



ANCC NEWS

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BENJAMIN PAYENNA

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN — BENJAMIN PAYENNA

In 2017, leaders from polar bear hunting tribes and regional Alaska Native organizations came together to carve a new path forward for polar bear co-management. Through this effort, the Alaska Nannut Co-Management Council (ANCC) was formed. It is my honor to serve as ANCC's first Chairman.

Since the founding of ANCC, much has been accomplished. We now have staff, an office, and other organizational infrastructure. We have also worked diligently to ensure that Alaska Native voices are represented in ongoing management processes. I thank each board member and ANCC's staff for their tireless work in accomplishing this great task.

While we have made much progress over the past three years, our work has only just begun. I look forward to continuing to work alongside all of you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT — KATYA GRAY

Working with our leadership over the past few years to establish ANCC has been an exciting and rewarding experience. Together we are building a strong foundation to serve and represent our tribes in polar bear co-management. The highlight of my time at ANCC thus far, has been visiting each of our member communities to meet with tribal leaders and hunters. I hope to be able to safely visit with you all again soon.

Although COVID-19 has prevented us from holding polar bear meetings in our communities

this year, the ANCC office has been busy developing other ways to maintain our connections, including the launching of our new website (www.nannut.org), an ANCC Facebook page, and this newsletter. We are hopeful that these will be valuable tools in keeping our tribes, hunters, and community members informed and connected. Ensuring that we maintain effective communication and connections with our people is a top priority, especially during these challenging times. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.



KATYA GRAY





ANCC ATTENDS RANGE STATES MEETING IN NORWAY

This past March, Vice Chair Millie Hawley, Executive Director Katya Gray, and legal counsel Elizabeth Hensley represented ANCC at the Biennial Meeting of the Parties to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (Range States meeting).

The meeting was hosted by Norway, in Longyearbyen on the island of Svalbard. The parties to the Agreement, which include the U.S., Canada, Greenland, Norway, and Russia, meet every two years to coordinate international management and conservation efforts for polar bears. At the meeting, ANCC presented on indigenous polar bear management in Alaska.

The primary focus of the meeting was the mid-term review of the 10-year Circumpolar Action Plan (CAP) that was adopted in 2015. The CAP recommends management actions to address key threats to polar bears. It is implemented through 2-year plans adopted by the parties at each Range States meeting. The 2020-22 CAP implementation plan includes objectives such as conservation of polar bear essential habitat, managing human-bear interactions, harvest management in accordance with sound conservation practices, and communication on the importance of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

The next meeting of the Range States will be chaired and hosted by Canada in 2023. Meeting documents and more information can be found at www.polarbearagreement.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19—ANCC'S OFFICE IS CLOSED

However, staff are available during normal business hours and can be reached at:

☎ (907) 443-6890

✉ info@nannut.org.

ANCC GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will be held via videoconference in December 14-15, 2020.



Help support indigenous polar bear management in Alaska through your online purchases. When making a purchase, be sure to use the link www.smile.amazon.com.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

ANCC is seeking donations of photos that illustrate the cultural connections between Alaska Native peoples and polar bears. Photos of polar bears, hunting, dancing, and artwork would be featured in ANCC publications. Email your photos to:

✉ info@nannut.org.

**QUYANAQ • TAIKUJ
IGAMSI • QUYANNA • THANK YOU**

ANCC would like to express our gratitude to all the organizations and people that have made our progress over the past three years possible:

The 15 tribes that formed ANCC

Our community members, especially our hunters and elders

Indigenous People’s Council for Marine Mammals

Kawerak, Inc.

Maniilaq Association

Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope

North Slope Borough

Landye Bennett Blumstein, LLP

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Alaska Region

World Wildlife Fund

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC)

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Alaska Region

**MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH
UPDATES**

**CHUKCHI SEA
POLAR BEARS**



Carving by Joe Kunnuk of King Island

- In 2018, the Scientific Working Group for the US-Russia Polar Bear Commission compiled the results of 10 years of their coordinated research, producing a harvest risk assessment and an updated population estimate of 2,937. Based on this information, the Commission adopted an updated quota of 85 polar bears, shared equally between the U.S. and Russia.
- ANCC is developing a draft Chukchi Sea Polar Bear Harvest Management Plan for consideration by our tribes. To ensure that the plan is guided by the needs and expertise of community members, ANCC will seek input through community meetings once travel becomes possible.
- Results of a 2016 aerial survey counting Chukchi Sea polar bears are expected to be published soon. This information will supplement the population estimate published in 2018.

**SOUTHERN BEAUFORT SEA
POLAR BEARS**



Carving by Ramon Cabrera

- The Inuvialuit-Iñupiat (I-I) Polar Bear Commission met in-person in August 2019 and via teleconference on October 29, 2020. The Commission recommended no change to the current quota of 56 polar bears (voluntary quota of 35 for the U.S., non-voluntary quota of 21 for Canada) until a reliable polar bear population estimate is produced.
- Researchers from the U.S. and Canada have begun coordinating efforts to develop an integrated population model to provide an updated population estimate for Southern Beaufort Sea polar bears.
- The North Slope Borough and Technical Advisors to the I-I, including ANCC, are collaborating on a project with partners in Canada to ensure meaningful inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in integrated polar bear population modeling for Southern Beaufort Sea polar bears.



Word Search

V D G R K I S G Q J D I Q I D
 I R E O I K T N K A Ñ R L R I
 N A C C L Q V M O U I A Q X M
 G H M K A V X W P W N N W V A
 A M L D Ġ G M I L E D T N K Z
 P W Q T U E A V D L A R S A O
 I A F Y Y T K Z M Q P C I D N
 T K U Z A Q A T Q I T A T F I
 C S C Q ĩ C R U D N T P U O T
 H A V G I O Y E J P R N O M S
 I L Q W P A P O L A R B E A R
 Q A A K ĩ A H D W J K S S O B
 L S Z I Q L T A O U Q V Y K S
 H Q P E F L G L I T U O Y D G
 N A N U Q V I R R P M H D Q Z

APITCHIQ NANNIAQ PIŃAYUQQAT
 ATIQTAQ NANUQ POLAR BEAR
 IŃUPIAT PIŃAYUGALIK SNOWDRIFT



Vocabulary Lesson

Words and definitions from Iñupiat Word Finder App – North Slope dialect

APITCHIQ – snowdrift; female polar bear with young bears in a hollow snowdrift

ATIQTAQ – polar bear cub in its first year (so named because the mother takes it immediately out on the sea ice from the place where it was born)

NANIAQ/NANNUK – to kill a polar bear

NANNIAQ – to go polar bear hunting

NANUQ – polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*)

PIŃAYUGALIK – polar bear with three cubs

PIŃAYUQQAT – three polar bears in a group; female polar bear with three cubs; a group of three

