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Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mission Statement

Using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) in Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) in Nunavut.

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Protecting and Promoting Inuit Rights and Values

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- Assessments that are done about a sector/industry or region as opposed to a specific project

- SEA are undertaken earlier than project level Environmental Assessments (EA's) and set the standard and provide guidance for EAs to follow

- SEA is a planning tool that can help make decisions about policies or plans.
  - Ex. Should a certain area be opened to oil and gas development

- SEA can look at multiple sectors and the combined or cumulative impacts on people and the environment
  - Ex. Identify how offshore oil and gas, tourism and fisheries together impact upon marine ecosystems or Inuit livelihood.

SEA – What is it?

- SEA's help identify potential impacts of a decision and measures to mitigate the impacts.
  - Helps to prevent errors or unnecessary expenses.
- Determine the scope of an SEA, how big of an area, what timeframe should be assessed?
- SEA reviews the available environmental & socio-economic information (baseline information)
- SEA help decision-makers choose among alternatives

SEA – What is it?

- SEA allows for early engagement with communities and other affected stakeholders
  - SEA helps identify the main stakeholders from government, communities, private sector, civil society and allows to learn from each other and find common interests.
- SEA helps identify what is important to stakeholders.
  - Community or individual values shape what valued ecosystem and socio-economic components (VEC/VSEC) are chosen.
  - Examples of VEC/VSEC are: travel routes, hunting/harvesting/camping areas, certain species of marine mammal.
  - Values become indicators and potential impact of policy /plan are evaluated for each indicator.
- SEA allow for a process to develop relationships

Benefits of Community Involvement in SEA

- Promotes community learning, capacity building
- Share traditional knowledge to apply in SEA
- Communities can help address limitations to SEA in the North:

➢ *Adequate baseline data*
  - Inuit and community members can be included in collection of baseline data

➢ *Linking ecological and social aspects of the environment*.
  - Community input in defining the VEC and VSEC's
  - Help SEA reflect local conditions and focus on major issues with costed recommendations.
  - Monitoring plans not only biophysical but also monitor harvesting and access to harvesting areas

Community Comments from SEA Tour 2014

- Impacts & Benefits
  - Concern over impacts to marine mammals, which are the livelihood of residents.
  - Concerns about ice conditions and challenges / ability to respond to an oil spill.
  - Cumulative impacts of several industrial activities (shipping traffic, mining, commercial fishing & oil and gas)
  - Concern that residents will absorb risk of oil and gas without benefiting from activity.
  - Want to better understand the economic benefits to communities, training / education / business opportunities and compensation if wildlife is affected

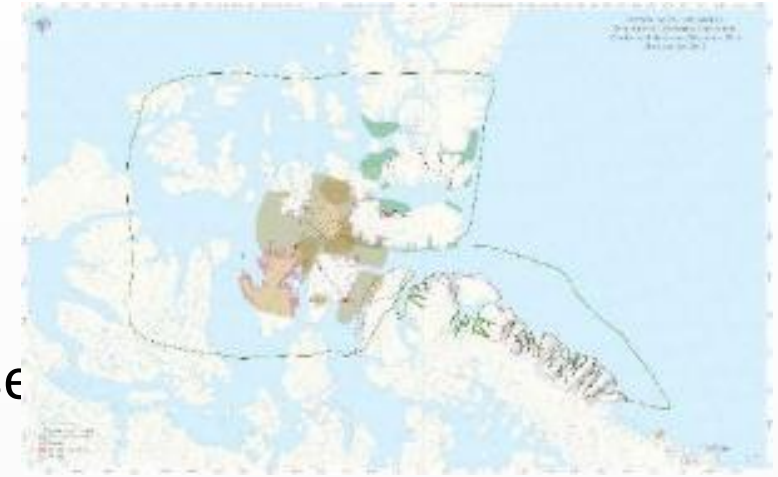
- Role of Inuit / Community voice
  - Communities want a voice in the planning and decision-making process and input in the final recommendations.
  - Support for community involvement in the SEA.
  - How will IQ and values be incorporated into a SEA

- SEA Process
  - Alternatives, what about investing in clean and renewable energy?
  - They want to hear about experiences from other regions.
  - What is the role of NIRB, NWB, Marine Council.
  - What research has been done and what scientific information is available?

