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Title for presentation at Conference on "Arctic Marine Resource Governance", Reykjavik, Iceland, 14th-16th of October 2015, Theme 2. : *Co-management of commercial fisheries in the Western Canadian Arctic: A new governance agreement for new and emerging fisheries.*

Abstract:

The Canadian Beaufort Sea is one of the last places on earth that has not experienced large-scale commercial fisheries. The aboriginal people of the western Canadian Arctic, the Inuvialuit, have become increasingly concerned about the potential effects of large-scale commercial operations on key subsistence species of fish and marine mammals and the marine ecosystem upon which they depend. A 1984 comprehensive land settlement agreement (treaty) between Canada and the Inuvialuit established a co-management regime for limited aspects of fish and marine mammal resource management and gave the Inuvialuit rights to subsistence fisheries and existing commercial fisheries but no preference for new commercial fisheries. This presentation describes the process undertaken by the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Inuvialuit Game Council to develop a new, recently approved, integrated fisheries management agreement framework for the review and assessment of any proposed commercial fisheries within the Canadian Beaufort Sea.