



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

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

WHAPMAGOOSTUI  
Compiled by the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission  
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## 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 August 27 and 31, 2018 with Whapmagoostui 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.

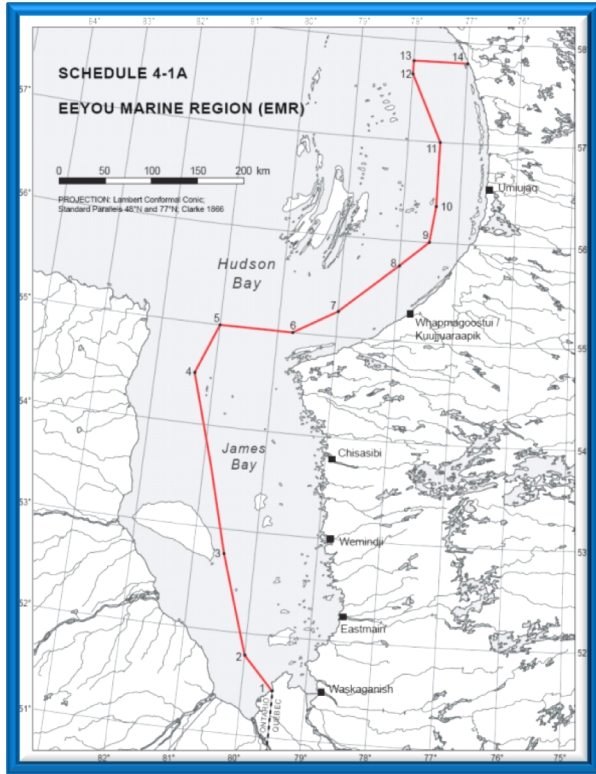


Figure 1. Eeyou Marine Region

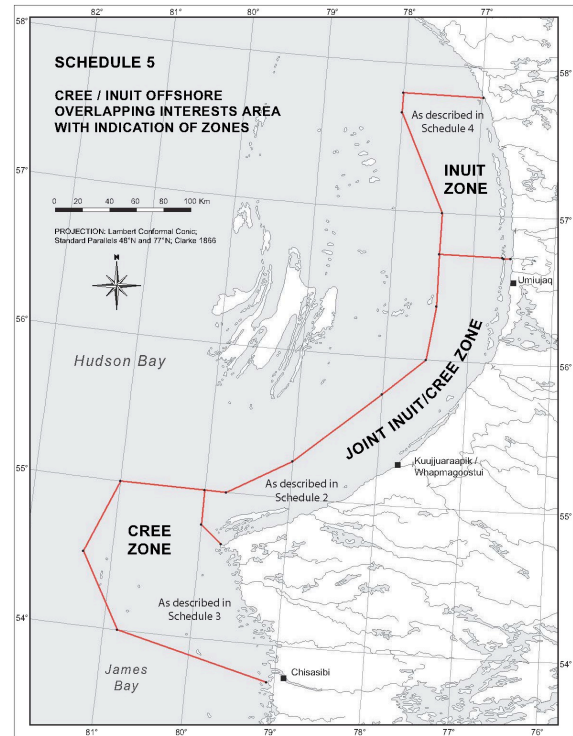


Figure 2. Cree/Inuit Offshore Overlapping Interests Area with Indication of Zones

### 1.1. Background On EMRPC

The EMRPC is an independent body created out of the EMRLCA. 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 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.

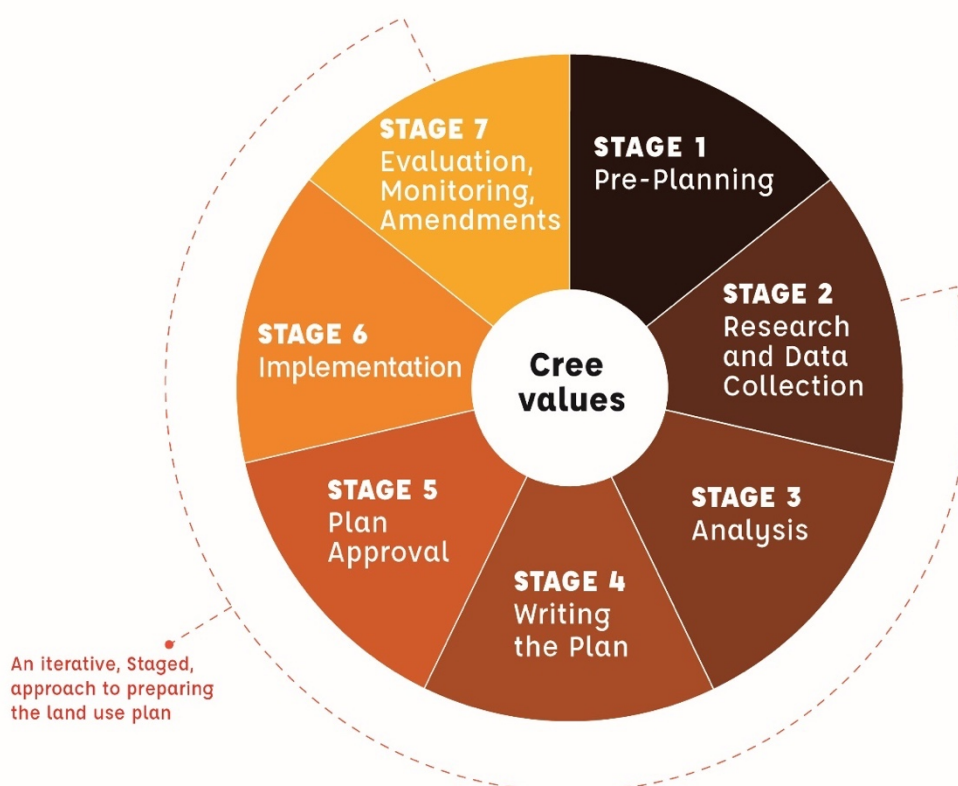


Figure 3. Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission Planning Stages

