

APPENDIX G

Hunter Harvest



MEADOWBANK COMPLEX MINE

FINAL REPORT

2025 HUNTER HARVEST STUDY AND CREEL SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

Prepared By: Nunavut Environmental Consulting Ltd.

Prepared For: Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Baker Lake Hunter Harvest Study (HHS) conducted from 2007 to 2015 was relaunched in 2019 and continued into 2025. Of the 92 participants expressing interest in the 2025 study, contact was made with 80 individuals, of whom 55 reported harvesting Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) (Note: some participants were unavailable due to work schedules, travel, and health issues). With an estimated 300 to 350 active hunters in the Hamlet of Baker Lake, the 55 hunters reporting Caribou harvests in 2025 represent from 16 to 18% of the active hunters in the community. With a total reported Caribou harvest of 782 individuals in 2025, the total Caribou harvest in Baker Lake in 2025 was estimated to range from 4,344 to 4,888 Caribou, which is higher than the annual estimated harvest between 1996 and 2001 (2,230 and 3,116; NWMB 2004) but comparable to other years of the HHS.

Compared to the average across other years, Caribou in 2025 was harvested at a lower percentage within 5 km of the Meadowbank All-Weather Access Road (i.e., 34%) and within the Meadowbank Regional Study Area (RSA; i.e., 56%). Harvest levels in 2025 were well within threshold levels established during the impact assessment (i.e., Caribou harvest levels within the Meadowbank RSA). Reported Caribou harvest levels within the Whale Tail RSA were the highest reported to date. According to participants, unusually high numbers of Caribou were present in the area during the winter.

Four (4) Muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*) and 24 Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) were harvested in 2025. Wolverine harvests were higher than in 2024 and 2023 (i.e., 15 and 18, respectively). A total of 87 Wolves (*Canis lupus*) were reported as harvested in 2025, which is lower than in 2024 (143) but higher than in 2023 (47). Several bird species were harvested in 2025 with ptarmigan (*Lagopus* sp.), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), and Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*) the most harvested species. For the fourth year in a row, marine mammals (i.e., Harbour Seal, *Phoca vitulina*, and Ringed Seal, *Pusa hispida*) were reported as being harvested by Baker Lake hunters, but all were harvested outside the HHS boundaries.

Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) was the most common fish species caught by fisherman in 2025, with reported numbers (i.e., 627) close to the average for the study from 2007 to 2024 (i.e., 646).

SECTION 1 • OVERVIEW

As outlined in the original TEMP (Cumberland 2006) and March 2025 version 9 (Agnico Eagle 2025), and as a requirement of NIRB Project Certificate No. 004 Terms and Conditions 51 and 54, the Baker Lake Hunter Harvest Study (HHS) was initiated in March 2007 by Agnico Eagle. The HHS was conducted in association with the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Association (HTO) to monitor and document the spatial distribution, seasonal patterns, and harvest rates of hunter kills and angler catches within the Meadowbank Regional Study Area (RSA).

After low participation during the first year of the study, methods were strategically adapted, participation increased steadily, and valuable information on harvest patterns in the Baker Lake area was collected. The HHS, through regular visits, contributed to developing a strong relationship with local harvesters, the HTO, and the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (GN). Data were provided annually in monitoring reports from 2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2024.

The HHS was suspended for three years (2016 to 2018) to develop new approaches and direction. Following consultation with the HTO, Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA), GN, and other agencies in November 2016 (Winnipeg) and June 2017 (Ottawa), Agnico Eagle reinitiated the HHS in March 2019, which for the first time also encompassed the Whale Tail RSA as part of the Meadowbank Complex. The study approach was similar to previous years, but suggestions and guidance received during the consultation period were incorporated into the study. The revised study was conducted from 2020 to 2025.

SECTION 2 • OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the HHS are to monitor potential project-related effects on harvesting of wildlife by residents of Baker Lake. This objective is achieved by estimating the following key metrics:

1. The distribution of Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), Muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*), and Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) harvested by residents of Baker Lake; and
2. The total level (or an index of) Caribou, Muskox, and Wolverine harvested by residents of Baker Lake.

Other objectives of the HHS, established in consultation with the Terrestrial Advisory Group (TAG) and other participants include:

- 1) Supporting creel surveys by gathering information on Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*), Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), and Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) catch rates and fisherman-use patterns in the Baker Lake area;
- 2) Understanding regional distribution of hunting and fishing activity;
- 3) Investigating seasonal timing of hunting and fishing activity; and
- 4) Determining whether increased harvest and catch rates are associated with the Meadowbank All-Weather Access Road (AWAR) and Whale Tail Haul Road (WTHR).

As discussed during consultation with stakeholders, the HHS will further seek to: a) increase and maintain the hunter participant rate in the future of the program; b) improve resource protection; c) improve hunter awareness and education; d) increase the integration of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) and Traditional Knowledge (TK); e) increase availability of data to support a collective approach to understanding wildlife harvest; and f) assist Agnico Eagle in mitigative actions and the GN in management decisions.

SECTION 3 • METHODOLOGY

Wildlife species that are the focus of the HHS are Caribou, Muskox, and Wolverine; however, harvest data on other species, such as Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*), Arctic Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Arctic Fox (*Vulpes lagopus*), geese, and other birds are also collected. The few focal species in the study were deliberately chosen to make data entry and collection as simple as possible. To support creel surveys, data on fish harvest (i.e., Arctic Char, Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, and Arctic Grayling) are also collected.

Inuit and non-Inuit residents, at least 16 years of age, are eligible to participate in the harvest survey. Harvest calendars are provided on a household basis, rather than an individual basis, to simplify data entry and collection, and reflect household hunting patterns. The harvest calendar is attractive and consists of local photographs of wildlife and Baker Lake residents primarily taken by HHS participants (see **Appendix A**). At the end of the calendar are maps that delineate a 4 km² UTM grid within the Baker Lake and Meadowbank Complex areas. Each grid has a unique code to facilitate recording of information. When calendars are issued, participants or participating households are encouraged to write harvest details (e.g., number of animals, sex, age, and location [i.e., grid code]) for the appropriate date on the calendar.

Participants were interviewed in person three times during the year (i.e., June 2025, October 2025, and January 2026) by the harvest study coordinator. During the January 2026 interviews, remaining data from 2025 were collected. The purpose of the interviews is to ensure all harvest data are recorded on the calendars and to collect incidental information to compliment calendar data, including notable Caribou movements, aggregations, and unique observations. Between interview periods, participants were often contacted by phone or social media to encourage recording of harvest data.

Features of the 2025 HHS included: 1) building long-term relationships between participants and researchers; 2) increasing engagement with participants on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram; 3) continuing incentives for participating in the study (e.g., gas vouchers and prizes); and 4) providing special prizes for three participants that achieved more than 10 years of participation in the study.

SECTION 4 • HISTORICAL RESULTS

The Baker Lake HTO member list (provided by Ms. Joan Scottie [HTO Board Member] in 2008) consisted of 683 local area hunters/trappers/fishermen, a number that has likely changed since then. The member count in 2008 was a highly conservative (i.e., high) estimate of the number of individuals that hunt, trap or fish in the community as the list typically includes entire families. If just the heads of each household are counted, there were 389 potential hunters within the Baker Lake community in 2008. Although this value is still likely conservative (given that many of these individuals do not actively hunt or fish), the number is comparable to the comprehensive 5-year Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study (NWMB 2004) in which 336 Baker Lake hunters were contacted and interviewed. Additionally, conversations with HHS participants suggest that the number of active Baker Lake hunters is in the 300 to 350 range.

Between 1996 and 2001, 18% of Caribou harvests were estimated to be within 5 km of the AWAR (prior to construction) and 67% of harvests occurred within the RSA (NWMB 2004). In the first year of the HHS study (2007), prior to completion of the AWAR, 34% of harvests were reported within 5 km of the AWAR alignment and 79% were recorded within the RSA. The HHS data (2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2024) fluctuated between 30 and 54% of reported harvest within 5 km of the AWAR, and between 62 and 85% within the RSA.

In 2008, 296 Caribou were reported as being harvested by Baker Lake HHS study participants. Harvest numbers steadily increased to 680 in 2011, and then decreased to 269 in 2014, the lowest reported harvest in seven years, and 305 in 2015. Between 2016 and 2018 (3 years) the HHS was not conducted. Total Caribou harvests in 2019 (647 animals) and 2020 (652) were higher than in 2021 (513), lower than in 2022 (766) and 2024 (820), and comparable to 2023 (646). If an average of approximately 20% of all Baker Lake hunters actively participated in the study (5% estimated for 2014), extrapolation of historical HHS values suggests approximately 3,000 to 4,000 Caribou are harvested each year in the Hamlet of Baker Lake. These estimates are in general agreement with historical harvest studies. Specifically, using the upper limit of the standard error in the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study (NWMB), between 2,230 and 3,116 Caribou were harvested each year between 1996 and 2001 (NWMB 2004). Similarly, the Interdisciplinary Systems (IDS) report (IDS 1978) estimated an annual Caribou harvest in Baker Lake of 4,100 during the 1970s.

Based on the NWMB (2004) and HHS results (2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2024), highest Caribou harvests have occurred between August and December with a second smaller peak between March and May. The similar pattern between the studies indicates that seasonal hunting preferences have not changed markedly in the last two decades.

Reported harvests of Muskox and Wolverine were lower than average in 2024 (i.e., 0 and 15 individuals, respectively). Low densities of these species and their general aversion to humans require hunters to hunt well away from the AWAR; therefore, the presence of the AWAR is thought to have little effect on participant hunting patterns for Muskox and Wolverine. Wolverine harvest reports decreased from 15 animals in 2010 to one (1) animal in 2015; however, in 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2023 reported Wolverine harvests were at all-time highs of 18, 22, 25, and 18 individuals, respectively.

SECTION 5 • 2025 HUNTER HARVEST STUDY RESULTS

5.1 NUMBER OF HUNTERS

The HHS included 92 interested participants by the end of 2025, although 12 of the participants could not be reached during the study due to work schedules, travel, and/or health issues. The 92 interested participants in 2025 are higher than interested participants in 2024, 2023, and 2022 (i.e., 88, 74, and 65 respectively). Increased numbers in 2025 are because of the higher number of new participants relative to those that have left the study. Of the 2025 participants, Caribou harvest data were collected from 55 participants, which is lower than the 63 participants reporting Caribou harvests in 2023 and the 64 hunters reporting harvests in 2024.

Based on the previous discussion of total numbers of hunters in the Hamlet of Baker Lake (**Section 4 Historical Results**), there were 389 potential hunters within the Baker Lake community in 2008. The number is comparable to the comprehensive 5-year Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study (NWMB 2004) in which 336 Baker Lake hunters were contacted and interviewed. Discussions with Baker Lake HTO members in 2019 suggest the total number of hunters is over 300.











Given the historical and current number of hunters in Baker Lake, an estimate of 300 to 350 active hunters is used in this analysis. These estimates are supported by conversations with HHS participants regarding the number of active hunters in the Hamlet of Baker Lake. Based on these numbers, the 55 hunters reporting Caribou harvest in 2025 conservatively represent from 16 to 18% of total hunters in the community.

5.2 DISTRIBUTION OF HUNTING

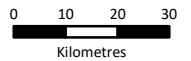
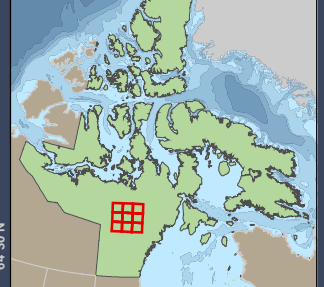
Figure 5.1 shows the distribution of Caribou harvest within the HHS data collection area. Hunting is highly concentrated along the AWAR to part way up the WTHR, around Tehek Lake, in the vicinity of Schulz and Aberdeen lakes, and on the north shore of Baker Lake. Fewer harvests were reported along the southern shore of Baker Lake. Annual variation in harvest location and intensity is attributable to numerous factors. For instance, many hunters have stated during informal discussions that they have a ‘favorite’ hunting area that they frequent each year. Some hunters have stated that they prefer hunting in ‘convenient’ locations, whereas other hunters prefer remote locations well away from frequented areas. A percentage of hunters also enjoyed partaking in long distance hunting trips over multiple days (see Caribou harvests north of the Whale Tail RSA and north of the Thelon River system – **Figure 5.1**).

Figure 5.1: Total Number of Caribou Harvested in 2025

Legend

- Meadowbank**
-  All-Weather Access Road
 -  AWAR Local Study Area (LSA)
 -  Regional Study Area (RSA)
- Whale Tail**
-  Whale Tail Haul Road
 -  Local Study Area (LSA)
 -  Regional Study Area (RSA)
- Total Caribou Harvested**
-  1 - 2
 -  3 - 5
 -  6 - 10
 -  >10

Area of Detail



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

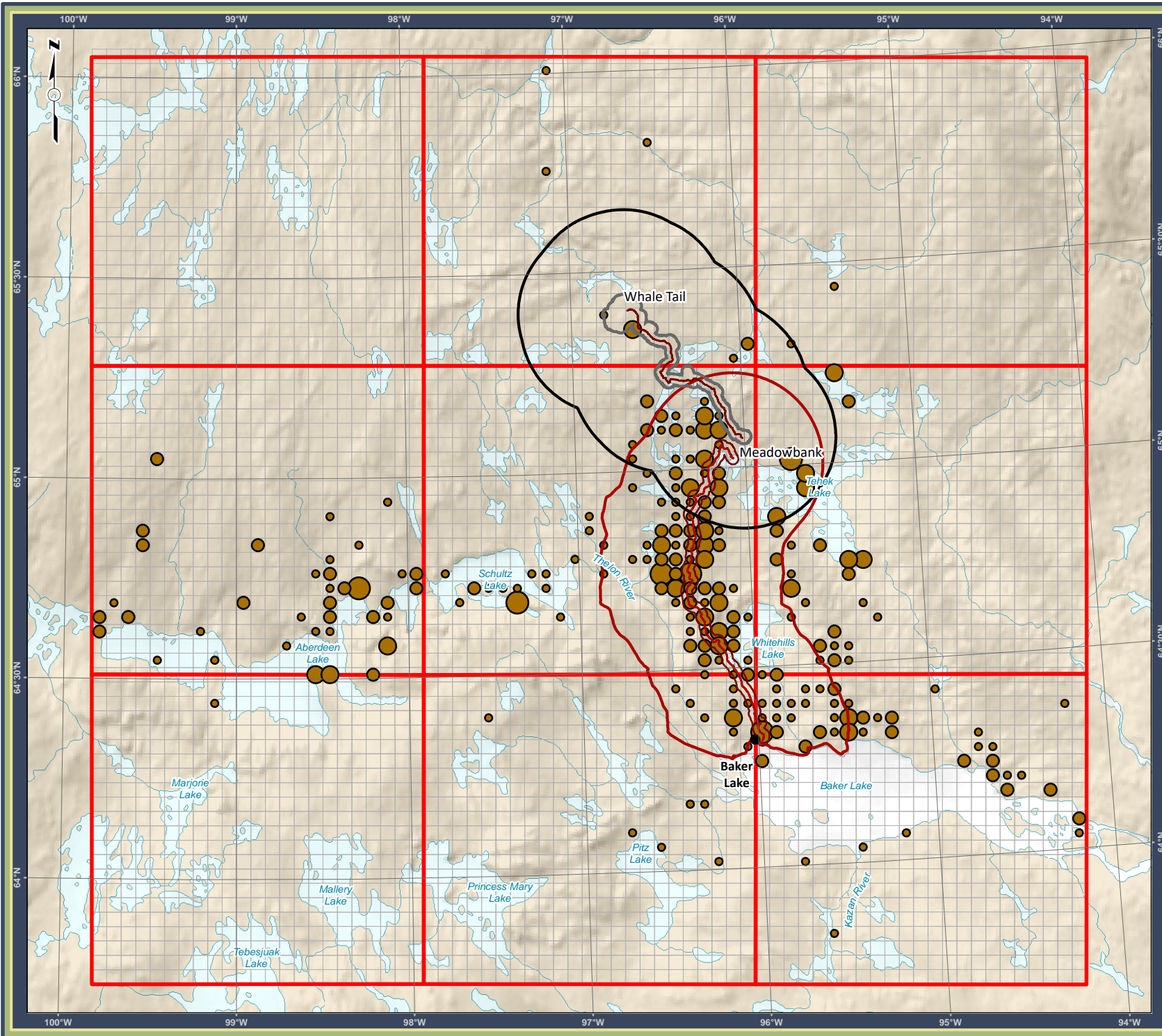
Data Sources:
 Natural Resources Canada
 GeoBase®
 National Topographic Database
 Government of Nunavut
 Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited,
 Gebauer & Associates Ltd.

