

People of a Feather

90 minutes

Language: English

Duration: 90 minutes

01:00:15:04 01:00:17:06

[Ducks flying in low light] On my first hunting trip...

01:00:17:09 01:00:20:20

...I went with an elder, who is long gone now.

01:00:25:06 01:00:30:19

After building an igloo, he told me to listen for the sound of thunder.

01:00:34:20 01:00:41:15

I was puzzled because the sky was blue, real blue, not like it is these days.

01:00:48:08 01:00:52:18

I walked a short ways on the cold crisp snow.

01:00:55:05 01:00:58:06

It used to make such a big noise.

01:01:03:17 01:01:07:01

The thunder began as a low rumble.

01:01:07:06 01:01:12:09

But it got louder and louder, so I ran back to tell the old man.

01:01:19:05 01:01:23:20

He calmly replied that soon the sky would darken.

01:01:27:06 01:01:34:07

I raised my eyes and just as he had foretold, the horizon began to turn black.

01:01:40:23 01:01:44:15

Then he opened his box of ammunition and said:

01:01:50:03 01:01:52:05

"The eiders are coming." 01:02:07:05 01:02:12:13

WINTER

01:02:18:14 01:02:24:05

SPRING

01:02:30:07 01:02:36:16

SUMMER

01:03:41:22 01:03:47:07

100 Years Ago

01:03:50:17 01:03:55:08

The Arctic Edier Society

&

Sanikiluaq Running Pictures

Present

01:03:56:08 01:04:00:02

An

International Polar Year Canada

Production

01:04:09:15 01:04:13:14

In collaboration with

The Canadian Wildlife Service

01:04:18:02 01:04:22:14

with appearances by Simeonie Kavik

01:04:23:20 01:04:28:08

Mary Kavik

01:04:29:14 01:04:34:02

Daniel Kavik

01:04:37:02 01:04:43:08

Kevin Kavik

Rebecca Kavik

Dora Kavik

01:04:46:11 01:04:50:23

Johnassie Ippak

01:04:52:08 01:04:56:19

Puasi Ippak

01:04:58:02 01:05:02:14
and Elijah Oqaituq

01:05:07:15 01:05:09:06
We're here.

01:05:27:20 01:05:34:02
Created With
The Community of Sanikiluaq

01:06:21:22 01:06:28:04
Edited By
Evan Warner
&
Jocelyne Chaput

01:06:44:08 01:06:48:22
Developed with
Johnny Kudluarok
&
Dinah Kavik

01:07:12:22 01:07:19:04
People of a Feather

01:07:20:11 01:07:26:09
A film by Joel Heath

01:07:45:20 01:07:50:14
Present Day

01:08:19:19 01:08:21:13
Which island are we going to?

01:08:22:20 01:08:24:20
Over there where the mosquitoes are?

01:08:25:07 01:08:26:21
The ones we brought with us?

01:08:27:11 01:08:29:19
Are you scared of mosquitoes?

01:08:31:10 01:08:32:17

They are bothersome!

01:09:16:11 01:09:18:11

There are eiders over there!

01:09:27:21 01:09:29:20

Leave some now.

01:09:31:11 01:09:33:14

Not too much grass on those eh?

01:09:44:03 01:09:45:12

It's floating.

01:09:47:02 01:09:49:18

Sim, there's a baby inside.

01:09:49:23 01:09:51:10

Ok, put it back here.

01:09:54:15 01:09:56:02

Give me some.

01:09:57:22 01:10:01:06

There's not too much grass
in it after all.

01:10:17:05 01:10:23:06

Maybe we can pick more down near
Quatjuit on our way camping.

01:10:23:11 01:10:26:18

That down has seaweed in it.

01:10:27:14 01:10:30:16

Eider down in seaweed is
the best kind to pick.

01:10:31:15 01:10:33:23

My goodness look at all the mosquitos.

01:14:17:11 01:14:21:14

Sanikiluaq, Nunavut

01:17:53:18 01:17:58:00

Fall is the most important time of year
for hunting eider ducks.

