



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Wildlife Enforcement Directorate Annual Summary 2014–2015



Canada 

Previous publications:

- [Wildlife Enforcement Directorate - Annual Summary 2013-2014](#)
- [Wildlife Enforcement Directorate - Annual Summary 2012-2013](#)

Acknowledgements

The *WED Annual Summary 2014-2015* could not have been written without the contributions of the Directorate's directors, program liaison officers (PLOs) and managers:

- Glen Ehler, Regional Director Atlantic Region;
- Danielle White, PLO, Atlantic Region;
- Jonathan Campagna, Regional Director, Québec Region;
- Josée Michaud, PLO, Québec Region;
- Lonny Coote, Regional Director, Ontario Region
- Susan Morgan, PLO, Ontario Region;
- Kevin Buerfeind, Regional Director, Prairie & Northern Region;
- Laurie Guyot, PLO, Prairie and Northern Region;
- Manjit Moore, A/Regional Director, Pacific and Yukon Region
- Joanne Kwok, PLO, Pacific and Yukon Region;
- Kathy Graham, Executive Director;
- Jean-François Dubois, Acting Manager, Operations Support;
- Lindsay Copland, Manager, Intelligence;
- Danielle Gagnon, Manager, Program Support Division.

WED would also like to recognize the valuable contribution of the Canadian Wildlife Service:

- Caroline Ladanowski, Director of the Wildlife Program Support Division,
- Azzah Jeena, Compliance Promotion Analyst
- Carolina Caceres, Manager, COSEWIC Science Support & CITES, Population Conservation Management Division.

Reproduction Rights

Unless otherwise specified, you may not reproduce materials in this publication, in whole or in part, for the purposes of commercial redistribution without prior written permission from ECCC's copyright administrator. To obtain permission to reproduce Government of Canada materials for commercial purposes, apply for Crown Copyright Clearance by contacting:

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Inquiry Centre
7th floor, Fontaine Building
200, Sacré-Cœur Blvd
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3
Telephone: 819-938-3860
Toll Free: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only)
Email: ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca

Photos © ECCC

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of the Environment, 2015

Aussi disponible en français

Table of Contents

Message from the Director General	4
Wildlife Enforcement Directorate	5
Enforcement Highlights.....	7
Our People	14
Our Partners	15
Our Resources.....	20

Message from the Director General

Wildlife crime is a serious worldwide issue, ranking as the fourth most lucrative illegal activity after narcotics, counterfeiting and human trafficking. The illegal harvest, trafficking and possession of wildlife products can lead to species extinction, loss of biodiversity, and significant damage to the ecosystems that sustain us. Fighting wildlife crime - in our experience - is most successful when taken on as a team.

I recently had the opportunity to lead a group discussion of conservation enforcement officials from about 60 countries. While wildlife crime is one of the most lucrative illegal activities worldwide worth dozens of billions of dollars annually, many countries have real challenges in closing the loop of inter-agency collaboration. I was taken by surprise when a delegate asked me out of the blue "How does Environment and Climate Change Canada do so well at working with other enforcement agencies?"

Partnerships are the answer to that question. In Canada, wildlife enforcement is usually not simply a local issue. But more importantly, we and our partner agencies have a dedicated and engaged workforce. I feel safe in saying that collaboration is one of our strengths. Officers actively seek out every opportunity to work with others.

Partnerships have led to some very interesting results - like a Manitoba Outfitter who was nabbed hunting and guiding illegally; the universities that teamed up with our officers to demonstrate that an ivory shipment's declaration was fraudulent; and border officials in Canada and abroad who teamed up to prohibit unlawful turtle and bear shipments. Many of the successes in these pages are the result of inter-agency cooperation: whether they are with other federal departments, provinces and territories¹; the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group²; or with INTERPOL, the CITES Secretariat, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and other countries.

Sheldon Jordan
Director General



National Wildlife Research Centre. ECCC's Science and Technology Branch provides forensic services to our Enforcement efforts.