## 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 Whapmagoostui between August 27 and 31, 2018. The EMRPC relied on assistance from the Eeyou Planning Commission commissioner Eddie Masty to assist with the planning and coordination of community consultations. The consultations also relied on a team of individuals including a translator and two notetakers.

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

- Tina Petawabano – EMRPC Chairperson
- Lorne McNeice – EMRPC Commissioner
- Frances Dietrich-O’Connor – EMRPC Planner/Research
- Eddie Masty – Whapmagoostui Eeyou Planning Commission Commissioner
- Robbie Kawapit - Translator
- Mary Jacob – Notetaker
- Sonny Orr - Notetaker

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

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

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 Whapmagoostui is included in Appendix A. See Appendix B for the poster developed to promote the consultations.



Figure 4. Photo from Whapmagoostui tallymen and land users 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 Whapmagoostui 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. Several individuals expressed that they could not identify one specific thing that they valued because it is all valuable to them. Community members also spoke about their favourite memories and their love of the sounds and scenery in the marine region.

*“Everything is valuable. If you go out there and look around the bay, everything, the bay, the rivers, is valuable.”*

*“There are a lot of wildlife and waterfowl in the islands, they are beautiful”*

*“I just love the sounds of the islands.”*



*"Going up to the Richmond Gulf each summer, that is my favorite memory."*

*"I love that we live right on Hudson Bay."*



### 3.2. Harvesting

Whapmagoostui community members spoke about the importance of harvesting in the marine area to feed their families. People spoke about harvesting fish, ducks, geese, berries, and eggs.

*"I used to love canoeing with my parents every fall to go goose hunting."*

*"My favourite memory is of picking up sea gull eggs on the island."*

*"In the summer eggs are very valuable. We also go out fish netting."*

*"There are many rivers along the bay that are used as fishing spots. Along the coast, those are some of the areas we value most."*

*"I love going out there for picnics, family gatherings, and berry picking."*

Participants also shared stories about the importance of historic uses in the area such as harvesting of whale and seals.

*“People came here to gather oil from the whales, we used to do this”*

*“Way back, people used to gather for fish, whale and seal hunt.”*

### 3.3. Connecting with Others While out on the Land

One theme that emerged was the importance of going out to harvest with family members and connecting with others while out on the land. This included descriptions of importance of going out into the marine area for canoeing, camping, and picnics.

*“We used to go a lot, it was different locations for weekend canoeing or just for picnics. Also, we took many people along with us; especially nurses from Chisasibi.”*

*“There was lots of camping along the shoreline and people visited other camps along the way.”*

*“We used to go to the islands to pick eggs. Almost every family had a canoe and we had fishing trips for a week or two before four wheelers.”*

*“I used to go camping with my grandfather and I loved it.”*

### 3.4. Pristine Untouched Areas

One value that several participants shared was about the pristine untouched nature of the marine area.

*“We have many areas that are valuable to us. People say it is boring with nothing to do, but I do not agree with that at all. People complain that we don’t have an access road. We may not have cell service and or an access road but I want to leave it as it is. It is our home. We still treasure our Cree way of life.”*

*“I take my son out hunting to the pristine untouched areas out there and I want to keep it that way.”*

## 4. Issues

During the community consultations, the participants were asked to share any issues that related to 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. Some of the changes that people spoke about are localized in the marine area while others related to Eeyou Istchee overall but are nonetheless relevant to the marine region planning work.

#### 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 may have been 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. In particular, they spoke about perceived changes because of increases of fresh water in the bay.

*“Satellite images from the past four decades show how the waters and ice are affected by the warmer waters coming from the La Grande complex. In 1954, satellite images show James Bay and Hudson Bay were covered in ice. From 1974 on the area now has huge open waters.”*

*“Even as far as Saniquilluaq they have found more fresh water.”*

Whapmagoostui Cree also spoke about many changes they have observed to fish and birds in the marine area since the diversions. In particular, people shared stories about changes they have observed to seals, fish (especially capelin), geese, ducks, loons and arctic terns.

*“The elders know that fish, such as capelin, are affected by the waters and the fresh waters that are entering the salt waters of the Belcher Islands from the waters coming out of the Chisasibi river. Loons are affected too because that is what they feed on. Other salt waterfowl species are also affected from the water fresh entering the Hudson’s Bay from James Bay. By aircraft you can see how the environment and waters are affected too.”*

*“The fish are no longer the same.”*

*“Ashmog, duck is no longer there, it could be their food that is no longer there because of the fresh water.”*

*“Chisasibi has not spotted geese as before, we believe that there is a lack of food.”*

*“The capelin fish used to be here but they have abandoned the area. Arctic Terns used to feed on these fish. There used to be a lot of these since hydro none are seen. Fish are not caught in the net as much as they were in the past.”*

*“Why are there not that many seals now, could it be from too much fresh water? These are the effects we are encountering from the diversions.”*

## 4.2. Impacts to Harvesting

The participants also shared that changes to the land and waters in the marine area have impacted their harvesting. For example, some community members shared that changes to ice conditions have impacted the community's ability to access the land during goose break. The participants also spoke about changes to animals they harvest in the marine area such as seal and fish. Some community members expressed a sense of resignation that many rapid changes are coming to the area and they must simply accept these changes.

