

# THE ARCTIC COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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## THE LESSONS OF BREST- N S B Planners Prepare for the Impossible

**NSB OBSERVERS VIEW AMOCO-CADIZ OIL SPILL;  
ARCTIC CZM PLANNING FOCUSES UPON  
BEAUFORT OFFSHORE OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY  
PLANNING**

In order to obtain first-hand knowledge of the behavior and characteristics of a large oil spill, three NSB CZM planners flew to France the beginning of April to observe the massive oil spill caused by the wreck of the U.S.-owned oil tanker Amoco-Cadiz just North of Brest on the coast of Brittany. Through the help of Exxon officials in Anchorage and Paris, their tour of the spill and containment and cleanup operation was conducted by the official in the French Ministry of Environment in charge of oil spill cleanup operations, Jean-Marie Massin. The NSB observer team was comprised of Jon Buchholdt, assistant of NSB Mayor Eben Hopson; and Tom Smythe and Faye Alexiev, Alaska Consultants, Inc., CZM planning consultants to the NSB.

The Amoco-Cadiz, a 250,000-ton tanker carrying 230,000 tons of very light crude from the mid-east oil fields, wrecked off the tiny Bretagne village of Kersaint-Portsall when her steering malfunctioned at about 11:00 A.M. on March 16. For the next 12 hours a three-way argument between the tanker captain, a German tugboat skipper, and an AMOCO official in New York City over a \$100,000 fee and the difference between a request for assistance and an SOS, resulted in the world's largest oil spill as the tanker was allowed to drift onto the rocks where it broke up in heavy seas. Both the tanker and tugboat captains were immediately jailed in Brest, and the French government is considering seeking the arrest and extradition of the New York Amoco executive to France for trial on charges of criminal negligence.

The NSB observers rendezvoused with Jean-Marie Massin at a small village Inn at Kersaint-Portsall, one of hundreds of small family-owned tourist hotels that cater to the hundreds of thousands of tourists that annually visit the famous and beautiful Brittany coast. Massin, a former Elf Oil Corporation geologist in North Africa, now in charge of French oil spill response operations, said that the massive cleanup was aimed at cleaning up beaches used by tourists to avert the economic loss of



**"Who is to blame?" Photographs such as this one of volunteers shoveling oil-soaked sand into plastic bags and buckets accompanied articles in the French press expressing national outrage with the oil companies which have had three major tanker spills in the English Channel since 1967.**

tourism as a first priority, and about 1800 French Army troops with hundreds of military vehicles were at work along the 200-mile coastline polluted by the spill. Massin said that all bird life, with the exception of seagulls, was lost, and all sub-surface biota appeared to have been killed as the thin oil seeped deeply into the sand.

After inspecting the polluted beach by helicopter, Massin briefed the NSB team at the Army's command post at Ploudalmezeau before accompanying them on an automobile tour of the coast.

Because of the size of the disaster in terms of oil quantity and miles of beach pollution, NSB observers were able to see a wider variety of spill characteristics than would normally be possible. The most determinant

factor was the wind. Wind velocity and direction, rather than current or tide, determined which beaches were polluted, and how often.

Because of the decentralized regional system of government administration, the local prefecture at Brest was able to decide to wait until high tide to begin cleanup operations, a decision Massin felt might have been a mistake. This was Massin's third spill in 12 months, and he felt that high velocity, multi-directional winds caused many miles of coastal pollution that might have been avoided had cleanup operations begun immediately after the wreck.

While beach cleanup operations waited 4 days until high tide, offshore containment operations began within four hours of the wreck with the use of dispersants and the deployment of boom systems to block the oil from reaching the beach. The dispersants worked on oil slicks that had reached the surface, but Massin reported large underwater "balloons" of oil remaining for days undetected beneath the surface of the sea, and these would rise to be blown to shore by shifting winds to pollute beaches that might have escaped earlier pollution, or to pollute beaches that had earlier been cleaned by the shovel brigades of the French Army.

NSB observers learned that there is no technology equal to the challenges of a major oil spill. Skimmers cannot be used in rough water and are ineffective against enormous quantities of oil. Boom systems proved difficult in rough water. They were difficult to weight down, and even properly weighted and positioned booms failed when the light crude simply splashed over them in the wind. The only effective tool in the end proved to be the shovel, and 1800 French G.I.'s were deployed to shovel oil-soaked sand into 5 and 10 gallon plastic bags which were stacked in piles next to roads where they were collected and taken to ships at Brest and Rostoff. And scores of village fire trucks were used to hose oil from rocks coated at high tide. Beautiful Rostoff harbor provided an example of the fickle behavior of the wind-swept oil.

Days after the spill, Rostoff harbor was found one morning to be covered with four inches of crude blown in by changing high winds. No water could be seen. Skimmers, troops and tank trucks were brought in to pump the crude from the harbor, but before they could be mobilized, the wind shifted, the crude was blown out to sea, and with the exception of the black ring on the rocks and harbor walls, there was no evidence of the oil invasion of Rostoff Harbor.

Beaches that had not yet been cleaned were covered with an inch of crude, but the oil seeped deep into the sand. In some instances, polluted beaches would appear clean, with the surf depositing a thin layer of sand over the oil to trap unsuspecting birds. Massin had no way of knowing how many remote beaches, appearing unpolluted from the air, were underlain with several inches of oil-soaked sand.

The French government considered bombing the wreck of the Amoco-Cadiz to burn its cargo before all of it could spill into the sea, but this was not done because winds would have blown the oil-laden smoke across the countryside to pollute farm lands and crops. In the end, all of the 230,000 tons of crude were spilled.

The wreck is clearly visible among the rocks on the nearshore, so dispersants were not used at the wreck for



**"Sea Monster" off the coast of Brest. This was the scene that met NSB observers three weeks after the catastrophic oil spill of 230,000 tons of oil from the Amoco-Cadiz which broke up on the rocks just outside the small port of Portsall.**

fear that they would merely add to the toxic pollution on the beach. Dispersants were used on oil slicks blown out to sea.

Massin said that about 20 tankers pass along the coast of Brittany each day. The French government has about decided tanker disasters along their coastline are inevitable, and oil spill response organization is being tightened up as a result of what is being learned in the cleanup of the Amoco-Cadiz spill.

In France, oil spill response is left up to the Army. Massin estimated the cost of cleanup to be running about \$250,000 per day, costs which Amoco must reimburse the French, costs Amoco must pay because one of their executives quibbled over a \$100,000 tugboat fee.

Brest is a conservative harbor city where graffiti is painted over as soon as it is discovered, but the city fathers left one message sprayed on a concrete wall near the middle of town: "Le Mer Noire - Capitaliste" as they wondered how it is that one corporate executive in New York City could cause such a disaster on the Brittany coast. It reminded NSB officials of the two blowouts in the Canadian Beaufort Sea caused by mistakes made by a Texas drilling company working under contract for Dome Petroleum. An inquest into the death of a crewman aboard one of Dome's Canmar drilling ships revealed that Dome's Beaufort Sea OCS operations were controlled from Texas rather than from Canada. The French are moving to insure that Tanker traffic off their shores will be controlled from France, rather than from corporate offices in New York City.



**French Army mobilized quickly for clean up. 1800 French Army troops with hundreds of military vehicles were at work along the 200-mile coastline polluted by the spill, where the oil often covered the water to a depth of three and four inches and hid below the surface in great balloons.**

### **NSB Officials Tackle Oil Spill Liability Contingency Plans**

As expected, the Amoco-Cadiz disaster had lessons for those involved in Arctic Coastal Zone Management. As Massin and his colleagues in France's Ministry of Environment learned, oil spill contingency planning is more theoretical than real if a super tanker can be allowed to wreck while a tugboat stands by for several hours waiting to be hired. Oil spill contingency planning must provide for oil spill prevention first and foremost. For the Arctic, this must mean that high standards for oil spill contingency plans are included in all Arctic offshore lease stipulations, and detailed plans must be approved before exploration and development permits are issued.

NSB officials feel that the Arctic's heavy, asphalt-based crude will make Beaufort Sea spills more manageable than the very light crude spilled in France. But this advantage will be more than cancelled out by the ice environment, and spill prevention and contingency planning in the Arctic offshore will have to be aimed at containment by pumping oil spilled to the surface of the ice as quickly as possible.



**Jean-Marie Massin in charge of the oil-spill clean-up operations views the continuing damage of oil washing up on shore, three weeks after the spill.**

In Alaska, the Army will not be available to respond to oil spills. Rather, oil spill contingency planning and response has in the past been left to the oil and gas industry. Crowley Marine Environment, Inc. is the only firm in Alaska maintaining oil spill response readiness, but it is doubtful that Crowley could respond adequately to a major Beaufort Sea spill. Crowley's readiness is financed by profits from the sale of products and equipment used in oil spill containment and cleanup operation. Crowley Marine Environment, headquartered in Anchorage, developed the Cook Inlet Response Organization's contingency plan, as well as that of Valdez. However, the oil industry does not pay Crowley Marine to maintain oil spill response readiness, and Crowley's Anchorage operations are clearly organized to respond to small, routine oil spills common to oil and gas operations.

