Eeyou Istchee Coastal Community Voices on Wildlife Research Priorities for the Eeyou Marine Region



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Introduction to the EMRLCA and the EMR

Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement

The Cree of Eeyou Istchee have occupied and cared for the coastal regions identified in the *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement* or EMRLCA for millennia. The EMRLCA (a modern treaty) is the conclusion of negotiations on the rights and obligations of the Cree and Canada in the offshore area of Eeyou Istchee. These negotiations began during the period from 1974 to 1977, around the time of the negotiation of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* (the "JBNQA").

These conversations eventually led to the signing of the EMRLCA which came into effect on February 15, 2012. This Treaty, like other Canadian treaties with indigenous peoples, acknowledges Cree ownership and subsurface rights to over 80 percent of the offshore islands in the area of the EMR, some jointly with the Inuit and some by themselves. It is also a recognition by the Cree that certain Canadian laws apply in these areas.

This Treaty is a means for Canada to recognize and define the scope of Cree rights and the ways in which the areas covered by the Treaty will be governed by Canada and the Cree.

The signatories of EMRLCA are:

- The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) (GCC)
- The Government of Canada
- The Government of Nunavut

Eeyou Marine Region

The EMRLCA covers approximately 61 270 square kilometers of James Bay and south eastern Hudson Bay off the coast of Quebec. The EMRLCA includes an Overlap Agreement with the Inuit of Nunavik. In the overlap area, there are three zones: the Cree Zone, the Joint Zone and the Inuit Zone. The three zones also form part of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement or NILCA offshore settlement area. In the Cree Zone, the Inuit have harvesting rights and they own nine (9) islands near Chisasibi. In the Joint Zone, the Cree and Nunavik Inuit jointly own the islands and have equal harvesting rights. In the most northern zone, the Inuit Zone, the Cree have harvesting and other rights and the Nunavik Inuit are the landowners. The limits of these three zones were agreed upon by the Cree and Inuit of all the concerned communities.

The boundary between the EMR and Quebec is not determined in the EMRLCA. It was simply agreed that the regime under the EMRLCA finishes on the coast of Quebec where the regime under the JBNQA begins. Cree rights along the Quebec shore are defined under either the JBNQA or the Offshore Agreement, with no legal, administrative or geographic gap between the two regimes.¹

¹ Summary of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement P. 5



Introduction to the EMRWB

The EMRLCA provides for the creation of three independent bodies responsible for the management of the natural resources within the EMR. The Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board is the main instrument of wildlife management in the Eeyou Marine Region and the main regulator of access to wildlife. The EMRWB is also responsible for identifying wildlife research priorities, and for promoting and encouraging research aimed at meeting these needs.

EMRWB Mandate

The primary functions of the EMRWB include:

- Establishing, modifying, or removing levels of Total Allowable Take for a species, stock, or population of Wildlife;
- Ascertaining and adjusting the Basic Needs Level for a species, stock, or population of Wildlife;
- Establishing, modifying, or removing nonquota Limitations;
- Participating in research;
- Cooperating with other wildlife management institutions which deal with species that are harvested in the EMR;
- Providing advice to any other management institutions as requested on all matters relating to management, conservation, protection, and regulation of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

In addition to its primary functions, the EMRWB may perform discretionary functions, including:

- Approve the establishment, disestablishment, or changes to boundaries of Protected Areas and Marine Protected Areas (except for National Parks, National Parks Reserves, National Marine Conservation Areas, National Marine Conservation Area Reserves, or Territorial Parks);
- Identify wildlife management zones and provide recommendations to the EMR Planning Commission (EMRPC) with respect to planning in those areas;

- Approve plans for management and protection of wildlife species or population of wildlife and wildlife habitats or critical habitats including areas within protected areas;
- Approve designation of species at risk (SAR).

