

Northern Contaminants Researcher: Helping to protect Nunatsiavut from long range contaminants.

Liz Pijogge

Based at the Nain Research Centre, within the Environment Division of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the NCR works inter-departmentally and across communities, in part through the Nunatsiavut Government Research Advisory Committee (NGRAC) to help Inuit of Nunatsiavut better understand contaminants within the region. This includes some Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) funded projects and how these projects relate to Inuit health and wellbeing. The Northern Contaminants Researcher would like to acknowledge the funding and support of the Northern Contaminants Program, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Nain Research Centre in order to ensure this important work continues.

Arctic Char Monitoring



Lead PI: Rodd Laing

Partners: Derk Muir, Marlene Evans and Jane Kirk from ECCC

Gathering 20 sea run char from two areas in Nunatsiavut, Antalik Bay, south of Nain and North Arm in Saglek Bay. Samples are being Analyzed for Mercury and POPs.

Ringed Seal Monitoring



Lead PI: Magali Houde and Derek Muir

Harvesting 20 Ringed seals in the Nain area analyzing for Mercury and POPs. Seal parts gathered for analysis are: blubber, muscle, kidneys, liver, and lower jaw for aging. The rest of the seal goes to the local Community Freezer and is distributed to the community.

Passive Air Monitoring



Lead PI: Hayley Hung

Passive Air Filter located southwest of Nain, and one near NorthWest River. One Filter changed every 3 months and two filters changed once a year.

Filters analyzed for organic pollutants such as POPs and mercury.

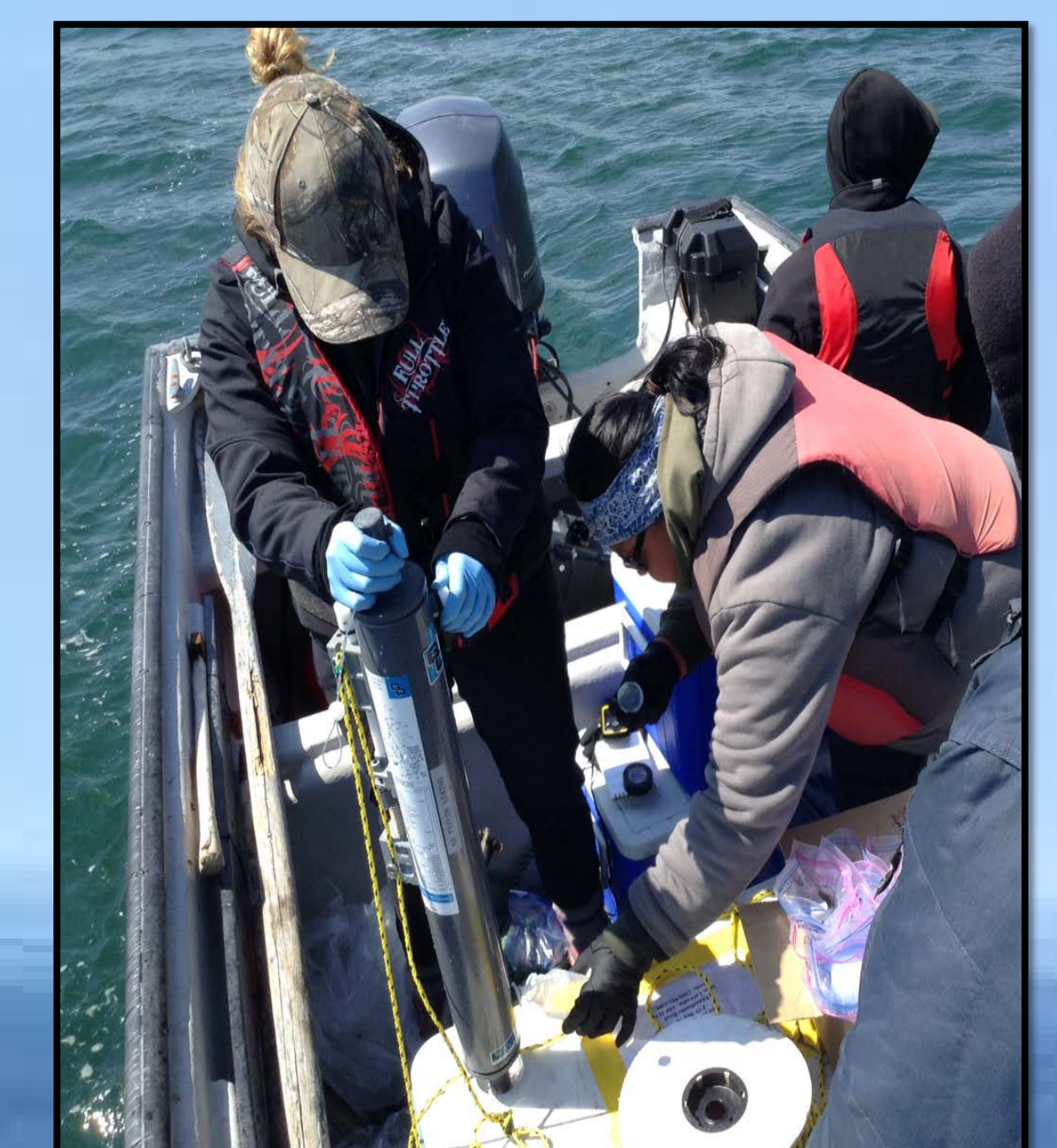
Plankton Sampling



Lead PI: Jane Kirk

Samples from the Lake Melville area and Rigolet are gathered to get a baseline and annual reading of methylmercury, PFAs and PCBs.

Seawater Monitoring



Lead PI: Derek Muir et al.

Seawater samples taken at different depths in the Nain area. Samples are collected with a Niskin and passive samplers are left in the ocean for 5-6 weeks and then collected. Samples analyzed for Mercury, OPFRs, and PFAs.