

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, 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 and without serious conflict with the other resource needs; and, to provide and regulate the harvest surplus of wildlife populations.

The Wildlife Service manages big game almost solely through varying the hunting regulations based on population data gathered from field studies and hunter questionnaires as well as by transplanting caribou and moose to unoccupied range and controlling predators such as 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 and 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 the same as 10 years ago and as a result of 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 has 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. A research project on the ruffed grouse is being conducted. Emphasis is on habitat evaluation and populations as they relate to habitat.

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 bed stabilization. Silting has long been a problem in some Island streams. A pilot project to monitor silt, and to identify and correct its source is being carried out on the Dunk River, one of the largest systems on the Island.

Nova Scotia. The Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests is responsible for developing a wildlife program to fulfil present and future social needs by identifying objectives, formulating and implementing resource plans, co-ordinating these within the Department and with other planning agencies to ensure optimum wildlife production for the people of Nova Scotia.

Continuing studies are under way to monitor the status of moose, deer and black bear. Specific studies were also implemented in 1973 to obtain information on: moose distribution, densities and reproductive rates; the prevalence and distribution of the central nervous system parasite in deer and moose; the effects of various forest cutting practices on deer and moose and their winter range; the location of major deer wintering areas throughout the province; and the extent of the black bear depredation problem.

Major fur bearers include beaver, muskrat, mink, otter, bobcat, lynx, fox and raccoon. About 3,500 trappers utilized the resource in 1972-73 with total wild fur production amounting to about \$381,000. Primary emphasis is currently directed toward beaver and otter research. Close co-operation exists between the Division and the Trappers Association of Nova Scotia to ensure wise use and management of the fur resource.

Migratory bird management is shared jointly by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the provincial Wildlife Division. Established programs concerning population inventories, band-