

Exporting Wildlife from the Northwest Territories

*What you need to know about taking big game meat,
wildlife parts and products out of the Northwest Territories*



Indigenous and Resident Harvesters

Indigenous harvesters with Aboriginal rights, harvesters with a treaty right to harvest in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and resident hunting licence holders do not need a permit to possess, transport or export their meat or parts from lawfully harvested big game for personal use out of the NWT.

Unless you have an Aboriginal or treaty right to do so, you require an export permit to export a gift of big game meat of more than 10 kg. Also, unless you have an Aboriginal or treaty right, any person receiving gifts of big game meat more than 5 kg needs a receipt showing the harvester's name, licence or identification number, the date the meat was gifted and the weight or portion of the meat.

Non-resident and Non-resident Alien Hunters

Non-resident and non-resident alien hunters need an export permit to export meat or parts of big game.

Regardless of your rights or authorizations, you should always get an export permit and avoid problems when crossing borders. Export permits are free. They help ensure the receiving territory or province allows the entry of the exported meat or big game parts.



Migratory Game Birds

Migratory game birds lawfully harvested under a migratory game bird permit can be exported without an extra licence or permit. A wing must remain attached until the bird is prepared for cooking.

A label must be attached to each carcass being exported or transported if it is not accompanied by the migratory game bird permit holder. The label must contain the following:

- Name and address of the bird's owner
- Owner's signature
- Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit Number under which the bird(s) were harvested
- Date the birds were harvested

If the birds are shipped in a container unaccompanied by the owner, the container must be clearly marked with the same information as required for a label and an accurate statement of the contents of the container. If the birds are cleaned prior to transport, one fully feathered wing must be attached to each bird carcass.



Exporting Marine Mammals

A Marine Mammal Transportation Licence is required for any person transporting any part of a marine mammal, product or derivative (for example, sealskin) produced from the Inuvialuit Settlement Region or Nunavut to other parts of Canada. This includes any marine mammal meat, bones, pelts or parts used in any type of manufactured product including artwork or clothing.

The licence is free and valid for exporting from the NWT to other parts of Canada only. The licence can be obtained from Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) or Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) offices in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Make sure to present the marine mammal parts when applying for the licence.

Exporting Fish from the NWT

An export permit is not needed for fish caught with a sport fishing licence in the NWT.

The fish must be packaged in a way that the number of fish can be determined. A portion of skin must stay on the fish so the species can be identified. The name and sport fishing licence number of the person who caught the fish must be clearly marked on the outside of the package.

A sales receipt is needed for any fish purchased from a commercial fisher. The receipt must include the commercial fisher's name, address, commercial licence number and the quantity and species of fish.



Exporting Manufactured Products from the NWT

Most wildlife parts used in manufactured products do not require a Wildlife Export Permit. This includes clothing and footwear, jewelry, mounted antlers, pelts or hides smoked or tanned by a traditional or non-chemical process.

There may be permit requirements for marine mammal products, such as sealskin.

Manufactured products containing rare or endangered species require a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Export Permit to be exported from Canada.



Getting an Export Permit

Wildlife Export Permits are available at ENR offices in most NWT communities. The permit is free.

When applying for a permit, you'll need to present the following at the Environment and Natural Resources office:

- Wildlife parts you plan to export
- Hunting licence, tag or authorization
- Address where you're sending the parts
- Canadian border crossing, if applicable

Certification of Wildlife Parts

If you are exporting rare or endangered species or parts outside of Canada, you may require a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permit.

Some wildlife parts must be certified if they are staying in the NWT or being exported.

Certification by a Renewable Resources Officer at an ENR office is needed if you do not have an Aboriginal or treaty right, licence or permit for possession of any of the following:

- **Wood bison**
- **Grizzly or Polar bear**
- **Muskox**
- **Birds of prey (*not including feathers*)**
- **Birds of prey eggs**
- **Dall's sheep (*only if you plan to export it from the NWT*)**

This includes any dead animals or their parts you may find, and/or the purchase of any wildlife part that is not a manufactured product.

Travelling Outside Canada with Wildlife Parts

Many countries, including the United States, have restrictions on the importation of certain species of wildlife and marine mammals. Check with wildlife or customs agencies in the country where the items will be transported to make sure they can be imported.

Getting a CITES Permit

CITES was established to control the import and export of rare or endangered species.

The following species found in the NWT can be exported from Canada with a CITES Export Permit provided they were lawfully acquired:

- **Whales**
- **Bear** (*including black, grizzly and polar*)
- **Otter**
- **Birds of Prey**
- **Lynx**

The following species found in the NWT cannot be exported from Canada unless a CITES permit has been obtained from the receiving country first:

- **Bowhead Whale**
- **Peregrine Falcon**
- **Whooping Crane**
- **Eskimo Curlew**
- **Gyr Falcon**
- **Bald Eagle**

Some exemptions allow an individual to export or import some tourist souvenir items acquired during the trip. To avoid confiscation of items, always check the regulations with a wildlife or customs agency of the country into which you plan to import.

CITES Permits are available online at www.ec.gc.ca. It may take up to 80 calendar days to obtain a CITES permit, so apply well in advance.

For more information

For more information or to get a permit, contact the nearest Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office:

Fort Simpson	867-695-7450
Fort Smith	867-872-6400
Inuvik	867-678-6650
Norman Wells	867-587-3506
Yellowknife	867-767-9238 ext. 53461