

Kitikmeot Grizzly Bear update

- In 2008-2009, ENV estimated a density of 5.6 bears/1,000 km² in a 40,000 km² area around Kugluktuk using DNA hair snagging methods.
- In 2021 ENV re-sampled the 2008–2009 survey area with the objectives of providing a more precise estimate of bear abundance and examining population trend since the previous estimate of 2008-2009.
- Overall population density of grizzly bears in 2021 (6.6 bears/1,000 km²) was non-significantly higher than in 2008–2009 (5.6 bears/1,000 km²).
- Despite the absence of statistical significance, local knowledge supports that the grizzly bear population increased in the area and is consistent with field observations by hunters and biologists.

Kugluktuk harvest:

- The number of bears harvested within the Kugluktuk study area during 2008–2022 averaged 5.6 bears annually, and was significantly higher in 2021.
- Sport hunts contributed 20% of the total harvest during 2008–2022 (n = 84), with only 1 female harvested by sport hunters. On average 2.1 bears were taken annually by sport hunters (range 0–4; 2020 and 2021 excluded due to Covid-related travel restrictions).
- The current estimated 1.6% harvest rate is sustainable, given the high focus on male grizzly bears and the clumped distribution of harvest around Kugluktuk.

Kitikmeot region harvest and allocation

- Currently, there are no restriction on Inuit harvest of grizzly bears for domestic use and in defense of life and property.
- The reported average annual harvest from 2019-23 is 22 bears/year for the Kitikmeot region.
- There are 15 sport hunt tag allocations in the Kitikmeot region, which are distributed by the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) as follows:
 - Kugluktuk HTO = 5
 - Bathurst Inlet HTO =3
 - Bay Chimo HTO = 2
 - Cambridge Bay = 5

Reported grizzly bear harvest in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions between 2019 and 2023. RH = Regular (subsistence) Hunt, SH = Sport Hunt (only successful hunts). Cambridge Bay ^x includes Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet.										
Community	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	RH	SH	RH	SH	RH	SH	RH	SH	RH	SH
Arviat	11	2	15	-	20	-	3	-	6	-
Baker Lake	11	-	12	-	2	-	4	1	3	1
Rankin Inlet	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Whale Cove	1	-	-	-		1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL KIVALLIQ	24	3	27		23	1	7	1	11	1
Cambridge Bay ^x	6	4	7	-	9	-	9	5	5	4
Gjoa Haven				-			1		-	
Kugaaruk				-					1	
Kugluktuk	7	1	9	-	23	-	5	4	9	2
TOTAL KITIKMEOT	13	5	16		32		15	9	15	6

- The success rate of grizzly bear sport hunt in Nunavut is low (<50% in the past 5 years).
- Non-sport kill is also increasing, grizzly bears on the tundra have low reproductive potential and are not likely to support high subsistence and sport hunting at the same time.
- If an increase in harvest occurs in the Kitikmeot, it becomes increasingly important to implement the protection of female bears and family groups by HTOs, according to the Grizzly Bear Co-Management Plan.

Western Kitikmeot density estimates:

- ENV has planned to estimate density across the larger regional study area, encompassing calving through summer ranges of the Bluenose-East and Bathurst caribou herds and completed surveys in 2022 and 2023 for the eastern sector of the mainland Kitikmeot Region (Fig. 1).
- Results from all three years analyses will be provided in the final report which is anticipated to be available in spring 2025.

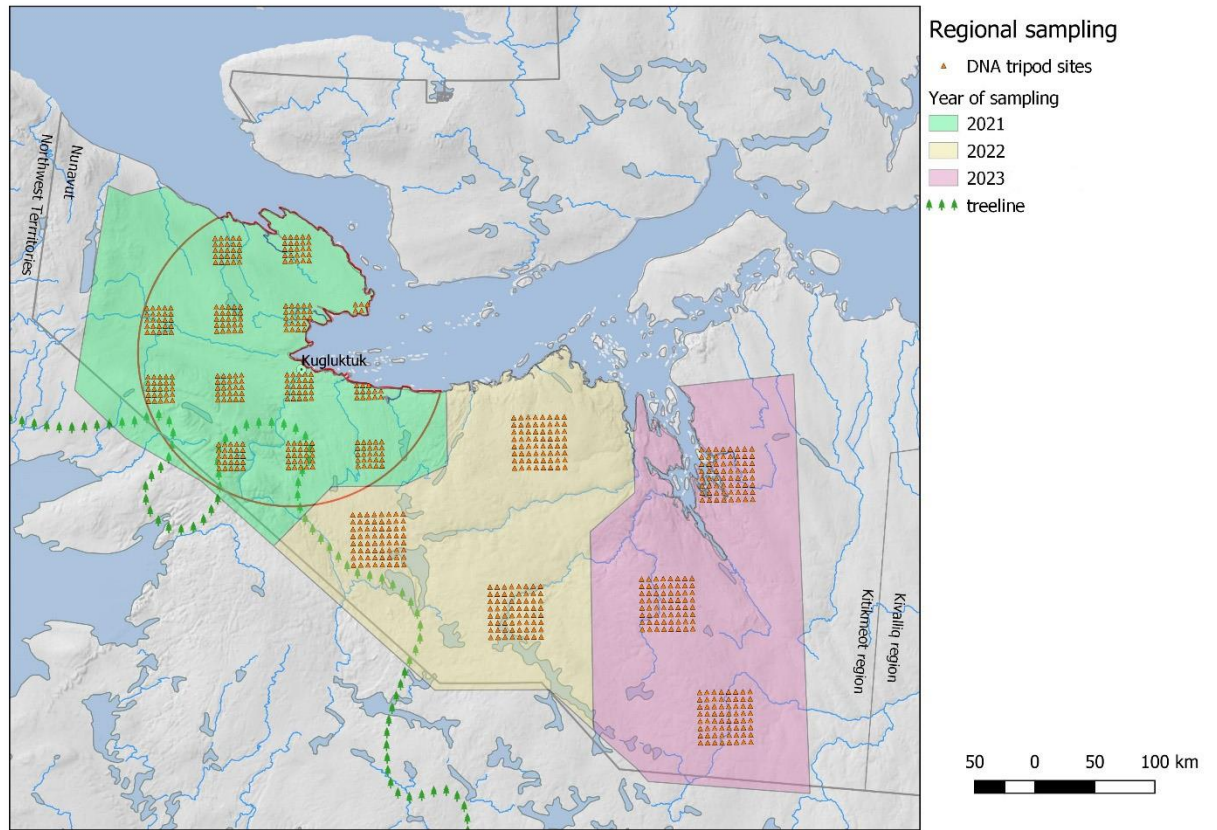


Figure 1. Division of Kitikmeot Region into sectors sampled for grizzly bears in 2021 (western; 54,200 km²), 2022 (central; 51,500 km², and in 2023 (eastern; 50,800 km²). Red crosses mark the locations of hair snag stations (tripods). Straight edges to the west and south are the NWT/Nunavut border. Also shown is the border of the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions to the east.