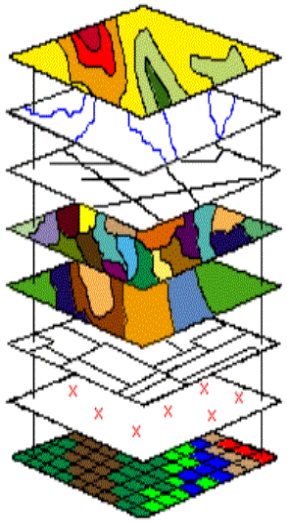
Using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in SEA

- Traditional Knowledge
  - Not strictly environmental in nature, factual traditional knowledge, pattern of use, values and knowledge systems, subsistence lifestyles, social interactions, spiritual beliefs.
- Traditional Land Use.
  - How a culture used and uses the land and its resources. Recording trails, place names, cultural sites and camps allows one to understanding potential impacts to traditional land use.
- Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK)

Using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) in SEA



- Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK)
  - Cultural science that is acquired through lifetimes of obse participation (TAXONOMIC)
  - Represents accumulated collective information about traditionally used resources, animal movements and population trends (SPATIAL)
  - Timing of resource harvesting, species specific habitat and behavior, community harvesting patterns (TEMPORAL)
  - Reaction of species to different disturbances, changes to community wellness, weather patterns, landmarks, trails, pack ice (SOCIAL).



