

The CWS was responsible for the waterfowl capability sector of the Canada Land Inventory, a federal-provincial program to gather information on how land in the settled parts of Canada is being used, and how best it could be used for agriculture, forestry, recreation and wildlife.

Provincial wildlife management

10.4.2

Newfoundland. The functions of the wildlife division are: to preserve 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.

Newfoundland has 38 moose management areas and 15 caribou management areas. Moose and caribou populations are managed by establishing licence quotas, varying the length of open season and different bag limits. In most management areas, the licence quota consists of a number of licences permitting the taking of animals of either sex and another number permitting the taking of males only. Emphasis in research is placed on moose and caribou but investigations of ptarmigan, snowshoe hares, arctic hares, and various furbearers are also conducted. Management surveys deal primarily with the big-game species. Populations of small-game species and furbearers are monitored. In recent years, two relatively rare species, the arctic hare and pine marten, have been live trapped and released in suitable unoccupied habitat, with encouraging results.

Prince Edward Island. The fish and wildlife division of the environment department is responsible for research and management of all wildlife on Prince Edward Island. All non-migratory wildlife is the responsibility of the province while 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 a new species. Beaver transplants to vacant habitat are being carried on to increase their range. Considerable effort is expended in summer and winter black duck banding programs to determine hunting mortality of various population segments.

Habitat improvement is of prime importance for all forms of wildlife. Fishery management consists largely of building fish ladders to facilitate fish passage and other stream improvement measures such as stream bed stabilization. Efforts are continuing to establish an early run salmon stock on the Morell River.

Nova Scotia. The wildlife division of the lands and forests department is concerned with programs to ensure optimum populations of vertebrate wildlife.

Inventories are conducted annually to monitor the population status of game and non-game species. Other major activities include: the preparation of integrated resource management plans for Crown lands; wetlands management in co-operation with Ducks Unlimited (Canada); biological assessment of lakes and streams; hunter education; law enforcement; co-operative programs with the Trappers Association of Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation; maintenance of a modest put and take trout fishery; co-operation with universities in wildlife research; and the preparation and updating of legislation pertaining to wildlife.

New Brunswick. The wildlife resources of New Brunswick are the responsibility of the fish and wildlife branch of the natural resources department. Orders-in-council issued under the New Brunswick Game Act control bag limits and hunting pressure in the utilization of surplus wildlife.

Biological surveys of game animals are carried out to determine the condition of populations. Principal game populations managed are: moose, white-tailed deer, black bear, beaver, muskrat and woodcock. Research and programs to integrate forestry practices with deer winter habitat requirements will continue to be the main thrust of deer management.