

SUBMISSION TO THE NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:



Issue: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit narwhal interviews

Background: At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) last meeting in Cambridge Bay in June 2016, Fisheries and Oceans Canada presented their findings on a survey that was done for narwhal in the Baffin Bay population. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has requested an NWMB decision on increasing the quota in three management units (Somerset Island, Admiralty Inlet, and East Baffin Island) and a decrease in one management unit (Eclipse Sound).

In July 2016, the NWMB's Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Coordinator worked closely with the four Hunters and Trappers Organizations on East Baffin Island – Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq – to collect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit on narwhal. The NWMB also coordinated with the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and created a service agreement to handle the financial side of this important collection of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit on narwhal. In August, the NWMB's Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Coordinator traveled to Qikiqtarjuaq to conduct interviews with 10 people, whose ages ranged from 30 to 70 years old. The Clyde River and Pond Inlet Hunters and Trappers Organizations hired a local interviewer to conduct their own interviews. Arctic Bay unfortunately couldn't take part at that time due to unforeseen circumstances.

The questions were the same used in Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River and Pond Inlet. The questions were mainly dealing with the environment, for example the changes in the ice, the migration of the narwhal, changes in the characteristics of the narwhal, where the young are born, wintering areas, changes in the population, changes in the last ten years, changes in the composition of the stocks, and differences in the appearances. All the questions received responses.

The majority of interviewees said that the narwhal were not decreasing and attributed this to observations of calves at all times of the year. In Qikiqtarjuaq interviewees frequently mentioned that the narwhal go up to Home Bay. Interviewees also noted that the young are born in an area of Home Bay. This area of Home Bay is where they hunt narwhal during the spring and summer. Interviewees believe that the narwhal spend their time in this area from spring to fall. It was often mentioned that bowhead whales were also increasing every year, in a similar manner as narwhal.

Interviewees also noted changes in ice conditions, specifically that the ice is getting thinner near the communities. It was suggested the thinner ice observed could be a factor in changes to narwhal distribution, specifically narwhals remaining near the communities for longer periods of time before they migrate to their wintering areas.

Interviewees also stated that narwhal spend the winter in open water between Baffin Island and Greenland, in three specific areas.

Prepared By: Sheila Oolayou, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Coordinator
Date: November 10, 2016

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit of Narwhal Questionnaire

Harry Alookie of Qikiqtarjuaq, Chairperson of Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization

Sheila: Where were you born?

Harry: I was not born here. I was born in Padlavik in 1962 during the fall. I think I was about 4 years old in 1967 when we were relocated to Qikiqtarjuaq during this time of the year.

Sheila: You've lived here every since?

Harry: Yes, I've lived here every since.

Sheila: There are narwhal that migrate through here during spring and fall?

Harry: Yes.

Sheila: These, we are trying to gather Inuit knowledge from Inuit that we can use as there are researches done on different wildlife species. Even though there are written reports, there is not enough written reports from Inuit so that is why I am here. I had draft up a few questions for consideration, if you can answer them?

Harry: Yes, of course I can answer them. Especially when I could remember after we moved here we observed narwhal and beluga when I was growing up.

Sheila: You can read these questions, or I can read them to you.

Harry: Perhaps if you ask me I can respond as to what I know.

Sheila: You mentioned that you were born in Padlavik and you were relocated here shortly after, when you were a boy, according to your knowledge as well as your understanding, what kind of changes have you noticed to the environment, for example, the thickness of the ice, or does the ice form earlier, or later now.

Harry: Since way back, when I was a boy I have notice the weather has changed especially the ice, in the past, the ice was good according to the months it was predictable when the ice would break up. We had more ice then.

Sheila: Yes.

Harry: The floe edge is farther. In some years the thickness of the ice is different, even when we have a good winter the ice is melting sooner. In the past during the spring before the ice melted there would be puddles forming on top of the ice, before that happened during the months of April, May the snow would harden during the night. The hunters would go out during the night to hunt in the distance. Nowadays the spring is different, this past year in 2016 we, as hunters, were expecting the snow to harden during the night but it is different now. The snow doesn't harden anymore, when it should, it hardens for just a short time, and the puddles would form on top of the ice twice, but today they now form just once, the ice now goes before the puddles seep through. In the past after we came here in the 1970's, the snow would harden and the puddles would form, after that when the puddles were gone and then after that the puddles would form the second time and after they have seeped through the ice would be gone in a few weeks. But today when the puddles should form again the ice is gone. That's what I've seen in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Sheila: Has this affected the narwhal?

Harry: It doesn't seemed to have any affect. The narwhal don't come through here after the ice is gone or before the ice is all gone anymore. When our channel is breaking up the narwhal use to come through here as well as the beluga during the spring. During the spring perhaps in the last ten years the narwhal hasn't gone through the channel, they now go through the north when they are migrating during March, April. We go narwhal hunting on Home Bay during the spring on the floe edge as well as during the summer. We also go to Home Bay to hunt narwhal as there is always narwhal there that migrate through as the water is murky there are usually young narwhal every summer. And during the late summer, there are a lot of narwhal in Home Bay the hunters are aware of, has the knowledge of from Qikiqtarjuaq. There is always narwhal with their young ones. During this time of the summer there are usually two different stocks of narwhal that are near Qikiqtarjuaq that are migrating through Home Bay, Clyde River, that are moving towards Pond Inlet. After the ice has gone people will go up to Home Bay to hunt narwhal until the month of September, yes the narwhal are there that we are aware of in Home Bay.

Sheila: Narwhal?

Harry: Yes, narwhal as well as beluga with their young. There are also other narwhal that are near Padlavik that are always there but not as many perhaps, during that past years there are usually ten that remain there near Padlavik. During the summer, spring they migrate northward, the ones that are in front of us on Davis Strait we know that they migrate northward during the spring and during the fall in September, October they migrate southward before the ice forms, when the weather is getting colder during the fall they migrate through here, in September, October. The ice forms when the narwhal are near Qikiqtarjuaq we know as hunters when they are migrating through to their wintering waters between Greenland and Baffin Island. They spend the winter there that we are unable to access so we don't go after them, as it is open water, the ice is rough between here and the floe edge, between the polynya and us. There are usually two stocks that we know of here is Qikiqtarjuaq. The narwhal to the south of us are fewer but to the north in Home Bay there are usually a lot more.

Sheila: What about those that are to the south of the community, is there an area where the narwhal have their young ones?

Harry: The ones that are there, to the south of us, I am not aware of if the young ones are born. If they are with the young narwhal, normally the ones that are observed usually don't have young ones with them the one near Padlavik. There are different stocks of narwhal; narwhal, the darker ones, the thinner ones, stockier ones are different that migrate through, near Qikiqtarjuaq. The fin whale can be seen at the floe edge and during the fall when the narwhal are migrating south the different stocks of whales come through here, some are darker, narwhal, lighter ones in appearance, thinner ones, stockier ones, we observe different whales. Nowadays when the scientists say that there are different stocks I never believed them, however, there were different stocks of narwhal population, that's what I've observed.

Sheila: The stockier ones and thinner ones are they narwhal or beluga?

Harry: Yes, they are narwhal. Some that have a better diet during the fall are fat ones that come through here. Some we think are skinnier, thinner ones that have, how do we say it, bruised inside that was caused by something, perhaps they were being rammed or maybe killer whales were bothering them so they are skinnier those are the ones I call thinner, maybe they were being chased by killer whales or being pursued so they tend to be skinnier.

Sheila: Are they different?

Harry: Yes, there are different narwhal, some are nice and fat during the fall when they are migrating south some are skinnier.

Sheila: Has the migration of narwhal behaviour changed since you've know them?

Harry: Yes, they've changed since I've known them especially since I often go to the floe edge during the spring hunting narwhal, in the past at the floe edge, they heard footsteps easily, nowadays in the past three years I have noticed that in the past they did not seem to hear snowmobiles. I have noticed today that when we are at the floe edge they seem to recognize the sound of snowmobiles and tend to go further away once they hear them.

Sheila: I see. I think I asked already and you replied, of the change, has the pattern of migration during spring and fall changed?

Harry: They are going through further away, during the early spring when the hunters go to the floe edge when they are migrating from Padlavik area following the onset of spring going north that is when we hunt from the floe edge. During early spring they migrate northward, we know that narwhal are seen from the floe edge but maybe there is not enough open water so they tend to go through further away during the spring. They go through near here, migrating northward.

Sheila: Through the other side of Qikiqtarjuaq?

Harry: Yes, through the other side, they go through that side during early spring migrating northward according to what I know.

Sheila: Yes...you mentioned that they go up to Home Bay, when they are migrating northward from the south do they tend to stay at Home Bay?

Harry: Yes, they tend to stay there. We go up to the floe edge at Home Bay, sometimes when we hunt from them, they move to the strait for a couple of days, similiarly, during the summer when we are hunting narwhal at Home Bay in the place we call Aarujaaqtuut, when we hunt from them they move to the strait on second or third day, after they spend some time at the strait, they come back near the land the ones we saw.

Sheila: The darker ones or narwhal?

Harry: They tend to be mixed, narwhal as well as the darker ones that are huge as well as narwhal with their young, they tend to be mixed.

Sheila: Do they have their young with them when they migrate north?

Harry: The place that I call Aarujaaqtuut is murky that is where the young are born. The whales only bear their young in muddy murky waters. Aarujaaqtuut is like that. The narwhal that go up there tend to have their young ones with them, some of them have their young ones with them, which we do not go after when they are accompanied by their young, the ones we see is Aarujaaqtuut.

Sheila: During the spring?

Harry: During this time of the year, during late spring, when the ice is breaking up they migrate up north perhaps so their young ones can be born there.

Sheila: Do you think they migrate up near Pond Inlet?

Harry: Yes, the ones that come near here they do go that far. The ones in Home Bay, the ones we see in Aarujaaqtuut they have their young ones, they bear their young ones there as we hunters see them every summer.

Sheila: What you said, I am going to skip this next question as I had asked in Aarujaaqtuut, you mentioned that is where they bear their young ones. Do you still hunt narwhal even though that is where they bear their young ones?

Harry: Yes, as the narwhal move around, they don't tend to be in one place. Yes, us hunters we hunt the narwhal as well as the yearlings. We go after the ones that has the meat that is tastier. Our elders want the young ones so we sometimes hunt them but we try not to hunt the ones accompanied by their young ones when there are others around.

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal go during the winter?

Harry: Yes there are two areas in the channel near Baffin Island, over there, there are three areas where they winter that we are aware of. According to the research done by DFO there is one here near our community in the open water between Greenland and Baffin Island, down there they spend the winter as well as over near Greenland, up there, right across from us nearer to Greenland, is where they spend the winter. Also up there near Grise Fiord

towards Greenland is where some also spend the winter. That is what we have learned near our community.

Sheila: Has there been any change in the abundance every year?

Harry: Yes as I mentioned earlier the ones near Padlavik are not increasing rapidly but they are seen sometimes. The ones that are near Padlavik fluctuate sometimes there are more sometimes there are fewer in the last five years. There are fewer down there perhaps in the future there might be more... but the numbers do differ, the ones that stay down there from what we know are not increasing as fast as the ones that are north of here. During the fall we see different numbers of narwhal, the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq see different numbers. Sometimes when the killer whales are around in the open water there are a lot more narwhal that come near here, when they are migrating south.

Sheila: During the fall?

Harry: During the fall near our community they tend to be late when there are killer whales when they are migrating. Here in Qikiqtarjuaq there has been an occasion when the hunters and killer whales are hunting narwhal. The hunters are hunting for sustenance as well as the killer whales are also hunting for sustenance.

Sheila: Do they come through this channel?

Harry: Yes, they do come through here and through the other side towards Mattaatuujana, during the fall in September, October when they are migrating south they do come to our channel and near our community and down at what we call Mattaatuujana, there are always some during the fall before the ice forms.

Sheila: Has there been any change in their behaviour in the last ten years?

Harry: It seems that way, the ones that come through here during the fall seem to have increased. I have seen a lot more during the fall and some have scars that have healed that is what I have noticed and the black ones that are large are seen more often now and there are narwhals with two tusks that are seen more but they are harder to hunt.

Sheila: Has there been any change on the pods when they are migrating during spring or fall?

Harry: Sometimes I notice that narwhal when they are migrating south before the ice forms, the narwhal stay here to feed before the ice forms and there are more narwhal that are seen during the fall that stay in one area. It is obvious that before the ice forms they tend to stay in one area the ones I mentioned because when the winter comes they spend the winter in open water between Baffin Island and Greenland and up in the high arctic, they meet and stay in one area before the ice forms to feed.

Sheila: You mentioned that they are different what are they? What do you think is the difference?

Harry: I think the difference is, as with us Inuit....

Sheila: The ones you mentioned, the dark coloured one, narwhal, thin ones, stocky one.

Harry: Yes, perhaps the ones that are darker, they tend to spend their time in open water, when the water is rough, they tend to come near land and the stockier one arrive later, as they are slower even though they are large, they get fat, when they go north maybe they were skinny when their diet is abundant when they come through here they are fat maybe their diet was different.

Sheila: Do you want to add anything else? The questions are finished.

Harry: Those are the only ones that I know of, my knowledge that I have mentioned. There does not seem to be much change in the narwhal as we know that we can consume them. Some, that have been rammed or they have abscess in the fatty tissue are the ones we don't eat. When they have been rammed it seems they are bruised and they don't look edible so we don't eat them. That does not happen often but when there are killer whales that happens.

Sheila: The abscess in the fatty tissue has there been samples sent away to be analysed that you know of?

Harry: I have not noticed if samples were sent away. Perhaps if we are notified the hunters can get samples to be analysed.

Sheila: They have never been checked?

Harry: Yes, some, we know are entrapped by ice, some narwhal have scars as if they been scratched those are the ones we don't want to consume. We try

not to eat those that the polar bears and killers whales have tried to kill when they entrapped by ice. We sometimes see them. Sometime someone will kill a narwhal that is unhealthy that have been injured by other species, some have parts of their flukes bitten off by a killer whale, some have their flippers looking like a hand when a killer whale have bitten them, it has to be the result of having been bitten by a killer whale that they seem to wear a glove.

Sheila: Ow I don't have anymore questions.

Harry: We try to do our best. If you ask these types I know the knowledge of the hunters you will learn more, for me I have told you what I know.

Sheila: Thank you very much.

Harry: Yes, your welcome.

Samuel Nuqinngaq

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of Narwhal Questionnaire

Sheila: Samuel Nuqinngaq of Qikiqtarjuaq. Were you born here when?

Samuel: July 1, 1971

Sheila: I have been asking about narwhal, the knowledge of the Inuit, I am trying to write a report...that can assist Inuit from the Inuit that I can give to the board. DFO presented during the June meeting, that can be used when the time comes to make a decision using Inuit knowledge as well as scientific knowledge has to be weighed that is why I am here. You can answer what you can and if you cannot answer don't worry about it.

Samuel: Yes.

Sheila: We came up with these questions with the help of Marine Biologist. What do you think is being looked for, what do you think the scientists are looking for, the ones you think should be known since you've been in the arctic what have you noticed, was my questions to the person. We developed a set of questions and using what we've heard from the hunters, what we often hear. You can deal with what you can. First, what changes have you seen in the environment? For example, ice, earlier ice break up, earlier ice forming, in that line?

Samuel: Yes.

Sheila: Have you noticed?

