Wildlife Co-management Processes Under Canadian Lands Claims Agreements: Drivers for the Co-Production of Knowledge

Traditional Knowledge and Science Under a Co-production of Knowledge

Arctic Biodiversity Congress

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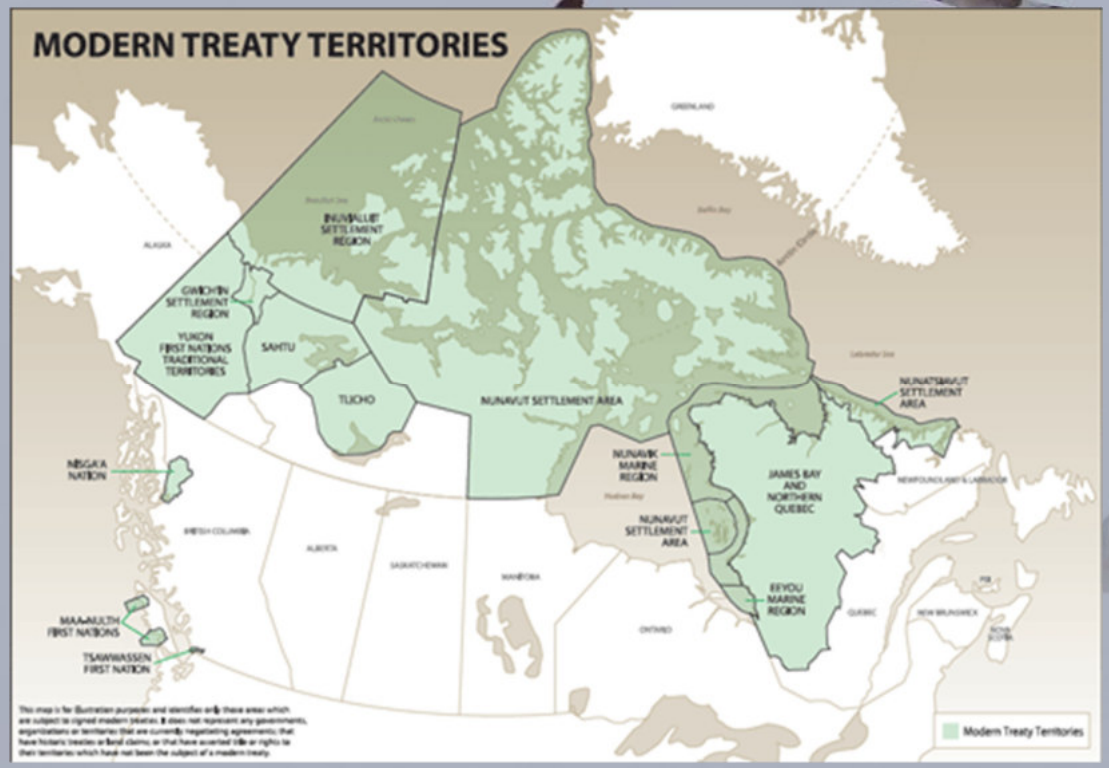
Gregor Gilbert & Mark O'Connor

Makivik Corporation

Mark Basterfield & Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman

Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

Land Claims Agreements (LCAs) in Canada



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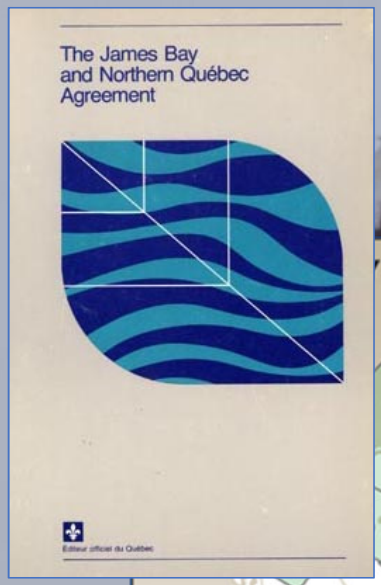

