

# THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK'S CHAIRSHIP

Greenland, Faroe Islands, Denmark



Arctic Council

Chairship of the Kingdom of Denmark 2015-2027



An organic submarine - sperm whale  
Norris Niman - Visit Greenland



# THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK'S CHAIRSHIP

*Greenland, Faroe Islands, Denmark*

The Kingdom of Denmark consists of Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and Denmark, and will be referred to as the Chairship.

The Chairship is honored to chair the Arctic Council for the second time. As Chair, we will work diligently to keep the Arctic Council vibrant and resilient, first and foremost for the Indigenous Peoples and inhabitants of the Arctic so that the Arctic remains a region of stability and constructive cooperation.

An overall ambition will be to have an inclusive Chairship and to bring the work of the Arctic Council close to the peoples

and citizens living in the region who must have an impact on the activities in the region, particularly on how sustainable development is interpreted and advanced. Recognizing that Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives are essential to understanding and managing changes in the Arctic, strong integration of Indigenous Knowledge alongside scientific insights in the work of the Arctic Council will be a priority.

A special focus will be given to advancing sustainable development in Arctic communities and economic empowerment of Indigenous Peoples.

The Chairship will continue to support ongoing activities and

projects run by the Council's six Working Groups and its Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane. The Arctic Council Strategic Plan 2021-2030, adopted in 2021 in Reykjavik, sets a clear direction for the work of the Council. The Strategic Plan will be our compass, guiding the entire Chairship 2025-2027.

We will build on previous efforts to promote cross-cutting cooperation and joint projects between the subsidiary bodies, thereby enhancing synergies and holistic approaches.

The five thematic priorities of the Chairship are important national priorities while at the same time being in conformity with the Strategic Plan:

*Indigenous Peoples and Communities of the Arctic*

*Sustainable Economic Development and Energy Transition Solutions*

*Oceans*

*Climate change in the Arctic*

*Biodiversity*

September 2026 will mark the Arctic Council's 30th anniversary. We will strive to strengthen the Council for its fourth decade and beyond.



# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ARCTIC

*Interest in Arctic sustainable development, regardless of the interpretation of the concept, has been a major area for growth in the Council's activities. The Chairship will continue to focus on the human dimension of the Arctic Council with a particular focus on strengthening the participation of Indigenous Peoples and the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge.*

## **Strengthen the engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Arctic Council.**

The Chairship will work to ensure that the Permanent Participants play a strong and integral role in the Arctic Council's decision-making process through active participation and full consultation. The cultures of the Indigenous Peoples originate from and constitute an important part of the uniqueness of the Arctic.

## **Medical preparedness and supply chains**

The Chairship will encourage closer cooperation regarding medical supply lines in the Arctic with the aim of improving capabilities for preventing, handling, and preparing for medical emergencies. We will engage with Arctic communities

and empower them to be able to provide robust responses to unforeseen emergencies.

## **Emphasis on engaging Youth in the work of the Arctic Council**

The Chairship will work to promote the engagement of Arctic youth in all agendas of the Arctic Council and support initiatives by Permanent Participants to increase and support youth involvement in the Arctic Council. The Chairship will continue the initiative taken by Norway to emphasize the involvement of the youth.

## **Health/Mental health of Indigenous Peoples**

The Chairship will work with all members, Permanent Partic-

ipants and Observers of the Arctic Council to address holistic health approaches with regard to Indigenous Peoples.

We will continue to support the Sustainable Development Working Group's (SDWG) role in advancing human health approaches to benefit all Arctic Council Working Groups. We will further advance the next iteration of the Local2Global project, including proactive and hands-on activities to connect Arctic Indigenous Peoples in order to advance the goal of promoting mental health, suicide prevention strategies and the empowerment of Arctic Indigenous Peoples' youth and communities.

## **Promote the work on gender equality**

Promoting gender equality is a necessary step in fostering gender equal and socially sustainable Arctic societies. The Chairship will address gender equality challenges unique to the Arctic and aims to follow-up on some of the key recommendations emerging from the Pan-Arctic Report, Gender Equality in the Arctic, Phase 3, welcomed in the Reykjavik Declaration 2021, and support the activities of the Permanent Participants related to gender equality. The aforementioned report specifically acknowledges the need to address the lack of data on youth migration, health and crime i.e. the extent of violent acts and systemic discrimination committed against Indigenous women as a central prerequisite for advancing gender equality in the Arctic.





