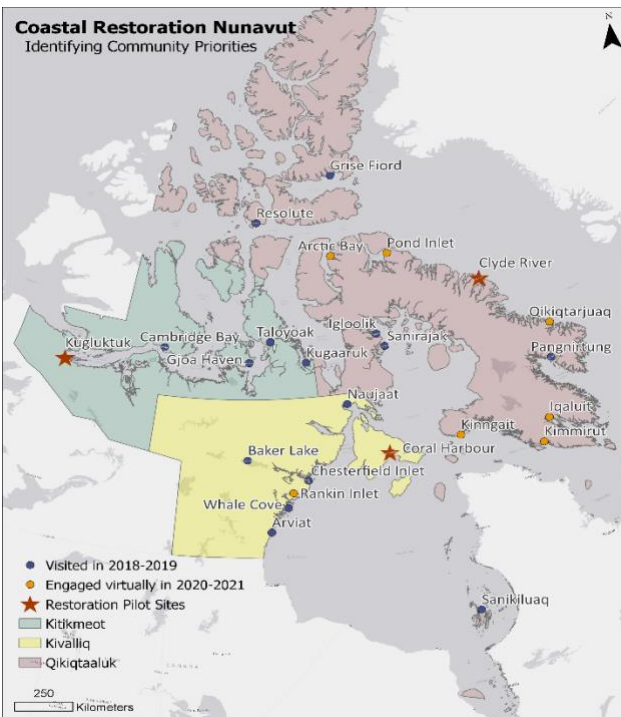
Newsletter No. 1



Welcome: On behalf of our entire project team, I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter highlighting some of the many activities that have taken place under the *Coastal Restoration Nunavut project*. In addition to being welcomed and learning first-hand of the restoration priorities in *18 communities* prior to the Covid-19 restrictions, we have been fortunate to see *three community-identified restoration projects* get implemented so far. We look forward to hearing any feedback from readers and encourage all to visit the project website at coastalnunavut.ca

Overview: In February 2018, community visits for the 5-year Coastal Restoration Nunavut (CRN) project began. A partnership between Dalhousie University’s *Marine Affairs Program* and the *Government of Nunavut*, funded by *Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s Coastal Restoration Fund*, the project draws on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ)* to document and address the health and condition of marine species and their habitats. “*Coastal restoration*” is the action of returning something to its former condition; improving its current condition; or protecting it from further or future harm. “*Coastal*” refers to any area where marine and land processes meet and interact.

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The team works in collaboration with the *Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)* of each community by facilitating focus groups and mapping workshops to identify coastal issues and restoration priorities. So far, *18 of the 25 Nunavut communities have been visited*, with the remaining visits planned for spring 2021. The current COVID-19 restrictions have required our Iqaluit-based research team to transition to virtual meetings. All interviews in winter 2021 were conducted via phone and email.

Once the team commences travel again, plans will be made to visit the remaining Hamlets to further discuss and review the collected information. For more details about this project, please visit our website:

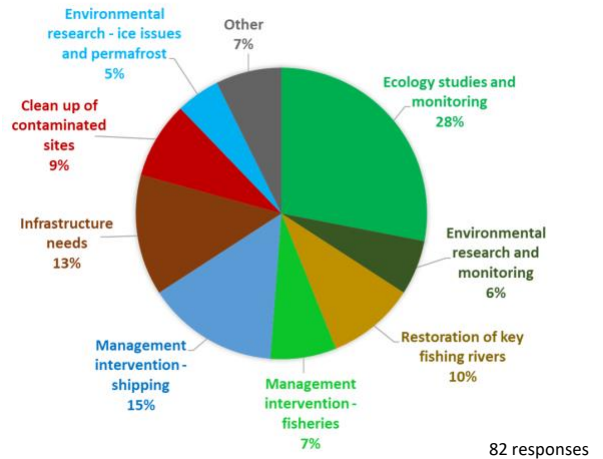
<https://www.coastalnunavut.ca/en/about>

What We Heard

Urgent Coastal Restoration Needs:

Changes in coastal areas: All communities noted that rivers and lakes were getting shallower, resulting in access issues, impacts on migrating species, species loss, and marine mammals getting trapped in coastal areas. **Other observations** were environmental changes, increased coastal erosion, and changes in species populations.