¹ [Environment and Climate Change Canada's Environmental Enforcement Directorate](#); [British Columbia Ministry of Environment](#); [Alberta Solicitor General](#); [Saskatchewan Environment](#), [Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship](#); [Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests](#), [Ministère des Forêts, de la faune et des parcs du Québec](#); [New Brunswick Public Safety](#); [Department of the Environment of Nova Scotia](#); [Department of Communities, Land and Environment of Prince Edward Island](#); [Newfoundland and Labrador Fish and Wildlife Enforcement](#); [Environment Yukon](#); [Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources](#); [Nunavut Environment](#); [Parks Canada Agency](#); [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#); [Royal Canadian Mounted Police](#); [Canada Border Services Agency](#); [Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada](#), [Department of Justice](#); [Public Safety Canada](#).

² [United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement](#); [The Mexican Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection \(PROFEPA\)](#) with support from the [North American Council for Environmental Cooperation \(CEC\)](#).

Wildlife Enforcement Directorate

To accomplish its mandate, the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Enforcement Branch is responsible for the enforcement of the following acts and regulations:

- [Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994](#) (MBCA) and its regulations
 - [Migratory Birds Regulations](#)
 - [Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations](#);
- [Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act](#) (WAPPIITA) and its regulations;
 - [Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations](#) (WAPTR)
- [Species at Risk Act](#) (SARA);
- [Canada Wildlife Act](#) (CWA) and its regulations;
 - [Wildlife Area Regulations](#) (WAR); and
- In cooperation with Enforcement Branch, Environmental Enforcement Directorate officers, the provisions of the [Antarctic Environmental Protection Act](#) concerning wildlife.

Through its enforcement activities, WED in collaboration with other Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) directorates, works towards wildlife conservation. WED contributes to conservation by:

- enforcing Canadian wildlife legislation,
- establishing enforcement priorities by integrating intelligence into the planning process,
- sharing compliance data,
- providing input into the development of compliance promotion material and activities.

The Environmental Enforcement Directorate (EED) also enforces the [Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999](#) and the provisions of the [Fisheries Act](#) concerning pollution prevention. Under the agreements entered into with other enforcement organizations, wildlife officers have the authority to enforce many other provincial, territorial or federal laws.

In addition, Canada cooperates with other nations and partners, such as [INTERPOL](#), the [UN Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNODC), the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna Secretariat \(CITES\)](#) and police agencies in exercising global efforts to reduce illegal trade of species threatened with extinction and helping prevent offenders from escaping justice by simply crossing a border.

2014-15 Priorities of the WED

WED adopted three national priorities by focusing our activities on the following:

1. Canadian species at high risk for conservation and/or at high risk for non-compliance.
2. Foreign species at high risk for conservation and/or at high risk for non-compliance.
3. Habitats or protected areas at high risk for conservation and/or at high risk for non-compliance.

VISION, MISSION, VALUES

OUR VISION – *To be a highly regarded law enforcement agency, respected for its effectiveness in the protection of wildlife and their habitat in Canada and for its contribution on the world stage.*

OUR MISSION – *To protect, respect and conserve wildlife and their habitat through effective enforcement of federal wildlife legislation.*

OUR VALUES – *Teamwork, respect, communication, professionalism, accountability, leadership, trust, integrity, consistency*

WED Pillars

OUR PEOPLE – *Right Skills, Right Place, Right Time.*

OUR RESOURCES – *Ensuring we have the tools required to do the job.*

RISK BASED DECISIONS – *Prioritizing enforcement initiatives.*

OUR PARTNERS – *Building our enforcement efficiency and effectiveness through collaboration with partners.*

OUR SUCCESSES – *Reinforcing our purpose and the results we get.*



Enforcement Kiosk for WED and the Canadian Natural Resource Law Enforcement Chiefs Association at a meeting of federal, territorial and provincial ministers responsible for wildlife in Ottawa, in February 2015



Axolotl seized by wildlife officers, currently kept at Aquarium du Québec

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **ACHIEVING MAXIMUM DETERRENCE** BY PREVENTING AND STOPPING CRIME, AND PROSECUTING OFFENDERS
- **DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP** AND VIGILANCE LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND GLOBALLY
- **ENGAGING OUR PARTNERS** TO ENSURE OUR COMMON GOALS ARE REALIZED
- **ENGAGING OUR STAFF AT ALL LEVELS** TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL PROGRAM AND RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS EFFORT

Enforcement Highlights

Operation Bluegrass Branta

On September 15, 2014 Operation Bluegrass Branta came to a successful close when a Manitoba offender was fined \$20,000 for five offences under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA), *Manitoba Wildlife Act* and the *Manitoba Resource Tourism and Operators Act*. In addition to the fine, the offender was suspended from hunting migratory birds and other provincially regulated wildlife for one year, suspended from guiding for five years and outfitting for 10 years. The offender's spouse was also suspended from outfitting for five years.

