

Concern

Harvest information is incomplete

Currently, the Yukon Department of Environment collects harvest information on big game, game birds and furbearers. The standard unit for big game reporting is the Game Management Sub-zone. These zones were created for sheep management and do not work well for other species. Still, it is the only standardized reference available. Furbearer harvests are recorded by trapline. The Yukon Department of Environment does not record fish harvest information except by special surveys. Teslin Tlingit Council tracks harvests through questionnaires and follows up on reports of harvested animals. The return rate of TTC questionnaires is about 30 percent. (Sixty percent of beneficiaries get permits and half of them return them.) Both the Yukon government and TTC acknowledge that a greater monitoring presence on the land would be helpful as both conservation officers are constrained by office work.

Solution Get more complete harvest information

The Yukon Department of Environment has recently revised its harvest reporting requirements for moose and caribou to encourage greater accuracy and reduce annoyance to unsuccessful hunters. TTC plans to employ a “game guardian” to record harvests on the land and also undertake harvest surveys.

Concern

Harvest reporting is not coordinated between governments

Three years ago, TTC and three other First Nations approached the Yukon Department of Environment about harvest monitoring. This led to a coordinated harvest monitoring system for the Yukon. The TTC and the department have begun work on this.

Solution Summarize all information for the Teslin Tlingit traditional territory

Both TTC and the Yukon Department of Environment will be summarizing their harvest information according to the criteria set out in the “Coordinated Harvest Monitoring System for the Yukon” manual (available from the Yukon Department of Environment and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board).

Concern

No harvest information for net fishing

The total contribution of net fishing to the trout harvest on Teslin Lake has never been documented although it is believed to be relatively minor. There is currently one commercial netting licence for the lake and a number of TTC citizens also operate nets (concentrating on whitefish and salmon but also catching trout).

Solution Collect net fishing information

TTC is requesting that its citizens get licences from their government. Fish harvesting by commercial fishers is recorded by the Yukon Department of Environment. Harvesting by TTC citizens will be recorded by the TTC harvest monitoring program.

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Action

Responsible parties, Time line

YG, TTC

2001/02

2002/03

2003/04

2004/05

Collect harvest information and provide summaries to “Coordinated Program”
The Yukon Department of Environment will collect information on big game harvests via mandatory reporting for resident hunters and outfitter trophy export forms for outfitters. TTC will collect big game harvest information through on-the-land reporting and surveys by its game guardian. This information will be contributed in standardized format to the coordinated system hosted by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and coordinated by the Yukon Department of Environment. Additional game bird, fish and fur harvest information collected by both governments will be shared as required, on a coordinated website. [2001-Tes-AI-25]

*Ben Schoenwille
with a lake trout*