Samuel: Yes, the ice break up is earlier and the forming of ice is later but each year is different that is all. Sometimes during late fall when the ice is forming if it does not snow the ice is good, while the ice is forming if it snows the ice is worse that is what I know.

Sheila: What about the thickness, is it also different?

Samuel: Yes, it is also different, seal breathing holes are also different.

Sheila: What? The aglus?

Samuel: Yes, the aglus, are different, some are very thin some are not.

Sheila: You hunt narwhal here, during spring and fall?

Samuel: Yes, also during the summer, I also go up to Home Bay with others as that is where the narwhal stay. There is always narwhal there. This past May I also went to the floe edge twice and there were a lot of narwhal and the narwhal also bear their young anytime that I also know.

Sheila: Anytime?

Samuel: Yes, they are different from the beluga.

Sheila: What?

Samuel: Narwhal...when there is still floe edge they bear their young.

Sheila: Narwhal?

Samuel: Yes, they are different, I really don't know about beluga. I've never hunted beluga, only narwhal when they are migrating north at the floe edge. There are also some down there for sure, I usually never go down there I only go up there. I've gone to the floe edge during the last few years I went again. When I follow others to the floe edge I always see narwhal as I did in May. During May, June, I went to the floe edge twice.

Sheila: Did you learn from your father?

Samuel: When I use to follow I learned from him and also from other hunters the ones I hunt narwhal with. When we hunt them at the floe edge they disappear for two days, after two days pass they reappear.

Sheila: They go further away?

Samuel: They go to open water or they go somewhere else as they notice right away. They are hard to hunt during calm days as they notice right away.

Sheila: I see.

Samuel: They get away once they hear something, because they also hear like us. When the water is rough they tend not to notice as easily.

Sheila: When, how old were you when you started hunting narwhal?

Samuel: By myself, when I could give my name maybe I was sixteen. I never enjoyed it when I started following because they can dive for a very long time. Now I enjoy hunting narwhal the most from hunting other species.

Sheila: Since you started hunting narwhal, does the migration and behaviour of narwhal changed?

Samuel: They seem to get smarter, perhaps because they are being hunted. Sometimes they surface with their heads down and they don't breath right away through their nose when they surface, the narwhal are smart and getting harder to go after.

Sheila: When they are migrating from open water or somewhere towards Home Bay or coming from there are there a difference? When they are coming from the north they had been hunted?

Samuel: When they are coming from up there, our community is on the way when they are migrating during the fall, there are usually a lot of narwhal and up there in Home Bay where we go after the ice break up there are usually a lot of narwhal but they tend to return even after they had been hunted from. They go to other inlets up there as there are many, even though they seem to go to open water they always return there because they know that area. They are increasing that I know of.

Sheila: Are there differences? For example I heard there are black ones, that are different from narwhal that are larger.

Samuel: The black ones are larger. They tend to be larger but when I went to the floe edge with others there were a lot more black ones there were less narwhal and they were full grown the ones we saw up there.

Sheila: They are harder to go after?

Samuel: Yes, they are large, there were a lot of them that had wounds, I don't know where they were wounded.

Sheila: Did you get any of them?

Samuel: No we did not get any as it was hard. There were a lot of whales up there at the floe edge.

Sheila: Do you know since you have been hunting narwhal if the migration routes have changed during the spring and fall?

Samuel: It doesn't seem to have changed too much, but last October when they usually arrive they came later that is what we noticed. I went up there during the summer twice the ones that are usually up there were around. I don't know why when the fall arrived last year they were very late coming here.

Sheila: Maybe there were killer whales?

Samuel: It is unclear, that might have been the case. When the killer whales are around we know what happens.

Sheila: What do they do?

Samuel: They won't leave the inlet when the killer whales were present, even when we go after them they tend to return towards the land.

Sheila: Where they have their young, as you mentioned that they have their young anytime, do you know where they have their young?

Samuel: No, in the inlet, they go the inlet to bear their young we know. When we go after them sometimes they bear their young near where we are hunting narwhal. Sometimes they bear their young even while we are hunting, right after being born the young one will struggle for a while but they learn fast.

Sheila: Do you go after those?

Samuel: No we are not suppose to hunt the ones with their young as we have rules through the HTO so we don't go after them.

Sheila: That hasn't changed much even when that happens, while you were hunting narwhal there was a birth do they return there? When they are coming from the south or north?

Samuel: Yes, the new borns are protected that I have noticed, other narwhal that are mature will not leave them when they are there, they always return. Unintentionally, when a female with a young one is killed, other narwhal will adopt the young one.

Sheila: Yes, so.

Samuel: I don't know how, the new borns stay under water for a long time. I don't know how perhaps others will breath into them, when they are in the backs of their mother, for example when they are under water say for 30 to 45 minutes the young ones also stay under water that long.

Sheila: The ones that were just born?

Samuel: Yes, the young ones are protected by the narwhal, they are never left behind.

Sheila: When you notice that they are giving birth over here, you can go elsewhere to hunt narwhal?

Samuel: Yes, when there are others we hunt narwhal. There are usually a lot, when we were down there not too long ago even though I did not see any there were 6 narwhal. There are usually not that few other than the ones that were left behind and when we go after them they tend to go to the open water. But the ones that were hunted went towards land because there were others near the land. The narwhal usually go towards open water but when there are killer whales they tend to return.

Sheila: Do you herd them?

Samuel: Yes, we herd them towards land. If we cannot herd them we hunt them in open water.

Sheila: Isn't it rough?

Samuel: It is rough but we try to keep them under water so they have to come up for air, when we do not try to keep them under water they don't get out of breath. When we shoot at them to keep them under water, or we shoot towards the open water they tend to go towards land when they hear the shots but they are hard to get when they are moving towards open water. We cannot keep them in one area even when we try with lots of boats it is hard when they are moving towards open water.

Sheila: Do they have a leader?

Samuel: Yes, that does happen, we say that their guards are here, three, four, if we do not go after them there are usually a lot that appear after them. We don't go after them right away when they are few. Not long after they appear there are usually a lot more that appear and when we don't see narwhal for a length of time in Home Bay we usually go on the land and spend the time on the boat. If we see one after there were none there will be other in large numbers the narwhal a smart.

Sheila: That seems to be the case. Do you know where narwhal go during winter?

Samuel: I really don't know but I've heard that they go where no one is allowed to harvest turbot that is where they go but I am not sure where it is.

Sheila: Here in open water?

Samuel: Yes, Maybe down there near Ittajaralik. Down there that is called Narwhal zone...

Sheila: Down there?

Samuel: Yes, near Ittajaralik I've heard that's where they go from DFO but I don't know it personally.

Sheila: You've heard it from DFO?

Samuel: Yes, before the ice forms there are narwhal here all the time even some have passed through that are migrating from the north appear. Perhaps from Grise Fiord, Arctic Bay area that are migrating and after we hear that people of Clyde River were hunting narwhal two, three days later, they appear near here during the fall.

Sheila: You expect them?

Samuel: Yes, they usually appear, at other times they don't appear perhaps when they go through the open water. This area we call Mattaatuujanaq there are usually narwhal present that are migrating from the north.

Sheila: Through this channel?

Samuel: They also come through the channel sometimes they go through near the base of the land.

Sheila: The one you said is called Mattaatujjanaq is that the inlet down there?

Samuel: Yes, there are three that are close to each other Mattaatujjanaq, Illaulittuuq and Pannirtuuruluk they usually have narwhal during the fall when the narwhal are around after they return from the open water. Sometimes when we don't find them there near here, when they are there they follow the high tide. When the tide is low they usually don't go there only during high tide.

Sheila: Even when the tide is small?

Samuel: Yes, the tides are small, they are getting larger.

Sheila: The tides are small.

Samuel: Our tides are larger now.

Sheila: I was waiting for the low tide. I don't think it's low tide maybe is high tide, that's what I was saying.

Samuel: Our tides are getting larger. I've stayed up for two days without sleeping when we are hunting narwhal, the narwhal never give up.

Sheila: Yes?

Samuel: Yes, up in Home Bay, when there are lots of them the narwhal tire us out.

Sheila: Is that right.

Samuel: The narwhal are smart.

Sheila: They stay in the same area, when the floe edge is open?

Samuel: Yes, at the floe edge there are usually more even though they also say there are some down there but I don't really know as I don't usually go there...because there are usually some in the water.

Sheila: Are there any changes to the numbers every year?

Samuel: They seem to be increasing.

Sheila: Is that so?

Samuel: They are increasing, maybe because the narwhal bear their young anytime.

Sheila: We hear that there are difference between the first ones and the ones that follow? What kind are the first ones? What kind are the ones that follow?

Samuel: Yes, They are different. It is obvious the narwhal that were born last year. They tend to be darker...I don't know why.

Sheila: The first ones are hunted, they seem to prefer the ones that follow.

Samuel: The first ones are usually with shorter tusks.

Sheila: Is that so?

Samuel: The ones that follow are usually mature ones, even though there are some mature ones in the first ones but not as many.

Sheila: Are they darker in appearance?

Samuel: Yes.

Sheila: The ones that follow?

Samuel: Yes, they are more mature, they seem to have a leader that seem to guard them. Afterwards a lot of narwhal appear. Even when the water is calm there doesn't seem to be any when we look for them with binoculars but once the boats are moving the narwhal appear when it seemed there were none, the narwhal are smart.

Sheila: Through their nose, just like seals, I'm envisioning seals, you said they come up for air?

Samuel: Yes.

Sheila: They just breath through their nose?

Samuel: Yes, they are breathing, they don't even make a noise when they are breathing with their head in the water when they surface. They did not seem to do that normally but their heads are in the water when they surface.

Sheila: Their head in the water?

Samuel: Yes, when they surface they stop right away, that is what is called with their head in the water without moving, they seem to be breathing quietly, like they are not breathing.

Sheila: You cannot hear the blowing?

Samuel: Yes.

Sheila: Why do they do that?

Samuel: Maybe they know they are being hunted. They breath normally when they don't know, when we go after them they surface...after we have gone after them. They seem to get smarter every year.

Sheila: Are they recognizable?

Samuel: Yes, they are recognizable, some that we went after the year before are there, it is obvious through their wounds.

Sheila: You mentioned that you know when the killer whales are around, have you hunted along with the killer whales?

Samuel: No I've never hunted with them, I barely made it 4 or 5 years ago up there when they were going after narwhal there were killer whales.

Sheila: Were the killer whales also going after narwhal?

Samuel: Yes, killer whales. I've personally hasn't observed them, though killer whales seem to be increasing every year here.

Sheila: Do they occur in large numbers?

Samuel: Yes, they are increasing.

Sheila: When did you start noticing them?

Samuel: Just recently I started noticing them near here, but I have never seen them up there. Other hunters have seen the killer whales but here I have seen them once but the killer whales seem to be coming every year.

Sheila: Is that so?

Samuel: Yes.

Sheila: Has there been any changes to the behaviour of narwhal in the last ten years? For example their migration route or is it the same where they go through or the ones that we hear come first along with the followers does that stay the same? Or how?

Samuel: It is unclear I've notice that they are increasing and the darker ones are increasing here that I've noticed there are a lot of narwhal...when we go after them at the floe edge according the breaking up of the ice they tend to

go near the land. They don't usually occur here perhaps that was not the case before I don't know. I know that in Home Bay, if I haven't gone there I would not know but I have gone there and I like narwhal hunting maybe that is the reason why I know.

Sheila: Are there any changes in the pods when they are migrating during spring and fall? This is similar.

Samuel: They don't seem to go at the same time sometimes there are lots that appear and once they have passed through from the north perhaps from Pond Inlet area or Clyde River area there appears a lot more that doesn't happen at the same time. For example once the first ones appear we hunt from them as they don't pass through right away maybe three days, four days or five days they stay in the inlet they will go to the open water and return they finally pass through here. The ones we hunt from will go to the open water and return they do that there because they know where the young were born. When we go after those ones they don't disappear they tend to return as there are inlets there past Nulluit called Home Bay. There are several inlets there so they go to those inlets when we go after them here in the inlet perhaps the next day or if they did not change the next day we go after them in the next inlet as there are some there. We find them again in the next inlet. There would be a lot of them that pass through that we go after several days when we cannot find them we know that they have moved to the open water and have passed through. After which others will come, it is obvious that they don't come at the same time. The ones in a pod stay together the ones that come later are also a different pod that stay together that seems to happen.

Sheila: The ones you said come later are they more mature?

Samuel: They tend to be more mature, the first ones that were born last year tend to have less mature ones the ones that come through here that we often see. Sometimes they do include mature ones but those that come later seem to be better than the first ones, maybe they also have guards, I don't really know. The second ones have tusks and when there is one with two tusks, the one with two tusks tend to be in the middle.

Sheila: Is that so?

Samuel: When there are a lot of narwhal in a pod they tend to be protected, they are usually in the middle.

Sheila: Are they hard to get?

Samuel: They are harder, I think they are being protected.

Sheila: Is that so?

Samuel: It seems that way. I've taken part when one was caught and it seems that's what happens, the ones with two tusks seemed to be protected.

Sheila: Have you ever checked the stomach contents when you caught a narwhal?

Samuel: No I've never checked.

Sheila: Is that so? What do they eat?

Samuel: I've heard that they eat turbot.

Sheila: Is that so?

Samuel: But I've never checked what is in their stomach.

Sheila: What I have heard. What the different characteristics? From my point of view they seem to be the same, darker narwhal they seem to be the same but there were differences, smaller ones, bigger ones, longer ones, different ones.

Samuel: The darker ones usually are larger narwhal sometimes there are the ones that are almost all white that we see, they have some markings but most of it is white and for some reason the darker ones are usually larger narwhal. It is obvious at times when we go after them sometimes we lose the ones that sink because they are so skinny. We know that they were being chased by killer whales. Some are skinny while others are fat.

Sheila: When you are hunting narwhal do you harpoon them first or shoot them?

Samuel: We use both, we harpoon them and then shoot them. I don't know how many times that I've taken one without shooting it just harpooning it.

Sheila: I've noticed, as well as heard from an elder warning, that if you harpoon it first you are not going to lose it, harpoon it first, it will be easier to shoot it. His reasoning was that if you try shooting it first then harpoon it, when you harpoon it you are not the one who got it, the person who shot it is the one who gets it.

Samuel: We hear that here too but those who are starting to hunt narwhal are different from us who have hunted longer. Nowadays the younger ones tend to shoot to the point where they are shooting towards boats during the fall here. Perhaps they are having fun hunting narwhal but it sometimes get dangerous even when we tell them not to do that maybe because they want to get the narwhal they do that. And some claim the ones they don't get the one who shot it first or harpoon it, even though the person who harpoon it gets it but we know who wound it if someone else gets it it is not fun.

Sheila: No wonder. I would not know who wound it first. I've gone when they are hunting beluga but never when they are going after the darker/narwhal, I don't know them.

Samuel: For me I don't know anything about beluga because I've never been part of a group hunting them. There was one occasion when the ice was breaking up that I know of but I have no idea how long they stay under water compared to narwhal.

Sheila: I've heard that the narwhal surface more often than the beluga which stay under water longer. If you have anything else to add please do. I am done with what I am following.

Samuel: If someone says that they are decreasing I would not believe them as there are lots of narwhal here. Maybe because they do not come at the same time there are lots.

Sheila: Can you give an estimate from first one to the last up to that end during the fall when they are migrating south or migrating north. How many would you think are there?

