Labrador – Island Transmission Link

Aboriginal Communities and Land Use Component Study – Addendum/Erratum

1. Additional information on the study team for the Aboriginal Communities and Land Use Component Study

Nalcor has used a variety of information sources, including: data gathered directly from an Aboriginal group, community or organization; information produced by an Aboriginal group, community or organization; information produced by third parties (e.g., government information, academic research) and information shared by an Aboriginal group, community or organization with Nalcor during its consultation activities.

The component study preparation was led by Gale Warren, BA (Hons), MA (Aboriginal Relations Lead, Environment and Aboriginal Affairs, Lower Churchill Project, Nalcor Energy) and Mary Hatherly BA, LLB, LLM (Aboriginal Agreements Lead, . Contributing authors included Elisabeth Poirier-Garneau, MEnv (Aboriginal Relations Coordinator, Environment and Aboriginal Affairs, Lower Churchill Project), Virginia Soehl, BSc, MRM (Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Engagement, Environment and Aboriginal Affairs, Lower Churchill Project), and Emma Sharkey, BA, MA (Aboriginal Relations Coordinator, Environment and Aboriginal Affairs, Lower Churchill Project).

2. Definition of contemporary land use

The year AD 1960 is generally used to define the beginning of the Contemporary Period, as it coincides with the time that the Innu were settled permanently in communities. Permanent settlement resulted in a number of notable changes to their long-standing patterns of land use and harvesting.

However, to focus the baseline on "current" land use, the last 20 years was used as the time period for the baseline description for land use. Where such information was not available, the more general definition was used with dates of land use data indicated where relevant and available.

3. Location of Kawawachikamach

Figure 1.2 incorrectly showed the location of Kawawachikamach as being west of Matimekush (Schefferville). This has been corrected and the figure has been revised (see attached).

4. Erratum

Innu Nation has commented that the spelling of *mushan* on page 96 is incorrect and that it should be *makushan*. However, Nalcor did properly reference the word, and it is spelled correctly according to the reference (Speck 1977).

5. Additional Information on the Contemporary Land Use by the Innu of Ekuanitshit based on Hydro Quebec (2007)

Information on contemporary land use by the Innu of Ekuanitshit was collected as part of the environmental assessment for Hydro-Quebec's La Romaine hydroelectric project. The following additional information has been extracted from that report.

Ekuanitshit is an Innu community and Reserve located on Québec's Lower North Shore. The Innu of Ekuanitshit have a traditional territory that extends from the coast of the St. Lawrence Gulf up along the Romaine, Puyjalon, Magpie, Saint-Jean and Manitou rivers and into Labrador. The Romaine River Basin constitutes an important region for the practice of traditional, cultural, social, economic and subsistence activities. The ensemble of traditional activities tied to the land is referred to as *Innu Aitun*. These activities occur as part of a seasonal cycle: hunting and trapping of furbearing animals take place in the fall and winter followed by hunting migratory birds in the spring, and fishing salmon and gathering with family over the summer months.

The Innu of Ekuanitshit make use of the Mingan division of the Saguenay Beaver Reserve. This area is 27,781 sq uare kilometers and consists of 32 traplines. According to the Hydro-Québec study, the main animals harvested are: caribou, beaver, Canada goose, Common Eider and other ducks, moose, porcupine, hare, snowy owl, salmon, ouananiche, brook trout, lake trout, whitefish, northern pike. The Innu of Ekuanitshit also harvest plants on their territory. Birch and larch are cut for heating, spruce and pine are used for making camps, and lingonberry and cloudberry are eaten. Other species of animals and plants are used in Innu pharmacology.

Caribou is important to the culture of the Innu of Ekuanitshit, however it is only present in the northern part of their territory. Declines in the population of woodland caribou have pushed the Innu of Ekuanitshit to conduct their community hunts further north along route 389 and shifting their focus from the solitary woodland caribou to the large herds of tundra caribou.

Since 2001, rising gas prices have reduced the number of trips onto the territory, with many preferring to travel to closer areas such as the Manitou, Allard, Puyjalon, and Bourassa lakes to hunt in the fall. These areas are well-serviced in terms of snowmobile access as well as having large beaver populations. Thus, the community has tended to trap beavers more intensely in these areas. Though this activity is particularly intense in these areas, beavers are pretty much trapped throughout the entire territory, which is not necessarily the case for other fur-bearing animals. The Innu of Ekuanitshit trap otter and marten in some places as well. Generally, trappers focus their activities in one area for two or three weeks and then change locations.