Shaken by what they saw in France, planners resolved to focus upon oil spill prevention, containment and cleanup in the NSB's coastal zone management plan in preparation for the 1979 joint Federal/Alaska nearshore lease sale.

### **Oil Spills and the Law**

A course of study on Oil Spills and the Law was presented by the American Bar Association and the American Law Institute in San Francisco April 6-7. Various authorities in the field presented papers on the laws and regulations to prevent spills, regarding clean-up responsibilities, and liability and litigation regarding damages resulting from oil spills.

Most recognized that there is a wide area for legislation by local and state governments, even though pre-emption by existing Federal regulations may preclude some local legislation. Law authorities were quick to point out that the recent Washington State decision, *ARCO vs Ray*, which overturned the Washington law prohibiting super tankers in Puget Sound did not outlaw all local oil spill legislation. Washington State still has on the books, in fact, a zoning law for Puget Sound which requires loading and unloading of oil only at certain favorable times and under certain conditions.

It was emphasized that in spite of the best precautions and technology, spills will happen because of human fallibility and "Murphy's Law." All parties must be ready to take action immediately in case of an accident. The delay of even a few minutes in many cases can mean the difference between an insignificant and catastrophic discharge.

Experience has also shown that accidents are most likely to happen where regulations are ignored and safety precautions are disregarded. Accidents are most frequently orchestrated by these negligence patterns. The North Sea blowout, for example, could have been prevented had not a regulation been ignored which requires weekly inspection of the blowout preventer. Company records of the Santa Barbara spill also indicated disregard of several events and procedures which indicated trouble. This has required lease bidders in some areas to present "diligence and safety" records as conditions of bid.

State and local governments can also recover for damages caused by oil spills. It was pointed out that difficulties in recovery are often caused by the local

government or district not knowing precisely what they own – ahead of time – so that costs of damaged items may be recovered. The State of California recovered not only for the sand that was used to absorb the oil in the Santa Barbara spill, but also for the birds, fish and other sea life proven killed, with a specific “cost” assigned each item. The defendant was even charged for “rental space” for the discharged oil on the basis of occupying state property for this purpose, the rate being equal to the rental of a Class A dump.

To facilitate damage recovery and to put the oil companies on notice, some states are requiring that as a condition of sale, the companies sign an agreement to on-site inventory which lists the items that would be endangered by a spill and their costs, each bird, fish and mammal for example assigned a certain cost.

In the event of a spill, it is important that local government and endangered parties carefully document and record each action taken by the spiller and responsible agents – how many truck loads of sand and gravel are used for clean-up, for example, how many natural objects are dislocated, how much wildlife killed, etc.

Accidents, however, are not the largest source of discharge into our oceans. Of the 6.1 million metric tons of oil entering the oceans each year, 25% or 1.53 million metric tons comes from oil tankers, and 72% of that comes from normal operational discharges. The other 4.57 million metric tons come from other vessels (10% of the total) and from onshore industrial discharge. Less than 1% comes from tanker accidents.

The “normal operation discharge” from tankers is a problem that is inviting much legislation. The problem arises with the using of the same tanks for oil and ballast. After the oil is pumped out, the tanks are filled up with water to load the vessel and get the propeller below the water. Usually, the sludge left on the walls of the tanks are hosed down with high-pressure water before water is pumped in. But this method is very inefficient and much oil is left in with the water, and of course gets pumped out into the harbors when the vessels are again loaded with oil. This dumping of ballast-tank-sludge accounts for over 18% of ocean oil discharge, and 72% of all tanker discharge.

One proposal to relieve this problem is to pump the ballast water into special onshore reservoirs. Another proposal has been to require tankers to have two separate sets of tanks, one for oil, the other for ballast. The best proposal has recently been made by the oil companies: crude oil washing (COW). Using the old wisdom that dirt cleans dirt, the new method used crude oil as a solvent in washing off the sludge before the water cleansing. The method is much less expensive than the other methods and is 97% efficient.

Much pollution of the oceans comes from inland oil spills which eventually get into the waterways and the oceans. For this reason, every oil spill is now subject to the law. If a service station underground gas tank, rusted from age, leaks gasoline into the water table and from there into the municipal sewage system, the local municipality may be liable for the damage resulting from the discharge into the oceans or waterways.

Under present law, any person spilling enough oil (a teacupful will do) to cause a sheen in the ocean or any navigable waterway (big enough to float a



**NPR-A planners meet in Barrow. On April 14, the Coordinating Panel of the Congressionally mandated National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska study met in the NSB Assembly Room to discuss progress of the various study groups. Shown standing is George Gryc, chief of the U.S.G.S. oil exploration study. From left to right seated are Bill Clithero, BLM Coordinator of the NPR-A Surface Management Program; Bill Schneider, head of the Presidential Study Environmental Assessment program (105-b); Herb Bartel, Director, NSB Planning Department; Roy Brubaker, BLM Chief in charge of the 105 (c) Land Use Study; Jack Roderick, Special Projects Coordinator of the State Department of Natural Resources; Stanley Miller, head of the 105 (b) Economic Analysis study; and Bill Thomas of the Land Department of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.**

toothpick) is required to report the spill immediately by phone to the U.S. Coast Guard, which will then advise on how to proceed.

Land spills must be reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which acts as agent for the Coast Guard. Intentional discharge anywhere without a permit can be a criminal offense. Local governments also can require reporting of discharges and issue clean-up and containment regulations.

With any spill, there is normally some question as to whether the removal actions will be undertaken by the spiller or by the government. Most laws do not require a spiller to clean up his discharge. Rather, the spiller is normally given an opportunity to undertake the activity and, if this is not done or is not done adequately, then the government will take over the response and later seek to recover its costs from the spiller.

The year 1977 brought major legal changes to the area of oil spill prevention, containment, and clean up, resulting in many jurisdictional overlaps and litigated conflicts. But it was a bad year for oil spills. In December, 1976, a vessel exploded in the Los Angeles Harbor killing nine, injuring 58, releasing 64 tons of bunker oil into the harbor, and resulting in the loss of a vessel valued at \$21.6 million. Two days earlier, the Argo Merchant grounded east of Nantucket Island and dumped 23,000 tons of fuel oil into the ocean. On December 24, a tank vessel dropped 16 tons of bunker oil into the Thames River in Connecticut. On December 27, another vessel grounded on the Delaware River resulting in a spill of 424 tons of crude oil. On December 28, a fully loaded ore/oil carrier grounded approaching a harbor in Puerto Rico. January 1, a fire and explosion aboard an oil/ore carrier in mid-Atlantic injured two crew members. January 2, a fully loaded tank vessel in the North Atlantic on route to Providence, Rhode Island disappeared. January 4, a tanker grounded in the Delaware River. January 10, a coastwise tanker went down in the Atlantic with the loss of one life. January 17, a tanker was lost in the North Pacific with three persons missing. January 27, a

tanker exploded with three lives lost. February 24, a chemical carrier ran into the Hopewell Bridge in Virginia as a result of a steering malfunction. And on March 27, a vessel exploded on the Atlantic Ocean resulting in the loss of 12 lives and the vessel itself.

Alarmed by these casualties, President Carter issued several initiatives designed to reduce the risks associated with the marine transport of oil. Congress enacted the Clean Water Act of 1977 which greatly expanded the authority of the federal government to respond to these accidents and also increased the complexity of the laws. Because of this, there is much pressure on Congress to pass a comprehensive "Super-fund" statute which will benefit all interested parties: government, industry, and the environment.

It was brought out at the conference that the worst oil spills are from ruptured offshore oil pipelines which can spill oil at great rates for long periods of time even before being detected. This fact and the many other unknown factors surrounding oil development in the Arctic may create many problems for local authorities who do not have legal handles for dealing with these oil spill situations. For this reason, legal experts advise local communities to form contingency plans and legislation concerning the possibilities of oil spills. The oil companies themselves should be required to participate in activities that get to the root of the problem.

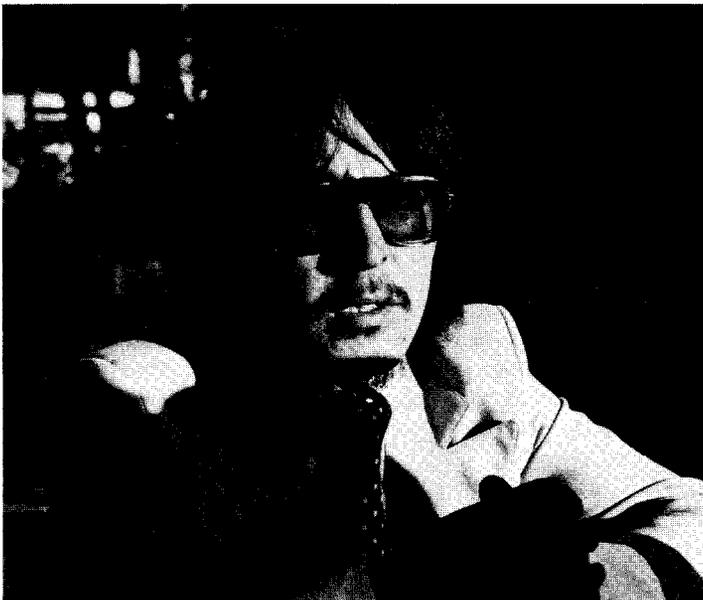
Oil spills are a fact of life now. The possible damage they can cause must be carefully considered in all local planning.

