

Aklavik Harvest Reporting Program Update

Program importance and objectives

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) and other co-management bodies require harvest information to determine and recommend subsistence quotas, and in general for the management of wildlife and other resources. The Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board also need this information in dealing with developers and development proposals.

Harvest data is also required for compensation purposes when harvesters suffer reduced wildlife harvests as a result of development activities. For example, if a project has a negative effect on the population of a harvested species, several years worth of harvest information can provide the justification for compensation to Inuvialuit hunters.

The objective of the Inuvialuit Harvest Data Collection Program in Aklavik is to obtain a continuous long-term record of Inuvialuit harvest levels and locations. The current program collects information on the harvest of moose, caribou, sheep, and furbearers, in the Yukon and NWT, by Inuvialuit residents of Aklavik. The Yukon Government, and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) have been running the program since 2002 after the Inuvialuit Harvest Study (I.H.S.) ended in 2001.

Harvest reporting for some species is done using seals and tags, and by mandatory reporting for species under quota, such as grizzly bear. For other important species, this program provides a way for harvest information to be recorded.

How harvesters can participate

A local Aklavik resident interviews active hunters in December of every year. Information gathered includes species, date, location, sex and age of the animal, and the hunter's name. All information that might identify the harvester is kept private, however summary information on total harvest may be made public.

For this program, the word "harvest" means the number of animals killed and collected, not the ones that have been wounded and

not collected. Hunters are asked to report total number of animals of each species that were harvested for subsistence use or for the purposes of sale. Trapped animals are also recorded, as well as animals that are taken by guided sport hunters.

The Aklavik HTC reviews the list of people interviewed and makes sure it is complete. They also are responsible for identifying, hiring, contracting and supervising the interviewer.

Sharing results

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) compiles the reported harvest data results each year. Results are shared with the Aklavik HTC and Inuvialuit hunters in Aklavik.

Community cooperation ensures that programs like these help to conserve and protect wildlife, habitat and traditional Inuvialuit use on the Yukon North Slope.

Photo credit Herschel Island Park Rangers

