

FORMAL AND TRADITIONAL RULES TO MANAGE CRUISE SHIP TOURISM IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC, SIRMILIK NATIONAL PARK AND BYLOT ISLAND MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY



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.¹ 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.

The opening up of the Canadian arctic due to warming temperature and the melting of multiyear ice² has led to many kinds of opportunities and challenges for northern communities:³

The pressures of climate change including increased Cruise Ship Tourism (CST) affect northern communities, such as Pond Inlet, in diverse ways. Those who have long-term observations and experiences of ecosystems have unique insights about the “rules” needed for management of tourism in the region.⁴

How different are these “rules” from those of the territorial and federal government?

Research on Inuit “traditional rules” for managing CST: Community-based research was carried out in the community of Pond Inlet in August 2016. Guided by the local Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization, the researcher (exhibitor) carried out 15 interviews with elders and land users to learn more about local observations and experiences of CST and its impacts on the community.

A set of questions aimed to elicit interviewer belief and principles or “rules” based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that should be in place to protect these areas and the community.



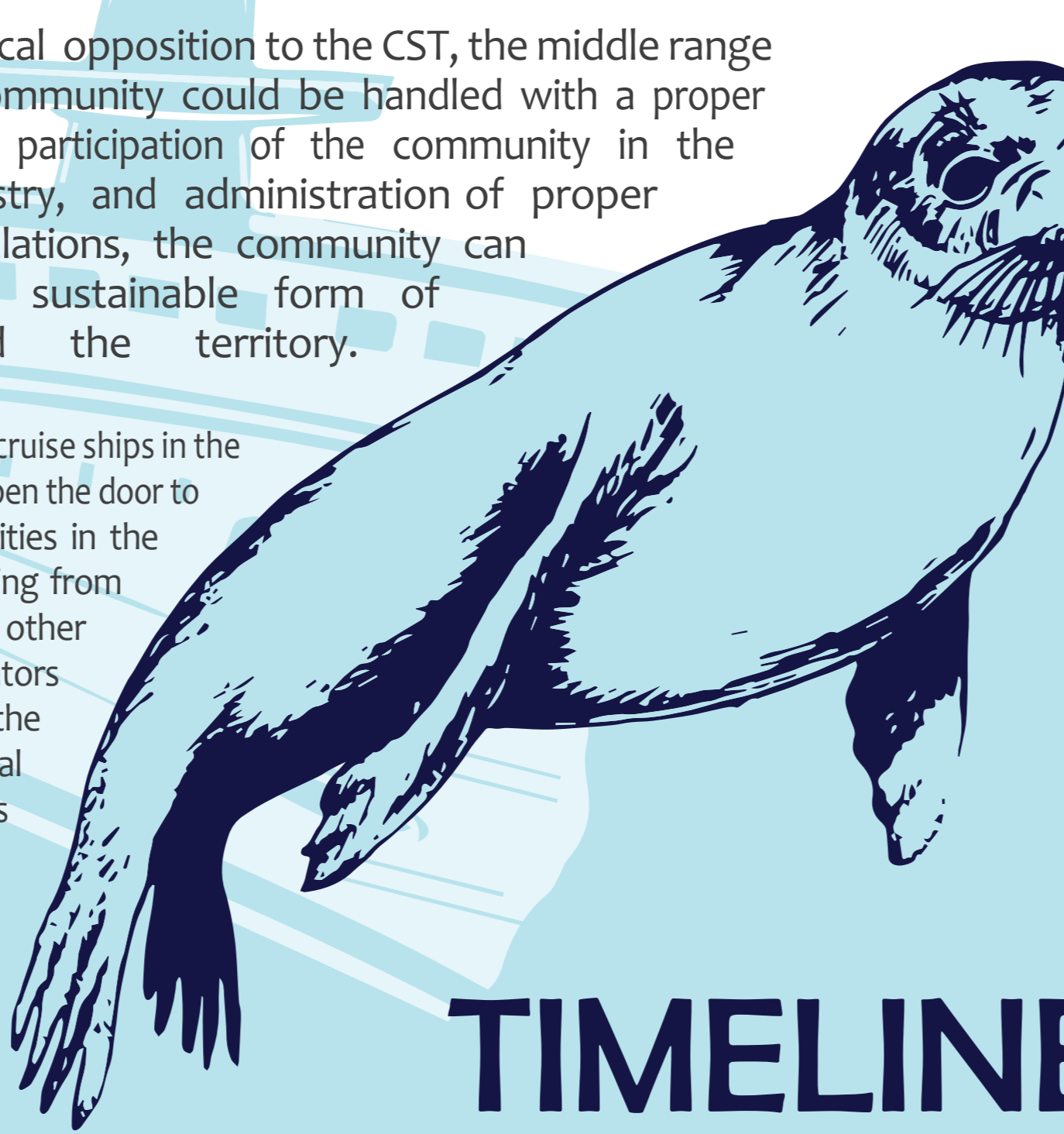
of Pond Inlet as inadequate in addressing the growth in the cruise ship tourism industry and the impacts it is having on marine habitat, wildlife and people.