## **Lyberth Heads Inuit Development Corporation**

Jens S. Lyberth, 30, a native of Greenland, has been named president of the Inuit Development Corporation, (IDC), the business arm in the Northwest Territories of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada.

Mr. Lyberth, who has lived in Canada since 1975, was chosen to head the corporation by delegates attending Inuit Tapirisat's annual general meeting last month in Eskimo Point, N.W.T.

The meeting, attended by delegates representing virtually all Inuit communities in the Northwest



**Jens Lyberth**

Territories, Quebec and Labrador, gave the IDC a mandate to prepare an economic development strategy for the Canadian Arctic.

The Inuit Development Corporation was incorporated in February, 1976. IDC's objectives include the establishment of profitable business enterprises and, in consultation with Inuit communities, the preparation of a long-term development strategy which is socially acceptable to Inuit and economically feasible.

Jens Lyberth was born in Qutologssat, Greenland, on Nov. 2, 1947, and attended various schools until 1972. Beginning in 1969, his employment record includes substantial responsibilities with the Greenlandic postal service, and with the housing and social department of the Greenland government at Nuuk, Greenland.

He has also had experience as a radio and film producer and served as business manager of a successful musical group in Denmark. At one point Mr. Lyberth worked a year as chief negotiator for the Greenland Workers' Union in dealings with the government of Greenland.

On coming to Canada in 1975, Mr. Lyberth settled in Frobisher Bay, N.W.T., where he was at various times vice-president of the Baffin Region Inuit Association; president of the Nunatsiakmiut film workshop, and a housing manager.

Since June, 1977, he has been consultant to the NSB, assigned as a liaison to ITC in matters relating to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and has traveled extensively in Canada, the United States and Europe on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, representing Inuit of Canada, Greenland and Alaska.

## **THE BOWHEAD The Hunt is On !**

With the implementation of the self-regulating regime of the Inupiat subsistence bowhead whaling during the 1978 season by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, the good wishes and hopes of many throughout the world are with the Inupiat whalers as the season begins.

In Juneau on April 12, the State House unanimously passed a resolution urging the International Whaling Commission to reconsider the quota it set allowing Eskimo hunters to land 12 whales or strike 18. The resolution also urges the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to adopt the local management plan written by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission.

The resolution stated that the quota is "based on inadequate scientific information" and "fails to satisfy the subsistence needs of the Inupiat Eskimos and endangers a necessary tradition of their 6,000 year-old culture."

The management plan written by the Alaska commission includes regulations that tie the harvest to the number of whales. It also provides that only traditional hunting methods be used and sets strict penalties for violations.

"The purpose of this resolution is to try to convince the federal government that people do have a way of managing their own resources," Rep. Leo

Schaeffer, D-Kotzebue, said. Rep. Clark Gruening, D-Anchorage, agreed, saying: "We're talking about preservation of a culture and a way of life."

That same day, the house passed another bill granting the AEWG a \$250,000 bowhead whale study appropriation to be used to gather data on the population and migration pattern of bowhead whales, to monitor the spring hunt and number of whales struck and lost, and to improve whaling methods. The AEWG hopes to present the information to the IWC in hopes that it will restore Eskimo hunters' exemption from regulation by the international body. Having already been approved by the state Senate, the bill went to the governor's office where it was signed by Governor Jay Hammond on April 20.

Meanwhile, off St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, whaling captain Roland Olowa and his crew took the first whale of the year April 16. It was a large 40-ton whale that was struck at 7:30 a.m. and beached by 9:30 that same morning near the village of Savoonga. According to the AEWG apportionment of the quota, Savoonga was allowed one whale taken or two struck. In spite of the presence of many other whales in the region, all whaling stopped, but not without hard feelings among many of the villagers.

The state funding for the AEWG bowhead study will be managed by the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center of the University of Alaska. Part of the funding will be spent on filming the bowhead hunt. Alaskan photographers Bo Beudart and Bill Bacon are in Barrow at this writing preparing for the hunt along with the Inupiat whalers.

Also in Barrow are Bill Richards, a journalist from the Washington Post, and Elias Jakobsen of Paamiut, Greenland, an observer sent over by Denmark at the invitation of the NMFS. Jakobsen is a board member of the Greenland Hunters and Fishermen's Association and a noted fisherman and whaler.

In Barrow, Jakobsen was greeted by Greenland exchange teachers Henrietta Rasmussen and Carl Christian Olsen - working in the North Slope Borough School District - and Emil Abelsen, Head of the Oil and Mining Section of the Ministry of Greenland in Copenhagen. The reunion of these Greenlanders who were one-time school mates at the University of Denmark in Copenhagen signaled the important relationships between the U.S., Canadian, and Greenlandic Eskimos.

Emil Abelsen was given a tour of Prudhoe Bay and conferred with N.S.B. officials prior to the Inuit consultation with the oil firms that took place in Calgary on April 23-25. Abelsen represents the Greenland Provincial Council on matters relating to oil and gas development and mining in the Danish government's Ministry of Greenland. The Provincial Council is an elected body of 17 members which has advisory powers. Greenlanders also elect two members to the Danish Parliament. Next year, there will be an election on home rule, and Greenland will be given greater autonomy, though there will still be strong political and economic ties. Abelsen pointed out that Greenland is almost entirely dependent on Denmark economically.

Abelsen expressed concern over the troubles caused subsistence hunters by certain environmental "who do not understand our way of life," he

said. He was particularly upset about the campaign waged by Brigitte Bardot against the seal hunters which has already lowered the price of seal skins to a third of what it was. "We have over 10,000 people who make their living hunting seal. Among them, waste is unknown. They need the flesh to eat and they need the pelts to sell - if they are to live. This has hurt them terribly," he said.

Regarding whaling, Abelsen said the Danish government has worked out an agreement with the Greenlandic whalers who are allowed to take 10 Black Right whales a year and some fifty other species of great whales. Greenland has had a moratorium on the Bowhead since 1935, after it was depleted by commercial whalers.

While in Alaska, Abelsen reviewed the prospects of oil discoveries on the Greenland outer continental shelf. "Several dry wells have been drilled in the southwest area and the companies want out," he said. "But we are proceeding with the exploration on the southeastern shelf and with seismic and geologic exploration in the northern tip of the country."

### Beaufort Sea Study Available

Beaufort Sea Study, Historic and Subsistence Site Inventory: A Preliminary Cultural Resource Assessment by Jon M. Nielson. Published by the North Slope Borough.

The purpose of the **Beaufort Sea Study**, now available at the Planning Office of the North Slope Borough, is to offer an historical and cultural analysis of the Arctic coast lying between the Colville and the Canning Rivers, as well as the whole North Slope region likely to be affected by OCS development.

With the publication of the **Beaufort Sea Study**, the Arctic coast of the North Slope can no longer be viewed, as it has often been in the past, as a desolate wasteland devoid of human history and drama. To the contrary, this vast region is rich in history and archeology and deeply etched with the cultural heritage of its aboriginal inhabitants and others who have left their mark here.

The book contains 47 pages of maps and tables detailing historic and subsistence sites, wildlife populations and migrations, and demographic and geographic information about the Slope. There are 15 pages of bibliography and copious critical references. It is a primer and handbook for all those concerned about planning on America's Arctic coast.

### Canadians Launch Seal Hunting Campaign

VANCOUVER RESIDENTS HEAR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEAL HUNTING STORY

Peter Ernerk, member responsible for the Northwest Territory's Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and Jens Lyberth, of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC), flew to Vancouver April 3 to be interviewed by reporters of the Vancouver Sun newspaper, CBC's Hour Glass news program and CJOR, a local private radio station.

"This is just the beginning of our campaign to let people know how important seal hunting is to the Inuit living along the Arctic and the Hudson's Bay coast," explained Mr. Ernerk.

He feels Vancouver is a good place in which to start the campaign as the city is the home base of the Greenpeace Foundation.

Greenpeace, the International Fund for Animal Welfare Inc., and Swiss businessman Franz Weber have mounted campaigns aimed at halting the hunt of baby harp seals in Newfoundland. Mr. Ernerk believes these campaigns are the cause of the world decline in seal skin prices.

Market prices for seal skins have dropped at least 66 per cent in recent months. In the 1976-77 fiscal year Inuit hunters in the Northwest Territories sold 48,407 seal skins at an average price of \$18.50. This brought in \$895,529 to sealers, more money than ever before.