As with trapping, small game is hunted pretty much everywhere with higher intensity in some areas. Hunting small game and fishing with nets is often done near camps or small game trapping may also be frequently done along portage routes.

The Hydro-Québec study describes 7 Sections of the Romaine River watershed that are used for hunting, trapping, fishing, camping and other activities. These sections and main zones are outlined in Table 1.1.

Section	Zones	Description
Puyjalon Basin	 Lac Bourassa 	 Most southern section of the Romaine Basin and closest
	 Lac Puyjalon 	to Ekuanitshit community.
	 Lac Allard 	• Most heavily used section with large beaver population.
	• Lac Uffin	• Activities include trapping beaver and other furbearing
	 Lac Bat-le-Diable 	animals, hunting moose and small game, fishing brook
		trout and ouananiche, and picking lingonberries.

Table 1.1 Contemporary Land Use Zones in the La Romaine River Basin

		• Access by snowmobile, Tio mine railway and canoe, and
		hydroplane.
		• Community cabin on Lac Foin/Bourassa. Outfitter on Lac
		Allard.
Downstream	Grande Chute	Used year-round.
of	 Ile des Officiers 	 Salmon fishing and hunting small game, Canada goose,
the Romaine 1	• Ile	and trapping beaver, marten, otter, muskrat.
Reservoir	Mistaministujueuetshuan	 Access by boat, snowmobile.
Romaine 1	Lac Cormier	• The area is rarely used.
Reservoir	• Lac à l'Ours	 Access by snowmobile and canoe.
	 Lac du Vingt-Deuxième 	 Beaver and mink are trapped here and small game is
	Mille	hunted in the area. The Innu fish brook trout and
		ouananiche in the area.
		 Old camps present in area.
		 Non-native cabins built on old campsites at Lac Cormier.
Area North of	 Bassin des Murailles 	 Access by snowmobile.
the	 Lac Manapakuaniskau 	 Occasionally used for trapping and hunting moose.
Romaine 1		 Lac Manapakuaniskau less used after Innu from
Reservoir		Nutashkuan built cabin on lac Wakeham 20km NE.
Romaine 2	 Lac Boucher 	• Lac Boucher was intensely frequented until 1960s/70s.
Reservoir	 Lac Métivier 	Currently frequentation is low in the area,
	 Lac Sanson 	the same applies to lakes Abbé-Huard, Saumur and
	 Lac Nuhetihk 	Lesage.
	 Lacs de l'Abbé-Huard, 	 Community cabin on lac Métivier and healthy beaver
	Saumur and Lesage	population could bring modest activity to area.
	 Lacs Octave, Perugia, 	• Lac Sanson: regularly used for trapping beaver, marten,
	Kleczkowski and Bernard	otter and mink; hunting small game birds and waterfowl,
	 Lac Charles 	as well as for harvesting lingonberry.
		There are caribou in area, but they have not been hunted
		recently. Previously, 3 month long camps have been set up
		in the area.
		 Lac Nuhetihk: Trapping beaver, marten, otter and
		muskrat. Hunting small game birds. Fishing brook trout.
		There are caribou in the area but they have not been
		hunted recently. In the past, the site was used for a 3-
		month camp.
		• Lakes Octave, Perugia, Kleczkowski and Bernard accessed
		by plane and train. Trapping beaver, marten otter and
		muskrat as well as hunting small game.
		• East of lac Perugia known for often having caribou.
		 Lac Charles used regularly in fall for trapping beaver,
		marten and hunting small game. Innu do not fish at this
		lake. There are some caribou around the lake, but no kills
		have been recorded in recent years.
Romaine 3	• Lac Ledieu	• Frequented in fall for trapping, hunting and fishing.
Reservoir	 Lac Utshahkustukuaneu 	• Trapping beaver, marten (though not abundant in the
	Lac Desaulniers	area), muskrat, otter, fox, hunting small game and fishing

	• Lac Lacombe	brook trout.
	• Lac Iheuhkahiu	 Lac Iheuhkahiu: 3-month camp in 2005 with secondary
		camp. Trapping beaver, marten, hunting small game,
		harvesting blueberries.
Romaine 4	 Nahkuaikan area 	 Nahkuaikan: regularly used for trapping, fishing lake
Reservoir	 Kanehkuemiskaht (PK 	trout and ouananiche, hunting small game and moose.
	223, Romaine River)	Many old campsites some with high importance for
	 Lac Rougemont 	heritage. Ancestral canoe route used for cultural trips.
	 Lac Utukuanhek 	 Kanehkuemiskaht: Traditionally heavily used. Used
	• Lac	today in fall and accessed by plane for trapping beaver,
	Katahttauatshukunant	marten, snowshoe hare, hunting small game and fishing
	 Lac Norman 	lake trout. The mouth of rivière Touladi has been
	• Lac Barthe	identified as having heritage value.
	 Lac Coupeaux 	 Lac Rougemont: regularly used for trapping beaver,
	 Lacs Thévet and aux 	otter, marten, fishing lake trout, and hunting small game.
	Sauterelles	Ancient camp site refurbished.
	• Lacs Teuaikan, Garneau,	 Lac Utukuanhek: Trapping beaver, marten, and fox.
	Katnuapekahk Ministuk	Hunting caribou. Site of ancient gathering place with stone
	and others	seats and arrowheads. Probably used as place for ritual
		feasts.
		 Lac Katahttauatshukunant: important caribou passage.
		Not used today to allow population to stabilize.
		 Lac Norman: "Hatshiht" site known for fishing whitefish,
		ouananiche, northern pike, chub, lake trout, brook trout
		and tomcod.
		 Thévet and Sauterelles: regularly used. Known for
		caribou.

An 8th section is also described in the report along the coast of the Gulf of the Saint Lawrence. The coastal area is also described in some detail in the Hydro-Québec study. This area is important for the different function it plays as a waterfowl hunting site, harvesting area and summer gathering place. The Innu of Ekuanitshit use 16 cabins situated in the coastal zone to the East of Mingan River and close to Route 138. From late spring and through the summer, the Innu of Ekuanitshit hunt migratory birds that stop in the region. The hunting area is bounded by the rivière Corneille to the east and the Grand-Anse-du-Dock to the west with another popular site at Patterson Lake further to the west. Canada geese are hunted from April to May almost exclusively on the Plaines de la Romaine River and on Patterson Lake. Common Eider and other ducks are hunted throughout the summer and fall. The Innu of Ekuanitshit use various techniques for hunting waterfowl: patrolling the shore, hiding in blinds or shooting from a boat if the water access is good enough. More people hunt migratory birds than fur-bearing animals. In addition to hunters and trappers, elders and youths also participate. Hunting sites are public.

The Innu of Ekuanitshit also collect eggs along the south shore of Île-du-Havre-de-Mingan and Cayedes-Cochons. Canada goose and Common eider chicks are also harvested in August at Île-à– Bouleaux-de- Terre and Île-du-Havre. A small number of Innu of Ekuanitshit hunts seals. The furs are used by artisans in the community to make mittens and moccasins. Along the coast there also exist a few recognized spots for fishing whitefish and northern pike and for collecting cockles. Porcupines are also hunted here for meat.

Work Cited:

Hydro-Quebec. 2007. Complexe de la Romaine. Étude d'impact sur l'environnement. Volume 6 Milieu humain-Communautés innues et archéologie. Chapter 39. Published December 2007.

6. Additional Information on the Use of Atlantic Salmon by the Innu of Ekuanitshit based on Hydro Quebec (2007)

The Hydro-Québec report presents information on current salmon fishing activities by the Innu of Ekuanitshit. The study only covers salmon fishing in the La Romaine River and its tributaries.

As emphasized in consultations by Hydro-Québec and the Innu of Ekuanitshit, salmon fishing is an important social activity and represents a central dimension of the band's culture. Atlantic salmon is one of the most highly prized resources, being as highly valued as beaver and caribou. Salmon fishing is still widely practiced and remains an important connection point between the people and the land.

Historical Fishing Sites

Historically, Atlantic salmon has represented a fundamental part of the annual cycle of territorial migrations and harvesting activities, usually taking place in the summer at the mouths of major rivers in the traditional territory of the Innu of Ekuanitshit. These rivers include the Saint-Jean, Mingan, Manitou and Romaine rivers. Band elders identified important sites along La Romaine and Puyjalon rivers including 7 campsites located at the mouth of the La Romaine River, the confluence of the Romaine and Puyjalon rivers, chutes à Charlie and Grande Chute. These fishing sites and campsites are still used today.