Meadowbank Gold Project

Prepared for:



By:



Between 1996 and 2001, 18% of Caribou harvests were estimated to be within 5 km of the AWAR (prior to construction) and 67% of harvests occurred within the Meadowbank RSA (NWMB 2004). In the first year of the HHS study (2007), prior to completion of the AWAR, 34% of harvests were reported within 5 km of the AWAR alignment and 79% were recorded within the Meadowbank RSA (see **Table 5.1**). The HHS data (2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2024) fluctuated between 30 and 54% of reported harvest within 5 km of the AWAR, and between 62 and 85% within the Meadowbank RSA. The 2025 HHS data indicated that 34% of reported harvest occurred within 5 km of the AWAR and 56% occurred within the Meadowbank RSA. Although the percentage harvest in the LSA is within ranges observed to date, the percentage harvest within the RSA is the lowest (see **Table 5.1**). As was the case in other years, threshold levels of 20% set for monitoring the effects of the Meadowbank mine development on the distribution of Caribou harvest within the RSA were not exceeded (see **Figure 5.2**). (Note: does not include the Whale Tail mine, which was approved under a separate permit with a different effects assessment).

Table 5.1: Caribou Harvest Distribution along the AWAR and within the Meadowbank LSA and RSA (1996 to 2001 [NWMB], and 2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2025 [Baker Lake HHS]).

Study	Participation Rate within 5 km of AWAR (% of total hunters)	Average Caribou Harvest within 5 km of AWAR per Participant	% of Annual Harvest within 5 km of AWAR	% of Annual Harvest within Meadowbank LSA	% of Annual Harvest within Meadowbank RSA
NWMB 1996 to 2001	n/a	n/a	18	7	67
Baker Lake HHS 2007	17 (49%)	4.8	34	12	79
Baker Lake HHS 2008	16 (94%)	6.9	37	28	73
Baker Lake HHS 2009	27 (75%)	7.9	36	20	78
Baker Lake HHS 2010	33 (89%)	7.3	38	22	73
Baker Lake HHS 2011	40 (85%)	7.1	42	25	74
Baker Lake HHS 2012	31 (67%)	5.6	35	20	80
Baker Lake HHS 2013	38 (86%)	4.8	43	27	85
Baker Lake HHS 2014	19 (70%)	5.7	40	28	83
Baker Lake HHS 2015	24 (67%)	6.9	54	34	84
Baker Lake HHS 2019	40 (95%)	5.4	34	22	64
Baker Lake HHS 2020	34 (79%)	5.8	30	19	62
Baker Lake HHS 2021	34 (87%)	6.6	43	32	71
Baker Lake HHS 2022	50 (91%)	6.0	39	24	70
Baker Lake HHS 2023	43 (68%)	5.6	37	17	71
Baker Lake HHS 2024	54 (84%)	7.3	48	24	82
Baker Lake HHS 2025	46 (84%)	5.8	34	22	56
Average (2007 to 2024)	33 (79%)	6.2	39	24	75
Average (2007 to 2025)	34 (79%)	6.2	39	24	74

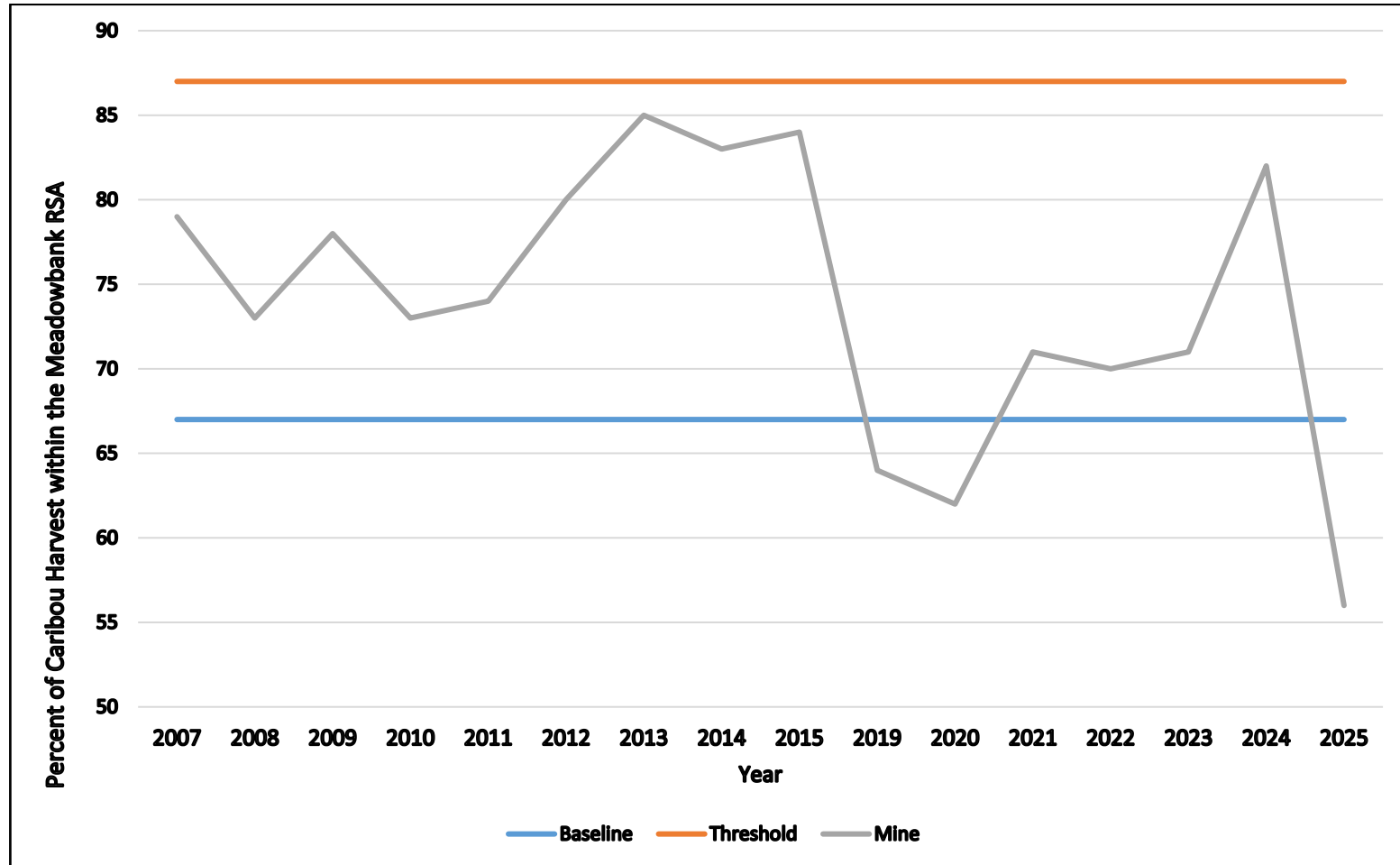


Figure 5.2: Percent of Caribou Harvest within the Meadowbank RSA from 2007 to 2015 (Years 1 to 9), and 2019 to 2025 (Years 10 to 16) Compared to Baseline and Threshold Levels.

In 2025, 38 Caribou were reported as being harvested within 5 km of the WTHR, which compares to no Caribou in 2024, one (1) Caribou harvest in 2023, and no Caribou in 2022 (see **Table 5.2**). Study participants indicated that there were “thousands” of Caribou along the AWAR and WTHR in late 2025 going into 2026, which was not the case in previous years.

Within the Whale Tail RSA (note – overlaps with the Meadowbank RSA), a total of 156 harvests were reported in 2025, which is considerably higher than the 33 harvests reported in 2024 and higher than 2011, when 103 Caribou harvests were reported.

Table 5.2: Caribou Harvest Distribution along the WTHR and within the Whale Tail LSA and RSA (1996 to 2001 [NWMB], and 2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2025 [Baker Lake HHS]).

Study	Annual Harvest within 5 km of WTHR	Annual Harvest within Whale Tail LSA	Annual Harvest within Whale Tail RSA
NWMB 1996 to 2001	0	0	17
Baker Lake HHS 2007	1	1	1
Baker Lake HHS 2008	0	0	15
Baker Lake HHS 2009	1	0	15
Baker Lake HHS 2010	0	0	20
Baker Lake HHS 2011	0	0	103
Baker Lake HHS 2012	0	0	7
Baker Lake HHS 2013	0	0	16
Baker Lake HHS 2014	0	0	17
Baker Lake HHS 2015	0	0	53
Baker Lake HHS 2019	5	5	85
Baker Lake HHS 2020	0	0	12
Baker Lake HHS 2021	3	3	48
Baker Lake HHS 2022	0	0	34
Baker Lake HHS 2023	1	0	74
Baker Lake HHS 2024	0	0	33
Baker Lake HHS 2025	38	18	156
Average (2007 to 2024)	0.73	0.60	35.53
Average (2007 to 2025)	3.06	1.69	43.06

5.3 MAGNITUDE OF HUNTING

In 2025, a total of 782 Caribou were reported as being harvested by 55 participants in the Baker Lake HHS, which includes harvests in the Meadowbank and Whale Tail study areas (see **Table 5.3**). This reported Caribou harvest is the second highest recorded in the study to date. The number of participants reporting harvests was lower than in 2023 (63 participants) and 2024 (64) and the same as in 2022. Given that the 55 hunters represent an estimated 16 to 18% of the Baker Lake hunting community (see **Section 5.1**), the total estimated number of Caribou harvested in 2025 in the Baker Lake community ranged from 4,344 to 4,888 animals, which is higher than in 2023 (3,076 to 3,589) and 2024 (3,905 to 4,556), comparable to 2022 (i.e., range of 4,256 to 4,788 animals), and higher than historical predictions (NWMB 2004).

According to participants, commercial sport hunting remains a prominent and controversial issue in Baker Lake as are the formal sales of Caribou to the Kivalliq Fish & Meat Plant in Rankin Inlet. This staple income source from sales to the meat plant is utilized by Baker Lake hunters who may load one – or even two – large qamutiks with 10-16 caribou and drive them (snowmobile) to the Rankin Inlet to receive payment. Another issue mentioned by participants is that hunters from Rankin Inlet come to the Baker Lake to hunt Caribou for the meat plant and for private, informal sales to other areas of Nunavut where Caribou hunting is restricted.

Table 5.3: Hunter Caribou Harvest Statistics from the NWMB (2004) Study and Baker Lake HHS (2007 to 2015; 2019 to 2025), which includes the Meadowbank and Whale Tail Areas.

Baker Lake Hunter Harvest Study – Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Yearly Total
2007	0	7	89	22	44	6	6	6	37	14	5	2	238
2008	13	15	14	10	19	14	25	34	56	47	24	25	296
2009	42	52	41	28	28	18	30	88	114	102	11	33	587
2010	27	35	34	66	47	41	46	67	82	117	48	18	628
2011	14	47	64	53	78	39	42	35	123	108	2	75	680
2012	43	30	60	71	41	44	13	19	39	37	72	27	496
2013	5	47	55	28	18	18	20	46	76	40	35	32	420
2014	13	26	20	42	7	11	4	5	43	68	14	16	269
2015	7	9	17	13	6	46	12	8	66	74	35	12	305
2019	7	25	72	86	30	39	17	29	52	187	55	48	647
2020	6	14	8	14	12	16	18	95	119	151	88	111	652
2021	29	27	61	16	44	23	20	54	90	54	39	56	513
2022	35	15	33	29	79	14	28	113	113	219	46	42	766
2023	21	31	25	61	78	24	11	37	61	151	53	93	646
2024	85	67	30	22	35	10	9	48	141	202	110	61	820
2025	64	70	47	100	76	45	19	34	67	74	138	48	782
Total #	411	517	670	661	642	408	320	718	1,279	1,645	775	699	8,745
Average	27.4	32.3	41.9	41.3	40.1	25.5	20.0	44.9	79.9	102.8	48.4	43.7	546.6
% of Total	4.7	5.9	7.7	7.6	7.3	4.7	3.7	8.2	14.6	18.8	8.9	8.0	100

Table 5.3: Continued.

Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study - Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB)

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Yearly Total
1996						141	190	490	428	435	202	178	2,064
1997	118	144	146	167	217	159	162	354	322	553	295	196	2,833
1998	137	124	192	193	159	85	163	153	272	407	254	135	2,274
1999	137	131	99	211	222	111	148	433	528	409	74	66	2,569
2000	96	86	75	135	213	76	187	333	309	98	186	163	1,957
2001	150	126	146	156	127								705
Total #	638	611	658	862	938	572	850	1,763	1,859	1,902	1,011	738	12,402
Average	127.6	122.2	131.6	172.4	187.6	114.4	170.0	352.6	371.8	380.4	202.2	147.6	2,067
% of Total	5.1	4.9	5.3	7.0	7.6	4.6	6.9	14.2	15.0	15.3	8.2	6.0	100

5.4 SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION AND TIMING OF HUNTING

Based on the NWMB (2004) and inclusive Baker Lake HHS results (2007 to 2015; 2019 to 2025), highest Caribou harvests have occurred between August and December, with a second smaller peak between March and May (see **Figure 5.3**). The similar pattern between the studies indicates that seasonal hunting preferences have not changed markedly in the last decade. More details on the seasonal timing of harvest in 2025 can be found in **Figure 5.4** (i.e., numbers of animals harvested, numbers of participants, and average number of animals harvested by participant by month) and **Figure 5.5** (i.e., Caribou harvest numbers by season and proximity to the access roads).

According to participants, “thousands” of Caribou were present along the AWAR and the WTHR in late 2025 and into 2026. A considerable amount of hunting occurred during the winter and spring when transportation by snowmobile was possible.

The seasonal distribution of hunting is illustrated in **Figures 5.6a to 5.6d**, representing the spring, summer, fall, and winter Caribou seasons outlined in the TEMP. In spring 2025, overall Caribou hunting in the Meadowbank RSA was high with hunting occurring along the AWAR from Whitehills Lake to north of the Meadowbank Mine, along the Thelon River system, and at the southern end of Tehek Lake (**Figure 5.6a**). Within the Whale Tail RSA, numerous Caribou were harvested in the vicinity of the Meadowbank Mine, which is also within the Whale Tail RSA (**Figure 5.6a**) (see comment above from study participants).

During the summer, low to moderate numbers of Caribou were harvested in the Meadowbank RSA along the AWAR, in the Schulz and Aberdeen lakes area, and along the northeastern shore of Baker Lake (**Figure 5.6b**). Some harvesting occurred along the southern shore of Baker Lake (**Figure 5.6b**). Several Caribou were harvested at the south end of the Whale Tail RSA (**Figure 5.6b**).

In the fall, a considerable amount of hunting occurred with most hunting located east of the Hamlet of Baker Lake, in the Whitehills and Tehek lakes area, and along the AWAR up to near Km 85 (**Figure 5.6c**). A small number of Caribou were reported as being harvested in the southern portion of the Whale Tail RSA in fall 2025 (**Figure 5.6c**).

