

## **Turbot IQ - NCRI**

### **Introduction**

Traditional knowledge (Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in Inuktitut, or IQ) embodies knowledge, skills and practices that are embedded in Inuit culture. IQ encompasses both historical and contemporary information pertaining to coastal and land-based activities, which play a significant role in Inuit culture, quality of life, and the provision of income and food. Conserving this knowledge has importance in its own right and for the preservation of the above associated benefits. To ensure we retain this traditional understanding, coastal resource inventories have been undertaken in communities across Nunavut to record and conserve this valuable traditional, biological, and ecological information. Knowledgeable individuals, usually community elders, are interviewed using a defined survey that addresses the presence, distribution and characteristics of various coastal resources.

Resource inventories have been conducted elsewhere in Canada, notably on our Atlantic and Pacific coasts, where the information gained from this approach provided: the foundation for integrated coastal management plans; essential insights to protect important coastal areas; and information facilitating environmental impact assessments, sensitivity mapping, and community planning. Coastal resource inventories have also provided different levels of government with the tools to engage in strategic assessments, informed development, and enlightened stewardship.

The Fisheries and Sealing Division of the Nunavut Department of Environment initiated the development and implementation of the Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory (NCRI). This project is to serve as an information compendium on coastal resources and activities, gained principally from interviews with elders in each community. Coastal resources are defined as the animals and plants that live near the coast, on the beaches, on and around islands, above and below the surface of the ocean, above and below sea ice, and on the sea floor. Project deliverables include the:

- provision of a final report;
- provision of the coastal resource inventory in a GIS database;
- provision of a series of resource-inventory maps for each community;
- provision of all documents used in the interviews, along with the methodology employed throughout the coastal inventory process; and
- thorough evaluation of the methodology and supporting materials used to carry out the entire inventory process.

From February to March 2013, a Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory was conducted in the community of Pangnirtung with 10 knowledgeable hunters and fishermen. This report is a

presentation of IQ gathered through this project pertaining to turbot in Cumberland Sound. Turbot is a valuable resource for the community of Pangnirtung, both traditionally and now commercially through the Inuit-owned Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd. This coastal resource provides income and food to the local community and is part of Inuit culture.

Since 2007, a total of twelve communities in Nunavut have been visited to conduct coastal resource inventories, namely Igloolik, Kugluktuk, Chesterfield Inlet, Arctic Bay, Kimmirut, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanikiluaq, Gjoa Haven, Iqaluit, Repulse Bay, Grise Fiord, and Pangnirtung. As the NCRI grows to include more communities, so does its knowledge base of information on coastal resources. Such a database contributes valuable baseline data on areas of species occurrence, migration routes, and observed changes in these. This resource lends itself to provide vital information to communities, decision makers, and wildlife managers.

### **Turbot IQ from NCRI**

Individuals interviewed through the Pangnirtung Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory identified turbot locations throughout Cumberland Sound (Figure 1). Areas of occurrence were noted in the inner parts of Cumberland Sound and extending nearly to the mouth. Turbot were observed in these areas from January to April and represent present occurrences. It was noted that in the 1990s, there were less turbot and more sharks in the early winter.

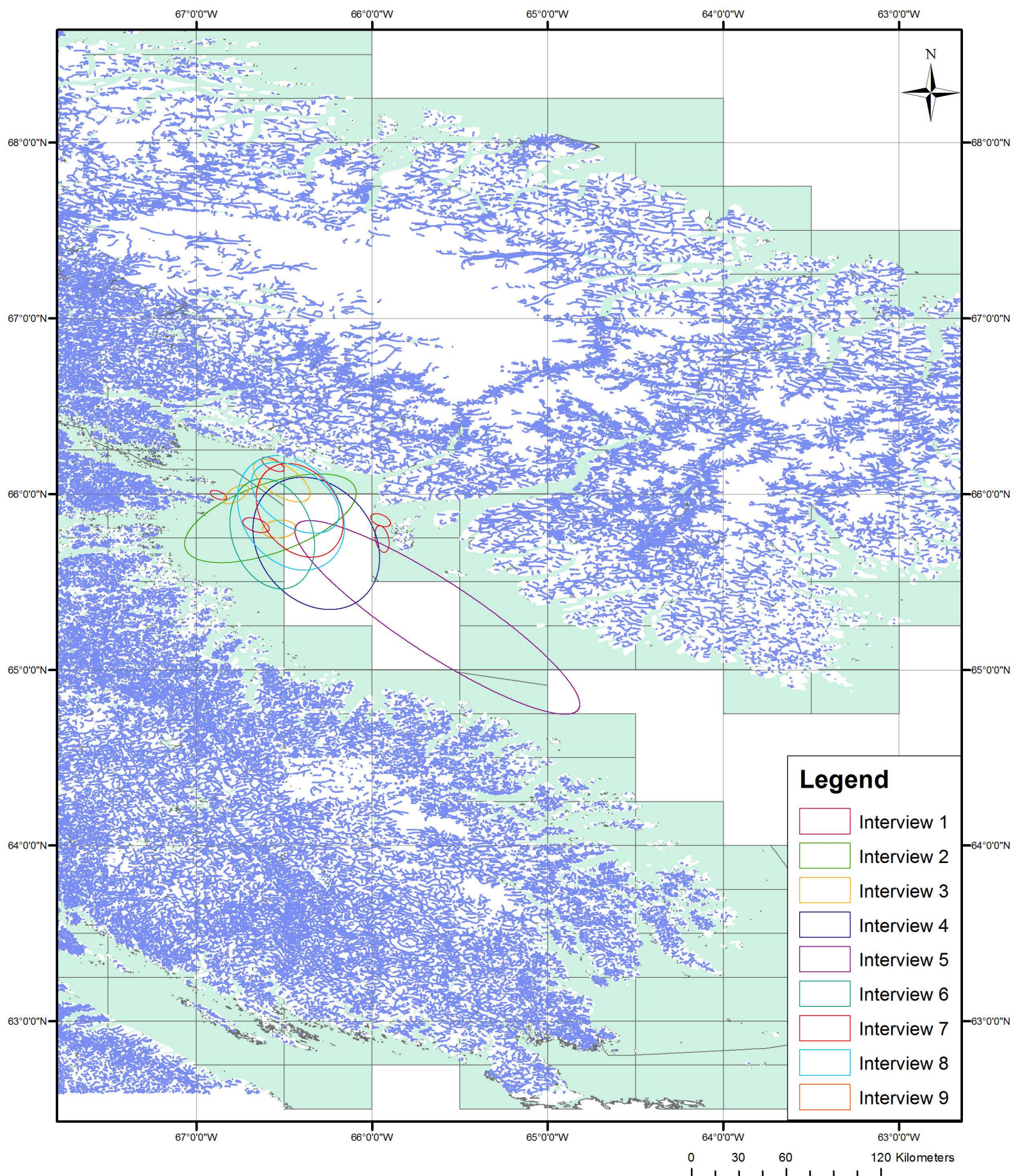
### *Commercial Turbot Fishery*

Support was expressed for the local commercial turbot fishery in Cumberland Sound and the employment opportunities it provides for the community. Interest was also shown to extend the Cumberland Sound Turbot Fishery boundary line in order to develop a summer turbot fishery.

### *Environmental Change*

Concerns were voiced that changes in sea ice patterns are impacting the winter fishing season. The ice is more inconsistent and dangerous, with ice break up happening earlier. It was suggested that a road be built around the mouth of the fiord to allow fishermen to get around the unsafe ice.





## Cumberland Sound Turbot Fishery Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory Data