La Romaine (mouth, confluence with the Puyjalon (PK 13), chute de l'Église (PK 16), chutes à Charlie (Hikaikapish, PK 35). Several sites were also identified along the Puyjalon River. These same sites are frequented by contemporary fishermen. Seven traditional campsites are located at chutes à Charlie, the confluence of the Romaine and Puyjalon rivers.

Contemporary Fishing Sites

Today, the Innu of Ekuanitshit harvest Atlantic salmon from the Jupitagon, Magpie, Saint-Jean, Mingan, Romaine, Puyjalon and Manitou rivers. The Romaine constitutes the most important river for the Innu in terms of Atlantic salmon. Since the 1980s, the band has been responsible for management of the Mingan River fishery. It is on this river that the band operates Complexe Manitou-Mingan, a fishing outfit. Some Innu also fish along the Saint-Jean River, however the presences of an outfitter with exclusive rights to use the area limits their access. Some band members also fish along the smaller Jupitagon and Magpie rivers. Activity levels along these rivers is however considerably lower than along the Romaine River. The band also actively manages and directs fishing activities of members along the Romaine and its tributaries by providing fishing permits to community members. The permit sets harvest quotas and specifies which techniques and technologies are authorized.

The study identified 35 fishing sites along the Romaine and its tributaries, 26 of these are located between the mouth of the Romaine and the proposed hydroelectric dam at PK 52. Chutes à Charlie is the most heavily frequented salmon fishing site among the Innu of Ekuanitshit. Four other heavily used sites include the mouth of the Romaine, the confluence of the Romaine and the Puyjalon, chute à l'Église and la Grande Chute.

The Puyjalon River is recognized by Innu fishermen as having particularly large and salmon that are of a different appearance from those found in the Romaine. The Hydro-Québec study identified 9 sites along the Puyjalon. These sites are generally accessed by boat, but access is also possible from the north by taking the train to the QIT Fer and Titane mines and then by boat.

A total of 21 camps have been identified. These camps are generally found near the fishing sites and are used by fishermen for one to several nights. Eleven campsites are situated along the Romaine, with three concentrated at the mouth of the river and three at the confluence of the Romaine and Puyjalon rivers. The two most important campsites are located near chutes à Charlie. Ten sites were identified along the Puyjalon, with important campsites located at the confluences with the Bat-le-Diable and the Allard rivers respectively. Some fishermen also maintain caches where they keep nets, tents and other equipment and provisions. These caches are situated near fishing sites and campsites with three at the confluence of the Romaine and Puyjalon rivers.

The Practice

The annual cycle for salmon fishing is relatively precise and regular. With the start of the spring run in May, fisherman began by harvesting fish closer to the mouth of the Romaine and gradually work their way toward the source until the beginning of autumn. Equipment and techniques used in salmon fishing consist of fishing rods, fly fishing, trolling, harpoons and nets (uashamek anipi). Salmon fishing is carried out in groups of two or more, sometimes involving several boats. They Hydro-Québec study described the common trend including children and teenagers in fishing expeditions along the Romaine with families staying two or three days at a campsite at chutes à Charlie (Hikaikapish, PK 35). On longer fishing expeditions, fishermen may smoke their catch to ensure it survives the trip back to the community.

Importance

Salmon fishing expeditions are important both culturally and socially as they provide an opportunity to reinforce familial and community ties. By including youth, they provide opportunities for the transmission of traditional knowledge related to harvesting Atlantic salmon. In addition to the cultural and social dimensions, Atlantic salmon has an economic importance for the Innu of Ekuanitshit. Though the availability of the resource and difficulty of access to some fishing sites limit the number of fish that can be caught and brought back to the community, Atlantic salmon catches contribute high quality protein and fats to household nutrition at relatively low cost. Through the practice of sharing and redistributing the catch among elders and other community members, this economic benefit is spread throughout the community. Once again, sharing reinforces social and community bonds.

Work Cited:

Hydro-Quebec. 2007. Complexe de la Romaine. Étude d'impact sur l'environnement. Volume 6 Milieu humain-Communautés innues et archéologie. Chapter 39. Published December 2007.

7. NunatuKavut Community Council Land Claims Area

An updated NunatuKavut Community Council Land Claim Area map is attached (see revised Figure 4.1).



Aboriginal Communities in Labrador and Eastern Quebec

ATLANTIC OCEAN



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Revised Figure 4.1 - Asserted Land Claim Area for NuntuKavut Community Council



