

POPULATIONS WATERFOWL

Concern

Waterfowl may decline.

This concern is related to community and scientific observations that water levels in the Flats are falling. As far as waterfowl are concerned, scientific knowledge points to some concern about White Wing Scoters (known locally as Black Ducks) although elders felt that in general "Black Ducks" were more abundant. As far as swans and geese are concerned there is not enough scientific information to indicate their status on the Flats. Traditional knowledge has become more limited since people don't go out to the Flats as much as they used to but from what exists there is no indication of a problem with these species.

Solution Keep track of waterfowl.

Community members are frequently asked to comment on fish and wildlife (including waterfowl) by a variety of programs. There is a need to coordinate these to reduce redundancy and to share information. Apart from a brief annual survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service there is no scientific monitoring of waterfowl on the Flats.

Actions

Responsible parties, Time line

VGFN

2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05

Try a combination of monitoring programs in Vuntut Gwitchin traditional territory that would include waterfowl.

Programs which could contribute information on waterfowl are: Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Cooperative, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service annual survey, traditional knowledge, Parks field notes, game guardian and harvest monitoring. It was also suggested that periodically elders be taken on field trips to the Flats so they can observe its present state and compare it with the past. The challenge is to coordinate these information sources so that it will be possible to monitor the status of a variety of fish and wildlife – including waterfowl. A good way to get started might be to set up a central system with the VGFN for the storage of information. Secondly, to eliminate repetition and fill gaps, it would be good to get representatives of the programs together to discuss what information they are seeking. [2001-NY-AI-1]

CWS

2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05

Keep people informed about waterfowl studies.

Considerable interest was shown about information from waterfowl studies outside the Flats and VGFN traditional territory. It was agreed that such information should be summarized periodically and presented to the community and VGFN government. [2001-NY-AI-2]