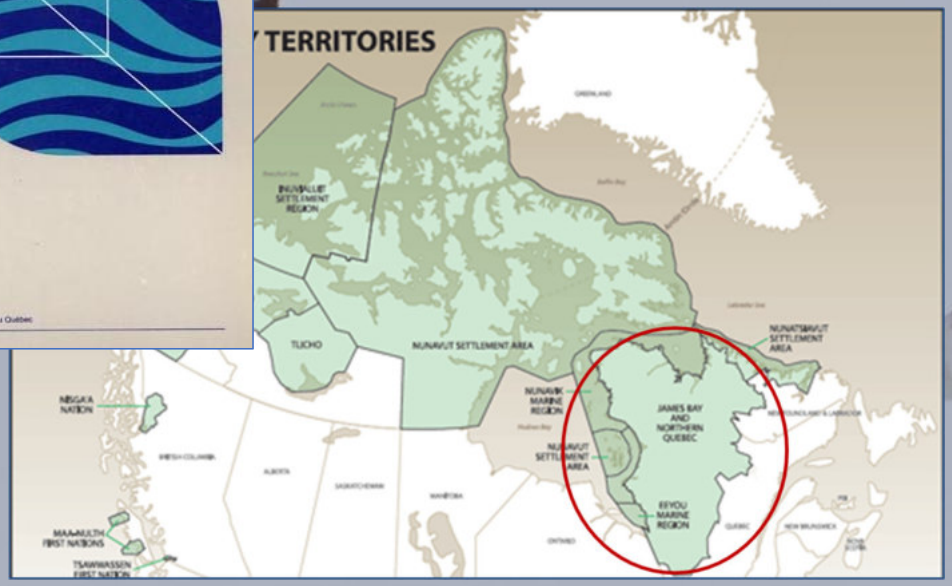

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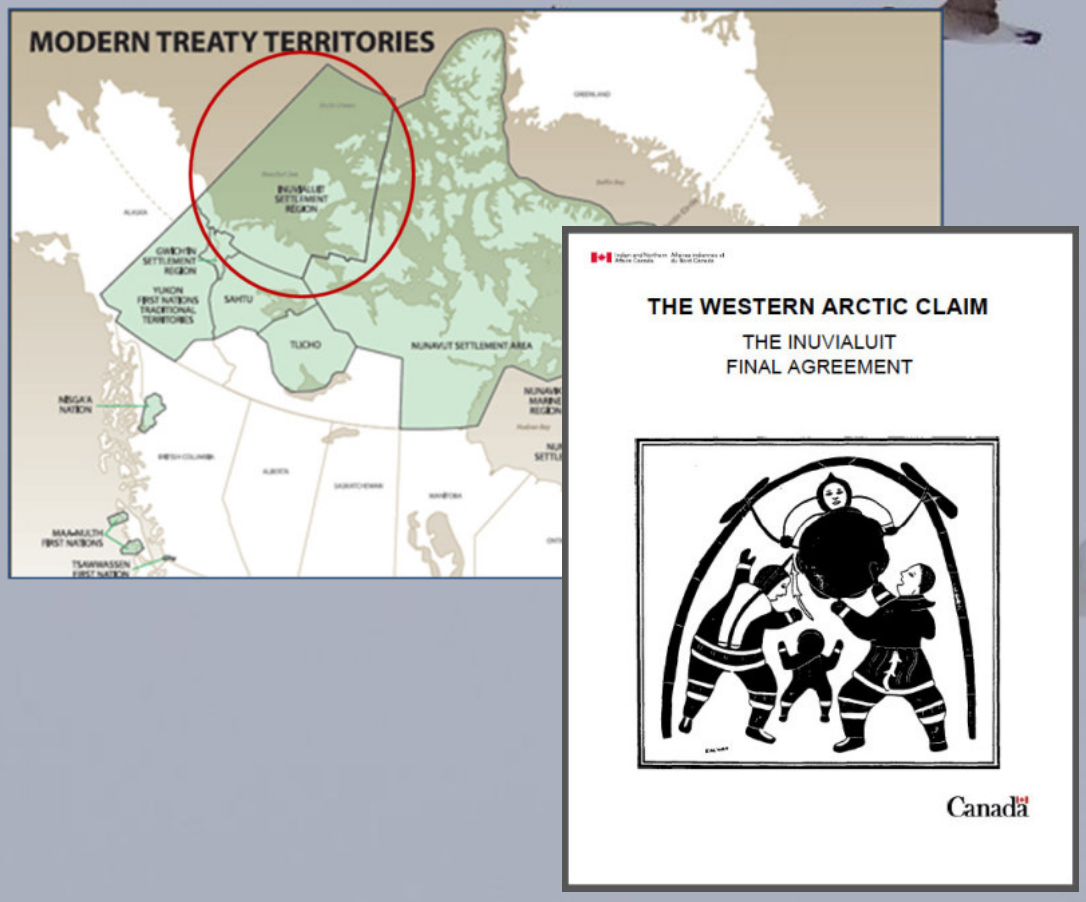

