Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission
Commission d'aménagement de la région marine du Nunavik

MARINE PLANNING FORUM REPORT 2026

Report from the Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission



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WANT TO WATCH PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FORUM IN FULL? VISIT THE NMRPC'S MARINE PLANNING FORUM WEBPAGE HERE.

PHOTO: JOHNNY SMILER



INTRODUCTION

Marine planning is a process for managing ocean spaces. It guides the right development and activities to the right places and helps people come together to act on shared priorities. Balance is key. Marine planning can support sustainable economic development as well as advance protection of the environment and culture. The primary outcome of marine planning is a marine use plan that:

- Identifies where, when, and/or how uses may take place in the marine environment.
- Offers a shared vision for ocean spaces now and in the future.
- Provides a framework for openly working towards that vision.

The Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission (NMRPC) is leading a marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region (Figure 1). The NMRPC was established as an institution of public government under the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA). The NILCA is a modern treaty signed by Makivvik as well as the Governments of Canada and Nunavut.

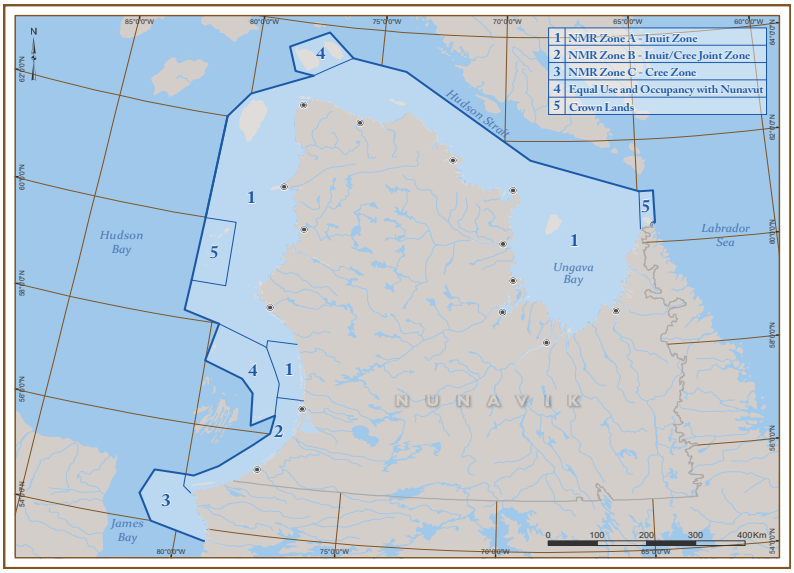
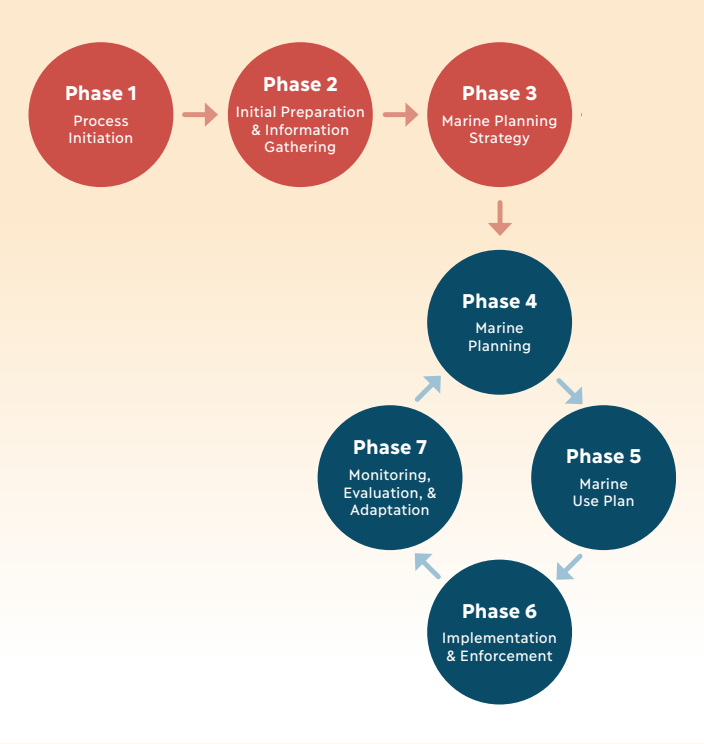


Figure 1: Nunavik Marine Region.

Management of the Nunavik Marine Region by the NMRPC is organized into seven phases (Figure 2). The first three phases address preparing for marine planning and are considered "pre-planning". The last four phases address undertaking marine planning and acting on planning outcomes. The NMRPC held a Marine Planning Forum February 3-5, 2026 in Montreal, Quebec to kick-off the planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region. The event began the NMRPC's transition from Phase 3, establishment of a Marine Planning Strategy, to Phase 4, marine planning.[1]

This report provides an overview of the forum as well as an assessment of the event's success in meeting its objectives.





1 For more detailed information on marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region, access the NMRPC's engagement plan here: https://nmrpc.ca/publications.

MARINE PLANNING FORUM OVERVIEW

Several activities were undertaken to support broad participation in the forum and to advance a gathering that was accessible, useful, and interesting to all.

Front Line Workers

Through Makivvik's Front Line Workers Program, Nunavik community members received travel support to facilitate their arrival and departure from the forum.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation for Inuktitut and English was provided during the forum, and all materials were provided in Inuktitut and English. Where possible, translation into French was also provided.



Graphic Recording

Graphic recording is the real-time, visual translation of spoken presentations and conversations into text and images. It is a tool for creating interest and engagement at events. For example, graphic recordings help event participants draw out key points when significant amounts of information are shared as well as foster conversation between people. In addition, participants interact with, and validate, graphic recordings as they are created, thereby transparently establishing a collective memory of discussions. Graphic recordings were developed during the forum and can be viewed on the NMRPC's website.

Indigenous Marine Planning Lunch

A lunch with Dallas Smith, a keynote speaker at the forum on the topic of Indigenous marine planning in Canada, was hosted for Inuit and Cree forum participants on the second day of the event to foster knowledge exchange.





Map Room

Maps are core to planning as they are tied to data visualization and the management of uses over space and time. From an engagement perspective, they support understanding and foster information sharing and discussion.

Maps showing data collected during previous NMRPC engagement activities were displayed during the forum. They served to demonstrate the extensive engagement conducted by the NMRPC, building trust in the organization, as well as support forum participants in becoming familiar with the Nunavik Marine Region and its use by Nunavik Inuit.

Maps displayed in the map room included maps on the walls showing information from the NMRPC's 2011-2016 Use and Occupancy Study as well as maps on tables showing the entire Nunavik Marine Region with communities marked and information from the NMRPC's Wellbeing Workshops displayed. Forum participants were invited to share their thoughts by writing on the maps.

In addition to maps of the Nunavik Marine Region, the map room displayed planning partner mapping. This involved having posters on the walls displaying the organizations involved in marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region as organized into themes (e.g. land claims organizations, government agencies, etc.). Forum participants were invited to circle their organization and provide their name to support awareness of who was in attendance at the event. Participants were also asked to review the posters and add any missing organizations. See Measurable 2.1.3 for further detail.

Booths

The forum supported other agencies in advancing their outreach and engagement by providing space for booths. The NMRPC, Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board, Transport Canada, and the Government of Nunavut each hosted a booth.

SWAG

Forum participants were provided with NMRPC SWAG to thank them for their involvement in the event and provide them with a lasting reminder of the NMRPC. SWAG included NMRPC pencil cases, notebooks, calendars, pens, and pencils.

Photography and Videography

Photographs and videos were captured during the forum to document the event, engage forum participants, and create stock media for future NMRPC deliverables, such as reports and social media posts. Daily recordings were used to create highlight videos that were then shared with forum participants at the event, supporting participants in seeing themselves as an important part of the process and pride in supporting the work of the NMRPC. Full daily recordings and the highlight videos are available on the NMRPC's website.



METHODOLOGY

Overview

The objectives of the Marine Planning Forum were to:

1. Kick-off the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region.
2. Facilitate networking and information sharing.
3. Obtain information and resources to guide the marine planning process.