The Operation began in 2010 when a Joint Forces Operational Agreement was signed among Manitoba Conservation, WED and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

In addition, Operation Bluegrass Branta resulted in the successful prosecution of four other individuals, including three US citizens, and resulted in a total of \$37,750 in federal and provincial fines.



Result of illegal migratory bird harvest outside of hunting lodge.

Illegal possession of ivory with intent to distribute

In 2013, an operation was initiated to investigate potential illegal selling and exporting of wildlife by auction houses in Ontario. On February 27, 2015, a Toronto auction house and its director pleaded guilty to knowingly possessing two elephant ivory tusks, a CITES Appendix I species, for the purpose of offering to distribute them in contravention of the WAPPRIITA. The company and its director were fined \$9,375 each, for a total penalty of \$18,750 and ordered to forfeit both tusks.

Three compliance inspections were conducted on the auction house over two years prior to detaining the tusks. This case marks one of the first times Radio Carbon Dating Technology (RCDT) has been utilized by law enforcement in North America.



Illegal tusks seized for illegal possession of ivory with intent to distribute.

The results of the RCDT showed that the tusks were from African forest elephants from animals killed in 1977 and 1978. Elephant taken after 1975 is regulated by the CITES.

African forest elephants, found in Western and Central Africa, face threats from poachers who hunt them for their tusks for the illegal ivory trade. These elephants are listed under Appendix I of CITES - species that are threatened with extinction. Trade in these species is strictly regulated to ensure their survival, and trade for commercial purposes is prohibited.

Turtles and tortoises found in sea containers

On February 27, 2015 an Ontario company and its director pleaded guilty to six counts under WAPPRIITA for unlawfully importing turtles and tortoises protected under CITES without the proper permits. The company and its director were fined a total of \$18,750 in penalties and ordered to forfeit all items seized during the investigation.

The investigation began in 2013 when a sea container was imported through British Columbia. The container contained packages of turtle shells and turtle shell fragments in over 800 cartons containing 945 turtle plastrons, 2,454 turtle shells and 52 bags of turtle shell fragments.

In July 2014, a second sea container was imported by the Ontario company, was inspected and found to have another 224 bags of turtle shell fragments. The inspection also found bones from birds and a CITES-listed crocodile species. Subject matter experts were able to confirm that four species of CITES-listed turtles were among the smuggled items in both shipments.



Seized turtle shells

Turtles and tortoises, particularly those from Southeast Asia, have been increasingly subject to illegal take and trade for consumption. The demand for turtles for pet trade or consumption also poses a threat to Canadian turtle species. Furthermore, given their

low reproductive rates, turtle populations are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of illegal or unsustainable harvest. As such, ensuring that the CITES rules governing trade of these species are respected is a key step towards ensuring the global conservation of turtles and tortoises.

Selling endangered black rhinoceros horn

On March 25, 2015 following a joint Canada-US investigation, the proprietor of an antique shop was sentenced to 30 months incarceration in the United States after being convicted of offences related to trafficking in wildlife products including rhinoceros horn, ivory and coral. He was also required to forfeit approximately half a million dollars' worth of wildlife products.

In the moments following his arrest near New York, WED officers executed a search warrant at his antiques business in Richmond, BC with the assistance of Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a forensic computer search expert and a Chinese language interpreter. Evidence supporting the suspected illegal import and sale of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory were discovered along with a large amount of illegal narcotics. The offender had been smuggling wildlife between Canada and the United States in both directions.

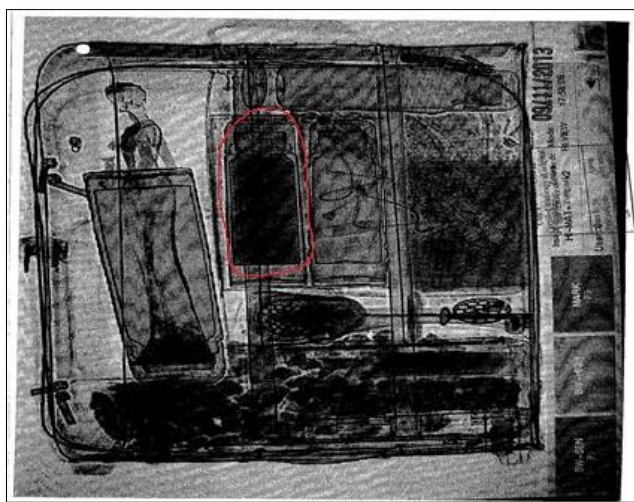


A small number of ivory pieces seized.