*"The diversions at Chisasibi and south, we are affected by it also. Ice breakage it affects us. We have shorter goose breaks. We see the water all year through. Our people know now, there is more fresh water than in the old days."*

*"Ice conditions vary in certain years or times of the year so less people occupy the coastline for goose break nowadays."*

*"Fish are more fresh and nicer up stream of our river. Just like how it used to be in the old days."*

*"There is a lot going on, on the shoreline. When ice used to be good for so long. Now, the ice goes away so fast. There is less seal kill now. The water in the summer is very cold. The hunters cannot navigate much, because the condition of the land is changing rapidly. Even the fish are affected by this. Salt water helps the fish. But we need to accept the change, that is how it is nowadays, change is approaching."*

Some community members shared that, in order to deal with navigation challenges, some families have created air strips on the islands where they harvest. The community members mentioned that there were a number of barriers to the creation of these air strips including cost and difficult approvals processes.

*"A few families are able to get an airstrip already but it was difficult for it to get approved. There are a few landing spots on the islands. Duck Island and South Island each have one, Long Island has three, Bear Island has two."*

*"During goose breaks, people from the wiinibek (marine area), they now have to get transported to there and back for their stay."*

*"It's hard to find or form an airstrip for transportation for helicopter and airplanes. It is highly expensive to make airstrips."*

## 4.3. Changes to wildlife

Whapmagoostui Cree expressed concerns about changes to wildlife that they have observed. One change observed is decreasing caribou populations. One individual shared that he believed that increasing wolf populations are contributing to the loss of caribou. He suggested that a study should be conducted to better understand the role of wolves in the reduction of caribou populations.

*“Caribou is decreasing. I know for a fact that there are a lot of wolves. A pack has big families. They migrate in the spring and then in the fall. They multiply extremely in numbers. Can we have a study on the increased concentration of wolves? I think they have a role in this caribou decrease. They tend to go for this type of game for the meat. They can cause a major decrease because they also kill the mothers and the babies. The caribou may be moving away from the muskeg. Hunters are reporting more of these approaches in our regions.”*

*“We need to be careful how we use the land. Whatever you are planning it will be hard to use and get the public to understand. Also, we will lose our way of life through some of these things, we are going to have to let go of some things. If there is any destruction of the land such as through oil spills fish are affected by these accidents. I’m 74 years old now, it was about the 1950s that I started to see the destruction of the land. There used to be a nice land of field here back then full of green grass nowadays all we see is the sand in this area.”*

#### 4.4. Contamination

Several community members shared concerns related to potentially contaminated areas within the marine area.

##### 4.4.1. Barge Accidents

The community members spoke about several barges that have sunk in the marine region and their concerns that items that sunk during these accidents may now be contaminating the waters. The participants mentioned that one of the historic accidents involved Moosonee Transport.

*“There was a barge going from Wemindji to Whapmagoostui. It sunk, there were lots of valuables that were being transported. I’m not sure if they have marked where it happened. Just recently, people in Chisasibi witnessed lumber floating around near where they think it happened.”*

*“An old barge was left to rust on the west side of Duck Islands.”*

##### 4.4.2. Potential Contamination from Community Infrastructure

Another issue that was raised by several participants is related to the local community dumpsite. The participants mentioned that, because the dump site is so close to Hudson Bay, there are concerns about waste being blown into the bay.

*“I’m worried about garbage flying by the wind. One old man went net fishing and killed one fish that had plastic over his body which was stuck on him.”*

*“We have a dumpsite that is so close. Katavik manages it. We are worried about the plastic that may have blown to the bay.”*

Community members also shared concerns about potential contaminants going into the marine area from the community lagoon.

*“The water sewage coming from the lagoon is only about 80 percent clean when it drains into the Bay.”*

#### 4.4.3. Shipping Impacts

The Whapmagoostui Cree shared several concerns about potential issues related to the large ships in the area. One main concern expressed by several community members is related to bilge water or invasive species coming from large ships. Another concern raised was related to the potential of an oil spill from the tanker used to refuel the community.

*“The garbage on the shoreline doesn’t only come from us. Even the ship that comes disposes improperly.”*

*“I’m worried about ships that release waters from the foreign countries and impacts that it may have on wildlife.”*

*“I’m worried about bilge water from big ships being dumped into the waters.”*

*“I wonder if there are any concerns of an oil spill. We are the only community with the oil tanker.”*

Whapmagoostui Cree also raised concerns about issues that might occur in the future if the community gets road access and becomes a transportation hub for northern communities.

*“I saw a plan, James Bay Transportation, they were talking about the transportation from here to the northern communities. I am not sure if its only petroleum, or other products. If that is being implemented, where do we stand if this really happens?”*

*“If we do have access road. We would be the main dock for shipment to up north (transportation hub). If that happens, many things may be hazardous to the bay.”*



#### 4.4.4. Careless users

Misuse of the lands and waters in the marine area by careless land users is a concern for Whapmagoostui Cree. The community members shared several stories about areas where foreign materials such as fuel tanks, metals and skidoo frames have been left behind on the land.