The effectiveness of the Marine Planning Forum in meeting these objectives was evaluated by:

1. Developing indicators of success for the forum objectives.
2. Establishing qualitative and quantitative measurables for the indicators.
3. Collecting and assessing measurables data.

Details and results of this assessment are set out in the **Marine Planning Forum Outcomes** section below (see **Appendix 1** for a quick reference to the objectives and their associated indicators and measurables).

Surveys

A key data collection tool for the assessment of the forum objectives was the delivery of pre-forum and post-forum surveys (see survey content in **Appendix 2**). Together, the pre- and post-forum surveys enabled understanding of changes in forum participants' perceptions and knowledge of the NMRPC and marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region before and after the event. These changes were the direct result of the forum, including the presentations shared, the networking opportunities provided, and the overall demonstration of the NMRPC's professionalism and competency.

For example, an indicator of success for the objective to "Kick-off the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region" was "Ensure equitable engagement by providing everyone with a baseline level of understanding of marine planning". To measure this indicator, the pre- and post-forum surveys explored forum participants' thoughts on the following statements:

- I feel comfortable explaining the basics of marine planning to others.
- I understand why marine planning is taking place in the Nunavik Marine Region.

Survey results were assessed for three possible outcomes:

1. **Consistently positive:** Responses remained positive in the pre-forum and post-forum surveys (i.e. responses in both surveys were "Yes").
2. **Improved:** Participants' knowledge or perceptions improved from the pre-forum survey to the post-forum survey (e.g. responses changed from "No" or "I don't know" to "Yes", or from a blank where no response was provided to a "Yes").
3. **Opportunity for further education and/or relationship-building:** Participants' knowledge or perceptions
   - Declined (e.g. responses changed from "Yes" to "I don't know" or "No", or from "Yes" to a blank where no response was provided).
   - Remained consistently poor (e.g. response remained at "No" or "I don't know" or changed from "I don't know" to a blank where no response was provided).
   - Did not improve sufficiently to warrant providing the answer of "Yes" in the post-forum survey after providing an answer other than "Yes" in the pre-forum survey (e.g. response changed from "No" to a comment of "Not really yet" or from "No" to "I don't know").

Fifty-three participants completed both the pre- and post-forum surveys, enabling **individual-level assessment** of changes in perceptions and knowledge. The results of individual-level analyses are provided below for each survey question in the form of percentages. The percentages represent the portions of the fifty-three respondents who had consistently positive or improved survey outcomes as well as those who present an opportunity for further education and/or relationship-building.

An additional 40 individuals completed either a pre- or post-forum survey, supporting analysis of **group-level** shifts in perceptions and knowledge for all forum participants excluding NMRPC staff and consultants and including NMRPC Commissioners. The results of group-level analyses are provided below for each survey question in the form of percentages. The percentages represent the portions of the total numbers of pre- forum (77 responses) or post-forum (69 responses) respondents who provided a positive response (i.e. "yes").

The pre- and post-forum surveys also provided space for free-form comments from participants. This enabled participants to share their thoughts beyond the formal structure of the surveys (see **Appendix 3**). The comments identified positive elements of the forum as well as opportunities for improvement. As such, they provided useful feedback that the NMRPC can apply during future engagement activities (see Measurable 3.1.1 below).



MARINE PLANNING FORUM OUTCOMES

This section provides assessment outcomes for forum objectives as conducted using measurables for indicators of success.

OBJECTIVE 1: KICK-OFF THE MARINE PLANNING PROCESS IN THE NUNAVIK MARINE REGION

Objective 1 has two indicators and seven measurables, which are detailed below.

Indicator 1.1: Build trust in the planning process by ensuring planning partners are informed about the NMRPC and how the planning process will unfold.

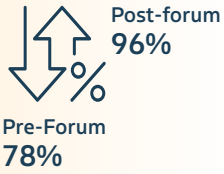
Measurable 1.1.1: *Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I am confident in the ability of the NMRPC to lead marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region.*

Individual-level analysis: Of the individuals who completed both the pre- and post-forum surveys, 21% indicated an improved perception of the NMRPC's ability to lead marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region, while 73% expressed a consistently positive perception of the NMRPC's ability.

Only 6% of survey respondents, comprised of three Nunavik community members, did not provide a definitive "Yes" in their post-forum surveys, indicating an opportunity for the NMRPC to deepen engagement and refine future communication strategies.

GROUP-LEVEL ANALYSIS:

96% of post-forum survey respondents confirmed confidence in the NMRPC's ability to lead marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region, compared to 78% in the pre-forum survey.



TAKE-AWAY



While confidence in the ability of the NMRPC to lead marine planning was already high prior to the forum, the event served to increase confidence in the organization. The forum effectively built trust in the planning process by providing information on the NMRPC and marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region. However, there is space for the NMRPC to continue building trust within Nunavik communities.





***Measurable 1.1.2:** Number of individuals or organizations who NMRPC staff met with in advance of the forum to explain the purpose of the forum and/or how presentations could be linked to marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region.*

The NMRPC participated in 35 meetings with forum invitees and presenters to share information on the role of the NMRPC, marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region, and the objectives of the Marine Planning Forum.

Meetings included bilateral meetings (e.g. Government of Nunavut, Makivvik, Atanniuvik, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board, Adventure Canada, Nunavik Tourism Association, Dalhousie University, University of Ottawa, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Inuit Circumpolar Council) as well as presentations to the NILCA Implementation Committee and the Federal Interdepartmental Arctic Working Group on Marine Engagement.

TAKE-AWAY

SUCCESS

The NMRPC built relationships as well as increased education and engagement around the planning process through 35 pre-forum meetings. The meetings encouraged individuals and organizations to attend the event and supported presenters in linking their speaking points to the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region.

Marine planning moves at the speed of trust.

Trust in the NMRPC is vital for supporting effective engagement in the marine planning process. Planning partners, including community members and regulatory agencies, must feel that the process as led by the NMRPC has value and that their participation is worthwhile. Effective engagement addresses requirements within the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA 6.2.1 (d), 6.4.4 (e), 6.4.4 (g)) and supports the creation of a comprehensive, achievable, and relevant marine use plan.

Indicator 1.2: Ensure equitable and effective engagement by providing everyone with a baseline level of understanding of marine planning.

Measurable 1.2.1: *Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I feel comfortable explaining the basics of marine planning to others.*

Individual-level analysis: Of the individuals who completed both the pre- and post-forum surveys, 36% indicated an improved understanding of marine planning while 57% expressed a consistently strong understanding of marine planning. Only 7% of survey respondents, comprised of four participants, did not provide a definitive "Yes" in their post-forum surveys, indicating an opportunity for the NMRPC to deepen engagement and refine future communication strategies.

GROUP-LEVEL ANALYSIS

92% of post-forum survey respondents expressed comfort with explaining the basics of marine planning to others, compared to 57% in the pre-forum survey.



TAKE-AWAY



The Marine Planning Forum increased participants' understanding of marine planning, thereby supporting equitable and effective engagement within the planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region. Space exists for the NMRPC to further develop understanding of marine planning within Inuit communities.



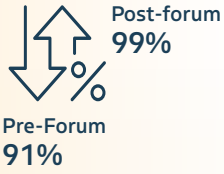


Measurable 1.2.2: *Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I understand why marine planning is taking place in the Nunavik Marine Region.*

Individual-level analysis: Of the individuals who completed both the pre- and post-forum surveys, 13% indicated an improved understanding of why marine planning is taking place in the Nunavik Marine Region while 85% expressed a consistently high level of understanding. Only 2% of survey respondents, comprised of one participant, did not provide a definitive "Yes" in their post-forum survey, indicating an opportunity for the NMRPC to deepen engagement and refine future communication strategies.

GROUP-LEVEL ANALYSIS

99% of post-forum survey respondents indicated that they understood why marine planning is taking place in the Nunavik Marine Region, compared with 91% in the pre-forum survey.



TAKE-AWAY



Forum participants' level of understanding of why marine planning is taking place in the Nunavik Marine Region was high prior to the event; however, the event served to increase understanding across a greater number of planning partners. Continued outreach within Nunavik communities regarding the NILCA is worthwhile to ensure understanding by community members.



