

Eeyou Marine Region Land Use Planning Values, Issues, and Visions

Report on community input on land use planning goals for the
Eeyou Marine Region

CHISASIBI

Compiled by the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission
February 2019

Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1.	BACKGROUND ON EMRPC	4
1.2.	LAND USE PLANNING IN THE EYYOU MARINE REGION	4
2.	ON THE EMRPC COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS.....	5
2.1.	OBJECTIVES OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS.....	6
2.2.	COMMUNITY CONSULTATION DETAILS	6
3.	VALUES.....	7
3.1.	EVERYTHING IS VALUABLE.....	7
3.2.	HARVESTING	8
3.3.	CONNECTING WITH OTHERS WHILE OUT ON THE LAND.....	8
3.4.	CREE KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURAL PRACTICES	9
4.	ISSUES	9
4.1.	CHANGES SINCE HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENTS	10
4.2.	CHANGES TO ANIMALS	10
4.3.	IMPACTS TO HARVESTING	12
4.4.	CHANGES TO CREE WAY OF LIFE	13
4.5.	SAFETY	14
4.6.	POLAR BEAR.....	14
4.1.	CONCERNS ABOUT NON-CREE USES	15
5.	VISION.....	16
5.1.	PROTECTING THE MARINE AREA	16
5.2.	RESTRICTING DEVELOPMENT AND TRAFFIC.....	16
5.3.	RESTORE AREAS	17
5.4.	PRESERVING AND PASSING DOWN THE CREE WAY OF LIFE AND LANGUAGE.....	18
5.5.	SAFETY	19
5.6.	COMMERCIAL FISHING	19
5.7.	TOURISM	19
6.	CHISASIBI CREE PLANNING TERMINOLOGY	20
7.	DOTMOCRACY - RANKING PLANNING ISSUES	21
8.	QUESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EMR AND EMRPC	23
8.1.	QUESTIONS RAISED BY CHISASIBI COMMUNITY MEMBERS	23
8.2.	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMR AND EMRPC PLANNING PROCESS	24
9.	CONCLUSION	25
10.	APPENDIX A: CHISASIBI COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SCHEDULE	26
11.	APPENDIX B: POSTER USED TO PROMOTE CONSULTATIONS	27
12.	APPENDIX C: LIST OF PAST CONSULTATION AND STUDY REPORTS REVIEWED	28

List of Figures

Figure 1. Eeyou Marine Region 4

Figure 2. Cree/Inuit Offshore Overlapping Interests Area with Indication of Zones..... 4

Figure 3. Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission Planning Stages..... 5

Figure 4. Photo from Chisasibi women’s meeting 7

Figure 5. Image of Chisasibi women’s meeting dotmocracy exercise..... 21

List of Tables

Table 1. Chisasibi preliminary translation of key Eeyou Marine Region planning terms 20

Table 2. Results of Chisasibi Dotmocracy Exercise..... 22

1. Introduction

The Cree of Eeyou Istchee have occupied and cared for the coastal regions identified in the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claim Agreement (EMRLCA) for millennia. The EMRLCA is a result of several decades of intermittent negotiations between the Crees and Canada which began in the 1970s alongside the negotiations that resulted in the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

These negotiations eventually led to the signing of the EMRLCA (a modern treaty) which came into effect on February 15, 2012. The EMRLCA covers approximately 61 270 square kilometers of James Bay and south eastern Hudson Bay off the coast of Quebec (see Figure 1), the northern part of which is also subject to an overlap agreement with the Inuit of Nunavik, and all of which is situated in the territory of Nunavut (See Figure 2).

The EMRLCA provides for the creation of an independent body responsible for the development of a land use plan for the Eeyou Marine Region, called the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission or EMRPC. According to the agreement, the purpose of this land use plan will be to:

protect and promote the existing and future well-being of residents of the EMR and of the coastal Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee taking into account the interests of all Canadians, and to protect, and where necessary, to restore the environmental integrity of the EMR.

During the summer of 2018, community consultations were held by EMRPC staff in each of the coastal Cree communities to gather input to contribute to the development of a land use plan for the Eeyou Marine Region.

This report provides a summary of consultations that were held between September 4-7, 2018 with Chisasibi Cree people including representatives of local government, youth, elders, women, tallymen and land users to hear from them:

- what is important to them about the marine area,
- what issues exist in the marine area, and
- what is their vision of their future of the marine area?

These conversations will help define the goals for land use planning in the Eeyou Marine Region and are described in this report.