Samuel: There are lots. When they are migrating north we do not see them. Because the ice here is not good, and rough so we don't look for them. We hear in early spring that there are narwhal up there already from the ones that are north of us. If there is floe edge near here we know we would see more but we don't look for them when we are hunting seals at the floe edge but sometimes we see them though. And before the ice is forming during the fall we always see narwhal before they pass through they stay around here because the ice does not form early here in the open water. I think there have been ice entrapments near here but I don't know.

Sheila: Have you gone with researchers? The ones doing a survey...

Samuel: No I've never been part of the researchers but when I was a chairman of the HTO I've gone to meetings where DFO say that narwhal don't give birth anytime but they do. The narwhal give birth anytime maybe that is the reason why they are increasing because they give birth anytime.

Sheila: According to what you know they give birth anytime?

Samuel: Yes, they give birth anytime the others will say the same thing my fellow hunters who hunt narwhal.. They all know, those who hunt narwhal regularly, us narwhal hunters notice this, I would not know if I did not hunt narwhal. I hear from those who know more than I do yes, this is always happening.

Sheila: I have no more questions, thank you for coming.

Samuel: Thank you.

Stevie Audlakiak

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit of Narwhal

Sheila: Say your name, where you were born and when?

Stevie: My name is Stevie Audlakiak, I was born in Pangnirtung on September 8, 1952 at 6:20.

Sheila: September 8?

Stevie: Yes, in 1952 at the nursing station.

Sheila: Yes. I am doing a questionnaire, I mentioned to you that I will be taping and you did not mind so we will start. These questions that you see are the same ones that will be asked in other communities. I you have anything else to add you will be able to if there was nothing here that should be included we are also asking other communities to add anything. First, what changes have you noticed in the environment? For example, thickness of the ice, is the ice forming sooner or later? Since you've lived here.

Stevie: Yes, Nowadays the ice is forming a lot later but the ice break up is earlier. I think it was about four years ago we went boating when Toomasie Nuqinngaq was still alive. We were the last ones to go boating on December 2. The ice is also breaking up earlier the ice usually breaks up at the end of June or early July here is Qikiqtarjuaq. But this time the break up was later because the winter was different. Our winter was mostly clear with no snow

but cold so the ice was thick so that is the reason why the ice break up is later this year. It is really different from last few years perhaps five or four years were different. This past winter we hardly had any snow so the ice got thick and that is the reason why the break up is later, since way back when.

Sheila: Do you think that has affected the narwhal when the ice forming is later and break up is later?

Stevie: I don't think so, I don't think it has affected them because when the ice is breaking up the narwhal don't come through Qikiqtarjuaq. Once in a long while that the beluga pass through perhaps trying to get away from the killer whales that are chasing them that they come through here. Also with the narwhal when the ice break up is later and ice forming is later doesn't to have an affect.

Sheila: Has the migration patterns of narwhal changed from what you know?

Stevie: At that time when I was growing up in Qikiqtarjuaq we did not have narwhal however, using today as an example perhaps from the time I was sixteen years old the narwhal started coming here. Those migrating from the north not from the south, that's when they started migrating through here but I don't know why they did not pass through here before. Now they pass through here, I don't know why they pass through here now but they always pass through here now during the fall and their migrating patterns don't seem to have changed.

Sheila: Has the numbers stayed the same or are they increasing/decreasing?

Stevie: Each year the migration patterns are different of the narwhal sometimes there are lots and they stay around feeding for some time before the ice forms sometimes. Other times maybe when there is not enough to eat here, some leave earlier that's what they do or they go further south near Padlavik when they don't stay around maybe because there is not enough to eat. We as Inuit know because we go out looking for food sources all species are like that. That is what the elders think that they stay for a short time when there is not enough to eat, whereas when there is enough to eat they stay around longer before the ice forms.

Sheila: Here in the channel?

Stevie: Not just here, in our channel, that area near here perhaps you have heard it what we call Mattaatuujanaq as well as Illaulittuuq, Pannirtuuruluk they

always have narwhal every year and here our channel as well as in front of us always have some. Also Qivittuuq probably also have some but nowadays for some reason we don't usually go up there to hunt anymore but we use to go there to hunt narwhal because they would go up to Qivittuuq.

Sheila: During the fall? During late summer?

Stevie: Yes.

Sheila: Has there been any change in the migration during spring or fall? As this is the migration route.

Stevie: They don't really come through here during the spring they go through further way when they are migrating north towards where they spend the summer in Home Bay. From Home Bay they go further north near Pond Inlet, Clyde River. When they are migrating north they tend to go through open water but if they are trying to get away from the killer whales that are chasing them they sometime come through here when they are migrating north. During the fall there doesn't seem to be any change when they are migrating south, they always pass through. We become real machos during the fall.

Sheila: The whales also go somewhere to have their young ones, I know more about the beluga, do you know where the narwhal go to have their young ones or when that happens?

Stevie: I really don't know but I have seen new borns up in what we call Aarujaaqtuut at Home Bay that were born during the spring and we also see the new borns during the fall that are small, how, if the narwhal are not like Inuit I really don't know. I will only say what I know we see new borns during the spring and summer as well as during the fall. Or perhaps from spring to fall they bear their young ones or maybe they are like Inuit I really don't know how they bear their young but what I know from spring to fall we see very small narwhal that were born recently.

Sheila: Do you usually see the ones with new borns up in Home Bay or here when they are passing through.

Stevie: Here when they are passing through that happens we see new borns. Up there they have the young ones that were born recently and during the fall that also happens here where we see recently born narwhal.

Sheila: Do you go after them?

Sheila: We usually don't go after them because we are told not to go after them by DFO and we are also told not to go after the mother. But when they surface they are accidentally killed sometimes.

Sheila: The mothers?

Stevie: Yes, when the mother is shot the new born stays around. So that the new born will not parish they are both killed.

Sheila: According the Inuit knowledge is that also the case? That you are not suppose to go after the young one and the mother are there rules like that?

Stevie: No I've never heard if we have to do that, if it is edible we have to go after it as both are edible. However even when we did nothing wrong they tell us that we broke the law if we did that. Some narwhal surface they don't let theil tusks break the surface only part of them surface so we accidentally shoot them and they die right away then we find out that they had their young with them.

Sheila: The ones with the tusks are they usually female or male?

Stevie: The ones with the tusks are usually male but some females also have tusks that are thinner and they are very nice. I have noticed someone getting a female with a tusk, I think I have caught a female with a tusk twice. Their tusks are nice and thin, the males have tusks as well as some females also have tusks.

Sheila: Perhaps older females?

Stevie: I don't know, I really don't the reason or maybe when they were growing the tusk breaks though even when they are female inside, as even the females have a small one inside their heads and males have a tusk and on the other side of the head they have a small one. Perhaps when the females are growing their tusks break through.

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal go during the winter?

Stevie: I really don't know but down there, they stay in that area in open water I have heard that off Cape Dyer there is always open water there are narwhal down there that is what I've heard but I, personally, don't know.

Sheila: Have you heard it from the elders or from hunters?

Stevie: We had a wildlife officer who monitored computers as they had installed satellite radios on the narwhal maybe that's how he knew. The wildlife officer said that the narwhal were off Cape Dyer.

Sheila: Cape Dyer?

Stevie: Cape Dyer.

Sheila: So, off Cape Dyer?

Stevie: Yes, down there in off shore as that area does not freeze over.

Sheila: Yes, I see. Have you noticed if the numbers are changing every year? Have they changed?

Stevie: There doesn't seem to much change here. The ones that pass through don't seem to change, sometimes there are fewer as well as a lot more at times when the narwhal are around. When we go berry picking, afterwards when we close our eyes we see a lot of berries in our mind that is the case after hunting narwhal when there are lots when we close our eyes we can see, in our minds, those that are diving.

Sheila: I see.

Stevie: Sometimes there are a lot of them.

Sheila: Has there been any change in the behaviour of the narwhal in the last ten years?

Stevie: There does not seem to be any change. I have never noticed any changes like that but sometimes narwhal will come later and some are earlier. I don't know why that is that some come earlier and some later at other times they come all at once.

Sheila: Are there any difference in them?

Stevie: Yes.

Sheila: For example the ones that come first and later, how are the first ones different from the second ones if that is the case?

Stevie: There doesn't seem to be any difference but we've noticed the difference in narwha here is Qikiqtarjuaq, the adult males have become white. We try to go after the adult males that have become white also there are some adult male narwhal that are even larger that haven't turned white that

have long tusks, they are black in color and sometimes they are brownish grey where the skin and flippers are different. The flippers are turned upwards, these narwhal even when they have turned white their flippers tend to be straight. The adult males that are black are huge with flippers that are turned upwards that don't come here often. We notice them when they arrive because they are huge maybe they spend more time in the open water I don't know maybe if the killer whales are around that is when they come. But we don't see them every year or maybe we just missed them when we are hunting narwhal. They are caught sometimes the ones that are black and huge with long tusks.

Sheila: Are there any changes in the group when they are migrating in their behaviour?

Stevie: No, I have never noticed any change. Sometimes there are a lot of them in a group some groups have young ones that are not full grown. The adult males are normally together but they are usually with adult females. There doesn't seem to be any change or maybe that is their behaviour, I don't know.

Sheila: You mentioned the difference in adult males where some are darker, do you know others? How different are they? The terms that are used to describe them or, the flippers that are turned upward, what you can describe...

Stevie: No, I have never heard what they are called, the narwhal that are black and huge their flippers are turned upward. When we see narwhal we just call them narwhal but the beluga, we call them white whales that sometimes pass through here.

Sheila: You mentioned that the smaller ones are usually adult female as well as adult males. I also heard those what were they called, I wrote them down, the darker ones, ones with blotches, thin ones, stockier ones, someone described them that way, have you ever heard that?

Stevie: We call some, 'with good mattaq' the ones that have not turned white that are grey or the black ones and we call the some of them 'with blotches' that have blotches all over and we call some 'that have turned white' those that are adult males those are the three different types.

Sheila: Adult males, they are usually the ones that have turned white?

Stevie: Yes, the ones that have turned white and usually adult males the adult females are usually the ones that have turned white maybe because they are older even adult females without tusks.

Sheila: That is all the questions I have, if you want to add anything you can.

Stevie: When they are not bothered they can do anything and can dive for a very long time. When we were pursuing them up there what we call Aargujaaqtuut they were diving up to half an hour. Maybe someone knows if they can dive longer staying at the same spot. Sometimes they can stay in the same spot staying under water, perhaps they are just lying at the bottom or just staying just below the surface. Sometimes they get away fast and others don't get away as fast that is the baviour of the narwhal but they won't be decreasing because I have observed many. I go on a ship every summer up by Devon Island. We were travelling from Arctic Bay to Pond Inlet. From near Arctic Bay to Pond Inlet there were lots of narwhal, they seem to be trying to get away from us and we were travelling south near Clyde River and there were lots of them. They seem to be trying to get away. Some non-Inuit wanted to take pictures of them even when were not bothering them they seemed to be trying to get away. The next year, I also went on the same ship we travelled up near Alert, up there they didn't seem to be scared of the ship. When they were going towards the front of the ship our captain had to turn the ship, they were not scared. Maybe they had never seen a ship or they were never hunted from. Those narwhal were not scared of the ship at all. I observed the ones that were scared and those that were not scared of a ship. Those narwhal that were not hunted were not scared and some that had been hunted were getting away fast.

Sheila: To Alert way up there, the narwhal also go up there?

Stevie: We did not reach Alert on the ship, we went as close as 90 miles then we turned around, there are lots up there too.

Sheila: They are not decreasing.

Stevie: They probably won't be decreasing as there are lots.

Sheila: I have no more questions, thank you for coming.

Stevie: Same here.

Sheila: Thank you for taping you, as you did not mind me taping, can you sign here?

Uriah Nuqinngaq

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of Narwhal

Sheila: Can you say who you are, where you were born and when?

Uriah: Uriah Nuqinngaq, I was born in Iqaluit, July 27, 1980.

Sheila: Uriah Nuqinngaq. July 27, 1980, were you raised here?

Uriah: Yes.

Sheila: Who are your parents?

Uriah: Meeka Nuqinngaq is my mother and Thomasie was my father.

Sheila: I will be asking you about narwhal starting with this. First, what changes have you seen in the environment? For example ice thickness, does the ice go earlier or does it take later for the ice to form have you noticed anything?

Uriah: The ice now forms later, whereas it use to form earlier, when I was a boy. We use to hunt seals on the ice in October but nowadays we are boating in October, we now go hunting seals on the ice in November.

Sheila: I see. What do you think is the cause of this?

Uriah: Maybe because of climate change. Maybe global warming is the cause.

Sheila: Do you think the migration behaviour of narwhal has changed due to this?

Uriah: I don't think so. They are different in some years they are late or early this is not obvious.

Sheila: Are there any changes during the spring or fall of the narwhal that pass through?

Uriah: There does not seem to be any change. They come around the same time during the fall but they also come around during the summer maybe because there are killer whales around, this doesn't seemed to have changed.

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal have their calves, I know that beluga have a particular area to have calves, do you know that too?

Uriah: I only know some of them, I don't know where others are. Up in Home Bay I have know and down near Padlavik, I know where they are down there.

Sheila: Do you know? Have you observed the calves being born?

Uriah: I've observed once. We though it was dead as the flipper was out of the water so to it, when we got near it went under water maybe it was giving birth.

Sheila: I see.

Uriah: It seems like that what I have observed down there.

Sheila: Down there?

Uriah: Yes.

Sheila: During the summer?

Uriah: Yes, during the summer after the ice had gone.

Sheila: When they are going through that have you heard or observed if they are hunting narwhal at the calving sights. The caribou have their calves up on high elevations, they go to the same area, is that also the case with narwhal?

Uriah: Yes, I think they are they tend to go to the same area.

Sheila: While they are having their calves do people hunt narwhal?

Uriah: Yes, we did hunt down there even when they were having their calves. We only go after the ones with tusks, the ones with calves don't have tusks we know that.

Sheila: What difference do they have? Have you noticed the difference between the ones with tusks and the ones with calves?

Uriah: The tusks seem to be the same except the only difference is that some adult females that have tusks their tusks are thinner.

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal go during the winter?

Uriah: They go down there in front of us, between Baffin Island and Greenland during the winter. Fishing is not allowed down there because that is were the narwhal spend their winter. There is usually a border I don't know exactly where the ships can fish for turbot.

Sheila: You've heard that?

Uriah: I've heard that.

Sheila: I heard that they go off Cape Dyer I am not sure exactly where that they spend the winter, have you heard that?

Uriah: Yes, I've heard it. Maybe they also spend the summer down there the ones that are from here. We normally go up there to hunt narwhal during the summer, I know more about that area myself than down there as my paternal grandfather was from that area.

Sheila: Who?

Uriah: Uriah Nuqinngaq.

Sheila: Have there been any change in numbers every year?

Uriah: I don't think so, I think they are increasing as they don't seem to be decreasing. Any species of wildlife, when hunted tend to increase.

Sheila: Yes, does that seem to be the case too?

Uriah: I've heard that too.

Sheila: They are increasing?

Uriah: Yes.

Sheila: Has there been any change in the behaviour of narwhal in the last ten years? According to your knowledge.

Uriah: I don't think so.

Sheila: Other than why you think they have increased?

Uriah: Yes, they arrive at different times. I don't know how many time where I have observed pods in large numbers, some sound like they are snoring some sound like they are whistling.