Two boys hunting the small fish ammassat with rocks  
on the beach in Illorsuit in Greenland  
Photo by Mads Pihl - Visit Greenland



# SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY TRANSITION SOLUTIONS

*People living in the Arctic have a natural and particular interest in activities occurring in the Arctic and how sustainable economic development is advanced in a balanced manner with respect for different Arctic ways of life. The Chairship will dedicate efforts and attention towards sustainable economic development, with a goal of ensuring that initiatives in this field are being led by the Peoples of the Arctic for the benefit of all Arctic inhabitants with a particular focus on Indigenous Peoples.*

Northern Lights over the hydropower plant  
powerlines outside Nuuk

Photo by Mads Pihl - Visit Greenland

## **Sustainable Economic Development**

A dedicated focus on sustainable economic development aligns with the Arctic Council's Strategic Plan (2021-2030). The Chairship will undertake an assessment of the economic development needs within Arctic communities. In order to promote this priority, efforts will be made and attention will be given towards sustainable economic development within



the region, with a clear goal of ensuring that initiatives regarding economic development in the Arctic are conducted according to frameworks determined by the peoples of the Arctic, for the Peoples of the Arctic, and thus directly benefiting the communities and the Peoples of the Arctic. The Chairship will focus on present and future economic activities and sustainable economic cooperation with non-Arctic partners, guided by the aforementioned principles.

The initiatives will cover a wide range of areas, from the more traditional Arctic occupations within hunting/harvesting, fishing, forestry, agriculture and animal husbandry to offshore industry, energy transition, mining and tourism. The approach will be economic development seen from, but not limited to, a North-to-North perspective. The Chairship is planning to organize a workshop/conference in order to exchange information, facilitate contact, and provide input for the assessment of the economic development needs and to take this agenda further in the work of the Arctic Council.

#### **Connectivity with a focus on communication, transport, business and trade**

Opportunities for inter-connectedness among people in the Arctic as well as with the rest of the world are key to a prosperous and sustainable Arctic. Connectivity between Indigenous Peoples and Arctic communities takes place through communication and transport and through direct cooperation, business, and trade. In this vein, reliable and affordable telecommunication is essential for Arctic residents in order to access services and participate in the digital economy. The Chairship wants to maintain a focus on improving connectivity, building on previous mappings of needs, gaps and solutions.

#### **Improve knowledge on Blue Bioeconomy**

The Chairship will promote the concept of Blue Bioeconomy as a cornerstone of sustainable economic development in the Arctic, focusing on the responsible use and management of marine resources to secure long-term economic benefits while preserving the health and biodiversity of marine ecosystems. This will promote economic growth, job creation, and environmental sustainability in relation to aquaculture, seaweed farming and harvesting as well as the responsible utilization of other living marine resources and will offer numerous opportunities for sustainable economic development, cooperation in research, and knowledge exchange.

#### **Support Energy Transition Solutions**

Funding energy transition solutions in the Arctic is essential for environmental sustainability and is also crucial for sustainable development in remote Arctic communities, reducing carbon emissions and polluting activities while supporting local economies. Additionally, new technologies related to alternative fuels, including Power2X, are of importance due to increasing shipping and industrial activities in the Arctic. The Chairship will continue to promote this agenda.



# OCEANS

*The Arctic is predominantly covered by oceans. The Arctic oceans are of immense importance for the people in the Arctic and in particular Indigenous Peoples and their communities who depend on the health of the sea for their livelihoods and way of life. Ongoing warming and the reduction of sea ice call upon us to step up monitoring developments and to identify the drivers of change thereby enhancing predictability and effective management of the changing marine environment.*

## **Ocean Conference**

The Chairship will organize an international Ocean conference dedicated to Sub Arctic and High Arctic connectivity emphasizing implications for biodiversity and migrating species, climate change impacts, pollutant transport, and the movement of species between regions, including movement of invasive species to the High Arctic. The conference will also highlight the significance of sustainable management practices for the Arctic marine environment, reinforcing the importance of responsible Arctic marine monitoring and governance. The aim is to facilitate knowledge exchange initiatives and connect research findings and Indigenous Knowledge with a view to establishing best practices. The Ocean conference will be aligned with the Ocean Decade agenda.

