Tourism presents many opportunities for the sustainable development of communities in Nunavut, and has been characterized as less impactful than other kinds of development including mining. However, there are also many challenges to ensuring positive social, economic benefits and limiting adverse environmental impacts, particularly for cruise ship tourism. A key debate about cruise ship tourism in the area of Sirmilik National Park and the Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Nunavut is how to preserve these protected areas while at the same time contributing to the economic development and well-being of Inuit in nearby communities such as Pond Inlet.

How different are these "rules" from those of the federal government?

Research on Inuit "traditional rules" for managing tourism in the region was carried out in 2016. Guided by the local Nunavut and Inuit government regulations are perceived by many Inuit as a way to manage the industry, and administration of proper legislation and regulations. The traditional knowledge of Pond Inlet residents provides an important foundation for understanding changes in the Arctic ecosystems due to climate change; it also can inform the management of changes occurring including the increase in cruise ship tourism in sensitive Arctic ecosystems. Federal and territorial government regulations are perceived by many Inuit of Pond Inlet as inadequate in addressing the growth in the cruise ship tourism industry and the impacts it is having on marine habitat, wildlife and people.

The formal rules are difficult to address and all the Acts and regulations related to CST and the Canadian Arctic are hard to review, the government representatives interviewed did not provide many rules to compare. The rules extracted from government regulations that pointed to particular regulations, and the main ideas of specific rules extracted from the literature reviewed of Acts, are the rules used for this study.

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