Sheila: When they are still?

Uriah: When they surface, even when the water is calm they make it look like there is a breeze because of large numbers, when they dive the water becomes calm again.

Sheila: I see...Are there any changed in the pods when they are migrating during the spring or fall? For example we here that these are the first one and those are the second ones.

Uriah: Yes, that's what happens here, the first ones are smaller in size, the second ones are full grown males with long tusks, they tend to come later during the fall.

Sheila: The first ones do they also have full grown males with them?

Uriah: Yes, they also include full grown males but not in large numbers.

Sheila: I see, I wonder why that is? Does that seem to be the case?

Uriah: I really don't know, maybe they come from different locations, I think that is the reason. Up in what we call Nulluit, there are some that we pass when we are going further, those that come from Nulluit come through first. The ones that are coming from Arctic Bay area are obvious when they arrive here, they tend to travel near land maybe all the way from there they travel near land that one that come through our channel. Maybe they travel near land all the way from there we know them. When we go after them they tend to tire out easily and they don't dive far are very easy to hunt them.

Sheila: I see, are they also full grown males?

Uriah: Yes, some are full grown adult males. Last fall there was one with two tusks that seem to have come from there, they were easy to hunt even when they were full grown males.

Sheila: Are the mattaaq different?

Uriah: The one with two tusks?

Sheila: The ones, that came from there, from Arctic Bay area, are the mattaaq different than the one from Home Bay...

Uriah: They seem to taste the same.

Sheila: Are the thickness the same?

Uriah: Maybe some of them are thicker. Some of the adult males skin is thicker whereas the smaller one's skin tend to be thinner that is the difference. I don't seem that have noticed anything.

Sheila: Some are easier to get, as you mentioned the ones that come from Arctic Bay area because they have to travel far when they are coming you mentioned that they tire easily.

Uriah: Yes, they are coming from far away.

Sheila: Do they have less fat?

Uriah: Some seem to be thinner?

Sheila: I have heard, since when I am interviewing I also write down the differences, the black ones, with blotches, longer narwhal, stockier narwhal, the ones that have become white, full grown males.

Uriah: There are, the stockier black one, poorer males, full grown males are the ones I know.

Sheila: How are poorer males different from full grown males?

Uriah: They are smaller in size, their tusks are 4, 5, 6 feet(?) in length, we call the ones with 7 foot tusks and over full grown males.

Sheila: Oh, I see. Full grown are males?

Uriah: Yes, they are sometimes with females I've observed that, it had a long tusk but thinner compared to males.

Sheila: Have you noticed, this is similar to my last question, what are the different characteristics? The full grown males, poorer males, you mentioned them, and the ones that have turned white, do you know the differences?

Uriah: Yes, they seem to be different, we call the older females without tusks they are tastier and the males that are younger their skins are thinner, the full grown males skins are thick.

Sheila: What about their flukes? Or their flippers, have you seen the difference?

Uriah: Yes, the full grown males have larger flippers and flukes.

Sheila: If you want to add anything else you can, as all my questions are done.

Uriah: I can't seem to add anything else.

Sheila: They are not decreasing?

Uriah: Yes, from what I know, when I was a young person I started hunting narwhal so I have seen lots, if someone says they are decreasing I would not believe them. As there are lots.

Sheila: Can you estimate as to how many there would be in one year?

Uriah: I have seen lots in a pod so I cannot estimate them.

Sheila: For example, from that point to this point, in the building, this looks like about the size of a football field there are lots in this area?

Uriah: This is too small.

Sheila: Is that right?

Uriah: This is way too small.

Sheila: I see.

Uriah: I have seen a lot up in Home Bay from the land, the leader was white and huge, they were getting smaller in size, it seem that this was a toy narwhal, the huge ones that are black are behind with one white in the front, it looked it was their tusk. The ones behind were getting smaller in size and they looked like one narwhal that is how I saw them and there were lots of them.

Sheila: The one that has turned white was the leader?

Uriah: It was huge, it looked like a piece of ice when it surfaced all white.

Sheila: I see, did it also have a tusk?

Uriah: It was far away so we did not observe it.

Sheila: It was leading the rest?

Uriah: Yes, they were following it.

Sheila: Do you often see it? Have you seen it since then?

Uriah: I have seen it often after that and others have also seen it since then.

Sheila: If it was caught do you think they would decrease?

Uriah: Yes, perhaps that would happen.

Sheila: Maybe that would change their migration route through here?

Uriah: Maybe. Some narwhal are huge, sometimes we think it was a bowhead but it was actually a narwhal.

Sheila: I see that huge?

Uriah: Some are black. I don't think anyone every caught one but they are hard to go after as they can dive for a long time, once we waited for two hours for one to surface.

Sheila: I see.

Uriah: It finally surfaced, we did not get it.

Sheila: It did not die?

Uriah: I did not shoot one, we did not get any of them as they are hard to get.

Sheila: Were there a lot of them?

Uriah: There were some, I think there were 6 of them, they were diving for a long time we could not get close to them, they were smart.

Sheila: Very smart?

Uriah: Yes, we stopped the motors waiting for them to surface, once we started them they would dive right away.

Sheila: I see.

Uriah: Unbelievable.

Sheila: They really got smart.

Uriah: Yes.

Sheila: I have no more questions, if you cannot add anything else I would like you to sign here and I'll call the HTO that you were here as they will make a cheque out to you. Thank you very much.

Lucassie Aliqaturtuq

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit of Narwhal

Sheila: If you can say who you are, where you were born and when?

Lucassie: I am Lucassie Aliqaturtuq, I was born in Padlavik as we lived down there but we were moved to Qikiqtarjuaq so I live here now. I was born down their and lived there for 15, 16 years and now live in Qikiqtarjuaq, I am a visitor, just kidding I live here.

Sheila: What year were you born?

Lucassie: 1951 January 15, eldest of the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq, just kidding I am not the oldest.

Sheila: You are one of the older ones?

Lucassie: From my siblings? Yes.

Sheila: The questions you are reading according to your knowledge you can answer them. The ones you cannot answer you don't have to or if you want to add anything else you can do so.

Lucassie: I am also one of the hunters here, one of the hunters.

Sheila: The first one, what difference have you noticed in the environment?

Lucassie: There are always narwhal between here and Padlavik during the summer the ones that are coming from down there not from up there, the first ones come from down there. There were also some that came from Padlavik last week so the first ones come up from down there during the summer after the ice breakup. There were always narwhal near Padlavik every year that use to happen and it still does today. There are others as well we also go up there to hunt narwhal during the summer, but there seem to be less whereas there were lots before before there were noises there were more narwhal from that area. Nowadays there seem to be fewer maybe because of the noise produced by ships and other means of travel on the water are the reasons. Since I was a boy there were always narwhal down near Padlavik on the water, since then there seem to be fewer and there are always narwhal and there are always killer whales now every summer. The narwhal would try to get away from the killer whales, not just narwhal, other species like seals. The narwhal seem to be fewer in pods now every year according to my knowledge. There used to be lots before there were noise pollution and there does not seem to be too much change in narwhal to my knowledge. They migrate the same way from that area. We started having narwhal that came from down there even when my parents were still alive we use to hunt narwhal that came from down there before they started migrating from the north. There are other species that migrate from down there like walrus.

Sheila: What about the ice? Has the ice changed?

Lucassie: Same thing the ice has changed since then. The spring use to be longer when we use to travel by dog team before we started using snowmobiles. It used to be colder so the ice used to be thick, every since I

was a young man it started to get thinner whereas it used to be thicker before that. It used to be colder when I was a boy but now it is changing as it is melting it is getting thinner since I have known it, as I have always been here. It used to be thicker since we moved here, it is also noticeable down there. The ice used to be better that time when I was a young man it puddles would form twice during the spring in April, May, up to June when the ice would break up. Down at Padlavik the ice would break up sooner than here even when it is very far it was different. Some of the ice would have snow on top and some of it would have less snow it is thinner now since then.

Sheila: The the migration of narwhal or behaviour have changed as well? Do you think they have changed because of ice conditions?

Lucassie: Yes, since then, they used to go through the floe edge when the ice was thicker the ones that were migrating north, during that time of the year, but now when the ice is breaking up sooner they would go through the floe edge as there is more floe edge down there than here in Qikiqtarjuaq. They would go through the floe edge before the ice break up but since the ice is breaking up sooner they go through the channels.

Sheila: Have you ever noticed the ice entrapments?

Lucassie: No I've never noticed any that are entrapped by ice. I hear that some are entrapped by ice near here but we never are on time to observe them as the ice is rough. We know which ones were entrapped by ice, I think there usually ice entrapments but the land it is rare, since I was a boy I don't know of any that are entrapped by ice, because I usually didn't go when I was a boy, but I use to hear entrapments far from land even when there are a lot of inlets.

Sheila: Are there any changes when they are migrating during spring or fall?

Lucassie: When they are migrating from the north, as there is open water longer when the ice is forming there are usually a lot of them that are coming from there before the ice forms and they go through there near the floe edge that went through thin ice before the ice gets thick they come through here during fall. Since I was a boy, I saw where they had surfaced through thin ice while they are migrating south, even when the ice was forming. When parts of it was getting thicker they were not entrapped by ice near here, maybe further towards the open water. We usually did not see them, there is hardly any

that get entrapped here during the fall even though we know they went through thin ice.

Sheila: Where do the calves born?

Lucassie: Yes, the narwhal have their calves here in the inlets. We also used to have belugas down there and not all were narwhal. They have their calves up there in the estuaries where the calves would start molting in the areas where the rivers are larger and the estuaries are shallower muddier those are the areas where they have their calves. I have also seen them having calves in Mattaatujuanaaq. These where there is more mud that's where the narwhal have their calves. I also have seen at Mattaatujuaniq where they are giving birth after the narwhal hunting season has closed I also observed one giving birth down at Mattaatujuanaq, it seemed it was dead it was on its side apparently it was in the process of giving birth, it was just at the edge and did not seem to be scared. I have been fortunate to be part of a group in Mattaatujuanaq that the inlets in murky waters is where the young ones are molting the outer skin, that is still the case. We just don't see them here in murky waters is where the narwhal are molting.

Sheila: What does it mean when you say they are molting?

Lucassie: Those, where the outer skin the original skin are molting in muddy areas, when they are in murky waters they are molting while they are growing. Maybe they do that elsewhere in the water. In muddy, where it is more murky where I was told, they tend to turn around when they are molting, when the outer skin is shed.

Sheila: Narwhal?

Lucassie: Yes, narwhal start shedding in the inlets that are murky.

Sheila: During the summer?

Lucassie: Yes, even during the summer, during late summer, before the fall, people said that the narwhal were shedding in the muddy waters.

Sheila: While that is happening, the females are also giving birth?

Lucassie: There are also some that are giving birth, that is what used to happen when they were shedding and others that are giving birth. That used to happen at the same time. The narwhal arrive at the same time into the

inlets that I have noticed. I have noticed more than once during early summer up to August.

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal go during winter?

Lucassie: During the winter I don't really see them but it has happened more than once where they stay in front of us those that were tagged they spend the winter in open water. They don't always go there, the narwhal, there is always narwhal here during the winter in front of us. We just don't hunt them even when I know where the narwhal are here in front of us during the winter. They stay around during the winter when there is a floe edge. But they go further during winter, there was more than one occasion where the ones that were tagged stayed around along with others. There are always some in the floe edge down there the floe edge is there but it is far but sometimes we do go down to that area on the floe edge to hunt. When we lived in Padlavik it was closer we use to see narwhal even during the winter. But now since we've lived here I have not seen any as I don't go there often.

Sheila: What are tags?

Lucassie: Those that have timers they are red and blue in the back, they have radio frequency, blue and red and green they are hard to see. They are like that pen that is red they have that same color that is how obvious they are. We don't go after those even when we are allowed we try not to shoot them when we are hunting narwhal the ones that are tagged.

Sheila: Are there any changes to the numbers every year?

Lucassie: I have noticed this as I use to see, when I was a boy, a lot of them here, everywhere, when we did not hunt them as much. Our parents use to take just what they needed even though they were around. Back then they would only get what was needed for sustenance, they did not waste anything, even when they had dog teams. At that time they did not waste the meat as long as they were not hungry, they did not want anyone to kill them if they were not going to eat them. That was the tradition of our parents, if they were not going to use them for food they did not go after them even when they were around, we were taught just to kill what we were going to eat. That is not really the case now but they try not to overload the canoes.

Sheila: Has there been any change in the behaviour of narwhal in the last ten years?

Lucassie: In some areas there are changes in some areas they haven't changed. The ones with the tusks used to be more abundant those that are full grown males, now they seem to be fewer since then. They are hunted we know. The ones without tusks are more abundant now even though the ones with the tusks are also many. They all don't go near the land, the ones with the tusks, they go through our front or over there through the channel, the ones that are coming from the south. The ones that are migrating from the south are obvious when they are migrating north while we are going after the narwhal. They are fewer in numbers now but those that are smaller are more abundant now.

Sheila: How do you tell when they are migrating north?

Lucassie: We hunt narwhal here, the day after the hunt we go to the inlets. Also, we see them when they are migrating north and when they are migrating south that's what they do. After they migrate north there are more up there that had migrated from the south. When we go the inlets to look for them, when we are hunting narwhal we go to all the inlets as there are more hunters. That's how we know after they migrate from the south and there are none around here.

Sheila: Are there changes in the pods when they are migrating during spring or fall? The pods that are migrating north or coming here?

Lucassie: Maybe, yes when they are migrating south there seem to be a lot more. Sometimes when they are migrating south some are the same ones that were hunted while they were up there. When they are migrating north they had never been hunted even though they are mature the ones migrating north are more. Also during the fall when they return from the north the ones that are travelling through there during the fall there are lots of narwhal.

Sheila: They seem to have increased up there?

Lucassie: Yes, there are more for sure. We know that they have increased when they come from up there.

Sheila: The ones that come from up there do they behave the same?

Lucassie: Yes, they behave the same, some say that they recognize the narwhal from the scars that were seen up there by those who hunt narwhal regularly. They say that they saw them last year, the ones they saw again. They say that they recognize the ones that were up there last year, only some

hunters say that they recognize them. The one they saw last year maybe when they went through there that hasn't changed much.

Sheila: But they have increased?

Lucassie: They include small ones, that are in addition to the original ones. Maybe they are growing I don't know.

Sheila: Narwhal have different names, mature males, females?

Lucassie: Yes narwhal have different names, mature males and females, the ones with calves. Those mature females seem to be more abundant, not mature males, there are lots and those young males come later even though they should come before those that are smaller because those that are larger come later. Maybe the young males are faster sometimes they come later than the others, they are not fully grown come first that are smaller in size. It seems they other way around those that are larger should come first, that is how the narwhal behave. The smaller ones come first here to our community. When we lived down there that didn't seem to happen but since I've lived here that's what I've noticed the smaller ones, perhaps the more mature males tend to go through deeper waters. It is obvious that the smaller ones come to shallower waters maybe the larger ones come first but they are in deeper waters. We know that the smaller ones come to shallower waters, maybe the larger ones are there and the mature females are usually with the ones with calves. The mature females seem to be more abundant than the ones with calves, perhaps they are pregnant on their way to give calves.

Sheila: What kind are they? I heard there were black ones, ones with blotches, thin one, stockier ones, the adult males that have become white, have you heard this before? Do you know this?