*“Foreign materials, oils, metals, tanks and other items have been being left out by careless owners, for example, skidoo frames are left to rust. This should not happen”*

*“There was an area where steel was left behind from the hydro. There are many areas like this that we need to clean up.”*

*“The times I’m on the lands, such as during spring goose break, its too cold to deal with the lands clean-up.”*

*“North of the shoreline there are fuel tanks. Katavik has started to do a clean-up along the coast.”*

#### 4.5. Relationship with Inuit

One major issue that Whapmagoostui Cree people spoke about is the tensions between the Cree and Inuit populations of Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuarapik. The participants shared stories about numerous incidents of conflicts between Inuit and Cree about harvesting practices and hunting lands.

*“The Whapmagoostui people don’t normally go further than the Long Island. But the agreement says it is a joint zone. One day we went along the coast. Half way to Long Island. We used ATVs to go there and the Inuit got mad. The Inuit confronted us when we returned.”*

*“There is friction among the Cree and Inuit. The Inuit are talking about charging the Cree if they hunt on their lands.”*

*“We used to go across the river for fishing but now when we try to go back, we were told that we are disturbing the whale hunt. Even then we didn’t go. They still say we occupy the land and disturbing the land.”*

People expressed concerns that these conflicts are beginning to become dangerous, especially for the young men of the community.

*“One of the Inuit guys shot the decoys because he wasn’t satisfied with where the Cree were hunting.”*

*“A young man encountered an incident with the Inuit. This Inuit pointed a gun to this young man.”*

*“The rivalry between the Cree and Inuit it is getting dangerous when you have young guys going in groups.”*

The community members also spoke about a tragic incident of domestic violence that occurred in 2004 and greatly strained relationships between Cree and Inuit people in Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuarapik.

*“In the 1990s people from Chisasibi and other community wanted to go back to how we were by sharing with the Inuit. It worked well, but a tragedy happened in 2004, so we didn’t go back for another 15 years. Even when we went on the other side, they said we were disturbing the whale hunt. So, we moved and they still complained.”*

The participants raised concerns about how these conflicts might impact the development of a land use plan for the joint zone of the Eeyou Marine Region where management is shared with the Nunavik Marine Region.

*“Speaking of the joint zone, will the Inuit’s go along with all of this planning? That is my major concern.”*

*“Sometimes Inuit are telling people not to hunt in some areas. The issues started with the agreements. We have to be careful. They were always trying to put notices up to say we can’t go to some areas. Another time they wanted to charge people that were just taking walks. Now we’re slowly starting to get along with each other.”*

#### 4.6. 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. Some issues people spoke about include: less use of the land, less sharing of harvests, and failing to seek the guidance of elders.

*“The way of life compared to the past is very different from today, with money equipment and all the things of today.”*

*“In the past, almost every family had canoes but now many families don’t own any.”*

*“Even sharing and providing others with food is very different nowadays. Before we just used to give. It’s not like that anymore.”*

*“These days we are pretending we know everything and we don’t go to the elders for guidance. But we don’t know everything.”*

People were also concerned that proper land management and harvesting practices may not be being passed down to younger generations.

*“There’s a favourite spot where youth like to hunt. A hunter local to that spot has talked about the condition of the ducks and the improper hunting techniques of the youth, and the garbage left behind and the theft of decoys.”*

Another concern raised by people is related to rivalry among Cree harvesters for use of particular lands. Community members shared that while, in the past, they have shared the lands, issues have started to arise related to trapline boundaries and rules. One specific story was shared about restrictions that were imposed on the use of Long Island.

*“There are complications that arise now with traplines. There is a fishing camp at Long Island. We used to share the land and going fishing together there in the summer. Nowadays they don’t let us go to their land. Even the Inuit do that to us. There are many Cree occupying the land. There is a rivalry amongst some people.”*

*“I know in other areas people cannot travel on other peoples’ traplines but here it is not like that. But one year, during goose break; an elder from Chisasibi went on the CB radio warning people of Whapmagoostui not to hunt on Chisasibi land. I was surprised to hear them say that. That was the first time I heard a native addressing a fellow native like that.”*

#### 4.7. Safety

Several participants spoke about safety concerns in the Bay. Community representatives explained that, while there are some existing strategies to deal with emergencies, the community does not have a formal emergency management plan for safety marine emergencies.

*“There was one incident in the past. A group had an accident out in the marine area. Luckily, this group knew where camps are located for emergencies and that is where they spent overnight for safety.”*

*“People used to like to live along the coast but many are moving away from there due to unsafety.”*

*“There isn’t really a formal plan outside for outside the community. For emergencies in the marine area we would usually call our neighbors to help. There is a helicopter in the community here owned by the Inuit. We may use hunters also, that are very knowledgeable with their land, in every land direction there are hunters that know and*

*occupied that land for so many years.”*

*“The coast guard covers the bay area. If there was something like a plane crash, we are very limited for this type of emergency. Agencies from South are always a phone call away. But depending on weather they cannot always get here in time.”*

*“The KM 12 docking area is not safe for canoes to dock. The terrain is all rock north from here. But moving it is challenging, some projects like the dump are in the way of other projects.”*

#### 4.8. Outfitting and Sports Fishing

Several participants spoke about potential concerns related to harvesting by non-Cree or non-Inuit in the marine region. This included concerns related to sports fishing and caribou harvesting methods used by outfitters.

