

Status of NWT Species Documented

Yellowknife, November 1, 2006 - Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Michael McLeod has released the second report outlining the general status of more than 1700 wild species of plants, birds, fish and other animals in the Northwest Territories.

“The NWT Species 2006-2010 Report honours our monitoring commitment under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada,” said Minister McLeod. “Although most species in the NWT are not at risk, monitoring their status is important for detecting changes before they become critical and determining which species need a more detailed assessment or closer monitoring.”

The first general status report, released in 2000, ranked 400 species. The current report updates the status of these 400 species and provides ranks for an additional 1300 species. Species ranked include all mammals, fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and vascular plants and some insect groups like butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and tiger beetles.

The on-going monitoring of the status of NWT species allows northerners to detect changes in species distribution, population numbers and potential threats to wildlife populations or habitats. Information and data included in the report is gained through both traditional and scientific knowledge and is updated every five years. The report is a valuable reference tool used by government, wildlife co-management boards and industry to help prioritize environmental assessment, monitoring and research activities.

The Report was produced by ENR in partnership with all agencies with wildlife management responsibilities in the NWT. These are Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board and Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

Copies of the NWT Species 2006-2010 Report are available from regional ENR offices or on the Internet at: www.enr.gov.nt.ca.

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