The goal of the proposed fieldwork is to determine the degree to which walrus contributed to the economies of Thule and historic Inuit (circa AD 1200 to 1600) inhabitants of Pingiqqalik (NgHd-1), an archaeological site, consisting of at least 21 house features, most of which are very well-preserved, several middens features (refuse deposits), and sea-mammal cache features scattered along a series of nearby raised beach ridges. Over the course of a six-week field season of excavation (July 1 to August 11, 2012), I will lead a team of three experienced field assistants, a local field assistant, and a bear monitor from Igloolik (a total of six field participants) in careful excavation of one small house feature and several midden features. Archaeological investigations will be fairly small scale; sod cover on the ground will be removed and then replaced after the excavation units (approximately 25 1x1m squared units) have been re-filled, leaving the surface area almost exactly as it was found upon our arrival. The data collected in 2012, in addition to data from previous archaeological work in the area, and the accounts of area elders and hunters, will help build a fuller understanding of the continuity of sea-mammal hunting in the region.

Transport to the field site will be by Twin Otter aircraft (provided through PCSP in Resolute Bay). The field crew will travel from the field camp to the site of fieldwork each day on foot; an ATV will be kept at the field camp, though we do not anticipate using it often. The field camp will consist of six one-person personal-use canvas sleeping tents and two small communal-use tents. Water for personal/camp use (drinking, washing up, dishes, etc.) will be obtained from ponds and streams located nearby to the field camp. No chemicals, fuels or waste will be disposed of on land or in local bodies of water. Solid waste will be periodically burned. Wildlife at the site will not be interfered with. No objects or permanent structures will be left behind at the close of the field season in August 2012.

