



# **Qikiqtani Food Sovereignty: Baseline Literature and Projects Review Report**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

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As defined by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Qikiqtani Inuit Association, food sovereignty means the right to nutritious locally sourced food. For Inuit this translates to country food, such as Arctic char, seal, narwhal, caribou, berries, birds, and shellfish. In Nunavut harvesters play an integral role in Inuit food sovereignty. They provide country food that feeds communities, reinvigorates Inuit cultural practices, and stimulates local economies.

Specifically, Inuit food sovereignty means the right to healthy and nutritious food, the right to culturally appropriate food, the right to food harvested through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and the right to access wildlife in ways that empower communities and stimulate local economies. In Nunavut, the harvesting industry empowers Inuit, transfers Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, promotes knowledge, skills and Inuktitut language transfer, and safeguards Inuit cultural traditions and values related to harvesting, preparation and sharing of food.

It is widely recognized that resources and supports are lacking and are needed to promote to a future for Nunavut Inuit where country food is a readily available choice for families and harvesting is a viable livelihood. Through Qikiqtaaluk Business Development Corporation's (QBDC) Qikiqtani Food Sovereignty Implementation Solution (QFSIS) Project these resources and supports will be identified in collaboration with the Qikiqtani communities.

QBDC was created to stimulate local, regional, and territorial economic development opportunities. Creating partnerships and collaborating with communities, QBDC works to build prosperous, more self-sufficient communities by creating work and capacity building opportunities.

Improving access to country food and supporting infrastructure is one avenue QBDC is working with Qikiqtani communities to build prosperous and more self-sufficient communities. The QFSIS Project is an essential first step to establish the necessary community-based infrastructure to support harvesters and communities in achieving food sovereignty.

This *Qikiqtani Food Sovereignty: Baseline Literature and Project Review Report* provides an overview of past and current publications, projects, activities, and initiatives across the Qikiqtani Region related to food sovereignty activities. A review of both literature and initiatives was undertaken to define the baseline conditions and to help establish parameters of the QFSIS Project.

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

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There has been considerable research conducted and reported on pertaining to food sovereignty and country food in Nunavut. This work has increased over the last decade as the awareness of food insecurity in Nunavut has become more prevalent. An annotated summary of reports pertaining to these topics has been developed to support the ongoing discussion and efforts to advance food sovereignty in Nunavut communities.

The *Annotated Summary of Reports Pertaining to Food Sovereignty in Nunavut* provided in Appendix A, compiles the available and relevant information respecting country food consumption and food sovereignty in Nunavut. This compilation does not represent an exhaustive list.

The QFSIS Project Team reviewed eighteen reports, research papers and strategies produced by various groups including governments, Inuit Organizations, Universities and other groups and organizations. Each publication reviewed is summarized in content and with perspectives for application in Nunavut within the Annotated Summary Report. The perspective for application to the QFSIS project represents the opinions of the authors.

Common themes of these reports include:

- Food sovereignty in Nunavut is not a simple solution and has many complex factors to consider. There is not one reason for food insecurity in Canada's far north. Food security requires a combination of strategic thinking and planning to address socio-economic issues
- There exist challenges and shortcomings in the current food subsidization programs in Nunavut, such as Nutrition North Canada
- Food sovereignty in Nunavut should include improving harvester support programs and providing wages for harvesters who provide food to their communities
- Country food should be viewed as nutritious and should be readily available in communities as a food source
- Investing in infrastructure to support harvesting, processing, and storing of country food should be a priority in each Nunavut community

### 3 COUNTRY FOOD HARVESTED IN COMMUNITIES

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In 2004, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board released the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study which documents a detailed list of country food harvested in Nunavut communities. The Nunavut Agreement mandated the Study be completed to determine how many animals were harvested by Inuit in each community in Nunavut. The Study collected data from Inuit hunters for a total of five years. QBDC could not find a more recent extensive documentation of country food harvested in Qikiqtani communities.

Table 1 provides a summary of country food harvested in each Qikiqtani community from data collected recently by QBDC. It is not an exhaustive list and only an indication of common country food harvested in the communities. Much of the information was gathered from community Facebook groups, project team knowledge, and outreach to community stakeholders.

The Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study and QBDC's information gathering indicates the harvesting culture is prominent in all communities with country food harvesting and distribution activities existing in all communities.

