Building Alliances at the International Maritime Organization

Focus on Black Carbon Impacts in the Arctic and Inuit Led Management of Pikialasorsuaq

Lisa Koperqualuk - President Inuit Circumpolar Council – Canada

Kuupik Kleist - President Inuit Circumpolar Council - Greenland
“We [Inuit] are an international community sharing common language, culture, and a common land along the Arctic coast of Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Although not a nation-state, as a people, we do constitute a nation.”

-Eben Hopson, Sr.
Increased Shipping and Sea Ice Melt

Increased traffic from shipping interferes with marine mammal habitat

**13%**

Ice Melt per Decade

https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/arctic-sea-ice/

**2021**

The year where annual average sea ice volume was 7th lowest on record

https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/arctic-sea-ice/

**75%**

Percent increase in distance sailed by vessels in the Arctic from 2013-2019

PAME Study

**25%**

Percent increase in unique ships in the Arctic from 2013-2019

PAME Study
Black Carbon’s Arctic Impact

Black carbon, commonly known as soot, is a particulate pollutant that negatively affects both the climate and human health. Soot particles suspended in the atmosphere absorb sunlight, adding to global warming. And when it collects on ice and snow, it hastens melting.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF BLACK CARBON

- Particulates trapped in lungs leads to illness
- Sooty clouds absorb sunlight, creating changes in cloud and rain patterns
- Black carbon particles absorb sunlight, warming the snow and ice, increasing melting
- Clean snow and ice reflect sunlight
- Clean clouds reflect sunlight

CAUSES

- Smoke from open burning
- Industry and coal-fired power plants
- Engine emissions (diesel, ships, trains)

Note: Illustration is diagramatic and not to scale.

SOURCES: InsideClimate News research

PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News
Coral and Ice

Many Strong Voices for Climate Action at the IMO

The Arctic and SIDS are barometers of global environmental change. They are considered critical communities for the ideas and programs that will strengthen the adaptive capacities of human societies confronting climate change.
As the united voice of Inuit at the international level, the ICC has a proven track record of successful collaboration with numerous United Nations programmes and agencies, that have varied from environmental stewardship efforts to human rights to climate change to sustainable development. Within these UN initiatives, our organization has played a vital role in the transfer of otherwise inaccessible information. We continue to seek opportunities to further this role. Together with the IMO, the ICC believes that the Arctic can be managed in a way that respects Inuit and our culture, language, flora, fauna, the Arctic Ocean, and its coastal seas while balancing its use in the context of increased marine traffic.
Moving Forward
Qujannamiik - Nakurmiik - Ma’na - Quanaqqukitit

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PEOPLE OF THE ICE BRIDGE: THE FUTURE OF THE PIKIALASORSUAQ
The Pikialasorsuaq is an extraordinary place. It is an Arctic haven where sky, ocean, and ice meet, teaming with marine life that has nourished Inuit subsistence culture for thousands of years. It is for the people who live and use the Pikialasorsuaq that we as Commissioners initiated this work.
Pikialasorsuaq Commission

Commission was mandated to:

● Conduct consultations in communities in Canada and Greenland closely connected to Pikialasorsuaq

● Communicate how Inuit communities envision the future of this marine region
The Pikialasorsuaq Commission Recommendations

● Inuit-led:
  ○ Monitoring
  ○ Management
  ○ Mobility
Marine Mammal Concentration Areas
Areas where one or more marine mammal species, including whales, Polar Bears, Walrus, and seals, are known to occur in high densities.
A Polynya and its people
Shipping in Pikialasorsuaq: What the commission heard

These vast areas of sea no longer seem to be that great anymore. Now that giant ships will pass through the waters the area of sea will be “too small” for both wildlife and the huge ships. (Nikolaj Heilmann, Upernavik)

Regulations to limit shipping are a possible response to the increase in shipping; others argue that it should be banned altogether. (Elizabeth Karlsen, Nuussuaq)

Development seems to be a priority over the Inuit hunting rights, but it is preferrable that us hunters be consulted before any management plans are implemented. [Moses Koonoo, Ikpiarjuk, (Arctic Bay)]
Nature and climate are not waiting: we need to act now

- Ask:
  - Listen to Inuit
  - IMO to implement UNDRIP
  - Arctic states to be champions for Inuit led approaches
  - Support Inuit full consultative status at the IMO
  - Wildlife doesn’t know any borders, it is one ecosystem
Qujannamiik - Nakurmiik - Ma’na - Quanaqquitit

Thank you to:

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ABC iCAP
Arctic Block Carbon

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