ᑐᕋᒐᓇᔭᕋ ᐱᓕᕆᐊᕆᓛᕈᒪᔭᕋ ᓄᓇᖓᓂ ᓇᓗᓇᐃᕈᒪᓗᒍ ᖃᓄᑎᒋ ᐊᐃᕖᑦ ᐃᑲᔪᕐᑎᒋᓚᐅᒪᖕᖓᑕ ᐃᓕᕐᑯᓯᖏᓄᑦ ᑐᓃᑦ ᐊᒪᓗ ᑕᐃᓯᒪᓂᐊᓗᒃ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ (1200ᒥᑦ 1600ᒧᑦ ᐊᕋᒍᖓᓂ) ᐃᓄᖏᑕ ᐱᖏᖃᓕᖕᒥ (ᐊᐳᖑᐊᕐᒥᑐᖅ), ᖃᕐᒪᖃᕕᐱᓂᕐᒥᑐᖅ, ᐅᓄᖏᓛᖑᓗᑎᒃ 21ᖑᔪᑦ ᖃᒪᖃᕕᐱᓃᑦ, ᐊᑕᖏᑐᐃᓇᐸᓗᓗᑎᒃ ᖃᓄᐃᑐᓂᓇᓚᐅᑕᖏᓂᑦ ᓱᓕ ᑕᐃᒪᐃᓕᖕᔭᐃᓇᑲᓴᐃᑦ, ᐅᓄᕐᓗᑎᒃᓗ (ᐊᒃᑕᕐᕕᐱᓂᖅ), ᐊᒪᓗ ᖁᓂᖃᕐᕕᐱᓃᑦ ᐊᑕᐅᓯᐅᖏᑐᑦ ᖃᓂᒋᔮᓂ ᖃᑎᓂᐅᔭᖓᓂ ᓯᒃᔭᕐᒥ. ᐱᓇᓱᐊᕈᓯᕐᓂᒃ ᐊᕕᓂᓕᓂ ᓄᓇᖃᕕᐅᔭᕕᓂᕐᒥ ᐊᒐᓛᕐᑐᖓ (ᔭᓚᐃ 1ᒥᑦ ᐊᒐᓯ 11, 2012ᒧᑦ), ᐃᓚᖃᐅᕐᓂᐊᕐᒥᔪᖓ ᐱᒐᓱᓂᒃ ᐱᓕᕆᓚᒪᔪᓂᒃ ᐃᑲᔪᕐᑎᖃᓗᖓ, ᐊᑕᐅᓯᕐᒥᒃ ᑕᐃᑲᖓ ᓄᓇᓕᖓᓂᖕᖓᕐᑐᕐᒥᒃ ᐃᑲᔪᑎᖃᓗᖓ, ᐊᒪᓗ ᐊᑕᐅᓯᕐᒥᒃ ᓇᓄᕐᓂ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᕐᑎᒥᒃ ᐃᒡᓗᓕᒥᑦ (ᑲᑎᒍᒥᑦ ᐊᕕᓂᓕᐅᓂᐊᕐᑐᑦ ᐃᓚᐅᔪᑦ) ᐃᒃᐱᒍᓱᑎᐊᕐᓗᑕ ᐊᒐᓛᕐᑐᒧᑦ ᐊᑕᐅᓯᕐᒥᒃ ᖃᒪᖃᕕᐱᓂᕐᒥᒃ ᒥᑭᑐᕐᒥᒃ ᐊᒪᓗ ᐊᑕᐅᓯᐅᖏᑐᓂᒃ ᐊᒃᑕᕐᕕᐱᓂᕐᒥᒃ. ᐃᑕᓂᓴᓕᓇᓂᕗᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓂᓇᔭᕗᑦ ᒥᑭᑐᓂᐊᕐᑐᖅ; ᖃᕐᒪᕕᓂᖅ ᓄᓇᖓ ᓄᓇᔫᖑᓕᕐᑐᖅ ᐲᔭᕐᑕᐅᓛᕐᑐᖅ ᐊᒪᓗ ᐅᑎᕐᑎᑕᐅᓛᓇᓗᓂ ᓄᓇᔭᖓ (ᐊᖏᓂᖓ 25ᖑᓗᑎᒃ ᑮᒃᐸᓇᒃᓯᓯᒪᔪᑦ 1ᒦᑕᒥᒃ ᐊᖏᓂᓛᑦ) ᓄᓇᐱᓂᖏᑦ ᐅᑎᕐᑕᐅᓯᒪᔪᑦ, ᖃᓄᐃᑎᓂᓚᑕᖓᑕ ᐊᐳᒥᓕᕐᐸᓗᓂᐊᕐᒥᔭᖓ ᐅᐸᒃᓂᓇᓛᕐᑕᑕ. ᑎᑎᕋᕐᓯᒪᔪᑦ ᖃᓄᐃᑐᓂᓇᔭᖓᑕ ᑎᑎᕋᕐᓯᒪᔭᖏᑦ 2012ᒥ, ᐊᒪᓗ ᑎᑎᕋᓂᐊᕐᒥᒐᑎᒍᑦ ᓯᕗᓂᐊᓂ ᐃᑕᓂᓴᓕᓇᔪᑎᕕᓃᑦ, ᐊᒪᓗ ᑕᐃᕙᓂᖃᑕᕐᓯᒪᔪᑦ ᐃᓇᐃ ᐊᒪᓗ ᐊᖑᓇᓱᒃᑏᑦ, ᐃᑲᔪᑲᓂᓂᐊᕐᑐᑦ ᑐᑭᓯᑎᐊᑲᓂᕐᑯᓗᑕ ᑲᔪᓯᓂᖓᓂᒃ ᑕᓇᐅᒥᐅᑕᐃ ᐊᖑᓇᓱᒃᑕᐅᖃᑕᓂᖏᓂ ᑕᐃᕙᓂᕐᐸᓯᒃ.