Example of Using IQ in Decision-Making

Polar Bear

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Walrus

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Floe Edge

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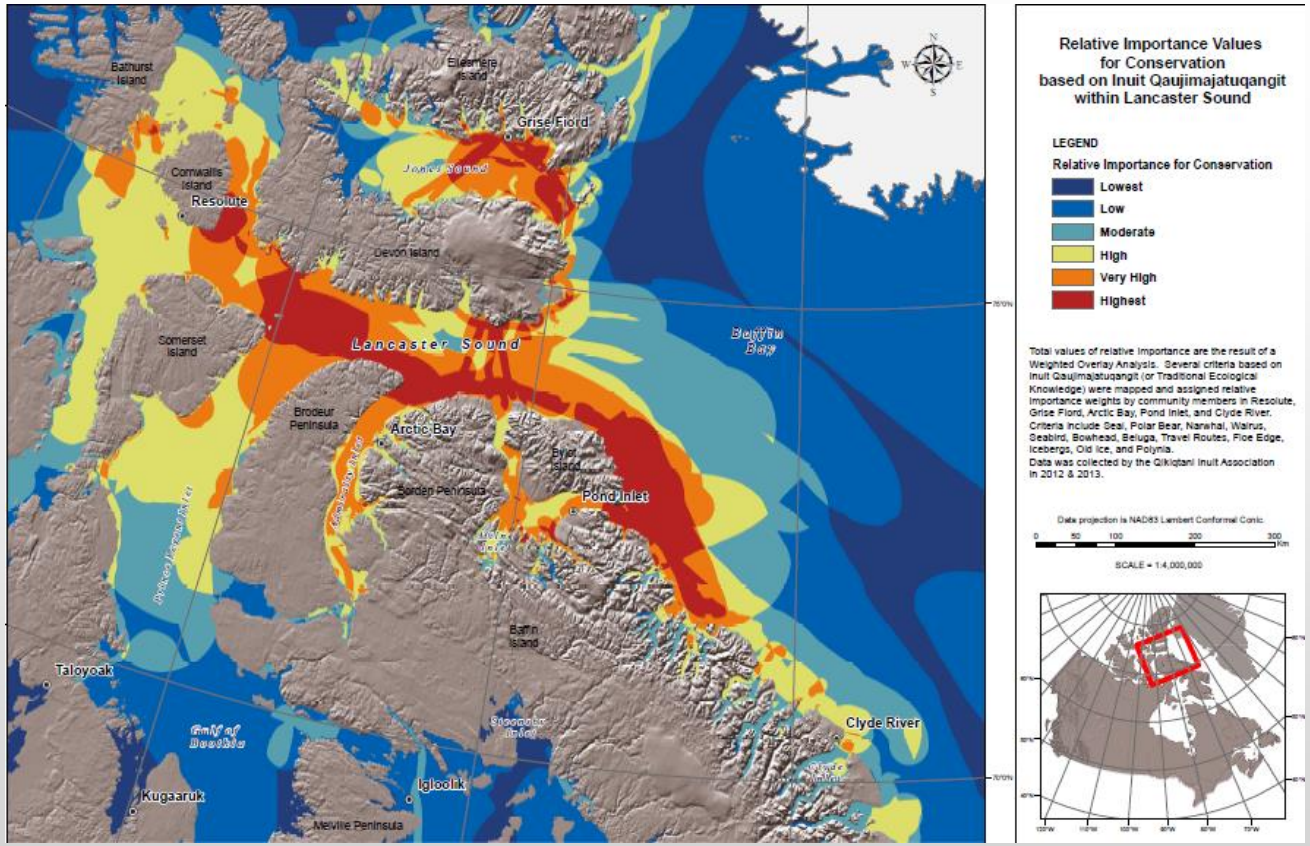
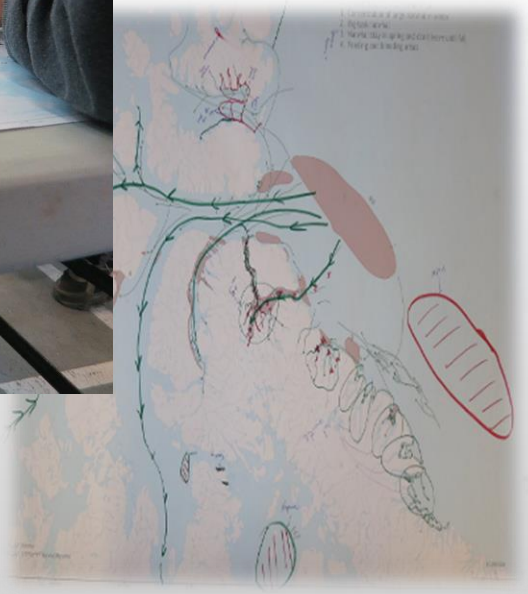
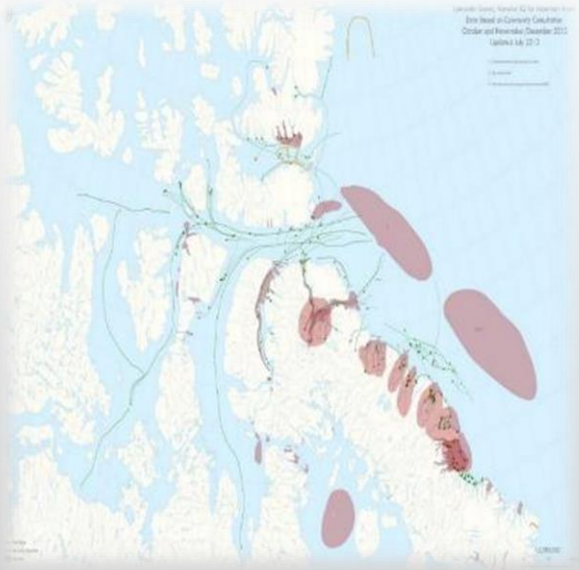


