Inuit Safety – Arctic Ice Breakers

- Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers Organization
- Transport Canada
- Wildlife Conservation Society
PROACTIVE VESSEL MANAGEMENT
A collaborative approach for vessel traffic management
VICTORIA ISLAND WATERWAYS SAFETY COMMITTEE

PRIORITIES

1. Increase communication with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) regarding ice breaking activities;

2. Mitigating (proactively) the potential negative impacts of ice breaking on the migration of the *Dolphin and Union* caribou, safety of hunters and travelers and to local food security;

3. Identify safe harbors (i.e. cabins) along the waterway that hunters and travelers can access when experiencing poor or uncertain weather conditions.
PROBLEM

Ice breaking in the Western Kitikmeot region presents a potential risk to people and Dolphin and Union caribou crossing back and forth to the mainland and to local food security.
“The solitude of the north is changing. George Angohiatok noticed this quite graphically a decade ago when, after returning to Cambridge Bay, he observed an ice breaker moving through the same frozen waterways he had travelled by snow machine the day before.

If the vessel had smashed that open lead through the frozen veneer of ice a day earlier, he would have been cut off for at least a few weeks until the ice refroze. George wonders whether, even with his headlights, he would have detected the steam that signals the transition from ice to water in winter through his goggles.”
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS

1. Define the East-West boundary;
2. Time window of caribou on ice in fall and in spring;
3. Time window of people on ice in winter; and
4. Vessel actions if in passage during “sensitive period”
SPRING MIGRATION OF CARIBOU

Spring 2015-2018

Spring 1999-2006
LES DONNÉES DE CETTE CARTE REFLETTENT L’INFORMATION PROVENANT DES RAPPORTS DU SYSTÈME D’IDENTIFICATION AUTOMATIQUE (SIA) POUR LES NAVires, SOIT À LA FOIS DES RAPPORTS DE SATELLITES (SIA SPATIAL) ET DES RAPPORTS DE TOURS RADIO (SIA TERRESTRE).
Current Status

- NOTICE TO MARINERS provides guidance that mitigates effects of ice breaking on the migration of the *Dolphin and Union* caribou, safety of hunters and travelers, and to local food security;
- Presented at CMAC in November 2019 by Beverly Maksagak, Manager of the EHTO;
- Inclusion in the Canadian Coast Guard Annual Notice to Mariners Guide 2020.

Next Steps

- Engage Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk in regional effort to avoid inconsistencies across Nunavut.
THANK YOU

Contact:
Beverly Maksagak, Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization
cambay@krwb.ca

Martin Robards, Wildlife Conservation Society
mrobards@wcs.org