ᖃᖓᑕᓲᖅᑲᑎᑕᐅᓂᓇᓂᐊᕐᑕᕗᑦ ᑕᐃᑯᖓᕐᓂᕗᑦ ᒪᑭᓕᐅᓂᐊᕐᑐᖅ ᖃᖓᑕᓲᖅ (ᖃᖓᑕᓱᖃᑎᑕᐅᓗᑕ ᐃᑕᓂᓴᓕᓇᐳᑯᓄᑦ ᕿᓴᓗᐸᐃᒥᑦ). ᐃᖃᓇᐃᔭᖃᑎᒥᓂᐊᕐᑕᕗᓗ ᐃᖏᕿᓛᕐᑐᑦ ᐊᖏᕿᓇᑲᐃᓇᕐᓂᐊᕐᑕᑎᓂᑦ ᐱᓕᕆᕕᑎᓄᑦ ᖃᐅᑕᒫᑦ ᐱᓯᒃᓗᑕ; ᑎᓴᒪᓕᕐᒥᒃ ᐊᖏᕿᖃᕕᑎᓂᑐᖃᓂᐊᕐᑐᖅ, ᑭᓯᐊᓂ ᓂᓇᐅᒃᑐᒧᑦ ᐊᑐᓗᐊᖃᑕᔭᖏᑕᕗᑦ. ᐊᖏᕿᖃᕕᒥᔭᕗᑦ ᐃᓄᖃᓂᐊᕐᑐᖅ ᐊᕕᓂᓕᖓᓂᒃ ᑐᐱᕐᒥᐅᑕᐅᓗᑕ ᓯᓂᒃᕕᒥᖃᑕᕐᓂᐊᕐᑕᑎᓂ ᐊᒪᓗ ᒪᑭᓃᒃ ᑐᐱᖃᑲᓂᕐᒥᓗᑕ ᑲᑎᕕᒥᖃᑕᕐᑕᑎᓂᒃ. ᐃᒪᕐᒥ ᐊᑐᖃᑕᕐᓂᐊᑐᒧᑦ ᑕᐃᑲᓂᑐᓄᑦ ᐊᑐᕐᑕᐅᖃᑕᕐᓂᐊᕐᑐᒥᒃ (ᐃᒥᒃᓴᓇᓗᒍ, ᐅᐊᓴᕈᑎᒥᓗᒍ ᓂᓇᓯᓄᓗ ᐊᒪᓗ ᐊᓯᖏᓄᑦ.) ᐱᖃᑕᕐᓂᐊᕐᑕᕗᑦ ᑕᓯᑯᓗᓂᑦ ᑰᒃᓂᓗ ᖃᓂᒋᔭᓂ ᐊᖏᕿᓇᑲᐃᓇᕐᓂᐊᕐᑕᑕ. ᐃᒪᕐᓗᓂ, ᐅᕐᓯᐊᓗᓂ ᐅᕙᓗᓃᑦ ᐅᐊᓴᕈᑎᕕᓂᕗᑦ ᓄᓇᖑᓄᑦ ᑯᕕᑎᖃᑕᔮᖏᑕᕗᑦ ᐅᕙᓗᓃᑦ ᑕᓯᕐᓄᑦ. ᐊᒃᑕᕐᓗᑯᕗᑦ ᐃᑭᑕᐅᓕᐅᒥᔮᖃᑕᕐᓂᐊᕐᑐᑦ. ᑭᓱᑐᐃᓇᕐᒥᒃ ᓄᓇᖑᓄᑦ ᕿᒪᐃᔭᖏᑐᑦ ᑕᐃᑲᓂᖏᓇᕐᓂᐊᓕᕐᑐᓂᒃᓗᓂᑦ ᐃᒃᓗᓂ ᕿᒪᐃᔭᖏᑐᑦ ᒪᑐᒃᐸᑦ ᐱᓕᕆᕕᒥᔭᕗᑦ ᐊᒐᓯ 2012ᒥ ᐊᐅᔭᐅᓂᖓ ᐱᓕᕆᓂᑕ.

"The Ethnoarchaeology of Inuit Sea-Mammal Hunting, Northwest Foxe Basin, Nunavut"

Purpose and Methodology

The goal of the proposed fieldwork is to determine the degree to which walrus contributed to the economies of Thule and historic Inuit (circa AD 1200 to 1600) inhabitants of the archaeological site Pingiqqalik (NgHd-1). Over the course of a six-week field season (July 1 to August 11, 2012), I will lead a team of three experienced field assistants, a local field assistant, and a bear monitor from Igloolik (a total of six field participants) in careful excavation of one small house feature and several midden features at the site. Archaeological investigations will be fairly small scale; sod cover on the ground will be removed and then replaced after the excavation units (approximately 25 1x1-m squared units) have been re-filled, leaving the surface area almost exactly as it was found upon our arrival. The data collected in 2012, in addition to data from previous archaeological work in the Foxe Basin region, and documented accounts of area elders and hunters, will help build a fuller understanding of the continuity of Inuit sea-mammal hunting.