Lucassie: Yes, I have seen those narwhal, the males are not larger than others. The adult females tend to be thinner than others, even adult ones, some are larger. The large ones tend to be together and the smaller ones are together. The males are together even though the ones with tusks tend to be together and they are not with adult females. The ones with tusks are separated from others even when the adult females are around. The ones with calves tend to be together. The larger ones are huge, they don't come in large numbers the ones with tusks are stockier narwhal.

Sheila: Do the adult females have tusks as well?

Lucassie: Yes, when they are mature, they also have tusks. When they have grown a tusk up here the adult females have a shorter tusk. Some mature females also have longer tusk.

Sheila: I really don't have anymore questions, if you want to add anything please feel welcome.

Lucassie: Yes, the narwhal in the last 6 or 7 years that come here, are not the same ones and down there the narwhal would come after the killer whales have gone when the narwhal were not around. Down there the killer whales would go after the narwhal near Padlavik. There use to be more killer whales down there then here. The killer whales would go after not just the narwhal, they would go after ringed seals, harp seals. When the killer whales around they would herd narwhal down there in Padlavik when the killer whales were around. Since I was a boy growing up the killer whales would go after narwhal where they went to the inlets when I was a boy. Nowadays I usually don't see any that the killer whales are going after the narwhal as the killer whales are less now.

Sheila: There would be killer whales at that time?

Lucassie: Up until now there used to be more killer whales when we lived down there. My parents and I used to see killer whales all the time. They are not dangerous we were not scared of them as they did not go for the boats. We did not try to get away from them when they were around as my father knew what to do we did not bother the killer whales. They never go after Inuit.

Sheila: Were there lots of them?

Lucassie: Yes, there were lots of killer whales, at that time when I was a boy the killer whales were not dangerous because they did not go after Inuit. They would come up not too far on our side and we did not bother them.

Sheila: Was one every caught?

Lucassie: No, we nevery went after them even the and my parents never went after minke whales even though they are edible. I've only consumed minke whale in Greenland, but never here. Here I have never seen anyone getting a minke whale, as I only had some in Greenland, including harp seals, we use to eat harp seals down there but here in Qikiqtarjuaq I stopped eating harp seals.

Since we don't know when the beluga would arrive. They don't say when they would be arriving we only know when they arrive.

Sheila: Are they edible then?

Lucassie: Yes, they become edible. Not too long ago there was one caught when they were migrating north. We do not hear as the beluga don't come here. I don't know where they went when they were returning they did not come through here the ones that were migrating north or maybe they went through the front when they migrate south. I really don't have anything else to say.

Sheila: I don't have anymore questions as well.

Lucassie: I just want to say thank you for asking me about narwhal. I am a hunter here in Qikiqtarjuaq, I am not employed but I used to work but I am just a hunter now.

Sheila: Thank you very much for coming and you understood when I mentioned what I was doing. The tapes I am making will be of assistance in the future the first part is to write up what we are trying to do after which there will be a public hearing, I don't really know where it will be held so I cannot tell you to consider the narwhal. We will know after September but I cannot say where it will be I am saying what I've been told. These will be of big help, They are also interviewing hunters in Clyde River, Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay. Thank you very much.

Jaypoody Aliqatuqtuq

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of Narwhal

Sheila: First of all who are you, where were you born, when?

Jaypoody: I am Jaypoody Aliqatuqtuq, I grew up in Qikiqtarjuaq but I was born in Iqaluit, when it was still Frobisher Bay, my mother went down there to give birth but I live here all my life.

Sheila: When were you born?

Jaypoody: 1969. During the summer.

Sheila: Summer of 1979, what month?

Jaypoody: July.

Sheila: My first question, what changes have you noticed in the environment?

Jaypoody: From what I know the ice is forming later in the last few years, and there was hardly any snow this past year. Last year was especially bad we did not get any snow for a long time even after the ice had formed. That has been happening during the winter part of it doesn't get thick even when there is no snow. We see the difference in parts of our ice and during the spring parts of it does not get puddles on top and parts of it melt fast, that is the difference that I know of.

Sheila: I hear that the puddles form on top of the ice twice before the ice goes, I heard that more than once. How many times have you noticed when the ice is melting, in the past. How many times, have you noticed, would the puddles form on top before the ice goes?

Jaypoody: The first time the puddles form on ice are just on top, the second time they are flowing and are deeper. The second time when the water is flowing they become deeper and that is obvious, they are not getting shallower according to the melting ice, where the ice is good. When the ice is thin it is different, the puddles on top are different with the ice is too thin.

Sheila: Have you seen narwhal that are entrapped in ice?

Jaypoody: I have noticed once where some were almost entrapped in ice and where they had surfaced, every year when I go on the ice to hunt seals near Qikiqtarjuaq here in front of us or further away. I see them now as I was told that is where the narwhal had surfaced. They are different so I am able to recognize them every year when the ice is forming they are around the ones I've seen.

Sheila: How are they different?

Jaypoody: The areas where they had surfaced, the new ice is long raised without being broken...it is just raised. When the narwhal are surfacing they are moving they just but on the new ice they just go up without moving. The narwhal do not usually travel through thin ice.

Sheila: Have you ever seen them?

Jaypoody: No I have never seen them, they do surface through thin ice, they can travel through thin ice but when the ice is too thick, I've heard, that they are just moving even though I've never seen it myself, I've only heard from the

one who witnessed it that they are unable to surface when the new ice is too thick.

Sheila: Have you heard how thick the ice would be that a narwhal cannot break through?

Jaypoody: I don't know how thick it was where it could break through, I think the narwhal a different in their movements and patterns but some of the areas where they had surfaced are kind of thick that we know. It will be obvious during the winter or they should record it or take photos maybe those can be collected where one can see it and not just hear about it.

Sheila: Yes you can say what you know about them and what you have heard since you are hunters.

Jaypoody: Yes.

Sheila: Does the narwhal migration and behaviour changed?

Jaypoody: Through here, where we are in Qikiqtarjuaq, they just pass through when the ice is gone, they don't stay around in front of us when they are migrating north and some of them probably stay around down there past Padlavik I think they stay around there, but through here we go up to Home Bay to hunt narwhal during the summer after the ice has gone. But I have caught one here once after the ice has gone in Kivittuuq, they go into the inlets after the ice has gone I was fortunate to come across them where they pass through so I caught one, when they were going into inlets while they are migrating.

Sheila: Through there?

Jaypoody: Yes, coming up from down there, from open water. However some stop in Home Bay, only some of them, some go further north to Clyde River some to Pond Inlet, and Arctic Bay. They are different some are not off Baffin Island, they are over near Repulse Bay, they are all different. In some years there are lots during the summer, in late summer there are lots of them. The numbers are always different, we know that they are different. Right now the ones with blotches, darker probably are in Home Bay along with young ones they stay there. I've seen lots of young ones that are darker in Home Bay more than once where there are lots of small ones that are just growing up as that area in Home Bay is where they start growing. That is where the females give birth where they've been observed when they are giving birth. The ones

that were just born can be right beside the boat and are not bothered. That has occurred many time in Home Bay, it is obvious that area is where they start growing where we go every summer.

Sheila: Have you ever checked when you got a narwhal what they have in their stomach?

Jaypoody: I have seen once, I've seen them but some are difficult to see what they were but there seemed to be a turbot in the stomach contents and they also eat cod as they also go for cod as well as turbot. I don't know their feeding habits.

Sheila: Down in Pangnirtung they go fishing for turbot during the winter from the bottom of the water which is deep. So if they have turbot in their stomach maybe they also dive in deep water?

Jaypoody: Yes, some turbot are in shallower water during the winter, but during the summer they go to deeper water I think that has been noticed. They go to deeper water during the summer, during the winter when the ice has formed they go to shallower water...As narwhal go to open water I think they also eat turbot as they spend the winter in open water.

Sheila: Has there been any change in the migration during spring and fall?

Jaypoody: To me that hasn't really changed when they pass through here, because they are scared of killer whales that seems to have changed them as the killer whales are following them during the fall. Sometimes they are observed when the narwhal are passing through they are also being followed by the killer whales. I've noticed more that once when they are chasing the narwhal the narwhal don't seem to notice the boats but they know which is more dangerous. They didn't seem to worry about the canoes but they were more worried about killer whales as they are also killing narwhal as they hunt in groups.

Sheila: I see.

Jaypoody: I have been near them more than once when they are hunting.

Sheila: Killer whales?

Jaypoody: Yes, they have been right beside me, by the killer whales as well when the narwhal are around the killer whales are also there. The narwhal are

being bothered by them so they are not comfortable as the killer whales are coming here...

Sheila: Do killer whales come more often now?

Jaypoody: Yes..that is being mentioned more often now as they come every year now. They just go through here very fast, I've seen them where they can be as fast as the boats.

Sheila: Is that so?

Jaypoody: If I use a 90 horsepower on my canoe they can be that fast. When I was waiting for seals on land I observed them when they were going after something they were very fast, they produced foams when they surface all at once going very fast. We see them when they are together.

Sheila: How many? A lot of them?

Jaypoody: Maybe there were 7 or 8 that were together they were going very fast when they passed through looking for something.

Sheila: I see.

Jaypoody: I have observed more than once. There is one that is huge that goes alone with no others, the dorsal is very high, adult male who goes alone. I've seen it, goes alone without others.

Sheila: Have you every talked about killer whales? There have been studies on narwhal what about the killer whales?

Jaypoody: I would like them studied. I learned when I was waiting on land up in Home Bay there was nothing and the water was calm where the seals were facing down there and started going through the point they started going along the shore right beside the land. There had been seals in the calm water and they disappeared perhaps a half hour later the killer whales arrived from down there. They had been noticed when they were far there were no other species in the water, everything including seals went right beside the land and disappeared.

Sheila: I see.

Jaypoody: They do that, I observed it, they are noticed when they were far away.

Sheila: Are there more killer whales or...

Jaypoody: They seem to be increasing. There are smaller ones now but there are some that are huge. The smaller ones also come here now along with others they are bothering the narwhal, perhaps all the marine mammals as big as bowhead. I observed them when they were going after bowheads down at the point, they would surface among them and here I was going near them as they don't go after boats. We know that now maybe they are dangerous I don't know.

Sheila: Maybe you don't get scared. Where do you think the calving areas are? Do the narwhal have a place where they give birth?

Jaypoody: I know where they give birth up in Home Bay, is one of them. That happens all the time it has never been researched even when it is known but the researchers never go there I don't know why. They never try to see even when it is the area where they give birth at Home Bay, I've known that for a long time.

Sheila: Do people go there to hunt narwhal?

Jaypoody: People also hunt narwhal near there.

Sheila: I see.

Jaypoody: Yes, up there, there are always some narwhal around, sometimes they disappear for a while then return that is always happening. They will leave perhaps for two days then are seen again that is how they behave, that is always happening sometimes it can be different. That is where we go hunting all the time.

Sheila: It is quite far away?

Jaypoody: I think we need 30 gallons of gas just to go there.

Sheila: Is that so?

Jaypoody: Mayby 30 gallons of gas or 35 gallons for some. It takes 12 hours with a canoe if you want to go there right away, but with a faster boat the hours are less, but using a canoe is slower. With an aluminum boat it takes shorter time, we have to use a lot of gas, maybe three or four barrels are sufficient, you have to bring close to four barrels as we have to go to different places looking for the narwhal.

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal go during the winter?

Jaypoody: I don't know where they go but I think they go to open water. I have never seen where they are during the winter I think they go to open water down there. They don't go to warmer waters but they stay around the open water as I don't think the narwhal can survive in warmer waters.

Sheila: Are there changes in the numbers every year? Since you started hunting narwhal, have you noticed any change?

Jaypoody: The narwhal when they've been hunted for many years they learn, all species are probably like that the narwhal are the same. In the beginning when we start going after them they used to be easier to get. They seem to be easier, easier to follow, they tend not to turn around, when we just follow them and not get too close that is how we use to get them. It is different now, they now go everywhere perhaps some of the narwhal have learned. Some are hard to get some are different, their behaviours are different.

Sheila: When they are migrating from up there during fall?

Jaypoody: Yes, the ones we hunt during the summer are in Home Bay some are hard to get that we cannot get one from. They are very hard to hunt from the ones that stay there. The ones that come from further north come later are also different from the ones we hunt from. I think the narwhal have learned from being hunted by boats the ones that are harder to get, some when we are on time are not like that.

Sheila: We hear that there are ones that come first, and some come later.

Jaypoody: Yes.

Sheila: There are differences?

Jaypoody: Yes, the first ones are mostly darker and are different sizes, some narwhal are bigger, the smaller ones are more abundant. In the second ones are similar most of them have turned white are together. There are differences in pods of narwhal we know that, others are huge that are black are not seen often. Sometimes they are seen their behaviour are almost like bowhead the ones that are huge seem to be fewer in numbers. We don't see them often are hard to get and often not taken. There are differences in narwhal.

Sheila: Which ones do you prefer to go after?

Jaypoody: Those that are darker in color are the ones I prefer, the meat and muktaaq are different from those that have turned white. Their muktaaq are different from the white ones those that are darker. My wife prefers that kind of muktaaq so I try to get those kind for her as well as hunting for the ones with a tusk because I like them too. Some can tell the difference, there are those that the skin is thinner and some with thick skin.

Sheila: The ones with thick skin are larger? More adult males?

Jaypoody: They are older narwhal. The ones with thin skin were born the year before or are still growing with a tusk that is still short and have blotches.

Sheila: They have different names do you know what they are? You just said that some are darker narwhal.

Jaypoody: Yes.

Sheila: The ones from the year before?

Jaypoody: There are different ones those that are small don't seem to go through the open water while they are small they tend to be near the land. I have observed the ones that were born recently they don't dive deep they stay close to the land and they seem to be alone whereas the other narwhal that have dived were around, some can dive for a long time still watching out for the young ones. Sometimes we don't know if there are any narwhal while they are diving.

Sheila: You are not allowed to get them?

Jaypoody: Yes, we are not allowed to get them because there are rules. Some have been taken accidentally in the past, there are stories like that where they were taken accidentally.

Sheila: Have there been any changes in the behaviour of the narwhal in the last ten years? According to your knowledge.

Jaypoody: Not so much of what I have seen but I have recognized the ones that had been wounded are obvious because the wound had turned all white where it had been hit by a bullet, that is the difference on the narwhal. It had been wounded and the wound has turned white when it healed. The muktaaq has not returned to its original shade maybe it got infected that is what I've seen more of. That did not seem to be happening before that is the

difference, from what I have seen the old wounds are visible when they surface because when there is a white spot in the black area.

Sheila: Old wound?

Jaypoody: They are obvious like that.

Sheila: The darker ones?

Jaypoody: Yes, that is also the case with the white ones the old wound is different.

Sheila: Are there changes in the pods when they are migrating during the spring and fall?

Jaypoody: There don't seem to be any change but during the spring the narwhal will come up through the cracks and holes on the ice everywhere. The narwhal can surface even when the ice is still there but during the fall it is more difficult for them when the killer whales are around they tend to get entrapped in ice when they are trying to get away. I think that is the reason why some get entrapped in ice or maybe the ice formed earlier where they are as in some area the ice can form fast. Those are the two reasons during the fall migration that we worry about, maybe there have been ice entrapments that we are not aware of. I think that is the reason when the killer whales are there during the fall.

Sheila: There are more killer whales?

Jaypoody: Yes, there are more killer whales.