In addition, the Board provides funding to the Cree Trappers' Association (CTA) for the delivery of specific EMR functions outlined in the EMRLCA. Each EMR community is staffed with a local CTA-EMR Officer responsible for carrying out duties to enable the CTA to fulfil their mandate under Chapter 12 of the EMRLCA. A Wildlife Liaison Officer acts as the intermediary between the CTA-EMR staff and the EMRWB.

MEMBERSHIP

The Wildlife Board is composed of seven members appointed by the Grand Council of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee (4), Canada (2), and Nunavut (1).

As of October 2019, the EMRWB members are:

- Gordon Blackned, Chairperson
- Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux, GCCEI Member
- Robbie Tapiatic, GCCEI Member
- Fred Tomatuk, GCCEI Member
- Piita Kattuk, Nunavut Member
- G. Daniel Caron, Canada (DFO) Member
- Peter Hale, Canada (ECCC) Member



EMRWB and Research

Under the EMRLCA, the EMRWB is responsible for identifying research requirements and deficiencies pertinent to wildlife management and promoting and encouraging on an ongoing basis, research aimed at meeting these requirements.

Consultation Sessions on Research Priorities

The EMRWB has undertaken stakeholder engagement and several consultation sessions to understand community perspectives on wildlife research priorities. The EMR-WB has defined "research" as: "studies and works designed to advance scientific and traditional knowledge related to wildlife, its habitat, the factors affecting wildlife and habitat, as well as the harvesting activities in the coastal and offshore areas of the EMR."

As a first step, a Symposium on Sciences and Traditional Knowledge was held with academic and scientific stakeholders in March 2014. The EMRWB then conducted consultations in each of the coastal communities:

- Waskaganish May 2016
- Whapmagoostui November 2016
- Wemindji March 2017
- Eastmain June 2018
- Chisasibi September 2018

During the consultation sessions, community members were asked to identify their priorities related to wildlife research in the marine region. This report summarizes the results of these engagement sessions.



"I have hunted, fished and trapped for my whole life and this is how I still live today. I have seen the impacts of the diversion of the Rupert River. The animals need good habitat. Developments have impacted the habitat. We need to look into the habitats."

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"Goose and ducks don't come around now. The birds are flying much earlier in the fall. They used to fly in October now it's September."

WASKAGANISH

Waterfowl and Habitat

One of the most common opinions shared by Waskaganish Eeyou was a desire to see studies on waterfowl and waterfowl habitat. Community members spoke about changes they have observed to waterfowl populations including reductions in snow goose populations, a shift in the migration routes and migration timing of geese. Waskaganish Eeyou also spoke about changes to waterfowl habitat including increased growth of woody vegetation along shorelines and a decrease in eelgrass.

With these issues in mind, Waskaganish community members expressed that they would like to see research on the health and population of geese in the region and research to identify how to preserve waterfowl feeding areas. One Waskaganish community member suggested that they would like to see a monitoring system developed to determine health conditions and illnesses in waterfowl.

Changes to the Lands, Waters, and Wildlife

Waskaganish Eeyou also spoke about their concerns related to changes in other wildlife populations in the region including:

- less seals in the area
- increased eagle populations
- increased numbers of polar bear on the islands near Waskaganish
- changes in beluga whale distribution
- presence of rainbow smelt
- changes to the taste of animals including rabbits, fish, and game

Community members also spoke about their desires to see studies on the impacts of hydroelectric and other developments on wildlife in the marine region. People spoke about the reduced flow of rivers flowing into the marine region as a result of the Rupert River diversion and the impacts of this on wildlife in the area. People specifically shared their interest in studies on the impacts of:

- the Rupert River diversion
- forest fires
- increased eagle populations in the region

Caribou

During the community engagement sessions, Waskaganish Eeyou shared an interest in seeing research on caribou populations on the islands in the marine region. One Waskaganish Eeyou spoke about witnessing increased numbers of caribou on Charlton and Carey islands over the past five years and wanting to understand caribou population levels in the area.

"It is true that there are more eagles out in the bay area now. I have heard a lot people mentioning the eagles, they are causing troubles for the waterfowl that are a primary food source for many people."

