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## **Monitoring food insecurity among Inuit: The Forgotten Pillar of Fisheries Management**

**Melina Kourantidou\* <sup>1</sup> and Megan Bailey<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Marine Affairs Program, Dalhousie University, Life Sciences Centre, 1355 Oxford Street, PO Box 15000, Halifax NS, B3H 4R2 Canada

Several lines of evidence reveal an important role of marine resources as a primary food source to which Inuit have historically had a strong cultural attachment. We assess the limitations and barriers of marine resource governance in northern Labrador in securing access to these traditionally important food sources, and offer commentary on opportunities and recommendations for long-term management and monitoring of marine resources, in line with self-determination. These opportunities are largely present due to the creation of Nunatsiavut (2005), the first Inuit self-governance region. We discuss Federal Food policies within Canada which largely fail to capture important aspects of food security in the Arctic and highlight the need for better resource management policies that focus on treating the cause rather than the symptom. Lack of information and monitoring tools that can adequately track the changes in locally harvested marine resources can threaten the wellbeing, social, economic and cultural integrity of coastal communities dependent upon those resources. We explore the roles of subsistence marine resource harvesting and commercial fishing in safeguarding food security and argue that the way marine resources are managed or mismanaged has direct relevance to Inuit food security and socioeconomic wellbeing. We further describe the needs for monitoring and propose the use of indicators that capture the contribution of locally harvested marine resources to food security along with a framework that allows for utilizing local knowledge and observations. Using preliminary results from research in Nunatsiavut, this piece responds to the gap in knowledge on seafood sovereignty in Indigenous communities of the Arctic. The approach contributes to the knowledge base needed in Inuit food security research to build a better understanding of the political and institutional legacies that continue to contribute to food insecurity, their connection to the marine environment, and of ways to address those through policy making.