**Table 1: Summary of Country food harvested in Qikiqtani communities**

Community	Country Food Harvested Locally	Country Food Outsourced	Commercially Harvested Country Food
<b>Arctic Bay</b>	Seal, Arctic char, narwhal, bowhead whale, snow geese		Arctic Char*
<b>Clyde River</b>	Caribou, Arctic char, cod, seal, arctic hare, bowhead whale, narwhal	Caribou	Arctic Char, seal
<b>Grise Fiord</b>	Ring seal, muskox	Shrimp Caribou Arctic Char Dried meat	Occasionally muktuk sold to Iqaluit country food store
<b>Kimmirut</b>	Arctic hare, Arctic char, seal, walrus, caribou, ptarmigan, beluga, cod, berries	Caribou from Kivalliq Igunaq (aged, fermented meat)	Ptarmigan (occasionally sold to Iqaluit HTA)
<b>Kinngait</b>	Arctic char, bowhead whale, narwhal, seaweed		Arctic Char*
<b>Igloolik</b>	Arctic char, seal, caribou from Melville Peninsula, walrus		Arctic Char*
<b>Iqaluit</b>	Polar Bear (need a tag), caribou (need a tag), walrus, narwhal, beluga, ringed seal, bearded seal, clams, mussels, crow berries, blue berries, Arctic hare, Arctic char, ptarmigan, snow geese, Canada geese  Between Kimmirut and Iqaluit there are cloud berries		Arctic Char*
<b>Pangnirtung</b>	Turbot, Arctic char, polar bears, seal, walrus, rabbit, ptarmigan, eider duck, narwhal, beluga, caribou (when tags are available)	Caribou from Kivalliq Region	Arctic Char & Greenlandic Turbot
<b>Pond Inlet</b>	Seal, Arctic char, narwhal, ptarmigan, Arctic hare, polar bear, geese, crow berries, blueberries, beluga.  Caribou – must travel halfway to Sanirajak or Arctic Bay	various	Arctic Char
<b>Qikiqtarjuaq</b>	Arctic char, polar bear, seal, narwhal (need a tag) caribou, Arctic hare		Arctic Char, clams*
<b>Resolute Bay</b>	Polar bears, caribou, walrus, musk ox, Arctic hare and siksik (ground squirrels), ring seals, bearded seals, harp seals, beluga, narwhal, ptarmigans, geese, eider ducks	Caribou Fish	

Community	Country Food Harvested Locally	Country Food Outsourced	Commercially Harvested Country Food
Sanikiluaq	Walrus, beluga, ringed seal, bearded seal, shellfish, Eider duck, Arctic char, summer sea birds, Canada geese, mussels, scallops, sea stars, sea urchins, sea cucumbers		Eider Duck down*
Sanirajak	Caribou, walrus, Arctic char, landlock, trout, bearded seal, ringed seal, ptarmigan, clams, geese, and occasionally beluga and harp seal		Arctic Char – commercial quota of 25,000 lbs from Hall Lake*

\*Reported in the 2004 Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study (data from 1996-2001)

## 4 LOCAL HARVESTING, DISTRIBUTION AND TRADE

The harvesting economy for local consumption, distribution and trade is perhaps the largest economy in Nunavut providing many social, economic, cultural, and environmental benefits to communities and Inuit. Posts on Facebook, used in communities as a marketplace tool, indicate that all Qikiqtani communities are actively harvesting and locally distributing country food within their communities.

In the past, full-time harvester support programs have been funded by governments. However, there have been challenges in the set up and operations of these programs, including restrictive benefits and lack of administrative support.

The QFSIS Project Team researched country food distribution and harvesters support programs. Below are programs available in the Qikiqtani Region and Nunavut-wide however it may not be an exhaustive list.

### 4.1 NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INC. HARVESTERS SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Nunavut Harvesters Support Program (NHSP) was established in 1993 by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut to provide financial assistance to Inuit to acquire equipment for traditional harvesting activities. NTI administered the program up until September 1, 2020. The Regional Inuit Associations now administer the programs in their respective regions.

### 4.2 QIA HARVESTING SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) administers the Nunavut Harvester Support Program (NHSP) on behalf of NTI. The NHSP funds two programs, the Harvesting Equipment Program, and the Community Hunt Program.