***Measurable 1.2.3:** Range of speakers (names and agencies) at the forum and diversity of content shared during presentations.*

During the Marine Planning Forum, a total of 34 presentations were provided by 48 speakers (see **Appendix 4** for descriptions of the presentations). Speakers included individuals from the following categories:

- Inuit governance
- Nunavik community leaders
- Ethnic, territorial, and federal government agencies
- First Nations governance
- Academia and research
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Industry

Presentations provided:

- An introduction to and overview of the NILCA.
- An introduction to marine planning as a concept and as a process within the Nunavik Marine Region.
- Descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of the NILCA signatories in the marine planning process.
- Overviews of the mandates of Nunavik organizations and their connections to marine planning.
- Insights into marine planning by an Indigenous leader of a marine planning process on Canada's West Coast (Dallas Smith), an international planning practitioner (Joanna Smith), and a Canadian academic (Julie Reimer).
- Introductions to marine planning processes proximate to the Nunavik Marine Region.
- A panel discussion on how to keep communities at the core of planning.
- An overview of resources for marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region.
- Examples of current and planned economic activities in the Nunavik Marine Region.
- Discussion of Nunavik Inuit wellbeing and how it relates to marine planning as a process.
- Exploration of the cultural context of marine planning within the Nunavik Marine Region and a call for Nunavik Inuit to take the lead.

TAKE-AWAY



The Marine Planning Forum engaged a large number of speakers who shared expertise and insights on a broad range of topics, thereby providing forum participants with a baseline level understanding of marine planning and advancing informed engagement in the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region.

***Measurable 1.2.4:** Indication of how multifaceted the approach to the forum was (i.e. range of medium applied).*

The forum was delivered in person as well as broadcast live through TNI radio in Nunavik and through Vimeo online in Inuktitut and English. Following the event, the agenda, list of participants, full daily recordings, highlight videos, speakers' presentations, photographs, and graphic recordings were posted on the **NMRPC's website**. The event was promoted online through the NMRPC website and social media.

TAKE-AWAY

The NMRPC ensured equitable and effective engagement by providing a wide audience with a baseline level of understanding of marine planning. These efforts enable event participants as well as all Nunavik Inuit and others with interests, uses, or responsibilities in the region to gain knowledge about marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region now and into the future.

***Measurable 1.2.5:** Number of people who participated in person and number who joined online.*

Eighty-six planning partners, excluding the NMRPC and support staff, attended the forum in person. Community representatives included individuals from all 14 Nunavik Inuit communities as well as Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui, and Kimmirut, Nunavut. In addition, a total of 181 individuals joined the online live-streams, including 26 individuals who joined the Inuktitut streaming and 155 individuals who joined the English streaming. In total, individuals joining the forum online watched 141 hours of the event. Actual engagement level is likely higher than reported here as the number of those who joined the event through the radio broadcasting is unavailable.

TAKE-AWAY

The forum provided a large number of planning partners with a baseline level of understanding of marine planning, including 86 individuals who joined the event in person and 181 individuals who joined the event online. These numbers exclude the additional people who joined the forum via regional radio.



OBJECTIVE 2: FACILITATE NETWORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING

Objective 2 has two indicators and five measurables, which are detailed below.

Indicator 2.1: Create awareness of the range of planning partners involved in the planning process.

Measurable 2.1.1: *Indication of how broad-based (i.e. range of individuals and groups) and wide-reaching (i.e. number of individuals and groups) forum engagement was.*

Including NMRPC Commissioners and staff, 100 individuals joined the event. They included representatives from Nunavik, Nunavut, and Cree communities as well as environmental NGOs, academia and research institutions, a First Nations governance council, and industry as well as Nunavik, Nunavut, and Cree organizations. Participants also included staff from Cree, Nunavut, and Nunavik land claims organizations as well as regional, ethnic, provincial, territorial, and federal governments. See **Appendix 5** for the full list of forum participants and their associated agencies.

TAKE-AWAY

Participation in the forum was broad-based and wide-reaching. As such, the event effectively created awareness of the planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region across a range of planning partners.



THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING TOGETHER

Bringing people together has many benefits, especially for those who have not yet had the opportunity to connect and whose activities and/or mandates interrelate. We all have blind spots as we focus on our own priorities. Potential partnerships and opportunities to avoid unnecessary impacts on one another can be missed. Coming together enables us to share our realities in policy, research, industry, government, community, administration, and even emergency response. Our conversations and shared learning enable us to see that we have common interests across sectors and that we can benefit from working together to move important work forward, such as realizing a marine use plan for the Nunavik Marine Region.

Importantly, identifying and working together towards common priorities within a marine planning process creates shared ownership and responsibility. Barriers to progress such as resistance and indifference can be overcome as we see ourselves in the context of a bigger, broader vision for the future. The Marine Planning Forum supported the Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission in moving forward in partnership with a wide range of planning partners, thereby reducing the isolation and missed opportunities that can occur when working in silos.

***Measurable 2.1.2:** Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I understand who will be involved in marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region.*

Individual-level analysis: Of the individuals who completed both the pre- and post-forum surveys, 34% indicated an improved understanding of who will be involved in marine planning while 62% expressed a consistently strong understanding. Only 4% of survey respondents, comprised of two participants, did not provide a definitive "Yes" in their post-forum surveys, indicating an opportunity for the NMRPC to deepen engagement and refine future communication strategies.



GROUP-LEVEL ANALYSIS

93% of post-forum survey respondents expressed they understood who will be involved in marine planning, compared to 69% in the pre-forum survey.



TAKE-AWAY



The Marine Planning Forum increased participants' understanding of who will be involved in marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region, thereby increasing awareness of the range of planning partners involved in the process. The NMRPC will continue outreach in Nunavik communities regarding planning partners, particularly the important role that Nunavik Inuit will play.





***Measurable 2.1.3:** Number and names of new planning partners identified.*

Interactive posters were provided at the forum listing the full range of planning partners the NMRPC was aware of prior to the event. Agencies were organized under the following headings:

- Land claims organizations
- Government agencies
- Academia and research
- Tables, committees, boards, working groups, teams, centres, councils, etc.
- NILCA signatories
- Conservation and protection
- NGOs
- Industry
- Economic development

Forum participants were invited to circle their organization and provide their name to support awareness of who was in attendance at the event. Participants were also asked to review the posters and add any missing organizations. This resulted in:

- Identification of four new planning partners, including the Inuit NGOs of Pituat Family House and Ilagitsuta as well as The Nature Conservancy as a non-Inuit NGO and Institut nordique du Québec as a research organization.
- A revision to reflect that Inukrock is a non-Inuit NGO as opposed to an Inuit NGO.
- Re-organization of Nunavik Inuit agencies from separate organizational categories into a single governance structure. Prior to the forum, Nunavik Inuit agencies were listed across a range of headings, including land claims organizations (i.e. Makivvik), government agencies (i.e. Kativik Regional Government), academia and research (i.e. Atanniuvik, Nunavik Research Centre), industry (e.g. Air Inuit, Tarquti), NGOs (e.g. Qarjuit Youth Council, Nunavik Housing Bureau), and economic development (i.e. Makivvik). We learned that these various agencies constitute Nunavik Inuit's governance structure as they work towards self-government.

TAKE-AWAY



The forum expanded the NMRPC's understanding of planning partners to be engaged during the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region. In addition, the event served to inform NMRPC staff about Nunavik Inuit governance structure and the relationships between Nunavik Inuit agencies.

Indicator 2.2: Foster relationship-building to support constructive and respectful decision-making during the marine planning process.

Measurable 2.2.1: *Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I feel that the NMRPC is committed to meaningful engagement throughout the marine planning process.*

Individual-level analysis: Of the individuals who completed both the pre- and post-forum surveys, 9% indicated an improved perception of the NMRPC's commitment to meaningful engagement while 91% expressed a consistently positive perception.

GROUP-LEVEL ANALYSIS

100% of post-forum survey respondents expressed that they felt the NMRPC is committed to meaningful engagement throughout the planning process, compared to 91% in the pre-forum survey.



TAKE-AWAY



Trust in the NMRPC's commitment to meaningful engagement was improved through the Marine Planning Forum, thereby fostering relationship-building between the NMRPC and planning partners. This appears to be newfound trust for some community members, and it will be important that the NMRPC continues to practice effective engagement to maintain strong relationships with Nunavik Inuit. As highlighted above, trust in the NMRPC and the resulting effective engagement with planning partners is vital to the creation of a comprehensive, achievable, and relevant marine use plan.

