Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study (2000)

*By Inuit Study Participants from: Arctic Bay, Arviat, Cape Dorset, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Grise Fiord, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay, and Whale Cove. Principal Researchers: Keith Hay (Study Coordinator) and Members of the Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study Committee: David Aglukark (Chairperson), David Igutsaq, Joannie Ikkidluak, Meeka Mike. Published by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, 2002.*

“Inuit knowledge of bowhead whales in Nunavut was collected by means of individual interviews with... Inuit hunters and elders in 18 communities during 1995 and 1996... We sought information from interviewees and workshop participants on bowhead whale distribution and migrations, changes in frequency of sightings and distribution since about 1915, behaviour and ecology, and the cultural and traditional importance of the bowhead whale to Inuit. Information on Inuit hunting and Euro-American commercial whaling of bowheads was also collected… Inuit testimony indicated that the number of bowhead whales seasonally occurring in the marine waters of Nunavut has increased significantly in recent decades… with the reported years and extent of increase varying among communities and among different informants from the same community. Informants documented the cultural and traditional importance of bowhead whales and whaling for the Inuit of Nunavut, and many argued on cultural and societal grounds for the renewal and re-vitalization of the bowhead hunt.”

* Excerpt from *Abstract.*