> "This past summer I killed a black bear here in Waskaganish and it was good. I killed another black bear in the Eastmain area and it was not good. It was because of the habitat due to the forest fire in Eastmain. The same thing applies to all species. We need to study these things."

"Before the diversion, fully intact the sturgeon would weigh approximately 100lbs. But today, the sturgeon are not as big. I would like to see studies on all types of fish especially the sturgeon"

"We eat a lot of fish here in the summer and fall. I want to know that the fish we are eating are healthy and not full of environmental pollutants."

> "I would like to see studies to identify seafood resources in the marine area."

Fish and Seafood

Waskaganish Eeyou also shared their interest in seeing studies on fish and shellfish in the marine region. In particular, people spoke about their interests in seeing studies on:

- fish health and size
- sturgeon
- fish consumed by beluga
- seafood resources

Research Approach

Waskaganish Eeyou shared some preferences related to practices that they would like researchers to follow. In particular, community members shared that they would like to see Waskaganish tallymen who are knowledgeable about safe navigation and animals in the area closely involved in conducting research. One community member also shared that they prefer researchers to not use helicopters during studies. Waskaganish Eeyou also spoke about studies that were conducted in the past that are no longer taking place and their desire to see consistent, ongoing, long term studies in the region.

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"I would like to see annual testing and reporting on water quality entering the marine area. Would want to see tests done at the mouth of each river entering the marine area. There are lots of potential contaminants coming into the area from upstream."

> "I would like to see studies on both coastal and inland hunting areas (lakes, rivers, other bodies of water) because they are drying up due to the diversion of the river."



EASTMAIN

Waterfowl

Many Eastmain Cree spoke about rapid changes in geese populations in the area. People shared that geese appear skinnier and that they leave earlier in the fall season than they did in the past. Many people felt that the loss of eelgrass was an important factor in the changes to bird health and habits and were interested in studies to help explain these changes.

Water Levels and Quality

Several Eastmain Eeyou spoke about their desire to see studies related to changes in water levels and quality and the impacts of these changes on animals and animal habitat in the marine region. Eastmain Eeyou were particularly concerned with the impacts of upstream mining and hydroelectric developments. Eastmain Eeyou mentioned a desire to see studies on the impacts of water levels and water quality on:

- shorebirds
- beavers
- muskrats
- plants
- trees
- berries
- fish



Fish

One of the most common comments raised by Eastmain Eeyou was related to studies on fish and fish habitat. One community member shared that the fish harvested from the marine region taste different than they did before the diversion. One Eastmain Eeyou shared that they would like to see studies on the migration routes of fish to assist in determining areas that need to be protected through the Eeyou Marine Region land use planning process. Another community member expressed an interest in the creation of an inventory of fish species in the marine region.

Potential for Commercial Fishing and Shellfish Harvesting

Eastmain Eeyou spoke about community interests in developing commercial fishing or aquaculture in the region. In order for this type of project to move forward, Eastmain Eeyou shared that they would like to see studies on the viability of such a project including studies to identify the numbers and types of fish and shellfish that exist in the marine region.

"Fish come into the Eastmain river, and other rivers to spawn, the mouths of rivers are very dry; what effect does this have on spawning of fish? The studies could start in August, during fishing programs, when the fish run to find out more about the movement of the fish."



"I would like to see research on what is causing the loss of berries on the islands."

Berries and Other Wildlife Habitat

Several Eastmain Eeyou spoke about how less berries grow on the islands now than in the past and expressed an interest in studies to understand what is causing this loss. One Eastmain Eeyou shared that they would like to see studies on changes to the water levels and quality and how these changes are related to changes to berries and animals. Eastmain Eeyou also expressed an interest in seeing studies on animal habitat along the shoreline in the marine region.