Pingiqqalik (also known as 'Pinger Point') is a prehistoric winter village, consisting of three large groupings (which I have designated T1, T2 and T3) of Thule and historic Inuit house features, most of which are very well-preserved, with full or almost-full sod cover. Aside from my own non-invasive survey in 2011, two brief non-invasive visits by Savelle (2009) and one by Mary- Rousselière (1954), no archaeological work has been conducted at the site. Each grouping of houses is separated by approximately 400 meters of low-lying ponds. T1 and T2, visited by the applicant in 2011, appear to represent a continuous occupation area; together, they are comprised of at least 21 semisubterranean sod houses (many with architectural whale bone); 28 to 30 *qarmat* (lighter structures, usually occupied during fall); and an abundance of sea-mammal cache features scattered along a series of nearby raised beach ridges. Though T3 has not been visited by the applicant, it was sighted by the applicant from offshore on the return trip to Igloolik, and appears to be much smaller in area than T1 and T2, in addition to apparently having far fewer large Thule Inuit house features (six were clearly seen in 2011). Apart from the archaeological deposits, there are no additional manmade structures in the project area. The house and midden features to be excavated in 2012 will be spread across T1 and T2.

The sampling strategy I have outlined will allow for a significant amount of comparative data to be carefully collected over the course of approximately five weeks. Laboratory analysis of the artifacts and bone material will begin shortly after returning from the field. Faunal remains from all sampled features, having been shipped to Montreal from Igloolik, will be identified in the laboratory. All bones will then be quantified using the number of specimens identified to species (NISP), and the minimum number of individual animals represented in each feature sample (MNI). In combination, GPS coordinates of Thule Inuit caches in the vicinity will be downloaded to ArcGIS and Google Earth to create maps indicating the degree to which animal resources at Pingiqqalik were being stored in the summer for use during winter months. The bone samples selected for radiocarbon dating will be submitted to a separate laboratory for analysis. Laboratory work on the archaeological material is expected to take approximately five months, likely concluding in March 2013.

Excluding bowhead whales, the apparent economic focus at most Thule and historic Inuit sites in Nunavut was on small seals and caribou. Zooarchaeological work conducted around the northeast Melville Peninsula from 2006 to 2009, indicates walrus was the primary resource being used by Thule Inuit (Desjardins and Ross 2010). Elsewhere in the Canadian Arctic, no similar reliance on walrus has been documented. It is hoped the work conducted at Pingiqqalik will show the earliest regional examples of the important walrus-hunting tradition that continues to thrive in Igloolik and Hall Beach today.

Logistics Relevant to Land and Water Use

Transport to the project area will be by Twin Otter aircraft (provided through PCSP in Resolute Bay). The field camp will consist of six one-person personal-use canvas sleeping tents and two small communal-use tents. Water for personal/camp use (drinking, washing up, dishes, etc.) will be obtained from ponds and streams located nearby to the field camp. The field crew will travel from the field camp to the site of fieldwork each day on foot. An all-terrain vehicle (ATV) will be kept at the field camp, though I do not anticipate using it often; when used, care will be taken not to drive the vehicle nearby to archaeological sites or water sources.

A total of three (3) five-gallon plastic jerry cans of gasoline will be stored on site to fuel the ATV and a portable generator; additionally, six (6) metal (100-lb) cylinders of propane for a small camp stove will also be stored at the field camp. Fuel will be transferred to equipment via a funnel. No fuel or waste will be disposed of on land or in local bodies of water. Solid waste (food packages, etc.) will be periodically burned in a metal drum transported to the field camp site for this purpose; the drum will be removed when the camp is dismantled in August 2012. No objects or permanent structures will be left behind at the close of the field season in August 2012; additionally, all trash that cannot be burned will be transported away from the project area at the close of the field season. Overall, environmental impact of this project will be minimal. No at-risk wildlife sources have been identified in the area, and every effort will be taken not to disturb local fauna and flora if encountered.

References:

Desjardins, S. P. A. and J. M. Ross (2010) New Considerations for Thule Inuit settlement and subsistence, eastern Melville Peninsula, Nunavut. Paper presented at the 43rd Annual Canadian Archaeological Association (CAA) Meeting, Calgary

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