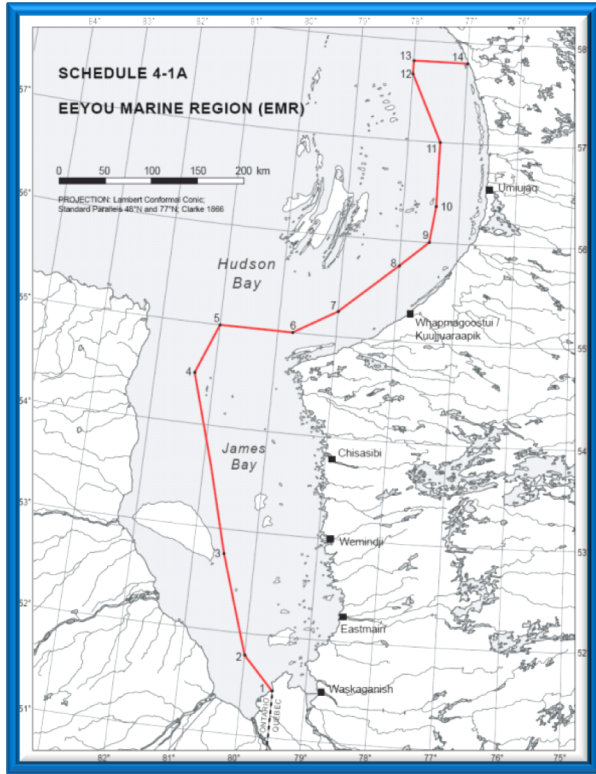


Figure 1. Eeyou Marine Region

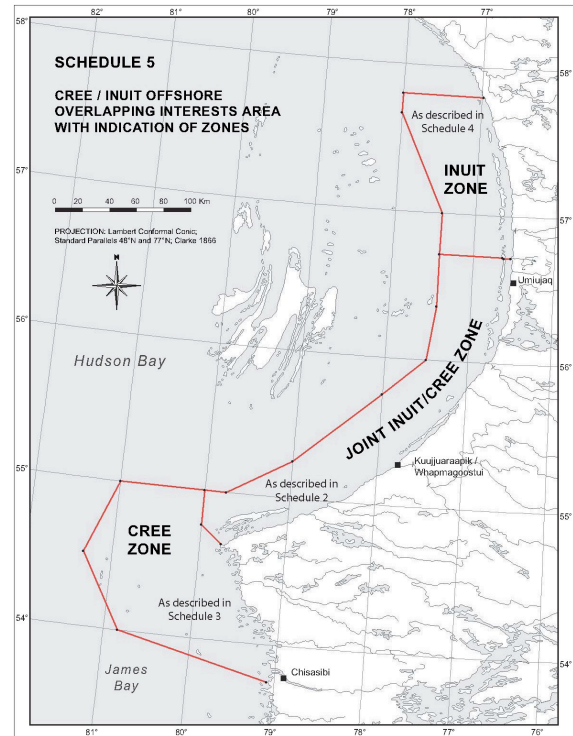


Figure 2. Cree/Inuit Offshore Overlapping Interests Area with Indication of Zones

1.1. Background On EMRPC

The EMRPC is responsible for developing a land use plan to guide development and conservation in the Eeyou Marine Region. The EMRPC is currently made up of two commissioners nominated by the Grand Council of the Crees (GCC), one nominated by the government of Canada and one nominated by the government of Nunavut. The commission also includes a chairperson nominated by the other commissioners.

At the time of the community consultations the EMRPC included:

- Chairperson: Tina Petawabano
- Cree Nominee: Chris Beck
- Cree Nominee: Chantal Otter Tetreault
- Canada Nominee: Lorne McNeice
- Nunavut Nominee: David Alagalak

1.2. Land Use Planning in the Eeyou Marine Region

Put simply, land use planning is a process of gathering and analyzing information about an area to develop goals, objectives and strategies to achieve those goals.

According to the EMRLCA:

The purpose of a land use plan shall be to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of residents of the EMR and of the coastal Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee taking into account the interests of all Canadians, and to protect, and where necessary, to restore the environmental integrity of the EMR.

The EMRPC land use planning process will involve several stages as described in Figure 3. During the summer of 2018, community consultations were held in each of the coastal Cree communities to gather input to contribute to the development of a land use plan for the Eeyou Marine Region. These consultations will contribute to the development of goals and objectives for the plan and guide research and analysis processes that will lead to the development of a draft land use plan. The draft land use plan will go through a public hearing process before it is approved.

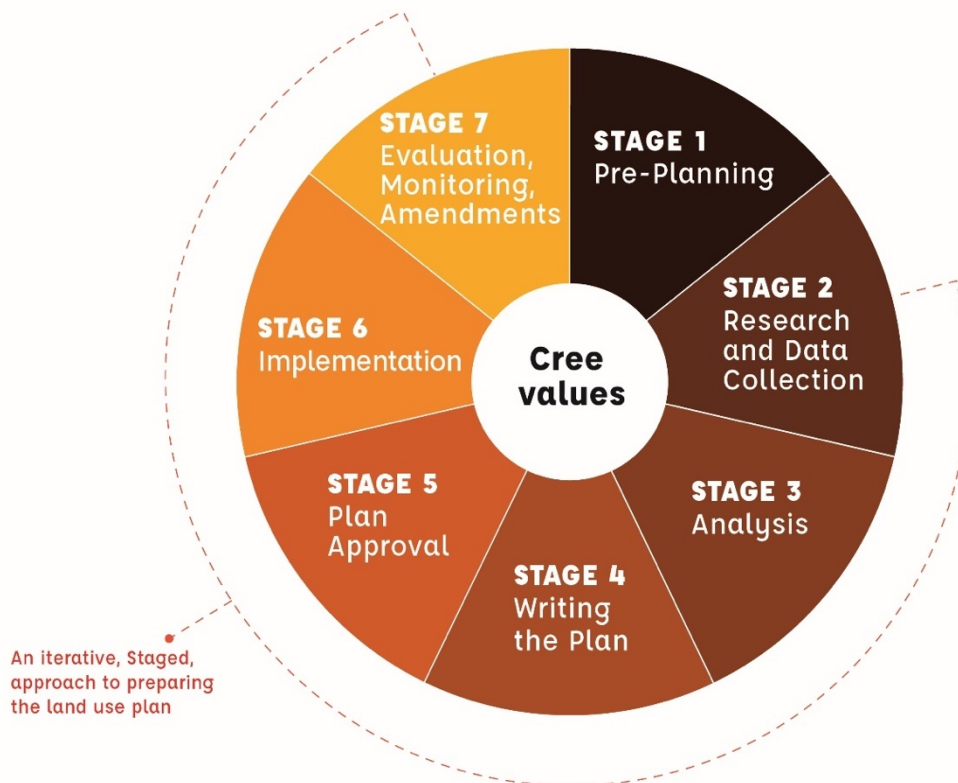


Figure 3. Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission Planning Stages

2. On the EMRPC Community Consultations

The following section provides a summary of the objectives and processes for the community consultations that were undertaken in each of the coastal communities over the summer of 2018.