01:18:00:03 01:18:02:21

Eiders on our islands don't migrate.

01:18:03:21 01:18:05:23

They stay here all year.

01:18:16:18 01:18:20:01

In the winter, the eiders move with the sea ice...

01:18:20:12 01:18:25:14

... looking for good feeding areas
amongst the open water habitats.

01:18:39:01 01:18:45:19

One winter in the early 90's, there was
a large die off of thousands of eiders.

01:18:58:23 01:19:03:23

We were concerned so we contacted
the Canadian Wildlife Service.

01:19:05:02 01:19:11:19

One of the biologists that came up was studying
eiders by filming them diving under the ice.

01:19:25:21 01:19:30:05

Research Site - 2010

01:19:44:14 01:19:45:18

Ohh, lots of food, eh?

01:19:45:21 01:19:46:11

Ay.

01:19:46:15 01:19:47:12

Sea urchins?

01:19:47:16 01:19:48:20

Right here anyway.

01:19:49:03 01:19:50:11

Are they diving right now?

01:19:51:06 01:19:53:02

Ehh, they're diving right there.

01:20:01:19 01:20:03:04

Nice and clear on the bottom ehh?

01:20:03:14 01:20:04:21

Yeah, it is.

01:20:13:20 01:20:15:20

Lotta eider ducks you got in there!

01:20:16:01 01:20:17:06

Yeah, there's a good few.

01:20:17:15 01:20:18:07

Yeah.

01:20:18:17 01:20:20:15

Yeah this polynya is working out really good.

01:20:20:23 01:20:21:12

Yeah.

It's the perfect size so we can have the
time lapse monitoring the birds...

01:20:24:04 01:20:26:21

...as well as underwater video at the same time.

01:20:27:12 01:20:28:11

Yes b'y...

01:20:28:11 01:20:29:17

Yes b'y...

01:20:30:04 01:20:31:18

How's the current? Very strong?

01:20:32:03 01:20:35:21

Ahh, just switched over so it's just
starting to pick up going this way.

01:20:36:18 01:20:41:03

Yup, yeah this polynya wouldn't be here back in 80's and 90's.

01:20:41:18 01:20:44:00

Yeah, the weather has been changing and all that.

01:20:44:17 01:20:48:23

That's why the polynya is still here. The ice isn't getting any thicker.

01:20:49:15 01:20:51:08

It just aren't, some parts...

01:20:55:12 01:20:56:12

You're going home?

01:20:56:16 01:20:58:21

Yup, can't wait to see my granddaughter.

01:20:59:20 01:21:03:21

Yup, she hugs me very hard. Hard as she can.

01:21:04:00 01:21:04:12

Hey!?

01:21:04:16 01:21:05:08

Yup!

01:21:06:03 01:21:07:18

Grampa Simioniel!

01:21:09:03 01:21:11:09

What do you call grampa, adda is father, right?

01:21:11:12 01:21:13:11

Ataatasiaq, grand-papa.

01:21:15:05 01:21:16:14

Addaddchuck, grampa.

01:21:30:23 01:21:32:22

For me, this is how it all got started:

01:21:33:05 01:21:36:03

...sitting in a box, watching some ducks.

01:21:41:21 01:21:45:12

Research Site - 2002

01:21:50:02 01:21:53:07

I came up here in response to
concerns from the community...

01:21:53:10 01:21:56:11

...about large die offs of eider ducks
that had happened in the wintertime.

01:21:56:20 01:21:59:20

So part of my job was to figure out how changing sea ice...

01:21:59:23 01:22:03:08

...was affecting the ability of eider
ducks to get through the winter.

01:22:09:18 01:22:12:09

When I first showed up here, one of
the first things I'd saw...

01:22:12:12 01:22:15:15

...was a die off event of a whole bunch of
eider ducks getting trapped in the ice.

01:22:15:18 01:22:17:11

The ice was shrinking around them.

