

*Mobilizing Inuit Qaujimaqatunqangit in
narwhal management through community
empowerment
A Case Study in Naujaat, Nunavut*

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Fisheries - Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (Fish-WIKS)

Research Goals:

1. Understand how knowledge is obtained, valued, shared and used in different knowledge systems in each of 4 regions across Canada
2. Identify commonalities and differences across the regions and systems
3. Examine how knowledge systems influences fisheries governance at multiple levels.
4. Understand how distinct IKSs can improve current efforts.



Fish-WIKS Fisheries – *Western & Indigenous Knowledge Systems*

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through meaningful partnerships

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What is Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit?

- ▶ Inuit worldview encompassing language, history, decision-making, social organization, values, and knowledge
- ▶ Experiential way of knowing developed over centuries by generations of Inuit living on the land



Context

- ▶ Importance of integrating indigenous knowledge into resource management decision-making has been widely acknowledged
- ▶ Existing narwhal management system in Nunavut does not fully integrate IQ into decision-making
- ▶ Mobilization of IQ requires empowerment of Inuit in management system



Research Question

How can a narwhal management regime which enables the mobilization of IQ be established in Nunavut?

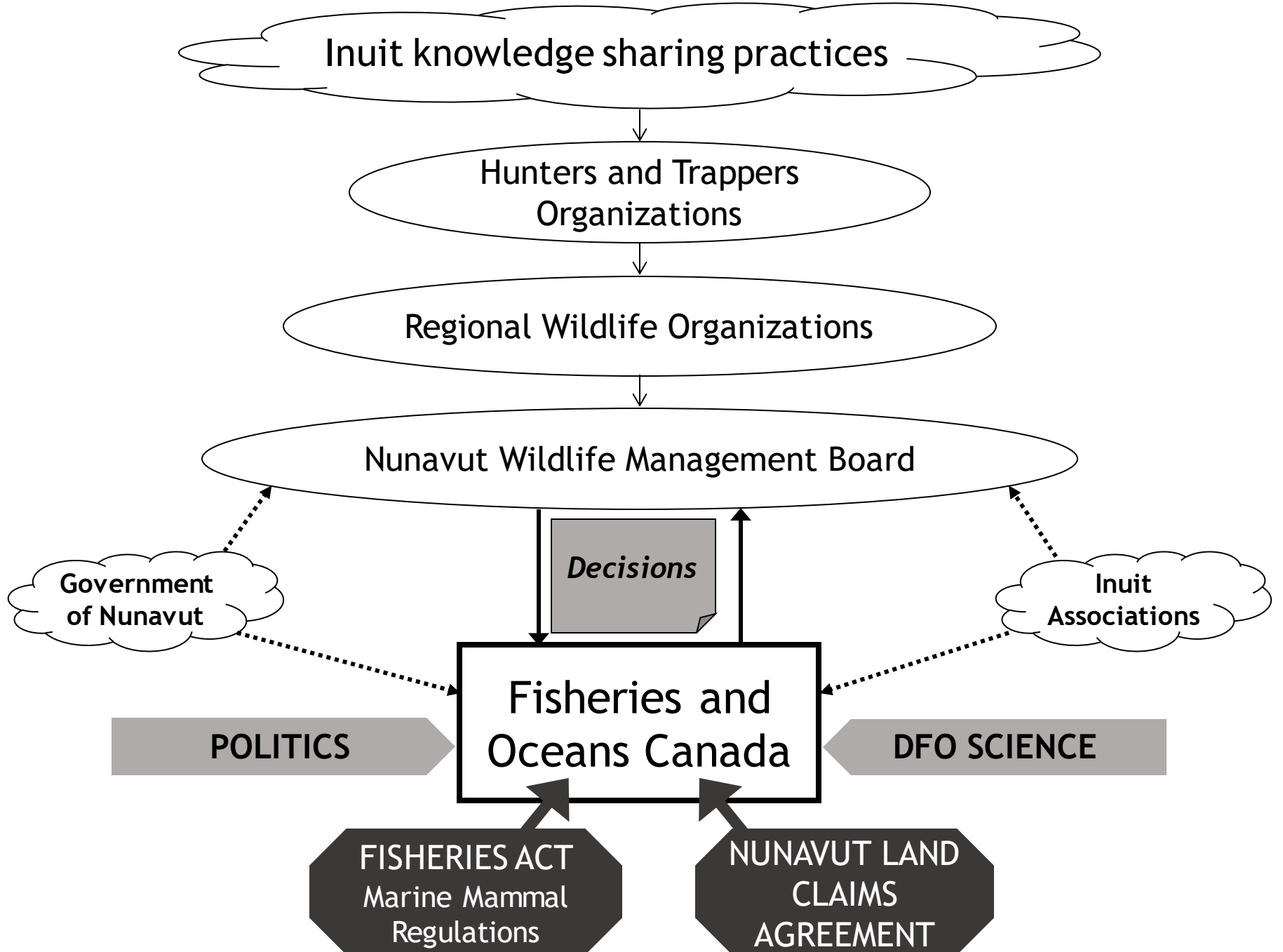


Methods



- ▶ Literature review
- ▶ Six week visit to Repulse Bay, NU
- ▶ Conducted ten interviews with community management stakeholders
- ▶ Consulted with hamlet council, Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization
- ▶ Shared preliminary results with community via public radio

1) How are narwhal currently managed?



2) How do existing management methods influence the use of IQ?

IQ Concepts relating to narwhal harvesting

- ▶ “take only what you need”
- ▶ Slower pace of hunting
- ▶ Respect for experience
- ▶ Knowledge passed on through families



2) How do existing management methods influence the use of IQ?

Impacts of government regulation:

- ▶ Rushed pace of hunting
- ▶ More competition between hunters
- ▶ Traditional pace of winter preparations altered
- ▶ Limits opportunities for transmitting IQ



3) What would be the ideal relationship between management and IQ?

- ▶ Language of management
- ▶ Need for improved communication and information sharing between levels of management
- ▶ Importance of government regulation, new context for IQ
- ▶ Community-based management



Recommendations

- ▶ Improve communication between high-level management and community stakeholders
- ▶ Promote knowledge-sharing
- ▶ Create equitable knowledge-sharing partnerships
- ▶ Situate more decision-making power with local management authorities (RWO, HTO)

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Further information:

Keenan, E., Fanning, L., and Milley, C. 2018. Mobilizing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in narwhal management through community empowerment: A case study in Naujaat, Nunavut. *Arctic* 71(1): 27-39.

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