2.1. Objectives of community consultations

The objectives of the community consultations were:

- To build awareness and community engagement in EMR planning process
 - Increase community understanding of EMRPC role and the EMR planning process
 - Build relationships with key planning partners within the communities
- To gather input to contribute to the development of goals, objectives, and measures of success for the marine area land use plan
 - Acknowledge and verify existing information on Cree values, issues and visions related to the marine area
 - Gather information on community values, issues, and visions for the EMR

2.2. Community Consultation Details

The community consultations were held in Chisasibi between September 4-7, 2018. The EMRPC relied on assistance from the Eeyou Planning Commission commissioners L George Pachano and Matthew Chiskamish to assist with the planning and coordination of community consultations. The consultations also relied on a team of individuals including translators and notetakers.

The team members who were involved in organizing and leading the community consultations in Chisasibi are:

- Tina Petawabano – EMRPC Chairperson
- Rodrick Pachano – Presenter
- L George Pachano – Eeyou Planning Commission Commissioner (assisted with preparations)
- Matthew Chiskamish – Eeyou Planning Commission Alternate Commissioner
- Robin Pachanos – Notetaker
- Felix Boulanger – EMRWB Biologist
- Frances Dietrich-O'Connor – EMRPC Planner/Researcher
- John Lameboy – Local EMR Officer

The community consultations involved meetings with each of the following groups:

- Chief and council
- Elders
- Women
- Tallymen and land users
- Youth
- Chisasibi workers

The EMRPC also hosted a feast that was open to all community members. During the consultations, the EMRPC team held a terminology workshop to develop Cree translations of some key planning terms. A summary of what was shared at these meetings is provided in the following sections. The sessions were promoted on Facebook and local radio. The final

schedule of the community consultations that was followed in Chisasibi is included in Appendix A. See Appendix B for the poster developed to promote the consultations.



Figure 4. Photo from Chisasibi women's meeting

3. Values

During the consultations, the participants were asked to share what they valued about the marine part of their territory. In the land use planning process, it is important to understand what is important to Cree people about the marine region to ensure that these things are protected or supported by the land use plan. The following section provides a summary of the comments that Chisasibi Cree shared about what they value in about the Marine area.

3.1. Everything is Valuable

Many community members shared stories about their enjoyment of the marine area. Community members also spoke about their favourite memories and their love of the sounds and scenery in the marine region.

"I love spending time out on the land going on long boat rides."

"I love the long rides by skidoo and by boat to enjoy the scenery to and from camp."

"I just love spending time on the land."

"I want to make sure we can continue to spend time on the land, just being out there is important to me."

"There were lots of brants in the past and many different types of ducks."

3.2. Harvesting

Chisasibi community members spoke about their love of harvesting in the marine area both in the past and currently. People spoke especially of the importance of the fall and spring bird hunt. The community members also shared how this hunt is not the same as it used to be. These changes will be discussed further in section 4.0.

"My favourite moment was fall hunting on eelgrass. The eelgrass is important to me. We don't have it anymore. Going from Chisasibi to my camp on Beaver River. In the spring, when birds came, we would go out hunting before and after work."

"Hunting in the fall was very important."

"Around mid-August John's father would call duck hunt in his territory. 20-30 canoe of men would go out. Not anymore."

People spoke also about harvesting fish, firewood, berries, eggs and traditional medicines.

"I love collecting firewood along the shores."

"I used to go out for Shiishiitshiishish Duck eggs (Gollmot) we would go find the eggs under the rocks."

"Gathering traditional medicine out on the land is very important to me."

"Berry picking is important, I love berries, cloudberries, blackberries, Labrador tea."

"I love fishing, we have traditional fishing areas out there that need to be protected."

3.3. Connecting with Others While out on the Land

Many Chisasibi community members spoke about the importance of being on the land and enjoying cultural activities with their family members. This included camping, hunting, fishing,

berry picking. Some community members also shared fond memories of times spend on the land with their late parents. One community member described fetching water to make salt.

“I love being on the land and enjoying cultural activities with my family.”

“Something that is important to me is family time out in the Bay.”

“I just love being out there camping, fishing, hunting. Especially summer time I love to go out and set nets.”

“My late mother would tell me to go fetch water and she have me drain it and to make our own salt.”

“My father used to take us out fishing and blackberry picking. I loved going to my dad’s camp by boat.”

3.4. Cree Knowledge and Cultural Practices

Chisasibi Eeyou also spoke about the importance of passing down their cultural practices and the importance of the marine areas as a place where they teach their children to hunt. People also spoke about the importance of Cree knowledge and language for the continuation of safe use of the marine area.