01:22:17:19 01:22:21:08

There wasn't much open water,
and it was pretty deep so...

01:22:21:10 01:22:24:22

... it cost a lot of energy for them to dive,
to get not much food.

01:22:26:00 01:22:29:12

And it was only for Simionie and Elijah chopping it open...

01:22:29:15 01:22:32:07

...that kept it from closing up around those birds and...

01:22:32:15 01:22:35:22

...at the end of the season, only about 6 birds
made it through the winter there.

01:22:39:21 01:22:41:01

Tea Time!

01:22:41:06 01:22:44:02

It's tea time already, just for you and me!

01:22:50:05 01:22:54:07

I never would have made it, without my new
best buddies Elijah and Sim.

01:23:05:15 01:23:12:21

Elijah Oqaituk

"Short"

Simeonie Kavik

"Large"

01:23:16:04 01:23:21:20

I definitely learned a lot, just by sitting in a box
and by watching the people and listening to them.

01:23:44:07 01:23:49:13

When I first showed up, within like 3 days of being here
I got really really bad frostbite.

01:23:49:23 01:23:51:22

Almost my whole face was covered.

01:23:53:11 01:23:56:21

And the guys were freaking out, and I didn't know
what the heck I was doing up here!

01:24:01:07 01:24:03:01

But then I got used to it...

01:24:04:09 01:24:06:00

...and now I love it up here...

01:24:10:14 01:24:13:06

...but some people still call me frosty!

01:26:17:13 01:26:29:20

Polynya ?pä-l?n-'yä

An area of open water surrounded by sea ice that remains open throughout the winter due to strong currents. An arctic 'oasis'.

01:26:33:08 01:26:38:12

100 Years Ago

01:27:30:09 01:27:35:02

The wind is coming from the southwest.
The eiders will leave the floe edge...

01:27:35:06 01:27:38:01

... to come to the polynyas at Agjaraaluit.

01:27:38:15 01:27:41:09

We'll go hunting tomorrow morning.

01:27:54:18 01:28:01:00

In the winter, freshwater on our lakes
and ponds is the first to freeze.

01:28:01:09 01:28:04:04

Sea ice takes much longer.

01:28:04:13 01:28:09:04

In the spring, fresh melting water from the
mainland would flood our seas...

01:28:09:08 01:28:11:14

...and drive our currents.

01:28:12:23 01:28:17:08

But in the 1970's, things started to change.

01:28:22:08 01:28:24:10

Many rivers were dammed...

01:28:24:19 01:28:27:20

...trapping our freshwater in reservoirs.

01:28:28:15 01:28:31:15

Now our spring water sits there

all summer getting warm...

01:28:31:20 01:28:33:21

...until in the winter time...

01:28:34:02 01:28:38:20

...people down south get cold
and turn up their thermostats...

01:28:39:02 01:28:40:20

...using more power.

01:28:41:07 01:28:43:13

For almost 40 years now...

01:28:43:17 01:28:48:14

...reservoirs have dumped their water onto
the sea ice habitats of Hudson Bay...

01:28:48:18 01:28:51:09

...at the opposite time of year.

01:28:53:20 01:29:00:02

Our people on the Belcher Islands were some
of the first to notice the consequences.

01:30:59:15 01:31:01:09

It's hot on the inside.

01:31:01:17 01:31:02:12

Radio.

01:31:04:04 01:31:06:18

Ok granddaughter, do you want
seal meat from here?

01:31:09:06 01:31:10:08

Seal meat.

01:31:10:12 01:31:12:07

I want this part. 01:31:17:08 01:31:18:12
Can you cut this up smaller?

01:31:18:19 01:31:19:21

Just pull it apart.

01:31:38:06 01:31:40:12

Turn up the volume!

01:31:40:23 01:31:42:20

Turn up the volume!

01:31:56:02 01:31:59:10

Those are my pepsi!

01:35:09:13 01:35:11:07

Almost like brand new again eh?