*“In other areas, trout used to be fished and they were big fish but overfishing might have depleted stocks, which might explain the loss of fishing spots due to over fishing by outsiders, those prime fishing areas should be protected from sport fishing.”*

*“Caribou were affected too from non-Cree/Inuit harvesting methods and outfitters.”*

*“North from here there are a few camps owned by a non-native. If there is nothing being done about this, I guess we will see more of it. We’ve also seen traces of them at our camp. They can’t come while we are there, but if we’re not there, we know they land there because we have seen traces of them”*

*“The white man would like a share of the use of the islands and the bay for hunting and fishing.”*

*“My grandfather used areas that were very productive and now they are not. Some islands are the same. The white men do not know well the proper use of the lands and what our traditional customs are. One white man from Ontario came to hunt and fish by plane and left behind his whole campsite.”*



## 5. Visions

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 to see in the marine area in 20-25 years?” The following section provides a summary of the visions for the marine area that Whapmagoostui Cree shared during the consultations.

### 5.1. Untouched land and waters

There is a strong desire among Whapmagoostui Cree to see the marine area protected for future generations. Of particular importance was the protection of bird migration areas and other areas used for harvesting. Several Whapmagoostui community members shared that they want to see the islands and waters remain untouched and pristine.

*“Respect for our land is what we treasure the most. If you occupy the land, remember to remove what you have used. Make sure to remove any garbage and the poles and the boughs.”*

*“There are many areas we go hunting. Different areas for each animal. We need to protect these areas. I may not know all of them but its best we look into them before anything is being done to these areas.”*

*“I want to see untouched land and waters and protected areas.”*

*"I don't want to see decrease in water levels."*

## 5.2. Protecting the marine area

Whapmagoostui Cree want to see the marine area protected and well maintained. To achieve this, there was desire to create protected areas especially around migration and nesting areas and the places where Whapmagoostui Cree go to harvest. There is a desire to see the marine area protected from various things including contamination and intrusion from non-Cree/Inuit harvesters.

*"The islands need protection from those who come from outside. The non-Cree/Inuit don't respect the lands and wildlife and affect our hunting and traditional way of life and as a result."*

*"I want to see the marine area well maintained and taken care of."*

*"The fish needs protection because we value that type of diet we live on."*

*"I don't want to see garbage, contamination, or pollution in the area."*

*"Protecting the aquatic area and also the islands need preservation."*

*"I want to see protected areas especially migration and nesting areas and the places we go harvesting."*

A number of community members expressed that they would prefer that people not be allowed to build cabins on the islands.

*"The islands, we shouldn't let people build cabins there, they should take their tents and take them down once they leave."*

*"We need to protect bird migration areas like Duck Island and Long Island. There was a cabin being built at Duck Island. I would prefer to leave them as they were many years ago."*

## 5.3. Restricting Development

For some Whapmagoostui Cree, protecting the marine area means restricting development in the area. Community members expressed a desire to not see developments such as wind turbines, pipelines, mining, or forestry in the marine area. The desire to restrict these types of developments was related to concerns about potential impacts to the lands and water such as disturbances to migratory birds and oil spills. If these sorts of developments were to go



forward, Whapmagoostui Cree want assurances that there would be no contamination of the lands and waters.

*“I don’t want to see wind turbines or any developments along the coast or on the islands.”*

*“No destruction of the coastline or even in the water. Not even wind turbines. We don’t want the migration of the birds to be disrupted.”*

*“I don’t want to see pipelines in any region. If there happens to be an incident, there is a good possibility it will destroy the land or the fish.”*

*“I would prefer no mining or forestry, but I think they are doing studies for these things. If they do it, it is better if they make sure there is no contamination. “*

#### 5.4. Community infrastructure and economic development

Whapmagoostui Cree recognize however that some community goals may require developments in the marine area. The participants shared several community infrastructure and economic development plans that may involve alterations to the marine area. For example, the community is developing a tourism plan that may involve tours going into the marine area.

*“We are developing a tourism plan based on sustainable development along with COTA. We have invested to use the shoreline. Of course, this will be in partnership with the Inuit.”*

The community also spoke about a proposal for a community energy project that would involve transporting biomass from Wemindji to Whapmagoostui<sup>1</sup>. This project is expected to require increased barge capacity. Whapmagoostui is also considering developing a new port and other community infrastructure projects such as a landfill that may have implications for the marine area.

*“We’re looking into wind turbines, we considered offshore but agreed that the wind turbine would be located inland because of the birds along the coast and concerns that alternations would impact the birds. There is also a proposal for a biomass production development to bring biomass from Wemindji and produce energy in Whapmagoostui. For this project, we would need a larger capacity barge. The one we have is too small. We would need a barge with about four times bigger capacity.”*

*“The garbage dump and the dock for our boats need to be moved as soon as possible. But there is a lack of funds for the dock and there are many things we need to consider such as protecting the aquifer. A lot of the projects over lap each other which makes*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nationnews.ca/brief-whapmagoostui-energy-project-waskaganish-princess-pageant-amos-aaa-tryouts/>

*them hard to implement the right way. There are steps that need to be followed. They were talking about KM 20 as the potential location for a new port. No works have started on it yet though."*

*"We are running out of land so we might need to expand to the north. We have no choice because we are growing and need to expand. I don't like the idea of boundaries between the two communities. If we want to do so, we need a meeting to consult and if they don't want to, then were stuck."*

### 5.5. Restore areas

Whapmagoostui 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 an airstrip on Long Island from the 1950s, barges that have sunk, and camp sites. Community members also wanted to see the lands and waters restored so that geese populations would return to historic levels.

