

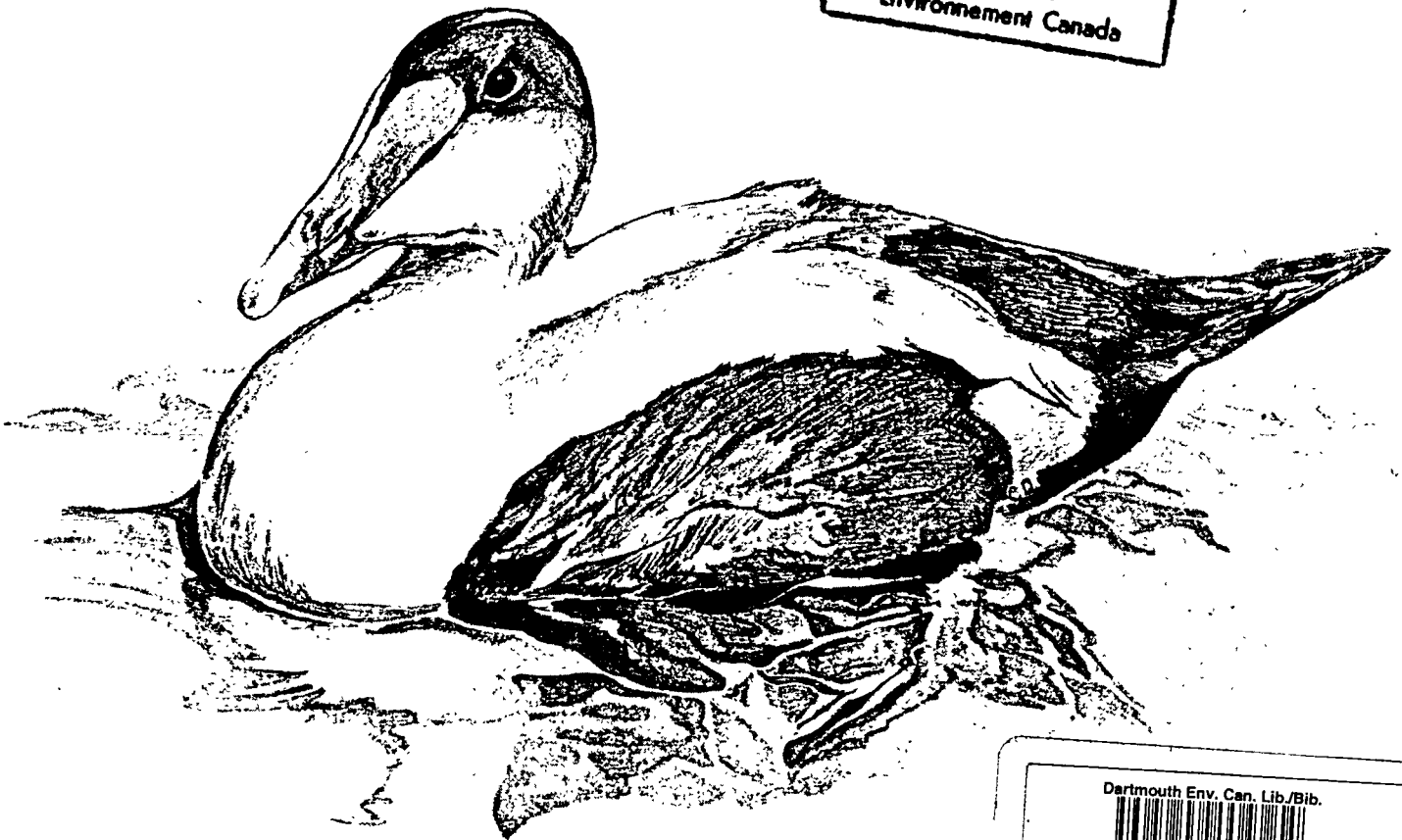
ENVIRONMENT CANADA LIBRARY
15th Floor, Queen Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2N6
CANADA


CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE
ATLANTIC REGION

BRIEFING BOOK

JULY 1992

Atlantic Regional Library
Environment Canada
SEP 22 1992
Bibliothèque de la région
de l'Atlantique
Environnement Canada



Dartmouth Env. Can. Lib./Bib.

39 061 390

Service canadien de la faune
Conservation et protection
Environnement Canada
Région de l'Atlantique
Sackville, Nouveau-Brunswick

Environment Canada Environnement Canada

Briefing book

Date: July, 1992 SERVICE, ATLANTIC REGION

2059443E

CIRC #1109410E

NSDE

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

ATLANTIC REGION

BRIEFING BOOK

JULY 1992

Atlantic Regional Library
Environment Canada
FER 25 1993
Bibliothèque de la région
de l'Atlantique
Environnement Canada

ENVIRONMENT CANADA LIBRARY
15th Floor, Queen Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2N6
CANADA

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

NATIONAL PROFILE

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is responsible for the protection and management of migratory birds through development of regulations, habitat management, and supporting research and surveys. With the provinces and territories, the Service undertakes programs of research and management related to other wildlife where there is a national interest, and advises other federal agencies on wildlife matters. CWS participates in international agreements and programs on wildlife conservation.

Administratively, CWS is one element of Environment Canada's Conservation and Protection Service with regional Headquarters in Dartmouth. National program direction and support is received from CWS Headquarters in Hull.