“The area is very beautiful and healing out there, it’s also where my father teaches my children to hunt.”

“This is where my father teaches my boys to hunt.”

“The passing down of traditional knowledge is very important to me, something must be done for it to be kept alive.”

“One study for Cree Nation of Chisasibi found that there are 30 Cree words describing different types of wave action/waves. This is very important when it comes to safety. If you don’t know place names you could be in trouble.”

4. Issues

During the community consultations, the participants were asked to share any issues that exist in the marine area that the EMRPC needs to be aware of in developing the land use plan for the EMR. The following section provides a summary of the issues expressed by the participants.

4.1. Changes since hydroelectric developments

Several participants spoke about changes that they have observed to the marine area and shared their belief that the changes were caused by the hydroelectric developments in the region. Between 1971-1984, Hydro Quebec built three hydroelectric power stations on the La Grande river. This project involved construction of over 200 structures to alter the courses of 19 waterways. Three rivers, the Eastmain, Opinaca, and Caniapiscau were diverted to reservoirs on the La Grande River. The changes that people have observed since the James Bay project have impacted many aspects of the Cree way of life. One main issue that several Chisasibi Cree spoke about is increased erosion since the hydro developments.

“LG-1 has caused and continues to cause a lot of erosion in the river.”

“The dams have caused a lot of erosion, the mud is getting thicker as well.”

“Between 1984 to 2016 Oojimaow Minshtuk (Governors Island) has disappeared a lot of those years.”

Many Chisasibi Cree also spoke about the changes they have observed to the water since the diversions. In particular, people spoke about reduced salinity and increased turbidity. People also spoke about how the increased salinity has had impacts on ice conditions and people’s ability to travel in the marine region.

“The water looks dirty. It is no longer clear like before.”

“The water is not as salty as before.”

“The changes in water turbidity and salinity have impacted the freezing of the bay. And that impacts our ability to access the area.”

4.2. Changes to animals

Chisasibi Cree also spoke about many changes they have observed to fish and birds in the marine area over their lifetimes. Community members shared that they believe there are less animals in the area now and that some animals taste different or are not as fat as they used to be. Many people shared that they believe these changes are because of the Hydro Quebec developments.

“The geese, caribou and fish are all different ever since the Hydro Quebec development started.”

“There are lots of species we don’t have anymore, brant, fish. We believe this is because of the projects.”

“The geese and fish are different now. Since hydro they are not as fat as they used to be. Because of this, I prefer to eat fish, caribou, moose, and seal from further north.”

“Long neck geese have a different taste to them now. They don’t taste the same like they used to.”

“Today the elders do not want to eat the fish that was caught from the reservoir they say that they taste different than before the HQ dams.”

Chisasibi Cree spoke specifically about changes they have observed to geese and loon populations. Several people shared that many fewer loon and geese come around the area. Several people spoke about missing the loon and that they no longer hunt for loons because there are less in the area now. One community member raised concerns that when the geese migrate south, they are not well taken care of.

“Brant (eewabuuwaau) and the Artic loon we don’t see them anymore.”

“The Geese are slowly disappearing and the Loon (ashmauk) hunt is no longer being practiced.”

“I miss the red throated loons we stopped going out to the bay after the loon became more scarce.”

“Eewaabiiwow (Brant) is no longer in the area. Birds are scarce, the long beaks will stay longer than the ones with the shorter beaks. The birds when they migrate down south are not well taken care of. There are hardly any geese flying up north now.”

Chisasibi Cree also shared that Arctic Char are caught much less frequently than they were in the past and that some fish spoil more quickly now. Another issue that Chisasibi Cree spoke about is that bald eagles are more common in the area now and are scaring away geese.

“Arctic Char is rare these days. In the past, people would get 20 per week and now it’s one per month.”

“The fish are contaminated they get spoiled overnight now because of the contamination.”

“Bald eagles are scaring the geese away.”

One elder shared that there is a great deal of Cree knowledge that is not written down but that may help to explain some of these changes. As he explained, long term Cree knowledge includes an understanding sometimes species disappear from an area for some time only to return a few years later.

“We have a lot of information that isn’t written down on how it was before. Sometimes certain species disappear for a couple of years then suddenly they are back - reason unknown. This year, the ptarmigan were seen in town which is not normal. In the year 1953/57 the caribou and moose didn’t come around for quite some time.” Elder Billy Martinhunter

4.3. Impacts to Harvesting

The participants also shared comments about how changes to the land and waters in the marine area have impacted their harvesting. For example, some community members shared that because of the increased fresh water in the bay since the hydro developments the changes to ice conditions have impacted the community’s ability to access the land during the spring and fall hunting seasons. One community member shared that sometimes people have to travel by helicopter to access their camps because of unsafe ice conditions.

“The salinity of water is an issue. Fresh water ice melts a lot faster and this is a major concern for the spring hunt. The increase of fresh water in the bay has contributed to a decline of fall hunt and means that we are less able to pass on skills and language.”

“A lot has changed since the dams have been built. The dams have caused a lot of damage to our area, they are destroying the hunting seasons.”

“Ten years ago, we had to use the helicopter as a means of travel to our camps because of the ice thickness. No one was allowed to travel by skidoo.”

Several people shared specifically that the fall hunt is no longer viable because of changes in animal migrations.

“The late Joshua Lameboy would call a “duck hunt” within his territory in the month of August (fall season) the hunt is no longer present.”

“Fall hunt is practically gone due to the ‘no show’ of the geese.”