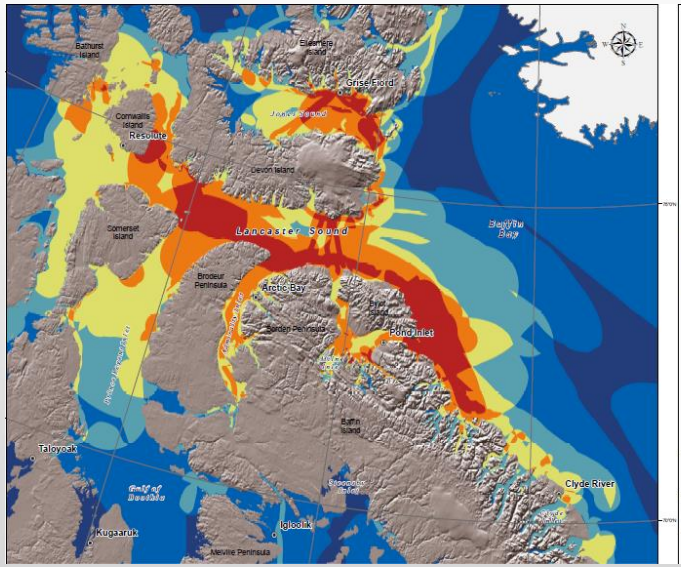
- Important / Sensitive Areas Map
- IQ can be used to highlight significant or intensely used areas.
- Constraints map that illustrates areas that need to be avoided.