*"I hope there are more projects to clean the land and water."*

*"There is an airstrip on Long Island from the 1950s. This is still not cleaned up. It would be good to clean these lands to the way they were."*

*"In the past, the cleaning was not to be done by elders all the time, to make our time for ourselves us as elders. We need to show the younger generations how it's done so we can pass down the importance of cleaning."*

*"There's a barge that washed up at Duck Island, on the north side, and another one at the opening of the river. That one sank recently. There are metals and oils from them that will impact the waters. I would like to see this cleaned up."*

*"I would like to see more geese in the bay."*

*"There is a camp setting from the 1960s on Long Island where there are a lot of debris left. It is still visible today. It should be fixed and cleaned."*

### 5.6. Preserving and Passing Down the Cree Way of Life

Preserving and passing down the Cree way of life was important to Whapmagoostui. This included keeping the marine area pristine for future generations and teaching younger generations. They expressed hopes that Cree people continue to maintain their role as keepers of the waters and lands.

*“My vision is to keep the areas untouched and pristine for future generations to use and benefit from by practicing our traditional methods and maintaining our values as keepers of the waters and lands.”*

*“In the future, I want to see the land still being utilized and hunting and trapping still being important.”*

*“I want to see the area being more used by our hunters to keep our traditions alive and to see families on canoe trips again.”*

*“I want to see the lands and waters untouched so that future generations can enjoy and benefit from it. The youth need to know what and how the use of the lands. There are many areas along the coast that require certain knowledge. For example, at Paint islands (Paint Island Sound), the ice is never really thick enough to be travelling on. Also, the water in that area is visible very early in the spring time. So, the knowledge of those areas needs to be passed down to the younger generations for safety reasons. There are other locations along the coast with other issues that need to be addressed for the younger hunter/users of the lands.”*

*“I want to see many birds stay with us.”*

*“The caribou needs more attention. We need to value our kill. We need to treasure what we kill. We cannot play with what we have been blessed with. In the old days, we needed to value that, we still need to in order for us to always be blessed with it.”*

## 5.7. 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. Another suggestion was to ensure that life jackets are worn by all users of the marine area.

*“I think we need a safety shelter out on the land with clear notifications to the public where they are located. There are a few located in some areas that are used as shelters for hunters and these can be used as safety shelters as well. But they were built a long time ago and new ones should be replaced. There is one for the south shore and one for the north shore. There should be many built, not just a few; for everyone.”*

*“I want to see better water safety and life jackets as mandatory and worn by all.”*

*“I would like to see a road to up north for hunters to navigate. The ice melts too soon.”*

## 5.8. Strong Inuit-Cree Relationships

Days prior to the community consultations, the communities had completed their second annual Wellness Conference "Keeping Minnie's Hopes & Dreams for a Peaceful Community." Through this Wellness Conference the communities are trying to rebuild relationship between the Cree and Inuit living in Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuarapik. There was a strong interest among the consultation participants to see better relationships between Cree and Inuit and to see the Cree and Inuit sharing the land as they did in the past.

*"I want to see us sharing the land once again. The young Cree boys and the Inuit now have this agreement. It is more recent that this is happening. It is clear they have something against each other. This has to be looked at very closely. We must start having good relations. In the old days we did not do this to each other. We need to accept that the food was blessed to all of us not just one person or nation."*

*"I would like to see untouched lands so we can continue to hunt together. Hopefully in the future we will be able to share the land. My son had an incident where the Inuit said things to him. I would like to be in good relations with them through hunting."*

*"I want to work with the Inuit if they are cooperative with the decisive making of our lands."*

## 6. Whapmagoostui 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.



Figure 5. Image of Whapmagoostui Terminology Workshop

The workshop in Whapmagoostui was made possible through the assistance of translator Robbie Kawapit and Whapmagoostui School Cree Language Teachers Deborah Masty-Kawapit, Louisa George, Evelyne Dick, and Linda George.



Figure 6. Image of Whapmagoostui Terminology Workshop

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. Whapmagoostui preliminary translation of key Eeyou Marine Region planning terms

ENGLISH:	CREE:	ENGLISH:
LAND USE PLAN	-tan ashi pashwaahitakuch Chwaah iihitapitich aashchih ᑕᑦ ᐱᑭ ᐸᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ ᐱᑦ ᐱᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ	How land is expected to be used.
PLANNING (TO PLAN)	-aah maamuu aah pistikinuwich chakwaan aahwaasipiihtaakiniwich ᐱᑦ ᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ ᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ	Sitting down together to plan something.
ZONING	-aah paapikaasinihikinuwich ᐱᑦ ᐸᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ	Seperating in writing.
EYYOU MARINE REGION (ORGANIZATION)	-aa yaayaawaamishkaach wiinipaakuch chaakwaan Aatihitakuch aahaapishtikinuwich ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ ᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ ᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ	Sitting (board) for shoreline waters and its contents.
VISION	-nikaanaayaapihtimuwin ᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ	Looking into the future.
GOALS	-pikushihiitimuwin ᐱᑦᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ	Hopes or hoping.
OBJECTIVES	-taanitaa chaa wiiah ᑕᑦᑕ ᐱ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ Kaaushtikinuwich	How to stand for (whatever).
EYYOU MARINE REGION (AREA)	--aa yaayaawaamishkaach wiinipaakuch ᐱᑦ ᐱᑦᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦᑕᐱᑦ	Shoreline waters and its contents.