“I feel sorry for the youth of today now that we hardly ever hunt in the fall like we use to. It was exciting and fun when we would go out for the fall hunt when there were a lot of geese.”

Another issue that was raised by many Chisasibi people is the disappearance of eelgrass out in the bay. For many people, the loss of eelgrass is closely associated with the reduced numbers of geese in the area.

“The loss of eelgrass is a big issue. The geese were abundant when the eelgrass was present. We are trying to find out what is going on.”

“Eel grass is disappearing it is a big issue.”

“My favourite moment was fall hunting on eelgrass. But we don’t have it anymore.”

“The late James Rupert once told me that there were a lot of Geese at where we hunt. He said that he killed several. One time he killed 7 in one day, then he 14 the next day. This was when there was more eel grass available for the geese to feed on.”

4.4. Changes to Cree Way of Life

During the consultations, people spoke about concerns that the Cree way of life and traditions have started to change. Several people expressed that people use the area less than they did in the past. Chisasibi Cree shared several reasons for this. One main reason that several people spoke about is the changes to the area since the hydroelectric developments.

“There are canoe racks that used to be used, but now people don’t use them and the bush has grown over them because of the effects of LG2 on the bay.”

“Because of the changes, I don’t hunt anymore on the coast. The taste is different.”

“People hardly ever go out in the bay these days. I was always anxious to leave when I used to go out in the bay.”

Chisasibi Cree also shared that they no longer hunt in the marine region because there are less animals in the area and the animals taste different now. One person also shared that some people are more tied to the community because of their jobs. People also shared that because of evictions from traplines some people have requested to build cabins on the islands.

“We can’t teach our tradition to our children/grandchildren in the fall because of the lack of wildlife.”

“Our way of life out in the bay has been damaged a lot.”

“People are tied to the community because of their jobs. Everyone goes out for two weeks.”

“There have been individuals in the past evicted on traplines asked if they can build on certain islands and others have built.”

Another issue that Chisasibi Cree shared is that because of the aforementioned changes to the Cree way of life, some cultural terminology and place names are not being retained by younger generations.

“Cultural terminology is missing in our children due to lack of cultural activities.”

“The names of the Islands (minshtuuk) are not known by our younger generation. The Cree Nation of Chisasibi’s cultural department are doing research on why the islands are called what they are called. For example, Washtiikaan was known as a land mark island.”

“We are losing the language of the coast. The language we use out there is being lost. For example, specific terms about setting nets, kids don’t use those anymore. We are also losing the Cree names of the islands. Now it’s mostly fishing derbies. People don’t have the same feeling anymore as they did before the projects,”

People were also concerned that proper land management and harvesting practices may not be practiced by people to the same extent as they were in the past. In particular, concerns were raised about people not respecting the appropriate time to harvest specific animals or eggs.

“Before there was a certain amount of control. Someone guided the harvest. When I used to go out with my father to pick eggs, there was a certain time to go, not anyone at any time. You leave them alone. Nowadays people take them anytime. Same with game there was a certain time to harvest caribou and you needed to recognize the female. Some people overharvest now.”

4.5. Safety

Several participants spoke about safety concerns in the Bay. Chisasibi Cree shared that many of the elders that were the most knowledgeable about safe travel in the marine region are have passed away and that the younger generations do not have that same knowledge. Community members also spoke about how the loss of Cree names and coastal terminology makes communication about safe navigation in the marine region more challenging.

“The elders knew about the safety of being out in wiiniibaukwch (bay) now the younger generation don’t know about the safety.”

“The elders that would tell us if it was safe to travel are no longer with us.”

“Ice is different. It is more soft and dangerous to travel on now.”

“One issue related to safety and navigation is that people don’t know what you’re talking about when you use some specific Cree names or coastal terminology.”

4.6. Polar bear

Several Chisasibi Cree spoke about concerns related to polar bear. For example, people raised concerns that polar bear are coming onto the land to search for food. People also shared that changes to the rivers and increased helicopter traffic may be impacting the polar bear.

“The polar bear now comes searching for its food on the land.”

“The polar bear is disappearing it is being traumatized by all that has happened to our rivers.”

“The Polar Bear use to be more up north and now today we see them close by therefore, they come looking for food in land.”

“Since the helicopter had been used the polar bear is scared.”

4.1. Concerns about Non-Cree Uses

Several participants spoke about concerns related to impacts that non-Cree users have on the area. One main concern raised was related to caribou hunting in the marine region. Chisasibi Cree shared that, in the past, there was an issue with an outfitter asserting that they were permitted to hunt caribou on an island.

“Last year there was a big issue with caribou hunting. Some outfitters said they were allowed to go on an island to hunt caribou. At one point we had to block the road to prevent them accessing the area. They left lots of remnants of caribou. There seems to be some sort of dispute around permits for hunting in the area.”

People also raised concerns about research practices used by some researchers. In particular, people raised concerns about tranquilizing or collaring animals and the use of harvest booklets use to count the number of geese harvested.

“Putting collars on the animals is not healthy for them. A lot is being done to the animals that shouldn’t be done to them.”

“Tranquilizing the polar bear isn’t good for their well-being. They cannot eat well with when neck collars are put on them.”

“The harvest booklet that was given to us to fill out during the goose break, I didn’t fill it out because I never count what I kill. Who will count the geese that fly during the night because the geese don’t fly during the day now?”

