



## NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH

Ambler    Buckland    Candle    Deering    Kiana    Kivalina    Kobuk  
Kotzebue    Noatak    Noorvik    Selawik    Shungnak

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to share with you *Iñuuniaġiqput Iiġugu Nunanġuanun* (Documenting Our Way of Life through Maps), the product of the Northwest Arctic Borough's 5-year Subsistence Mapping Project. This atlas depicts the traditional activities of residents from seven of the Borough's eleven communities: Deering, Kivalina, Noorvik, Selawik, Noatak, Buckland, and Kotzebue. It also presents historical information on how these communities were established and events over the years that have affected residents' subsistence patterns.

The Subsistence Mapping Project was conducted under Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Resolution 11-04 to improve subsistence information to aid in permitting, zoning, and land use decision making, and in support of Title 9 of the Borough code, specifically Chapter 9.28, which recognizes the importance of protecting subsistence resources critical to the quality of life of all residents in the Borough.

The maps and other material were prepared with a great deal of scientific rigor. The materials are meant to guide our internal land use planning effort here at the Borough and to provide state and federal policymakers, and others, with strong evidence of the modern lives of Iñupiaq subsistence harvesters, and the status and locations of species we depend on.

The purpose of the project was to use traditional knowledge to identify places people depend on for their traditional food resources and the current status and locations of important subsistence species. In some sections of this atlas, researchers incorporated data from other sources (for example, satellite whale tracking studies), but, even in those cases, the study results were reviewed by local experts who verified and augmented the findings. This volume therefore breaks new ground in building a strong body of scientifically defensible evidence on a broad, solid foundation of local and traditional knowledge.

This volume and the project's many subsistence-related educational activities were supported by funding from the federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), the Oak Foundation, ConocoPhillips, and Royal Dutch Shell.

Researchers have been working on this study, beginning back in the administration of Mayor Siikauraq Martha Whiting and continuing under Mayor Reggie Joule. We could not have brought together such an in-depth portrait of our local way of life without the active involvement of over 200 Borough residents. The result is a report that we can genuinely call our own.

Quyana to all the Borough residents who participated. A special thanks to the advisory group members for their leadership, and to the project team for their many hours of work bringing together and presenting the study's findings.

Whether you are a government policymaker, a citizen with an interest in Arctic life, or a resident of the Northwest Arctic Borough, I hope you find this information useful and that it inspires you to join the Borough in our ongoing efforts to build a modern economy that supports and continues our traditional way of life.

Sincerely,

Clement Richards, Sr.  
Mayor