The black rhinoceros, found in Namibia, Coastal East Africa and South Africa, is critically endangered. Furthermore, it, like white rhinoceros, has become increasingly threatened by poaching to feed rising demand for rhino horn. The black rhinoceros is listed under Appendix I of CITES - which lists species that are threatened with extinction.

Caviar smuggling

In early September 2013, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) at Calgary International Airport contacted the WED report the import of caviar from Kazakhstan. CBSA officers found a Russian-Canadian woman with approximately a half kilogram of undeclared caviar. An x-ray of her luggage revealed the caviar was hidden in one of three Thermos® jars in her suitcase. However, the traveller was aware of the requirement for a permit. In December 2014, the offender pleaded guilty to WAPPRIITA charges and was fined \$3,000.



Thermos® of caviar in luggage.

Sturgeon are a valuable wildlife resource found in large river systems, lakes, coastal waters and inner seas throughout Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine, other European countries and North America. Sturgeon faces illegal harvesting and trade and some species are listed under Appendix I and II of CITES. Appendix II species are not currently threatened with extinction, contrary to the Appendix I species, but may become so unless trade is strictly regulated to avoid over exploitation.

Illegal export of polar bear skin to China

On December 9, 2014 a taxidermy company in Markham, Ontario pleaded guilty in Ontario Provincial Court to the illegal export of a polar bear skin to China.

The company was fined \$6,000, of which \$4,000 was directed to the EDF for the purpose of northern species conservation. The Court imposed mandatory reporting by the company to WED of all wildlife imports and exports for three years from the date of conviction. In addition, one polar bear skin valued at \$12,500 was ordered forfeited to the Crown.

Polar bears are an important part of the Arctic marine ecosystem. In Canada, the species is found in ice-covered regions from Yukon and the Bering Sea in the west to Newfoundland and Labrador in the east and from northern Ellesmere Island south to James Bay. Polar bears are listed under Appendix II of CITES. Ensuring Canadian trade requirements are respected is essential towards safeguarding the conservation of this species, and the sustainable livelihoods of Inuit reliant on this species.

Waterfowl Hunter Group Leaders Convicted

The vice-president and a director of a Lac St-Pierre waterfowler's association were fined a total of \$8,000 for offences that were committed in the Commune de Baie-du-Febvre, Québec area in September 2013.

One of the individuals pleaded guilty to a count of hunting migratory birds in a pond located less than 400 metres from an area where bait had been deposited. He was fined \$2,000 and prohibited from hunting migratory birds and possessing or using a migratory game bird hunting permit for a year. At the time of the incident, this person was vice-president of the association.



Site where bait had been deposited during "Opération Argentée" in September 2013

The other individual pleaded guilty to two counts of depositing bait and one charge of hunting migratory birds in a pond located less than 400 metres from an area where bait had been deposited. He was fined \$6,000 and prohibited from hunting migratory birds and possessing a migratory game bird hunting permit for a year. At the time of the incident, this person was also a director of the association.

This judgment will have a significant impact on the public because the association is well known among Québec migratory bird hunters. It runs for-hire hunting activities for the public in the Commune de Baie-du-Febvre area marsh.

Illegal hunting of migratory birds in an area where bait has been deposited is a very real problem in Lac St-Pierre. WED is actively working to counteract these illegal activities and encourage the protection of migratory birds.

The investigation was conducted in co-operation with Québec provincial wildlife protection officers.

Illegal fishing in Tintamarre National Wildlife Area

On May 23, 2014 three individuals were arrested in New Brunswick's Tintamarre National Wildlife Area (NWA) after WED officers observed them netting in a fish ladder – fishing is a prohibited activity in NWAs. The individuals were apprehended with 253 gaspereau and six white perch, which is over the possession limit of 20 gaspereau. They were also fishing during closed times.