The Canadian Wildlife Service derives its mandate from Acts, Treaties or Conventions, various agreements, and national/international obligations, and sectors of DOE priority programs which relate to wildlife (e.g. toxic chemicals and acid precipitation).

GREEN PLAN PROGRAMS

Many Green Plan initiatives relate to CWS programs. Those most directly involving the service are: the National Wildlife Strategy; the Wild Animal and Plant Protection Act; Marine Environmental Emergencies; and State of Environment Reporting.

Conventions, Treaties, and Agreements

- Britain/Canada/USA Migratory Birds Convention (1916)
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan (1986)
 - Joint Venture Agreements (1989)
- International Polar Bear Conservation Agreement
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species - Flora and Fauna (CITES) (1975)
- Convention for the Preservation of Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR) (1971). Canada became signatory in 1981.
- Latin American Program - Letters of Arrangement with various Latin American countries
- Whooping Crane Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1985)
- International Porcupine Caribou Agreement
- Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (1986)
- Federal-Provincial Migratory Bird Management Agreements

Client Groups

Eighty-five per cent of Canadians express a direct and active interest in/or interaction with wildlife. The wide variety of photographers, hunters, hikers, tourists, and recreation industry operators are formally represented by name organizations with the key national ones being the Canadian Nature Federation, Ducks Unlimited, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The activities of Canadians result in an annual expenditure of \$4.2 billion and creation of 185,000 jobs.

In addition to the above values, the commercial use of wildlife (guiding, trapping, subsistence harvest by native people, Canadian wildlife safari tours, etc.) add significant real values yet to be documented. CWS is well recognized as an organization by the Canadian public, thanks principally to long-standing promotional campaigns such as Hinterland Who's Who. The work of its researchers is well known and respected internationally.

ATLANTIC REGION

The Atlantic Region of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS-AR) covers the four Atlantic provinces: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland. The regional headquarters is located in Sackville, New Brunswick, and there are additional offices located in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, St. John's, Newfoundland and Lewisporte, Newfoundland.

Waterfowl are important game species in the region, especially in Prince Edward Island where there are no big game species. Major game species are the Black Duck, Canada Goose, and seaducks, especially the eider. There are about 50,000 registered migratory bird hunters in Atlantic Canada.

The people of Newfoundland and Labrador have had a long tradition of hunting seabirds, and a very significant hunt of murrens continues. Approximately 15,000 hunters take an estimated 750,000 birds annually. Due to vagaries of the legal regime, control of that hunt is currently inadequate.

Illegal hunting remains a significant problem in many areas. In some of the Maritimes, spring hunting remains a tradition. In Newfoundland, there was no consistent enforcement effort until very recently, and thus compliance to regulations was generally poor. Enforcement in Labrador remains sporadic.

Native people hunt migratory birds in significant numbers only in Labrador where as in other parts of Canada there are demands for a legalized spring hunt. Recent court cases have put the legal issues surrounding native hunting into some doubt and elevated its profile. In 1992 spring hunting increased dramatically and some new problems have emerged.

Lead Shot, if ingested by waterfowl, can cause sickness or death. Surveys of hunting areas in the Maritimes have shown that there are several lead shot problem areas. Beginning in 1992, some areas will be zoned as non-lead shot zones and more areas will be zoned in 1993.

Marine birds represent by far the most important group of birds numerically in the region. In Newfoundland, there are huge colonies of Common Murres, puffins, gannets, petrels, and other species. Colonies of gulls and terns dot the coastline. The tidal mudflats of the Bay of Fundy are invaded by millions of shorebirds each summer during their southward migration. Phalaropes in equal abundance congregate at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy en route to eastern Africa and South America. The offshore provides winter feeding grounds for millions of birds which nest in Canada's Arctic, Greenland, Iceland, and points east. In our summer, the Grand Banks are the home to shearwaters from the South Atlantic during their winter.

Thick-billed Murres are thought to be under pressure from over-harvesting. All seabirds suffer from pollution of their environment, especially with oil and plastics. Fishery practices also impact on seabird populations, most notably through gill-netting close to colonies or drift-netting. Commercial fishing of capelin may be in direct competition with some seabirds.

Land-based bird species are most influenced by broad based habitat changes. Forestry is an extremely important industry in Atlantic Canada, and provincial governments are moving towards integrating wildlife values in forestry management practices. CWS-AR is becoming involved in studying and advising this process.