01:35:13:06 01:35:19:06

They said they don't have any speakers
that fit to an MP3 player...

01:35:20:07 01:35:22:20

...so we tried that funnel first.

01:38:12:10 01:38:15:16

If you eat the meat you'll get warmer.

01:38:27:06 01:38:28:22

She sure likes seal meat.

01:38:36:00 01:38:39:17

The long ones sound lower.

01:38:41:16 01:38:43:23

I'll use a short one.

01:38:55:13 01:38:56:21

Now you try.

01:38:57:01 01:38:57:19

Me?

01:38:58:11 01:39:00:15

You hold the feather like this.

01:40:42:11 01:40:45:10

I remember being at Agiarraluit...

01:40:45:18 01:40:48:03

... it was my first time seeing
so many eiders.

01:40:48:19 01:40:51:07

There were so many flying overhead!

01:40:51:23 01:40:57:08

I couldn't stop watching,
I just fell over backwards.

01:41:00:12 01:41:04:01

I was just watching the eiders fly by.

01:41:04:17 01:41:07:04

I forgot to hunt them...

01:41:09:17 01:41:11:20

... just lying there on my back.

01:41:18:00 01:41:19:06

Needs to be dried?

01:41:21:13 01:41:22:15

That should be good.

01:41:38:01 01:41:42:02

One night I dreamed I followed
a rabbit into it's burrow.

01:41:46:20 01:41:50:07

As I went further, the hole got bigger and bigger...

01:41:50:13 01:41:54:17

...until it swallowed all our rivers and freshwaters.

01:41:56:19 01:42:03:01

Somewhere deep underground, the energy is being
taken out of our spring currents...

01:42:03:06 01:42:07:14

...so people down south can stay warm in the winter.

01:42:33:14 01:42:37:12

This is the spillway of just one phase one reservoir.

01:42:37:18 01:42:44:17

This single reservoir covers almost 3000 square hectares of drowned forest and river valley.

01:42:47:11 01:42:50:19

That's the fresh water they put into the salt water in James Bay.

01:42:50:23 01:42:54:12

Phase one flooding extends 600km inland...

01:42:54:14 01:43:00:15

...in a chain of huge reservoirs that would more than bury Prince Edward Island.

01:42:51:22 01:42:54:21

That's the rivers that have been dammed.

01:43:01:22 01:43:05:08

When they finish building the dams, we won't have any salt water left.

01:43:05:14 01:43:11:10

When the main powerhouse starts spewing 350 times the natural amount of fresh water...

01:43:11:18 01:43:17:12

... into this closed system, it will be converted from a salt to a fresh water habitat...

01:43:17:20 01:43:21:04

...with profound effects on current and ice formation...

01:43:21:20 01:43:24:23

...and an entirely different food chain will develop.

01:43:30:03 01:43:31:19

An eider duck!

01:43:32:01 01:43:34:01

You can see an urchin in his throat.

01:43:38:07 01:43:41:12

Ice formed but water from
the dam is breaking it up.

01:43:42:16 01:43:45:20

Normal spring flow is held back behind dikes...

01:43:46:00 01:43:49:20

...as electricity demands lessen,
to be released in the winter...

01:43:50:00 01:43:51:12

...for the high use period

01:43:52:03 01:43:58:04

No-one knows what reversing this normal seasonal
input from rivers will do to the bays.

01:43:59:00 01:44:01:00

Timing is critical.

01:44:04:11 01:44:06:12

With David Suzuki, Suzuki.

01:44:13:04 01:44:16:09

The ice is harder to understand now.

01:44:16:19 01:44:18:19

Hunting is more dangerous.

01:44:18:23 01:44:21:10

Maybe we won't be able
to hunt anymore.

01:44:22:02 01:44:24:03

Maybe only by boat.

01:44:35:12 01:44:46:03

Floe Edge

The intersection of shoreline ice and open water that
moves with wind and currents.

01:45:15:16 01:45:20:10

When I first came up here I was starting to think
about the effect of climate change...