The Harvesting Equipment Program provides Inuit funding assistances for the purchase of small and larger harvesting equipment, safety equipment, and insurance, and aids in disaster relief. The Community Hunt Program provides funding assistance to organizations or groups interested in participating in community hunts.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, QIA offered a variety of funding programs, made available through the Government of Canada's Indigenous Community Support Fund, as part of their ongoing COVID-19 relief efforts. The COVID-19 Community Hunt Program provided \$2,000 for eligible applicants to purchase supplies that might be needed while harvesting on-the-land. The COVID-19 Hunters Support Program provided five \$2,000 grants to each of the Qikiqtani Region's 13 communities. Harvesters were required to share their catch with community members at no cost.

QIA also provided funding through the Emergency Land Access Initiative. This initiative was also made available through the Government of Canada's Indigenous Community Support Fund. Over 800 Qikiqtani Inuit accessed a one-time \$1,500 grant to help self-isolate on-the-land during COVID-19 outbreaks in Kinngait and Iqaluit.

QIA also funds various cultural programming through its Qikiqtani Cultural Activities Program (QCAP) and Ilagiiktunut fund.

QCAP is an application-based program that provides funding for community-led projects that foster the preservation and transmission of traditional skills and cultural activities. In 2020-2021, 30 projects funded were for hunting or on-the-land projects. An example of a QCAP project was a cultural skills trip in Kinngait where 20 youth participated in boating, fishing, and seal hunting, as well as processing and preserving their catch.

The Ilagiiktunut fund supports social and cultural projects for Inuit living in the five communities impacted by the Mary River Mine. In 2020-2021, some of the projects funded included seal hunting, narwhal hunting, and qamutik making projects.

#### 4.3 QIA NAUTTIQSUQTIIT INUIT STEWARD PROGRAM

As part of the establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, QIA launched Tallurutiup Imanga Nauttiqsuqtiit program in Arctic Bay. The program has since grown to include the other high Arctic communities of Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, and Resolute Bay. In 2021, QIA announced the expansion of the Nauttiqsuqtiit program to Sanikiluaq.

An important part of the Nauttiqsuqtiit work is harvesting animals and sharing their catch with the community. Harvesting is part of their wildlife monitoring work. The animals provide valuable data, but also help to feed the community.

#### 4.4 EDT PROGRAM COUNTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The Government of Nunavut Department of Economic Development and Transportation has a Country Food Distribution Program that aims to help improve the economic viability of harvesting. The program supports two streams of the harvesting economy:

1. Annual contribution to communities. Projects funded are developed by the municipalities and/or local HTAs and must support local harvesters such as paying harvesters to stock community freezers with country food, purchase small equipment for community use or finance other projects that will improve the viability of the harvesting economy. Funding can also be used to pay for operation and maintenance costs of community freezers.

2. Investments in harvesting infrastructure. This stream is application based and primarily supports the construction or renovation of community freezers or other identified harvesting infrastructure.

#### 4.5 GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS SUPPORT

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment supplies core operational funding to Hunters and Trappers Organizations. Funds are intended to facilitate operations related to wildlife co-management. Each organization receives a lump sum contribution based on the community's population. The base funding allocation is \$11,000 per community and increases with higher population to a maximum of \$20,000.

The Government of Nunavut Department of Environment provided \$25,000 to each of Nunavut's Hunters and Trappers Organizations to support harvesters in providing healthy country food for their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 4.6 CANADIAN NORTH COUNTRY FOOD SUBSIDIZED RATE

The sole commercial airline in the Qikiqtani Region, Canadian North, supports the sharing of country foods through offering subsidized cargo rates. They provide a flat rate of \$1.31/kg on all shipments of country food up to 100 kg. This is considerably lower than the general cargo rate which varies depending on which communities the shipment is between. Generally, this can range from \$4.55/kg to \$28.22/kg.

#### 4.7 NUTRITION NORTH CANADA HARVESTERS SUPPORT GRANT

Nutrition North Canada (NNC) has a Harvesters Support Grant which provides funding to support traditional hunting, harvesting and food sharing in isolated communities. The program is currently providing \$40 million over five years, and \$8 million per year ongoing funding to Indigenous governments and organizations which represent eligible communities.

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. is the recipient organization who receives this funding in Nunavut. NTI decides how best to support Nunavut communities with this funding. The grant can be used for harvesting activities such as:

- Transportation and equipment like ATVs, boats, snowmobiles
- Harvesting equipment
- Safety and rescue equipment
- Equipment maintenance and repair
- Training, maintenance, and education,
- Transfer of traditional knowledge, practices, and techniques
- Processing, food preparation and storage infrastructure

In 2020, NTI received \$14.9 million for a five-year period.