"This year," says Mr. Ernerk, "skins have been selling for as low as \$2 in Sanikiluaq and between \$5 and \$10 in Resolute Bay and Pangnirtung."

Mr. Ernerk was born in an igloo and has spent a good part of his life on the land. Mr. Lyberth, an Inuk as well, was born in Greenland. They know sealing is an Inuit tradition.

"The Inuit have been hunting seals for years and years. Ever since the introduction of the Hudson's Bay Company the Inuit have been selling skins, but it was only in recent years that many started to depend on the skins for a large portion of their income," says Mr. Ernerk.

He has called upon the president of the Greenlandic council, the premiers of Newfoundland and Quebec, the governor of Alaska and the president of the Hudson's Bay Company to attend an international conference in Yellowknife this summer. The purpose of the conference would be to discuss the effects of declining seal skin prices and the ways to combat anti-seal campaigns.

"If this meeting is held, I hope we can come up with a statement of support for the seal industry throughout the world," says Mr. Ernerk.

Meanwhile, he says there is a good indication that Brian Davies, the executive director of the International Fund For Animal Welfare Inc., will accept territorial council's invitation to appear before it at the 65th session this May.

As well, Mr. Ernerk is seeking support of seal hunting from such influential people as U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy.

"I'm attempting to get the key people in international politics involved. I want to explain to them just how much Inuit in the Northwest Territories depend on seal hunting to supplement their income, and in some cases, their diet." — Department of Information, N.W.T.

## National Arctic Wildlife Refuge

### Andrus, Natives Protest Oil Prospects

On March 13, the House Interior Committee approved procedures to allow federal exploration for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Range on Alaska's North Slope. Rep. John F. Seiberling sought to forestall oil company plans for the area by allowing five years of federal seismic probing, and if need be, exploratory

drilling in the refuge. The proposal was attached as an amendment to the H.R. 39 (d) (2) Alaska parklands legislation. If the oil exploration showed promise at the end of five years, Congress would then decide whether to open the land for production by oil companies.

Speaking to the Seattle Rotary Club on March 8, Cecil Andrus, Secretary of Interior, opposed the opening of the wildlife range, the size of South Carolina, to oil exploration. "Unfortunately, the process of exploring this area would endanger the natural values," he said.

"In Alaska, if we choose not to develop certain of the energy and mineral resources today, those resources will be there for tomorrow — they remain on deposit.

"But once we allow unwise — and in my estimation, unneeded — exploration and development of some of these areas, the scenic and wildlife resources will be lost forever.

"... Our proposals should help avert the boom and bust cycle which has plagued Alaska and the Pacific Northwest in the past," Andrus said.

"I think that we all have had enough of the exploiters who rush into an area, rip up and rip off the natural resources, then move on leaving behind ruined land, empty buildings, and people wondering what happened to their livelihood and their dreams and their environment."

The residents of Kaktovik on Barter Island also mounted a protest to the proposal. On March 30 the following message was sent to Congress, signed by 16 Kaktovik residents:

In 1947 our village was forced to move from the spit on northern Barter Island to make room for a U.S. Air Force runway and hanger. Twice more we moved, in 1953 and 1964, as the Air Force expanded its facilities until finally we negotiated to receive title to the 280 acres where the village is now.

Now we learn that the Interior Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has decided to



Caribou Threatened by Refuge Exploration Plans. Scientists claim that exploration on National Arctic Wildlife Refuge will seriously disturb calving grounds. In this 1971 picture by Chuck Evans of the Arctic Information and Data Center, Caribou are seen running the tundra in the Wildlife Range near Barter Island, the principal calving grounds of the Porcupine herd.

open the calving and post-calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou to oil and gas exploration. We felt the Arctic Wildlife Range was to protect the animals and land.

We oppose opening this area to exploration. Winter exploration would interfere with the denning of polar bear. Gravel in this area is scarce. It would be needed for drilling pads and airports. It would come from our coasts and river beds. What would happen to the fish? The birds are there, too – the Brants, ducks and Canadian honkers. It is not only the caribou. Even the musk oxen are there, though we do not hunt these.

We hunt, fish and trap in that area. It is important to us. We make fishing and hunting camps along the rivers and in the mountains, as well as along the coast. Our people go to the mountains quite often. Even our school has a program of going to the mountains for a week in April.

When we leave Barter Island by plane, we usually go to Prudhoe Bay to transfer. Thus we know what it (i.e. oil development) is like and do not want it here – not even the exploration. Why would you explore unless you were going to develop oil if you found it?

President Carter, Secretary of Interior Andrus and Governor Hammond have all said the Arctic Wildlife Range does not need to be explored. We ask Congress to reconsider this decision and close this area to exploration so as to protect our land and life.

It will be necessary to coordinate this protection with the Yukon and Northwest Territories of Canada as the caribou, bear, birds and other animals cross these boundaries without notice. Their range is widespread. Thus we support creation of a Canadian Wilderness Range with involvement of the villages on both sides of the border and request you seek such an arrangement.

Respectfully submitted by the city council and people of Kaktovik:

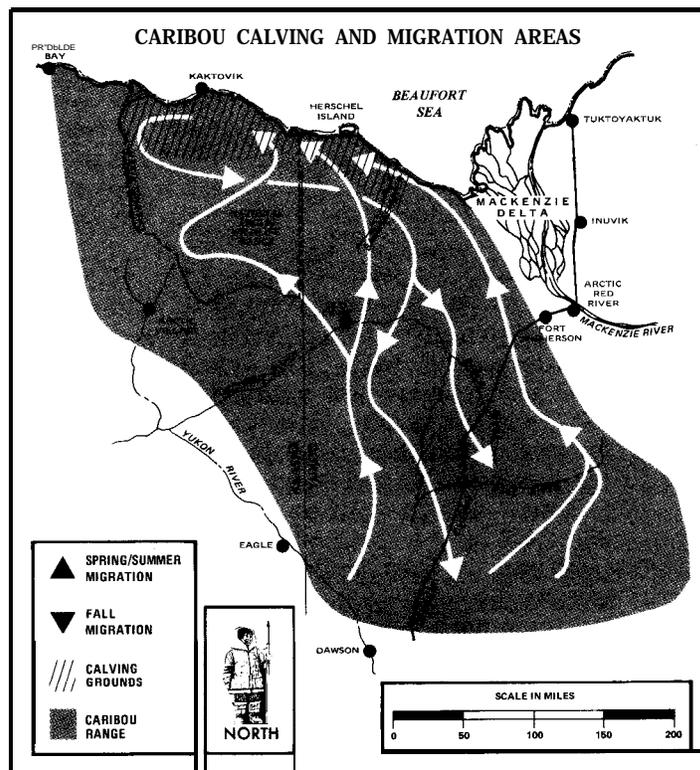
Marx W. Sims, Mayor  
Philip Tikluk, Sr.,  
City Councilman  
Danny Gordon, V. Mayor  
Walt Audi, Councilman  
Frances B. Lampe  
Mary R. King  
Mildred Aishanna  
Georgianna Tikluk

Roberta B. Armstrong  
Daniel P. Akootchook  
Diane M. Parrett  
Archie K. Brower  
Betty Brower  
Herman Rexford  
Mildred Rexford  
Jimmy Sophe, Councilman

The Seiberling amendment also caused concern among Canadian Natives who depend upon the Porcupine Caribou herd for subsistence. Along with residents of Fort Yukon, Venetie, and Arctic Village in Alaska, they also passed a resolution March 25 signed by Old Crow Chief John Joe Jay, Grafton Njootli, the land claims negotiator for Old Crow, and several other Old Crow residents. Their resolution stated:

We do hereby resolve that:

1. Absolutely no development be permitted to operate in all Porcupine caribou range.



Migration patterns and calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

2. That the proposed development in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Alaska not be permitted by the U.S. government.

3. That the Porcupine caribou and migratory birds are international in status and require International protection.

4. That an international committee be set up by both governments to work towards international Arctic wilderness range in Alaska and the Yukon Territory.

5. That the proposed international AWR (Arctic Wildlife Range) will not jeopardize the Yukon Indian land claims as it is in progress.

That the proposed development in the AWR (Arctic Wildlife Refuge) is a critical calving and post calving area and

7. That all development endangers calves and the survival of the caribou herd.

Signed:  
Old Crow Y.T. – Chief John Joe Kay  
Old Crow Y.T. – Grafton Njootli negotiator  
Old Crow Y.T. – Charlie P. Charlie  
Old Crow Y.T. – Lazarus Charlie  
Old Crow Y.T. – Helen Charlie  
Old Crow Y.T. – Peter Lord  
Old Crow Y.T. – Stephen Frost  
Arctic Village, Alaska – Trimble Gilbert  
Venetie, Alaska – Maggie Roberts  
Fort Yukon, Alaska – Jonathon Solomon

JUSTICE BERGER TESTIFIES  
AGAINST RANGE EXPLORATION

*(The following story was filed by Dennis Drabelle April 6, reprinted here with permission of the Anchorage Daily News)*

By Dennis Drabelle  
Daily News Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Justice Thomas Berger of Canada Wednesday urged the United States to retain the coastal portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Range in its natural state.