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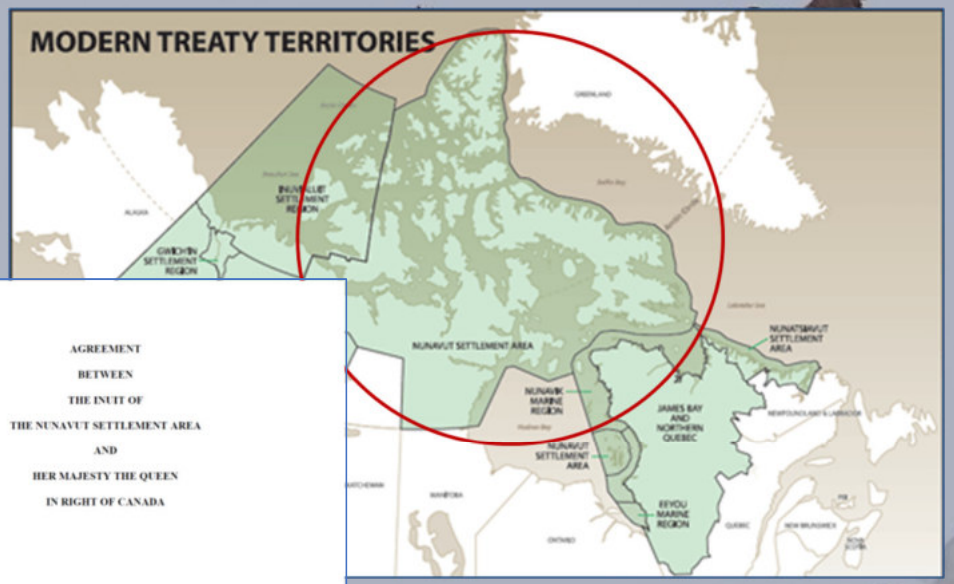

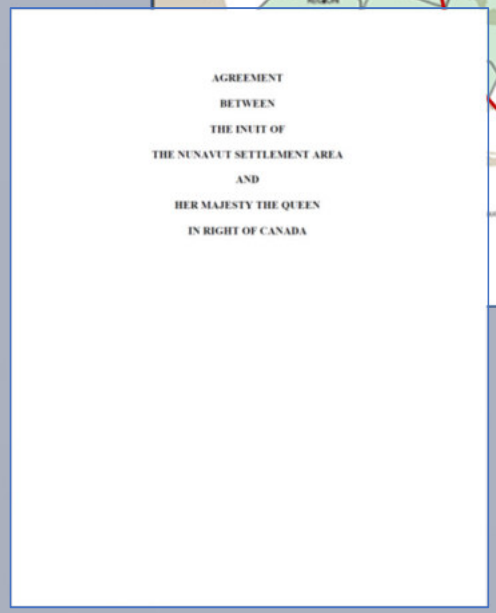
AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE INUIT OF

THE NUNAVUT SETTLEMENT AREA

AND

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

IN RIGHT OF CANADA

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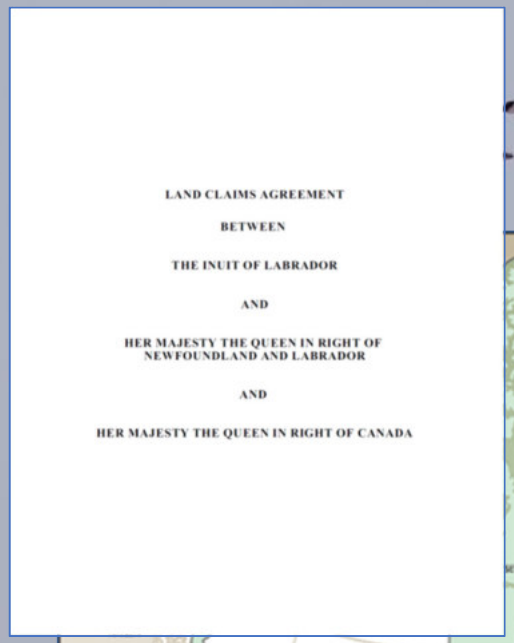

LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT

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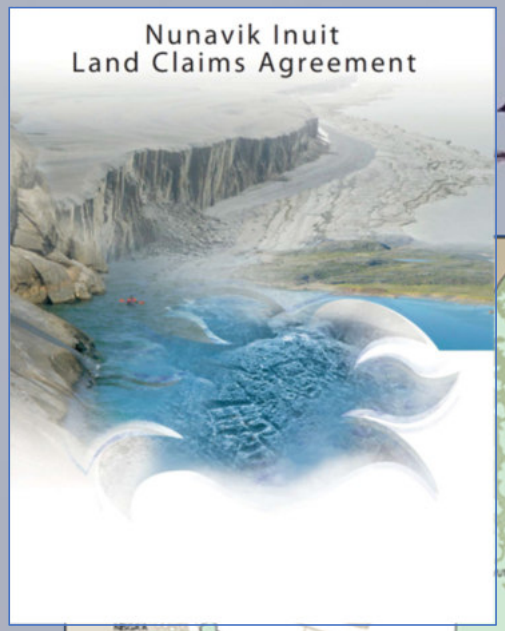

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  - Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (2008)

LCAs: What They Are and What They Mean

- Protected by the *Constitution Act, 1982*
- Supremacy over all other domestic legislation
- Most create "Institutions of Public Government" (co-management boards) to manage resources, including wildlife
- JBNQA does not contain any language about including Traditional, Local, or Inuit Knowledge in decision-making
- IFA, NLCA, LILCA, and NILCA all have specific clauses creating mandates for decision-makers to include Inuit Knowledge

Wildlife Co-management Under LCAs

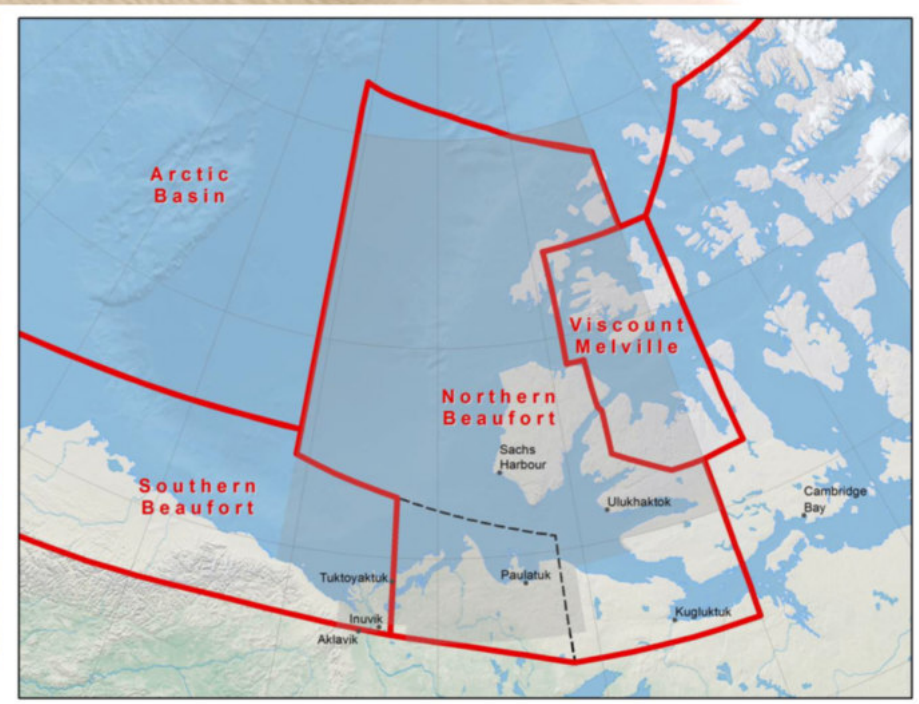
- Wildlife Co-management boards usually have equal representation of Inuit and government-appointed members
- Make recommendations or decisions on a variety of wildlife issues, including:
  - Quotas (Total Allowable Take, Total Allowable Harvest etc.)
  - Non-quota limitations (season or area closures, calibre of firearms etc.)
  - Protected Areas
  - Research
  - Approve management plans and/or species at risk designations
- Recommendations or decisions go to government minister(s) for approval or acceptance