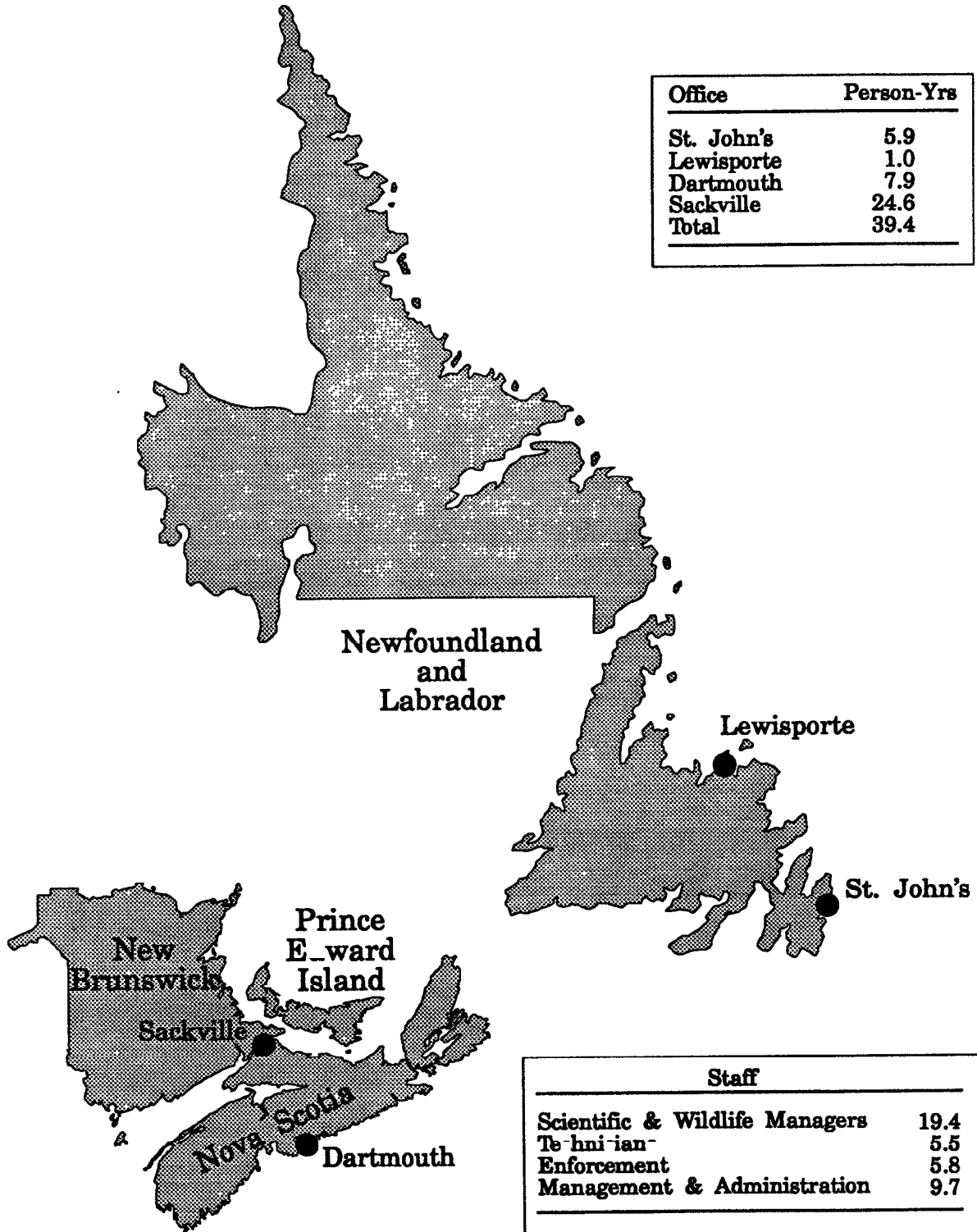
CWS-AR manages 10 National Wildlife Areas and 14 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. Most were acquired or designated to complement the waterfowl conservation program with some notable exceptions (e.g. Mary's Point for shorebirds). Provincial governments have the principal responsibility for habitat conservation. With the aid of Ducks Unlimited Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada, provincial programs for wetland conservation have become much more active in the Maritimes during the last decade. The CWS role here has evolved to become one of coordinator of regional activities, cooperator in some federal-provincial projects, and influencer of programs and policies of other federal agencies. CWS-AR has the lead in implementing the new Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, a cooperative program worth \$3.0 million in Atlantic Canada in 1992.

In Newfoundland, provincial habitat conservation activities for migratory birds has focussed principally on the major seabird colonies, many of which are ecological reserves. Wetland programs are just beginning with the stimulus of the Waterfowl Management Plan and Ducks Unlimited agreements. A new Migratory Bird program is being implemented with funds from the Labrador Development Agreement.

The principal endangered or threatened bird species in the region are the Peregrine Falcon, Harlequin Duck, Piping Plover, and Roseate Tern. Several other species are rare and warrant careful attention. Many species are believed to be well below optimal numbers such as the Common Eider in Newfoundland and Common and Arctic Terns. The eider has apparently suffered from over-exploitation, while the terns appear to be victims of a burgeoning gull population and, more particularly, invasion of the Black-backed Gull from Europe.

General degradation of the environment has its impacts on wildlife as well as other resources and the economy. Acid precipitation has clearly impacted fish-eating aquatic species such as the Common Loon. The wide-scale application of pesticides and herbicides has in the past had dramatic impacts on some species such as the hawks, eagles, and falcons. A wide array of those chemicals are in use, particularly in forestry and agricultural application, and careful monitoring of their effects is prudent. The loading of surface and coastal waters with toxics and nutrients is of particular concern in some areas of the region.