Another concern raised was that non-native people would not be able to understand what the bay means to Chisasibi Cree and that the information they share might be misinterpreted and used in ways that might negatively impact them.

“The Information collected should not be shared to the non-native as they will take the information the wrong way. Share your problems then it will be used against you.”

“Non-natives don’t know what the wiiniibague (the bay) is and don’t know what it means to us. The sensitive issues need to be addressed.”

5. Vision

During the consultations, the community members were asked to share how they envisioned the future of the marine area. To help community members answer this question, it was often worded as, “what would you see in the marine area in 20-25 years?” The following section provides a summary of the visions for the marine area that Chisasibi Cree shared during the consultations.

5.1. Protecting the marine area

Chisasibi Cree want to see the marine area protected and well maintained. To achieve this, there was desire to ban sports hunting in the area and to protect important fishing areas. Some Chisasibi Cree also spoke about the need for education among community members to ensure that land users keep the areas clean.

“I don’t want to see caribou hunting as a sport hunt.”

“I would like to see sports hunting be banned.”

“We need our fishing areas to be protected.”

“Need to educate our communities to keep areas clean.”

5.2. Restricting Development and Traffic

For some Chisasibi Cree, protecting the marine area means restricting development in the area. Community members expressed a desire to not see developments such as wind turbines or fiber optic cables in the marine area. The desire to restrict these types of developments was related to concerns about potential impacts to the lands and water. Chisasibi Cree also spoke about wanting to think proactively about potential developments to ensure that they are ahead of any proposals that may come about.

“I don’t want to see windmills or towers of any sort.”

“In twenty years, I don’t want to see the non-native install equipment on our land. I am afraid of that.”

“The fibre optic project will not be safe for our waters once it is placed under water.”

“If there’s a proposal, for example for drilling, we want to be ahead of these proposals.”

A number of community members shared that they do not want to see increased traffic in the region. One individual mentioned specific concerns around increased traffic from a proposed park development at Roggan and Seal River.

“High traffic in the area is a big concern, we don’t want more traffic.”

“When talking about a potential park at Roggan and Seal river one main concern is traffic from a potential park.”¹

5.3. Restore areas

Chisasibi Cree are interested in seeing existing contaminated areas in the marine area cleaned up and restored to their original state. Some things that community members expressed a desire to see cleaned up include past development sites, old military sites, dump sites on the islands and former outfitting camps.

“I would like to see clean-up of military sites such as Cape Jones.”

“I want to see clean-up of former outfitting camps and military sites.”

“The dump sites on the islands need to be cleaned.”

“I want to see the clean-up of former installations such as Roggan River, Seal River.”

Many Chisasibi Cree also shared an interest in seeing waterfowl habitat be restored. In particular, people wanted to see water salinity return to previous levels and eelgrass growing as it did in the past.

“Bring back waterfowl habitat. I want it to be like it was when I was a teenager.”

“I want to see the fall water habitat brought back. I would like the eel grass to grow once again.”

“I want the salt water to be strong once again.”

“I want to see eel grass again growing once again. Every mammal relies on that.”

“Want to see salt water and eel grass back.”

¹ For more information on parks proposal see <https://www.eeyouconservation.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/lac-burton-presentation.pdf>

5.4. Preserving and Passing Down the Cree Way of Life and Language

During the consultations, one vision that many Chisasibi Cree spoke about was to see the Cree way of life continue to thrive and be passed down to future generations. One community member shared that because of changes to the current there is a need for more vehicles to support Cree access the marine region.

“Hunting has sustained us for centuries I want us to keep this alive.”

“I want hunting to be kept alive.”

“I would like to see the Eeyou to be able to continue to harvest enough to feed their families.”

“I want us to be able to train our youth hunting and language skills. But not many people have vehicles to be able to travel out there. We used to be able to use canoes but now because of the current you need a vehicle to go hunt. The CTA needs more vehicles for this.”

Chisasibi Cree also stressed the importance of education and training programs to preserve and pass down Cree knowledge and practices. Community members expressed that they would want programs to allow elders to pass down knowledge to the younger generations including teachings about when and why you do specific types of harvesting.

“People need to be taught the when and why’s of harvesting. Eggs should only be picked when they are ready.”

“I would like elders’ teachings to be passed on to the younger generations.”

Another key vision that people spoke about was the need to preserve and strengthen Cree language. Chisasibi Cree expressed an interest in seeing on the land language programs that are paired with teachings about land use and cultural practices.

“If it ever becomes what it was back then, like fishing, teaching the young boys how to survive on the land and the women teaching the young girls. The language is a bush language. You cannot teach the language in the community. It would be better to teach them out on the land.”

“Cultural activities need to be practiced more. I would like to see educational programs and programs to bring back the language lost.”

“I would like our language to be strong once again. This is where the children learned more of this mother tongue when they were out on the land with their families.”

“The language needs to be kept alive, it is slowly disappearing because of today’s technology. Kids today rely on it instead of speaking the language. We have to want to keep it strong.”

5.5. Safety

The community members shared a number of recommendations related to safe navigation in the marine area. One recommendation was the creation of well-marked safety shelters on the land for land users who may run into dangerous travel conditions. Chisasibi Cree also spoke about the importance of using Cree place names for safety purposes.

“I would like to see safety check points with shelters at random spots for all seasons.”

“There should be areas where we can communicate from and identifiable shelters. For example, we thought to have one at Long Point for in case the wind changes.”