Sufficiency of Information

- Most wildlife co-management board functions require sufficient information for informed decision-making
- Scientific information is usually available
  - Government Research
  - University Research
  - Publications
- Inuit Knowledge Research is much harder to access
  - Untranscribed recordings and interviews
  - Data that has been poorly collected
  - Undocumented or lost knowledge

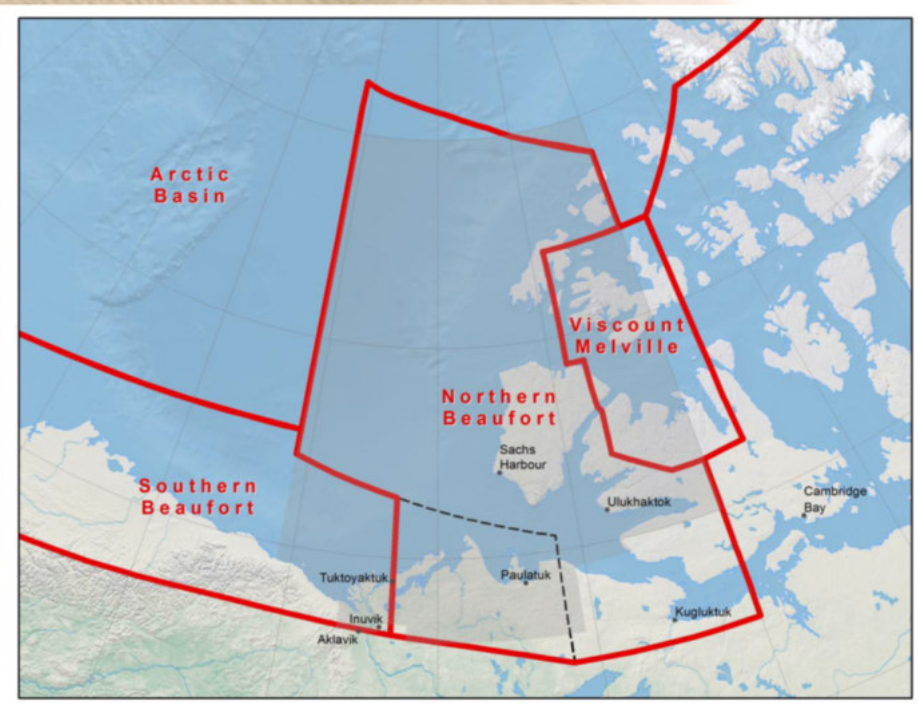
Wildlife Co-management Case Studies: Inuvialuit and Nanuq

- Inuvialuit live and harvest polar bears from South Beaufort (SB) and North Beaufort (NB) polar bear subpopulations
- SB is one of the most scientifically studied polar bear subpopulations
  - USGS
  - USFWS
  - ECCC
  - NWT



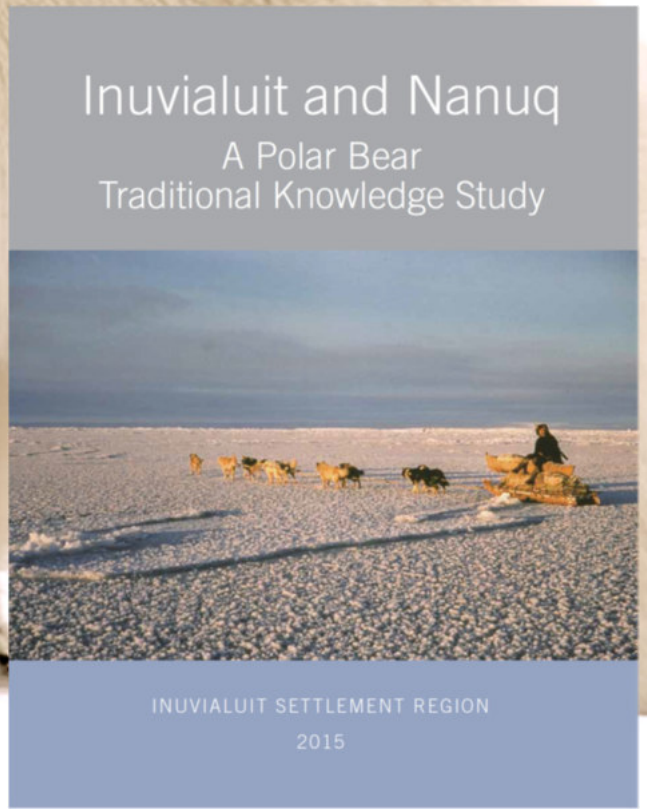
Wildlife Co-management Case Studies: Inuvialuit and Nanuq

