

# THE EMR POLAR BEAR PROJECT SUMMER 2021 UPDATES

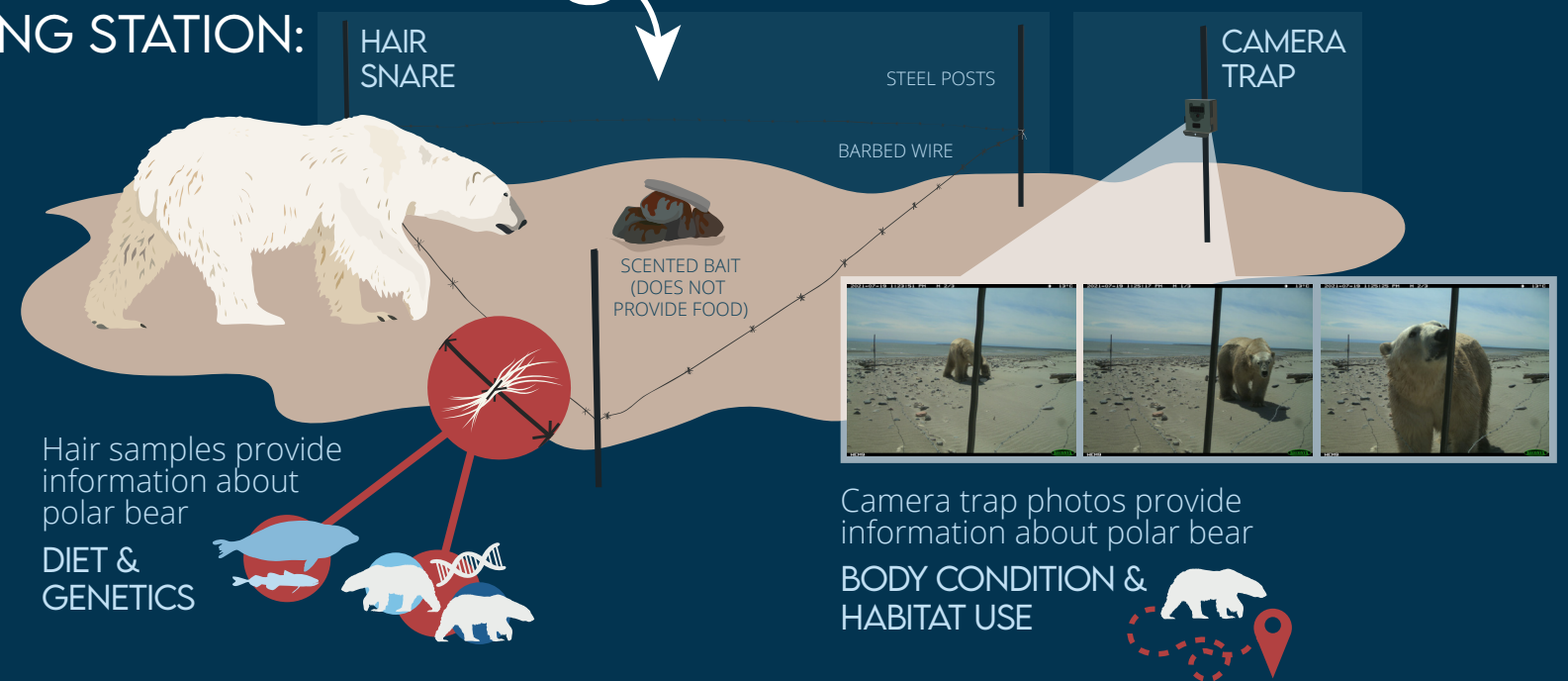
In 2021, the **Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board**, **Regional Cree Trappers' Association** and **McGill University** started a study to gather more information about the polar bears in the Eeyou Marine Region.

Our objectives are to learn more about the James Bay polar bear genetic structure and diet to determine if they are different from other polar bear populations. We also aim to determine areas of high polar bear activity in the EMR and find out if the bears in the EMR are in good body condition. To do this, we deployed hair snare and camera trap sampling stations from **Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji** and **Chisasibi** to collect hair samples and photos.

## SURVEY EFFORT:

4 community field teams + 3 weeks of deploying hair snare & camera trap sampling stations + 6 weeks of collecting hair samples & photos + 2 weeks of processing hair samples & photo data = 117 hair samples & 138 polar bear observations

## SAMPLING STATION:



## EARLY RESULTS:

1. Hair snares & camera trap sampling stations work well to study polar bears with community field teams in the EMR
2. Polar bears were mostly found on offshore islands
3. Polar bears were in mostly average or good body condition

## COMMUNITY TEAMS

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>WASKAGANISH</b> | <b>WEMINDJI</b>         |
| o Anderson Jolly   | o Henry Stewart         |
| o Harry Erless     | o Ernie Hughboy         |
| o Dinah Hester     | o Cody Mark             |
| o Bernard Diamond  | o George Natawapineskum |
| o Daniel Diamond   |                         |
| o Stephanie Salt   |                         |
| o Sanford Diamond  |                         |
| <b>EASTMAIN</b>    | <b>CHISASIBI</b>        |
| o Wilfred Cheezo   | o Elmer Bobbish         |
| o Russel Cheezo    | o Steven Bobbish        |
| o Derek Okimaw     | o Irvin Matches         |
|                    | o John Lameboy          |

For more information, feel free to contact a member of a community team, the EMRWB, CTA or Alexandra Langwieder (alexandra.langwieder@mail.mcgill.ca)