01:45:20:14 01:45:23:21

...environmental change on sea ice ecosystems,
and eider ducks and people.

01:45:26:09 01:45:30:17

Then when I started making this film I began by interviewing...

01:45:30:22 01:45:35:12

...elders in the community, and everyone started
talking about Hydro Quebec, hydro.

01:45:43:19 01:45:48:03

I've been aware that the currents
around the islands...

01:45:48:20 01:45:53:18

...are not as strong now due to
hydro projects on the mainland.

01:45:55:07 01:46:01:04

Currents give us the food for all
living things in the sea...

01:46:01:10 01:46:02:20

...and us too.

01:46:03:06 01:46:08:12

When the tides turn and the
currents change direction...

01:46:08:18 01:46:10:20

... the floe edges clamp shut...

01:46:11:04 01:46:13:18

... so the eiders have to
find open water...

01:46:14:19 01:46:21:12

...and that's when they
fly to the polynyas.

01:46:22:00 01:46:24:14

They don't stay there all winter.

01:46:25:02 01:46:30:11

When the polynya starts to
get small, they move.

01:46:31:06 01:46:36:07

Some polynyas close over
but others stay open...

01:46:36:13 01:46:38:22

...where the currents are strong.

01:46:40:05 01:46:49:07

Since the damming began our currents
have not been as strong.

01:46:50:12 01:46:54:14

With weaker currents the polynyas
may not stay open all winter.

01:46:57:15 01:47:00:17

The first question we asked is what's
going to happen with the eider ducks?

01:48:08:06 01:48:09:13

Since first talking to the elders...

01:48:09:18 01:48:12:02

...and working with the hunters for many years now...

01:48:12:07 01:48:14:20

... I've learned a lot about sea ice ecosystems...

01:48:15:01 01:48:19:17

...and how changing the hydrological cycle can influence the marine environment.

01:48:20:15 01:48:25:01

But we're only just beginning to understand these
effects and we still have a lot of questions.

01:48:26:09 01:48:29:16

What about other animals that rely on sea ice?

01:48:29:20 01:48:33:17

And what about the rest of the world outside of Hudson Bay?

01:48:35:12 01:48:39:10

The deeper I dug, the bigger I realized the scale of the issue.

01:48:40:01 01:48:44:04

Hudson Bay drains over 40% of Canada...

01:48:44:07 01:48:48:08

...and almost all that freshwater passes by the Belcher Islands, in the heart of Hudson Bay...

01:48:48:13 01:48:51:16

...before it leaves through the Hudson Strait and enters the Labrador Current.

01:48:51:20 01:48:56:00

And the momentum of the Labrador current is driven by cold salty water sinking...

01:48:56:05 01:48:59:01

...which in turn brings the gulf stream to Europe.

01:48:59:05 01:49:03:04

This process drives our ocean currents and our global climate...

01:49:03:10 01:49:07:02

...and here we are dumping warm freshwater into it from reservoirs...

01:49:07:06 01:49:08:23

...at the opposite time of year.

01:49:09:04 01:49:13:06

Globally over 50% of accessible freshwater is now behind dams.

01:49:13:11 01:49:17:01

We're working against the seasons of our hydrological cycle.

01:49:17:15 01:49:21:03

We still have a lot to learn, but we can tell you from our perspective here...

01:49:21:11 01:49:25:15

...things are getting a lot noisier, and less predictable.

01:50:56:19 01:51:00:07

Daniel, maybe this harpoon head
is going to be better.

01:51:03:12 01:51:07:05
Because your harpoon has only caught
one seal, but this will catch lots!

01:51:10:13 01:51:12:12
Once I drill the hole in the shaft...

01:51:13:13 01:51:15:01
...it will be done.

01:51:20:06 01:51:21:18
Only the tip will be sharp.

01:51:22:00 01:51:24:01
If it is sharpened too far down...

01:51:25:06 01:51:27:10
...the gash will be too big...