- Recent Boundary Shift
- Debate over abundance estimates after boundary shift
- Need for a management plan under Canada's Species at Risk Act
- Only anecdotal Inuit Knowledge



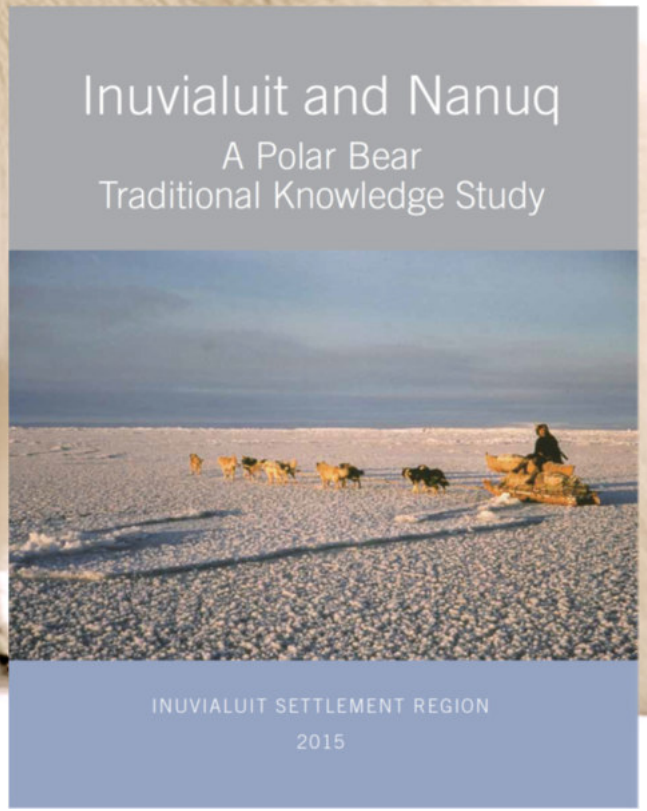
Wildlife Co-management Case Studies: Inuvialuit and Nanuq

- Wildlife Co-management Boards identified need for systematic Inuit Knowledge collection, study, and analysis
  - Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)
  - Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
  - Inuvialuit Game Council



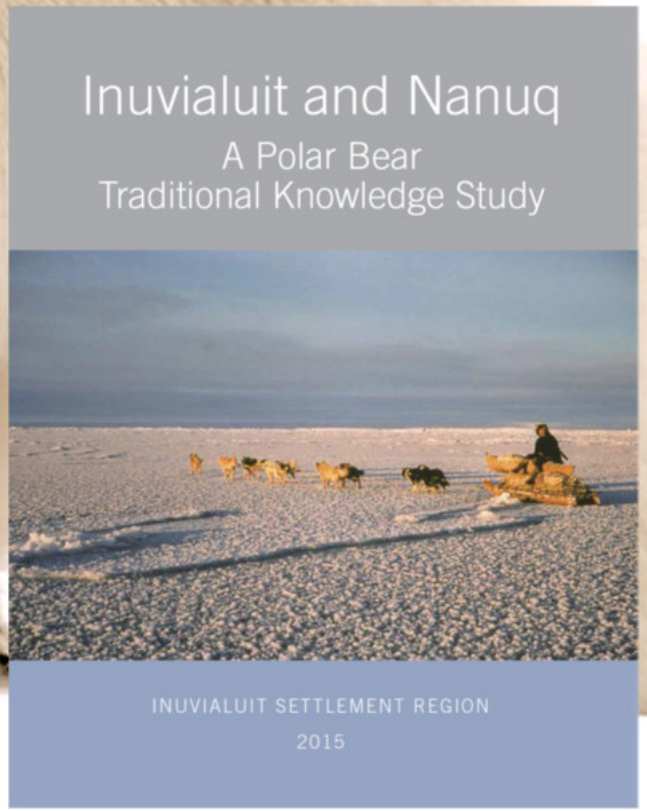
Wildlife Co-management Case Studies: Inuvialuit and Nanuq

