

Submission: T-2020-187-68

Title Kooneeloosee (Cornelius) Nutarak, Sr.: Exemplary Arctic Observer

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Theme 1: Design, Optimization and Implementation of the Observing System

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Poster title (brief) Kooneeloosee (Cornelius) Nutarak, Sr.: Reflections On An Exemplary Arctic Observer

Abstract - text box

As the global science community seeks international collaboration and documentation of long-term observations of system-scale Arctic change, the Inuit name of Cornelius Nutarak can remind the research community about the impact one Inuk can make. In a collaborative effort, including multiple institutions and organizations in Canada and America, the original notes of Nutarak about narwhal will be compiled, translated and published. These are only a small window on the vast documentation of weather, ice, and ecological Arctic changes that Cornelius Nutarak documented over 60 years of his life. As part of an Arctic Fulbright initiative, this collection of Nutarak's writings add to the recognized research of the narwhal and include descriptions of anatomy, morphology, distribution, migration and behavior. Nutarak (1924–2007) was an Inuit hunter, knowledge expert, and community leader, who lived most of his life in the community of Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik), Nunavut in Arctic Canada. He was highly respected for his knowledge, was given the Elder's Recognition Award from the Inuit Heritage Trust (1999) for assisting other Nunavummiut in understanding their culture, and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2006. He left copious notes on animal behavior, distribution, and migrations in the Arctic, particularly of narwhal. In the design, optimization and implementation of observing networks, Nutarak's legacy is a reminder of his observations dating back to the beginning of the 20th century and their impact. By spreading his message and honoring his contributions, we can inspire future generations of Inuit to follow his path.