Sheila: I keep hearing that.

Jaypoody: I would like to see them being studied where they go.

Sheila: Killer whales?

Jaypoody: Yes, they have to be known.

Sheila: I know in Cumberland Sound where they were looking for killer whales to study as the killer whales are increasing there as well.

Jaypoody: Yes, they also do come through here. Up in Home Bay they will be there during summer. We see them every year up there. There will be some as they go there all the time.

Sheila: What are the differences? You mentioned that some are lighter in color, darker ones, brownish ones, adult males and those that are like bowhead do they have names?

Jaypoody: I don't know what they are called. I don't know what the black ones are called that are huge they don't seem to be in large numbers haven't been seen for some time. Some do come around and I think their tusks are different they are higher and over here, they are to one side.

Sheila: How?

Jaypoody: The tusks that are higher seem to be shorter they are not that long but they are adult males they have shorter tusks. That's what people think some are not from here that are recognized and in males their tusks grow longer in females the tusks are thinner. They are like that as do the walrus where the tusks of females tend to be thinner and in males the tusks are wider. They have that characteristic so do some narwhal, with long, thinner tusks that I recognize as a female if it was a male the tusk would be thicker at the base, that is how we know. They are known to be like that...the narwhal and different I don't know how to describe them, some are fatter, thinner...some more rigid. Perhaps they are like that too.

Sheila: I asked this, because there are four communities and you mentioned that there are some near Repulse Bay maybe they came from there it is thought that it is one population, for example without boundaries but they say there are different populations, Jones Sound, Eclipse Sound, Admiralty Inlet, the boundaries are set that way, that is how they are separated, the differences have not been mentioned the ones that were surveyed, Inuit know them I also heard some have turned white with flippers that are turned upwards.

Jaypoody: They turn upward?

Sheila: They are turned upward and their flukes are also different.

Jaypoody: Yes, the narwhal that go there they go through I think they go as far as Cambridge Bay, they do see some in Cambridge Bay sometimes but not all the time, they now see some over there.

Sheila: They go there more often now but very few.

Jaypoody: I think some do go over there more often.

Sheila: The ones that have turned white...One of my boys caught his first narwhal, one that was lighter in color they are rare on Frobisher Bay, I don't know about outside of Frobisher Bay. Because they are rare we don't know how to go after them.

Jaypoody: When you are not used to going after them it is hard. We have learned by going after them. They were not hunted when I was a boy, we did not go after them and when they started hunting beluga they were shooting at, what they thought was the head when it was just fat.

Sheila: Belugas?

Jaypoody: We use to try and hit it on the head when we first started going after them.

Sheila: When Sandy was hunting with someone who came from here there was a narwhal. They were still, that person said it is going to be like this as that is their character. When it starts doing that it will be easier to get it, that's how he was taught. Following what he learned one of my sons got his first narwhal.

Jaypoody: We had to learn that too when we started first going after them. It is fun but it is difficult when you first hunt them. Are we almost done?

Sheila: I am done, if you want to add anything, it's up to you. Thank you very much.

Juuki Nukiruaq

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimaqatunangit of Narwhal

Sheila: Can you say who you are, where and when you were born?

Juuki: I am Juuki Nukiruaq, I am not from Kivituq, but my parents went there to celebrate using a dog team so I was born there.

Sheila: Yes, during Christmas?

Juuki: Yes, not during Christmas, I was born there in Kivituq.

Sheila: Yes.

Juuki: It was not during Christmas, it was during spring.

Sheila: Yes, do you know what month?

Juuki: Yes, May 12, 1948 was when I was born. They kept saying I was born during Christmas but when they changed it I had two birthdays in one year.

Sheila: I see...The questions I will be asking are to get information...I asked my co-worker who deals with marine mammals how, what kind of questions are we trying to get answers to as she knows more about researches that I, what are they missing, what are they not studying. Perhaps they will be easy but according to Inuit knowledge we knew the ones that could be responded to, if you can answer the ones you can please do the ones you cannot answer we can skip. First, what changes have you noticed in the environment? For example, thickness of the ice, does the ice form earlier or does it for later?

Juuki: The ice forms a little later and sometimes the ice is gone sooner. In the past this area near our community the ice used to be thick but now it is thinner.

Sheila: Do you think it has affected narwhal migration or behaviour according to the condition of the ice?

Juuki: It hasn't changed much from what I know, there are some during the spring here but during the fall when they are migrating south there are more narwhal there is more narwhal here but the areas where Dorset people lived from way back they are under vegetation now there are bones from narwhal and when I was a boy when we lived across there the beluga used to come there here more often.

Sheila: Beluga?

Juuki: Yes and I have heard that in the past the narwhal used to come through here but now the beluga don't come around there anymore they are mostly narwhal some don't have tusks...that's how it is nowadays.

Sheila: Has there been any change during spring or fall migration patterns?

Juuki: Right now it seems to be the same when they are migrating from up there in front of us. This area that is close as well as here and down there the current flows towards the south the ice move that way. Maybe that is the reason why they stay over here I am not sure where they go through, I think they go that way in the spring but down off Cape Dyer that is where the narwhal stay during the winter. It is known through the tagged narwhal that they go there but here, we don't have a floe edge sometimes there is a floe edge for a short time so the narwhal don't stay here during the spring. There

are more narwhal during the fall sometimes they arrive earlier and sometimes they arrive later. Sometimes they arrive during the summer.

Sheila: Calving areas, they must have calving areas, do you know where they are? Or there is no such a thing?

Juuki: There are always narwhal up in Home Bay, there are also narwhal here, maybe up there some do give birth...some are small ones here the ones that were born recently...they also give birth not in the same area.

Sheila: During spring or summer?

Juuki: Maybe mostly during the summer is when they give birth to the small ones, some are very small after they are born during the summer, towards fall they don't seem to have been born at the same time some are a bit larger.

Sheila: Are they born in the same month? Is it obvious?

Juuki: Yes, maybe they are born at different times but closely?

Sheila: Calving areas or the ones that are giving birth up in Home Bay, when that is happening do people hunt narwhal?

Juuki: Yes.

Sheila: Maybe they are not to be hunted?

Juuki: Yes, here the ones that are accompanied by small ones are not to be hunted but by accident when people are shooting they sometimes get the mother.

Sheila: Because it probably gets confusing. Do you know where the narwhal go during the winter?

Juuki: No I really don't know where they go but they seem to go down there through here, they don't go up that way.

Sheila: Also you mentioned Cape Dyer, from what you've heard? Down there off shore I don't know where.

Juuki: Down there off shore or further, because they stay where there is open water.

Sheila: Are there changes in the numbers every year?

Juuki: The numbers how, there seem to be more in some of them sometimes they seem to be fewer when they go through here some don't turn to go through this channel. That does not happen frequently when they pass through down there, they go through behind there they come here to go to the inlet through our community sometimes they also come through here.

Sheila: They go to the inlet further away maybe when the killer whales are around?

Juuki: I don't know maybe they are following the current they also go through there...through what we call Mattaattujanna...from close to here, I don't know where else.

Sheila: Has there been any change in the behaviour of the narwhal in the last ten years? From what you've seen their behaviour has it changed?

Juuki: Some seem to be smarter maybe the ones with tusks as they are hunted more. The communities like Clyde River, however the ones with tusks seem to be getting smarter that was not the case in the past. They are hunted more for their tusks that is how they got smart as do other species that are hunted more get smarter.

Sheila: That is more noticeable when they are coming from up there when they arrive here?

Juuki: Yes, some have wounds that have healed maybe from guns, they have wounds where the muktaaq have turned white and is indented. I don't know from where perhaps from the north, those narwhal seem to behave differently maybe because they tend to get away they seem to dive more.

Sheila: Do the adult females have tusks?

Juuki: They are everywhere here.

Sheila: Do the adult females of tusks? Do some females have tusks?

Juuki: I've heard that but I've never seen one. They have small tusks inside their heads.

Sheila: Are there any changes in the pods when they are migrating during spring and fall? For example the ones that are together that arrive first and the ones after, has that changed?

Juuki: I really don't know, the ones with calves seem to arrive first without tusks, the ones with tusks seem to arrive later...or something made them do that, they have different characteristics.

Sheila: They are different everytime?

Juuki: Yes.

Sheila: Or those with calves usually arrive first or the ones with tusks come later, is that how they are? Or is it different?

Juuki: The ones with tusks are accompanied by new borns, even when they are not visible they seem to worry about the ones whose mother had been killed sometimes the one with a tusk will appear and seem to get the young one.

Sheila: I see.

Juuki: Maybe the marine mammals know one another, they all know.

Sheila: Do you also know the differences in narwhal? I heard there were black ones, ones with blotches, do you know that as well? You know what you are hearing when they are mentioned.

Juuki: There are differences the ones that are almost all black are huge some have long tusks and those with blotches are the same...they are all narwhal but they don't seem to be related.

Sheila: Yes, they usually are not together?

Juuki: They are together sometimes they also get white when they are old those are called 'ones that have turned white'.

Sheila: Is that so, they have turned white?

Juuki: Yes, their tusks are long they are easy to notice. When there are ones that have turned white their muktaaq has turned white.

Sheila: Are they more fidgety?

Juuki: What?

Sheila: They are harder to get?

Juuki: Yes, they are harder to get and sometimes they get easier to get maybe because they are trying to be under water too long they need air, even when it took that long before they need air.

Sheila: I have no more questions if you want to add anything you can do so or what I did not ask anything, you can say what you are thinking.

Juuki: That is all I have...the bullets in the stores are useless as they cannot kill, the stores or co-op should order bullets that have a sharp end...how do we say it...the narwhal get lost if they did not die right away maybe we would not lose as many by sinking if the stores get those bullets.

Sheila: What kind of bullets do you use?

Juuki: 375, 300, 7.62, those calibers, 243 is the minimum, we are not allowed to use the ones with a caliber below that. I think 243 was the minimum.

Sheila: What about 6.5?

Juuki: The 6.5 caliber is good to hunt narwhal.

Sheila: What are the bullets like? They are pointy?

Juuki: They have a hard bullet.

Sheila: The ones that are pointy better?

Juuki: Yes, those with an exploding bullet tend to let the narwhal to get lost and we end up losing them even if we should have gotten them. Sometimes there are the ones that did not die right away that have drifted ashore especially when they are migrating south that have died later and sometimes we use nets we never lose them when using nets...with a smaller mesh we are told not to get calves...they just hit the net and turn away where their heads cannot go through the mesh.

Sheila: What kind of nets? The ones used for narwhal?

Juuki: They are kind of thick black one are good. I used to see the same ones in Pangnirtung they have them in HTO, maybe in the fish plant.

Sheila: I never looked. Do you have anything else to say?

Juuki: I don't seem to have anything else to say.

Sheila: Yes, I have no more questions thank you very much for coming.

Philipoosie Sanguya

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of Narwhal

Sheila: Can you say who you are, where and when you were born?

Philipoosie: My name is Philipoosie Sanguya I was born in Clyde River, I am originally from Clyde River I was born in 1963.

Sheila: When, how long have you been here?

Philipoosie: I came here in 1989.

Sheila: '63, what month?

Philipoosie: April.

Sheila: April?

Philipoosie: 20.

Sheila: Since you came here have you been hunting narwhal?

Philipoosie: Yes, I have been hunting narwhal since I came here as well as in Clyde River.

Sheila: If you can answer these questions you can do that if you cannot answer them it is okay. What kind of changes have you noticed in the environment since you've been here? For example the thickness of the ice, does the ice form faster or does the ice form later?

Philipoosie: The ice is forming later also it doesn't get thick anymore.

Sheila: What is the cause of it?

Philipoosie: May the current, the current is stronger.

Sheila: Is that so, since then?

Philipoosie: Yes.

Sheila: Do you think that has affected the narwhal? Has the migration or characteristics of narwhal changed?

Philipoosie: There doesn't seem to be any change that I've seen, the narwhal are always moving they don't stay in the same spot.

Sheila: You don't think the condition of the ice hasn't affected them?

Philipoosie: Yes, I don't think the condition of the ice has affected them.

Sheila: Are there any changes in their migration during spring or fall?

Philipoosie: The only changes are the requirement of tags, since they are needed people don't go to the floe edge anymore because of the tags.

Sheila: Tags?

Philipoosie: Yes.

Sheila: Where is the floe edge?

Philipoosie: They go up to Home Bay to hunt from the floe edge.

Sheila: They are not going as often?

Philipoosie: They are not going as often because of the tags.

Sheila: Since you moved here have the tags been around?

Philipoosie: Yes, the tags are always required since they were changed to the summer tags and fall tags for the narwhal they are not hunting as often at the floe edge.

Sheila: They are hunted more during the fall?

Philipoosie: Yes, here they are hunting narwhal during the fall when they are still close by.

Sheila: The narwhal probably have a calving area, do you know where they give birth?

Philipoosie: I really don't know where they have their calves.

Sheila: You've never witness a birth?

Philipoosie: Yes, I've never witness it.

Sheila: You have never heard when they give birth or where the calving areas are?

Philipoosie: Yes, I have never heard.

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal go during the winter?

Philipoosie: Yes, they go off shore here into the open water.

Sheila: There have never been ice entrapments?

Philipoosie: Yes, I have never seen ice entrapments here but I've wondered.

Sheila: Are there any changes in the number that you know of every year?

Philipoosie: It is different every year sometimes there are lots sometime they are fewer that is always happening.

Sheila: Have there been any change in the behaviour of the narwhal in the last ten years that you know of?

Philipoosie: There doesn't seem to be any change the ones with tusks come later during the fall, that is always happening.

Sheila: They are not decreasing or increasing?

Philipoosie: They are increasing as the ones with tusks are growing as we don't get as many without tusks.

Sheila: Are there any changes when they are migrating during spring or fall? When they are together, those that come first you mentioned and the ones that come after are there changes too?

Philipoosie: There is not that much change but when they are hunted they tend to disperse but when they are not hunted they are together.

Sheila: How are the first ones and the second ones different?

Philipoosie: The first ones don't have tusks they usually come first the small ones with tusks have short tusks. The second ones are usually adult males when they arrive.

Sheila: You'd think they would come first as they would know more according to what Inuit think. Those as you said the first ones and the second ones are different, do you know how they are different, from the appearances of the ones with tusks?

Philipoosie: I have not really noticed those that arrive first are usually smaller in size and darker the ones that come later we call them adult males are lighter in appearance.

Sheila: Have you every heard of the ones that are black and huge?

Philipoosie: Yes, I've seen them at the floe edge, but they usually don't appear here.

Sheila: They usually don't come through here?

Philipoosie: Yes, they usually don't come through here, they appear on the floe edge in Home Bay.

Sheila: You mentioned you were originally from Clyde River, when you lived there did you hunt narwhal at the floe edge in Home Bay?

Philipoosie: Once, no, I used to go narwhal hunting during the spring, there used to be narwhal in the inlet all the time.

Sheila: Near Clyde River?

Philipoosie: Yes, in the inlet.

Sheila: Do you think they are the same ones that come through here?

Philipoosie: Yes, they are the same ones that migrate from there during fall when they are on their way to the open water they come through here near the land.

Sheila: Can you estimate during the winter when they are in open water where they are closest to? Have you noticed or heard?

Philipoosie: Using computers we see them they stay off shore near here. Perhaps they don't stay in the same area but the ones that have been tagged stay around here off shore.

Sheila: Have you heard of the ones that have been tagged if they were tagged here or in which community?

