AINA NEWS

Arctic in the News

A paper by Ian Stirling, Kristin Laidre, and Erik Born entitled "Do Wild Polar Bears (*Ursus maritimus*) Use Tools When Hunting Walruses (*Odobenus rosmarus*)?" that appeared in the June 2021 issue of *Arctic* has been picked up by a number of media sources since its publication. Ian Stirling was interviewed on CBC's *As it Happens* in July about the paper. Since then, news of the research has been picked up by a number of other media outlets including *Science News*, CTV, and CBS58. Follow the links below to view the coverage:

https://www.newsweek.com/study-suggests-polar-bears-use-tools-kill-walruses-1614772

https://www.sciencenews.org/article/polar-bears-bludgeon-walrus-stones-tools-ice-inuit?fbclid=IwAR2IZfqBGyiXDogQPI6ptsqbMeD-u1cZuYMmY9FpzK5sAeCjj33yY3Eoaxk

https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-friday-edition-1.6124170/polar-bears-sometimes-bludgeon-walruses-to-death-with-rocks-and-ice-study-finds-1.6124357

https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/polar-bears-use-rocks-and-ice-as-weapons-to-kill-walruses-study-1.5530922

https://www.cbs58.com/news/polar-bears-use-rocks-and-ice-as-weapons-to-kill-walruses-study

Coastal Change in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region

AINA researchers Ravi Sankar, Kara Matthews, Shannon Christoffersen, and Michael Allchin are working with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) to develop a system that identifies and quantifies coastal geomorphological change in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). A key concern is that reduced summer ocean ice cover, stronger and more frequent storms, and permafrost decay in the weakly-lithified substrates, which form most of the ISR's coasts, are combining to result in more rapid erosion in some areas. This implies an increasing risk of impacts not just to settlements and infrastructure, but also to archaeological and other culturally-important sites. The ISR Coastal Change Assessment System uses shoreline histories delineated from remotely-sensed and aerial imagery as inputs to the Digital Shoreline Analysis System, a United States Geological Survey software toolset developed for this purpose. The outputs, which will be made available through the CCADI data-interoperability network, will support planning for mitigation and remediation by IRC scientists and help to generate culturally-relevant visualizations of coastal change to inform members of ISR communities. We hope that it will be possible to extend this system by providing channels through which those with direct knowledge of landscape change may contribute information to augment the modelled results. The IRC's overall goal is to augment capacity to enhance resilience of ISR communities to impacts driven by rapid environmental change.