Measurable 2.2.2: *Forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the post-forum survey: I feel the Marine Planning Forum fostered relationship-building to support constructive and respectful decision-making.*

GROUP-LEVEL ANALYSIS

This question was added to the post-forum survey to explicitly request feedback on the event. All respondents (100%) indicated that the forum fostered relationship-building to support constructive and respectful decision-making.



TAKE-AWAY



Every forum participant who completed a post-forum survey agreed that the forum fostered relationship-building to support constructive and respectful decision-making. The forum successfully created connections that will support development of a marine use plan for the Nunavik Marine Region in a civil and timely manner.



OBJECTIVE 3: OBTAIN INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO GUIDE THE MARINE PLANNING PROCESS

Objective 3 has two indicators and three measurables, which are detailed below.

Indicator 3.1: Inform the marine planning process by fostering open conversations.

Measurable 3.1.1: *Number and summary of comments and/or questions provided through the feedback box and free-form sections of the pre- and post-forum surveys.*

Forty people provided comments on the forum, including eleven through the pre-forum survey, twenty-six through the post-forum survey, and three through the feedback box for the event (see **Appendix 3** for the full list of comments and questions shared by forum participants). The majority of comments were positive, including expressing excitement for the event, pride in the NMRPC for its efforts and teamwork, confidence in the forum reaching its objectives, appreciation for the work undertaken to ensure fulsome community representation, interest in collaboration, gratitude for inclusion in the event, improved understanding of marine planning, as well as praise for Tunu Napartuk as facilitator and the presenters and keynote speakers. People shared that they felt comfortable and welcomed and that they learned an incredible amount. Appreciation was voiced for the diversity of perspectives and knowledge provided at the forum and for the opportunity to meet a range of people and create new connections.

It was highlighted that forum participants were interested and excited and that the forum was inspiring and established a good foundation for the work to be done.

Feedback also highlighted opportunities for improvement, including providing a greater range of options for responses in the forum surveys (options included only "Yes", "No", and "I don't know"), including more community-based businesses and associations in the event, reducing the number of presentations and increasing the number of activities, and allotting more time in the agenda for roundtables and community-led talks. It was also highlighted that it is important to provide space for Nunavik Inuit to speak, to ensure interpretation is available during breakout sessions, and to pair Elders during breakout sessions so they can build on each other's comments.

TAKE-AWAY



Most comments provided through the pre- and post-forum surveys and the feedback box were positive, confirming that the approach taken for the forum was a relatively good fit and could serve as an effective template for future engagement. Opportunities for improvement identified by participants provided valuable insights that we will use to inform future engagement during the marine planning process, improving our process and resulting outcomes.





***Measurable 3.1.2:** Number and summary of comments provided during open floor discussions.*

The NMRPC hosted a pre-event meeting with Nunavik community members to prepare them for the forum. Information was shared about the NMRPC, marine planning, and the objectives of the event. Questions posed by community members during the meeting related to:

- The role of the Government of Nunavut in managing the Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy in the Nunavik Marine Region.
- Whether the Government of Nunavut or Nunavik can override Fisheries and Oceans Canada through the marine planning process.
- How shipping accidents impacting the Nunavik Marine Region will be managed.
- Whether Nunavik Inuit will have a voice in the planning process.
- How marine planning and wildlife management mandates under the NILCA will be coordinated.

While the NMRPC responded to the questions, community members highlighted that the forum was bringing people together to both raise questions and have them addressed by the appropriate agencies. Positive feedback was expressed about the NMRPC having hosted the session.

Additional questions and comments were shared by six individuals during the forum. Community members voiced concerns to Makivvik regarding land selection in the Richmond Gulf (i.e. Lake Tasiujaq) and federal ownership of lands in the Nunavik Marine Region. Makivvik responded that they agree that more discussion is needed regarding long-standing land selection issues and that, while discussions have taken place regarding the transfer of lands under the NILCA, no additional discussions are pending regarding other lands. A community member asked how Makivvik's activities are affected by the devolution process in Nunavut. Makivvik responded that it has made representation with respect to devolution that anything that is within the Nunavik Marine Region should not be devolved to the Nunavut Government. Makivvik noted that devolution is not a transfer and is instead a mandate given to the Nunavut Government to be in charge of management.

In response to Dallas Smith's discussion of guardian programs on Canada's West Coast, a community member asked to learn more. Dallas responded that it is important to:

- Have Indigenous guardians on the land to support enforcement despite the challenges associated with providing salaries and equipment.
- Use creativity around obtaining funding, while balancing community priorities with those of outside funders. Examples for funding provided by Dallas included diverting money from political activities, selling carbon credits, and working with environmental groups.
- Find ways to enable Indigenous guardians to enforce the law.

A Nunavut land claims organization asked whether tourism operators in Nunavik are required to have appropriate guides and monitors when landing on the islands to protect cultural resources. The Government of Nunavut responded that tourism operators visiting heritage sites have permit holders, usually professional archaeologists, who brief crewmembers. The permit holders submit reports on the state of heritage sites and the reports are shared with the Government of Nunavut, which then has the option of changing requirements around visitation should damages be reported.

A federal government agency asked Dallas Smith his advice for working together to make a marine use plan in Nunavik a reality. Dallas responded that a technical and bureaucratic relationship is needed to ensure that technical solutions as well as political backing and support are part of the process. He also noted that it is important to have a solutions table where discussions can be hosted and next steps identified. Dallas highlighted that Indigenous peoples need to better advocate for themselves as well as identify their own goals and priorities.

TAKE-AWAY

SUCCESS

Ten individuals provided comments and/or questions during the event, including during a pre-forum meeting with Nunavik community members and during the forum itself. The engagement demonstrated to the NMRPC areas of interest to planning partners and topics to be addressed within the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region.



Indicator 3.2: Explore opportunities for information and data sharing between the Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission and planning partners.

***Measurable 3.2.1:** Number of organizations that staff arranged follow-up meetings with to explore opportunities for information and data sharing.*

Seven key opportunities for data and information sharing were identified during the forum:

1. **Dallas Smith's** keynote presentation highlighted parallels between First Nations in British Columbia and Nunavik Inuit, including challenges and opportunities associated with environmental groups, non-Inuit research practices, Indigenous-led research governance, economic self-reliance, lack of enforcement, Indigenous stewardship and guardians programs, access to the land, knowledge transfer between elders and youth, lasting impacts from colonization, and the assertion of Indigenous rights, leadership, and decision-making. The marine planning process has been well underway in British Columbia for over a decade. First Nations in British Columbia have successfully developed and implemented marine use plans, including creating and funding activities to realize Indigenous priorities. It was proposed during the forum that the NMRPC organize a knowledge exchange in partnership with Dallas and the Nanwakolas Council for Nunavik Inuit to visit British Columbia to learn from First Nations.
2. During the forum, the **Nunavut Planning Commission** highlighted to NMRPC staff the need to discuss how planning in the Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy can be coordinated. As per the NILCA, planning staff in Nunavut are responsible for management in these areas until a new agreement is reached (NILCA 27.6.2). The Nunavut Planning Commission flagged that its Recommended Land Use Plan applies a "Mixed Use" land use designation to the Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy, which is characterized by no prohibited uses or conformity requirements (i.e. in Mixed Use areas, all uses are considered to conform to the plan). Discussion is required regarding management in Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy to ensure the required protections are provided. The NMRPC recognizes that discussions with Makivvik are needed to understand timelines for the potential establishment of a new agreement that would place management responsibilities with the NMRPC in the Areas of Equal Use and Occupancy, followed by discussions with the Nunavut Planning Commission around how to move forward together.



3. The presentation by **Atanniuvik** identified areas of common ground between the research governance agency and the NMRPC's marine planning process, including priorities surrounding managing how, when, and where research activities take place in the Nunavik Marine Region and access to research documents regarding the region. NMRPC staff are coordinating with Atanniuvik to align their activities and advance data sharing.
4. The presentation by **Anguvigaq** staff highlighted data collection relevant to marine planning initiatives of the NMRPC, including work to develop a Nunavik seasonal calendar to inform requirements within the Marine Use Plan surrounding permissible timings of development and activities in the Nunavik Marine Region. The NMRPC will reach out to the Anguvigaq to explore data sharing opportunities.