New Species

Several Eastmain Eeyou shared their interest in seeing studies on increased populations of new animal species and plant life in the area and the impacts of these species on the animals that Eastmain Eeyou harvest such as fish and waterfowl. One community member suggested that they would like to see new species documented as they appear. In particular, community members were interested in seeing studies on the increased prevalence of:

- cormorants
- green crab
- algae
- jellyfish
- Greenland shark
- bald eagles
- vultures

Baseline

One Eastmain Eeyou expressed that they would like to see studies to establish and track the baseline condition of the environment. The goal of this study would be to assist with land management and to understand what happened if an issue arises. "We see more and more cormorants now. The Tallymen worry because those cormorants are eating a lot of fish and it could scare the fish away."

"I would prefer to see fish studies as there are new species coming into the area such as many green crabs discovered in Chisasibi river. I would like to see studies to identify what are the new species coming in. I cannot set nets anymore; I fish with a rod; there is a lot of algae now also."

Research Approaches

Eastmain Eeyou also shared comments about practices that they would like to see researchers follow when conducting research in the marine region. Eastmain Eeyou shared that they would like researchers to ensure:

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- that studies are made available to the public,
- that tallymen are closely involved in studies,
- that studies occur throughout the year and not only in one season.

"We have not seen any of the reports from the studies done by Hydro Quebec. We want to see the reports of all studies conducted in this area."

"The harvest of [Canada] goose is getting very low. They don't stay long. We depended on brants to supplement the harvest but now we can't. There's no eel grass and no brants. When there was eel grass it helped with the waterfowl. Even if we kill some, people get sick."



WEMINDJI

Waterfowl and Other Birds

Wemindji Cree expressed concerns about changes to waterfowl and other birds that they have observed and expressed a desire to see these issues studied. In particular, people spoke about how the geese and other shore birds are not as abundant as they were in the past and that people are getting sick from eating brant geese.

Fish Population and Health

Several Wemindji Eeyou spoke about their interest in seeing studies on fish population and health in the marine region. Wemindji Eeyou also expressed a desire to see the reestablishment of a fisheries programs to track fish population, distribution, and quality. One resident noted the presence of rainbow smelt and wondered how many are in the area and if their presence is affecting the native species.

Photo: Angela Coxon



"That's supposed to be fresh water here. Sometimes fish die too. I don't know what is wrong with them. The animals are drinking more dirty water then we eat them what's going to happen to us? That's a thing that needs to be checked."

> "I'm sure the fish are damaged too. They need to check it once in a while. They could have something else other than mercury. Some fish are soft like jelly. I have to throw them away or burn them. This happens to whitefish and trout. Some are sick too. There needs to be research on this."

Contaminants

Wemindji Eeyou were also interested in seeing studies on how contaminants such as mercury or other environmental pollutants may be impacting the health of fish and other animals including geese, beaver, whales, polar bears, seals, loons, and otter and the related impacts on human health. One community member shared that that some fish including whitefish and trout are now soft and not good to eat.

Large Mammals

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Community members shared that they have observed decreases in whale and walrus populations and increased polar bear populations. Wemindji Cree expressed a desire to see studies on these changes as well as studies to identify beluga and polar bear habitat and migration routes. Some community members were particularly interested in this type of study to support ecotourism initiatives in the area.

Berries

Several Wemindji community members spoke about how they now find fewer berries on the islands and expressed an interest in studies to understand what is causing this loss. One Wemindji Eeyou expressed that perhaps the berries are being eaten by seagulls or other birds.

"I would like to see research on why the berries have disappeared." "The depletion of eelgrass has great impact on our harvest. Because there's no eelgrass, the brants can't feed on it so they go onshore and consume other vegetation. Eelgrass must be researched."

"That's one thing that that has to be really studied, the water itself."

"We are starting to see deer on the islands. Many things will arrive."

Changes to Water Levels and Wildlife Habitat

Wemindji Cree shared concerns about changes in water levels and the related impacts of these changes on wildlife habitat including eelgrass. Wemindji Cree expressed that they would like studies to help understand how much the water levels are expected to reduce in the future and how these changes will impact wildlife habitat.

Shellfish

Wemindji Eeyou also expressed that they would like to see studies to identify the type and amounts of shellfish that are present in the marine region including a study on the presence of shrimp.