Testifying before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Berger called the Arctic coast "critical habitat" for the Porcupine caribou herd and thousands of snow geese and advised against opening the area even to exploration to oil and gas.

Berger's testimony raised the possibility that the Canadian government is at odds with the House Interior Committee's recent decision to support limited exploration for oil and gas within the same portion of the range.

Berger took care to state that he was testifying as a private citizen, but had come at the Senate committee's invitation. He will give similar testimony before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries today.

The former chairman of the Canadian government's MacKenzie Valley pipeline inquiry said that Canada's minister of Indian and northern affairs Hugh Faulkner is giving "most sympathetic consideration" to a recommendation for the establishment of a wilderness area along the Alaska-Yukon border.

He noted that the Carter administration has recommended wilderness status for the arctic range in its entirety. Thus, he said, the House committee's action may be out of step with the policies of both governments.

In recommending against construction of a trans-arctic gas pipeline, the MacKenzie Valley inquiry heard copious testimony on wildlife in the far north. It was on the basis of this testimony that Justice Berger built his conclusions Wednesday.

Though challenged at several points during the hearings — particularly by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, Berger adhered to his view that the caribou calving ground on the arctic coast is vital to the survival of the Porcupine herd and must be closed to "industrial development."

Berger cited the U.S. Wilderness Act of 1964 as a model for the preservation of fragile eco-systems and said he has urged the Canadian Parliament to enact a similar statute. If the U.S. and Canada were to apply the concept of that act to this case, Berger observed, "we would have one of the greatest wilderness ranges of the world."

Sens. Stevens and James McClure, R-Idaho, disputed Berger's conclusions regarding caribou, citing examples of the animals flourishing in proximity to man and his activities.

"This may occur where caribou are migrating," Berger replied, "but not in areas where they calve."

He also stressed the great size of the Porcupine

herd in contrast to the diminished herd remnants that have been able to withstand the coming of industrial man.

Berger emphasized that he was recommending wilderness designations for calving grounds alone, not necessarily for migration routes and winter quarters. For this reason, he said, his position could not be called advocacy of a resource lock-up.

Stevens called the developing Canadian position on the Arctic Yukon region inconsistent. He complained that Canada has allowed ample exploration of its side of the border and now, after finding nothing, is advising the U.S. not to explore its side.

"I think," Stevens declared, "we're entitled to inventory our resources."

Berger replied that he was not representing the Canadian government and was "not here to make excuses for it." He repeated that regardless of what Canada has done in the past, both governments should recognize that "continued survival of the great Porcupine herd can only be achieved if the arctic Yukon area is set aside as wilderness."

Sen. John Durkin, D-N.H., asked if it were not true that new techniques permit offshore drilling to be done with a minimum of environmental degradation. Berger replied that it was not the drilling itself which poses the most serious threat to wildlife, but the accompanying "infrastructure" — roads, stockpiles, wharves, plane flights and facilitators.

Durkin, whose native New Hampshire has been hard hit by oil shortages in recent years, argued in favor of inventoring the arctic resources, but not necessarily developing them. Berger replied that in his view even exploration alone would give rise to "irresistible pressure for development."

Following Berger's testimony, Don Mitchell, representing Alaska's Rural Community Action Program, appeared before the committee to discuss subsistence and hunting issues. He delivered to the committee a series of resolutions by native villages on both sides of the international border, supporting the joint wilderness concept enunciated by Berger.

Stevens took issue with the wildlife management concepts in H.R. 39, for which Mitchell has been partly responsible. These provisions, which would give the Secretary of the Interior oversight authority over state management of wildlife, are unconstitutional in his opinion, and he promised a filibuster if they remained in the bill.

"They'll have to drag me off the floor," Stevens said.

CARIBOU SCIENTIST OBJECTS  
TO RANGE EXPLORATION

*(Ed. Note: The following was sent to U.S. Senator Henry Jackson March 12, 1978)*

From 1974 to 1977 I have participated in the research effort to determine the impact of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline on caribou, first as a graduate student with the Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, and then as a game biologist employed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I am currently in Greenland for a year as part of a team of biologists investigating the recent drastic decline in the previously

large (approximately 100,000 caribou) West Greenland Herd. This three year project is funded by the Ministry of Greenland.

It has recently come to my attention that considerable pressure is mounting, both at the state and federal levels, to permit oil and gas exploration and possible development within the Marsh Creek area of the Arctic National Wildlife Range. This area abuts the western boundary of the existing Wildlife Range and is on the route of annual post-calving migrations of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The calving grounds and post-calving range of this herd are almost entirely included within the Arctic National Wildlife Range. The Porcupine Caribou Herd, which consists of approximately 120,000 animals, is presently the largest remaining herd in Alaska. The herd continues to maintain this population level with fairly high productivity during a period when most other herds in Alaska have experienced severe declines.

Those of us studying the impact of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline on caribou were most impressed by two aspects of caribou behavior for which the scientific literature had not prepared us. First, there was a tremendous difference in sensitivity to human disturbance depending on sex. Females, particularly those with calves, were far more reactive and wary than males. Second, there was a marked seasonal difference in the disturbance thresholds which elicited avoidance by caribou. The period when caribou were most sensitive was from the initiation of calving during the first week in June until fall migration in mid-September. During that sensitive period females with young calves had a particularly low tolerance to construction and other human activity. We also know from past studies

that there is a positive correlation between caribou group size and the strength of the avoidance response to aircraft, pipelines, and human activity. This is a consequence of the reaction of the wariest animal in the group facilitating similar responses in other group members through social initiation.

It is because of my experience with the effects of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline on the relatively small Central Arctic Caribou Herd (about 6,000 animals), and my concern for the future well-being of Alaska's greatest wildlife resource, that I oppose intrusion of the Arctic National Wildlife Range by petroleum development. During the post-calving period the Porcupine Caribou Herd is maximally aggregated in immense groups of both sexes and all ages, which move rapidly in a circuit of that part of the arctic slope within the Wildlife Range. Consequently, the proposed development would affect the herd during that period when there is the greatest potential for disruption of herd integrity and movements, and the greatest risk to calf survival.

For these reasons I strongly support President Carter's recommendation that the Wildlife Range be designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and be closed to mineral entry. Such action would, I believe, be in the best interests of long-range resource management in arctic Alaska, both from the standpoint of the state and the nation as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Roby

Research Biologist

West Greenland Caribou Project

# Inuit

"Inuit" is a 28 minute 16mm film in color produced by the North Slope Borough, the northernmost self-governing region of Eskimos in Alaska. Inuit means "the people" which all Eskimos call themselves.

The film depicts the issues and events of the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference held in Barrow, Alaska in June, 1977. The message is a political one. Inuit leaders from the U.S., Canada, and Greenland declared their solidarity in confronting governmental policies and industrial development threatening their culture and environment. United, they have declared their space. One hundred thousand strong and growing!

"Inuit" is a film about a people's declaration of rights. It is the story of their political awareness in our time. It is "Eskimo Power". The film also shows their celebration during this event with each nations dancers and singers which reflect tradition and popular music. Their celebration includes the Spring Whaling Festival which is triggered by a successful hunt of the Bowhead whale. This festival is the soul of the Conference, for the whale gives life; feeling; and a constant renewal of what it means to be "Inupiaq"-the real people.



For further information regarding rental or purchase of "INUIT" contact:

**Inuit**

6 10 H Street

Anchorage, Alaska 9950 1

Phone: 907/274-24 14

## Porcupine Caribou Herd

by Bob Childers

**(Ed. Note: Bob Childers is with the Social and Economic Research Institute of the University of Alaska)**

The Porcupine Caribou herd, numbering about 110,000 animals, is Alaska's largest, and among the healthiest populations in North America; and accounts for about 20 per cent of the continent's caribou. Its population is believed to have been stable for at least the last 10-15 years.

The Porcupine Herd has not been subjected to heavy use since the days of whaling at the turn of the century. Today, the herd is principally hunted by Native residents of Arctic Village, Venetie, and Kaktovik in Alaska; and Old Crow, Aklavik, and Fort McPherson in Canada, with a total harvest of around 4,000 animals – already approaching the estimated sustainable yield of 5 per cent used by the Northwest Territories Fish and Wildlife Service for caribou management there.

For some time, American and Canadian biologists have recognized the need for cooperative management of this great international resource.

The Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement, in their proposal for Native land claims, call upon the Canadian government to execute cooperative management agreements for each herd with those people who traditionally harvest caribou for subsistence and, in the case of the Porcupine Herd, an international management agreement with the U.S. Similarly, the people of Old Crow have repeatedly and consistently sought to preserve the Porcupine herd and its habitat by their support for protective status for the northern Yukon and by their unanimous opposition to the now defunct Arctic Gas Pipeline proposal. The demise of the Arctic Gas proposal was largely the result of the historic report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry. Headed by Justice Thomas Berger, for three years the Inquiry studied and heard testimony concerning the environment and people of the Yukon and NWT, the potential effects of pipelines, and about the Porcupine herd.

