

10.4.2 Provincial wildlife management

Newfoundland. The functions of the Newfoundland Wildlife Service are: to maintain all indigenous species from extinction; to provide other species where suitable unused habitat exists, always bearing in mind the real and aesthetic values of wildlife that are important to man; to maintain all species in the greatest number possible, consistent with the habitat needs of the species, without serious conflict with the other resource needs; and, to provide and regulate the harvest surplus of wildlife populations for the use of the people.

The Wildlife Service manages big game almost solely through the manipulation of hunting regulations based on population data gathered from field studies and hunter questionnaires, as well as the transplant of caribou and moose to unoccupied range and the predator controls of lynx around caribou calving grounds. Black bear, the only other big game species, has increased in numbers over the past six years and a trapping program is currently in progress to gain information on their distribution and movements. Research is also being conducted on the ecology and biology of small game species such as snowshoe hare, arctic hare, willow and rock ptarmigan and ruffed grouse. Waterfowl management is conducted by federal authorities.

The wild fur industry in Newfoundland, as elsewhere, has been characterized by short-term instability and a long-term decline. However, recent fur sales have set record prices and this suggests that the decline of the past decade may be temporarily halted. The number of trappers in the province is similar to what it was ten years ago. As a result of this continued interest by trappers, research and management studies are being conducted on all fur bearers. Previously, beaver was the only fur bearer benefiting from a management program. Studies are continuing on the biology of the endangered Newfoundland pine marten. It is hoped that these studies will provide the information necessary to produce the management program required to ensure survival of the species.

Prince Edward Island. The Fish and Wildlife Division of the Environmental Control Commission have full or partial responsibility for research and management of all wildlife on Prince Edward Island. All non-migratory wildlife are the full responsibility of the province while the management responsibilities for fish and migratory birds are shared with the federal government. A prime responsibility is the continual monitoring of game populations to assist in setting seasons and bag limits.

Attempts are being made to establish a viable population of pheasants by the introduction of new species and continued evaluation of their performance. Habitat improvement is of prime importance for all forms of wildlife. Fishery management consists largely of the building of fish ladders to facilitate fish passage and other stream improvement measures such as stream bank stabilization. Habitat improvement for waterfowl consists mainly of flooding marshes for waterfowl production, several projects being jointly undertaken with Ducks Unlimited (Canada). In addition, several wildlife management areas are being developed to allow for special management techniques where required. Fur-bearer management is increasingly important with the red fox being the principal fur bearer on Prince Edward Island.

Land acquisition, primarily marsh and fragile habitat, has assumed a very important role in wildlife management on Prince Edward Island.

Nova Scotia. The Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests conducts research and management programs, the results of which will help to ensure that the wildlife resource will continue to contribute to the mental, physical and economic well-being of the people of Nova Scotia.

Big game species in the province are undergoing studies to compile annual data on harvest patterns, age and sex ratios, reproduction, behaviour, etc. Wild fur bearers include beaver, muskrat, mink, otter, wildcat, lynx, fox, raccoon and weasel and these provide a supplementary income for some 3,500 persons who harvest wild furs worth from \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually. At present, most attention is directed toward the beaver which is the most valuable fur bearer taken. The Trappers Association of Nova Scotia is organized so that persons closest to the resource may have some say in its wise use and management. One of the aims of the Association is to promote improved marketing and handling of the raw furs taken by trappers so as to upgrade over-all fur quality and thus command more profitable market prices for trappers. Particular emphasis is placed on various forest cutting practices and deer