5. The presentation by **Avataq** staff identified archaeological knowledge key to the identification of significant cultural sites warranting proactive protection through the Marine Use Plan. The NMRPC is working with Avataq and the Government of Nunavut's Department of Culture and Heritage to explore possible next steps.
6. **Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)** staff approached the NMRPC during the forum to talk about parallels between the NMRPC's planning process and other Indigenous planning processes managed by their team. It was recognized that there were opportunities for the planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region to learn from the experiences of others. CIRNAC and NMRPC staff met in April 2026 and several useful lessons learned were shared by CIRNAC that are now being applied by the NMRPC, including applying sequential review of key documents by NILCA signatories, using virtual options to reduce costs and advance reach of engagement efforts, and considering the hosting of regional-level meetings in Nunavik that bring different communities together.
7. The presentation by **Adventure Canada** outlined several best practices regarding tourism operations that could be used to inform creation of the Marine Use Plan, such as requirements related to local engagement, applying a community-defined approach, respecting Inuit harvesting practices, and educational and skill-development opportunities for Inuit. The NMRPC will further engage Adventure Canada during the marine planning process.

TAKE-AWAY



The forum provided NMRPC staff with insights on agencies with data and information useful for advancing the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region. The NMRPC is actively following up to take advantage of these opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The 2026 Marine Planning Forum successfully achieved its objectives of kicking-off the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region, facilitating networking and information sharing, and obtaining information and resources to guide the marine planning process. The event set a solid foundation for a participatory planning process grounded in respect, understanding, and sense of ownership. It provided insights into opportunities for the NMRPC to improve understanding of marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region as well as advance relationship-building, particularly in Inuit communities, and we are committed to this work. Ultimately, the high level of trust in the NMRPC generated by the event will foster effective and ongoing engagement with planning partners, thereby supporting the creation of a comprehensive, achievable, and relevant marine use plan.

APPENDIX 1

Forum objectives and associated indicators and measurables

INDICATOR	MEASURE (QUANTITATIVE AND/OR QUALITATIVE)
Objective 1: Kick-off the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region.	
1.1: Build trust in the planning process by ensuring planning partners are informed about the Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission (NMRPC) and how the planning process will unfold.	**Pre- and Post-Forum Survey (Quantitative)** 1.1.1 Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I am confident in the ability of the NMRPC to lead marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region. **Number of pre-forum meetings with forum invitees and presenters (Quantitative)** 1.1.2 Number of individuals or organizations who NMRPC staff met with in advance of the forum to explain the purpose of the forum and/or how presentations could be linked to marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region.
1.2: Ensure equitable and effective engagement by providing everyone with a baseline level of understanding of marine planning.	**Pre- and Post-Forum Survey (Quantitative)** 1.2.1 Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I feel comfortable explaining the basics of marine planning to others. 1.2.2 Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I understand why marine planning is taking place in the Nunavik Marine Region. **Agenda and Presentations (Quantitative and Qualitative)** 1.2.3 Range of speakers (names and agencies) at the forum and diversity of content shared during presentations. **Forum Delivery (Qualitative)** 1.2.4 Indication of how multifaceted the approach to the forum was (i.e. range of medium applied). **Numbers for in person and online participation (Quantitative)** 1.2.5 Number of people who participated in person and number who joined online.
Objective 2: Facilitate networking and information sharing.	
2.1: Create awareness of the range of planning partners involved in the planning process.	**Participant List (Quantitative and Qualitative)** 2.1.1 Indication of how broad-based (i.e. range of individuals and groups) and wide-reaching (i.e. number of individuals and groups) forum engagement was. **Pre- and Post-Forum Survey (Quantitative)** 2.1.2 Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I understand who will be involved in marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region. **Planning Partners Activity (Quantitative and Qualitative)** 2.1.3 Number and names of new planning partners identified.

INDICATOR	MEASURE (QUANTITATIVE AND/OR QUALITATIVE)
2.2: Foster relationship-building to support constructive and respectful decision-making during the marine planning process.	**Pre- and Post-Forum Survey (Quantitative)** 2.2.1 Change in forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the pre- and post-forum surveys: I feel that the NMRPC is committed to meaningful engagement throughout the marine planning process. 2.2.2 Forum participants' agreement with the following statement as provided in the post-forum survey: I feel the Marine Planning Forum fostered relationship-building to support constructive and respectful decision-making.
Objective 3: Obtain information and resources to guide the marine planning process.	
3.1: Inform the marine planning process by fostering open conversations.	**Feedback (Quantitative and Qualitative)** 3.1.1 Number and summary of comments and/or questions provided through the feedback box and free-form sections of the pre- and post-forum surveys. **Open floor discussions (Quantitative and Qualitative)** 3.1.2 Number and summary of comments provided during open floor discussions.
3.2: Explore opportunities for information and data sharing between the NMRPC and planning partners.	**Number of action items for NMRPC staff related to discussions around data sharing (Quantitative and Qualitative)** 3.2.1 Number of organizations that staff arranged follow-up meetings with to explore opportunities for information and data sharing.

APPENDIX 2

Pre- and post-forum surveys

The pre- and post-forum surveys provided the same content except for Question 6 which was only include in the post-forum survey.

MARINE PLANNING FORUM
Post-Forum Survey

Please help us assess how well we met the objectives of the Marine Planning Forum by providing feedback below. The same survey is being shared at the start and the end of the forum to explore how your knowledge and perceptions may have changed through participation in the forum.

We appreciate your honest answers, both positive and negative. We will use the feedback to learn where we succeeded and where we have room to grow. A summary of the outcomes of the survey will be provided in a report following the forum. This survey is also a ballot for a prize draw at the end of the forum.

Your name is confidential and will not be shared publicly.

We will only use your personal information to contact you should you win the draw.

Please circle the response for each statement below that best describes how you feel.

1. I feel comfortable explaining the basics of marine planning to others.

   Yes No I don't know

2. I understand why marine planning is taking place in the Nunavik Marine Region.

   Yes No I don't know

3. I understand who will be involved in marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region.

   Yes No I don't know

4. I feel that the Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission is committed to meaningful engagement throughout the marine planning process.

   Yes No I don't know

5. I am confident in the ability of the Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission to lead marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region.

   Yes No I don't know

6. I feel the Marine Planning Forum fostered relationship-building to support constructive and respectful decision-making.

   Yes No I don't know

APPENDIX 3

Comments and questions shared by forum participants

Pre-Forum Survey

PARTICIPANT AFFILIATION	COMMENT OR QUESTION
Provincial, Territorial, or Federal Government	*"You all did a wonderful job setting this up. I am looking forward to a great week."* *"Thanks for an easy registration process and a well-planned conference!"*
Ethnic Governance	*"As a start to this conference - everything that's been done (with details for a smooth start to the conference) - all has been intentional. Really excited to learn more about the marine planning process in the NMR."*
Inuit Community Member	*"I am very happy with your board members and the team, our ocean is very important and the mammals in it. I am proud of you all, the positive teamwork is showing. You are also very welcoming, thank you.* *The importance and value of our oceans–and the need to care for them–are being actively addressed and will continue to be far beyond this.* *I am excited to have hope and very proud." "* *"Feeling very welcome and confident in reaching the goals ahead with the awesome group of Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission Board and their staff. Thank you."* *"Not well aware of the information shared."* *"Too early for precise answers first morning. Filled during breakfast, before start of forum."* *"Would be good [for the pre-forum survey] to have a scale 1-5 in future, I would rate myself as a 3 on most."*
Nunavik, Nunavut, or Cree Organization	*"Looking forward to comments on establishing a planning process."* *"I really enjoy how intentional the forum is and the purpose to bring knowledge about marine planning."* *"Thank you for organizing this forum."*