In March 2015, two of the three individuals pleaded guilty to illegal fishing under section 3(1)(a) of the federal Wildlife Area Regulations. Charges against the third individual were withdrawn by the Crown. The two guilty individuals received a fine of \$500 each, a one-year prohibition from entering the NWA, and ordered to forfeit all seized items.



Tintamarre, NWA – Suspect with dip net



Gaspereau caught by suspects.

The Tintamarre NWA, located in southeastern New Brunswick, protects 1990 hectares of freshwater wetlands, peatland and upland habitats which represent many natural habitat-types of the Atlantic region. The area is particularly important for waterfowl and marsh bird reproduction providing migration and breeding habitat as well as providing valuable habitat for many species.

Turn-in Poachers call leads to MBCA conviction

Following up on a call to the Saskatchewan Turn-In Poachers (SASKTIP) line, Saskatchewan Conservation Officers and WED officers conducted inspections of a waterfowl outfitter in 2013 and 2014, uncovering a number of violations including possession of duck in excess of limits and lack of required record keeping.

On February 18, 2015, the outfitter company entered a guilty plea resulting fines of \$20,000 for offenses under the MBCA and \$14,000 for offenses relating to Provincial Outfitter and Guide Regulations.



Freezer full of excess migratory game birds.

Regina gull investigation



Half buried fledgling.

In July 2013, WED officers and Saskatchewan Conservation Officers responded to a site near Regina, following a tip from the SASKTIP line. Upon arriving on the scene, officers discovered that earth moving operations killed and buried gulls, many still alive. In total, over 220 fledglings were killed. Charges were laid in April 2014 against the foreman, the company owner and the bulldozer operator under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

In September 2014, the Company was ordered to pay a total of \$5,000 in penalties payable to the EDF and a

\$3,000 donation to SASKTIP. The foreman and bulldozer operator, were ordered to pay \$2,000 each on two counts totalling \$4,000.

Horseback riding in National Wildlife Area results in conviction

On September 19th, 2014 an Ontario woman pled guilty to unlawfully carrying on a recreational activity and unlawfully entering a National Wildlife Area and received fines totalling \$1,230. She was captured on camera on horseback entering and leaving Weller's Bay NWA on eight separate occasions after receiving two previous warnings in 2005 and in 2010.

Weller's Bay NWA is located near Trenton, Ontario and covers an area of 40 hectares. It is one of the last undeveloped sand spits on Lake Ontario and is known as one of the last Lake Ontario nesting locations for the endangered piping plover. The upland areas are also important for other

nesting birds and support a wealth of wildlife including reptiles and songbirds such as turtles, snakes, warblers, vireos, flycatchers and thrushes. The waters around Weller's Bay NWA provide vital habitat for migrating waterfowl including habitat for several species at risk such as least bittern (threatened), piping plover (endangered), monarch butterfly (special concern), eastern hognose snake (threatened) and eastern ribbon snake (special concern).



Signage at Weller's Bay National Wildlife Area

Access to the Wellers Bay NWA is prohibited to protect fragile beach and dune ecosystems and sensitive wildlife habitats, and also to reduce the risk of exposure to and injury from unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO) on the site. During World War II, this site was owned by the Department of National Defense and was used as a bombing range. UXO is still being removed from the property.

Environmental Damages Fund

The Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) helps ensure that those who cause damage to the environment take responsibility for their actions. Administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada on behalf of the Government of Canada, the EDF is a national program which provides the judicial system a way to implement the “Offender Pays” principle and for judges and prosecutors to have a direct impact on improving our natural environment. The EDF can receive funds via court ordered penalties, automatic fines through the numerous federal statutes which now automatically direct funds to the EDF, out-of-court settlements, voluntary payments, and international liability funds. By directing fines through the EDF, judges and prosecutors can be certain that projects including restoration, environmental quality improvement, and research education and awareness, will be appropriately funded and managed with oversight from Environment and Climate Change Canada. All EDF funds are individually assessed to determine the best use of funds. Investments are directed towards projects that relate as closely as possible to the original incident in terms of type of resources damaged and geographic location. In addition, Environment and Climate Change Canada looks to fund projects with the greatest environmental impacts and ensures that all funds are used in a manner which fully respects any conditions specified by the courts.