01:51:27:23 01:51:29:10
...and it won't stay in.

01:51:34:11 01:51:35:19
There is a crack... 01:51:35:23 01:51:40:16
...down past the shack
at Kangiqsujuaq.

01:51:41:21 01:51:43:13
It's not very stable there.

01:51:44:03 01:51:46:06
And this area is probably not safe.

01:51:46:13 01:51:50:05
These polynyas around Nanuqtukk
are probably not safe...

01:51:50:10 01:51:52:10
...because of the mild weather.

01:51:53:08 01:51:57:09
We almost lost Elijah's skidoo here.

01:51:58:12 01:52:02:13

But it will probably be safe enough
to go there and hunt seals.

01:52:06:15 01:52:07:23

In the morning. 01:52:44:16 01:52:46:13
It rotted while I was letting it sit.

01:52:48:23 01:52:50:05

Lazy person. 01:53:17:23 01:53:20:07
A lazy person's bearded seal rope.

01:56:59:00 01:57:01:10

There could be a lot of eiders here tonight.

01:57:01:16 01:57:04:14

They'll be flying in when
the floe edge closes.

01:57:06:04 01:57:08:17

They will be coming from that way.

02:00:09:16 02:00:15:22

Layer upon layer, these same feathers have
kept us warm for hundreds of years.

02:00:19:06 02:00:24:15

The technology of the eider stores
our energy and keeps out the cold.

02:00:32:06 02:00:37:15

With all of modern technology, surely
there must be a way to store energy...

02:00:37:21 02:00:42:04

...without disrupting the currents
and reversing the seasons.

02:01:05:13 02:01:06:18

Hi Peter.

02:01:07:17 02:01:09:08

No seals eh?

02:01:10:22 02:01:13:10

The last seal that I caught sank.

02:01:13:23 02:01:14:19

Sank?

02:01:15:04 02:01:16:05

Here?

02:01:19:18 02:01:22:12

They are skinny so that could be why.

02:01:23:09 02:01:28:20

The fat was really thin on
the last one I caught.

02:01:32:20 02:01:34:16

Was it a full grown seal?

02:01:37:09 02:01:39:14

When they should be feeding...

02:01:39:21 02:01:42:11

...they are just basking on the rocks.

02:01:42:15 02:01:44:23

...because the spring sea ice
doesn't last as long.

02:01:46:02 02:01:48:20

Elijah had a close call at Uivvaaluk.

02:01:49:09 02:01:51:06

He almost went through the ice.

02:01:51:17 02:01:53:08

He was gunning his motor...

02:01:53:23 02:01:56:02

but still just moving slowly.

02:01:56:14 02:02:00:11

His qamotik was underwater by
the time he got onto solid ice.

02:02:01:03 02:02:05:13

These days, even when it doesn't look dangerous, it's dangerous.

02:02:07:01 02:02:09:04

When you see broken piled up ice...

02:02:11:10 02:02:14:13

...you can tell it isn't very thick.

02:02:20:12 02:02:24:02

The ice used to be so smooth.

02:02:24:06 02:02:29:15

There was a crack over there that we enjoyed hunting seals at.

02:02:30:10 02:02:33:22

But it's only piled up ice there now.

02:02:38:01 02:02:42:01

I think we'll have better luck at the breathing holes closer to shore.

02:02:42:18 02:02:46:23

We can catch seals there because they have to breathe sooner or later.

02:02:56:07 02:03:00:17

The eider ducks have been coming over this way all winter practically.

02:03:02:10 02:03:05:03

I wonder if there are lots of eiders around Kataluk.

02:03:05:06 02:03:08:06

There must be eiders keeping the ice open.

02:03:08:15 02:03:09:14

I agree.

02:03:21:15 02:03:22:23

Bye Peter.

02:04:02:12 02:04:04:13

Your legs shouldn't move.

02:04:05:14 02:04:07:18

Only your arms should move.

02:05:05:00 02:05:06:17

What a miss!