Post-Forum Survey

PARTICIPANT AFFILIATION	COMMENT OR QUESTION
Provincial, Territorial, or Federal Government	*"You did a fantastic job. People are interested and excited. You did enough background community prep work to make this forum as successful as it was, without people feeling left behind. It will be a long road but I think this is off to a great start. Your keynote speakers and general speakers were also amazing. Well done!"* *"I learned an incredible amount these last few days. It was an excellent forum."* *"Thanks for the opportunity to participate. Kudos to the hotel staff for hosting such a large group."* *"Excellent job overall. Great Experience. This is my first time attending. Comfortable environment for open discussions."* *"Great information presented throughout the conference. Good foundation has been laid for work to be done moving forward. Excellent job by the organizers."* *"For breakout sessions, it is important to give space for Nunavik Inuit to speak and ensure unilingual participants have interpretation to fully participate. Also, pairing Elders together so they can riff off each other."* *"I appreciated how the forum touched on so many different perspectives and knowledge. I found everyone to be kind, open minded, and invested in contributing to the success of the planning process. And really enjoyed the new people I met and connections I've made, that would not been possible without the forum.*
Ethnic Governance	*"I think it was a wonderful kickoff. The diverse group all seemed interested in being there. The mix of community leaders and the stakeholders and the demographics will certainly help grow the discussion. The energy was contagious."*
Inuit Community Member	*"What a remarkable meaningful meeting this was! Grateful to have been part of it. I am energized by the connections made."* *"Thank you for having inviting me and following up. A successful 1st event with great keynote speakers, if you top that initial selection of keynotes, I'll be impressed even more."* *"Thank you for this very informative event."* *"I had an awesome week of many important topics and future works plans planned with my people. I felt totally spoiled and enjoyed every meal that was laid out."* *"Feel now that all indigenous group need to share and learn from each other to help each other."* *"Informative, interesting"* *"Gave me insight of the entire process for getting a plan in place in the next 10 years. Awesome time to be participating on this plan for the benefit of all Nunavimmiut."* *"Great M.C./facilitator. Great government and non-government involvement. Great turnout."*

PARTICIPANT AFFILIATION	COMMENT OR QUESTION
Nunavik, Nunavut, or Cree Organization (including land claims organizations)	*"This workshop is very well organized, excellent time management. The speakers have been excellent, really enjoyed Dallas Smith very insightful through telling his story. Qajaq Robinson - set the stage to start the workshop excellent. Natalei Azuza - GN - very good representation. Joanna Smith, Julie Reimer, Adrian Gerharz, James Eeyou. All excellent presentations. very informative + vision setting. Learning and building on best practice + processes already in place + working together. Frameworks build success. Very well organized. Excellent. Facilitation. Presenters. A+. Learned a lot over the last 3 days."* *"What an awesome forum!! A true example of what marine planning looks like. Thank you so much. A very well organized event. Great speakers, activities, food, etc."* *"Again, thanks for organizing this."* *"It has been a very stimulating and inspiring 3 days!"* *"It was great bringing all of these organizations together as well as community representatives, but it would have been nice to have more time for roundtables and community-led talks."* *"To minimize some of the presentations. Have a mixture of presentations + activities each day. Invite more community based businesses and associations. Discuss an activity can better engagement in the community"* *"I am very happy to have attended this Nunavik Marine Planning Forum. We have similar challenges and it makes more sense to work more collaboratively and have good discussion plans moving forward."*
Industry	*"During our workshop we stressed our imperative to ensure Inuit are involved in all aspects. For the Inuits, by the Inuits. So find all the ways to get ALL Inuits involved, engaged, empowered."* *"It was a great opportunity to bring a group together to have a focused discussion on the NMR. As a rep from an org that does not have many NMR related activities, it was a good opportunity to think from a different perspective."* *"Hard discussions need to happen around trade-offs. It's fine for public sector org structures that can afford to pay Nunavimiut employees for the next decades, but what about everyone else?"*

Feedback/Comment Box

PARTICIPANT AFFILIATION	COMMENT OR QUESTION
Anonymous	*"Tunu has really good energy. He was mentioning earlier that he was feeling nervous - But he did a really good job getting the energy up."*
Anonymous	*"A list of participants should be include into the package. :)"*
Anonymous	*"Can we get copies of the presentations"*

APPENDIX 4

Summaries of presentations provided during the Marine Planning Forum

Inuit Governance

Anguvigaq (Alec Niviaxie, Regional Project Coordinator): Alec provided an update on the Anguvigaq's monitoring project, which started in 2021. He outlined the purpose, methods, and preliminary results of the project.

Atanniuvik (Marie-Christine Vanier, Barbara Papigatuk, and Billy Meeku (Executive Director and staff): Marie-Christine, Barbara, and Billy shared the story and reasoning behind the establishment of a Nunavik Inuit research governance organization. They outlined the objectives of Atanniuvik and the review process for research projects, and highlighted that the organization would launch in 2026.

Anguvigaq (Billy Palliser and Mikhaela Neelin, President and Director of Wildlife Policy & Research): Billy and Mikhaela outlined the mandate and history of the Anguvigaq. They highlighted that the Anguvigaq is undertaking several projects to advance Inuit-led wildlife management and that it serves as a consultative body to the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board.

Avataq (Susan Lofthouse and Elsa Cencig, Archaeologists): Susan and Elsa provided an overview of Avataq and its work. They noted that Avataq is a Makivvik Designated Organization and explained how their work connects to the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA) and Nunavik Marine Region. Susan and Elsa highlighted that many archaeological sites have been recorded in the Nunavik Marine Region and that many islands have yet to be surveyed.

Makivvik (Laurie Beaupré, Assistant Director for the Department of Environment, Wildlife & Research): Laurie outlined Makivvik's role in the marine planning process, including its responsibilities as a NILCA signatory, landowner on behalf of Nunavik Inuit, and member of the NILCA Implementation Committee. She spoke about Nunavik Inuit self-determination and highlighted the need to ensure that Inuit are involved in decision-making. Laurie noted that Makivvik is enthusiastic to work with the Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission (NMRPC) on marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region.

Makivvik (Mylène Larivière, Legal Advisor): Mylène identified Makivvik's mandate and roles in the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region. Mylène highlighted that Makivvik represented Nunavik Inuit in the NILCA negotiations as well as serves as the collective owner of Nunavik Inuit Lands on behalf of Nunavik Inuit and acts as the legal representative of Nunavik Inuit.

Makivvik (Nancianne Grey, Assistant to the Vice President of Economic Development): Nancianne discussed Makivvik's corporate objectives, including dispensing funds from the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and promoting advancement of Inuit values and way of life. She also shared an overview of Makivvik's structure and economic development initiatives.

Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board (Barrie Ford, Board Chair): Barrie discussed the impact review process for projects in the Nunavik Marine Region. As the Board and the NMRPC are both institutions of public government under the NILCA, Barrie outlined the coordinated roles of the organizations during project review.

NMRPC (Janelle Kennedy, Executive Director): Janelle shared information about the NMRPC's 2025 Wellbeing Workshops in Nunavik communities and Chisasibi, including how the workshops were conducted and where they took place, a summary of workshop outcomes, and a short video of interviews with community members.

NMRPC (Qajaq Robinson, Legal Counsel): Qajaq described the role of the NILCA in asserting Nunavik Inuit rights as well as its development and implementation. Qajaq provided details surrounding the NMRPC's mandate as established by the NILCA, including the requirement to create a marine use plan, and discussed overlapping rights in the Nunavik Marine Region with the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Nunavut Inuit.

NMRPC (Susan Dean, Senior Marine Planner): Susan introduced marine planning as a practice, including what it is, why it is conducted, and how it is implemented. Susan outlined the actions undertaken to date by the NMRPC in the Nunavik Marine Region as well as shared a timeline for next steps.

NMRPC and Apatakaa (Joannie Ikkidluak and Evie Mark, NMRPC Commissioner and Interpreter): During the lighting of the qulliq, Joannie explained the importance of the qulliq to Inuit and the cultural traditions around its lighting.

Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (Tommy Palliser and Mark Basterfield, Executive Director and Director of Wildlife Management): Tommy and Mark described the history, structure, and role of the organization and how its work connects to marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region. Tommy and Mark explained that the Wildlife Board is an institution of public government under the NILCA and that their work is led by the Principles of Conservation as outlined in the Agreement.