In winter, Caribou were hunted across a wide area ranging from the west end of Aberdeen Lake to the Whitehill Lake area, to northeast of the Meadowbank Mine (**Figure 5.6d**). Successful hunters travelled further afield by snowmobile (e.g., along the Thelon River to Aberdeen and Schulz lakes). Some Caribou harvests were reported at the south end of the Whale Tail RSA in the vicinity of the Meadowbank Mine (**Figure 5.6d**).

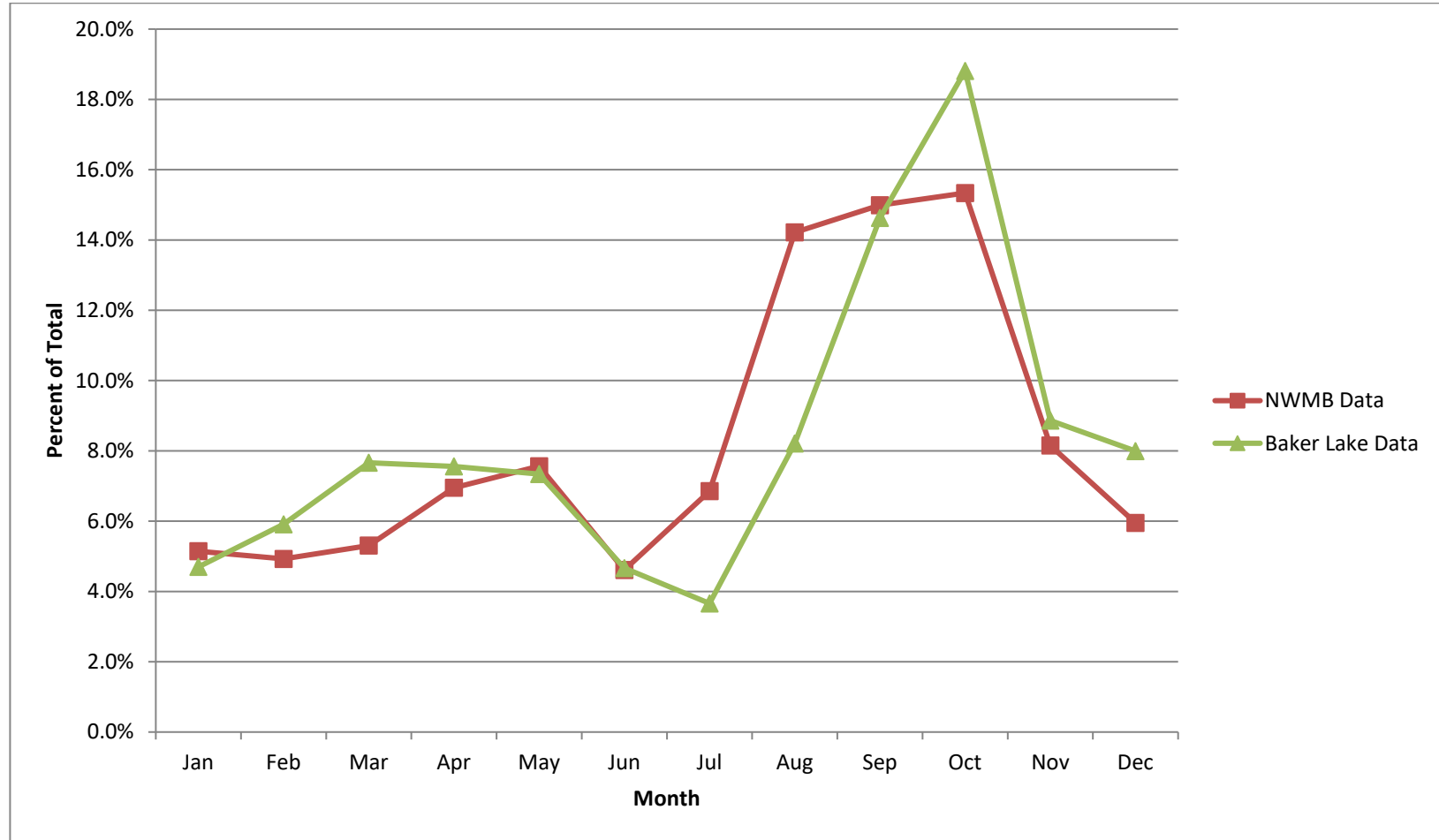


Figure 5.3: Seasonal Trends in Caribou Harvest from the Baker Lake HHS (2007 to 2015; 2019 to 2025) and the NWMB Study (1996 to 2001).

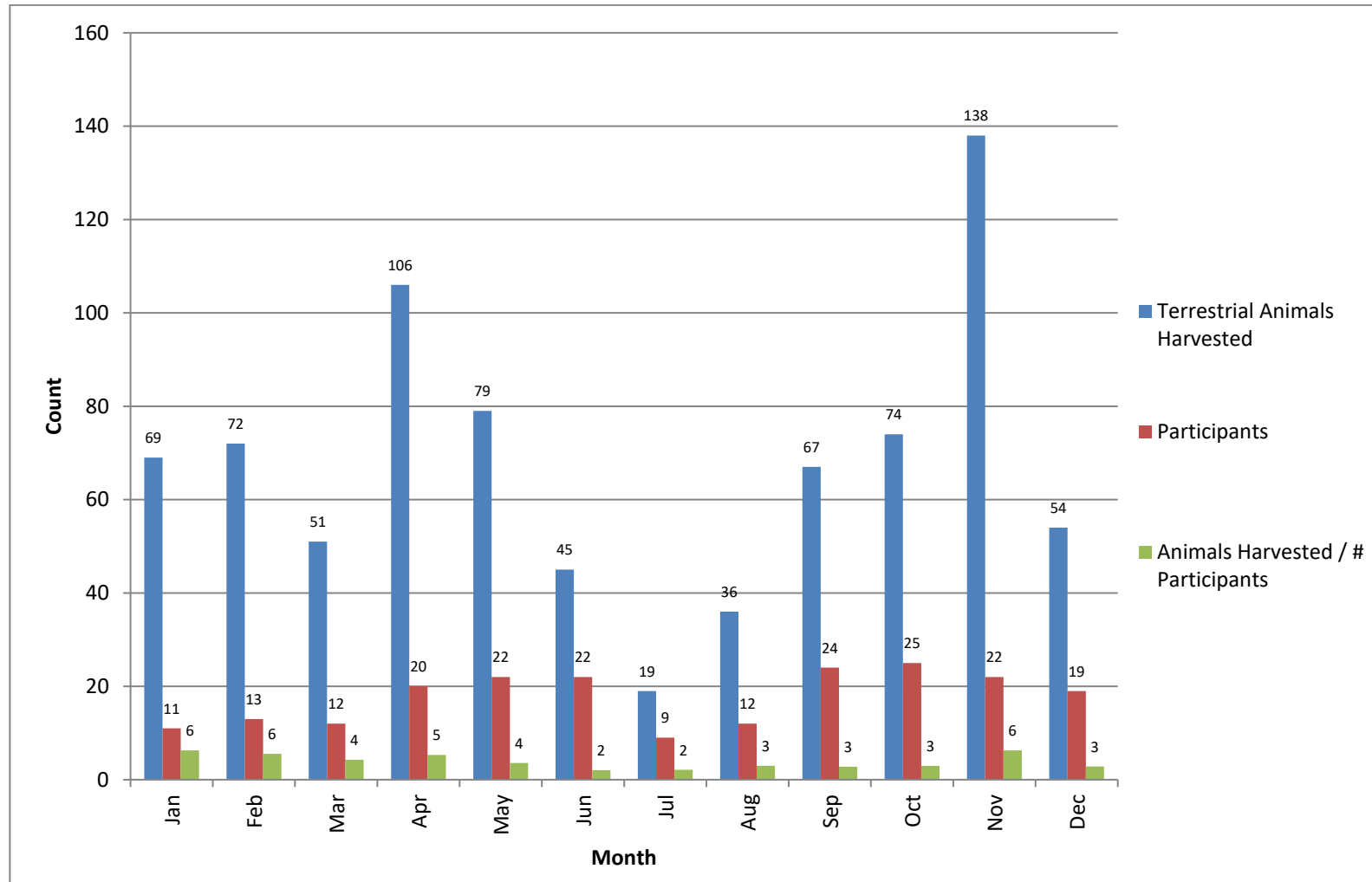


Figure 5.4: Terrestrial Animals Harvested per Month and by Participant in 2025.

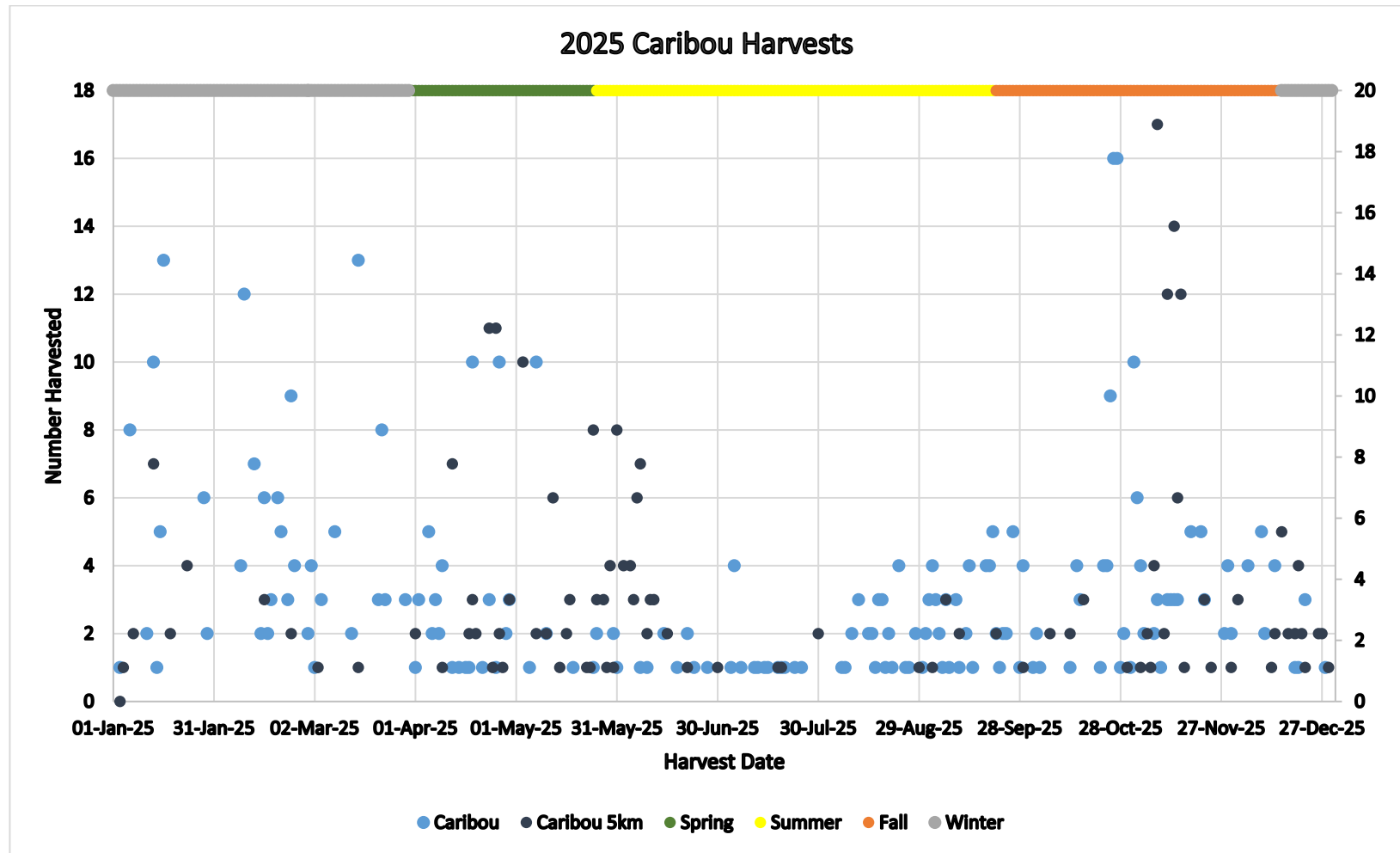


Figure 5.5: Number of Caribou harvested in each Caribou Season and Proximity to Access Roads in 2025.

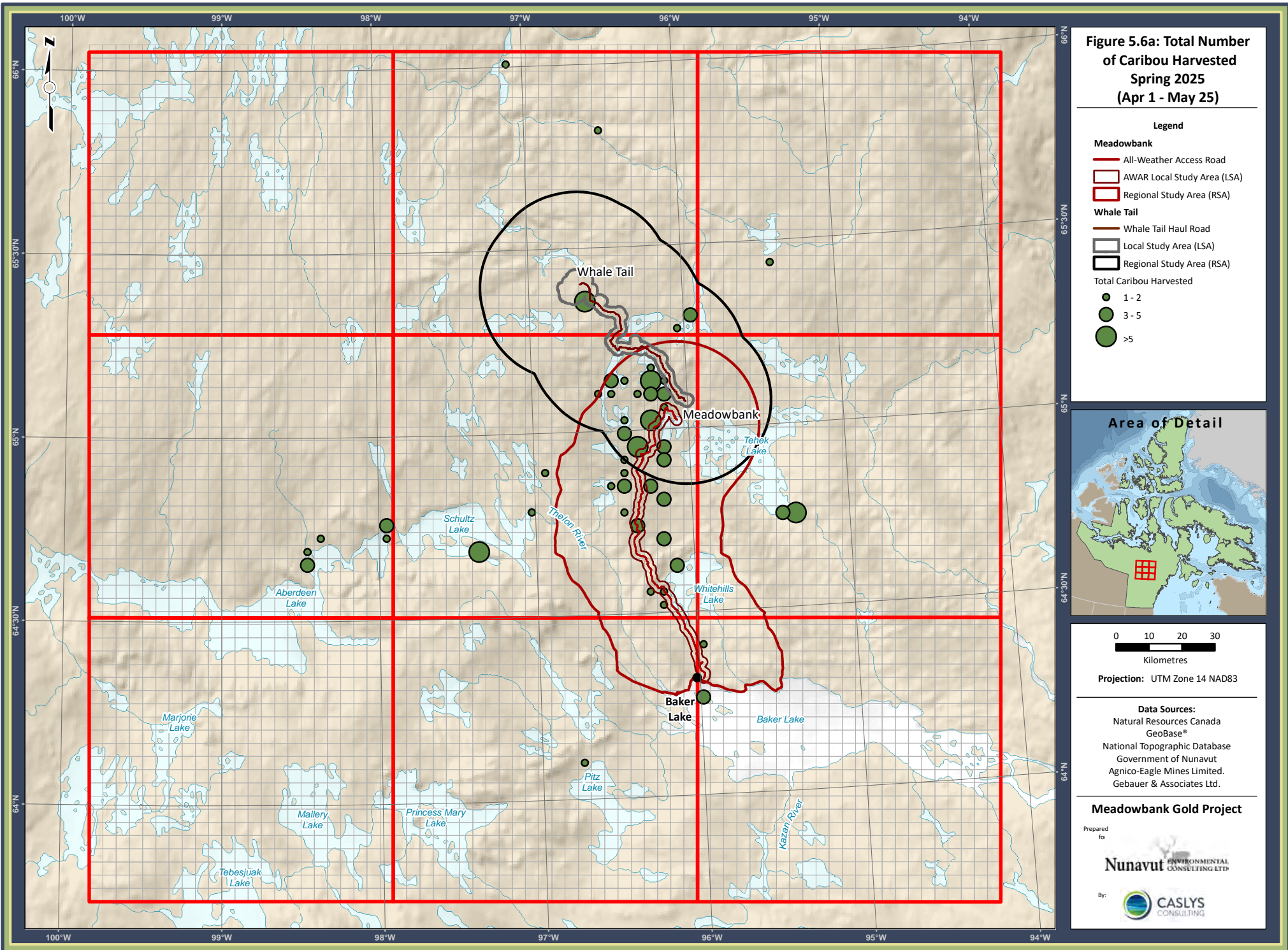


Figure 5.6a: Total Number of Caribou Harvested Spring 2025 (Apr 1 - May 25)

Legend

Meadowbank

- All-Weather Access Road
- AWAR Local Study Area (LSA)
- Regional Study Area (RSA)

Whale Tail

- Whale Tail Haul Road
- Local Study Area (LSA)
- Regional Study Area (RSA)

Total Caribou Harvested

- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- >5



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

Data Sources:
 Natural Resources Canada
 GeoBase®
 National Topographic Database
 Government of Nunavut
 Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited,
 Gebauer & Associates Ltd.