In its report, Justice Berger recommends an international agreement be executed between Canada and the U.S. to protect the Porcupine herd and to confer Wilderness status to the existing Arctic National Wildlife Range in Alaska and a similar protective classification for the northern Yukon. Last January 20th, the Hon. Hugh Faulkner, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development initiated a process of "public consultation" in order to provide such protection for the northern Yukon.

Proposals to give wilderness status to the Northern Yukon, regulate hunting along the Demster Highway, and to seek alternative pipeline routings from the Mackenzie Delta will go a long way toward the preservation of the Porcupine herd. They are necessary conditions but are not sufficient ones without the cooperation of the U.S.

It is largely in the U.S., and specifically the northern slopes and coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Range, where the Porcupine herd lives out the

most critical and most sensitive part of its annual life history – it is here that calving and the post-calving aggregation (when the entire herd may gather in a mass along the Arctic coast before migrating east and south to their fall and winter ranges) occur. It is also here that oil and gas geologists place their highest expectation for another Prudhoe Bay. And, while both the U.S. Administration and conservationists are emphatic that the Range receive Wilderness protection, that proposal is having serious difficulties in the U.S. Congress.

On March 13, 1978, in an amendment to HR39 (a bill which will set aside some 90+ million acres as National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Wild and Scenic rivers, and Forests in Alaska), the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs approved 5 years of federal exploration for oil and gas on 1.2 million acres of the ANWR – in the heart of the Porcupine herd's calving and post-calving aggregation grounds. If these exploration activities show promise, Congress would then decide whether to open these lands for production.

Although some biologists are hopeful that exploration, conducted without road construction or any summer activity, could be undertaken without harm to the Porcupine herd, there is no doubt that development activities would prevent use of much of the herd's traditional calving, and post-calving aggregation grounds. In his report, Justice Berger summarized the situation as follows:

Most of the biologists who gave evidence at the Inquiry regard continued use of the calving grounds as essential to the survival of the herd: any interference with them or with the post-calving aggregation could be critical. . .

I think the calving grounds are absolutely vital to the herd during the calving season, and interference with the herd at that time and at that place must be avoided. Caribou are more sensitive to disturbance when they are calving and immediately afterward than they are at other times of the year. Disturbance could prevent or delay movement of pregnant cows to the calving grounds, forcing them to calve in unsuitable areas where predation or other factors may cause a very high loss of newborn calves. . .

Caribou are disturbed by any unfamiliar sight or noise. Low-flying aircraft may cause the herd to run and even to stampede, frights that use up great



**During the first few days after birth, the cow and calf form a strong bond of mutual recognition. Throughout the summer, the calf will follow the cow. If they are separated, they will find each other, even in the huge post calving herds.** Photo by G. W. Calef

amounts of energy. The animals are disturbed by people, machinery and sudden noises, such as blasting, and when these annoyances are repeated, they can be driven from their ranges. Dr. Peter Lent, a biologist from the University of Alaska, explained that the migratory barren-ground caribou is a wilderness species that can survive only in a wilderness where it has virtually untrammelled access to a vast range. Lent said that when other caribou populations have shrunk, they retreated to the same calving grounds. He therefore urged the protection of the calving grounds and the post-calving area on the coast.

Dr. George Calef presented to the Inquiry an analysis of recorded changes in the size of various caribou herds during their contact with industrial man. The Fortymile herd used to roam the Yukon Territory and east central Alaska. In 1920, Olaus J. Murie estimated this herd to be 568,000 animals, but its population stands today at something like 6,000 animals. The Nelchina herd of Southeast Alaska consisted of 70,000 animals in 1962; by 1973, it had been reduced to only 8,000 animals. The Kaminuriak herd used to winter in Northern Manitoba. Although the Hudson Bay Railway, built in the late 1920's, crossed their winter range, the herd continued to use it for many years. By the early 1960's, however, the caribou had stopped crossing the railway, and they no longer foraged south of the Churchill River. The herd stood at 149,000 in 1955 and at 63,000 in 1967. Dr. David Klein has written about the gradual abandonment of ranges in Scandinavia by reindeer, after their migration routes had been interrupted by rail or highway traffic.

Calef said that there is not sufficient evidence to prove that the decline of any given herd can be attributed to the presence of man and his works. He was careful to say that we do not know exactly what caused the decline of these herds. Nonetheless, it is clear that a number of herds have abandoned parts of their ranges and they have decreased in numbers after they came in contact with industrial man. In my judgment the evidence, though circumstantial, is compelling. Increased access to the Porcupine herd and increased human and industrial activity can be expected to have major adverse impacts on the herd.

The decision to open the Arctic Wildlife Range to oil exploration is not yet final. Two important congressional committees have yet to review the bill:

Merchant Marine and Fisheries Comm.  
Subcomm. on Fisheries Wildlife Conservation and  
the Environment  
Repres. Robert Leggett, Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D. C. 20515

Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman  
U. S. Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The House subcommittee will take up the bill on April 4 and must complete their consideration by the end of April. The Senate committee will probably not begin work until May.

## **Friends of the Earth Nominate Beaufort Sea for Marine Sanctuary**

On March 5, Jeffrey Knight of the Friends of the Earth office in Washington, DC. and Zin Kittredge of the Fairbanks Environmental Center submitted a Nomination of the Beaufort Sea International Marine Sanctuary to the Office of Ocean Management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Such nomination is but a first step towards dedication of the area as a Marine Sanctuary.

Governor Hammond's Office submitted a letter March 28 which said he gave his endorsement to the basic philosophy behind the Marine Sanctuary Program, i.e., "that there do exist certain marine areas that are of such importance that special management should be provided them." The Governor, however, withheld formal endorsement of its application to specific waters of the State until such time that the designation document for the proposed sanctuary has been written, reviewed, and found satisfactory and that the State has reviewed and approved final management plans for the proposed sanctuary. Also, among the 7 Alaska areas proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as candidates for marine sanctuary status, the Beaufort Sea is not listed, a policy consistent with the State intention to sell oil leases in the Beaufort Sea next year.

It was the prospect of this oil exploration which in fact motivated the Friends of the Earth and its Fairbanks affiliate to make their nomination. The detailed 12-page document makes a strong argument for the added protection provided by Marine Sanctuary status.

The area selected by the Friends of the Earth would be "The Beaufort Sea along the coast of northern Alaska and Canada. The international marine sanctuary would be bounded on the west by Pt. Franklin, Alaska (70° 54' N. 158° 48' W) and would extend eastward along the northern coast of North America to Banks Island, Canada (about longitude 120° W.) The sanctuary would extend off shore a distance of 100 miles for this distance. The approximate area of the sanctuary is 80,000 square miles. For waters outside the territorial reach of the United States, the Secretary of State would be requested, pursuant to Sec. 302 (c) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 to enter into negotiations with the Government of Canada for the purpose of arriving at an agreement in order to protect the sanctuary and promote the purposes for which it is established." This would make the sanctuary nearly the same size as the North Slope Borough and over half the size of the State of California.

### **Purposes of the Selection**

Three purposes were listed for the selection of this area: 1) Preservation of habitat of mammals, fish, birds, and food chain organisms, all listed by specie, 2) Species Area: "All the above listed species use the selected area for one or all of the following: spawning, nursing,

breeding, feeding, and as a migratory pathway. The preservation of the species complex in the Beaufort Sea is essential to the maintenance of food chain relationships in the fragile Arctic environment. Growth rates and reproductive cycles are significantly longer in this geographic area than in more temperate climates. One example is Arctic Char, which take twelve years to reach sexual maturity. 3) Research: The selected area would offer an opportunity to perform much needed research on the endangered bowhead whale as well as on other endangered species. Very little is known about the arctic ecosystem and the mammals, birds, and fish there. There is a particularly strong need to develop information to determine the carrying capacity of the Arctic ecosystem. Research could determine just how much human activity the ecosystem could withstand.

The document goes on to detail the particular species which claim special protection. Nine species of whale are mentioned, five of them listed as endangered species, ringed and bearded seals, Polar bears, the Arctic fox, caribou, and the various species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and fish. "There are 69 marine species of fish and 23 freshwater species of fish, of which 16 seasonally inhabit marine or brackish water. A small commercial gillnet fishery for Broad and Humpback Whitefish and Arctic and Least Cisco operates in the Colville River Delta. Subsistence hunting for Arctic Char and Whitefish is done by the residents of Kaktovik. The residents of Barrow also fish for subsistence purposes, and some subsistence fishing is done in the Sagavanirktok River Delta. Nearshore pockets of unfrozen water and the river deltas provide critical overwintering habitat for many species of fish.