Nunavut Planning Commission (Adrian Gerhartz and Joshua Arreak, Manager of Marine Policy & Geographic Information Systems and Board Chair): Adrian outlined the mandate, jurisdiction, planning process, and Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan of the Nunavut Planning Commission. He shared challenges and lessons learned, including highlighting that collaboration, early communication, technical evidence, honest discussions about trade-offs, and practical tools (scenario-based examples) are essential for effective planning.

Nunavik Community Leaders

Johnny Peters: Through his recorded keynote speech, Johnny shared his insights into the assertion of Inuit rights during his participation in the negotiation of the NILCA. Johnny highlighted the importance of Nunavik Inuit refusing to surrender rights for the negotiation process to move forward.

Siila Watt-Cloutier: During her keynote speech, Siila provided insights as a Nunavik Inuk leader and activist. She discussed the impacts of colonization and historical trauma as well as the vital importance of time on the land and the cultural, nutritional, medicinal, and economic value of country food. She noted that ice is the Inuit university, supermarket, and healthy place. Siila flagged that the world has come to know the wildlife of the Arctic better than its people and advised that Inuit communities need to work to protect their lands, waters, and way of life. Siila called for conscious leadership, the framing of climate change as a human rights issue, the application of Inuit knowledge in finding a way forward, and the redefining of economic values so they align with Inuit values. She highlighted that Inuit are becoming stronger and are standing up for what they believe in, and that Indigenous Peoples need to take the drafting pen for marine planning.

Tunu Napartuk: As the facilitator for the forum, Tunu embodied Nunavik Inuit leadership. He highlighted the value of revitalizing Inuit culture and Inuit taking power in decision-making and hosted the event using culturally relevant humour, insights, and cadence.

Ethnic, Territorial, and Federal Government Agencies

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) (Jeff Hart and Michelle-Claire Roy, Land Use Planning Manager and Environmental Policy Analyst): Jeff and Michelle-Claire outlined the federal government's roles and responsibilities related to marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region. They voiced that the government, as a signatory to the NILCA, is not only a decision-maker but also a participant in the co-management process. Jeff and Michelle-Claire highlighted that the federal government's role involves modernizing government structures and supporting Indigenous Peoples in their definition of self-determination.

Government of Nunavut (Chantel Emiktaut, Jonathon Pynn, Jon Neely, Susan Woodley, Christopher Gerlach, Ashley Piskor, Stacey Smydo, Natalie D'Souza, staff): Government of Nunavut staff outlined their roles and responsibilities within the Nunavik Marine Region from the perspectives of the Departments of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (NILCA implementation), Environment (land use planning, wildlife-related permitting), Culture and Heritage (tourism-related permitting), and Community Services (archaeology and paleontology permitting). Information was provided about administration of Nunavut's Scientists Act (1988) and requirements surrounding research activities in the Nunavik Marine Region. Staff highlighted that the Nunavik Marine Region is within the territory of Nunavut and that the Government of Nunavut is a signatory to the NILCA.

Nunatsiavut Government (Rodd Laing, Director of Environment): Rodd shared insights on Imappivut, the marine planning process led by the Nunatsiavut Government. He outlined the vision and benefits of the process as well as described past and ongoing work, including an Inuit Knowledge study and work on the Torngat Area of Interest.

Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (Marie-Claude Lyonnaise, Coordinator for Prevention-Health Promotion): Marie-Claude discussed the concepts of health and wellbeing and introduced the IQI model of health, which presents health according to the three interconnected dimensions of Ilusirsusiarniq, Qanuinngisiarniq, and Inuuqatigiitsianiq. She highlighted that culture frames and shapes how we perceive the world and that health and wellbeing are not universal concepts. Marie-Claude emphasized that wellbeing requires a collective effort and that keeping culture alive is critical to maintaining health.

Transport Canada (Gabriel Partington, Research and Analysis Officer): Gabriel provided information on Transport Canada's Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness (EMSA) program, including what it is, the types of data it manages, and how it applies to marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region. In addition, Gabriel shared information on behalf of Transport Canada's Places of Refuge program, including the program's objectives and scope as well as current activities in Nunavik.

First Nations Governance

Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission (James Bobbish and James O'Leary, Board Chair and Executive Director): James Bobbish shared his insights around the past and present relationship between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Nunavik Inuit. He also outlined the modern land claims agreements in the Eastern Arctic and the role they serve in fostering meaningful collaboration.

Nanwakolas Council (Dallas Smith, Board President): During his keynote speech, Dallas provided an Indigenous perspective on marine planning in Canada. His presentation highlighted parallels between First Nations in British Columbia and Nunavik Inuit, including challenges and opportunities associated with environmental groups, non-Inuit research practices, Indigenous-led research governance, economic self-reliance, lack of enforcement, Indigenous stewardship and guardians programs, access to the land, knowledge transfer between elders and youth, lasting impacts from colonization, and the assertion of Indigenous rights, leadership, and decision-making. Dallas highlighted that planning is not perfect and that plans can be adapted over time. He advised getting the planning process underway instead of waiting for "perfect".

Academia and Research

Dalhousie University (Julie Reimer, Adjunct Professor): Julie provided high-level insights for marine planning by setting the stage for transformative processes. She flagged that planning is all about change, holding onto values is core to remaining accountable, and uncertainty is inevitable. Julie warned against falling into a "data trap" to address uncertainty and advised embracing imagination and creativity instead. She highlighted that planning is a people process that requires time and intention.

Dalhousie University (Rachael Cadman, Associate Professor): Rachael shared information on seasonal calendars, including what they are, why they are developed, and how they can be used. Rachael provided examples of seasonal calendars and highlighted that they are tools to enable deeper engagement with, and a more holistic understanding, of data.

GeoPraxis (Stephen Kilburn, Owner): Stephen provided an overview of the NMRPC's 2011-2016 Use and Occupancy Study, including why it was undertaken, the types of knowledge it collected, and how it connects to the marine planning process in the Nunavik Marine Region.

University of Quebec-Rimouski (Denys Dubuc, Researcher): Denys discussed a mapping project aimed at creating an atlas of Nunavik's coast. He explained that the project uses satellite imagery and aerial photographs to categorize types of coasts (e.g. gravel beach, marshes, etc.) as well as identify coastal water depths.

Non-Governmental Organizations

The Nature Conservancy (Joanna Smith, Director of Ocean Planning and Mapping): Joanna provided high-level insights on marine planning as a process. She flagged that approved governance structures, transparency and communication, knowledge and information, trust, clear objectives, equity, and champions for processes are critical to successful marine planning.

WWF-Canada (Erin Keenan, Senior Manager of Arctic Marine Conservation): Erin shared information on WWF-Canada's Arctic marine protected area (MPA) network planning. She spoke about Canadian Arctic Marine Priority Areas for Conservation (CanPac), ArcNet, and shipping-related data as tools to inform mapping and decision-making in the Arctic.

Industry

Adventure Canada (Sebastian Charge, Operations Manager): Sebastian provided an overview of expedition tourism in the Arctic and the activities of Adventure Canada. He flagged that expedition tourism is not the same as mass cruising and discussed industry governance, including the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) and practices related to pollution prevention and safety and emergency preparedness. Sebastian emphasized the importance of local engagement, applying a community-defined approach, and respecting Inuit harvesting practices as well as highlighted educational and skill-development opportunities for Inuit within the sector.

Amundsen Science (Alexandre Forest, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer): Alexandre explained the role of Amundsen Science in managing the mandate of Canada's only dedicated research icebreaker, the Amundsen. He highlighted increasing support for Inuit-led research, training, and community engagement and the sharing of publicly accessible datasets for open science. Alexandre displayed historical ship tracks for the Amundsen in the Nunavik Marine Region and flagged that no activities are currently planned in the region for 2026.

Nunavik Tourism Association (Marc Beaulé, Development Officer): Marc presented on the history, role, and membership of the Nunavik Tourism Association. He highlighted challenges with tourism in Nunavik and the Nunavik Marine Region, such as high transportation costs and climate change impacts, as well as opportunities moving forward, such as youth involvement and grounding tourism in Inuit cultural values.

Tarquti (Carson Tagoona, Director of Strategic Communications): Carson discussed the work of Tarquti, a community-based renewable energy developer operating in Nunavik. He outlined the structure of the organization and the energy landscape in Nunavik, including highlighting that Tarquti currently lacks plans for operations in the Nunavik Marine Region and is instead focusing on wind turbine projects in Quaqtaq and Puvirnituq.