Meadowbank Gold Project

Prepared for:



By:



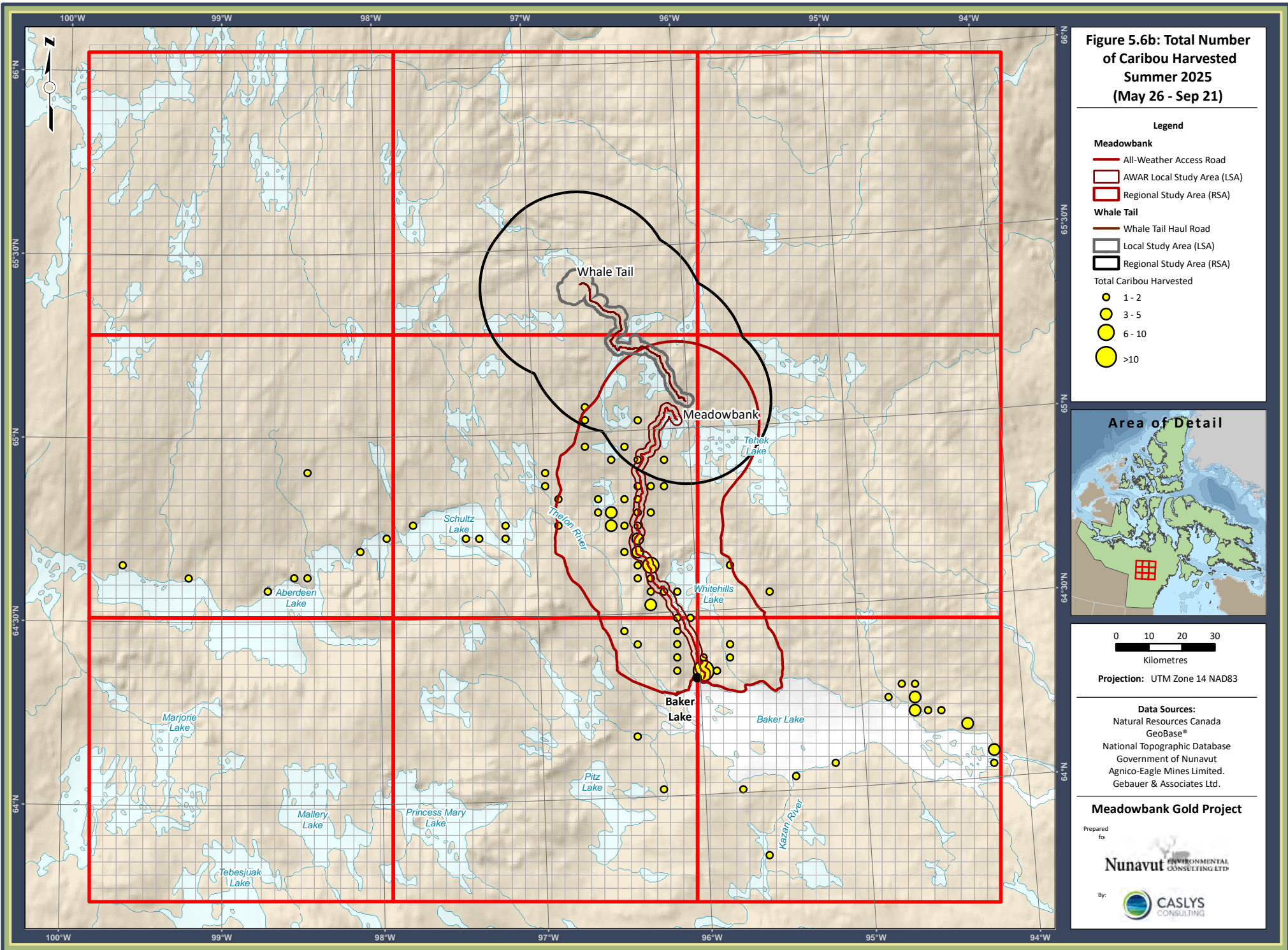


Figure 5.6b: Total Number of Caribou Harvested Summer 2025 (May 26 - Sep 21)

Legend

Meadowbank

- All-Weather Access Road
- AWAR Local Study Area (LSA)
- Regional Study Area (RSA)

Whale Tail

- Whale Tail Haul Road
- Local Study Area (LSA)
- Regional Study Area (RSA)

Total Caribou Harvested

- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 10
- >10



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

Data Sources:
 Natural Resources Canada
 GeoBase®
 National Topographic Database
 Government of Nunavut
 Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited,
 Gebauer & Associates Ltd.

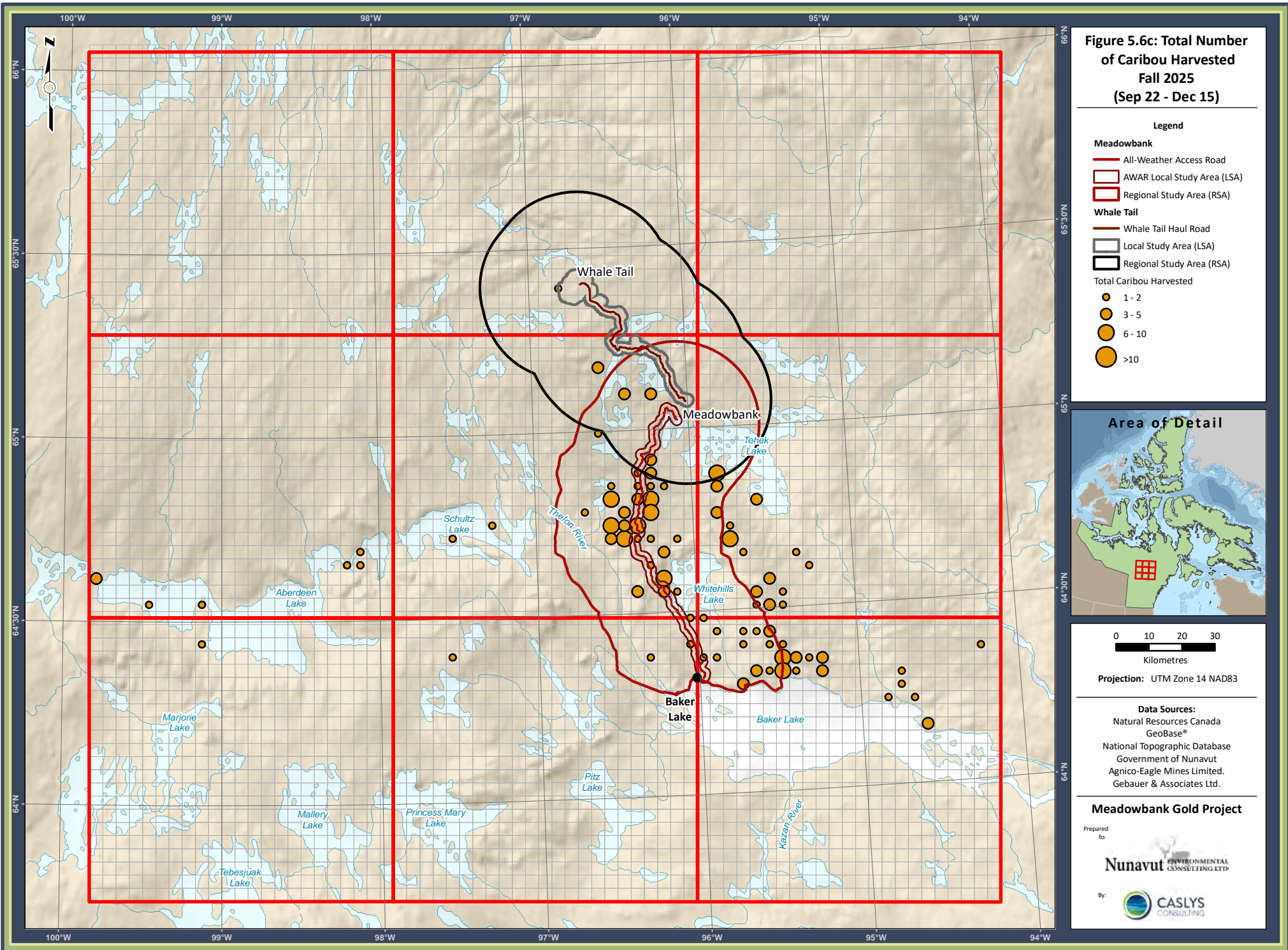
Meadowbank Gold Project

Prepared for:



By:





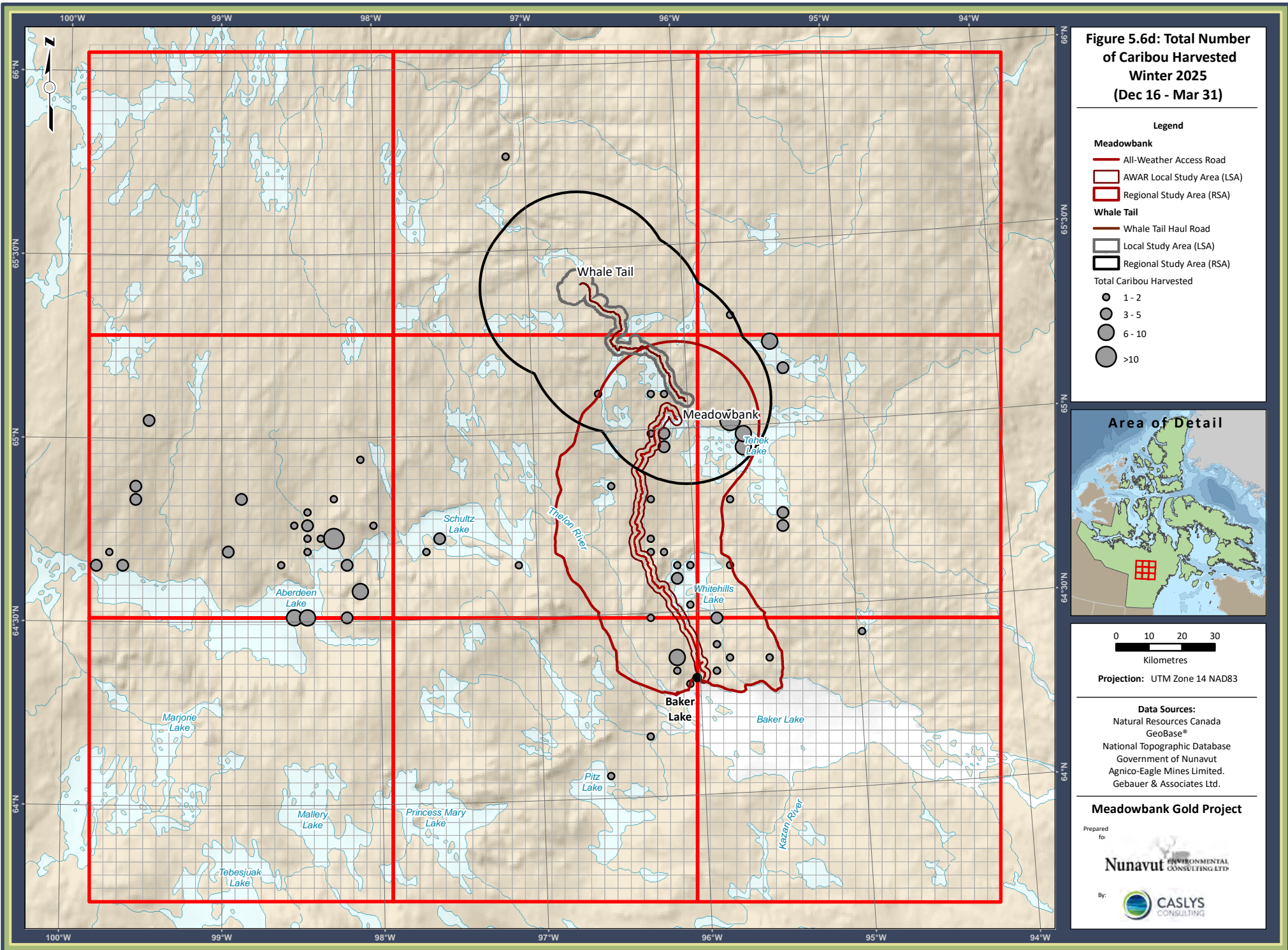


Figure 5.6d: Total Number of Caribou Harvested Winter 2025 (Dec 16 - Mar 31)

Legend

Meadowbank

- All-Weather Access Road
- AWAR Local Study Area (LSA)
- Regional Study Area (RSA)

Whale Tail

- Whale Tail Haul Road
- Local Study Area (LSA)
- Regional Study Area (RSA)

Total Caribou Harvested

- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 10
- >10



0 10 20 30
Kilometres

Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

Data Sources:
 Natural Resources Canada
 GeoBase®
 National Topographic Database
 Government of Nunavut
 Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited,
 Gebauer & Associates Ltd.

Meadowbank Gold Project

Prepared for:

By:

5.5 OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES

Four (4) Muskox were reported as being harvested in 2025, which compares to none in 2024, seven (7) in 2023 and 18 in 2022 (**Table 5.4**). The Muskox were harvested near Whitehills Lake and north of Baker Lake (**Figure 5.7**). Thirty-four (34) Arctic Fox were reported as harvested in 2025 compared to eight (8) in 2024, none in 2023, and 36 in 2022 (**Table 5.4**). Arctic Fox were primarily trapped or harvested close to the Hamlet of Baker Lake and near Whitehills Lake (**Figure 5.7**).

A total of 24 Wolverine was reported as being harvested in 2025, compared to 15 in 2024 and 18 in 2023 (**Table 5.4**). Wolverine in 2025 was hunted along the northwest shore of Baker Lake, in the Whitehills Lake area, along the Thelon River between Schulz and Aberdeen lakes, and at the southwestern end of Baker Lake (see **Figure 5.8**).