“It is very important when people are navigating to have Cree names. For example, if someone’s motor goes out, they need to be able to say where they are so they can be rescued.”

5.6. Commercial Fishing

Some Chisasibi Cree expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of pursuing commercial fishing in the marine area. For example, one community member expressed an interest in possibly fishing commercially for species such as lobster, shrimp or muscles. Other community members raised concerns that these developments might negatively impact the health of animals in the marine region.

“I would like to look into the possibility of commercial fishing things like lobster, shrimp, muscles.”

“There were lots of brants and different types of animals in the past. If there’s any commercial activity like commercial fishing that would be my fear, that these animals would be impacted more.”

5.7. Tourism

A number of community members shared an interest in developing tourist activities in the marine region. The community members stressed that they would want to encourage ecotourism instead of sports hunting.

“Instead of sport hunting, ecotourism would be better. This would be good for local entrepreneurs.”

“I would like see tourism but only for bird watching not hunting. I’d like to see tourists with cameras not guns.”

6. Chisasibi Cree Planning Terminology

During the community consultations, the EMRPC team held a workshop to identify Cree translations of some key land use planning terminology. The objective of this workshop was to try to find words in the coastal Cree dialects that can be used to help people better understand land use planning, the Eeyou Marine Region, and the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement. Another goal of these workshops was to help non-Cree people begin to come to a better understanding of the Cree way of thinking about planning and land management. The workshops did not intend to identify the definitive and conclusive translations of these terms and should be considered part of a longer-term conversation.

Table 1 provides a summary of the terminology translations that were recommended during the workshop. To assist non-Cree speakers to understand how these words are thought about in Cree, the table also includes a column that provides a direct translation of the Cree terms into English.

Table 1. Chisasibi preliminary translation of key Eeyou Marine Region planning terms

English:	Cree:	English Meaning: From Cree Word (s)
Land Use Plan	Wiinipaakw aa iyaashkuushtaach taan chaa iitaapitihch ᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ	Wiiniipaaukw (Land & Water) liyaashkuushtaach (to prepare in advance) Taan chaa iitapitich (How it will be used)
Planning (to plan)	Aa waayaayihitimhiwaach: ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ	Aah waayaayimtimhiwaach (to plan)
Zoning	Aah pihkaanisiniikinuuch: ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ	Aah piikaansinhiikinuuch (to separate from others)
Eeyou Marine Region (Area)	Wiinipaakw: ᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ	Wiiniipaaukw (Land & Water)
Eeyou Marine Region (organization)	Wiinipaakw aah apitishishtikinuuch: ᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ	Wiiniipaaukw (Land &Water) Aah aapitishiishtikinuuch (to work at)

related to the key themes and issues. For this dotmocracy process, meeting participants were each given four coloured sticky dots. The key themes were explained (usually in Cree and English) and the community members were given an opportunity to place their stickers on the issues/themes that were the most important to them. The results of the dotmocracy process are displayed in

Table 2.

The top issues identified through the dotmocracy process in Chisasibi were:

- Restoration:
 - Work to clean up coastal areas
- Cree governance:
 - Respect and support Cree knowledge, governance, and land management practices in the marine area
- Access:
 - Maintain and enhance access to the marine area for hunting fishing trapping

Table 2. Results of Chisasibi Dotmocracy Exercise

Planning Themes Identified from Past Studies	Tallymen and land users	Elders meeting	Women’s meeting	Youth	Workers	Total
Restoration: Work to clean up coastal areas	12	14	16	13	14	69
Cree governance: Respect and support Cree knowledge, governance, and land management practices in the marine area	9	12	13	12	13	59
Access: Maintain and enhance access to the marine area for hunting fishing trapping	9	10	11	12	15	57
Cree led development: Promote economic development that is compatible with Cree way of life	10	12	20	5	8	55
Environmental monitoring and management:	6	8	13	7	10	44

Better information on what is happening on the islands and marine area						
Safety: Support safe navigation in the marine area	10	3	8	4	4	29
Environmental protection: Create new protected areas	4	11	5	4	3	27
Climate change: Understand and reduce the impacts of climate change	0	4	10	3	0	17
Total Responses	60	74	96	60	67	357

8. Questions and recommendations for the EMR and EMRPC

The following section provides a summary of questions and recommendations that were raised by Chisasibi community members during the community consultations.

8.1. Questions raised by Chisasibi community members

During the community consultations, community members raised a number of questions related to the Eeyou Marine Region. These questions will be compiled with questions from the other communities and the EMRPC will develop a frequently asked questions document to respond to as many of the questions as possible. The key questions raised by Chisasibi Cree are listed below.

“Evictions on traplines whose jurisdiction is it?”

“Who will enforce the agreement to the non-natives hunting on the lands?”

“What about introduction of bird feed. A lot of people have been using corn to attract geese. What happens to the corn?”

“Who mapped out the zones (Cree Zone, Shared Zone)? What if there was a mistake made with the zones and who the islands belong to? Who can I address it to?”

“Who are the Board of Directors of the EMR and how long is their term?”

“Discharge lots of fresh water that kills eel grass can contaminate the fish. There is now a lot of erosion downstream of LG that was never before seen. What will the EMR be saying on that?”

8.2. Recommendations for EMR and EMRPC planning process

The community members also shared a number of recommendations related to EMR and the EMRPC the planning process. This included recommendations related to the types of research that need to be conducted and principles about how research should be conducted. Chisasibi Cree spoke about a number of research projects that they feel need to be undertaken. These projects are listed below.