"One hundred and eighty-five species of birds have been reported along the North Slope of Arctic Alaska. Many of them have been listed. Many of these species use the barrier and off-shore islands as nesting and breeding areas. More than a million King Eiders migrate along the coast between breeding and wintering areas. White-fronted Geese from Texas, Canadian Geese from California, Black Brant from the Pacific Coast of North America, and Whistling Swans that winter in the Chesapeake Bay region all breed along the coastal lowlands bordering the Beaufort Sea. The only colony of Snow Geese in the United States, about fifty pairs of birds, nests on Howe Island in the Sagavanirktok River Delta, and upwards of 10,000 Black Brant utilize the mouth of the Hula Hula River for feeding during their fall migration."

The nomination paper then reports on the dangers to the area from future oil and gas exploration and development. Serious impacts are described in detail resulting from settlements and camps, utility and transportation corridors, oil field development and production structures, marine transport, fuel spills, oil and gas operations, and major oil spills.

Under the enabling Act, designation of an area as a National Marine Sanctuary does not, in itself, outlaw any development. The law states: "Multiple use of marine sanctuaries as defined in this subpart will be permitted to the extent the uses are compatible with the primary purposes of the sanctuary." However, before any use permits can be issued, the Secretary of Interior must confirm that the uses applied for are compatible with the purposes of the particular Marine Sanctuary.

The Friends of the Earth proposal states:

The designation of the Beaufort Sea as an international marine sanctuary is probably the only way in which off-shore and on-shore development could occur in a manner compatible with the arctic environment. Through the mechanism of the sanctuary designation, detailed developmental plans could be developed for anticipated activities that take into account the need to preserve this unique habitat and species area, and the desire to preserve the species which reside there. Among other impacts are: (a) increased knowledge of the arctic ecosystem; (b) possibility of international cooperation in the management and protection of the endangered bowhead whale, the polar bear, the beluga whale, as well as arctic migratory birds, mammals and fishes; (c) continuance of commercial and subsistence fishing and hunting, including the continuance of a regulated bowhead hunt; (d) mutual enhancement of the ecosystem with such already protected areas as the Arctic Wildlife Range.

The selected area falls within many of the criteria suggested as bases for inclusion within the marine sanctuary system. "As a nominated habitat area, the Beaufort Sea is an area important to the survival and preservation of the Nation's living marine resources. . . It is also an area which contains a number of species with limited distributions and reduced populations as well as species which embody unique processes that are critical to the life history stage of these species. . . It is an area ideal for continuing and long-term research."

## **The Kaktovik Story**

**Kaktovik, Alaska  
An Overview of Relocations  
November, 1977**

**prepared jointly by  
Jon M. Nielson  
and the  
North Slope Borough Planning Department  
for the  
City of Kaktovik  
and the  
North Slope Borough  
Commission on History and Culture**

Every Arctic village seems to have its own horror story about what happened when the military arrived during the Second World War. And this is Kaktovik's story, now published and available at the offices of the North Slope Borough. It is an attractive and well-documented booklet of 26 pages, complete with color photographs and maps.

The Eskimo village of Kaktovik is located on Barter Island in the Beaufort Sea, just 63 miles from the Canadian border and 310 miles east of Barrow. Like most Beaufort Sea villages, Kaktovik has a long history, perhaps going back thousands of years. It was the

traditional site of trade and cultural exchange between the Canadian Inuit and the Barrow people or Nunamiut. It was also visited by Indians from beyond the Brooks range.

This most remote of all Eskimo villages remained untouched except for an occasional visit by a scientist, trader, or missionary until 1947. That's when the United States Air Force began a large-scale build-up of material and construction of a 5,000 ft. airstrip and hangar facility on the once isolated island. Of course the villagers were living on the most stable part of the island and that's where the airstrip had to be built. The Air Force, without any authorization for withdrawal of land for military purposes, summarily notified the stunned residents that they would have to move immediately. Bulldozers then picked up their homes-a dozen or so sod and driftwood structures, and moved them 1650 yards up the beach. There was some destruction and personal loss and many ice-cellars were buried or abandoned. The story is incredible: "However, it was almost impossible for the villagers to effectively protest the move because very few spoke any English or understood what was happening, or why. Moreover, there were children as old as 14 who had never seen a white man until the arrival of the Air Force. As one villager remembered: 'No one knew what this was about, or why. We were just told to move. .. If I had known this English then, as I do now, I would have fought to keep the village. .. We got nothing for having to move. .. It was not fair of them to do this.' "

The village was moved again in 1964 because of the Air Force expanding facility. But still, there was not

enough room for the village. In 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act entitled the Village of Kaktovik to receive a total of 92,120 acres of land. "However, this major military withdrawal choked off development or expansion to the North or West, while the 8-million acre Arctic Wildlife Refuge (established in December 1960) hemmed in the village to the South and East. This encirclement effectively narrowed village options and complicated the process of land selection and conveyance. Moreover, the most suitable land was that within the Air Force reserve."

Through the efforts of the Village Corporation, the K a k t o v i k Historic Sites Selection Committee, the Village Land Selection Committee, the NSB Planning Department and the NSB Commission on History and Culture, work was begun in 1974 to compile an inventory of historic sites at Kaktovik and elsewhere. The village was encouraged in this effort by the Historic Preservation Officer, State Division of Public Lands.

On May 3, 1977, the village of Kaktovik passed a resolution accepting the *Beaufort Sea !CraditionaZ Land Use Inventory*, a 40-page document which specifically and painstakingly identified historic and traditional subsistence sites within the Beaufort Sea Region. "For the first time, Kaktovik's historic significance has been written down and assessed according to local historic and cultural criteria, and a fascinating picture of this region was recorded for all to appreciate. .. Kaktovik is one of the best examples of the diversity and richness to be found on the North Slope, and there is a keen interest and conviction among its residents to preserve their unique heritage and cultural roots, despite the inevitable changes which Western culture and the 20th Century have brought to Northeastern Alaska."

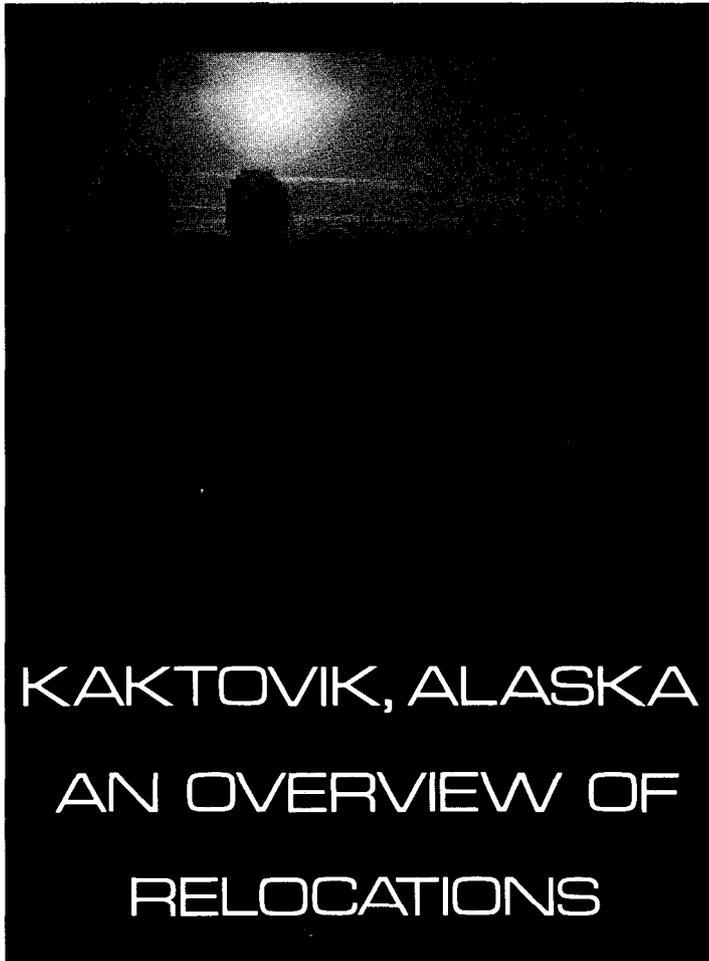
More than anything else, the old cemetery remains the symbol of this commitment today. It lies within the military reserve and the village has requested its return.

The Village Corporation and the North Slope Borough have pressed for the additional land needed for expansion, development, and rational community planning. Without this additional land, it is doubtful if significant improvements can be made in the village. The people of Kaktovik are keenly aware of these issues and are hopeful that the day will come when they can be resolved in a spirit of cooperation between the Air Force and their Eskimo neighbors.

## Inuit Leaders Meet With Oil Firms

Seven officials of Alaskan Native groups met in Calgary, Alberta, April 23-25, to discuss with representatives of the world's largest oil firms Inuit land claims and oil and gas development in the Arctic. The Alaskan delegation will be joined by Native land claim leaders from Canada and Greenland. The meeting was arranged by the leadership of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in cooperation with the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and the National Council of Churches as an effort to confront the companies - who have already leased 217 million acres of Inuit homeland for oil exploration - with their corporate responsibilities towards the people of the Arctic.