Panel Discussion

Tunu Napartuk facilitated a "Marine Planning Insights" panel discussion with Julie Reimer, Dallas Smith, Rodd Laing, Adrian Gerhartz, Joshua Arreak, James Bobbish, Joanna Smith, and James O'Leary. The panel addressed the question of "How can we keep communities at the core of planning?". The panel members highlighted that culturally appropriate investment in relationships and engagement are key, including engaging all generations, creating space for storytelling, advancing Indigenous leadership and decision-making, understanding the right time of year to engage with the right incentives, and ensuring sufficient funding is available.
Panel members emphasized that land claims agreements keep communities and Indigenous Knowledge at the centre of planning processes.

APPENDIX 5

Forum participants

NILCA references are provided where the Agreement requires engagement or tasks the NMRPC with activities necessitating engagement.

PLANNING PARTNER	PARTICIPANT NAME	AFFILIATION
NMRPC Commissioners, Staff, and Support	Billy Dan May	Board Chair
	Lorne McNeice	Commissioner/Vice-Chair
	Sarah Lisa Kasudluak	Commissioner
	Lucassie Kudlu	Commissioner
	Joannie Ikkidluak	Commissioner
	Janelle Kennedy	Executive Director
	Susan Dean	Senior Marine Planner
	Qajaq Robinson	NMRPC Legal Counsel
	Charity Justrabo	Consultant
	Rebecca Jeppesen	Consultant
	Brian Lewis	Strata360 (Mapping)
	Shawn Dalton	Thrive Consulting (Graphic Recorder)
	Stephen Kilburn	GeoPraxis
	Tunu Napartuk	Forum Facilitator
Nunavik Community Leader	Siila Watt-Cloutier	Keynote Speaker
First Nations Governance	Dallas Smith	Nanwakolas Council
Nunavik Community Representatives (NILCA 6.2.1 (c), 6.2.1 (d), 6.2.1 (g), 6.8.2, 9.2, 6.2.1 (b), 6.3.2, 23.1.1, 6.4.18 (a))	Jaiku Angnatuk	Kangiqsualujjuaq Anguvigait
	George Peters	Kuujjuaq Anguvigait
	James May	Tasiujaq Anguvigait
	Ituk Akpahatuk	Aupaluk Anguvigait
	Allen Augiak	Kangirsuk Anguvigait
	Lucy Kritik	Quaqtaq Anguvigait
	Joanasi Jaaka	Kangiqsujuaq Anguvigait
	Masiu Alaku	Salluit Anguvigait
	Ali Qavavauk	Ivujivik Anguvigait
	Juusi Jason Aliqu	Akulivik Anguvigait
	Juani Beaulne	Puvirnituq Anguvigait
	Jobie Oweetaluktuk	Inukjuak Anguvigait
	Jeremiah Kumarluk	Umiujaq Anguvigait
	Danielle Weetaltuk	Kuujjuaraapik Anguvigait
	Ruby Menarick	Chisasibi Anguvigait
	Simon Monger	Chisasibi Anguvigait
	Michael Cameron	Community Representative
	Johnny Kasudluak	Community Representative

PLANNING PARTNER	PARTICIPANT NAME	AFFILIATION
Nunavut Community Representative (NILCA 27.3.2)	Pitsiulala Akavak	Mayukalik HTO (Kimmirut)
Cree Community Representative (NILCA Schedule 28-1 (7.4))	Robert Fireman	Cree Trapper's Association EMR department
Non-Governmental Organizations	Jo Smith	The Nature Conservancy of Canada
	Jennie Knopp	Oceans North
	Erin Keenan	World Wildlife Fund - Canada
Federal Government (NILCA 6.2.1 (g), 6.4.1 (a))	Tess Forbes	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
	Miranda Charles	Canadian Coast Guard (Arctic Region)
	Bessy Agraniotis	Canadian Coast Guard (Arctic Region)
	Adam Downing	Transport Canada
	Gabriel Partington	Transport Canada (EMSA)
	Marie-Michelle Simard	Transport Canada (EMSA)
	Michelle-Claire Roy	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
	Jeffery Hart	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
	Angel Li	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
	Andrée-Anne Vézina	Environment and Climate Change Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service)
	Lisa Tulen	Environment and Climate Change Canada (National Environmental Emergency Centre)
Territorial Government (NILCA 6.2.1 (g), 6.4.1 (a))	Natalie D'Souza	Government of Nunavut
	Jonathan Pynn	Government of Nunavut
	Ashley Piskor	Government of Nunavut
	Susan Woodley	Government of Nunavut
	Jon Neely	Government of Nunavut
	Christopher Gerlach	Government of Nunavut
	Chantel Emiktaut	Government of Nunavut
	Stacey Smydo	Government of Nunavut
Provincial Government (NILCA 6.4.21)	Marie-Claude Lyonnais	Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services
	David Saint-Pierre	Government of Quebec - Secrétariat aux relations avec les Premières Nations et les Inuit (NILCA 6.2.1 (a))
Academia and Research Institutions	Denys Dubuc	Northern and Arctic Coastal Research Lab - UQAR
	Alexandre Forest	Amundsen Science
	Jean-Éric Tremblay	Institut Nordique du Québec/Université Laval
	Rachael Cadman	Dalhousie University
	Julie Reimer	Dalhousie University

PLANNING PARTNER	PARTICIPANT NAME	AFFILIATION
Ethnic and Regional Governments (NILCA 6.2.1 (a), 6.4.21)	Rodd Laing	Nunatsiavut Government
	Rosanna Wisden	Cree Nation Government (NILCA Schedule 28-1 (7.4))
	Véronique Gilbert	Kativik Regional Government
	Émilie Dalpé-Turcotte	Kativik Regional Government
	Marianne Ricard	Kativik Regional Government
Nunavik Organizations	Mikhaela Neelin	Anguvigaq
	Billy Palliser	Anguvigaq
	Adam Gardner	Anguvigaq
	Alec Niviaxie	Anguvigaq
	Mark Basterfield	Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NILCA 6.8.1, 5.2.3 (j), 5.2.4 (b), 5.2.4 (c), 5.2.6)
	Tommy Palliser	Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NILCA 6.8.1, 5.2.3 (j), 5.2.4 (b), 5.2.4 (c), 5.2.6)
	Elsa Cencig	Avataq Cultural Institute (NILCA 22.2, 20.3.10)
	Susan Lofthouse	Avataq Cultural Institute (NILCA 22.2, 20.3.10)
	Marie-Christine Vanier	Atanniuvik
	Barbara Papigatuk	Atanniuvik
	Billy Meeku	Atanniuvik
	Darlene Partridge	Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board (NILCA 6.4.21)
Nunavut Organizations (NILCA 6.2.1 (a), 6.4.21)	Sharon Ehaloak	Nunavut Planning Commission
	Adrian Gerhartz	Nunavut Planning Commission
	Joshua Arreak	Nunavut Planning Commission
Cree Organizations (NILCA 6.2.1 (a), 6.4.21, Schedule 28-1 (7.4))	James O'Leary	Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission
	Joyce Tshiyoyo	Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission
	James Bobbish	Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission
Land Claims Organizations (NILCA 27.6.4)	Kathy Padluq	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Nunavik Land Claims Organizations (NILCA 6.2.1 (c), 6.2.1 (d), 6.2.1 (g), 6.8.2, 9.2, 6.2.1 (b), 6.3.2, 23.1.1, 6.4.18 (a), 6.4.18 (b))	Laurie Beaupré	Makivvik
	Barrie Ford	Makivvik/Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board
	Mylène Larivière	Makivvik
	Nancianne Grey	Makivvik
	Jason Annahatak	Makivvik
Industry	Carson Tagoona	Tarquti Energy Corporation
	Paul Barnes	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
	Christine Soucy	Glencore - Raglan Mine
	Marc Beaulé	Nunavik Tourism Association
	Sebastian Charge	Adventure Canada
	Bomono Heron	McLean Kennedy Inc.

Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission
Commission d'aménagement de la région marine du Nunavik

QUESTIONS? Contact the NMRPC or visit us online.

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