Canadian Wildlife Service Atlantic Region 1992-93



Office	Person-Yrs
St. John's	5.9
Lewisporte	1.0
Dartmouth	7.9
Sackville	24.6
Total	39.4

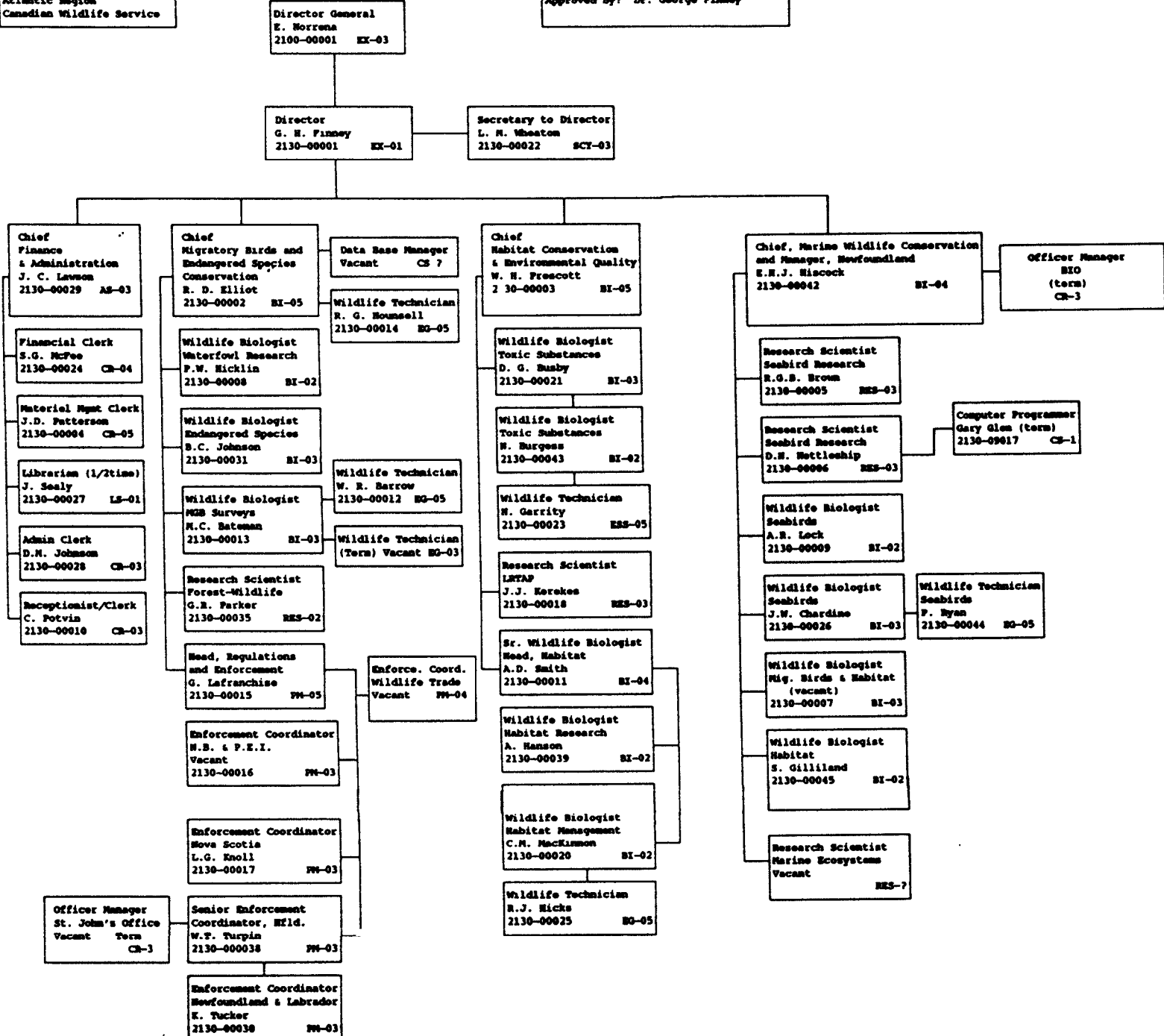
Staff	
Scientific & Wildlife Managers	19.4
Technical	5.5
Enforcement	5.8
Management & Administration	9.7

Chart Title:
 Conservation & Protection
 Atlantic Region
 Canadian Wildlife Service

