

Killer Whale Research summer 2021 in Pond Inlet Nunavut

The research for Killer Whales. Genetic identifying through biopsy, abundance counting in the region and photography including satellite tagging.

Research and field trip August 28th 2021 to September 29th 2021.

The research team consisted of 4 Pond Inlet local Inuit. Boat captain, captain assistant/photographer, and two biopsy and note takers. Enookie Inuarak, Daniel Inutik, Jonathan Innuaq, Tyson Angnetsiak.

Summer 2021 was not as successful as 2020 summer. Only one small group of Killer Whales were spotted for a whole month, but did not biopsy or tag them, only took photos of them. In one month we spotted a group of 4 killer whales that went to Eclipse sound and Milne Inlet. The reason why we did not biopsy or tag them because when we got to them they started hunting Narwhals and we did not want to interrupt their hunting so we went to shore. After a while we went to look for them again but could not find them anymore.

Summer 2021, we had to be on standby waiting for Orca's more out on the land as the VHF repeaters in Pond Inlet were not working properly. So, we had difficult communicating with local hunters in different areas of Pond Inlet. We end up travelling more and setting up camps where we had to set up look out areas with strong spotting scopes. For those days we were out on the land 17 days in hopes of seeing Killer Whales, other standby days were in Pond Inlet. But summer 2021 there was hardly any Narwhals, so our guess was that Killer Whales didn't come to Eclipse Sound as much as other years.

Three main camps we set up were, Eclipse Sound (Saatu), Milne Inlet (Upingivik), and Navy Board (Qilaaq)

In conclusion, Arctic Bay people were reporting seeing Killer whales constantly in Admiralty Inlet during summer 2021, where Narwhal abundance was.

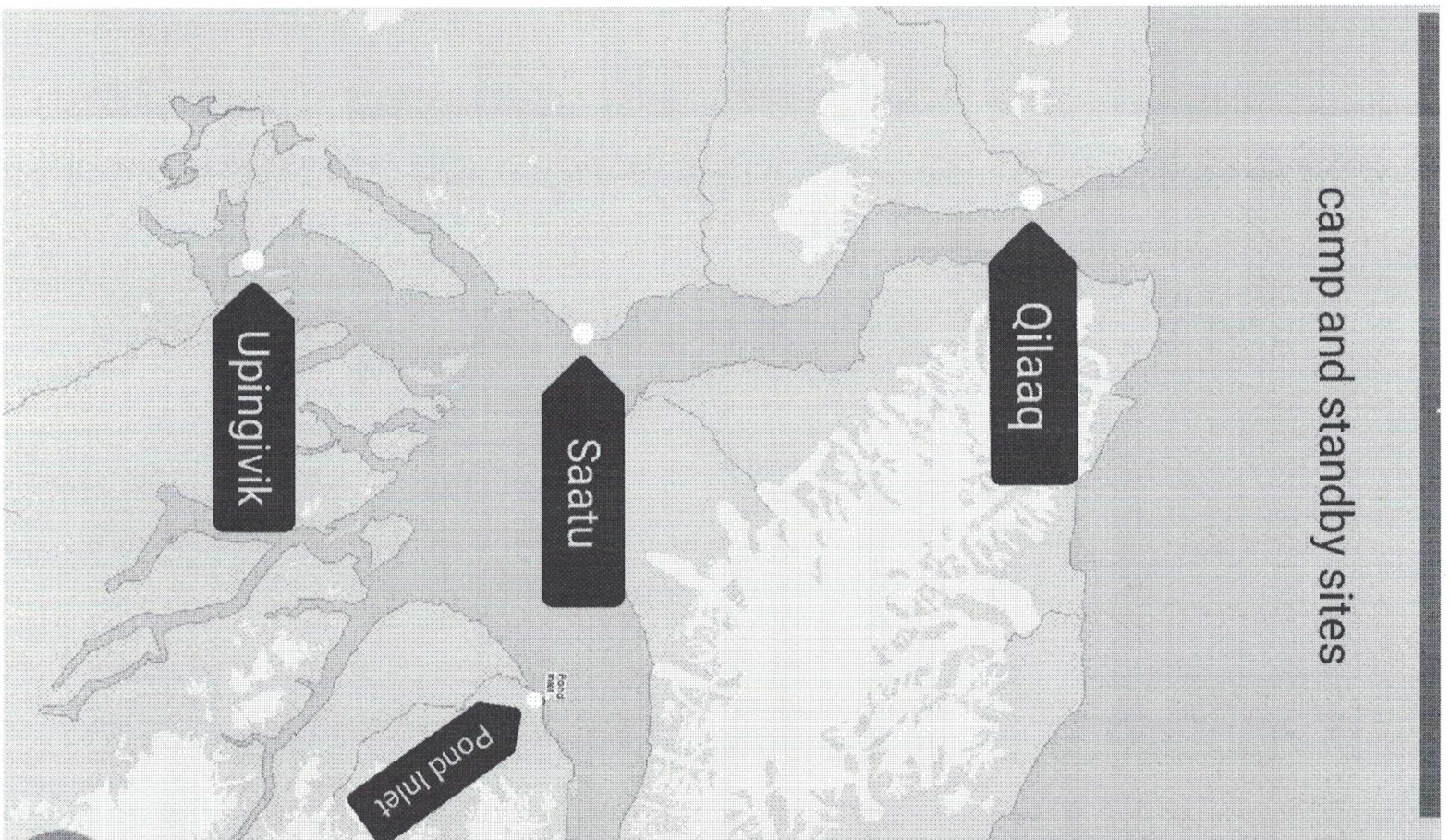
Enookie Inuarak



Pond Inlet, Nu

Field research Lead and Organizer

camp and standby sites





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Killer Whale Sighting Form



Date whales were seen Sept 1 2028 Time 2:10 pm

Location Milne Inlet

GPS coordinates 72° 20.290 N N
80° 32.587 W W

Number of whales in the group 4 Number of calves 1 Number of big dorsal fins 1

Were the killer whales associated with other animals? ☒ No

☐ beluga ☒ narwhal ☐ bowhead whale ☐ ringed seal ☐ bearded seal

☐ other seals (type) _____ ☐ fish (type) _____ ☐ Other _____

Activity ☒ feeding ☐ playing ☒ travelling ☐ Other (specify) _____

Circle what you saw



breach



spyhop



porpoising



calm group



tail slap



big dorsal fin
(males)

Try to take picture of Photographs will not be used for commercial purposes and copyright will remain with the photographer



dorsal fin and
saddle patch



Eye patch



genital area

Additional Comments (including past sightings)

Few Narwhals around and not seeming
to be scared, few moments later
they started hunting Narwhal and fed.
left them when they started following
Narwhals so we went interrupt them

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