New Species

Wemindji Cree people also shared their desire to see studies on new animals that have started to come into the area including cormorant, deer, and eagles. People shared that the increased populations of cormorants and eagles, in particular, have impacted their harvesting by scaring off geese or competing with people fishing.



Research Approaches

One community member shared that that would like to see studies take place during all seasons to ensure that changes that occur throughout the year are understood. "Long neck geese have a different taste to them now. They don't taste the same as they used to."

> "I miss the red throated loons we stopped going out to the bay after the loon became more scarce."



CHISASIBI

Waterfowl and Other Birds

One of the most common topics mentioned by Chisasibi Eeyou was a desire to see studies related to waterfowl and other birds. Chisasibi Eeyou share their desire to see studies on:

- changes in the taste of geese and geese migration patterns,
- increases in snow geese population,
- reductions in Atlantic geese populations,
- reductions in brant geese populations,
- reduced diversity of duck populations in the area
- reduced populations of Arctic loon and red throated loon, and
- increased bald eagle populations

Eelgrass

Many Chisasibi Eeyou spoke about their desire to see studies to identify the causes of the disappearance of eelgrass in the marine region. Several Chisasibi Eeyou shared their belief that the loss of eelgrass has been caused by changes from hydroelectric developments including the increased discharge of freshwater into James Bay.

Waterfowl Habitat

Chisasibi Eeyou were particularly concerned about the loss of eelgrass because it has been an important habitat for geese. Chisasibi Eeyou were therefore interested to see studies to identify ways to re-establish eelgrass and enhance other goose habitat. Chisasibi Eeyou were also interested to see studies on the potential risks of geese enhancement programs that introduce corn to attract geese.

Water Quality

Chisasibi community members also expressed an interest in seeing studies on the quality of water entering the marine region and the associated impacts of water quality on marine life.



Fish

Chisasibi Eeyou spoke about their desire to see studies on fish in the marine region. In particular, people expressed an interest to see studies to understand:

- causes of the changes in the taste of fish
- causes of changes to the size and amount of Arctic Char in the region
- changes to Cisco populations

Chisasibi Eeyou also shared a desire to see the reestablishment of monitoring programs to track fish populations in the marine region.

Berries

Chisasibi community members also shared their desire to see research to identify the reasons for the reduced presence of berries on islands in the marine region.

Polar Bear

Several Chisasibi Cree shared their desires to see studies related to polar bear. For example, people raised concerns that polar bear are coming onto the land to search for food. People also shared that changes to the rivers and increased helicopter traffic may be impacting the polar bear.

Commercial Fishing or Shellfish Harvesting

Some Chisasibi Cree expressed an interest in studies to explore the possibility of pursuing commercial fishing in the marine area. For example, one community member expressed an interest in possibly fishing commercially for species such as lobster, shrimp or mussels.

"I would like to look into the possibility of commercial fishing things like lobster, shrimp, mussels."



"We have a lot of information that isn't written down on how it was before. Sometimes certain species disappear for a couple of years then suddenly they are back - reason unknown. This year, ptarmigan were seen in town which is not normal. In the years 1953-57, the caribou and moose didn't come around for quite some time."

Research Practices

Several Chisasibi Eeyou shared comments about their expectations related to research practices in the marine region. In particular, Chisasibi Eeyou expressed that they would like to ensure that:

- Research collected remains in the community
- Researchers work with and train community members and Cree youth to ensure that the knowledge and expertise remains in the community
- Animals are not collared or tranquilized because of concerns for their wellbeing

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- Scientific researchers respect and learn from Cree knowledge

"Orcas, moose, and beluga whales have been witnessed a lot lately. This needs to be studied as soon as possible before we can make more planning."

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"Why are there not that many seals now, could it be from too much fresh water? These are the effects we are encountering from the diversions."