EDF Funds Received April 1, 2010- March 31, 2015

- \$11,644,041 funds received
- Majority of these funds from Québec and Western Canada
- 120 court-ordered penalties under :
 - the Fisheries Act (38% of funds)
 - Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (33% of funds)
 - Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (13% of funds)
 - Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (8% of funds)
 - Other laws (5% of funds)
 - voluntary payments (3% of funds)

Coldwell, Manitoba

Marshy Point Wetland Control Project Rebuild Restoration project

342 hectares of wetland improved, used as migratory bird nesting and breeding habitat

Beneficiary: Ducks Unlimited Canada

EDF funding: \$65,000

Funds received from a conviction under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*

For further information, please contact EDF National Coordination at Ec.fdenational-edfnational.ec@canada.ca.



Redberry Migratory Bird Sanctuary - Picture of nesting Great Blue Herons and cormorants, June 2015

Our People

Training investments in our officers are ongoing, with numerous officers from across the country taking part in various initiatives, such as wildlife forensic sample collection, helicopter crash survival, forensic interviewing, tactical intelligence analysis, internet investigations, vehicle extraction, search warrants, small vessel operator proficiency, rural surveillance tactics, major case management and forensic photography. In addition, officers regularly certify on self-defence tactics and enforcement equipment in order to maintain their peace officer designations.

Reptile identification, handling and emergency procedures training

At the end of January 2015, 24 wildlife officers from all five regions gathered for three intensive days of training for Reptile Identification, Handling and Emergency Procedures. During that time, officers learned to identify the major groups of reptiles and specimens commonly encountered in the trade; understand the risks presented by venomous and dangerous reptiles and how to apply first aid and execute emergency procedures should an incident arise; and safely handle and inspect many reptiles including snakes, alligators and lizards.



Officer managing muzzle.



Officer handling turtle.



Officer safely handling snake.

Our Partners

International Engagement

The 25th meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG), chaired by Sheldon Jordan, Director General, WED, was held in late November 2014 in Lyon, France. The event was attended by approximately 110 people representing 54 countries and five intergovernmental organizations. The WCWG's purpose is to initiate and lead a number of projects to combat crimes related to illegal harvest, trafficking and possession of animals and plants (including illegal forestry).

Canada is also a member of a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project group exploring strategies to fight the growing unlawful forest industry. In recent years the international community has seen an emerging threat in relation to forestry crime and trade. As the forestry sector plays such an important role in the economy, this initiative has the potential to develop new means to protect one of Canada's most valuable natural resources.

The UNODC hosted an Expert Group Meeting in Vienna from 10-12 December 2014 jointly with its partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime to facilitate the development of appropriate international guidance on timber analysis. WED's contribution is to elaborate an illegal timber verification enforcement-decision tool for front line officers worldwide based on WED's Mobile Office prototype.

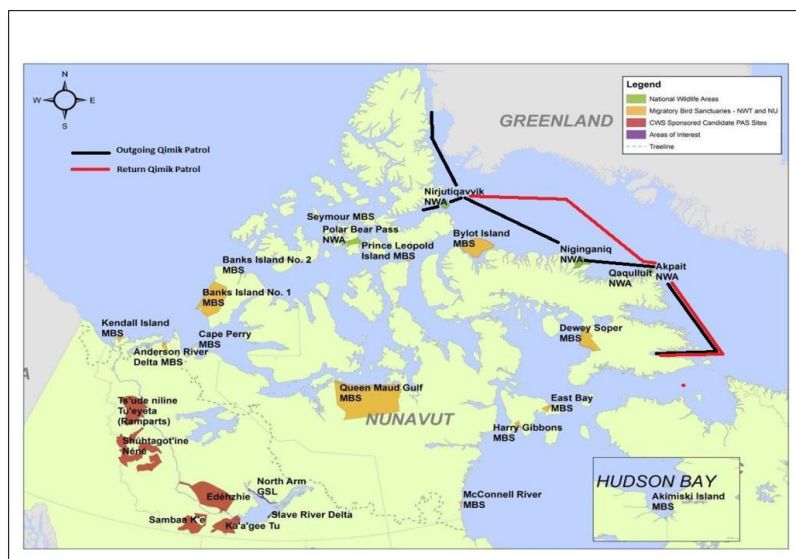
Québec Regional joint forces team

WED and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans teamed up to focus on CITES-listed exports of narwhal and walrus ivory. Québec has the second-highest number of legal narwhal tusk exports in the country.

