The first chapter consists of a geographical description of the Point Hope region stressing the abundance of local faunal resources and the ability of the people to coordinate their movements with those of the major game species.

Chapter 2 centers on the people of the Point Hope region emphasizing their distinctiveness as a separate society, their relations with neighboring societies, and the effects of European contact during the nineteenth century. Detailed data on the population of the Point Hope region from the beginning of the nineteenth century until the present are particularly useful.

In chapter 3 Burch deals with the relation of land use to the production of raw materials. There is a detailed description of the hunting of marine mammals, caribou, fur bearers, other mammals, fish, and birds as well as the gathering of invertebrates, vegetable, and mineral products. Tables list the major resources in each category giving English, native, and Latin names when they can be determined as well as uses when relevant. Maps show the movements of whales in spring and the locations of native whaling crews.

In chapter 4 the social dimension of land use is emphasized particularly with reference to settlement determinants. Descriptions and locations of summer settlements, interior settlements, and outlying coastal settlements are given along with a detailed description of the village of Tikiraq (Point Hope) itself throughout time. Relations between settlements in the Point Hope region are discussed and a useful map shows trails connecting all types of habitation sites.

The fifth chapter, devoted to the temporal dimension of land use, provides a description of the seasonal round with emphasis on "an effective distribution strategy" throughout the Point Hope region at different times of the year as hunters utilized various resources available on a seasonal basis in different locations.

In the concluding sixth chapter Burch notes, for purposes of refutation, that hunting peoples such as the traditional Point Hopers are commonly regarded as "free-wanderers" moving and living wherever they wish. This sweeping statement, although an effective straw man, is probably not valid. Rather the Point Hopers have been thought of, at least by anthropologists, as people who "wandered" from a central base. Nevertheless, the author has demonstrated more clearly than previous writers the very real restrictions that existed on land use and the precautions that were necessary when crossing or utilizing land belonging to neighboring societies.

There are two appendices, in the first of which oral sources relevant to the author's field work are listed and evaluated. An explanation is given concerning the extent to which Point Hope informants, his own and those of previous investigators, possessed reliable historical information. A second appendix provides a detailed list of traditional place names in the Point Hope region utilizing the author's own field data which is cross-referenced to the work of earlier investigators and placed on a series of section maps.

This fine study, by far the most comprehensive published account of Point Hope land use, is enhanced by excellent historical photographs, but slightly marred by an unnecessary number of typographical errors.

The general inadequacy of data, and some of the major technical problems associated with gathering statistics on small population groups, are described, with particular emphasis on the problem of distinguishing between the so-called "permanent" and "current" populations of the Territories. The migration component of the population is mentioned as a particularly difficult one to get a fix on in the Territories where seasonal activities are a major force, where a boom-or-bust economy is the norm, and where there are substantial impacts on community life in general and urbanization in particular caused by rapid changes in transportation, education, and communication.

In the face of all of the above difficulties Dr. Hamelin makes a logically constructed (and brave!) attempt to project population growth for the period 1976 to 1985, and describes both the methodology and the assumptions used in the projections. The important implications of the existing population breakdown and of population growth to 1985 are then presented for the native population and other northerners; these implications concern general demographic growth, settlement size and location, ethnic distribution, age, sex, and dependency ratios, school and work-force populations, migration factors, and housing.

Finally, the study concludes with a series of recommendations aimed at politicians, bureaucrats, researchers and the public at large. This is an important study for a number of reasons. (1) The subject area suggests that the Board recognized from the outset the particular importance of population dynamics, in that they would likely have a critical impact on all aspects of the political, social, and economic future of the Territories. (2) The population growth rate is substantially higher (by a factor of two or three) than in the rest of Canada, which raises a number of interesting questions for scientists, planners and bureaucrats, not to mention the most important audience of all — the population of the N. W. T. (3) Attention is focused here on a scientific discipline which is often overlooked by those people responsible for planning and undertaking developments in the north, where population policies may be especially useful.

There may be arguments by specialists about the methodology of reporting demographic projections, and concerning many of the assumptions made, and indeed, forecasting settlement patterns and social and economic trends is treacherous to say the least. But by any reasonable standards this report is a major contribution to practical knowledge of the north.

Congratulations are due Dr. Hamelin. Here's hoping others will follow in his steps with similar policy-oriented demographic studies!

Ken de la Barre
Committee on Northern Population Research
Département de démographie
Université de Montréal
C.P. 6128, Succ. "A" Montréal, Québec, Canada
H3C 3J7

The first international body created to deal with the fisheries of the Pacific halibut was established with the mandate to advise the Legislative Assembly on science, engineering and technology matters.


The Preface states that this book "is best described as an encyclopedic documentary on the Pacific halibut and its fishery". However it also states that it "does not profess to be an exhaustive treatise on any one aspect of the resource or the fishery". That is a fair appraisal of the book.

The author began his 45-year career with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (nee International Fisheries Commission) when the fishery was only 40 years old, and the Canada-U.S. Commission was a "youngster", age 2. He was Director of Investigations when he retired in 1970, and interestingly only the third person to hold that position.

The IFHC was, in 1923, the first international body created to deal with research and management of a fishery resource. Not surprisingly, its actions, and non-actions, have attracted worldwide attention, particularly from the scientific world, and it has been the object of numerous controversial debates, in biology, economics, and sociology.

General subjects included etymology and taxonomy, fishery, processing and marketing, international agreements, research and management, overview, and biographical sketches.