#### 4.8 QAJUQTURVIK COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE COUNTRY FOOD BOX

The Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre in Iqaluit started a country food box program in January 2022. The food boxes each have five portions of three to five different types of country food. The country food is sourced from hunters in Clyde River and Pond Inlet.

The program was started to bring country food to community members that face barriers to accessing country food. The program has a pay-what-you-can option for those on lower income.

#### 4.9 QAJUQTURVIK COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE SOCIAL IMPACT BOND FEASIBILITY STUDY

In 2021, Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre completed a feasibility study to determine if a program that provides salaries for hunters could address food insecurity, cultural loss, and physical and mental health challenges. Project salaries would be provided by funding through a social impact bond. Ultimately, the authors determined that there were challenges limiting the feasibility of a social impact bond in Nunavut and suggested funding for a grant-funded pilot should be the first step for this program.

#### 4.10 THE HUNTER PILOT PROJECT

In 2017, a pilot project was developed in Clyde River to find out how supporting and strengthening the roles of hunters and harvesters can improve community food sovereignty. The pilot provided a full-time salary to a local hunter to harvest animals, track harvesting activities and yield, and to share harvests with community members. The project also documented the cultural importance of a hunter role, including monitoring the environment, and sharing knowledge and skills with youth.

The project showed that one hunter can provide access to more sustainable, nutritious, and affordable food for hundreds of individuals. In addition, the project also highlighted the many social, cultural, environmental, health and economic benefits for everyone involved.

#### 4.11 OTHER NUNAVUT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Outside of the Qikiqtani Region, there are other community initiatives that are ongoing to support sustainable harvesting in Nunavut. One of these is the Young Hunters Program. This project is run through Aqqiumavvik, Arviat's Wellness Society. Program participants, aged 8-18, gain local hunting skills and knowledge through time spent with local Elders.

The Kivalliq Inuit Association offers funding to support community-based initiatives that foster Inuit traditional skills and activities. They also offer the Pijunnaqsiniq Culture Camp for Inuit youth to participate in activities such as hunting, fishing, and tool making on-the-land.

## 5 COMMERCIAL HARVESTING

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The majority of Nunavut's commercial harvesting is in the fisheries industry. In the Qikiqtani Region the only commercial fish processing plant is located in Pangnirtung, which processes turbot and Arctic char. There are no other land-based country food processing plants in the Qikiqtani Region. There is a country food store in Iqaluit.

According to the 2004 Nunavut Harvest Wildlife Study (NHWS), the Qikiqtani communities do not typically harvest animals for commercial sale other than Arctic char. The NHWS also identified that some Qikiqtani communities sell harvests locally through the HTO/A or the local store.

Nunavut's fisheries are growing contributors to the Territory's economy. The three main commercial species harvested are turbot, shrimp, and Arctic char. In 2015, the total landed value of the fish was \$86.3 million. There is an increasing number of Nunavummiut participating in the commercial fisheries who often use their income to put towards other fishing and hunting activities in their communities.

The Government of Nunavut published its first Fisheries Strategy in 2005 which laid the groundwork for the challenges, opportunities, and plan to advance the fisheries in Nunavut. Since then, the Nunavut Fisheries has grown and evolved significantly. The latest strategy was published in 2016.

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) is responsible for suballocating Nunavut's allocations of turbot and shrimp in Nunavut's adjacent commercial marine fisheries resources. The NWMB created a Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC), composed of six members appointed by the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and NWMB, that represent the interests of Inuit and Nunavummiut. The FAC review Nunavut's allocation holders' Applications for Allocation and provide independent recommendations and advice to the NWMB on suballocations.

## 5.1 OFFSHORE FISHERY

The Qikiqtani Region leads Nunavut's offshore commercial fishery. There are four Nunavut turbot and shrimp allocation holders that are all represented and/or owned by Qikiqtani communities:

- **Arctic Fishery Alliance (AFA)** - Shareholders are HTAs and community trusts of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Qikiqtarjuaq, Resolute Bay
- **Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC)** - Shareholder is QIA who represents the 13 Qikiqtani communities
- **Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited (CSFL) in partnership with Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited (PFL)** - Shareholders of CSFL are Pangnirtung Co-op, Pangnirtung HTO, and individual Inuit
- **Baffin Fisheries (BF)** - Shareholders are HTAs of Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Kimmirut, and Clyde River

The Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTAs) in Sanikiluaq, Kinngait, Sanirajak and Igloodik came together in 2017 to form Qikiqtani Fisheries Alliance (QFA). These four communities were not otherwise directly affiliated with the above allocation holders and wanted to participate in the Nunavut fishery. QFA has not yet been provided allocations for turbot or shrimp off Nunavut's shores.