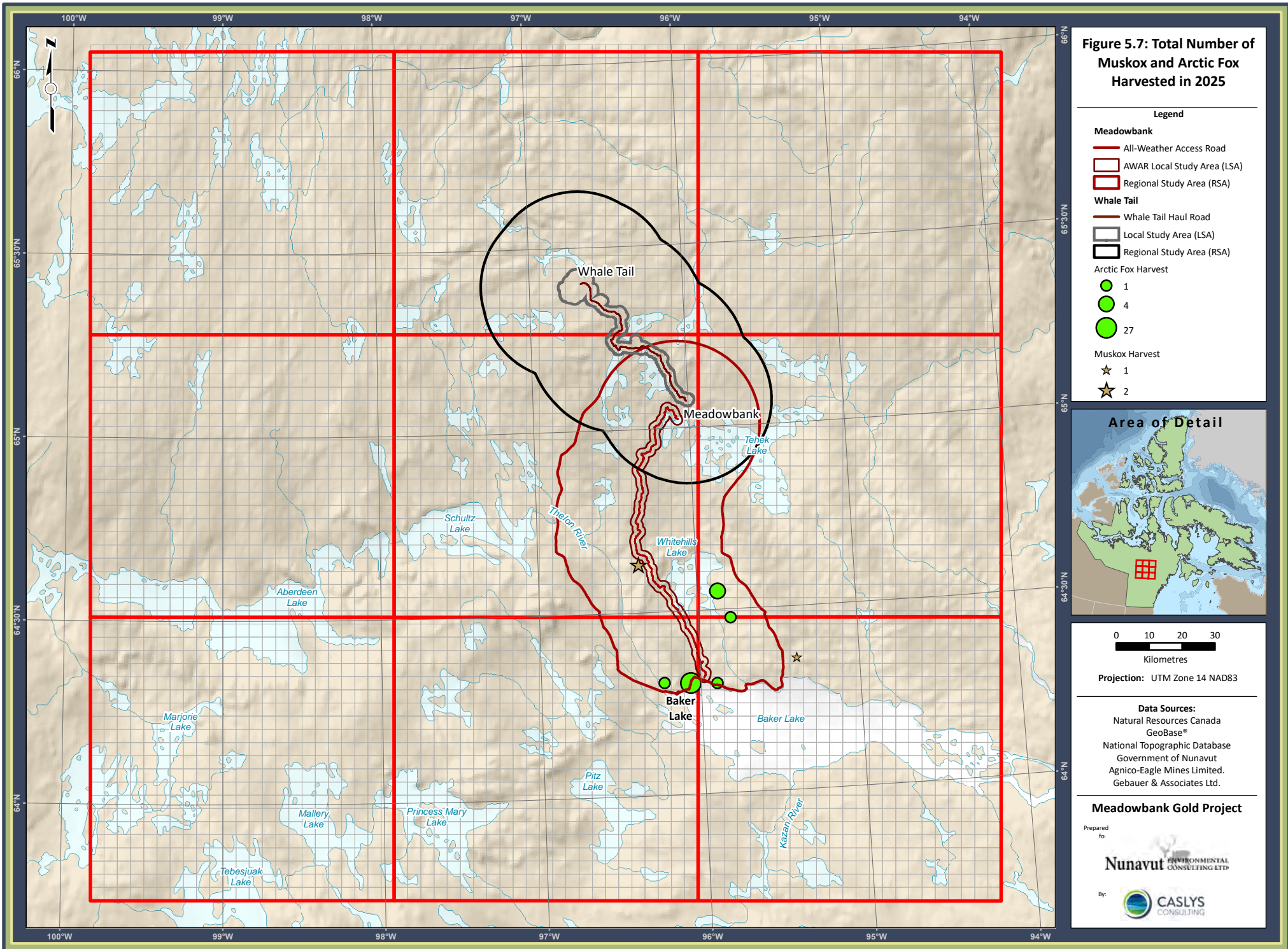
Wolf harvest in 2025 (87 individuals) was similar to reported harvests in 2019, 2020, and 2022 but considerably lower than in 2024 (143 individuals) (**Table 5.4**). Wolves were primarily harvested close to Baker Lake, north of the Whitehills Lake area, around Tehek Lake, and north of Aberdeen Lake (**Figure 5.8**). According to conversations with participants, wolves were considered “overpopulated” in the Baker Lake area. With a \$500 payment for each wolf skull delivered to the wildlife office and the potential to sell a pelt privately, the incentives were high for participants to harvest wolves and receive an additional source of income.

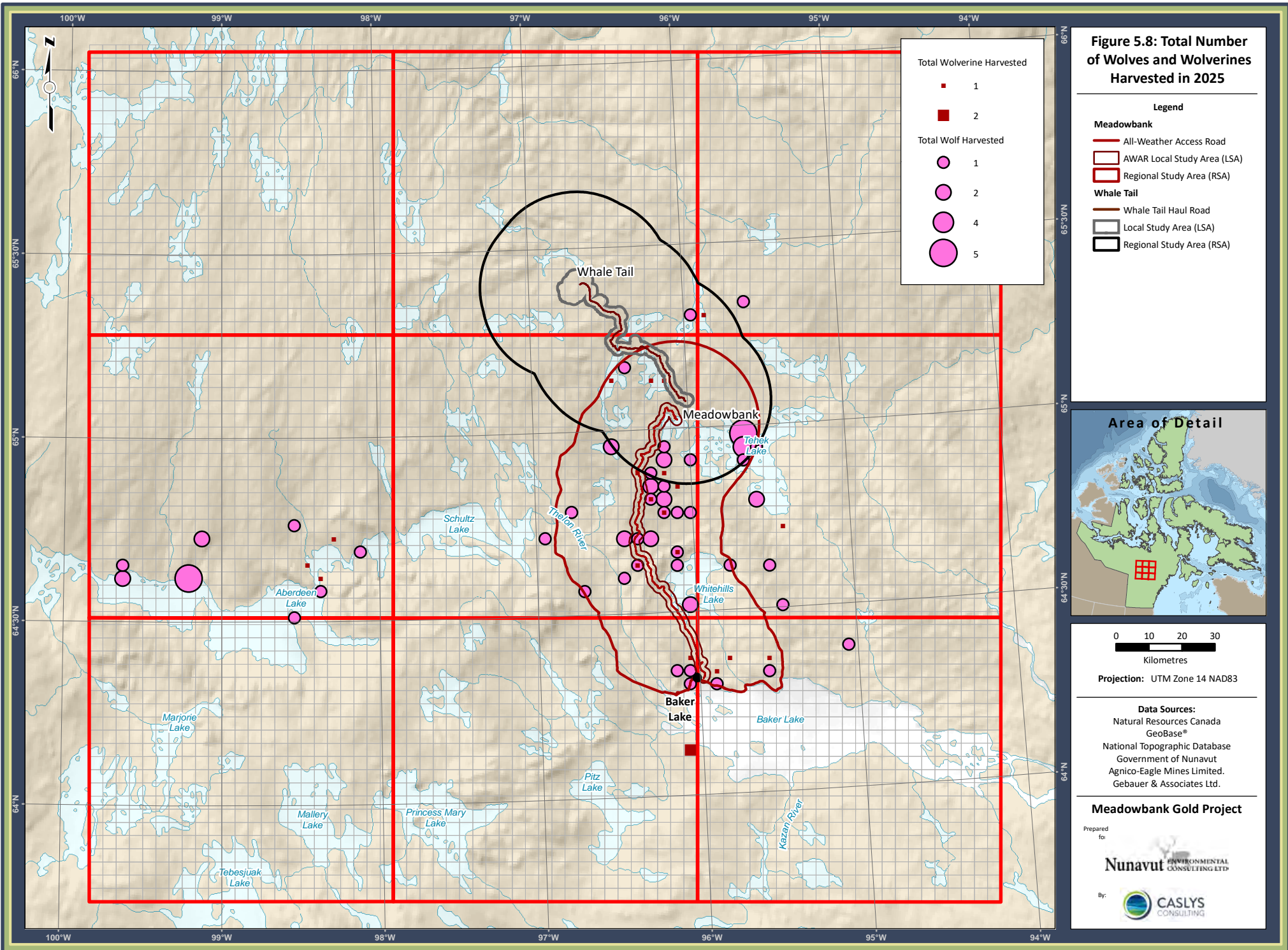
The only other reported harvested mammal species in 2025 was three (3) Ermine (*Mustela richardsonii*).

Table 5.4: Total Number of Terrestrial Mammal Harvests Reported from 2019 to 2025 in the Baker Lake Hunter Harvest Study.

Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
American Marten (<i>Martes americana</i>)				1		1	
Arctic Fox (<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>)	83	11	5	36		8	34
Arctic Ground Squirrel (<i>Uroditellus parryii</i>)		1				5	
Arctic Hare (<i>Lepus arcticus</i>)						10	
Arctic Wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>)	72	88	26	92	47	143	87
Barren-ground Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>)	647	652	513	766	646	820	782
Ermine (<i>Mustela richardsonii</i>)				1		1	3
Grizzly Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)	1	4	1	2	1	2	
Moose (<i>Alces alces</i>)			1				
Muskox (<i>Ovibos moschatus</i>)	4		2	18	7		4
Red Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>)		2	2	1	3		
Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>)	20	22	20	25	18	15	24

Figure 5.7: Total Number of Muskox and Arctic Fox Harvested in 2025





Bird species reported as being harvested in 2025 included Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*; 45), Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*; 1), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*; 2), Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*; 2), ptarmigan sp. (*Lagopus* sp.; 17), Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*; 50), Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*; 2), and Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*; 61). **Table 5.5** summarizes bird harvests reported in the HHS from 2019 to 2025.

In 2025, birds and eggs were reported as being harvested primarily around the Hamlet of Baker Lake (**Figure 5.9**).

Table 5.5: Total Number of Bird Harvests Reported from 2019 to 2025 in the Baker Lake Hunter Harvest Study.

Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	4	9	22	48	82	25	45
Goose sp. (<i>Anser</i> sp.)	2	91	2				
Greater White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>)	1				2		1
Gull sp. (<i>Larus</i> sp.)		11		8	2	10	
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)							2
Long-tailed Duck (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>)							2
Ptarmigan sp. (<i>Lagopus</i> sp.)	11	7	2	25	48	197	17
Sandhill Crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>)				2	1		
Snow Goose (<i>Anser caerulescens</i>)	1	2	2	1	8	13	50
Tundra Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>)				3	2	2	2
Willow Ptarmigan (<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>)							61

For the fourth year in a row, marine mammals were reported as being harvested. One (1) Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and three (3) Ringed Seal (*Pusa hispida*) were reported as being harvested by Baker Lake hunters, but these were outside the HHS boundaries.

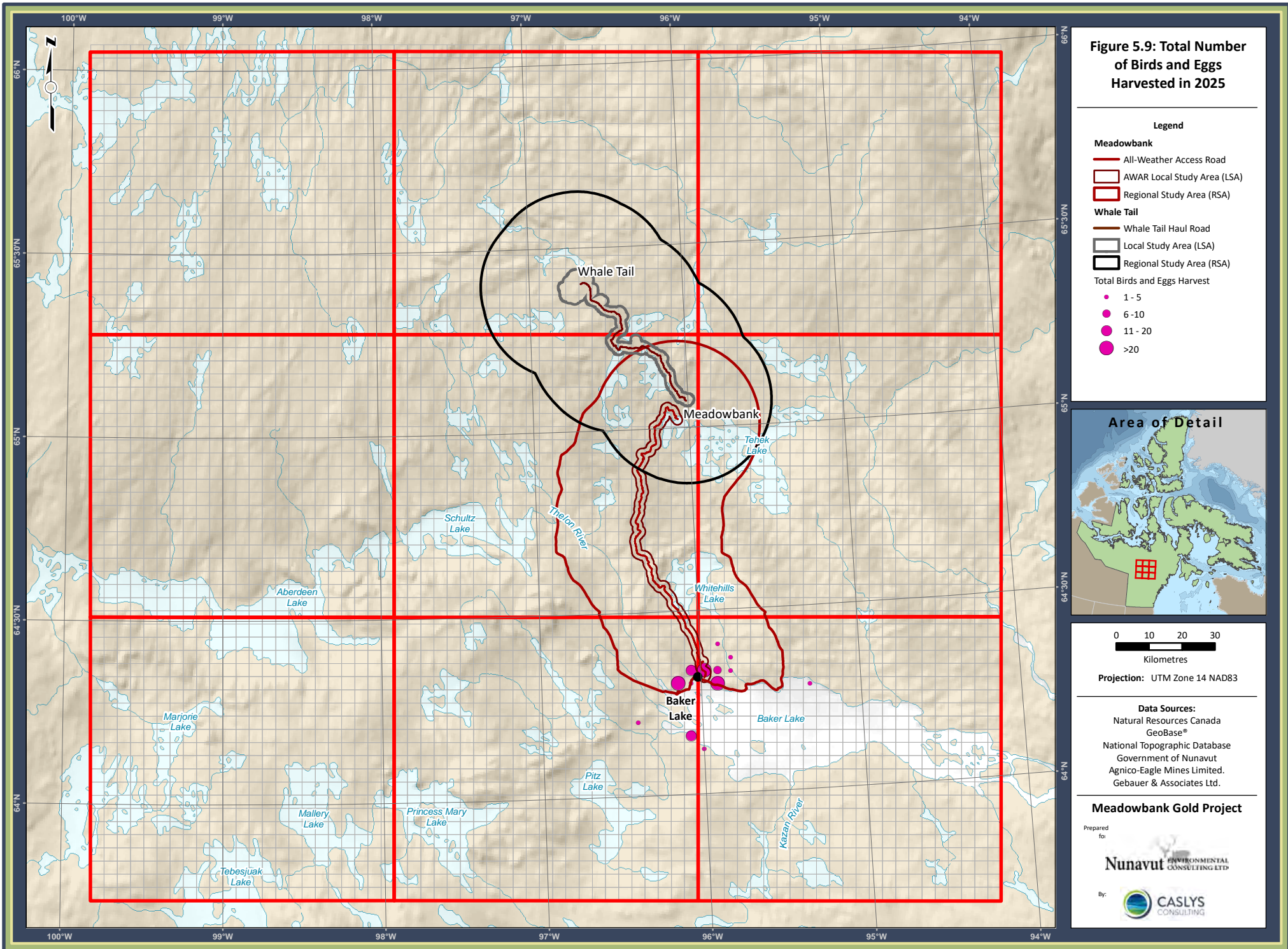


Figure 5.9: Total Number of Birds and Eggs Harvested in 2025

Legend

Meadowbank

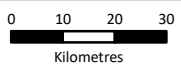
- All-Weather Access Road
- AWAR Local Study Area (LSA)
- Regional Study Area (RSA)

Whale Tail

- Whale Tail Haul Road
- Local Study Area (LSA)
- Regional Study Area (RSA)

Total Birds and Eggs Harvest

- 1 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 20
- >20



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

Data Sources:
 Natural Resources Canada
 GeoBase®
 National Topographic Database
 Government of Nunavut
 Agnico-Eagle Mines Limited,
 Gebauer & Associates Ltd.

Meadowbank Gold Project

Prepared for:

By:

SECTION 6 • 2025 CREEL SURVEY RESULTS

6.1 NUMBER OF FISHERMEN

The number of fishermen reporting successful fishing trips in 2025 was 38, which is higher than the average of 25 fisherman from 2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2024 (15 years), and slightly higher than the number of fisherman reporting success in 2024 (i.e., 34). The highest number of fisherman reporting success in 2025 were in May and June, which is consistent with seasonal fishing patterns in other years (see **Table 6.1** and **Section 6.4 Magnitude of Fishing**).

Table 6.1: Number of Fisherman in the Baker Lake Area who have Recorded Fishing Success by Year and Month.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2007			4	6	7	1	1		1				20
2008	1	1	2	6	6	6	4	3			2	1	32
2009	2	2	5	10	9	9	9	6	1	8	2	2	65
2010			6	13	18	17	13	4	2	2	3	1	79
2011	1	3	6	15	21	18	9	6	2	9	9	5	104
2012	3	1	1	7	7	18	12	4	3	9	7	3	75
2013			2	5	4	11	9	1		2	1	1	36
2014	2	1	1	4	6	3	4	2		2	2	2	29
2015	1	1	1	2	9	8	6	2		3	4	2	39
2019	1	2	3	12	14	15	7	3	1	1	8	4	71
2020				1	6	9	9	5	1	4	3		38
2021	1		3	3	15	15	3	4	1	1	4		50
2022	2		2	4	16	16	7	2	3	3	2		57
2023				10	13	12	6	7	2	2	5		57
2024	1			2	18	12	6	3		3	4	1	50
2025				5	26	16	6	4			6		63
Total	15	11	36	105	195	186	111	56	17	49	62	22	865

6.2 COMPOSITION OF CATCH

The most common fish species captured, Lake Trout, represented 71% of the total catch in 2025, which was higher than in the last two years (i.e., 2023 and 2024) (see **Table 6.2**). Lake Trout catch in 2025 (i.e., 627 individuals) was just below the average of 646 from 2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2024 (see **Table 6.2**). Arctic Char were caught at higher numbers in 2025 (124 individuals) than the average of 71 from 2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2024 (see **Table 6.2**). Lake Whitefish were captured in relatively low numbers in 2025.