## 7. Dotmocracy - Ranking Planning Issues

Prior to the community consultations, the EMRPC conducted a review of past studies and consultations related to the Eeyou Marine Region. A list of the studies reviewed is provided in Appendix C. The objectives of this review were:

- To try to reduce duplication in the EMR/EMRPC consultation processes
- To ensure the EMRPC planning process built off of past studies
- To identify key themes and issues raised by previous studies

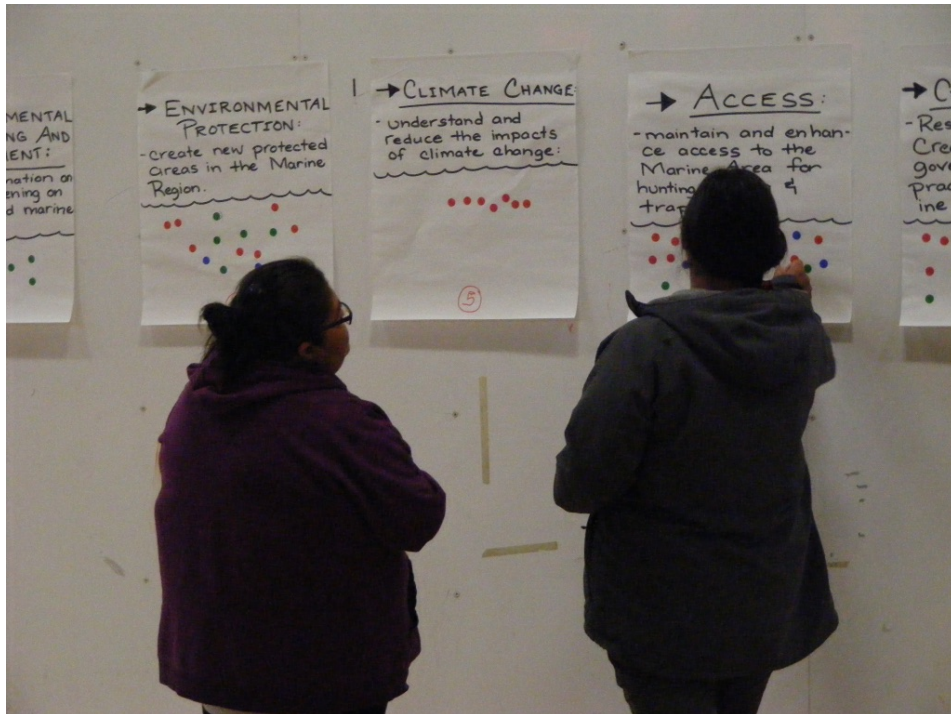


Figure 7. Image of Whapmagoostui women's meeting dotmocracy exercise

The themes identified through this review were used to conduct a dotmocracy process during the community consultations to gather a preliminary understanding of community priorities 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 Whapmagoostui were:

- Access:
  - Maintain and enhance access to the marine area for hunting fishing trapping

- Restoration:
  - Work to clean up coastal areas
- Cree governance:
  - Respect and support Cree knowledge, governance, and land management practices in the marine area

Table 2. Results of Whapmagoostui Dotmocracy Exercise

Planning Themes Identified from Past Studies	Community Feast	Tallymen	Youth	Workers	Women's meeting	Total
<b>Access:</b> Maintain and enhance access to the marine area for hunting fishing trapping	12	10	2	1	5	30
<b>Restoration:</b> Work to clean up coastal areas	12	9	1	2	5	29
<b>Cree governance:</b> Respect and support Cree knowledge, governance, and land management practices in the marine area	9	5	1	3	5	23
<b>Safety:</b> Support safe navigation in the marine area	5	9	0	3	4	21
<b>Environmental protection:</b> Create new protected areas	8	5	1	2	3	19
<b>Cree led development:</b> Promote economic development that is compatible with Cree way of life	7	2	2	3	1	15
<b>Environmental monitoring and management:</b> Better information on what is happening on the islands and marine area	6	4	1	1	0	12
<b>Climate change:</b> Understand and reduce the impacts of climate change	7	0	0	1	1	9
<b>Total Responses</b>	66	44	8	16	24	158

## 8. Questions and recommendations for the EMR and EMRPC

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

### 8.1. Questions raised by Whapmagoostui community members

During the community consultations, community members raised a number of questions related to the Eeyou Marine Region. Whenever possible, answers to these questions were provided during the consultations. The EMRPC recognizes that there is still a need to build greater awareness about the EMR and the EMRLCA within the coastal communities.

The questions listed below 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.

*“How will Nunavik and Makavik be involved in this planning process?”*

*“How is the wildlife board involved in studying orcas, moose, beluga, whales?”*

*“How should we handle injured animals on the shores that are assumed to be affected by the hydro projects? Is there any way to send out an animal or species for a study?”*

*“How will you deal with contamination that is coming to the Bay from the rivers and creeks inland?”*

*“The barge of the sinking and all of the items that were located. Am I addressing this to the right department? Is this where it applies?”*

### 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. These included recommendations related to the types of research that need to be conducted.