- Study documents what Inuvialuit hunters know about polar bears:
  - Relative abundance
  - Movement patterns
  - Denning behaviour
  - Inter-species interactions
  - Response to environmental change
- Over 70 hunters interviewed
  - Draws on lifetimes and generations of knowledge
- Several hundred hours of interviews



Wildlife Co-management Case Studies: Inuvialuit and Nanuq

- Complements scientific knowledge gathered
- Key source of knowledge for decision-makers
  - WMB's
  - Government
- Direct result of WMB's recognition of need to consider IK as outlined in the LCAs



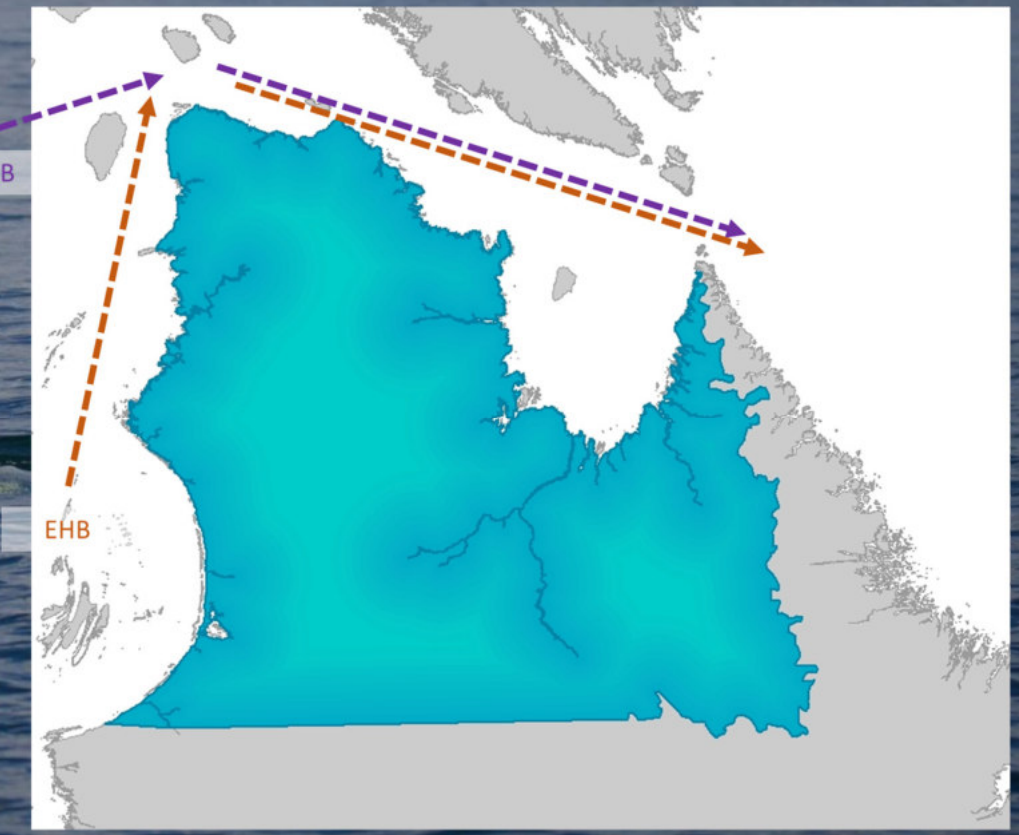
Wildlife Co-Management Case Studies: Nunavik Beluga

- Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board responsible for decisions on beluga management in the Nunavik Marine Region
- Beluga management has been controversial in Nunavik since quotas were imposed in 1985
- Harvest occurs primarily from two different stocks