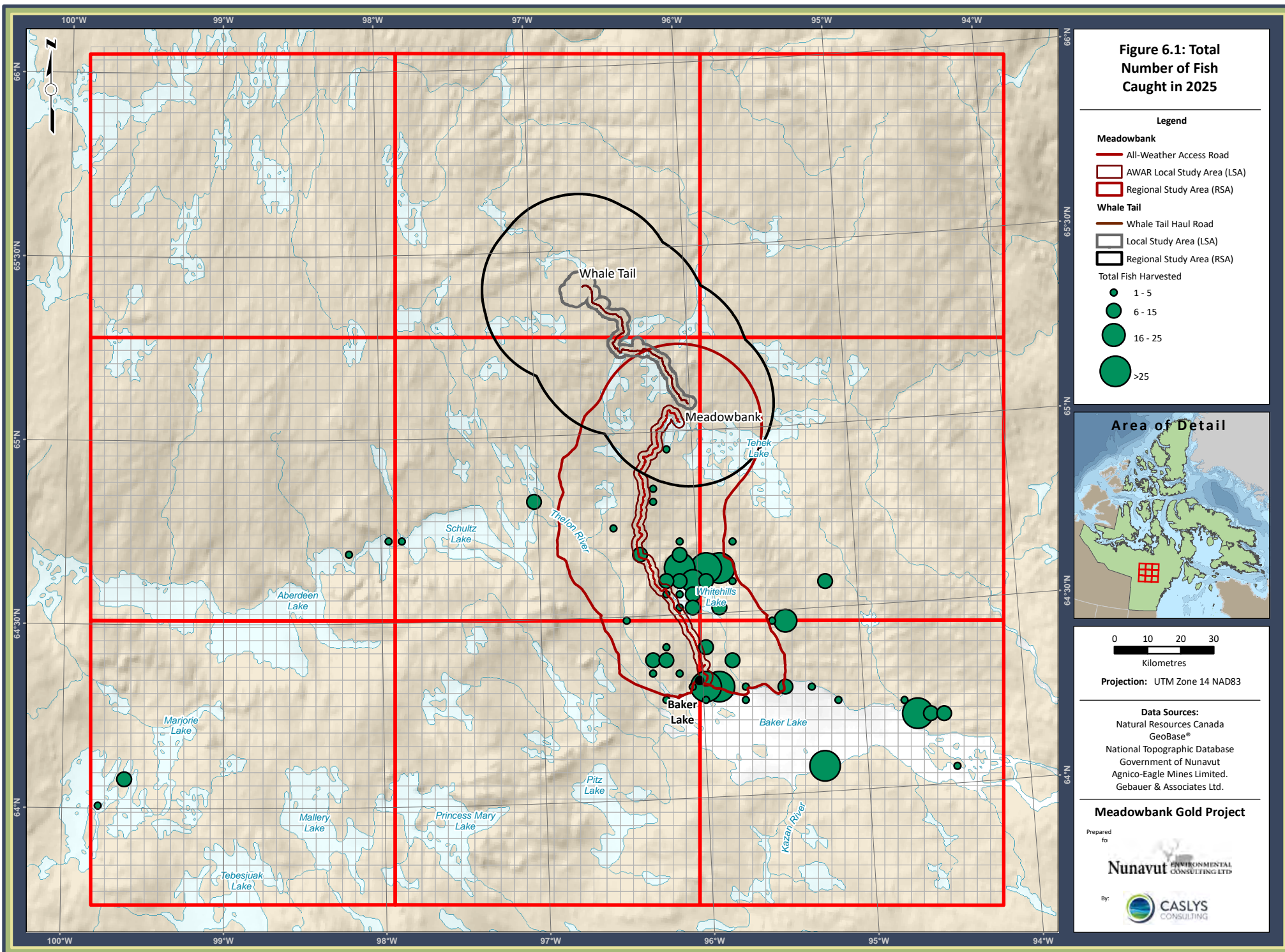
Table 6.2: Total Number of Fish Caught between 2007 and 2015, and 2019 to 2025.

Year	Arctic Char	Arctic Grayling	Lake Trout	Lake Whitefish	Unidentified	Total #	%Char	% Lake Trout
2007	3		210			213	1	99
2008	24		825	192		1,041	2	79
2009	117	1	525	51		694	17	76
2010	103	3	860	326		1,292	8	67
2011	113	1	1,710	460		2,284	5	75
2012	24	1	1,014	471		1,510	2	67
2013	96		490	50		636	15	77
2014	22		353	651		1,026	2	34
2015	41	29	370	1,386		1,826	2	20
2019	89		900	1,573	119	2,681	3	34
2020	75		219	32	2	328	23	67
2021	54	1	481	184	1	721	7	67
2022	202	1	894	147		1,244	16	72
2023	52		490	183	2	727	7	67
2024	48		356	300		704	7	51
Avg # (2007-2024)	71	2	646	400	8	1,128	8	63
2025	124		627	132		883	14	71
Avg # (All Years)	74	2	645	384	8	1,113	8	64
Total #	1,187	37	10,324	6,138	124	17,810		

6.3 DISTRIBUTION OF FISHING

Fishing trips, regardless of success rate, did not generally occur beyond the immediate areas of Baker Lake, Whitehills Lake, and the lower AWAR (see **Figure 6.1**). Some fishing occurred along the Thelon River system and along the northeastern shore of Baker Lake (**Figure 6.1**). As was the case in other years, results indicate that study participants are less willing to travel long distances to catch fish, regardless of AWAR access, likely due to the abundance of fish near the Hamlet of Baker Lake and around Whitehills Lake.

Figure 6.1: Total Number of Fish Caught in 2025



6.4 MAGNITUDE OF FISHING

The average number of fish harvested per fisherman in each month was highest in July and November with lower averages in the other spring and summer months (**Figure 6.2**). In 2025, the most captured fish species, in order of abundance, were Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, and Arctic Char (see **Table 6.2**). Higher numbers of Lake Trout and Arctic Char were reported as being caught in 2025 compared to 2023 and 2024.

6.5 SEASONAL TIMING OF FISHING

In 2025, fishing periods with the most active fisherman were May and June, which is comparable to other years (see **Table 6.1**). Across all reporting years, the periods with the most fish caught included the summer months (May and June), which reflects the high number of Lake Trout caught by fisherman heading out on the land after ice melt, and November (**Figure 6.3**). This seasonal pattern can be observed in the trends from 2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2024 (**Figure 6.3**).

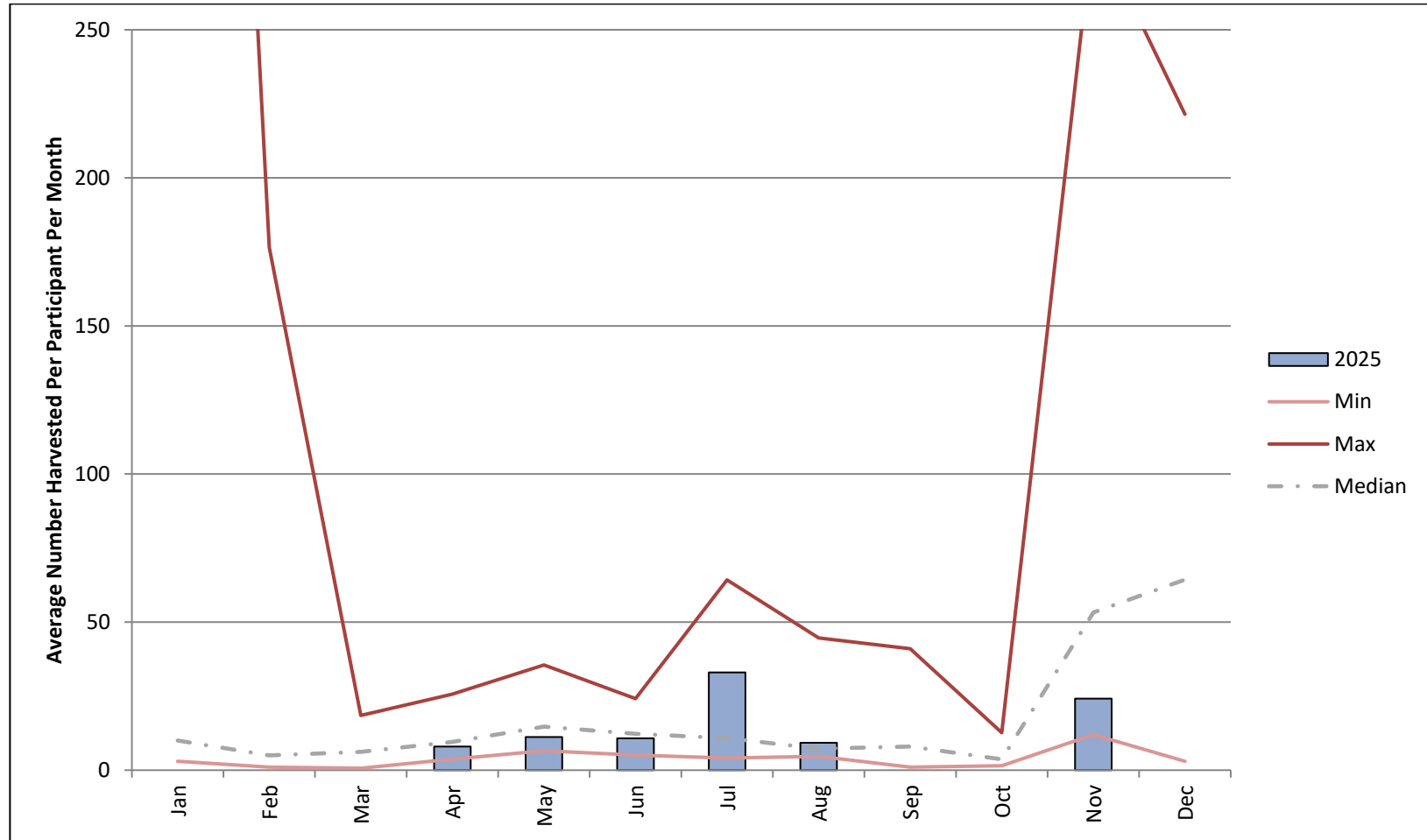


Figure 6.2: Average Number of Fish Caught per Participant in 2025 and the Minimum and Maximum Range from 2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2024.

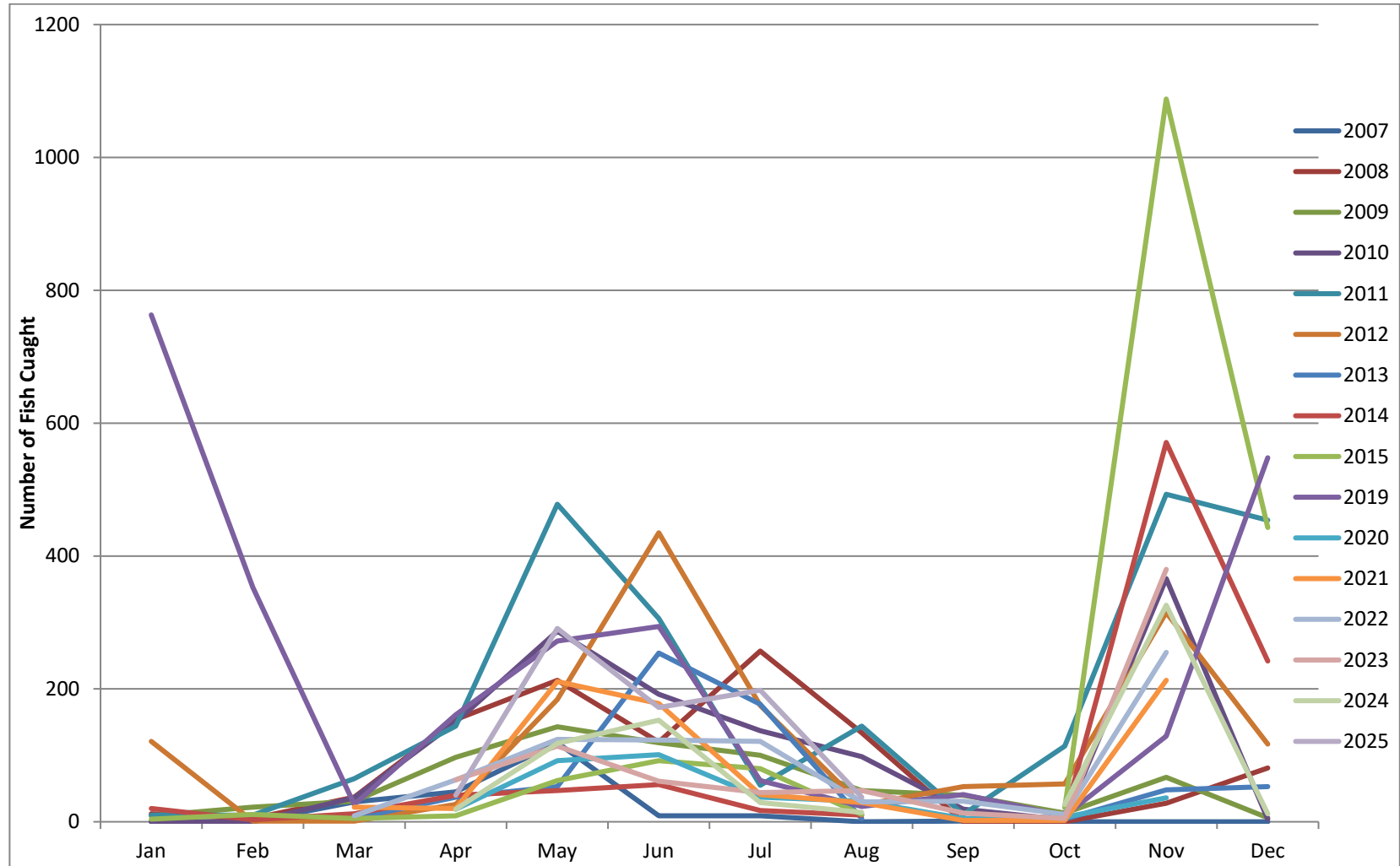


Figure 6.3: Seasonal Trends in Fishing (Number of Fish Caught) in the Baker Lake Area from 2007 to 2015 and 2019 to 2025.

SECTION 7 • ACCURACY OF IMPACT PREDICTIONS

Table 7.1 provides a summary of the impact predictions identified in the original TEMP (Cumberland 2006) and the updated March 2025 version 9 (Agnico Eagle 2025). The 2025 HHS data were compared to the impact prediction thresholds to evaluate adherence to the impact predictions and the provision of adaptive management, as either a necessary or proactive measure. No thresholds were surpassed in 2025.

