



Wildlife Watch

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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The WMACs Comment on Species at Risk

The WMAC (NS) and the WMAC (NWT) have sent a letter expressing their shared comments to the Standing Committee on Environment & Sustainable Development for consideration in their study of Bill C-33, the



proposed Act concerning the protection of wild species at risk in Canada. The Species at Risk Act (SARA) is an important piece of legislation that will be most effective in the ISR if it is well integrated with IFA-based institutions.

The WMACs have reviewed the current draft of the Bill and have sent their comments to the Committee. All of them relate to the effect of the proposed legislation on key provisions of the IFA. The WMACs are hoping to impress upon the Standing Committee the significant differences in the management of wildlife in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region compared to that in southern Canada. The

provisions of the proposed SARA must be sensitive to the environmental circumstances and institutional realities of the ISR.

While the proposed legislation recognizes the existence of Wildlife Management Boards and traditional knowledge, the WMACs have questions regarding how institutional arrangements in the ISR and the use of traditional knowledge will be affected by SARA. The WMACs are also concerned about how wildlife harvesting rights could be affected by the proposed legislation.

The letter suggests that the WMACs should play a proactive and leading role in the determination of species listings and the development of recovery plans, especially for harvested wildlife. The WMACs intend to appear before the Standing Committee at its fall hearings to clarify their comments. *Arctic Hare photo courtesy ERCHA*

2001 Spring Muskox Survey

This survey is part of a three year study of muskox on the Yukon North Slope that is being conducted by the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources and Parks Canada. The spring muskox survey was conducted from April 5-11, 2001 by Parks Canada and covered an area on the Yukon North Slope from the US/Canada border to the Blow River. This year, 124 muskox were observed and classified by age and sex. The 1999 survey counted 146 muskox on the Yukon North Slope.

Conference Proceedings Available

The proceedings of the sixth Yukon North Slope Conference are now printed and have been sent out to conference attendees. The conference was held in Whitehorse September 18-20, 2000. WMAC (NS) extends their appreciation to the presenters, facilitators, organizers, rapporteurs and the many other people whose help made the conference a success. The proceedings can also be viewed on the Web at:

www.taiga.net/wmac/northslopeproceedings/northslopeconf.html

Roles and Responsibilities Workshop

The WMAC(NS) Chair, Secretariat and member, Danny C. Gordon, attended an IFA Roles and Responsibilities Workshop in Inuvik in April. For three days, over forty participants from the Inuvialuit Game Council, the HTC's, the Co-management bodies, the Joint Secretariat and the ILA identified and discussed the processes for carrying out their responsibilities under the IFA. Clear and open communication between all parties was identified as being very important. WMAC(NS) representatives found the workshop to be informative and a great help in clarifying each group's role in implementing the IFA.

Knowledge Co-op Holds 6th Annual Gathering

The 6th Annual Gathering of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op was held in Aklavik in March. Over 50 participants from Alaska, Yukon and the NWT attended this three day event. Representatives from Kaktovik attended for the first time. Reports were given on the results of several of the Co-op's programs, including this year's Community-based Monitoring project in Old Crow, Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Arctic Village. An Elders' roundtable focused on changes observed in the duck and geese populations. Coop members decided on their priority actions for the following year, one of which is a project on songbirds. For more information on the Co-op and the Gathering go to www.taiga.net/coop.

Update: 2000 Peregrine Falcon Survey

Twenty peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*) nest sites on the Yukon North Slope were visited from July 11-13, 2000. The survey was a partnership between Yukon College, the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources and Parks Canada. Helicopter support for the survey was provided by the Polar Continental Shelf Project. Sixteen of the sites visited were previously known and 4 were new sites found during the 2000 survey. Nine of these twenty sites were occupied, and 7 of these were productive. This indicates an increase in the number of occupied and productive nest sites from the 1995 survey, which recorded only 6 occupied and 4 productive sites. However, it should be noted that the 2000 survey covered a larger area than the 1995 survey. Despite a likely increase in the number of occupied and productive nest sites from 1995 to 2000, the North Slope population of peregrine falcons remains a concern, because only 7 of the 20 nest sites observed were productive.

Snowy Owl photo by Mark Moon



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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- **Government of Yukon:** Doug Larsen, Renewable Resources; Alternate: Dorothy Cooley, Renewable Resources
- **Government of Canada:** Joan Eamer, Canadian Wildlife Service; Alternate: Alan Fehr, Parks Canada
- **Chairperson:** Lindsay Staples
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