ORGANIZATION CHART

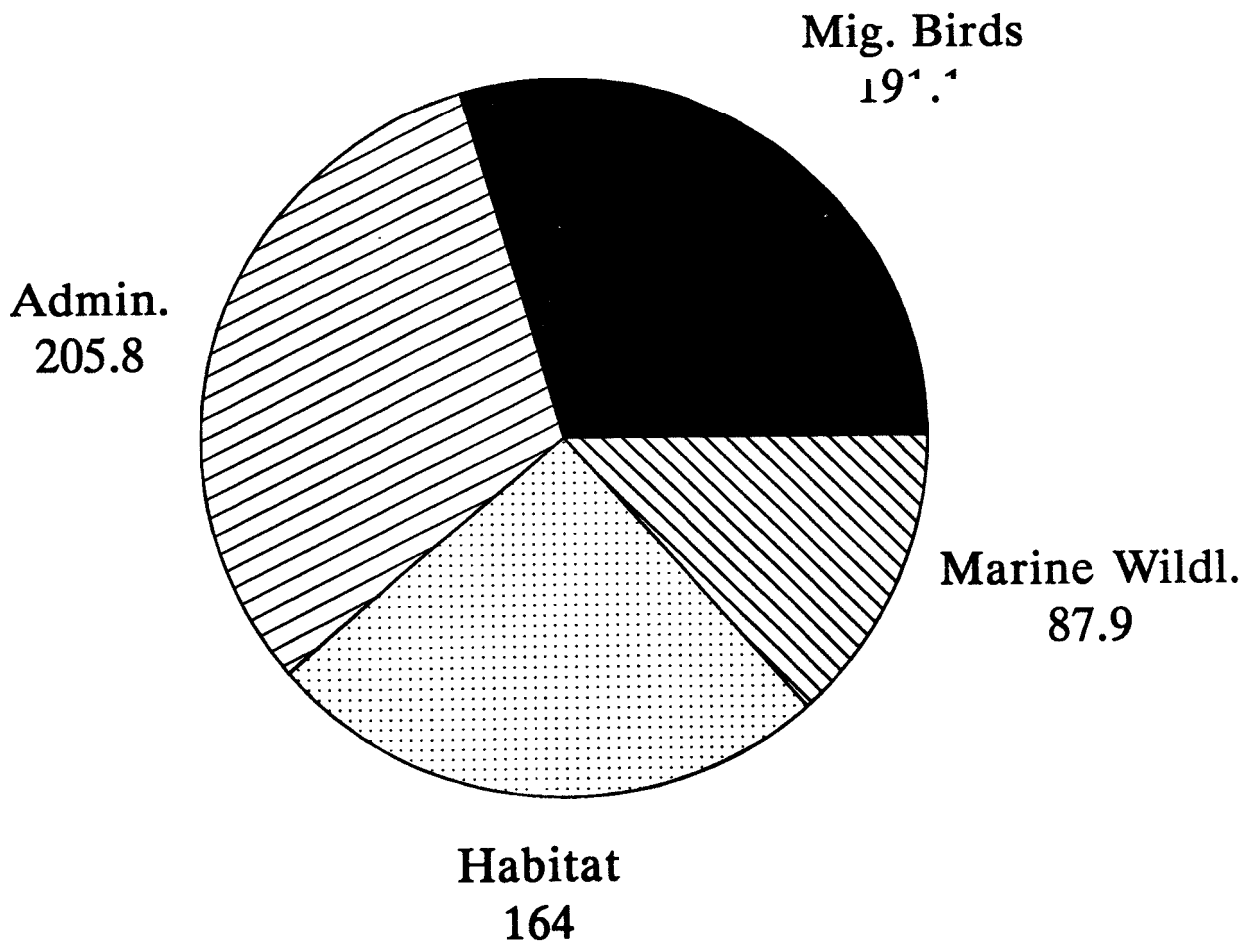
Effective Date: June 30, 1992

Approved by: Dr. George Finney



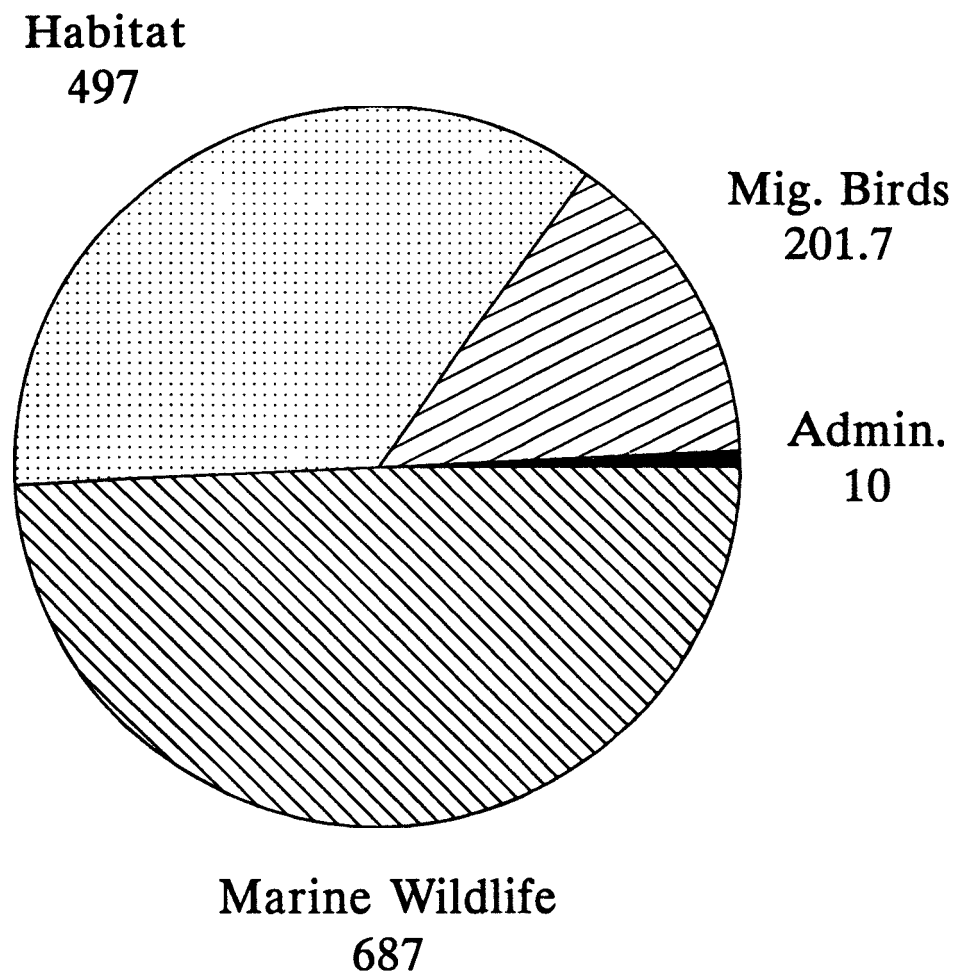
A-Base Budget 1992-93

Operating and Maintenance (\$x1000)