Philipoosie: No, there was a plan to do that in Home Bay, the researchers don't really know about Home Bay when they do a study on narwhal. They were planning to do that up there but I have heard nothing since if they did that.

Sheila: I really don't have any more questions if you would like to add anything you can.

Philipoosie: I really don't want to add anything.

Sheila: What?

Philipoosie: I don't think there is any more to add.

Sheila: These same questions are being asked when they want to add anything they can in the communities up there I really don't have any questions now.

Philipoosie: There is always open water up there in Home Bay. When we met with DFO they could not understand because they don't know that there are always narwhal there in Home Bay, we tried to get summer tags from there because they are always there. There is always a floe edge up there it was difficult the migration tags are used up there.

Sheila: Is there a polynya up in Home Bay?

Philipoosie: Yes, there is a strong current there.

Sheila: Because there are lots of marine mammals that prevent the ice to form?

Philipoosie: There is always a floe edge during the winter, spring, even right after ice formed it is further away, when spring arrives the floe edge is closer.

Sheila: The floe edge seems to come closer?

Philipoosie: Yes, it is getting closer, we used to have to go far to hunt at the floe edge we could barely see the land.

Sheila: There seems to be two different ones according to what you said, the ones for spring and fall when you can hunt narwhal, the ones up there, if you get them from up there, when does that happen? During spring or?

Philipoosie: During spring when we are hunting at the floe edge, migratory ones are used when summer arrives we use the ones for the summering ones.

Sheila: Up there?

Philipoosie: Yes.

Sheila: Those when they are migrating through here they are included?

Philipoosie: The ones for the migratory ones are used.

Sheila: I see, do you have anything else to say?

Philipoosie: No.

Robbie Qullualik

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit of Narwhal

Sheila: Can you say who you are, where you were born and when?

Robbie: I am Robbie Qullualik I was born in Pangnirtung 1979, November 13.

Sheila: Did you grow up here?

Robbie: Yes.

Sheila: Were you adopted or were you raised in Pangnirtung and moved here?

Robbie: I was adopted.

Sheila: These questions are not hard, please answer the ones you can.

Robbie: Yes.

Sheila: First, what changes have you noticed in the environment? For example the thickness of the ice, does the ice form earlier or does it form later?

Robbie: From what I've seen, the ice is forming later and when there was a scientist studying the ice maybe four years ago using them the ice is gone a little earlier now by a few days, every year the days are fewer than four when the ice is gone later.

Sheila: What, you know this?

Robbie: Yes, since the scientists came here, before they came we started noticing that the ice was gone earlier.

Sheila: How old were you, maybe you go hunting all the time, when you started hunting narwhal?

Robbie: I was 14 when I got my first narwhal.

Sheila: Yes, with you father?

Robbie: Yes.

Sheila: You've always gone since then?

Robbie: I used his name when I got my first narwhal, before I got my hunting licence from the HTO.

Sheila: Since you've known has the migration and characteristics of narwhal changed?

Robbie: I have never wondered about that where the government is say that they are declining but if they are declining, I don't think they are going to disappear even when we remove some they don't seem to be declining is what I can say.

Sheila: Yes, has there been any change during spring or fall migration patterns?

Robbie: Perhaps its been two years they are late by more than a week that's what I've noticed when they should have arrived they haven't arrived yet.

Sheila: Is that right? What do you think is the cause?

Robbie: Killer whales, when people start seeing killer whales some don't make it here.

Sheila: Is that right?

Robbie: Where we go hunting narwhal when they should have arrived they can't make it when they should have arrived a week ago, then some report that there are killer whales there so they haven't make this far yet.

Sheila: I see. There are killer whales that come here now?

Robbie: There are more now, they are seen more often and they are close, the killer whales seem to be coming closer that are seen.

Sheila: Have you seen them?

Robbie: Yes, when we were hunting narwhal they used to come near when they were going after the narwhal.

Sheila: I see, they don't bother the boats?

Robbie: When they are going after the prey, that seems to be the case, but I don't know how, they say that they are dangerous maybe when there is just a boat and no prey.

Sheila: I see, do they seem to be bothered by killer whales more?

Robbie: Yes, from what I remember they used to arrive at the end of September maybe in the last 20 years between 10, 20 years, they used to arrive at the end of September but now they now arrive in early October we used to get snow at the end of September but now we don't get snow only in October.

Sheila: Even the arrival of snow is obvious?

Robbie: Yes, there are others as well that are occuring later the arrival of snow, the longer it takes for the ice to leave, formation of the ice, even our tides are different every year.

Sheila: I was waiting for the tide to go down, it seems it doesn't have low tide.

Robbie: When I started going hunting I remember in the last 20 years the low tide used to be one foot but now it goes down further that is what I can say when one is not from a community with big tides it seems to go way down.

Sheila: Do you know if the narwhal have calving areas?

Robbie: I've noticed one area where they have calves it was three or four years ago that I first noticed where they have calves. I didn't know that part of where we go hunting for narwhal is also a calving area it is called 'Itirviluk'. It had small narwhals when we were there they were all small ones, some yearlings some two year olds, there were no other narwhal there were no big ones and there were lots of small ones.

Sheila: Where is that? Up there? What part of Home Bay?

Robbie: In the inlet off Home Bay.

Sheila: I see that is what it is called. Even during calving time do they hunt narwhal?

Robbie: I have never noticed them being hunted down here. We go way up there to hunt narwhal, we don't go after the small ones we only go after the large ones that we can use here. When someone is yearning for them we do go after there up there.

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal go during winter?

Robbie: For more than five years, I have tracked the ones that have been tagged to monitor their movements using a computer. They stay around here, the five that were tagged I can see where they are. There is one that goes down to Cumberland Sound and return and three of them stay around here near us some go near Arctic Bay during the winter the ones I track.

Sheila: They go way up there during the winter?

Robbie: Yes.

Sheila: I see. The ones that have been tagged are visible the ones that have no tags are not?

Robbie: Some are not visible, only those that have been tagged.

Sheila: Are there changes in numbers every year? Do the numbers seem to have changed?

Robbie: I don't think I can respond to that accurately. When they arrive every year sometimes I hear from others when they recognize them, they say that these came through here last year through CB Radios and I cannot say whether they have changed. From what I've seen when the young ones are being born I can say that they seem to be increasing.

Sheila: Are there any changes in the characteristics of the narwhal in the last ten years?

Robbie: Yes, there is a small change, I can say that when I first started hunting narwhal the adult males are almost all black in the back but now they are still black there are lots of them that have scars that is the change that I can say.

Sheila: Are the scars results of predators or guns?

Robbie: Most of them are from guns and the ones that polar bears went after have scratch marks that we see more often now.

Sheila: The scars have healed?

Robbie: They heal soon as when one has a cut and have been exposing the cut to salt water it heals fast, that must be the case as well for narwhal.

Sheila: Are there any changes in the stocks when they are migrating during spring or fall? For example these first ones to arrive these ones that come after are different, are there more in these ones or fewer.

Robbie: When I first started hunting narwhal even when they tend to dive they seem to be easier to get. Now they are very hard to get as they seem to move everywhere. It used to be easy to follow them when they were moving just forward but now they tend to turn when they are in an inlet they go from one side to the other, that is the change I've notice.

Sheila: Have you noticed, as I have heard that the first ones to arrive are smaller in size and are they females?

Robbie: Yes, they are smaller in size some have short tusks that arrive first during the fall when they are migrating they tend to arrive first. The adult males come later that arrive here.

Sheila: Through this channel?

Robbie: Yes, or somewhere down there that is quite far, when some are hunting down there they see them even when they did not come through here.

Sheila: You mentioned that when the killer whales were around they arrive later, when the killer whales around do they come through here or outside?

Robbie: I can say through here, when we are expecting them to come through here when someone who is hunting toward Padlavik have seen killer whales when the narwhal are near us they tend to stay around. They don't want to leave the inlet and go to open water that is what I've seen and when we try to herd them out they come back that is how we know that killer whales are near.

Sheila: You've seen killer whales?

Robbie: Yes.

Sheila: Do they come in large numbers?

Robbie: I've seen them once when there were nine of them.

Sheila: Were they together?

Robbie: They were together.

Sheila: That is amazing. You've hunted narwhal along with them?

Robbie: Yes.

Sheila: What are the differences between narwhal? For example, black ones, the visible characteristics, have you seen others?

Robbie: Yes, there are different narwhal, there are different names now, there are adult males, black ones, the ones with blotches there are also two that I have seen that look like bowhead whales, they are as big as bowhead whales they are huge narwhal that are always with other narwhal. The narwhal even the large ones that they are with seem to be small compared to them.

Sheila: They are narwhal?

Robbie: They are narwhal.

Sheila: The species seem to have leaders where the leader is followed have you seen this?

Robbie: Through here, I have noticed when they will be passing through during the fall when we are expecting them they see one narwhal all by itself and when we go to another inlet there is one seen also that seem to be watching. I think they are watching for something before the rest come through.

Sheila: What is their appearance, have that been mentioned?

Robbie: They have blotches, the back has black blotches the one that has turned light in color they tend to be like that when they arrive alone, I think they are the guards.

Sheila: I don't have anymore questions. If you want to add anything please do.

Robbie: Yes, are you going to be asking soon? Maybe next year?

Sheila: I cannot say when, these will be discussed in September meeting they will be used in the future but I cannot say when.

Robbie: It has been around 25 years since I've been hunting narwhal. I cannot say if there are any changes but I've wondered if the noise pollution as changed them.

Sheila: What about during the spring when the ice is around here and just outside, do you hunt through there?

Robbie: The floe edge is far away during the spring. There are some sometimes it is difficult to get there as the ice is rough. We go up to Home Bay to hunt through the floe edge.

Sheila: Way up there, you can also get some?

Robbie: Our hunting areas seem to be all far from here, it is fun when you are a hunter even when it is far. I have never noticed anyone going elsewhere to hunt through the floe edge near here, we only go up near Home Bay.

Sheila: When you are up there do you meet people from Clyde River?

Robbie: This past spring when we were up there we met 15 from Clyde River.

Sheila: That is incredible. Did you travel by snowmobiles?

Robbie: Yes.

Sheila: I have no more questions, if you don't want to add anything else I am done. What you've noticed the one you mentioned are a bit different from what I have heard and they will be of great assistance. Thank you.

Jaypetie Nukiruaq

Qikiqtarjuaq, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit of Narwhal

Jaypetie: Different species of wildlife always return to where they were born. Because the wildlife don't have to follow others they have to have a range where they go. Here where people think there are narwhal or where they go narwhal hunting every year, we get narwhal from Lancaster Sound according to what DFO says. Us Inuit who live in the arctic from what we know from those who have passed on who we went with when they were around we learned from them. They have to be researched so they can say what is true they need to ask the Inuit in the communities what they think. I think that they come from Home Bay, the people who lived up there in Home Bay what they have said I have them too. They are not from here they lived in Clyde River they tend to go there as they lived near Home Bay, they also said the same thing. They say that the narwhal are there throughout the summer. Yes, when we were gathering what we are learning as I mentioned from the elders who have passed on what they said and from those who lived there we are finding out and collecting them even though I don't say them to anyone maybe they are true. The narwhal don't go to one place to stay there some go up Baffin Bay. If DFO can produce something that is more believable to Inuit who live there, they will be able to say what is more accurate. Even when they say, as they often do, that we get narwhal from Lancaster Sound. We don't believe them as we have seen everytime where the narwhal are, what place and water body. There would be more accurate information if we get it from NWMB, HTOs, we have to be considered first us beneficiaries we have to be consulted first that is what we want here in Qikiqtarjuaq, we don't want to see what has not been planned properly but because we are here. When it was still NWT people would arrive who had an agenda to deal with that is good because planning in the communities as you are doing is good. They first have to come from NWMB before they go to DFO, because they have to be first.

Sheila: First I want to say that in June when we had a meeting in Cambridge Bay the DFO presented survey results to NWMB that will need a decision but when we were there there was nothing which included Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the report. That is what my job is as Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Coordinator on

the wildlife issues I had to do something whether to gather or delegate it to someone if I couldn't do it myself. I don't have much time as they have to be done by August 26, as we will have a meeting in September, they three communities wanted this by hiring interviewers, I have been asked to come here so I am here. I will be presenting these in a report to the board, they will be used to make decisions by the board that is how we planned it. We worked on the questions that would be useful before we got a response from the communities. You can answer what you are able to if you cannot answer them you don't need to if you want to add anything you can if what you want to say are not included here and I forgot to mention to those I interviewed once the report is completed copies will be sent to the HTOs and the tapes will not be available to anyone other than the employees before they request it from us, they have to ask us first, when we are asked them then, we have get permission from those that were interviewed, and if they say yes we can give them out.

Jaypetie: I have worked for the government over twenty years I have kept what I've seen since then and my fellow Inuit what they say kept coming up. Yes, I don't know much about narwhal because wildlife cannot say where they are going but we have to work harder to document what we have seen and come up with better suggestions in our communities and the younger generation. The world will end I don't know when but for us hunters how can we make sure that what we are doing is not affecting the wildlife unfavourably. If there was an oil spill they will be affected those kind of things. But for us since we don't have that here also if the land shifts what would happen....but the ones that have to be managed should be dealt with would be preferable because we don't know what is going to happen. What I have heard, what I have seen, observed and would it be better this way that is what we have to do together in our communities as hunters so they will be around. What I am saying is that the wildlife have to have clean habitat as we do while we are living on land we also want to live in a clean land. Our ancestors our mothers, grandfathers because it was more difficult they did not live like us those are the things that include a lot of things, yes what kind of questions are you asking?

Sheila: Here are the questions in writing. The first one, what changes have you noticed in the environment? For example the thickness of the ice, does the ice form earlier or does it take longer to form?

Jaypetie: It is not just from me what I have gotten it came from an elder who have passed on what he said and from what I was told by an elder he also learned from his ancestors up to now. What he asked me, even when you don't try to observe when living off the open water it is obvious, that is what I said. What I have noticed up to now from what the elder had noticed he asked me about it. The day from that time up to now I have kept. I try to find out even without saying it to anyone else but I went to a meeting with our mayor about climate change in March. I said to the delegates, some of it is not from my knowledge as Inuit knowledge is not written it is oral that is the only way it can come up. There is nothing in written form so what I will say regarding the change in the land, I will be talking about land first, yes the land is changing that is what I heard from the elder which is true. As I mentioned earlier when one lives off the open water trying to see what is happening in a year, yes it is changing slowly in where we live since we moved here do you see those buildings where they Dew Line build? We could not see them from here the only visible was the top of the dome that is what the elder said that is the difference what he noticed...We moved here when we could not see those mountains behind there, now they are visible. That is also the case up there where they were not visible the tops of them, maybe between Greenland and Baffin Island the sea bed is rising. It is rising here in the sea, maybe because the sea bed is rising. The sea line is rising while up there is where the waves are, that is what the elder said. He asked me if I've noticed that, I responded by say no. Yes he said it was changing. If you are on the other side of Baffin Island, it is not noticeable as it is more in the interior but when you live off the open water it is noticeable because the sea is rising, maybe the low tide is also getting bigger. That is what I have noticed in the environment. That is what I can say as the low tide is getting bigger every year I think that is the reason. This is half of what I mentioned earlier as the low tide is getting bigger as does the high tide. But I really don't know this has never been studied. When we went to a meeting I said everything when we try to find out we can get what we can use from what we said of what we know. We mentioned what we've seen regarding the changes. What was said can be used when putting together what can be more believable by those who live down south. Something can be produced in the arctic but because we don't live in the same place you are only asking the communities which is good. The communities have to be consulted as they live here all their lives. Our environment is first but I have noticed that the ice is forming later since then. The ice is forming later because we now go

boating when in the past the ice should have formed because the ice used to form in September. Now it is not like that anymore that is what we notice in the environment near our community. I also said regarding climate change when we went to the meeting, why is it like that? As I mentioned we can come up with solutions I said that the sun, according to months and time it is getting behind that is what we've noticed whereas before when June came around as it does every year it used to be in June during the night the ice would freeze, the snow is on top of the ice that is not happening anymore, the time used to be on time according to the sun at 6:00 a.m. the sun would start rising according to the clock, now at 6:00 a.m. the sun is over there now between 9 and 10. This can be believable how the environment has changed that is not known as it has never been studied. That is what I have noticed that the ice is forming later since then and I can say by guessing as we just estimate while we are living. But we also need these, the temperature is never the same and within months the cloud cover and clear sky are different. Sometimes the ice is thinner even though it is forming later maybe because it was snowing more there are layers, if the weather is clear longer the ice gets thicker that is always happening but the changes in our community is also obvious from what we've heard from the elders, yes I tend to say that I have noticed from that time up to today, the time and the months are behind the sun that is what we never heard about the change in the environment being said. Because there is nothing to work with as they've never been studied. I also mentioned that when we were in a meeting about climate change, yes, that is what I've noticed.