In five months, the team carried out four investigations on narwhal, one investigation on walrus and 20 inspections concerning applications for CITES permits, 17 of them on exporters' premises. Officers from the team seized five narwhal tusks, two walrus heads with tusks and two baculum³.

³ Baculum is a bone found in the penis of many mammals, for example black bear.

Enforcement in Canada's Northern Protected Areas



Sailing route

Operation Qiniq (“to search” in Inuktitut) began in 2013 to increase Enforcement Branch’s intelligence collection capacity and the effectiveness of enforcement in northern protected areas.

Operation Qimik (“dog” in Inuktitut) was a whole of government operation led by Department of National Defense in the Davis Strait and Baffin Bay areas of the Canadian Arctic.

Patrols and inspections of Akpait, Qaulluut, Nirjutiqavvik and Ninginganiq NWAs were carried out.

Of significance, during the trip, a vessel carrying over 18,000 m³ of petroleum product was tracked departing the boundary of Akpait NWA. The vessel was intercepted and found not to have Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) authorization to conduct activities in the protected area.



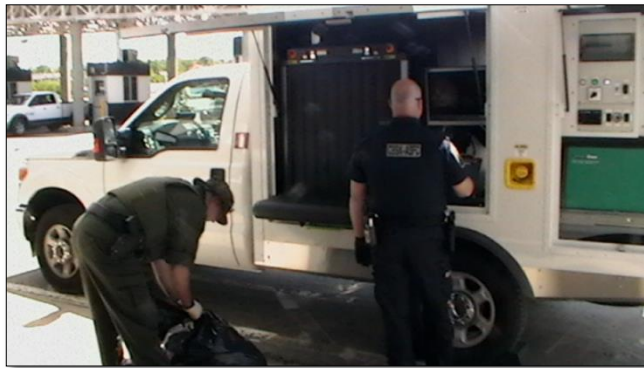
HMCS Shawinigan



Wildlife Officer Deering standing on ship deck with iceberg in background.

Atlantic Canada Border Blitz

In spring 2014, officers checked compliance of non-resident hunters who travelled to Canada to hunt bears. Although black bear populations in New Brunswick are healthy, worldwide commercialization of bear gall bladders and bear products continues to be a conservation issue. As part of WED’s commitment to national and international conservation objectives, over 30 federal, provincial and US officers participated in a multi-agency blitz at three border crossings in New Brunswick: Perth-Andover, Woodstock and St. Stephen, as well as the US crossing in Calais, Maine. Officers inspected 111 hunters and anglers returning to the US from Canada. Border blitzes are conducted during peak periods to ensure compliance with federal environmental laws. Enforcement actions serve as a deterrent to those who engage in illegal activity. In addition, these border blitzes provide officers with information on the legal and illegal movement of wildlife in and out of the country.

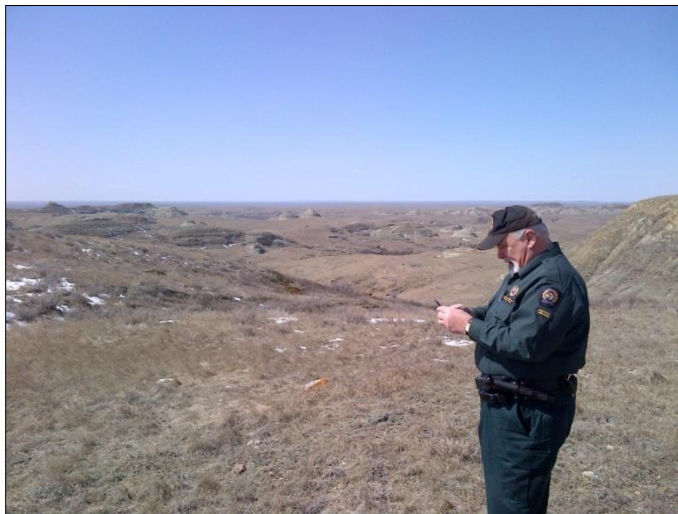


Wildlife and Border Services Officers preparing x-ray for use.



X-ray of a bear hide.

Sage Grouse Emergency Protection Order



Wildlife Officer taking GPS coordinates at Badlands Overlook in Grasslands National Park-East Block

The Greater Sage Grouse was identified as an endangered species under Schedule 1 of the SARA and is in grave danger of extirpation. For this reason an Emergency Protection Order was proclaimed on November 20, 2013.