## **Area-based Conservation Measures and spatial planning tools**

The Chairship will support the ongoing work on providing an overview of the current range and understanding of international and national criteria used for identification of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM) in the Arctic. This work will lead to an exchange of information among Arctic countries on the information and application of OECMs. The Chairship will further focus on ways to develop tools related to marine spatial planning that can inform national as well as cross-country collaboration related to marine governance and conservation measures. These activities include work related to the ecosystem-based management approach.

## **Threats to Arctic Marine Ecosystems and Indigenous Peoples**

Global long-range pollutants transported to the Arctic by air and sea, e.g. per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury, are a threat to the vulnerable Arctic marine ecosystems, animals and the health of Indigenous People and other Arctic residents who depend on food from marine mammals and a healthy marine environment. We will continue addressing these threats in order to get a better knowledge of the levels and effects of the pollutants being of importance for the Arctic as well as globally.

Research vessel Jákup Sverri, operated by the Faroe  
Marine Research Institute  
Ólavur Frederiksen

### **Strengthen cooperation on emergency preparedness and shipping in the Arctic**

The increasing maritime traffic in the Arctic poses heightened risks of accidents and pollution in surrounding waters. Through a workshop, the Chairship will revisit past recommendations for emergency preparedness concerning cruise ships and passenger vessels operating in the Arctic. The aim is to assess current response capabilities, future needs and research gaps to enhance incident preparedness for Arctic countries, incorporating Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge and Arctic communities.

### **Underwater Noise in the Arctic**

Underwater noise pollution from shipping and research activities is an increasing threat to the marine environment. The Chairship will prioritize the ongoing work to understand the impacts and define management solutions in this area in accordance with the ecosystem-based management approach.

### **Focus on Marine Litter including Micro-plastics**

The Chairship will work for a comprehensive follow-up of the Implementation Plan for the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter including Micro-plastics in the Arctic.





# CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARCTIC

*Climate change in the Arctic is happening at an unprecedented rate with the estimated average temperature increase now three times higher than the global average. As a result, the Arctic inhabitants are among the first to experience the profound impacts of climate change firsthand. Climate change significantly impacts Indigenous Peoples and their communities in the Arctic, affecting their environment, livelihoods, cultural practices, and overall well-being. Our youth will inherit the state of our planet. This places a crucial responsibility on all generations past and present.*

*Arctic climate change affects all spheres of work being undertaken by the Arctic Council with huge cross-cutting consequences for Arctic biodiversity, ecosystems and societies. The Chairship will highlight climate change trends and address the impacts of climate change on sustainable development in the Arctic.*

## **Addressing Climate Change and its impacts**

High priority will be given to the already undergoing work in monitoring as well as documenting the biological and physical climate-related changes in the Arctic. These encompass changes such as thawing permafrost, melting sea ice, changing biodiversity and ecosystems together with the many effects on Indigenous Peoples and Arctic communities, including human health and well-being, culture, livelihoods,



and economy, infrastructure as well as ecosystem services and food systems. An update report on climate change in the Arctic will be prepared during the Chairship.