02:05:36:13 02:05:38:22

Elijah missed so let's use this hole...

02:05:39:10 02:05:41:04

...for salinity monitoring.

02:05:44:02 02:05:46:07

Bring over the orange case.

02:06:17:16 02:06:19:15

Here it goes.

02:06:30:03 02:06:31:07

We're trying to see...

02:06:31:15 02:06:34:16

... how much freshwater
there is on top.

02:06:36:07 02:06:38:07

Because of hydro dams.

02:06:40:22 02:06:43:11

They are being built everywhere.

02:06:45:09 02:06:48:13

This can help researchers
monitor salinity.

02:08:02:15 02:08:04:06

- Can you get it out?

- Almost

02:08:04:10 02:08:05:18

Go get the gaff hook.

02:08:15:09 02:08:16:17

Over there.

02:08:17:16 02:08:19:07

Don't put your hand in there!

02:08:19:09 02:08:20:15

Let the rope go slack first.

02:08:28:06 02:08:29:16

Get ready to kill it.

02:08:29:20 02:08:30:18

Here goes.

02:08:36:17 02:08:39:02

I saw the whiskers coming up.

02:08:39:09 02:08:41:07

What were you thinking?

02:08:41:11 02:08:42:14

Here goes!

02:08:44:12 02:08:47:12

Rinse the harpoon head in the water.

02:08:51:02 02:08:53:13

First time it came, it just
rippled the water.

02:09:16:06 02:09:19:17

Your seal oil lamp will
have fat for light now.

02:09:19:21 02:09:21:09

If I had a seal fat lamp!

02:09:26:03 02:09:28:06

Are you going to use the
skin to wrap the meat?

02:09:51:09 02:09:52:18

Come eat!

02:12:25:03 02:12:29:10

Perhaps the biggest thing I've learned from talking to the elders and hunters...

02:12:29:14 02:12:33:20

is that the problem lies in not having too much or too little sea ice...

02:12:34:22 02:12:36:08

...but instead in its increasing variability. It's less predictable now.

02:12:39:12 02:12:44:01

Winters are getting milder, and on top of that, warmer water coming from the reservoirs...

02:12:44:05 02:12:48:01

...can break up sea ice and keep it from freezing in the first place.

02:12:48:16 02:12:52:22

At the same time, freshwater freezes at warmer temperatures than salt water...

02:12:53:02 02:12:56:19

..and with currents getting slower, new ice can form very quickly...

02:12:57:08 02:13:01:05

...but it's more brittle and less flexible than salt water ice.

02:13:03:11 02:13:07:20

So this effects of how polynyas form...

02:13:08:00 02:13:12:07

...and floe edges break and move in complex ways...

02:13:13:21 02:13:16:13

...and changes the dynamics of sea ice, and that makes the ice less safe for people...

02:13:16:18 02:13:19:14

...and more difficult for the animals to make decisions...

02:13:20:19 02:13:23:00

...and sometimes they run out of options.

02:19:15:02 02:19:16:18

The floe edge has been closing up...

02:19:16:23 02:19:19:12

...that's the only puddles they could find.

02:19:25:10 02:19:28:14

If we don't help them, they're
all just going to die off.

02:19:42:13 02:19:45:14

By opening up the puddle there...

02:19:46:10 02:19:50:09

...make more room and they'll start
diving and start moving around.

02:20:28:05 02:20:30:11

Never ignore a dying bird.

02:23:17:06 02:23:17:22

Joel!

02:23:17:07 02:23:18:17

How's it going?

02:23:19:07 02:23:20:02

Good you?

02:23:20:08 02:23:21:05

Pretty good.

02:23:21:10 02:23:23:17

You guys have a chance to see the big polar bear?

02:23:23:23 02:23:24:23

Polar Bear? No.

02:23:25:03 02:23:28:13

Yeah, I chased him away.

Was coming towards your blind here.

02:23:29:06 02:23:32:00

He was huge one!

How's the eider ducks going?