The Alaskan delegates are North Slope Borough Mayor Eben Hopson who is also Chairman of the I.C.C.; Oliver Leavitt, Treasurer of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation; Robert Newlin, President of NANA



KAKTOVIK, ALASKA  
AN OVERVIEW OF  
RELOCATIONS

Corporation; Oscar Kawagley, President of Calista; Fred Notti, Vice President in charge of Finance, Calista; George Charles, Calista Vice President in charge of Operations; and Jon Buchholdt, N.S.B. Mayoral Assistant.

The firms who have accepted invitations to meet the Inuit leaders are Sun Oil, ARCO, Exxon, Gulf, Mobil, Philips, Sohio-BP, and Petro-Canada, a Canadian government exploration company. The letter of invitation was sent from William D. Thompson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., who is also the President of the National Council of Churches. He wrote in behalf of the Presbyterian Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment which was joined by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, consisting of 14 Protestant denominations and more than 150 Roman Catholic bodies. These church organizations collectively and individually are significant stockholders in the above corporations.

One of the chief organizers of the meeting was Rev. Charles White of the Ecumenical Metropolitan Ministry of Seattle. Rev. White, a former Barrow pastor, has been working on contract with the ICC and has spent the last 6 months engaging the corporate influence of the churches to bring the petroleum companies to the meeting.

Asked why the churches have become so involved with the Inuit communities, White answered: "We have to minister to the whole life of persons. This means witnessing to all structures of society and to be concerned about all the pressures upon people. The industrial development of the North is one of these pressures. For this reason, the churches have facilitated this meeting."

The areas of discussion to be covered by the conference, called "Consultation on Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in the Circumpolar Region of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska," are: 1. Industry and Local Self Determination; 2. Aboriginal Rights and the Land Claims Settlements; 3. Cultural, Environmental, and Industrial Security — discussing the need of an international policy for Arctic development; and 4. International Relations — discussing the characteristics of the people, culture, and environment of the Circumpolar Region of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska and the need for transnational planning.

## Canadian Inuit Oppose Uranium Exploration

Eric Tagoona, President of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada announced April 13th, that his organization will join with the Inuit of Baker Lake, Northwest Territories to start immediate legal action to prevent any further uranium exploration on a portion of the lands traditionally used by the Inuit of the Baker Lake area.

At the request of the Baker Lake Council, mineral exploration permits on lands used by hunters from the area have been withheld for eleven months by a special order of Cabinet.

During that period, an environmental study was undertaken by the government to determine the impact of exploration activities on the wildlife resources of the area. This study concluded that caribou herds in the

area are susceptible to disturbance by industrial activities particularly during calving and post-calving periods in spring and early summer. The study also confirmed that hunters use the entire area during different periods of the year.

Caribou makes up a very important part of the diet of Baker Lake residents. As the only inland Inuit community in Canada, residents do not have access to seals and whales and are almost entirely dependent on caribou for meat. The government study estimated the cash value of wildlife harvested at \$6,400 per year for each family in Baker Lake.

When Indian Affairs Minister Hugh Faulkner was in Baker Lake last week, he was told by local residents that a system of stricter controls on exploration would not be acceptable because the government had consistently failed to enforce such controls in the past.

Local hunters also told the Minister that there was a marked improvement in the general health of caribou herds during the year that exploration was prohibited.

### THE LAST ANCHOR-NSB WHALING FILM SCORES HIGH

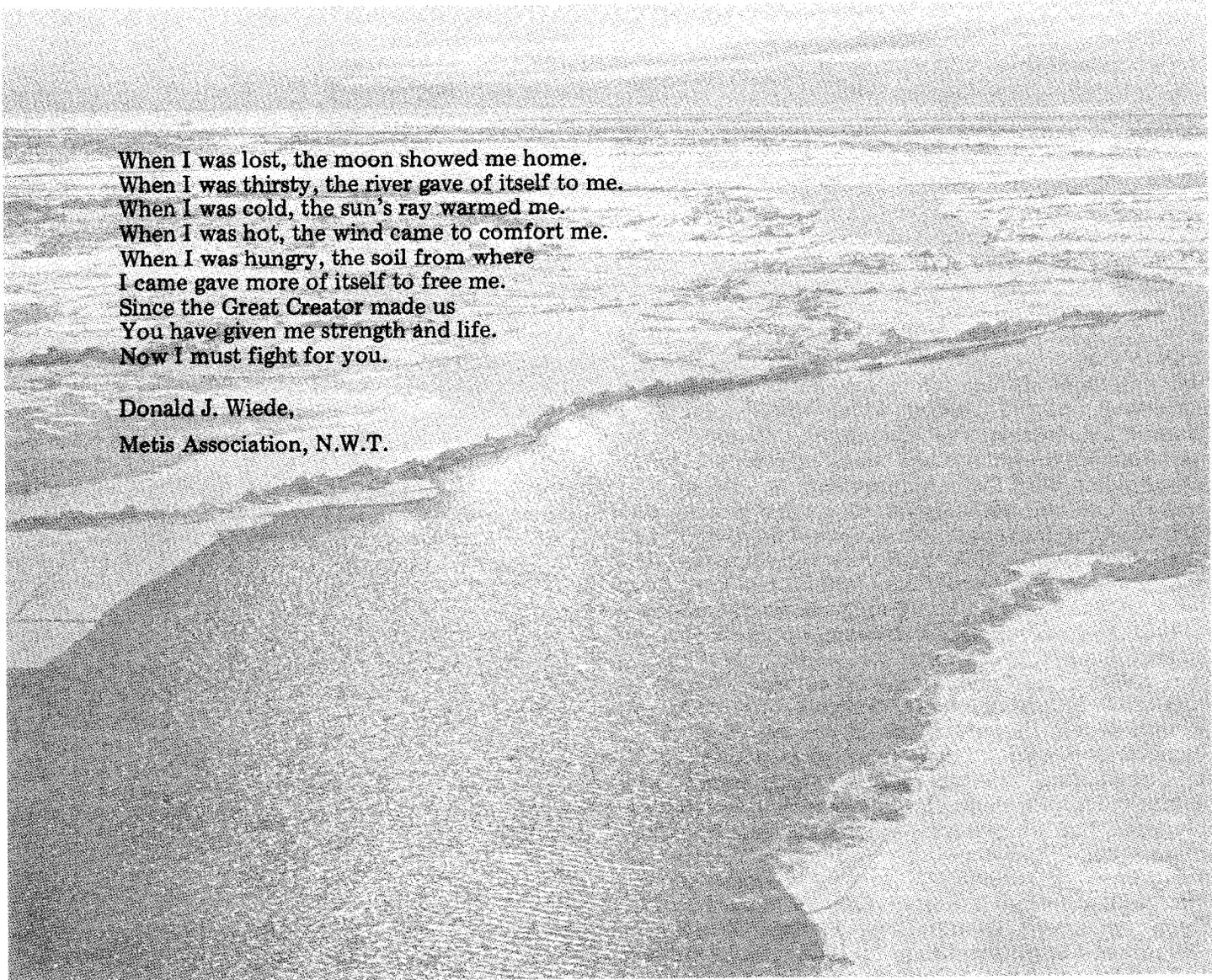
The 16 mm. color-sound & minute film on Inupiat aboriginal subsistence bowhead whaling has proven to be a valuable tool in fighting the IWC bowhead moratorium and also in making the case for conserving subsistence aboriginal lifestyles. The film is on loan for free and is also available for purchase for \$50.00. It is also available in 35 mm. and Super-8 sound prints. Those wishing to show or review the film should contact Whaling Film, 610 H St., Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Phone: 9071274-2414

## Arctic Radio Programs Available

The program is currently being heard over 30 radio stations in Alaska and Canada. It is heard in Anchorage on KHAR Sunday at 10:05 p.m. and on KEN1 Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

The topics covered in the series are: The Story of Alaskan Oil, Land Claims and the Oil Pipeline, Coastal Zone Management, Western Technology in the Arctic, Boom Economy in a Small Village, Alaska's Permanent Fund, The Case for Subsistence, Poverty in the North, Land Management, d-2 Lands and the People of the Arctic, The Politics of Caribou, Education in the Arctic, Self-Determination and the Land.

Those wishing to obtain the series, available on both reel-to-reel and cassette tapes should write "Alaska Today," 610 H St., Anchorage, AK. 99501.



When I was lost, the moon showed me home.  
When I was thirsty, the river gave of itself to me.  
When I was cold, the sun's ray warmed me.  
When I was hot, the wind came to comfort me.  
When I was hungry, the soil from where  
I came gave more of itself to free me.  
Since the Great Creator made us  
You have given me strength and life.  
Now I must fight for you.

Donald J. Wiede,  
Metis Association, N.W.T.

**open lead in the Beaufort Sea ice 30 miles off Pt. McIntyre. It is within such openings that traditional Inupiat whaling takes place.**

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