Sheila: According to these changes has the migration and characteristics of narwhal changed?

Jaypetie: Not really is all I can say, still, all wildlife cannot say when they would be passing through. But we can say what we've noticed and seen the narwhal do come through around the same time. We get narwhal at that time in September, they come through around the same time we get narwhal in September it has always been like that. That is the migration of narwhal they do not come through all at once, their migration is coming soon or I can say that it is getting close at around the same time in September, that is when they arrive.

Sheila: Has there been any change in their migration during spring or fall?

Jaypetie: During spring we don't often go to the floe edge sometimes we do as there are lots of ice bergs down at the open water the ice doesn't start shifting even though that is not always the case. This past spring the floe edge was close when it usually doesn't happen, even when it was close we did not see many narwhal. I also believe that narwhal, even though I've never seen it but those who have passed on what they have said I can only say that narwhal only travel through open water. As I mentioned we are near the peninsula up north from us is windier up toward where the narwhal stay is closer. We used to go up there during spring in June, yes, there were always narwhal there as I mentioned they travel through open water. The narwhal go through open water along floe edge further up. They travel through there on their way to summering area some way up to Lancaster Sound, that is all I can say. There is something else as we don't stay up there every day we know that the narwhal go up there during springtime.

Sheila: During the fall when they come through here has that changed?

Jaypetie: Not really, they come through here in September, October when they are migrating yes, that hasn't really changed from what I've seen since when we first lived here. Yes, I can also say that they are just following the forming of the ice. If they were over there in the inlet they know when the ice will be forming even though they cannot talk. The species know as long as there is nothing that they are scared of around along their path because they live in the water they know when the ice is forming or breaking up. When the ice is forming during the fall if they are in the inlets they tend to leave the area as long as there is nothing that they are scared of present. If the predators were around they would get entrapped in ice that is what I can say.

Sheila: Have you ever seen them entrapped in ice?

Jaypetie: I haven't seen any that were trapped in ice but I have seen an area where they might have been entrapped in ice. I noticed it from an airplane, I thought that it would not be like that if it was caused by a seal and when summer came around the narwhal that were caught in Home Bay their muktaaq was not good.

Sheila: I see you saw that area near here?

Jaypetie: No, up north of us where I saw it from an airplane more than once. After I heard during the summer when they were hunting narwhal near Home Bay I thought maybe they were entrapped in ice during early winter or in

December, yes I think it was in December or late November. We went up there in early January as we were asked to go, the floe edge had formed quite close maybe when there was ice entrapment. However, I saw them in June from an airplane, when summer came around that same year the narwhal that were caught the muktaaq was no good.

Sheila: Were they all scarred?

Jaypetie: Yes, they were rubbing against something maybe where they were entrapped because the muktaaq tend to get scratched even when we pull them ashore.

Sheila: Do you know where they give birth?

Jaypetie: What?

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal give birth?

Jaypetie: Yes, I've observed them, the narwhal, I am not just making this up. My ancestors the ones I went along with, elders who have passed on from our community and I also know that anyone cannot say accurately even those with a lot of knowledge who have gone to university would say what is untruth. As I mentioned the wildlife have different thoughts because they live in the water from birth. The timing has to change as the narwhal give birth anytime not just during a specific time.

Sheila: I see.

Jaypetie: Yes, that is why they are increasing as they give birth anytime. As I mentioned they know where they were born as they sensed the water they have to return to the same area as their ancestors have gone there from way back. Yes, narwhal give birth anytime so that is the reason why they are increasing. If narwhal were like Inuit but they shouldn't be like Inuit as they are wildlife species, if they give birth during a certain time they would not be increasing that fast.

Sheila: Yes.

Jaypetie: Even when we observed them once we can say but from what I've heard they give birth anytime that has been observed.

Sheila: When did you observed them?

Jaypetie: At the floe edge in June.

Sheila: I see.

Jaypetie: From what I have heard they give birth anytime, because the narwhal are many, if there were a lot of Inuit they would produce many children, the wildlife are like that too but the seals are different. The difference is that, but I cannot say it accurately, from what we've observed and can use, the seals have to build an area where they will give birth.

Sheila: I see.

Jaypetie: Also they have to give birth during this month and after that happens according to their way the fur of a seal has to change before summer. They will have to spend the time on the ice during June that is the difference in all wildlife species. The polar bear also give birth once during the year they are different from marine species. Yes, I can say that from what I have heard but I have observed it in June and I think the narwhal give birth anytime as they are increasing.

Sheila: Have there been narwhal hunts near the one that is giving birth? Do people hunt narwhal near the calving area?

Jaypetie: I really don't know, that time when we were at the floe edge that did not happen because we know when they are about to give birth they tend to stay afloat. However they are visible that don't come out right away as they are marine mammals it depends on the temperature of the water, when the water is too cold they don't come out right away that is what I think. But I don't want to say that is the truth, as I mentioned the wildlife species cannot talk we only know what we've seen with our eyes that is how I can estimate that they do that. That is what happened during this month that's all we can say yes, I haven't observed if they've caught narwhal or maybe I haven't seen that happening. I have never observed from my fellow hunters that hunt narwhal that are doing that but I know that they don't dive when they are giving birth.

Sheila: They don't want to dive?

Jaypetie: What?

Sheila: They don't want to dive?

Jaypetie: Yes, they don't want to dive, they will dive briefly and surface right away maybe that is their tradition also you females are the same, you don't hurry as that is uncomfortable they are all like that.

Sheila: Do you know where the narwhal go during the winter?

Jaypetie: I can only say what I have heard I don't know personally where they go as I mentioned during the summer following the ice break up on their way to their summering area. However during the winter they go to the same area where they will stay. Different species of wildlife go to the same area down there in our open water maybe because different species of wildlife have to be together in the same area during the winter. Also they know where they can eat where their prey are located and some people say that this area is where the narwhal are that we are not supposed to do anything on it in the open water that is all I can say. I've never been there I can only say that they spend the winter in the same area.

Sheila: The same way where they spend the summer?

Jaypetie: Yes, they same way as they have to migrate maybe there is another reason during the winter they stay in the same area as the prey are there also we have to move when it is time for us to move. Also different species of wildlife like bowhead whales go somewhere else because wildlife can communicate with others even when they are far away, I wonder why? Because the earth had magnetic poles that is how they can communicate. Also I don't think that has ever been studies done. They would have more tools to work with if DFO, the government while they are still living if the older ones that came before and those that came after are consulted more. All the species of wildlife like bowhead whales when they are close together or far away they can communicate in our waters as there is magnetic fields at the Arctic Circle that is the reason why our tides are small, I've only heard that they spend the winter in open water.

Sheila: Are there changes in numbers every year?

Jaypetie: On the narwhal?

Sheila: On the narwhal.

Jaypetie: Yes, I can only estimate from what I've seen and what I've heard from other hunters first up there in the high arctic on Devon Island, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River including Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord the water as I

have been there in the past as it is different in the arctic and now it is very different. Up in the high arctic when I lived in Resolute Bay in 1970s it was a lot colder, in the 1960s, 70s it used to be a lot colder. If the ice forms early the narwhal from there where they spend the winter they can migrate sooner, according to the forming of ice so the ones that migrate through here are in large numbers. Sometimes they come at different times as they don't come through at the same time. As I mentioned all species of wildlife don't come at the same time maybe because of where they came from. We should not go at the same time if we do we might go through confusion or dangerous area. Maybe that is the reason it is like that I don't know. I have noticed that sometimes they come at the same time in large numbers sometimes they seem to come at different times. As I mentioned if the ice forming up there is later than usual they come later. The narwhal don't move all at once, they go into inlets while they are feeding also perhaps during the summer when they start migrating to their wintering areas they have to eat too, so they are slow because of that. They will appear before the ice forms or when the ice is starting to form that is all I can say. They don't migrate at the same time the ones that spent the summer up there, we know that. All species of wildlife are like that.

Sheila: Are there any changes in the narwhal characteristics in the last ten years?

Jaypetie: Yes, I cannot respond to that accurately as there could be different reasons as there is nothing that we can use, that can be used by hunters, but there are those that have been tagged with satellite tags so I really cannot say if there are any changes in the narwhal characteristics in so many years.

Sheila: According to what you know in the last ten years.

Jaypetie: Yes, in some areas it doesn't happen all the time, but they do that most of the time the ones without tusks are mostly female, sometimes they are with those with tusks and they usually come first while the ones with tusks come after. There is also within that where if we have many children we love them so we don't want to leave them alone on the land maybe that is the case too with wildlife. That is the reason why the one we see seem to be different every year when the narwhal pass through here. They wait for the ones that are still up there. I also have noticed in an inlet there are black ones maybe they were born last year or the year before or they are from last year the ones that are together and stay in the inlets. They were there all

night those that were small black narwhal came from there, the ones with tusks one of them with two tusks the other with one came to get them.

Sheila: I see.

Jaypetie: When they went up there they were returning with them that is the difference we've seen as the narwhal come down from up there, they have to wait for those what I mentioned they know from the noises they make while they are under water, maybe they do that I really don't know.

Sheila: You have seen the ones with tusks that came to get them?

Jaypetie: Yes, that is what my father and I thought they were there all night that we did not go after when we were looking for other narwhal. They stayed there all night they did not go anywhere else when the two with tusks went there that we saw they were there for some time then they went out of the inlet together that is what we noticed. Maybe that is the difference every year they wait for the others as narwhal along with other species of wildlife if they are with the same narwhal, they stay with the same one from way back. Maybe they don't want to leave them just like Inuit. All species of wildlife are like that even the muskox are like that. Because if it gets hard they have to go elsewhere maybe because the narwhal is old I really don't know. If it was an Inuk we can notice but if we are going to talk about wildlife we cannot say accurately only what we've seen.

Sheila: Are there any changes in their migration during spring or fall?

Jaypetie: There is this that is up there, over here are the same. Yes, I can only say that the ones without tusks, ones with tusks that are short that does not happen all the time tend to arrive first and those with long tusks come later that is all I can say.

ᐅᐅ: This changes in the groups.

Jaypetie: Yes I understand that but I cannot really respond to it, but it would be different if I had taken photos last year and the year before of their flukes or their scars we would be able to know. They are the same ones every year is what I would be able to say, but I cannot really respond to it, because I would have something believable if I say those are the ones that I saw last year.

Sheila: What are their characteristics?

Jaypetie: What?

Sheila: You mentioned that the smaller ones usually arrive first the larger one come after the differences I also heard that some have become white are adult males their flippers are turned upward they also come through here?

Jaypetie: Yes, I said that all species of wildlife that have been together from the start they can stay together yes, sometimes they come at the same time those with tusks that have turned white, we call them that have turned white. Same with Inuit, wildlife can be the same. When we become old our hair turns white same with those that have turned white are old narwhal their body is getting looser maybe that is why their muktaaq turns white. When they are not as old their flippers and flukes are not the same. When they are younger they are straight and when they get older their flippers and flukes tend to curve and they are different. When they are younger before they get older, as they get older the males are different. There are different narwhal I think there are three or two different types of narwhal the ones I've seen. I am talking about narwhal, the black ones are black all over are huge even though they are narwhal that we usually don't see. Sometimes we see them, the ones that have turned white have lived a long time. The darker ones than those that have turned white is younger. Those small dark ones are younger that have not been around for many years those are the differences. I am just talking about those that just got their tusks, some females have tusks are few their tusks are different from the males. Maybe there are few of them that are like that, they have been caught the female with a tusk.

Sheila: How is the tusk different?

Jaypetie: It is straighter and thinner that is how it was made. I don't think they are all like that, narwha have been caught where it is a female with a tusk but thinner where the male narwhal their tusks are thicker. Yes, I can say that if the information come through NWMB that came from our communities, from the Inuit in the communities we like them more after they have been consulted. This is where the Inuit live, if you are from Iqaluit, I really don't know about Iqaluit also because you are not from here you really don't know the community so if the Inuit were giving information we would have better tools that are more straight forward through what the Inuit want, that is what I think.

Sheila: We are trying to get there but slowly, where we can recognize the same thing, understand the same thing that is what we are trying to do. What makes it slow is that the government as well as DFO they don't have Inuit employees who work on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit even when they say they are serving the Inuit. But in some areas they miss the information because they don't go through the ones they are serving when they are developing plan but they know now when they give proposals to NWMB their submissions if the information came from studies according to Inuit, they know that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has to be included. It is slow but it is getting better slowly and they now respect the hunters, as the results will affect all harvesters all across Nunavut.

Jaypetie: Of course, as I mentioned I have worked on this for some time, I was a member of the HTO and in the government in the senior level, yes, it used to be like that as we had one level of government, NWT, they have to develop plans for the communities because they are the government. Since we got Nunavut and NTI the Nunavut government and federal government have since found out but they still need to learn maybe, since Nunavut was created, the Inuit who live in the arctic got jobs with the government, or federal government for us that have a government and the creators of government who want them to follow the creators NTI perhaps should be the ones that have to make the decisions. Because we are the government some of it though slow is being understood of what you said yes. That is being understood, we are just employees here are the ones that we had to follow when we get Nunavut they are listed with proposed bills but for us we now have to hear from here first. They have to consult the communities that way they can develop plans sooner if they worked together with those from here. There are many communities, they should hear from the HTOs at their workplace, that is what I have been thinking that they would get results faster that are in the bills. They should work that way, they still work the old way following what the previous government had set I think that is the reason why they are slow. They should try and work faster this way the results would come sooner. Inuit are saying when is our land claims agreement going to be used, that is what all the Inuit are saying. Inuit are saying that they don't look to the government because that is not their tradition I think that is why everything is slow.

Sheila: Thank you very much Jaypetie. I was going to ask you when were you born, where were you born when I wrote your name down.

Jaypetie: I was born in Pangnirtung.

Sheila: When?

Jaypetie: I am old now, July 7, 1953.

Sheila: Thank you very much for taping you.