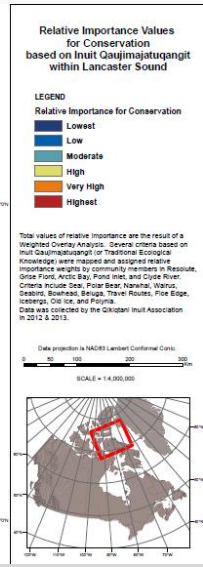
IQ Mapping

- IQ collected and validated in communities





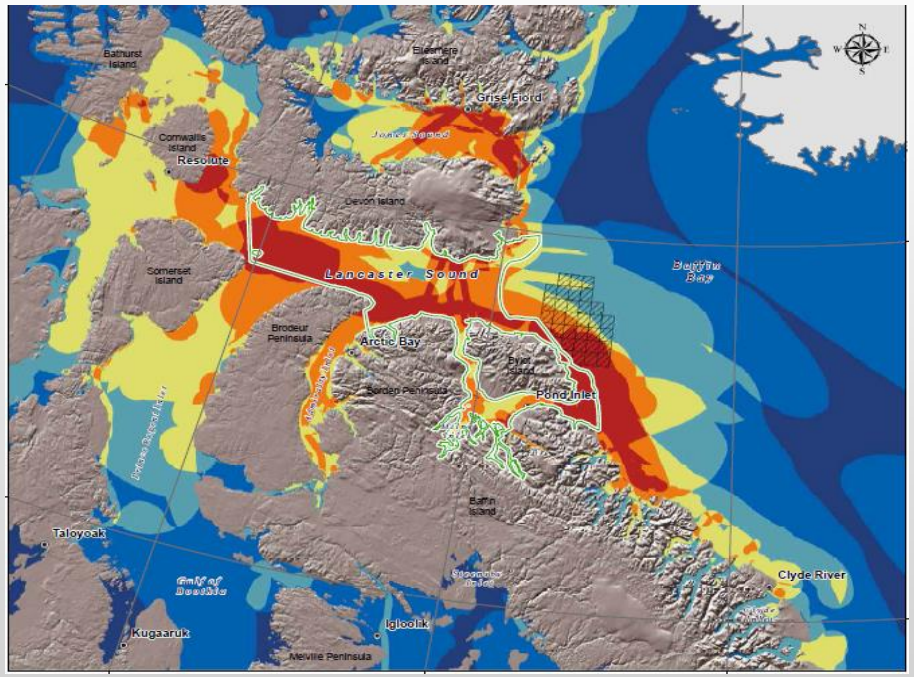




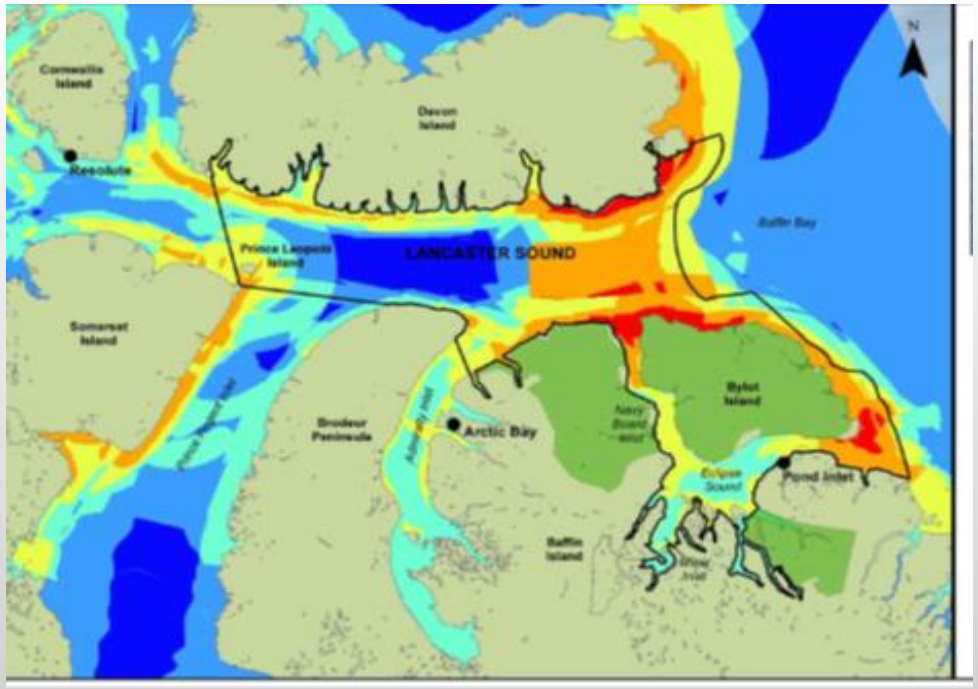
Traditional and Scientific Knowledge

- Traditional Knowledge (IQ) can be used alongside scientific knowledge and one form of data can be used to help confirm the other.