#### **Shape action in other regional and international fora**

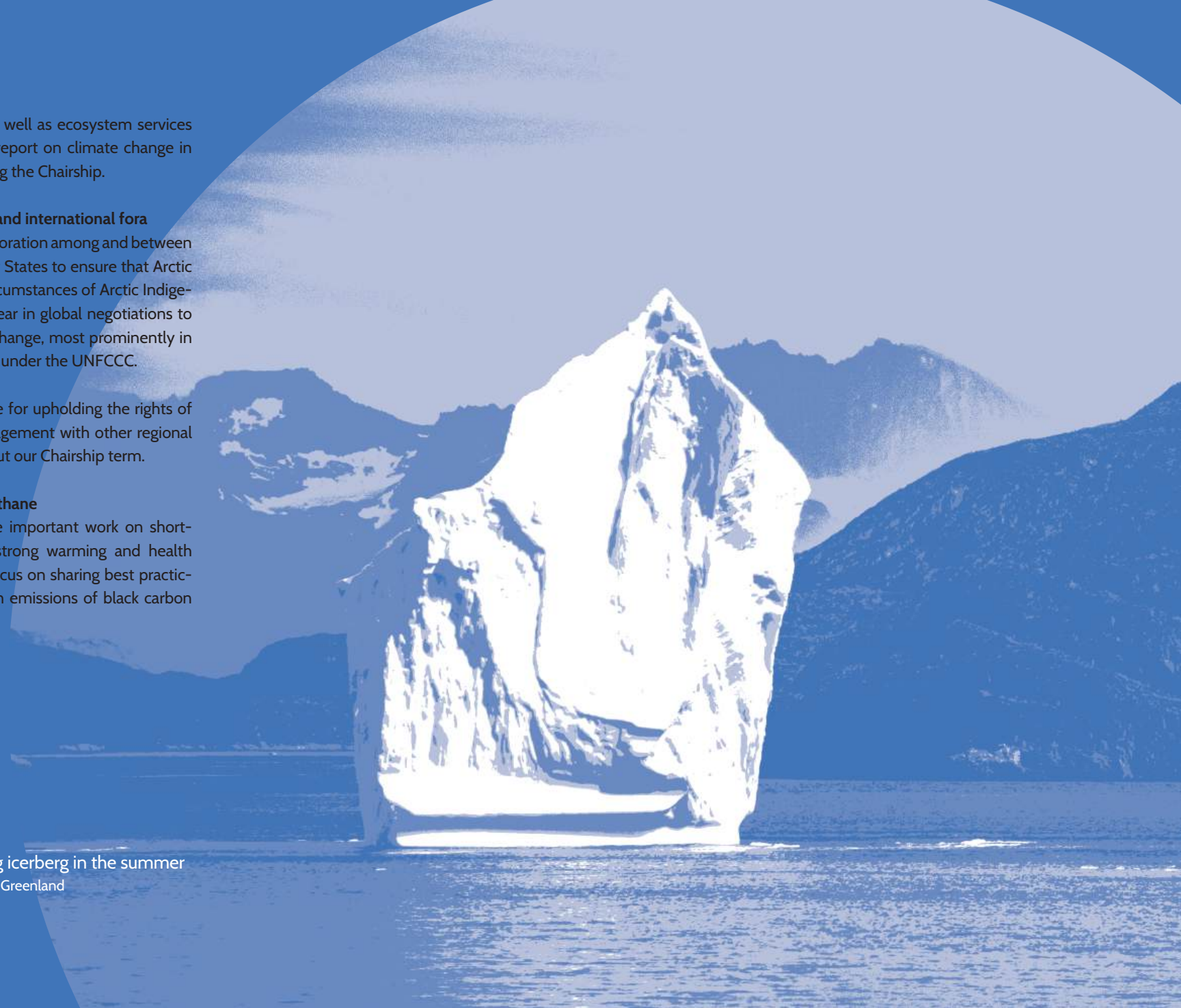
We will support increased collaboration among and between the Arctic Council and Observer States to ensure that Arctic circumstances, including the circumstances of Arctic Indigenous Peoples, are brought to bear in global negotiations to mitigate and adapt to climate change, most prominently in the negotiations that take place under the UNFCCC.

The Chairship will also advocate for upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples in our engagement with other regional and international fora throughout our Chairship term.

#### **Focus on Black Carbon and Methane**

The Chairship will continue the important work on short-lived climate pollutants with strong warming and health related effects. The work will focus on sharing best practices and advocating reductions in emissions of black carbon (soot) and methane.

Spectacular shape of melting iceberg in the summer  
Photo by Aningaag R Carlsen - Visit Greenland



# BIODIVERSITY

*Biodiversity has been a key priority for the Arctic Council since its establishment. The Chairship will continue this commitment in line with the Arctic Council Strategic Plan 2021–2030's 2nd goal: We will emphasize collaboration across the Arctic Region to monitor and assess the status and trends regarding Arctic biodiversity and ecosystems enabling us to continue to detect and predict changes and provide the best available scientific data and Indigenous Knowledge for governance.*

## **Actions for Arctic Biodiversity**

The Chairship will take a leading role with the continued development and implementation of the Action Plan for Arctic Biodiversity 2025–2035. The Action Plan guides and informs the work of the Arctic Council on biodiversity. The new plan emphasizes areas for heightened focus and is built around an alignment with the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework while the unique Arctic identity, integrity and specific relevance is maintained. In addition, the new plan is created to enable Arctic Council's work on biodiversity to be aligned with relevant international biodiversity mechanisms such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

## **The triple planetary crisis – climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss**

The Chairship will give priority to the triple planetary crisis by convening events during 2025–2027 with a focus on addressing key questions to respond to the triple planetary crisis. The events will bring together scientists, policymakers, Indigenous Peoples' representatives, NGOs and others. In 2027, key messages from these events will be addressed at a conference.