02:23:32:08 02:23:33:13

Good! They've been diving

02:23:33:17 02:23:34:11

Oh yeah?

02:23:37:19 02:23:42:05

Oh, it's very easy now, compared to your old pole?

02:23:42:09 02:23:43:18

Yeah, this one's a lot better.

02:23:44:11 02:23:45:14

Yup, Getting professional!

02:23:45:20 02:23:46:16

Getting there maybe.

02:23:46:21 02:23:50:19

Maybe it will ok for you to have students now these days.

02:23:51:02 02:23:55:17

Yup, get a job at a university, Get a few students.

02:23:56:09 02:23:58:22

You'll take care of umm when they are up here all by themselves?

02:23:59:01 02:24:00:09

So I'll get to work again!

02:24:01:23 02:24:06:06

And then Daniel your son maybe he'll be your student and then one day...

02:24:06:15 02:24:08:08

...he'll be teaching my students.

02:24:10:06 02:24:12:07

Yuuup! Yeah he love to hunt.

02:24:12:21 02:24:16:07

Not like his younger brother, his younger brother don't like to hunt.

02:24:16:15 02:24:19:05

Daniel used to hunt a lot in the summer, fall...

02:24:19:16 02:24:21:09

...but mostly his first time, this year.

02:24:21:11 02:24:22:03

This winter, yeah.

02:24:22:11 02:24:25:18

He caught one, two, three, four seals this year.

02:24:27:11 02:24:29:00

He's got lots of babies to feed now.

02:24:29:06 02:24:29:16

Yup!

02:24:32:01 02:24:34:21

Yup. Lucky ehh, they eating sea urchins, and uvalu.

02:24:35:11 02:24:38:08

Uvalu, muscles.

02:24:38:21 02:24:41:14

Yeah these ones don't seem to want to go anywhere. They seem to be staying here.

02:24:41:18 02:24:43:17

Maybe they a family group ehh?

02:24:44:06 02:24:45:01

Could be!

02:24:45:13 02:24:46:12

Yeah, ya never know.

02:24:46:23 02:24:49:03

Must be very good to eat with bacon!

02:24:49:12 02:24:50:19

What? Family groups?

02:24:54:10 02:24:57:01

Yup, there seem to be lot of them now ehh?

02:24:59:08 02:25:02:01

There's an adult male coming, eating away.

02:25:04:09 02:25:06:00

Some of them look so skinny.

02:25:06:04 02:25:09:15

Yup, especially the ones just sleeping there.

02:25:11:07 02:25:16:09

Yeah even on other spots on polynyas,
some of them are no good.

02:25:17:10 02:25:19:06

And some of them are already open.

02:25:19:11 02:25:22:02

They only supposed to open on May.

02:25:23:20 02:25:25:20

The world's getting crazy.

02:25:56:21 02:26:09:05

In 1996, Inuit and Cree went to New York City and were able to stop
additional hydroelectric developments.

02:26:10:21 02:26:21:22

But it was just a delay. A similar project became operational in 2010,
significantly expanding the hydroelectric complex.

02:26:23:12 02:26:33:11

The new project was approved on the condition that a study of the
cumulative effects on the marine ecosystem would be undertaken.

02:26:37:13 02:26:42:18

To date, no such study has been done.

02:27:20:06 02:27:28:15

The Arctic Eider Society has been formed to assist Inuit in community based environmental monitoring programs...

02:27:30:05 02:27:38:10

...to provide research and education combining Inuit and scientific knowledge on sea ice ecosystems....

02:27:39:15 02:27:47:19

...and to support development of energy solutions that work with the seasons, not against them.

02:27:52:21 02:28:03:08

For more information visit
ArcticEider.com

02:31:42:00 02:31:55:12

This project was produced on a not-for-profit basis.

Proceeds support research, education and outreach initiatives of the Arctic Eider Society including "The Arctic Sea Ice Educational Package" for high school curriculum.

02:31:55:12 02:32:01:12

To learn more and show your support, visit us at
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