WHAPMAGOOSTUI

Fish

Several Whapmagoostui Eeyou spoke about their interest in seeing studies on fish populations in the Eeyou Marine Region. Community members shared that they have seen significant decreases in the populations of capelin, Arctic char, sardines, and other fish in the area. Whapmagoostui Eeyou spoke about changes to the quality of the fish in the area. Whapmagoostui Eeyou shared that they believed these changes may have been caused by:

- hydroelectric developments
- decreased water levels
- changing weather conditions causing hotter water temperatures

Terrestrial and Marine Mammals

Whapmagoostui Eeyou spoke about changes they have witnessed related to the distribution of large mammals. Whapmagoostui Eeyou expressed their desire to see studies on changes to the populations and distribution of large mammals including studies on:

- caribou
- orca
- moose
- beluga

One Whapmagoostui Eeyou shared concerns that they have about the reductions of caribou populations in the region. They shared that they believe this change may be caused by increased wolf population in the region and shared a desire to see these changes studied. Another community member shared that they now see many more moose, orca, and beluga whales than they used to and would like to see research to help understand the reasons for these changes.

Social and Environmental Changes

Whapmagoostui Cree shared a desire to see studies on social and environmental changes in the region and the impacts of these changes on their hunting, fishing and way of life. Whapmagoostui Cree also spoke about many changes they have observed to fish and birds in the marine area since the hydroelectric diversions. In particular, people shared stories about changes they have observed to seals, fish (especially capelin and Arctic char), geese, ducks, loons and arctic terns. This included an interest in studies on animal health and quality since hydroelectric developments and the impacts of increased sports hunting and cabin development in the area.

Animal Health

One Whapmagoostui Eeyou shared that because of the changes they have witnessed since hydroelectric developments, they prefer to go further north to hunt animals such as caribou, moose, and seal. For example, one Whapmagoostui Eeyou spoke about how some animals such as geese, loon, and fish are not as healthy or fat as they used to be. Whapmagoostui Eeyou therefore expressed an interest in seeing a program where they could send animals for testing that they believe were affected by contamination from hydro or other developments.

Summary

The table below provides a summary of key research priorities raised during the community meetings.

Research Priority	Research Priority Description	Communities
Berries	Research to identify the reasons for the reduced presence of berries on islands in the marine region and how these changes are related to changes in wildlife populations.	Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi
Commercial Fishing, Aquaculture or Shellfish Harvesting	Studies to identify the numbers and types of fish and shellfish that exist in the marine region. Evaluation of the opportunities for commercial harvesting.	Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi
Development Impacts	 Studies to document the impacts of developments such as hydroelectric developments, mining, cabin construction and sports harvesting on wildlife and their habitat. Studies to track how contaminants such as mercury may be impacting the health of animals and including: Birds: Arctic loon, Arctic tern, Atlantic geese, ducks, brant geese, snow geese, red throated loons, and shorebirds; Fish: Arctic char, capelin, cisco, sturgeon, whitefish, trout, sardines; Furbearers: beaver, muskrat, otter, rabbit; Terrestrial and marine mammals: beluga whale, black bear, caribou, orca, seal, polar bear, walrus; and the related impacts on human health. 	Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui
Fish	Study the causes of changes to the size, numbers, and taste of fish in the region including Arctic char, capelin, cisco, sturgeon, whitefish, trout, and sardines. Studies on fish habitat and migration routes. Monitor annual fish harvest levels. Establish monitoring program for environmental pollutant levels in fish.	Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui

Research Priority	Research Priority Description	Communities
Terrestrial Mammals	Studies on changes to the populations and distribution of large mammals including studies on polar bear, moose, deer, and caribou.	Waskaganish, Wemindji, Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui
Marine Mammals	Studies to understand changes to the populations and distribution of marine mammals including beluga whale, orca, walrus, seal and polar bear. Resources to deal with increasing encounters with polar bears in camps.	Waskaganish, Wemindji, Whapmagoostui
New Species	Research into increased populations of new animal species and plant life in the area and the impacts of these non-native species on the animals that Eeyou people harvest such as fish and waterfowl.	Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui
Water	Research into changes in water levels and quality and the impacts of these changes on animals and animal habitat in the marine region.	Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui
Waterfowl	Study changes to waterfowl populations, health, and distribution in the marine region.	Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui
Waterfowl Habitat	Studies to understand changes to waterfowl habitat including reductions in eelgrass and increased woody vegetation growth along shorelines. Studies to identify ways to re- establish eelgrass or enhance other waterfowl habitat.	Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi

Moving Forward

Community consultations are an important and effective method to help identify local research priorities. A next important step is to begin the collection of baseline data on the wildlife species found within the EMR, in particular - species at risk and species of cultural importance to the Cree way of life. This will be accomplished by gathering existing information from previous studies, and by developing wildlife observation and harvest level reporting tools and procedures. The EMRWB has partnered with the Cree Nation Government to develop these tools. aimed at collecting data consistently over a long period of time, which will allow the EMRWB to monitor the health of wildlife populations and identify any changes of concern.

The EMRLCA recognizes that to support effective wildlife management within the EMR, there is a need for a coordinated research effort. To assist the EMRWB in carrying out its research functions, a research trust fund of \$5 million was created. This one-time injection of money has to be carefully managed. The funds have been invested, with the aim of funding research projects using the annual interest generated from the investments.

The EMRWB is currently in the process of developing a fair and transparent process to administer the funds available for research. This includes:

- Determining who will be eligible to apply for funding;
- Developing screening criteria to help evaluate research proposals and funding requests; and
- Developing a funding application form and guide.

Stay tuned to the EMRWB website for important updates: https://www.eeyoumarineregion.ca/wildlifeboard/

For more information, please contact:

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Glossary

"Basic Needs Level" means the level of Harvesting by Crees identified in section 13.6 of the EMRLCA;

"Cree Trappers Association" or *"CTA"* means the regional hunters, trappers and fishermen association created pursuant to subsection 28.5 of the JBNQA;

"Department of Fisheries and Oceans" or "DFO" means the federal lead department responsible for safeguarding Canadian waters and managing Canada's fisheries, oceans and freshwater resources.

"Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission" or *"EMRPC"* means the institution established pursuant to Chapter 8 of the EMRLCA;

"Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board" or *"EMRWB"* means the institution established pursuant to Chapter 13 of the EMRLCA;

"Eeyou Marine Region" or *"EMR"* means that area described in Chapter 4 of the EMRLCA;

"Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement" or *"EMRLCA"* means the land claims agreement between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada given effect by the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement Act, S.C. 2011, c. 20;

"Environment and Climate Change Canada" or *"ECCC"* means the lead federal department for a wide range of environmental issues.

"Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)" or "GCCEI" means the Corporation representing the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and signatory to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement or any successor thereto; *"James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement"* or *"JBNQA"* means the Agreement approved, given effect and declared valid by the James Bay and Northern Quebec Native Claims Settlement Act, S.C., 1976-77, c. 32 and the Act approving the Agreement concerning James Bay and Northern Quebec, S.Q., 1976, c. 46;

"Non-quota Limitations" means a limitation of any kind, except a total allowable harvest, and may include a limitation on season of harvest, sex of wildlife, size of wildlife, age of wildlife or method of harvest;

"Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement" or "NILCA" means the land claims agreement between the Nunavik Inuit and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada given effect by the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act, S.C. 2008, c. 2;

"Research" means studies and works designed to advance scientific and traditional knowledge related to wildlife, its habitat, the factors affecting wildlife and habitat, as well as the harvesting activities in the coastal and offshore areas of the EMR.

"Tallyman" means a Cree person recognized by a Cree community as responsible for the supervision of harvesting activity on a Cree trapline.

"Total Allowable Take" for a species, stock or population of Wildlife, means an amount of Wildlife able to be lawfully Harvested as established by the EMRWB pursuant to section 13.5;

"Treaty" means a constitutionally protected, government-to-government agreement that identifies, defines and implements a range of rights and obligations, creating long-term, mutually binding commitments.

For more information, please contact:

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