- **Areas of Importance based on community IQ**

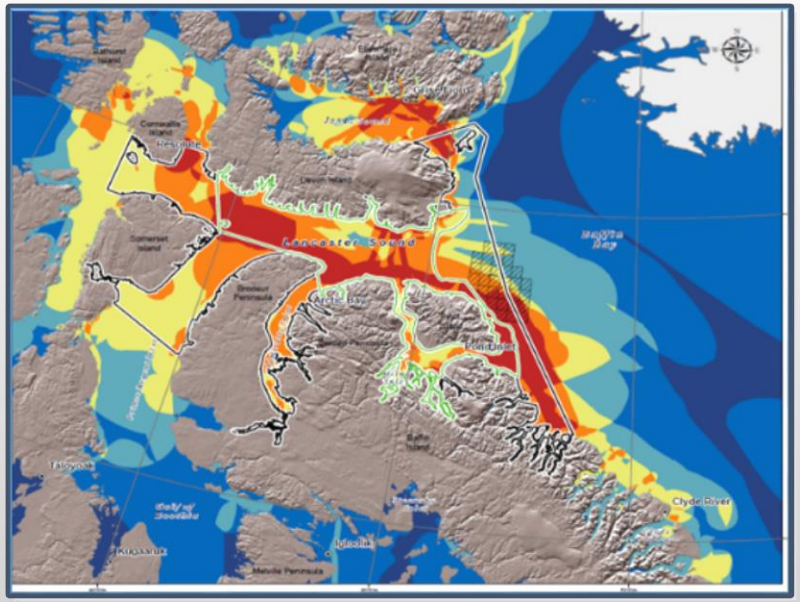


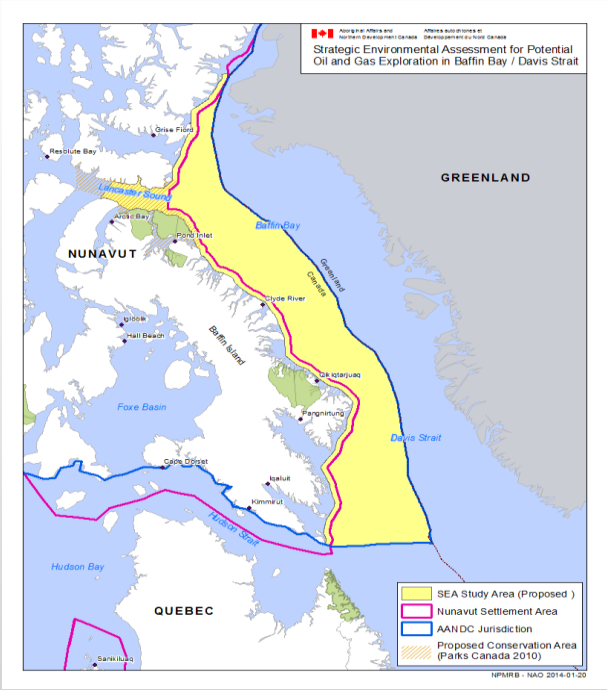
- **Areas of Importance based on scientific knowledge**



Using IQ in Decision-making

- IQ mapping is a concrete way for IQ to be used directly and transparently in decision- making.
- The IQ maps can be used in developing recommendations in the SEA process.
  - Ex. Strategic Environmental Assessment for oil and gas in Baffin Bay/ Davis Strait.





Community empowerment in the SEA process

- Communities identify values and indicators
- Provide relevant current and historical data that is not readily available to scientists (baseline data)
- Partner in final recommendations and decision-making
- Community Based Monitoring
  - To identify if parts of the ecosystem are under stress or undergoing change
- Building of stronger long term relationships between stakeholders.
- Co- management approach to screening and reviewing projects (C-NLOPB, Inuvialuit
- Increased faith in the process when IQ is used in the assessment.

Barriers to Incorporating IQ in SEA

- Difference in interpretation of significance of impacts between aboriginal groups and scientists.
- Credibility of IQ among scientists
- Political will to:
  - Accept IQ in decision-making. Inuit should have a level of control over the research and application of IQ.
  - Fund traditional knowledge research
- Timing: collection of IQ prior to baseline studies allows for the inclusion of traditional knowledge in the scientific assessment.

Monitoring

- Monitoring is essential to identify unforeseen effects of a policy/plan.
- Monitoring is done in SEA to determine if a policy or plan is being implemented as it should
  - i.e following mitigation measures, seasonal variances, sensitive areas.
- Monitoring programmes can be used to compare predicted and actual effects and to determine if mitigation measures are successful
  - IQ can be used to monitor impacts on VEC & VSEC's
- Monitoring plans should be holistic
  - Monitor harvesting and access to harvesting areas, as opposed to only biophysical components.
- Inuit input in determining where monitoring sites should be.

Benefits of SEA

- EA's that follow a SEA could be faster and cost less
  - ✓Because better projects will be approved
- Key result is not the report but the process:
  - ✓Allows for cooperation and problem solving
  - ✓Is not polarizing or confrontational.
- Alert politicians to key issues that can consumes vast resources later.
- SEA's look forward leaving time for adaptation and change.

Benefits of SEA

- Helps to determine trade-offs between economic gain, social welfare and environmental safeguards.
- Identifies indicators that incorporate community values and will help determine a level of acceptability.
- Identifies policy and capacity gaps to help focus recommendations on where policy can be influenced.
- Provides certainty for communities and industry

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