



# BACKGROUND

The Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission (NMRPC) is an institution of public government created under the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA). The NILCA tasks the NMRPC with developing a Marine Planning Strategy to frame the creation of a Marine Use Plan. Once approved, the plan will guide and direct resource use and development in the Nunavik Marine Region. The Nunavik Marine Region includes the saltwater and islands offshore of Nunavik (Fig 1).

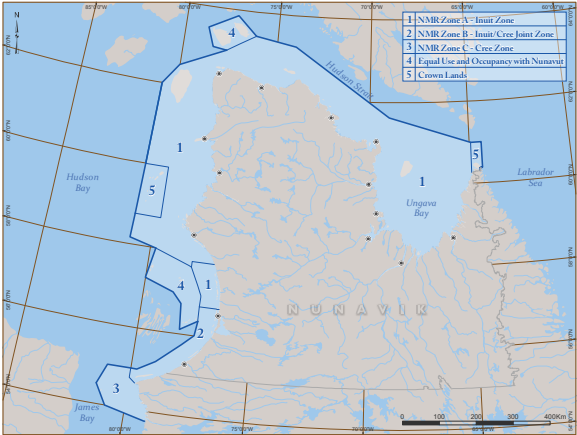


Fig 1: Nunavik Marine Region (outlined in dark blue).



# OVERVIEW

To support the development of the Marine Use Plan, we are connecting with Nunavimmiut and other planning partners to create a shared vision for the creation of the Marine Planning Strategy (Fig 2). As a first step, we visited Nunavik communities from January to March 2023 to conduct early engagement. During the tour, we introduced the NMRPC and heard opinions, experiences, and concerns regarding the Nunavik Marine Region. We also asked people about their preferred methods for engagement and how to use the feedback received to guide the work of the NMRPC. Input from the tour was used to create Targeted, Public, and Organization versions of the Marine Planning Strategy Survey. The targeted survey was provided to experts in the marine environment in each Nunavik community, the public survey was provided to the public and all households in Nunavik, and the Organization survey was created for organizations with activities or interests in the Nunavik Marine Region. The surveys and community visits together inform the creation of the Marine Planning Strategy.



*“The Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission is going on a community tour in Nunavik to share more about who we are and what we do. We want to talk to people and organizations about the work we have been doing over the last ten years and talk about the future of marine planning for the Nunavik Marine Region.*

*In each community we will hope to meet with organizations one on one, but we will also have an open house in each community where anyone can come find out more about us and share their ideas and concerns about the future of the Nunavik Marine Region. The format is very open, and everyone is welcome to come to the Open House. We will have an interpreter so everyone can be heard. We will be bringing a short questionnaire to fill out that will help us make a bigger survey that we will distribute later in the year. It’s important for us to hear from you so we get the right information to ask the best questions on the survey.*

*We will have giveaways, food, and if you fill out the questions you get to pick from three higher end promo items as a thank you. Everyone is welcome! So, if you have an interest in what goes on in the Nunavik Marine Region, please come have a conversation with us when we come to visit. If any elders need transportation to the open house, please contact us.”*

— NMRPC Social Media Post from January 2023



Fig 2: Actions to inform development of the Marine Planning Strategy for the Nunavik Marine Region.

## COMMUNITY TOUR 2023: EARLY ENGAGEMENT

Consistent with the NILCA, particularly sections on seeking opinions from communities and promoting public awareness and discussion, we undertook a community tour to ensure early engagement in marine planning in the Nunavik Marine Region. As significant time had passed since the NMRPC had a presence in communities, the primary purposes of the tour were to (1) reach out about who the NMRPC is, what it does, and what it needs to do and (2) discuss the Nunavik Marine Region with individuals and learn their preferences for ongoing engagement. We also reviewed draft high-level goals for the planning process with a promise of further discussion prior to completion of the Marine Planning Strategy. We decided

as a team not to do formal presentations in favor of an open house format. We also visited northern village offices and local hunters' associations, or Local Nunavimmi Umajulivijiit Katuqiqatigininga (LNUK), offices as time and availability permitted.

The NMRPC Chair participated in two legs of the tour in January and February-March, while the Vice-Chair and another Commissioner joined the late-March leg of the tour. In addition, the Vice-Chair joined the tour in Chisasibi in May along with the Director of the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission (EMRPC). The NMRPC and EMPRC held a joint open house in Chisasibi and attended side meetings together.

Table 1: Dates of community visits for the 2023 Community Tour: Early Engagement.

2023 COUMMUNITY TOUR DATES	COMMUNITY
January 24	Tasiujaq
January 25	Kangirsuk
January 26	Kangiqsualujjuaq
January 27	Aupaluk
February 28	Puvirnituaq
March 1	Inukjuak
March 2	Umiujaq
March 3	Kuujjuaraapik
March 20	Kangiqsujuaq
March 21	Quaqtaq
March 23	Akulivik
March 24	Salluit
May 17	Chisasibi
Cancelled due to weather	Ivujivik
Cancelled due to time constraints	Kuujjuaq

## OUTCOMES

The 2023 community tour enabled the NMRPC to have a presence in communities, gain valuable insights, and lay the foundation for more in-depth engagement in the future. We found that every community was incredibly welcoming and helpful.

Nunavik organizations tend to have high rates of staff turnover and are often asked to engage with many organizations on a wide array of research and development initiatives. These factors can make it difficult to maintain ongoing awareness of the NMRPC and its work. While we found that some Nunavimmiut knew about the NMRPC, many were unaware of us. During the tour, the team built rapport and laid a foundation for future engagement by describing who we are in relation to other groups and our obligations under the NILCA. We began many conversations at the ground level before moving on to seeking input into the marine planning process. We feel that the tour was a success (Fig 3).

- ✔ Share in-person with communities who the NMRPC is and what it does.
- ✔ Announce important updates about the NMRPC's website, staff, logo contest results, and Marine Planning Strategy Survey.
- ✔ Build relationships in communities with the NMRPC.
- ✔ Gather information from communities regarding the Nunavik Marine Region.
- ✔ Document discussions as comprehensively as possible.

*Fig 3: Successes of the Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission's (NMRPC's) 2023 community tour.*



