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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

REGIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES UPDATE





Purpose of Setting Regional Research Priorities

1

Research priorities are one of several criteria used to score and rank proposals for:

- **Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Research Fund (IQRF)**
- **Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund (NWSF)**
- **Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust (NWRT)**

2

To focus funding on research that addresses community wildlife concerns

WORKSHOPS

Held every three years in each region.

Typically timed with RWO AGMs.

Asked participants how often they would like to hold the workshops.

KWB
Baker Lake
October 21



KRWB
Yellowknife
November 9



QWB
Iqaluit
November 29



Creating and validating priorities

HTO representatives suggest priorities

HTO representatives vote on priorities

Draft priorities sent to HTOs/RWOs for validation



VALIDATION

Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk

- Draft priorities sent to the RWOs and HTOs to note major concerns.
- No feedback was received.

Kitikmeot

- HTO Chairs asked to review and vote on the list with their HTOs.
- Bathurst Inlet, Bay Chimo, and Kugluktuk submitted updated rankings, and Taloyoak approved the rankings from the workshop.
- Staff followed up with others, but no further updates were received.



RESULTS

Kitikmeot

- Caribou research, including predator impacts, health, and community monitoring
- Community-led research and use of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit
- Climate change, cumulative effects, and environmental change

Kivalliq

- Contaminants and food safety research (fish, caribou, muskox, beluga)
- Human-wildlife conflict, especially involving polar bears
- Population monitoring and community-led sampling

Qikiqtaaluk

- Marine mammal research (beluga, narwhal, seals, walrus)
- Industry, shipping, and invasive species impacts
- Priorities reflect char, benthic species, and shifting marine ecosystems



NWMB Decision on Research Priorities

Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Priorities (2026-Update)
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#1 Wildlife Priorities ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ 1 ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ	
1A	Caribou: Health monitoring (disease and contaminants obtained through community sampling) ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ (ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ)
1B	Wolves and Grizzlies: Increasing incentives for harvesting wolves and introducing incentives for harvesting grizzlies ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1C	Caribou: Alternative survey methods (drones, satellites, cameras, community surveys, etc.) ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1D	Grizzly Bear: Aerial surveys on Victoria Island, Bluenose-East caribou calving ground, and Bathurst caribou calving ground ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1E	Caribou: Climate change impacts on caribou and migration ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ

Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Priorities (2026-update)
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#1 Wildlife Priorities ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ 1 ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ	
1A	Polar bear: Projects where community engagement and participation in polar bear research design are prioritized ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1B	Polar bear: Effects of tourism and noise from deterrent activities on polar bear hearing and subsequent behavioural changes ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1C	Fish: Contaminant levels, such as mercury, in various fish species ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1D	Fox: Fox population dynamics near communities and the effects of rising populations on rabies transmission and food cache security ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1E	Caribou: Epidemiology of caribou lung and liver diseases ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1F	Caribou: Caribou land surveys (snowmobile, ATV, foot patrols) ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ

Qikiqtaaluk Regional Wildlife Priorities (2026-update)
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#1 Wildlife Priorities ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ 1 ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ	
1A	Impacts of mining, other industries, and development on species movement ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1B	Ringed Seals: Health monitoring studies, including parasites and impact on human health ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1C	Caribou: Population monitoring, abundance, and herd movements (including use of collars or trap cameras) ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1D	Ballast water: Impacts of ballast on marine environments, including the use of additives or other contaminants ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1E	Community structure and abundance of benthic species ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ
1F	Understanding char movements, population, and abundance ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐ

