

Stakeholder Perspectives on Climate Change and Adaptation in Expedition Cruise Tourism in Nunavut

Stakeholder Report



Research Purpose & Questions

In the early 2000s, the Canadian Arctic experienced a growth in planned expedition cruise ship itineraries; this growth was facilitated by climate change, which has opened up previously inaccessible Arctic destinations. Between 2005 and 2006, planned cruise itineraries doubled from 11 to 22, and over the past four years an increase of 9.5% has been seen. Since 2009 the industry has stabilized; however, this is most likely due to the 2009 recession. Understanding the relationship between climate change and tourism in Nunavut is important so that policies can be developed to govern and regulate the industry. We explored the views that tourism industry stakeholders, particularly those involved with the development of industry policies and regulations, have on climate change and adaptation in Nunavut's expedition cruise ship tourism industry, through:

- What are the views held by decision makers and regulators about tourism and its interaction with climate change in the Arctic?
- To what extent do decision makers and regulators believe cruise tourists to Nunavut are motivated to visit due to climate change?
- What are the strategies identified by decision makers and regulators to ensure that cruise tourism in Nunavut is managed effectively in light of climate change?

This research was by Adrienne Johnston for a Masters thesis and as part of the Tourism Vulnerability and Resilience in the Arctic Research.

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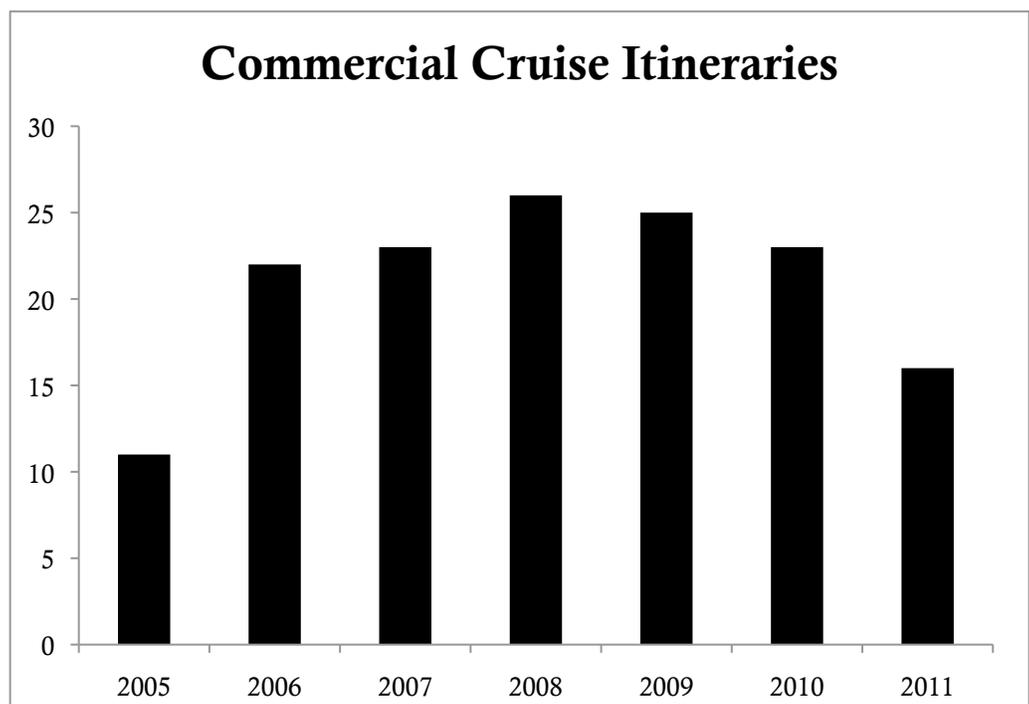
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What are Decision Makers and Regulators Saying about Climate Change and Cruise Tourism?

- Climate change is occurring and affects Nunavut's expedition cruise ship tourism industry.
- Cruise tourism has grown steadily, but was affected by the 2009 economic recession.
- Planned cruise itineraries are shifting to Northern Baffin Island and the Northwest Passage- this presents safety challenges.
- Observed changes in sea ice are changing the foundations of tourism in Nunavut.
- Climate change is part of the motivation to visit the Canadian Arctic.



Nunavut Cruise Tourism Challenges and Opportunities Related to Climate Change Outcomes

Stakeholders identified cruise challenges as:

- Limited infrastructure, financial and human capacity
- Limited cruise tourism development & programs
- Existing attitudes of decision makers and regulators toward tourism
- Existing communication strategy
- Existing tourism legislation
- Current permitting process
- Growth of the expedition cruise ship tourism industry
- Limited understanding of each organization's responsibility



Stakeholders identified cruise opportunities as:

- Financial, human and infrastructure investment
 - education
 - community involvement
- Legislation
 - control
 - coordination
- Stakeholder network
 - coordination and collaboration
 - advice and support

What can Stakeholders do? Strategies for Change

Investment Options for Human/Financial/Infrastructural Capacity

- Include tourism and recreation in high school and college education
- Provide students opportunities to work in tourism through collaborative programs with educators and industry stakeholders
- Expand Parks Canada's 'Cruise Host' program.
- Create a GN tourism specific budget.
- Develop an investment program to promote the industry and provide training to beneficiaries.
- Support community involvement through funding and capacity development.

Development Options for Legislation, Regulation and Control

- Create Nunavut specific tourism legislation (e.g. reporting, wildlife viewing)
- Institute port fees (contribute to infrastructure investment)
- Institute community fees (assist with community development)
- Mainstream permitting
- Hire GN cruise employee
- Coordinate tourism responsibilities

Coordination Options for Stakeholder Network

- Support community network partnerships
- Advise GN and Federal Government on Nunavut cruise ship industry
- Liaise with industry operators and community economic development officers.
- Develop community guidelines for hosting cruise ships.
- Coordinate cruise tourism product development
- Coordinate cruise tourism marketing.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to develop tourism courses/workshops based on community needs.
- Promote the benefits of tourism (cruise and land based tourism)
- Coordinate cruise guidelines for operators

Stakeholders need to evaluate the feasibility of Nunavut cruise tourism liaison and/or a Nunavut cruise ship tourism association.