	Eastern Hudson Bay (EHB)	Western Hudson Bay (WHB)
Stock size	~ 3,800	~ 55,000
Summer	East Hudson Bay	West Hudson Bay
Migration: NE Hudson Bay	✓	✓
Migration: Hudson Strait	✓	✓
Migration: Ungava Bay	✓	✓
Winter in Hudson Strait and Labrador Sea	✓	✓
Subsistence Harvest	✓	✓
Conservation Concern	**Yes**	**No**

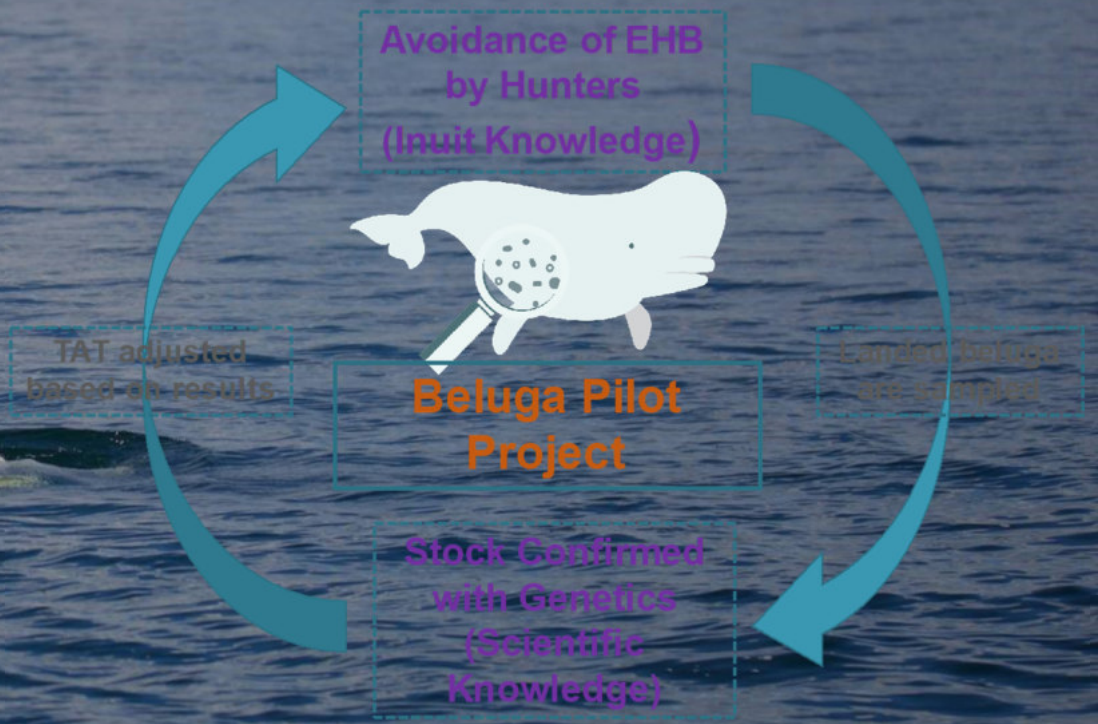
Wildlife Co-Management Case Studies: Nunavik Beluga

- Eastern Hudson Bay (EHB) and Western Hudson Bay (WHB) stocks summer in discrete areas
- Migrate together through Hudson Strait
- Winter together in Labrador Sea



Wildlife Co-Management Case Studies: Nunavik Beluga

- Hudson Strait Pilot Project
  - Focused on beluga migrating through Hudson Strait
  - Inuit hunters believe temporal differences in migration patterns will allow them to avoid harvesting EHB beluga
  - Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has an interest in limiting EHB beluga harvesting and improving genetic information



Conclusions

- Legal status of Land Claims Agreements has driven the inclusion of Inuit Knowledge in decision making
- When IK was not available:
  - Wildlife co-management boards took initiative to collect and analyze IK
  - Methodologically sound
  - Defensible
- Created projects to specifically address questions based on IK
  - Co-production of knowledge
- More trust and relationship-building between scientists and Inuit
- Better decision making
- Many more examples than presented here
- Still limited due to funding and capacity constraints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Thank You
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