The four Nunavut allocation holders have about 50 percent of total fishing quotas off Nunavut's shores. The GN, NTI and QIA are currently lobbying to have more quotas in Nunavut's adjacent waters allocated to Nunavut fishers.

2022 Allocations held by Nunavut's fishers are found in Table 2.

**Table 2: Nunavut fishery 2022 allocations**

Company	Turbot		Shrimp	
	Tonne	Percent of total Nunavut allocations	Tonne	Percent of total Nunavut allocations
Arctic Fishery Alliance (AFA)	2,186	16%	351	2%
Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC)	2,363	17%	6,528	38%
Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited (CSFL) in partnership with Pangnirtung Fisheries Limited (PFL)	2,171	16%	544	3%
Baffin Fisheries (BF)	7,056	51%	9,663	57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,776</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>17,087</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 5.2 INSHORE FISHERY

The inshore fisheries across the Qikiqtani Region is primarily Arctic char and turbot and consists of individual harvesters harvesting fish and selling to processing plants, to country food stores or on Facebook marketplaces.

In 2016, there were approximately 300 Schedule V waterbodies across Nunavut that are regulated for commercial fishery of char, trout, whitefish, Arctic cisco and cod. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada selects which of these waterbodies will be open for commercial fishing each year. HTO can also request that any of the remaining waterbodies be opened as well.

Some communities are in the exploratory phases of harvesting shrimp, whelks, and clams. Qikiqtani communities in exploratory phases include eleven waterbodies in Pangnirtung, three in Pond Inlet and one in Qikiqtarjuaq. In 2015, there were also exploratory char fisheries in Igloodik.

Pangnirtung is the only community in the Qikiqtani Region with an established processing plant, Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd. It has the capacity to process both char and whitefish. Iqaluit has a country food store, Nunavut Country Food Store, which sells a variety of seafood and other country food.

Inshore fisheries are largely supported by the territorial and federal governments, not-for-profits and the offshore allocation holders.

### 5.2.1 Pangnirtung Fish Plant

The Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd. fish plant processes Arctic Char and Greenlandic Turbot. Since 2014, Pangnirtung has seen a significant increase in local fishery participation during the winter turbot fishery with over 70 licensed participants. Pangnirtung has an opportunity to develop a summer fishery as well. Fish caught in Cumberland Sound are processed at the Pangnirtung fish plant before being shipped to Asian markets.

The development of the Pangnirtung fish plant has provided insight to other Qikiqtani communities. While it is heavily subsidized by government funding, the Pangnirtung fish plant has provided relevant information including fishery research findings and business development practices.

### 5.3 COMMERCIAL FISHERIES PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT

Significant investments have been made researching and implementing programs to build Nunavut’s inshore and offshore fisheries. These programs are all aimed to grow the industry to create employment and socio-economic benefits for Nunavummiut.

Table 3 provides examples of some recent or currently underway projects across the Qikiqtani Region. This summary is not exhaustive but provides an indication of the extensive work that has been and continues to be done to grow the industry.

Investments in these programs have been made by various organizations including the Government of Nunavut, Government of Canada, Nunavut Allocation Holders, and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.

**Table 3: Commercial fishery projects in the Qikiqtani Region**

Project/Initiative/Program	Type	Details
<b>Government of Nunavut RV Nuliajuk Research Vessel</b>	Inshore fishery research	The vessel has been conducting research in the Qikiqtani Region including ocean bottom mapping, assessing potential commercial fish stocks, turbot tagging to follow the movements of turbot along the coast and mapping of safe harbours and inner passages between communities.
<b>Qikiqtaaluk Corporation RV Ludy Pudluk Research Vessel</b>	Inshore fishery research	The vessel conducts baseline surveys on benthic marine invertebrates such as sea cucumbers, whelk, scallops etc. in two communities each open water season.  In 2021 the RV Ludy Pudluk worked in Sanikiluaq and Kinngait and in 2022 the vessel will be conducting research in Sanirajak and Igloodik.
<b>Seal Blubber Omega-3 Research Project</b>	Industry development	Qikiqtaaluk Corporation is undertaking a project to assess the viability of an Omega-3 extraction industry from ringed seal blubber.  In 2021, QC piloted a project with the HTA in Iqaluit. HTA members were provided a wage to harvest and butcher ringed seal. The under-utilized seal blubber was then vacuumed packed and shipped to a lab to assess its value for Omega-3s.  The objective of this project is to assess the viability of a Nunavut processing facility for rendering oil from seal blubber.
<b>Redfish Exploratory Fishery Project</b>	Offshore fishery research	QC Fisheries is conducting a three-year exploratory offshore research project to assess the commercial viability of redfish in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.