The formal rules identified are compared to the “traditional rules” provided by the community members interviewed.

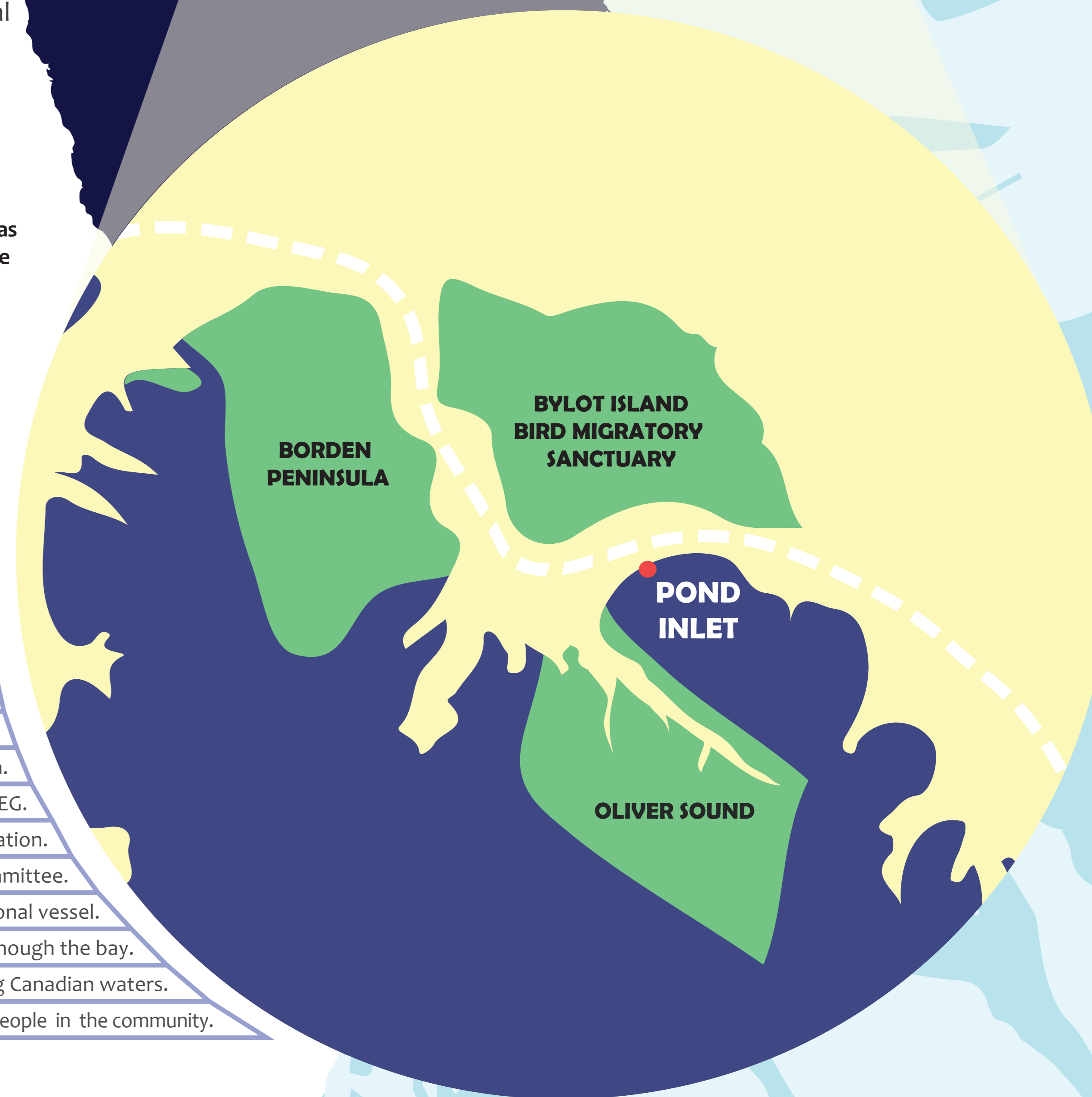
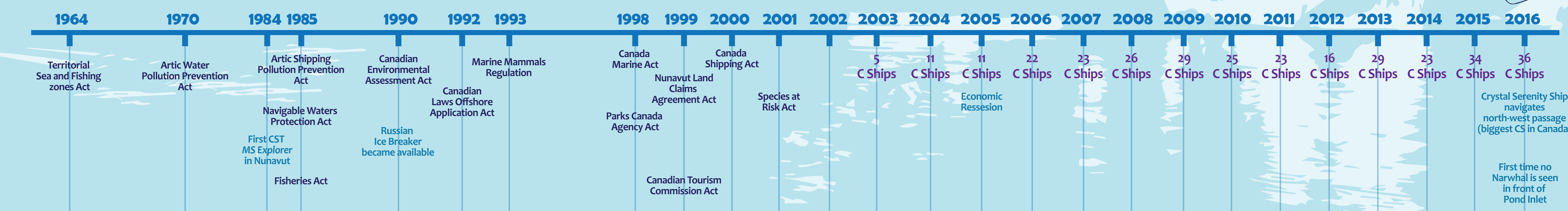
TRADITIONAL RULES	FORMAL RULES
Do not take pictures of the narwhals.	Do not disturb mammals and do not harass Species at Risk wildlife.
Do not chase the narwhals.	Permission required if the cruise ship is landing passenger.
Hunt for food, share the food.	Encourage park visitation and environment protection.
Do not take rocks or minerals from the land.	All ships must be reported to NORDREG.
Do not make noise when you are in the water or in-land.	Requirement for update parks and protected areas information.
When they are hunting, the other boats do not get close .	Every conservation or protected area requires a co-management committee.
Do not disturb the whales in the nesting areas (fjords).	No requirement to notify authorities if it is a personal vessel.
The passengers should not land in places other than the community.	No requirement to notify the community if the cruise ship is only passing through the bay.
Ships should not go into shallow water, the noise of the ships also disturb the animals on land.	Requirement to inform Canadian Custom when a foreign ship is entering Canadian waters.
Tell the whole community when a ship is coming, in advance, even if their people are not landing in the community.	Community consultation is required for every cruise ship project that is landing people in the community.

Only a few community members expressed a radical opposition to the CST, the middle range of the emotion towards the tourists in the community could be handled with a proper legislation and enforcement in place. With the participation of the community in the decision-making process and monitoring the industry, and administration of proper sanctions to the people who do not follow regulations, the community can direct cruise ship tourism toward a more sustainable form of development for the community and the territory.

