Stomach content results
Fish abundance in the diet

**1990s**
- North: 88%
- South: 80%

**2000s**
- North: 96%
- South: 52%

**Changes over time:**
- In Pangnirtung, a shift from mainly fish to invertebrates. Also, a large decline in the abundance of snailfish in the diet, and an increase in all invertebrate types described.

**Distinctions between north and south include:**
- Larger proportions of Arctic cod in the diet of northern seals;
- A larger array of invertebrates consumed by southern seals; and
- Presence of Capelin in the diet of southern seals.

**Background**
Ringed seals are opportunistic predators but diet studies have shown *Boreogadus saida* and lipid-rich pelagic crustaceans as primary prey types consumed. This has been observed in the high Arctic, but a shift to *Ammodites sp.* and *Mollusus villosus* has occurred in southern Hudson Bay.

**Methods**
This project uses a convergent parallel mixed methods approach to gather and link information on feeding ecology of ringed seals near Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet (North), and Pangnirtung (South).

**Local knowledge**
Local Inuit Knowledge gathered through semi-directed interviews with hunters. Interviews focused on Inuit knowledge of ringed seal biology and habitat use.

**Stomach Contents**
Quantitative analysis of ringed seal digestive tract contents. Prey identified to the lowest taxonomic level. Frequency of occurrence and percent abundance is being used to determine prey composition.

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**References**