Project/Initiative/Program	Type	Details
<b>Small Scale Fisheries Development</b>	Inshore fishery research	WWF-Canada is currently working with the local HTAs in Kinngait and Sanikiluaq to build small-scale commercial fisheries. WWF-Canada is doing baseline research on local populations of scallops, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers in Sanikiluaq and Arctic Lyre crab in Kinngait.
<b>Exploratory Fishing Char</b>	Inshore fishery research	Kabva Marine Services & Contracting Ltd and DFO are managing this three-year project to establish test fisheries at two locations in Frobisher Bay, York Sound and Kendall Straits. The project goal is to establish commercial char quota.
<b>Nunavut Fisheries Association Research Projects</b>	Various	Nunavut Fisheries Association represent the four Nunavut Allocation holders and promote the continued growth of Nunavut’s fishing industry. They have been conducting various projects to advance the industry including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial viability of porcupine crab</li> <li>• Offshore and inshore turbot fisheries research</li> <li>• Shrimp research and marketing</li> <li>• Explored trawling technologies</li> </ul>
<b>Arctic Fishery Alliance Research</b>	Inshore fishery research	AFA conducted research onboard their fishing vessel Kiviug in its member communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Qikiqtarjuaq on the commercial viability of species such as turbot, shrimp and whelk.
<b>Pond Inlet Arctic Char Fishery Development Research</b>	Inshore fishery research	Pond Inlet has recently been trying to redevelop their Arctic char fisheries. DFO is working with the Mittimatalik HTO to collect baseline data from two Arctic char stocks in the Pond Inlet Area.
<b>Community based Fisheries Monitoring in Qikiqtarjuaq</b>	Various	DFO trained community members to collect data on Arctic char around Qikiqtarjuaq. This research provides insight into changes in Arctic char abundance and ecology. It also provides research into total allowable harvests for char stocks and developing a comprehensive sustainable fisheries management plan.

## 6 COMMUNITY FOOD CULTIVATION

In Canada’s territories there is a growing number of local food production initiatives such as community greenhouses, hydroponic containers, and local food processing.

In Iqaluit, the Iqaluit Community Greenhouse Society, a not-for-profit organization, is run by volunteers. Produce is provided to the Qajukturvik Community Food Centre to provide nutritious meals for those in need. During the school year, growth pods are brought to Iqaluit's middle school and high school and are taken care of by the home economic students. The fresh produce harvested by the students is used for school lunch programs.

In 2020, the Canadian Space Agency joined Gjoa Haven to research the feasibility of growing produce in a sea can. The sea can is powered by wind and solar energy. The project technology will help scientists learn how to grow fresh food more efficiently for astronauts in space as well as providing fresh produce to the North throughout the year and creating jobs.

## 7 CLOSING

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The baseline research on current food sovereignty activities, programming and initiatives across the Qikiqtani Region indicates that harvesting, both for local distribution and for commercial purposes, is prominent across the Region. There are many programs in place to support and enhance these activities however there are still many barriers limiting communities from achieving their food sovereignty and economic development goals.

Harvesters will often post messages on community Facebook pages and/or on the local radio when they have country food available. Even with sharing country food, some still goes to waste. Communities indicated harvesting some country food is limited in the summer months to smaller wildlife as they have no place to store larger animals. This is an indication that communities lack infrastructure to store country food.

Resources, infrastructure, and supports are needed to promote food sovereignty for Nunavut Inuit and to seek a future that allows for the production, distribution, and consumption of food that is consistent with Inuit culture. Through the next phase of QBDC's Qikiqtani Food Sovereignty Implementation Solution Project these resources and supports will be identified in collaboration with the Qikiqtani communities.

## 8 APPENDIX A: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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