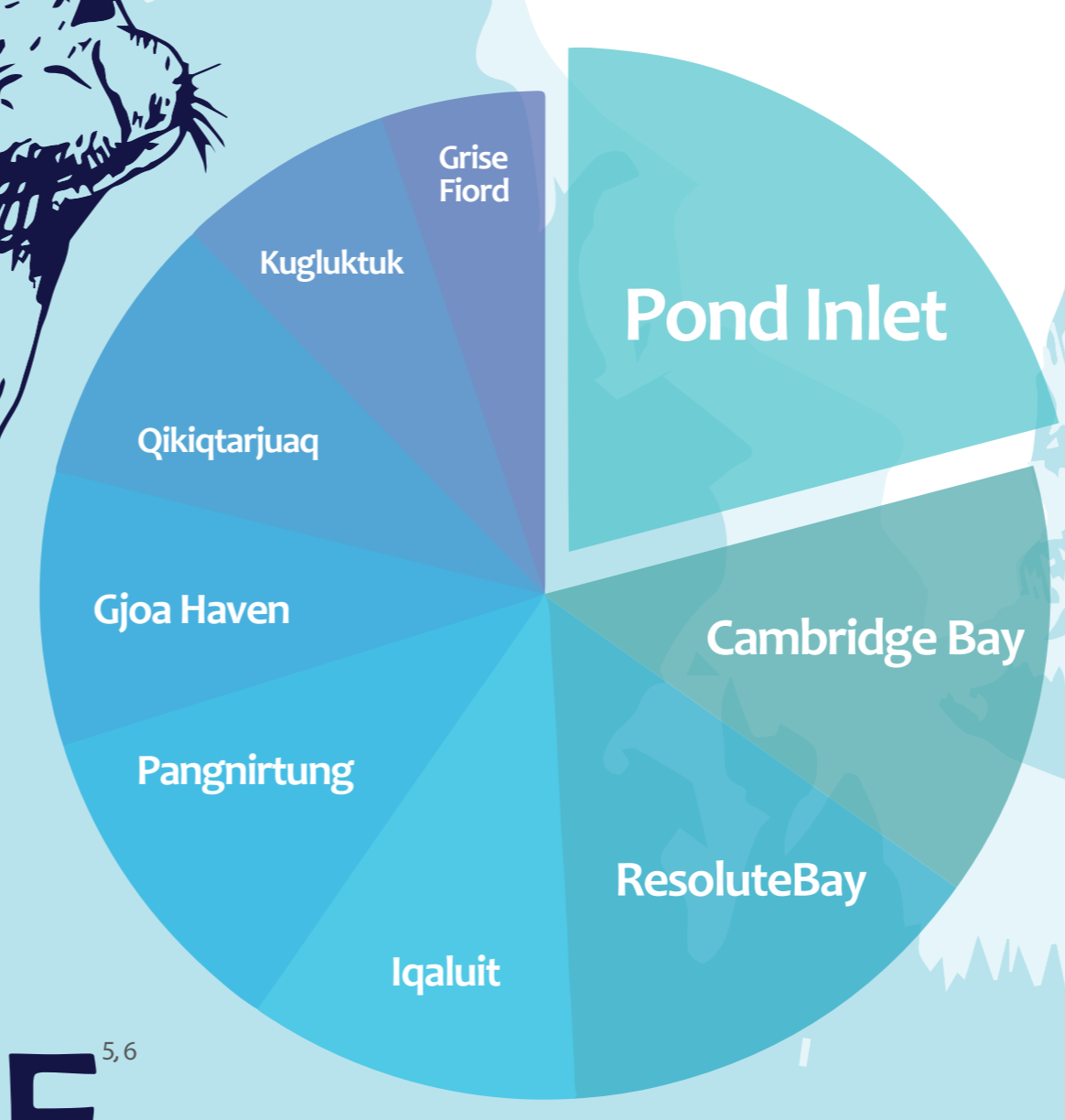
The changes that help to increase the cruise ships in the region are expected to continue and open the door to CST expanding into other communities in the region. Another starting point arising from this study is the research of other stakeholders, as cruise ship operators and NGO's. The inclusion of the traditional knowledge or cultural respect at early stages of the routes developing for cruise ships could be a way to avoid conflicts or disruptions on the marine ecosystems or communities.



TIMELINE



Nunavut Itinerary 2016



Pond Inlet Characteristics

North of Baffin Island
Population 1,617
93% Inuit
Close to: Sirmilik National Park and Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary
Considered one of Canada's "Jewels of the North"
Polar arctic climate

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