

The longing for the sea

If you want to get in touch with an Inuit, then talk about the sea. The sail at sea, hunting at sea, weather conditions in The Arctic waters. Every Inuits have a strong relationship with the sea. The culture and the identity are for many rooted in the relation to the sea – the family, the ancestral, any Inuits have a strong relationship to the sea.

I work in a public institution, and I often find colleagues who become lost in their own thoughts, while they with a distant gaze out of the office window look at the fiord below the office buildings. They again long for the sea.

All settlements in Greenland are located by the fiords or the sea. Many families have a dinghy or a small boat places in the harbour

for trips in the giant fjord systems or in visits to neighbouring settlements to celebrate weddings, birthdays and confirmations. It is too expensive for many to buy a plane ticket.

Fishing and hunting plays a central role in the people relation to the sea. It is difficult to calculate the household income in Greenland because a significant part of the daily food is not purchased but fished and caught on hunting trips in the surrounding area.

This day in June there are dramatic weather changes within a short time above the Godthaabsfjorden. In an instant moment the sun find a way through the thick clouds. I experience a longing to be somewhere out there - a longing for the sea.



Godthaabsfjorden, June 2010

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