- Causes for the changes in taste of fish
- River quality studies
- Causes for eelgrass disappearance
- How to restore eelgrass
- Amount of freshwater discharge into James Bay and associated impacts on ice and eelgrass
- Geese migration patterns (increases in snow geese, reduction in Atlantic geese)
- Viability or risks of geese habitat enhancement projects – including introduction of corn
- Causes of changes to Arctic Char (size and amount)

People also shared the following research principles that they want researchers to follow:

- Involve Cree youth in research projects
- Ensure research collected remains in the community
- Work with and train local researcher to ensure that expertise remains in town

9. Conclusion

A number of main themes emerged from a review of comments shared during the community consultation sessions held in Chisasibi. These topics and related descriptions, as seen below, broadly describe some of the main goals and considerations raised by Chisasibi Cree during the consultations. The EMRPC land use plan may not be able to address all of the issues and goals listed below however, the EMRPC will collaborate with other jurisdictions to ensure that these key issues are appropriately considered and, where possible, incorporated into in the land use planning process.

Topic	Description
Cree governance	Respect and support Cree knowledge, governance, and land management practices in the marine area
Cree harvesting	Protect areas of importance to Cree harvesting including fish and waterfowl habitat. Support waterfowl habitat enhancement programs.
Cree knowledge, culture and way of life	Support the transmission of Cree knowledge, culture and way of life to the next generation through programs and teachings.
Cree language	Create programs and policies that support the growth and development of Cree language. Use Cree place names.
Economic development	Consider how development in the marine region could create employment for Cree people. Consider developments such as commercial fishing and tourism. Ensure that any development that occurs respects Cree way of life.
Research	Support research projects and principles shared by Chisasibi people.
Restoration	Work to identify contaminated sites and clean up coastal areas including former outfitting camps and military sites. Support efforts to restore waterfowl habitat, eelgrass, and salinity levels.
Restrict development	Restrict developments such as wind turbines and fiberoptic cables.
Restrict outfitting	Restrict outfitting especially for caribou
Safety	Create and/or identify locations of safety shelters that can be used for emergencies, encourage use of Cree place names.
Traffic	Consider ways to reduce or mitigate impacts from increased traffic from park developments in the region.

10. Appendix A: Chisasibi Community Consultation Schedule

EYYOU MARINE REGION			
Chisasibi Community Consultations			
SCHEDULE			
September 4, 5, 6, 7 2018			
Day 1 – Tuesday September 4, 2018			
9:30 AM	Planning Meeting	EMR Team	Mitchuap Auditorium
1:30 PM	Terminology Workshop	Cree Language Experts! Snacks Served!	TBD
Day 2 – Wednesday, September 5, 2018			
10:30 AM	Presentation to CNC Council	CNC Council	CNC Council Chambers
1:30 PM	Tallymen and Land Users	Any tallymen and land users welcome! Snacks served!	Mitchuap Auditorium
6:00 PM	Community Feast	All Welcome! Feast served!	Mitchuap Auditorium
Day 3 – Thursday September 6, 2018			
9:00 AM	Cree Trappers Association Committee Meeting	CNC CTA Committee! Snacks served!	Chisasibi Business Development Group
12:00 PM * NEW TIME *	Women’s lunch	All women welcome! Lunch served!	Mitchuap Auditorium
1:30 PM * NEW TIME *	CNC Elders	All elders welcome! Snacks served!	Mitchuap Auditorium
6:00 PM * NEW TIME *	Youth dinner	All youth welcome! Dinner served!	Mitchuap Auditorium
Day 4 – Friday, September 7, 2018			
9:30 AM	Cree Nation of Chisasibi Workers	Any workers who are interested! Snacks served!	CNC Band Office



11. Appendix B: Poster Used to Promote Consultations

Eeyou Marine Region
ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ REGION MARINE D'EEYOU

**Chisasibi
Community
Consultations**
September 4-7, 2018

See schedule for
details

**Help Shape the
Future of the Islands
and Marine Area**

Come and help us answer:
Where have we been?
Where are we now?
Where do we want to go?

Questions?: Contact John Lameboy at 819-855-2878
<https://www.eeyoumarineregion.ca>

EEYOU MARINE REGION PLANNING COMMISSION
COMMISSION D'AMÉNAGEMENT
DE LA REGION MARINE D'EEYOU
ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ
ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ ᐃᑭᑦᑎᑦ

Find us on
facebook

12. Appendix C: List of past consultation and study reports reviewed

Year	Consultation Process or Study	Led by
2002	Cree Use, Management & Occupancy of the Offshore Region in Eastern James Bay & Southeastern Hudson Bay	Kreg Ettenger
2009	Eeyou Indoh-Hoh Weeshou-Wehwun Traditional Eeyou Hunting Law	Cree Trappers Association
2010	Goose Hunting and Cree Ecological Knowledge in Waskaganish and Wemindji	Cree Regional Authority And Cree Trappers Association
2011	Cree Vision of Plan Nord	Cree Nation Government
2012	Review of wildlife management issues and the environmental factors that influence them in coastal and offshore area of Eeyou Istchee, Northern Quebec	Jessica Labrecque
2014	Integrated Land and Sea Conservation Community Consultations	Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark
2015	Cree Regional Conservation Strategy	Cree Nation Government
2016-2017	Eeyou Istchee Tourism Association Annual Report	Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association
2017	A Conversation to Set Goals for Land Use Planning	Eeyou Planning Commission