By Division

Supporting Non A-Base Resources 1992-93 (\$ X 1000)



By Division

Canadian Wildlife Service - Atlantic Region

Supporting Non A-Base Resources 1992-93

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>
Western Hemisphere Shorebird Network	\$ 10,000	EHJV
Duck Banding	\$ 38,400 30,600	U.S. Atlantic Flyway U.S. F&W
PEI Hunter Opinion Survey	4,400	PEI F&W
Black Duck Monitoring	140,000	Black Duck Joint Venture CWS-HQ/USFWS
Black Duck Research	26,000 9,400 24,100	Black Duck Joint Venture US F&W NB DNRE
Waterfowl Surveys - Labrador	107,000	ACOA
Seabird Surveys - Labrador	6,000	ACOA
Eider Enhancement - Hare Bay	320,000	Ducks Unlimited Canada, CEIC, EPF
Seaduck/aquaculture Nfld	40,000	Nfld DOF
Human Resource Development - Labrador	24,000	ACOA
Toxics - Contaminants in Waterfowl	12,000	NWRC
Pesticides - Bt Studies	10,000	NWRC
- Technique Development	30,000	NWRC
Acid Rain Studies	46,900	C&P-HQ LRTAP IV
Habitat Research	32,000 13,000 5,000	Ducks Unlimited Canada BDJV EHJV
Habitat Protection	272,000	Eastern Habitat JV
Upland Habitat Management - NWAs	10,000 3,000	Ruffed Grouse Society Shepody Game Club
Wetland Inventory - Labrador	75,000	ACOA
Endangered Species Recovery Plans	9,000	ESRFund
TOTAL APPROVED	\$1,297,800	

CWS Atlantic Region

Issues and Initiatives (1991-92)

Migratory Birds Conservation

- * **Regulate the harvest of murre off Newfoundland to arrest/prevent population declines**

Approach:

- promote assignment of murre to game bird status or other legal remedy
- implement emergency closures
- implement education program
- upgrade enforcement to reduce selling of birds
- monitor population trends at Arctic breeding colonies
- undertake research to support management strategies

- * **Ensure proper management of game bird species**

Approach:

- maintain improved breeding pair surveys of inland duck species
- undertake population management research (e.g. distribution of species, impact of hunting mortality, etc.)
- update and implement the Enforcement Strategy for each province
- modify regulations as required
- identify areas where lead shot ingestion leads to toxicosis and introduce measures to reduce these effects;
- implement provisions of provincial Waterfowl Management Plans
- coordinate program to reintroduce eiders to Newfoundland in the context of an Atlantic Eider Management Plan
- implement specific regulations and policies to accommodate special native harvesting rights and conservation programs
- undertake conservation programs in Labrador

- * **Protect important wetlands, estuaries, and coastal areas in the Maritimes**

Approach:

- coordinate implementation of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture in eastern Canada and Atlantic Canada
- assist in implementation of approved projects under the EHJV
- assist in implementation of Atlantic Coastal Action Plan

*** Minimize the impacts of pollutants and fishery activity on seabirds**

- Approach:**
- undertake research and surveys on seabird distribution and ecological interactions
 - implement a Seabird Colony Registry in Atlantic Canada
 - publish an Atlas showing distribution of seabirds at sea
 - research ways to reduce bycatch in gill nets
 - implement a regional oil spill response strategy

***Build wildlife values into the management of forests**

- Approach:**
- develop a Forest Wildlife program as approved by the Green Plan and integrate activities of other interests
 - assist Forestry Canada in development of a regional research program
 - assist in implementation of model forests, as appropriate

*** Assist in international wildlife conservation activities**

- Approach:**
- lead in the conservation of shorebirds in the Americas through chairmanship of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
 - represent Canada on International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau
 - lead development of an International Murre Conservation Strategy

*** Protect and rehabilitate endangered, threatened, and vulnerable species**

- Approach:**
- implement a regional recovery plan for Piping Plovers with all governments and interested NGOs
 - develop recovery plans and recovery teams for Roseate Tern, Harlequin Duck, and the Eastern cougar

*** Implement programs to effectively monitor songbird species**

- Approach:**
- develop and coordinate implementation of volunteer-based survey programs

*** Protect areas of national significance in Atlantic Canada to migratory birds**

- Approach:**
- designate Portobello NWA (1992)
 - develop management plans for Newfoundland seabird sanctuaries (provincial) with Newfoundland Parks Service
 - develop a management plan for the Southern Bight of Minas Basin and Shepody Bay
 - develop inventory of critical habitats (protected areas (12%))

*** Develop and implement inter-governmental agreements and other cooperative arrangements**

- Approach:**
- implement Newfoundland/Labrador Migratory Bird Habitat Protection Plan
 - sign agreements with France and Denmark for management of migratory birds, i.e. St. Pierre et Miquelon
 - develop a Cooperative Wildlife Ecology Research Centre for Atlantic Canada
 - develop Migratory Bird Habitat Conservation Plans for the Maritimes

