Desjardins NWB 2024

Uumajuqsiurvik is part of the EU-funded TRACES project that examines long-term human-animal/human-environment relationships among Iglulingmiut. It will involve non-invasive visits to, and mapping of, the following locales important to past animal-harvesting in the region: Qaiqsut (NiHa-1; 69.469017, -80.309834; IG-11), Kapuiviit (NjHa-1; 69.577440, -80.304685; IG-09), Siuraq (NjHc-1; 69.548038, -80.827172), Qalirusiq (NiHf-1; 69.388860, -81.789819) (on Igloolik Island).

The purpose of each visit would be to survey the site, documenting the number, measurements and positions of cultural features, such as sod houses and tent rings. This will be accomplished through drone photogrammetry and differential GPS (DGPS) mapping. A small campsite—to be occupied for a maximum of two weeks—will be built at Kapuiviit. This camp will serve as a base of operations for the day-trips to all sites, save Qalirusiq, which will be visited upon our return to the community. Importantly, these sites will not be disturbed in any way; only photographs and GPS coordinates will be recorded.

Practical benefits for Iglulingmiut include (1) payment to a local guide for boat transportation and assistance with fieldwork; (2) payment to, and training for, a local student, who will learn mapping techniques, including drone operation; and (3) increased knowledge about the history and archaeological significance of hunting camps in north-central Foxe Basin. In addition to official reports provided to land-holding organizations and permitting authorities, in-person and written updates on the work will be provided to the Igloolik HTA.

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