

The branch objective is to contribute to the economy of British Columbia through wise management of game resources and non-tidal fisheries, paying attention to such matters as pollution and integrated use of lands for forestry, agriculture, transportation, mining and wildlife. The branch conducts programs of education and information to make the public aware of the value of wildlife resources and of the principles of wise management.

Territorial wildlife management

10.4.3

Yukon. The Yukon wildlife branch of the tourism, conservation and information department manages Yukon's wildlife resource. It administers and enforces game and fur export ordinances and helps federal agencies enforce the Migratory Birds Convention Act, Canada Wildlife Act, International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, International Agreement of Trade in Endangered Species, the Game Export Act and the Freshwater Fishery Regulations. With headquarters in Whitehorse, it has regional offices in Dawson City, Mayo, Ross River, Watson Lake and Haines Junction.

The branch promotes judicious use of big-game species, upland game birds and sport fish for residents and non-residents, licensing hunters and anglers and enforcing closed seasons, bag limits and other regulatory measures. It licenses and regulates trapping of fur-bearing animals and activities of outfitters and guides. To increase knowledge about wildlife species and provide the basis for proper management, it conducts and supports biological research and public educational programs. In 1977 it issued 405 non-resident licences and 3,870 resident licences for hunting big game and about 15,000 fishing licences.

Northwest Territories. The NWT wildlife service manages the wildlife resources of the Northwest Territories, and provides opportunities for native peoples to follow their traditional pursuits of hunting, trapping and fishing. It has headquarters in Yellowknife, four regional offices at Fort Smith, Inuvik, Frobisher Bay, and Rankin Inlet, and 29 area offices throughout the territories.

Wildlife management is carried out mainly by harvest monitoring and control. Harvest quotas are allocated by management zones. Management studies are conducted primarily to establish the abundance, productivity and seasonal distribution of large mammals, including the polar bear.

Trapping is encouraged through a series of programs designed to assist native peoples to return to the land. Included are trappers' incentive grants (a fur subsidy program based on a percentage of the season's harvest), fur marketing service, and an outpost camp program which provides financial assistance to groups who wish to move back to the land and live off the natural resources available through hunting and trapping.

The service is responsible for administration of sports fishing licences. Under permit from the federal fisheries and marine service, fish and wildlife officers monitor commercial fisheries and the testing of lakes and rivers to determine the viability of commercial operations to supply local domestic markets.

The NWT wildlife service is involved in environmental management through participation in various federal-territorial advisory committees. Close liaison is maintained with hunter and trapper associations as a link between the resource-dependent residents and the companies involved in exploration and development of non-renewable resources.

A Northwest Territories game advisory council advises the commissioner of the Northwest Territories on matters pertaining to wildlife policy and legislation. All members of the council are northern residents and represent native hunters and trappers and the outdoor recreation industry.