Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study (2004)

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The Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study was conducted as per section 5.4.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to determine total levels of harvest in each of Nunavut’s 27 communities. To carry out this massive undertaking, the NWMB contracted the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, and the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association to collect harvest data from Inuit hunters. Data on over 60 species of wildlife was recorded through interviews with more than 6000 harvesters beginning in 1996, and continued through until the summer of 2001.

Five-Year Preliminary Reports were sent out for community consultation and data verification. The harvest study provided the NWMB and its co-management partners with a vital long-term tool for making sound wildlife management decisions, and for determining Inuit basic needs levels (BNLs). Should it ever become necessary to limit harvesting from a wildlife population, the first call on any such limit will be to meet the basic needs level of Inuit. As well being used to establishing BNLs, the harvest study produced a database that has been used by the NWMB and other co-management agencies in addressing and assisting with wildlife management issues such as research prioritization, development of management plans, negotiation on impact and benefits agreements, and for assessing international compensation on shared stocks.

The Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study - Final Report was completed and released in the fall of 2004. Copies of the report have been sent out to the various groups and agencies that participated in the study. Click here to view the Harvest Study database.