*“Orcas, moose, and beluga whales have been witnessed a lot lately. This needs to be studied as soon as possible before we can make more planning.”*

*“I would like to see a study done on the ice conditions, especially for the people living along the shore.”*

*“It would be could to have it written down on paper on what the other communities have to say, Niskamoon had already done study on the Cree way of life for these areas. In this case it's concerning the values, are there funds to do the same for Whapmagoostui?”*

*“There are many areas we go hunting. Different areas for each wildlife. We need to protect these areas. I may not know all of them but its best we look into them before anything is being done to these areas.”*

## 9. Conclusion

A number of main themes emerged from a review of comments shared during the community consultation sessions held in Whapmagoostui. These topics and related descriptions, as seen below, broadly describe some of the main goals and considerations raised by Whapmagoostui 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
<b>Access</b>	Maintain and enhance access to the marine area for hunting fishing trapping
<b>Climate and other environmental changes</b>	Minimize the impacts of these changes on the Cree way of life including changes to ice and travel conditions
<b>Cree governance</b>	Respect and support Cree knowledge, governance, and land management practices in the marine area
<b>Cree knowledge, culture and way of life</b>	Ensure that Cree knowledge, culture and way of life is passed on to the next generation through programs and teachings. Support Cree teachings such as sharing and respect for the land and elders’ knowledge.
<b>Impacts of hydroelectric development</b>	Monitor and document impacts of hydroelectric developments. Support initiatives to working to mitigate these impacts
<b>Plan for future developments</b>	Plan for community infrastructure developments such as airstrips, a marina, larger barge capacity for biomass energy production. Consider implications of a potential marine transportation hub within or near Whapmagoostui.
<b>Protection of the lands and waters</b>	Protect areas for future generations. Create protected areas including protection of migration and nesting areas and important harvesting areas. Protect the area from potential oil tanker spills.
<b>Research</b>	Support research projects requested by Whapmagoostui people.

<b>Restoration</b>	Work to identify contaminated sites and clean up coastal areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sunk barge(s) (e.g. Duck Island)</li> <li>• airstrip and camp on Long Island</li> <li>• foreign materials left by land users.</li> </ul>
<b>Restrict cabins</b>	Consider restricting the construction of cabins
<b>Restrict development</b>	Restrict developments such as wind turbines, pipelines, mining, or forestry
<b>Restrict outfitting and sports fishing</b>	Restrict outfitting and sports fishing
<b>Safety</b>	Create and/or identify locations of safety shelters that can be used for emergencies, require use of life jackets
<b>Strong Inuit-Cree Relationships</b>	Strong collaboration with NMR and Makavik on planning work, respect and support local initiatives to strengthen relationships between Cree and Inuit people
<b>Tourism</b>	Support tourism in the marine region
<b>Trapline system</b>	Consider implications of the trapline system in relation to historic practices and current land use pressures and conflicts
<b>Waste management</b>	Integrate sound waste management practices into Cree life on the land and the activities of proponents. Work with other jurisdictions to protect the area from waste or other contaminants entering the area including garbage from the local landfill, Whapmagoostui lagoon, and bilge water.

## 10. Appendix A: Whapmagoostui Community Consultation Schedule

<b>EYOU MARINE REGION PLANNING COMMISSON SCHEDULE Whapmagoostui Community Consultations August 27, 28, 29, 30 2018</b>			
<b>Day 1 – Monday August 27, 2018</b>			
<b>1:00 PM</b>	Planning Meeting	EMRPC Team	Gathering place
<b>Day 2 – Tuesday August 28, 2018</b>			
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Presentation to CNW Council	CNW Council	CNW Council Chambers
<b>3:30 PM</b>	Terminology Workshop	Cree Language Experts! Snacks Served!	Gathering place
<b>6:00 PM</b>	Community Feast	All Welcome! Feast served!	Complex
<b>Day 3 – Wednesday, August 29, 2018</b>			
<b>11:00 AM</b>	CNW Elders	All elders welcome! Snacks served!	MSDC
<b>1:30 PM</b>	Tallymen and Land Users	Any tallymen and land users welcome! Snacks served!	Gathering place
<b>6:00 PM</b>	Women’s dinner	All women welcome! Dinner served!	Complex
<b>Day 4 – Thursday August 30, 2018</b>			
<b>1:30 PM</b>	Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui Workers	Any workers who are interested! Snacks served!	CNW Admin Office
<b>6:30 PM</b>	Youth dinner	All youth welcome! Dinner served!	Complex



11. Appendix B: Poster Used to Promote Consultations



The poster features a background image of a beach with rocks and a white bird in flight. At the top, the text reads "Eeyou Marine Region" in large white and blue letters, with a white bird icon above "Eeyou". Below this is the name in Inuktitut syllabics and "REGION MARINE D'EEYOU". The main title "Planning Commission" is centered in large white letters. Three circular inset images show: 1) a close-up of a red and green plant, 2) a forest of tall evergreen trees, and 3) two Canada geese on a beach. The bottom half is split into two colored sections: a dark blue section on the left and a light blue section on the right.

**Eeyou Marine Region**  
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**Planning Commission**

**Community Consultations**  
August 27-30, 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?

 EEOU MARINE REGION PLANNING COMMISSION  
COMMISSION D'AMÉNAGEMENT  
DE LA REGION MARINE D'EEYOU  
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Questions?: Contact Eddie Masty at (819) 929 3384

<https://www.eeyoumarineregion.ca/planning-commission/>

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Consultation Process or Study</b>	<b>Led by</b>
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