WED officers in Alberta and Saskatchewan have been working with partners such as CWS, Parks Canada Agency and provincial ministries to gather baseline information on existing structures, breeding sites and activities taking place within sage grouse habitat to support compliance and enforcement efforts. Agencies also worked together to implement an inspection and monitoring plan.

Barrow's Goldeneye patrols with Parks Canada Agency

Several land and water patrols were conducted throughout the summer and fall in protected areas and coastal waters in the St. Lawrence estuary where critical migratory bird nesting habitat is located. Before departing, officers met with CWS biologists and wildlife technicians who specialize in the spatial and temporal distribution of [Barrow's Goldeneye, a species of special concern under the SARA](#), in the estuary of the St. Lawrence.

The purpose of the patrols was to deter illegal hunting commonly encountered in this area. Officers encountered particularly harsh winter conditions and changed their strategy to taxidermy inspections focussing on those that were likely to have received



Barrow's Goldeneye

Barrow's Goldeneye and other migratory birds during the season. As a result of these inspections, an investigation was opened regarding a taxidermist in possession of undocumented waterfowl.

Polar bear display at Winnipeg Airport

On March 31, 2013, WED officers in Winnipeg with the support of Intelligence officers intercepted an intended unlawful export of three legally hunted Canadian polar bears. Four Mexican citizens were later convicted under WAPPRIITA for the attempted illegal export of polar bears and under the Marine Mammal Regulations of the *Fisheries Act* for transporting narwhal tusks without a Marine Mammal Transport Licence.

The export interception was possible thanks to the collaboration of officers from WED, CBSA and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This investigation showcases the close working relationships between federal authorities that lead to the protection of Canada's domestic wildlife species.



This polar bear is displayed at the Winnipeg's James Richardson International Airport to educate travelers on the requirements of CITES and The WAPPRIITA

Canada Border Services Agency CITES Training Sessions



CITES training session with CBSA at Vancouver International Airport

WED regularly conducts training sessions in order to help CBSA front line Border Services Officers identify and intercept imports and exports of wildlife.

Community involvement across Canada

Second Annual Doors Open Event, Halifax, NS – Atlantic

Members of the public were invited to tour several government buildings across the city that they would not normally have access to.

There was a very positive response on social media regarding EB's exhibits. Many people were unaware of the Department's role in enforcement and were impressed by the work done by the Branch, both for WED and EED.



Career Day in Québec



In March 2015, the Québec City was visited by four Aboriginal youth in the Career Days program for secondary students organized by Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

The aim of the Career Days program is to introduce different professions of the federal government to Aboriginal youth approaching the stage of making a career choice. This year, young people came from the Atikamek community of Manawan and the Algonquin community of Lac Simon.

Display at Toronto Police and Airport Emergency Services Open House and Charity BBQ

This event allowed WED staff to share knowledge and help other police organizations about enforcement of federal wildlife laws and regulations. At the same time, the BBQ raises money for local charitable causes.



Our Resources

Intelligence Renewal Project

Intelligence collection and analysis have long been used within WED to help advance inspections and investigations. Intelligence has become central to the way we do business. It allows us to make risk-based decisions by providing a more comprehensive understanding of wildlife and conservation crime. By targeting the worst offenders, it helps ensure that our efforts are focused and effective.

The Intelligence Renewal Project (IRP) was launched in the fall of 2013 and will continue into 2015-2016 across the Enforcement Branch and is meant to enhance intelligence capacity and implement an intelligence-driven approach to enforcement. The project's accomplishments for 2014-15 include:

- The development of a framework aligning intelligence with national and regional decision-making at tactical and strategic levels.
- The development of standardized intelligence products to meet pre-defined operational and managerial needs.
- The development of an information management and information technology strategy to guide future technology investments.

In addition to supporting these Branch-wide achievements, WED has also made strides in improving the quality of the intelligence products that it produces. In particular, WED intelligence provided key information to support the setting of WED's 2015-16 priorities. WED is a step closer to achieving the goal of risk-based decision-making.

A stronger intelligence program means better targeting of enforcement actions, increased ability to identify the most serious offenders, and more advanced analytical capacity to guide our decision-making at all levels.