*** Monitor persistent toxic chemicals in the environment and provide research related to CEPA priority chemicals**

- Approach:**
- once every four years, sample seabird populations
 - spot checks and other surveys of potential trouble sites
 - improve monitoring capability
 - undertake and coordinate research on the biological effects of CEPA priority chemicals
 - coordinate regional CEPA Research (RAMSCO)

*** Minimize the negative impacts on wildlife from the use of pesticides to control forest and agricultural pests**

- Approach:**
- experimentally monitor the impact on wildlife of pesticides proposed for registration
 - provide advice to Agriculture Canada, the provinces, and industry
 - study the impacts of Bt on aquatic ecosystems

*** Assess the impact of acid rain on the wildlife and the ecosystem**

- Approach:**
- participate in DOE multi-disciplinary study on the Kejimikujik Watershed to provide information and effects on the biota

*** Assist in the implementation of Sustainable Development Agreements in Atlantic Canada.**

Approach: - provide support to the Nova Scotia Sustainable Development Agreement

*** Control the impact of expanding gull populations on people and other bird species**

Approach: - implement the Atlantic Gull Management Plan
- carefully monitor impacts of gulls on other species and man
- undertake public consultations and communications
- publish the Tern Management Plan

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

1991-92 Year-End Highlights

Program 1.1 - Migratory Bird Conservation

Enforcement staff continued to improve participation of cooperating agencies through the implementation of the provincial enforcement strategies and the development of agreements with DFO and Canada Coast Guard to assist with MBCA enforcement. Extra efforts in Newfoundland resulted in a large increase in convictions, including several jail terms for severe violators.

In preparation for the implementation of the first non-toxic shot hunting zones in 1992, CWS, in cooperation with the Provinces, collected supporting data on the incidence of lead shot in waterfowl using a unique portable fluoroscope and supplemental traditional techniques.

With the cooperation of DFO, CWS began to investigate the potential conflicts between seaducks and the rapidly developing aquaculture industry in Newfoundland and to develop strategies to reduce or eliminate those problems.

Implementation of the Newfoundland and Labrador Eider Management Plan continued including the third year of reintroduction of eiders to Newfoundland.

An international symposium on Aquatic Birds in the Trophic Web of Lakes was held in conjunction with The North American Loon Fund Annual Meeting at Mount Allison University.

Program 1.2 - Wildlife Habitat Conservation

The launching of the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV) as a fully operational program in 1990 necessitated a substantial commitment by this region to program management and coordination. Many new programs and cooperative projects have arisen from the EHJV requiring substantial CWS regional involvement. Wetland research focused on enhancement techniques for managed areas.

A stewardship agreement under the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture was arranged with Bowater-Mersey Ltd., a Nova Scotia pulp and paper company, that will protect wetlands on up to 20,000 acres of their lands.

New sanctuaries were scheduled for Green and Shepherd Islands (Newfoundland).

CWS continued to assist Newfoundland in the development of management plans for their ecological reserves which are significant seabird colonies.

Program 1.3 - Endangered Species Protection

The 5-year Peregrine Falcon release in the upper sections of the Bay of Fundy was completed and a re-survey of potential nesting habitats showed at least five successful nesting pairs. CWS-AR coordinated the Atlantic component of the 1991 International Piping Plover Census, which revealed that the recent population decline may have halted.

Program 1.4 - International Wildlife Resources

Under the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), work continued towards involving more countries in shorebird conservation. A new Shorebird Reserve was dedicated in Peru. Joint research and conservation programs were planned with Suriname and Mexico, in support of WHSRN and other initiatives under the Latin American Program. A draft Migratory Bird Conservation Agreement for cooperative research and conservation programs, has been developed with St. Pierre et Miquelon, and is now under review in France.

Program 2.1 - Management and Administration Support

The tender was issued for the new Canadian Wildlife Service Regional Office building. It will be designed to be an example of an environmentally friendly office building.

Program 2.2 - Ecological and Economic Interdependence

Efforts to incorporate CWS's interests under the comprehensive Labrador Development Agreement were successful, with the awarding of resources to CWS to undertake a Migratory Birds Management and Development Program.

Program 3.1 - Environmental Impacts of New Initiatives

Wildlife input was provided for the proposed Northumberland Strait Crossing Project, the New Brunswick end of which passes through the Cape Jourimain National Wildlife Area.

Program 3.2 - Air and Water Emissions

An integrated water and wildlife resource monitoring program was established, cooperatively with Inland Waters, Canada Parks Service, Atmospheric Environment Service and other partners, at a site in the Kejimikujik National Park to assess the effects of climate change and acid precipitation on wildlife and their habitats.

A major international symposium, Aquatic birds '91, was successfully held in conjunction with The North American Loon Fund Annual Meeting. It was attended by 126 scientists from 16 countries. Papers from the Symposium are being edited for publication in 1992.

Program 3.3 - Toxics

The CEPA Research and Monitoring Sub-Committee (RAMSCO) surveyed regional stakeholders for their interest and involvement in toxic chemicals research and monitoring. A report on Sources and Releases of Toxic Substances in the Atlantic Region was completed. A regional PAH data summary and review was produced. Criteria for a C&P Technical Report Series were developed.