Table 7.1: Accuracy of Impact Predictions – 2025 Baker Lake HHS

Potential Effect	Threshold	RSA (67-87% of Harvest within Meadowbank RSA) 20% Threshold Exceeded (2025)?	Adaptive Management Implemented	Status
Meadowbank All-Weather Access Road (AWAR)				
Hunting by Baker Lake Residents	The AWAR will not result in significant changes in the spatial distribution, seasonal pattern, or harvest levels of Caribou kills by Baker Lake hunters. Changes will not exceed 20% of historical harvest activities within the RSA	NO (56% of Caribou harvest in RSA in 2025 compared to NWMB baseline of 67% and average harvest within RSA of 80% since 2007)	Discussions with HTO and GN representatives required to identify management options	HHS
Whale Tail Haul Road (WTHR)				
Potential Effect	Threshold	Change in Harvest?	Adaptive Management Implemented	Status
Hunting by Baker Lake Residents	No change in harvest	UNCERTAIN (38 Caribou harvests recorded within 5 km of the WTHR; 156 Caribou harvests reported within RSA; high numbers of Caribou reported by study participants; most harvests reported during winter when snowmobile access is possible; additional year or two of study required to determine whether increased hunting trend continues)	Public access is not permitted along the WTHR	HHS Satellite-collaring Program

SECTION 8 • MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Baker Lake HHS and Creel Survey should be continued to monitor the hunting and fishing patterns of Baker Lake residents, and the potential effects of the Meadowbank Complex Mine. Regular meetings with participants are particularly important in maintaining contact, building relationships, expanding the study, and collecting good harvest data. Participation rates can be maintained by continuing to use social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, expanding connections on these platforms, ensuring that all participants are visited during scheduled field visits, and continuing with distribution of the well-received year-end prizes for all participants and special prizes for participants with long-term participation. In addition, an effort should be made to continue recruiting new, particularly young, hunters for the HHS.

SECTION 9 • LITERATURE CITED

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. (AEM) 2025. Meadowbank Division, Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Plan. Version 9, March 2025.

Cumberland Resources Ltd. 2006. Meadowbank Gold Mine Project Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Plan (TEMP). Final Report, December 2006.

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NWMB, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. 2004. The Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study. Prepared by Priest, H., Harvest Study Coordinator, NWMB and Usher, P. J., P.J. Usher Consulting Services.

APPENDIX A

2025 Hunter Harvest Calendar



















September | ᑭᑎᐱᑎ 2025

Baker Lake Harvest Study
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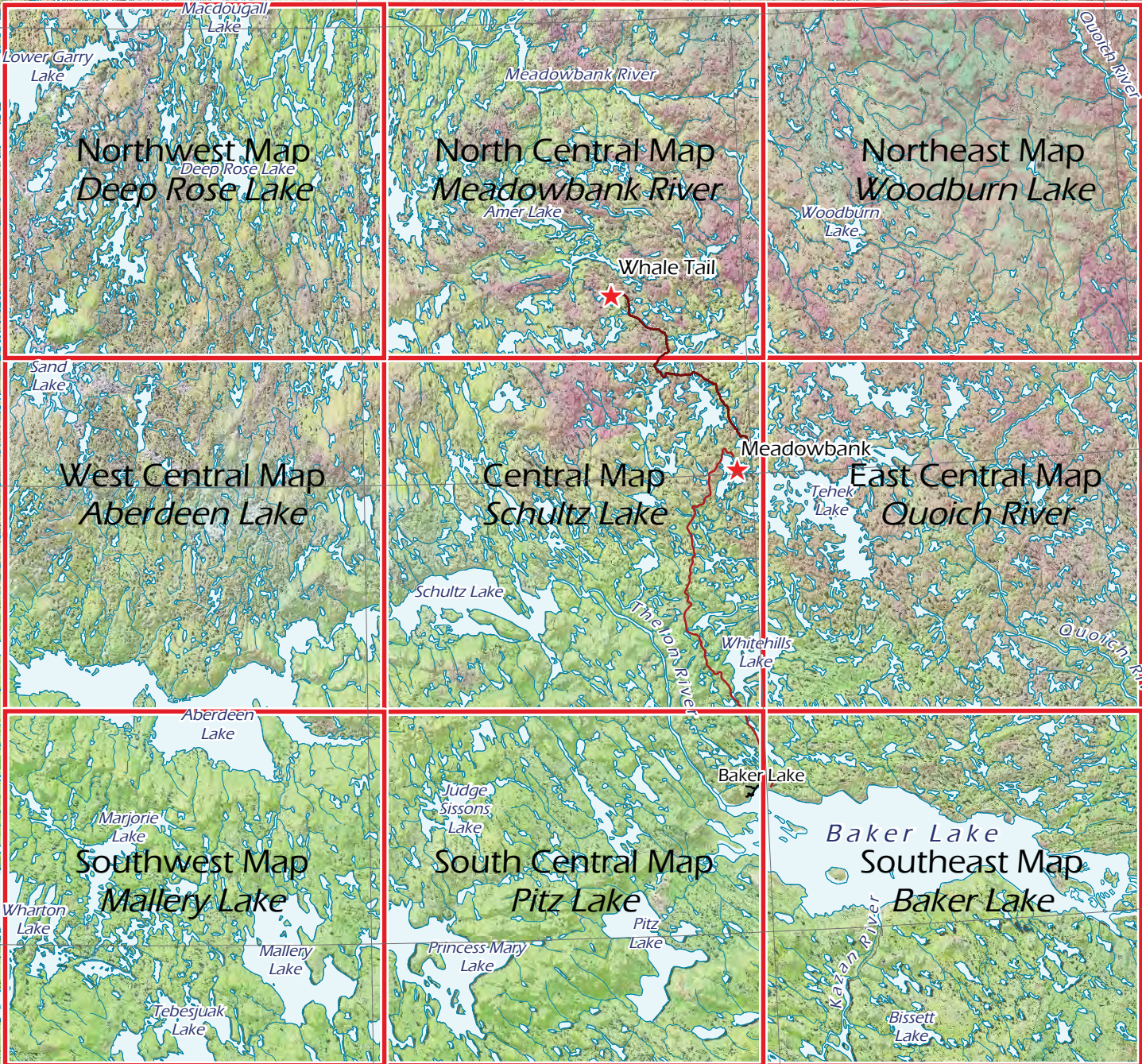




Georgina Kamimmalik



KEY MAP



*Baker Lake
Harvest Study*

*Northwest Map
Deep Rose Lake*

Key Map

 Deep Rose Lake	 Meadowbank River	 Woodburn Lake
 Aberdeen Lake	 Schultz Lake	 Quoich River
 Mallery Lake	 Pitz Lake	 Baker Lake



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

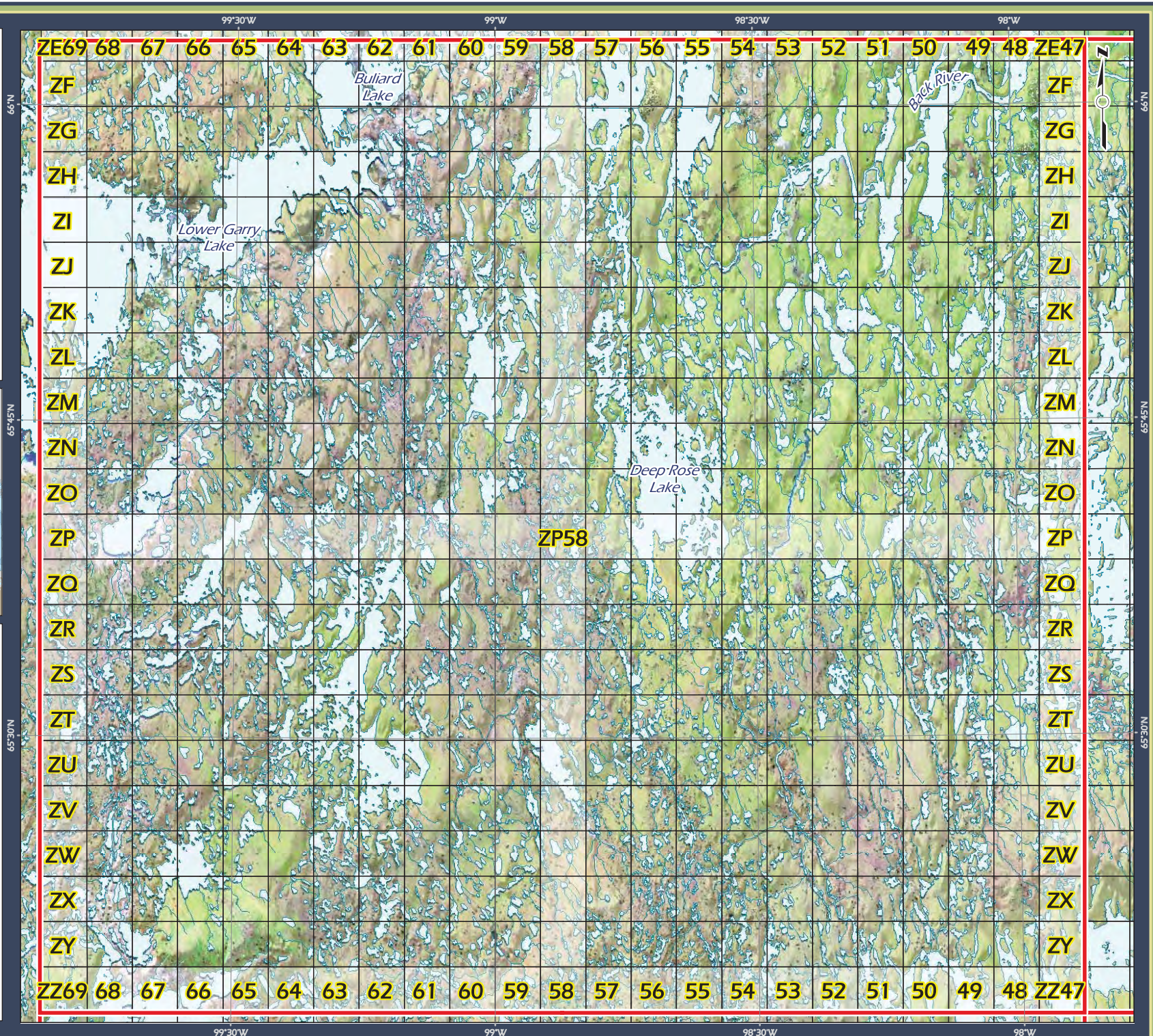
Data Sources:

Natural Resources Canada
GeoBase®
National Topographic Database
Government of Nunavut
Agnico-Eagle Mines Inc.
Caslys Consulting Ltd.

Prepared for:



By:



**Baker Lake
Harvest Study**

**West Central Map
Aberdeen Lake**

Key Map

Deep Rose Meadowbank Lake	River	Woodburn Lake
Aberdeen Lake	Schultz Lake	Quoich River
Mallery Lake	Pitz Lake	Baker Lake



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

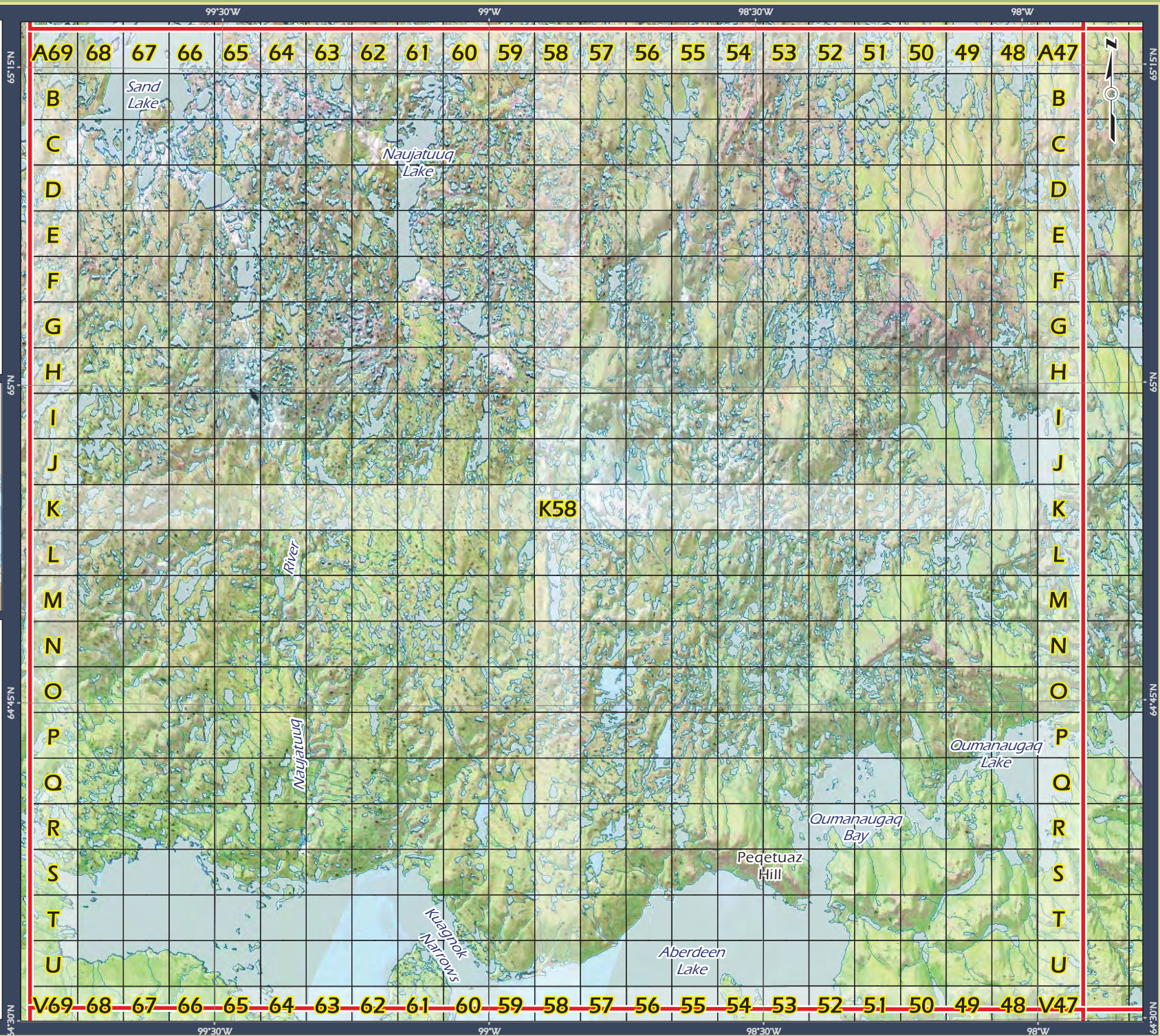
Data Sources:

- Natural Resources Canada GeoBase®
- National Topographic Database Government of Nunavut
- Agnico-Eagle Mines Inc.
- Caslys Consulting Ltd.