## **Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)**

High priority will be given to the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, strengthening the international network of scientists, Indigenous Knowledge holders, govern-

ments and conservation groups, working to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor Arctic biodiversity. Special focus will be given to produce assessments and updates to the State of the Arctic Biodiversity Reports. Furthermore, the Chairship will support the development of new strategic guidelines for CBMP. This includes increased alignment with local, national, and international needs for information, including in relation to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework indicators.

## **Enhance knowledge to address Arctic Invasive Alien Species**

Invasive alien species are one of the major threats to biodiversity for both terrestrial environment and the marine environment. The Chairship will support the important work to improve the knowledge base and to inspire urgent and effective action on this topic to protect the Arctic from invasive alien species.

## **Data policy principles and improved access to and use of data.**

For better access to and the use of data, the Chairship will continue to support the development of data policy principles, including Indigenous Peoples' Data Sovereignty, to guide the management of data being used in the work of the Arctic Council entities. The Chairship will welcome efforts to improve access to user-friendly, up-to-date, and reliable topographic data for the monitoring, research, and decision-making processes.







# THE THREE SEALS



## Logo – The Three Seals

The three seals do not represent any specific seal species. Many seals living in Arctic regions, for example, have shorter flippers than species found further south and the Arctic seals are specialised to survive in extreme conditions. One of these conditions is cold water and cold air, which allows ice to form. For some seal species, the formation of ice is crucial, as seals depend on sea ice as their habitat, where they give birth to their young.

The Kingdom of Denmark consists of Greenland (Kalaallit Nunaat/Nunarput), the Faroe Islands, and Denmark. Each of

the three countries has neighbours other than one another, yet they are all connected by the sea. These three nations are geographically dispersed, yet still connected. In my interpretation, this is symbolised as movement within a group, or a family journeying into the future—towards a shared goal of a better future.

The connection between these countries has historical roots dating back to the colonial era. Over the years, history has evolved, and over time, the nations have become connected through many different bonds.

Miki Jacobsen  
Photo: Camilla Nielsen

## Puisi / Seal

Survival in the Arctic is, to a great extent, a matter of advanced knowledge. As a Greenlander, I have often wondered why Inuit culture has frequently been described as "primitive." This perception is particularly puzzling when considering that we have managed to survive in the Arctic without having a red emergency button to press for help to arrive by air or sea, as seen in survival shows where people attempt to live in nature for more than 100 days. We know that most modern expeditions have succeeded precisely because of Inuit knowledge of survival in the Far North.

For thousands of years, the Inuit have survived in the Arctic, developing techniques for hunting and moving through extreme conditions. Especially during the dark and cold seasons, specialised techniques and knowledge are required. Seal hunting was particularly important for the Inuit. The hunting tool—the harpoon—was not designed by chance. The harpoon head was crafted in a way that merged both functional and spiritual elements. Its shape and details "mirror" the form of the seal. According to ancient tradition, this design ensured that the seal's soul would not be frightened, as it would recognise the harpoon as another seal. This belief held that the seal's soul would return in a new seal, ensuring the survival of humans.

It can therefore be said that the seal was essential to the survival of my ancestors. It provided food, clothing, and oil for lamps.

Today, the situation is different. Like many other cultures, we have undergone significant development in many respects. The seal is no longer essential for survival. Despite this,

technological advancements have not changed our perception of the seal—we still view it as a source of food in a climate where agriculture presents unique challenges.

### Graphical technique:

The technical work behind the basic elements of my design was done with brush and ink—an ancient technique for creating a graphic expression. Culturally, this is "new" in Greenland, however it is an old technique that has been used in many other ancient cultures.

My primary interest has been in achieving a simple graphic language and working with light and dark elements and the balance between them.

For me, the brush allows lines and strokes to come to life by varying the width of the stroke applied to the surface. In this process, different tools can be used besides a brush—such as dry and wet brush techniques, value, tone, and more.

During my time at the School of Applied Arts / The Danish Design School, I gained a much deeper understanding of graphics. However, I had already started drawing, sculpting, and painting at an early stage, as my father was a skilled draftsman, painter, and ceramicist. As a result, education and experience blended together early on in my life. I continue to explore and experiment with my art, discovering new expressions by mixing different techniques.

I am grateful to have had many distinguished teachers, also at Eqqumiitsulionermut Atuarfik—an art school in Nuuk, Greenland, in the 1980s—and during my studies at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Canada.



Fishing spot in Ilulissat  
icefjord.

Aningaaq R. Carlsen