Actions to address these coastal issues include species, habitat, and environmental monitoring; river restoration; and management interventions. *Examples of what communities are doing in collaboration with our project* to address these issues are presented below.



Community CRN Pilot Sites

Clyde River, ᑭᓴᑦ ᑭᓴᑦ ᑭᓴᑦ, Kanngiqtuqaapik

The community of **Clyde River** (Qikiqtaaluk Region) is located on the northern shore of Patricia Bay, Baffin Island (see map). The mouth of the Clyde River enters the bay to the east of the community. *The CRN research team visited the community in March 2018.* Residents reported seeing more polar bears near or in the community in recent years. Ice melt has also been occurring much earlier, resulting in a shift in harvesting and cultural activities due to safety concerns when travelling.

Issue: An old access road crosses the river about 2km upstream from the mouth. Boulder riprap (human built structure) had been placed in the river to reduce the water depth and allow traffic to cross. Community members noted that Arctic char were impacted by these changes, as the obstruction restricted seasonal migration from the ocean to freshwater.



Approach: In 2018, a plan to remove the riprap structure and return the river to a more natural flow was put into place. Working with the assistance of Dalhousie University's CRN team and the Government of Nunavut, the HTO also developed an upstream migration monitoring plan to assess and share information about the river and numerate the char runs. This plan includes a counting fence, which uses a passive video recording system to reduce fish stress.

Community Restoration Priorities include:

1. The removal of the old access road from Clyde River's river, a key migratory corridor for Arctic char;
2. Removal of abandoned oil drums in Barrel Lake (garbage from the abandoned Cape Christian military site); and
3. Water quality testing at Barrel Lake.

News and Updates

Meet Our 2021 Winter Intern

Tagalik Eccles is from Rankin Inlet (Kangiqiniq) and is currently enrolled in the Nunavut Law Program in Iqaluit. She joined us in February and will be with the project until May. Her main role will be research review and coordination, such as organizing interviews with the remaining seven communities, leading and participating in data collection, documenting workshops, and outreach.



Inuit Rights and Marine Use



c. Jade Owen, 2020

Coastal Issue: During our community visits, the CRN team frequently heard about the impacts of increased shipping traffic on traditional harvesting areas. Communities also felt excluded from decisions relating to shipping policies and routing, even though both affect Inuit access rights.

Approach: *Clear Seas* has partnered with us on a project that will design and produce informational posters and a multilingual guidebook to better inform communities on several shipping-related issues and regulations, all of which affect coastal habitat and resource access. For more information visit: <https://clearseas.org/en/research/inprogress/>

Funding Programs

In addition to support from the Coastal Restoration Nunavut project, HTO and community members might be interested in the following funding programs or agencies:

- ◆ Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)
- ◆ Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program
- ◆ CIRNAC Northern Contaminants Program
- ◆ Polar Knowledge
- ◆ Indigenous Climate Hub
- ◆ Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

Government of Nunavut

- ◆ Economic Development & Transportation
- ◆ Culture & Heritage
- ◆ Community & Government Services
- ◆ Qikiqtani Inuit Association
- ◆ Kivalliq Inuit Association
- ◆ Kitikmeot Inuit Association

While our team cannot provide eligibility advice or guarantee the outcome of a funding proposal, we can assist with the application process by drafting or editing content and helping navigate the reporting requirements.

Reach out (contacts below) if you would like assistance with an upcoming application or report.

Let's Continue the Conversation...

Our project is funded until March 2022. In 2021 we will be meeting with the seven remaining Hamlets and supporting at least two more restoration sites. *If you live in the territory and would like to share your perspectives on coastal issues, changes and priorities, please contact us by phone or email.* By documenting the state of the coastline and the many animals calling arctic waters home, *communities can better anticipate and plan for changes to mitigate current and future impacts.*

Acknowledgements: We would like to sincerely thank the individuals, members of the HTOs and Hamlets, and all government staff, both federal and territorial, for your willingness to share your knowledge and hospitality with us. *Without you, the success achieved to date would not have been possible.*



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To learn more about the community initiatives - please visit our website.

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