

For three weeks in June, PhD Candidate, Cerren Richards, and Inuit Research Coordinator, Jacqueline Winters, have been collecting data on culturally important seabird biodiversity hotspots around Rigolet with drone and observational surveys. Through partnering with Drone Service Provider, Eldred Allen at Bird's Eye Inc., and Rigolet Conservation Officer, David Wolfrey, they had fantastic outcomes. The team successfully surveyed eight seabird species on 16 islands along Groswater Bay with minimal disturbance. The drone photographs will be used to recreate the islands and quantify the abundance and distribution of each seabird species. We hope this research will help spearhead conservation initiatives that sustain culturally important species. Additionally, the generated images can be used as tools for storytelling and advocacy of Inuit food security and livelihood.

Jacqueline and Cerren also held two community engagement events in Rigolet. They had 29 people attend the first Seabird Open House and an amazing 68 people attend the second Seabird Research Event, which is 20% of the town. People of all ages, from babies to elders, came to have fun. They shared some of the drone footage and answered people's questions. Cerren designed a seabird activity book for the children to colour. Additionally, they had lots of great games like Bingo and Minute to Win it, and pizza for everyone to enjoy.



The Dream Team on Catos Island. From left: Cerren Richards (PhD Candidate), Eldred Allen (Bird's Eye Inc. Drone Service Provider), Jacqueline Winters (Rigolet Inuit Research Coordinator), and David Wolfrey (Rigolet Conservation Officer)



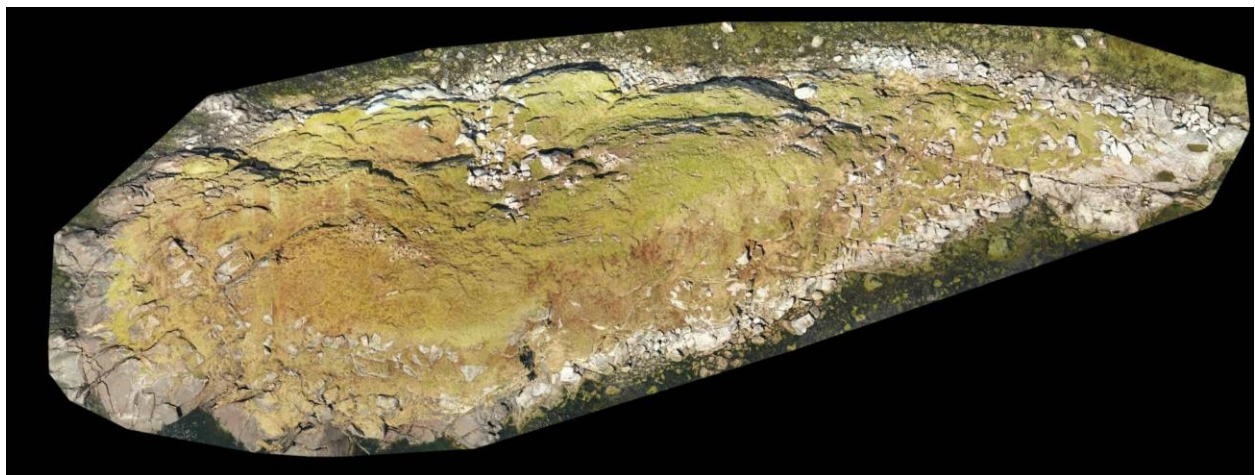
PhD Candidate, Cerren Richards, discussing the findings with Rigolet community members at the first Seabird Open House



Example of a seabirds captured using the drone. Can you spot the double-crested cormorants (shags), great black-backed gulls (saddlers) and common eiders?



Great attendance at the Seabird Research Event with 68 community members attending (20% of Rigolet). People enjoyed hearing about the research, eating pizza and fresh fruit trays, and playing fun games!



Orthomosaic of Gull Island that was stitched together by Bird's Eye Inc. from over 200 drone photos. The high image resolution will allow us to zoom in and count each individual seabird.