A survey of lead in black ducks was conducted in the Dartmouth, NS area. Blood samples were collected and sent to NWRC for analyses. A final report will be prepared in 1992-93 on receipt of analyses.

Program 3.4 - Spills and Waste Sites

The second phase of "Operation Cleanfeather" to reduce and eventually stop chronic small oil spills and dumping off southeast Newfoundland was successfully carried out in cooperation with Environmental Protection and Canada Coast Guard.

An Oiled Seabird brochure was produced in English, French, Spanish and Korean and was widely distributed under official cover and on an opportunity basis. It is currently being re-drafted to include Norwegian and Russian languages.

A Who's Who publication on oil and seabirds is in final draft and has been sent to HQ for publication.

**CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE
ATLANTIC REGION**

25 JUNE 1992

#1 Canadian Wildlife Service
Atlantic Region
Conservation and Protection
Environment Canada
P.O. Box 1590
Sackville, New Brunswick
EOA 3C0
By Hand Address:
21 West Main Street

#2 Canadian Wildlife Service
Atlantic Region
Conservation and Protection
Environment Canada
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
P.O. Box 1006 (B115)
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B2Y 4A2
By Hand Address:
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
1 Challenger Drive

#3 Canadian Wildlife Service
Atlantic Region
Conservation and Protection
Environment Canada
P. O. Box 9158, Postal Stn. "B"
St. John's, Newfoundland
ALA 2X9
By Hand Address:
67 Majors Path

#4 Canadian Wildlife Service
Atlantic Region
Conservation and Protection
Environment Canada
P. O. Box 1201
342 Main Street
Lewisporte, Newfoundland
AOG 3A0

Fax No.: Sackville - 506-536-3028
Dartmouth - 902-426-7209
St. John's - 709-772-6309

BARROW, Bill 506-536-3025
Wildlife Technician
Migratory Game Bird Surveys
#1

BATEMAN, Myrtle 506-536-3025
Wildlife Biologist
Migratory Game Bird Surveys
#1

BROWN, Dick 902-426-2578
Research Scientist
Seabirds
#2

BURGESS, Neil 506-536-3025
Wildlife Biologist
Toxic Substances
#1

BURGESS, Betty 709-772-5585
Administrative Clerk
#3

BUSBY, Dan 506-536-3025
Wildlife Biologist
Toxic Substances
#1

BYRNES, Iris 902-426-6469
Administrative Clerk
#2

CHARDINE, John 709-772-5585
Wildlife Biologist
Seabirds, Newfoundland
#3

ELLIOT, Richard 506-536-3025
Chief, Migratory Birds
and Endangered Species
Conservation
#1

ERSKINE, Tony 506-536-3025
Scientist Emeritus
#1

FINNEY, George 506-536-3025
Director
#1

GARRITY, Nev 506-536-3025
Wildlife Technician
Toxic Substances
#1

GILLILAND, Scott Biologist #3	709-702-5585	LAWSON, Judy Chief, Finance and Administration #1	506-536-3025
GLENN, Gary Computer Technician #2	902-426-3827	LOCK, Tony Wildlife Biologist Seabirds #2	902-426-6052
HANSON, Al Wildlife Biologist Habitat Research #1	506-536-3025	MacKINNON, Colin Wildlife Biologist Habitat Management #1	506-536-3025
HICKLIN, Peter Wildlife Biologist Waterfowl Research #1	506-536-3025	McALONEY, KEITH Coordinator, Atlantic Eastern Habitat Joint Venture #1	506-536-3025
HICKS, Randy Wildlife Technician Habitat Management #1	506-536-3025	McFEE, Sheila Financial Clerk #1	506-536-3025
HISCOCK, Eric, Chief Marine Wildlife Conservation and Manager, Newfoundland #2	902-426-6314	NETTLESHIP, David Research Scientist Seabirds #2	902-426-3274
HOUNSELL, Ron Wildlife Technician #1	506-536-3025	PARKER, Gerry Research Scientist Forestry-Wildlife #1	506-536-3025
JOHNSON, Bruce Wildlife Biologist Impact Assessment and Endangered Species #1	506-536-3025	PATTERSON, Dale Materiel Management Clerk #1	506-536-3025
JOHNSON, Donna Administration Clerk #1	506-536-3025	POTVIN, Claudette Receptionist/Clerk #1	506-536-3025
KEREKES, Joe Research Scientist Long Range Transport of Airborne Pollutants #2	902-426-6356	PRESCOTT, Bill Chief, Wildlife Conservation & Environmental Quality #1	506-536-3025
KNOLL, Les Enforcement Coordinator Nova Scotia #2	902-426-1188	RYAN, Pierre Wildlife Technician #3	709-772-5585
LAFRANCHISE, Guy Head, Regulations and Enforcement #1	506-536-3025	SEALY, Jean Librarian #1	506-536-3025

SMITH, Al
Head, Habitat Section
#1

506-536-3025

TUCKER, Ken
Enforcement Coordinator
Newfoundland
#4

709-535-0601

TURPIN, Wayne
Enforcement Coordinator
Newfoundland
#3

709-772-5585

WHEATON, Lorraine
Secretary to Director
#1

506-536-3025