Prepared for:



By:



*Baker Lake
Harvest Study*

*Southwest Map
Mallery Lake*

Key Map

Deep Rose Lake	Meadowbank River	Woodburn Lake
Aberdeen Lake	Schultz Lake	Quoich River
Mallery Lake	Pitz Lake	Baker Lake



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

Data Sources:

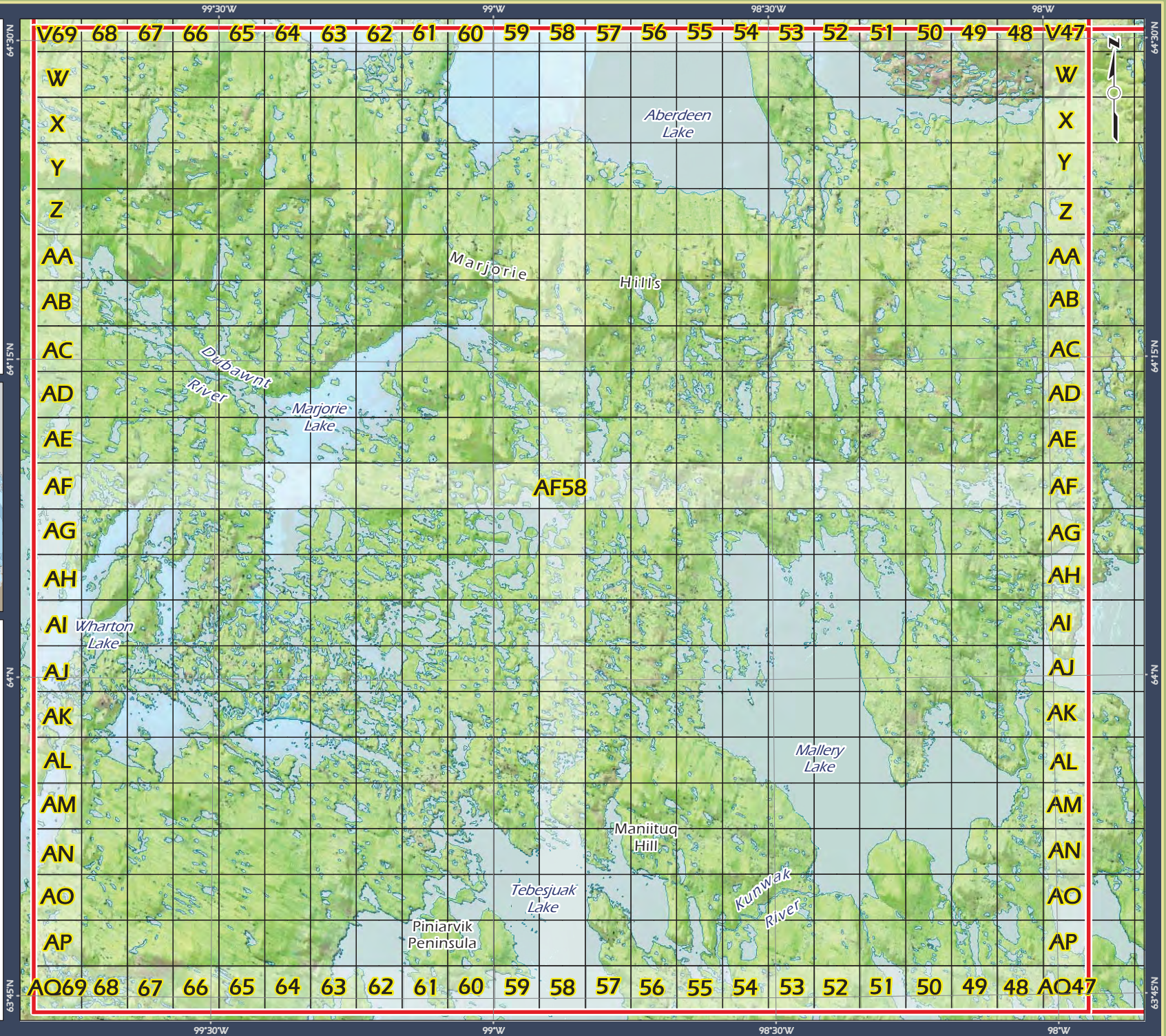
Natural Resources Canada
GeoBase®
National Topographic Database
Government of Nunavut
Agnico-Eagle Mines Inc.
Caslys Consulting Ltd.

Prepared for:



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Nunavut ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING LTD

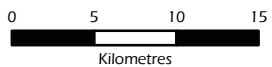


Baker Lake
Harvest Study

North Central Map
Meadowbank River

Key Map

Deep Rose Lake	Meadowbank River	Woodburn Lake
Aberdeen Lake	Schultz Lake	Quoich River
Mallery Lake	Pitz Lake	Baker Lake



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

Data Sources:

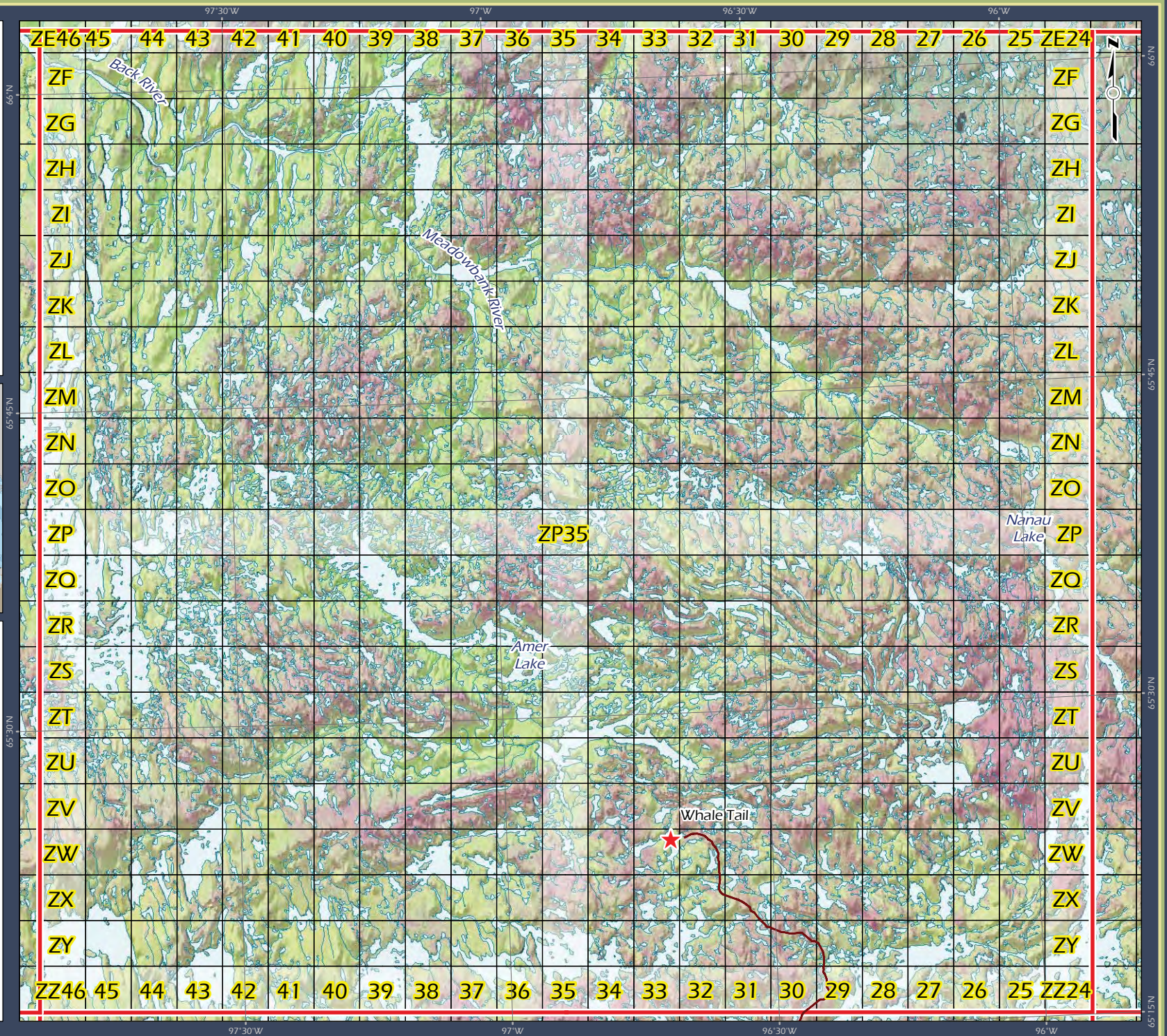
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- GeoBase®
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- Government of Nunavut
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- Caslys Consulting Ltd.

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By:

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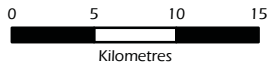
Baker Lake Harvest Study

Central Map Schultz Lake

Key Map

Deep Rose Lake	Meadowbank River	Woodburn Lake
Aberdeen Lake	Schultz Lake	Quoich River
Mallery Lake	Pitz Lake	Baker Lake

Area of Detail



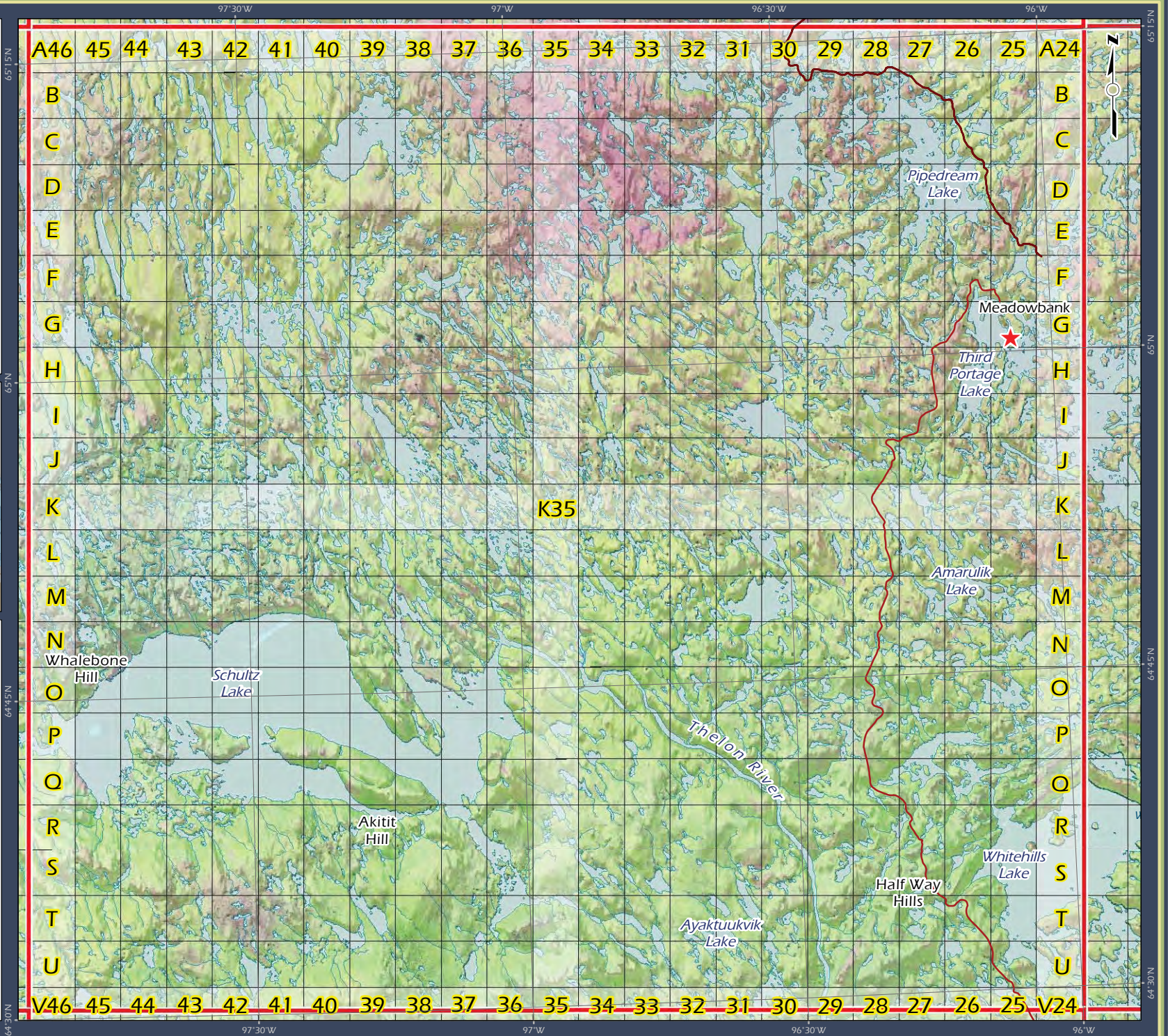
Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

Data Sources:
 Natural Resources Canada
 GeoBase®
 National Topographic Database
 Government of Nunavut
 Agnico-Eagle Mines Inc.
 Caslys Consulting Ltd.

Prepared for:



By:



Baker Lake Harvest Study

South Central Map Pitz Lake

Key Map

Deep Rose Lake	Meadowbank River	Woodburn Lake
Aberdeen Lake	Schultz Lake	Quoich River
Mallery Lake	Pitz Lake	Baker Lake



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

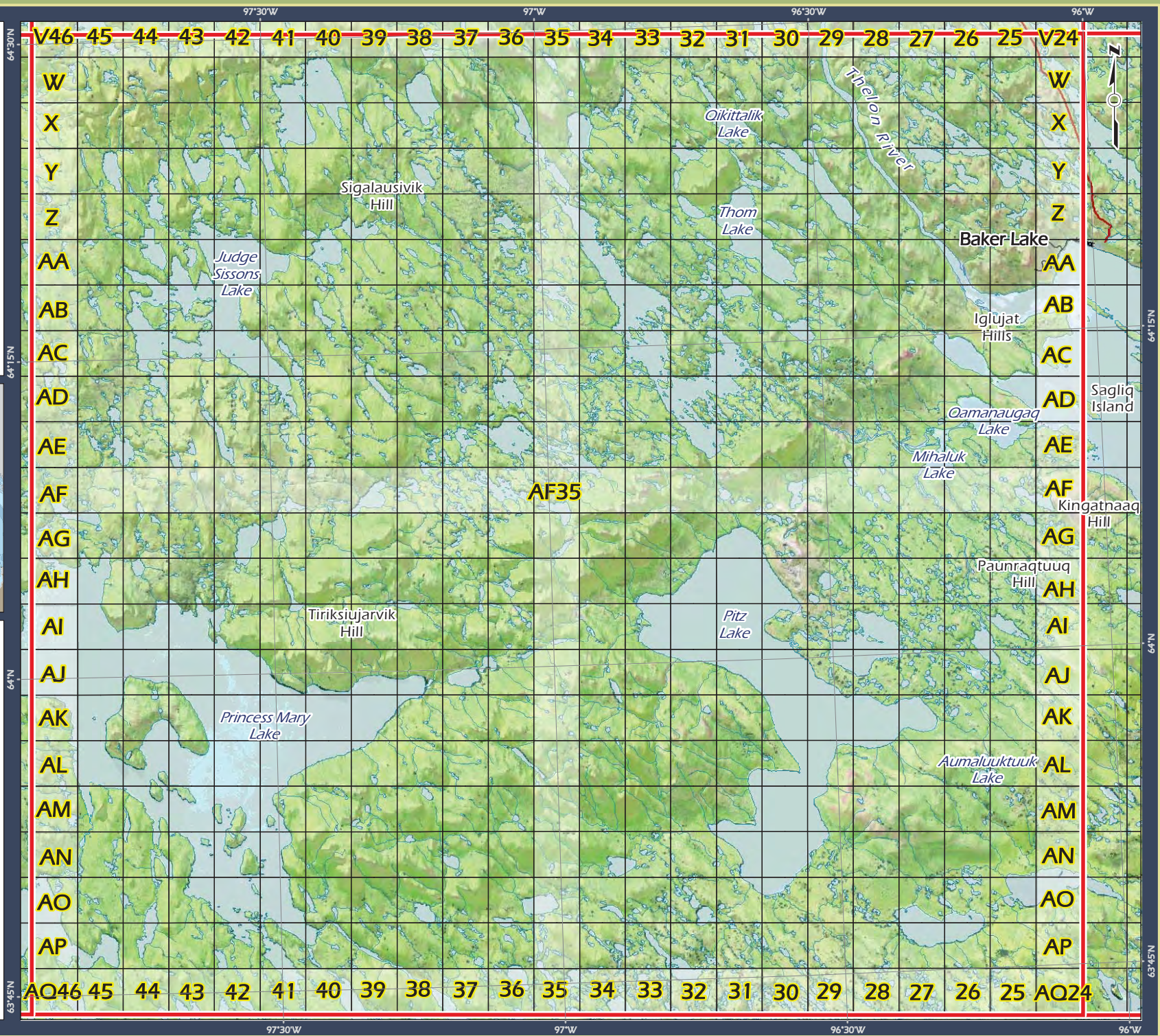
Data Sources:

Natural Resources Canada
GeoBase®
National Topographic Database
Government of Nunavut
Agnico-Eagle Mines Inc.
Caslys Consulting Ltd.

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By:



64°30'N
64°15'N
64°N
63°45'N

97°30'W 97°W 96°30'W 96°W

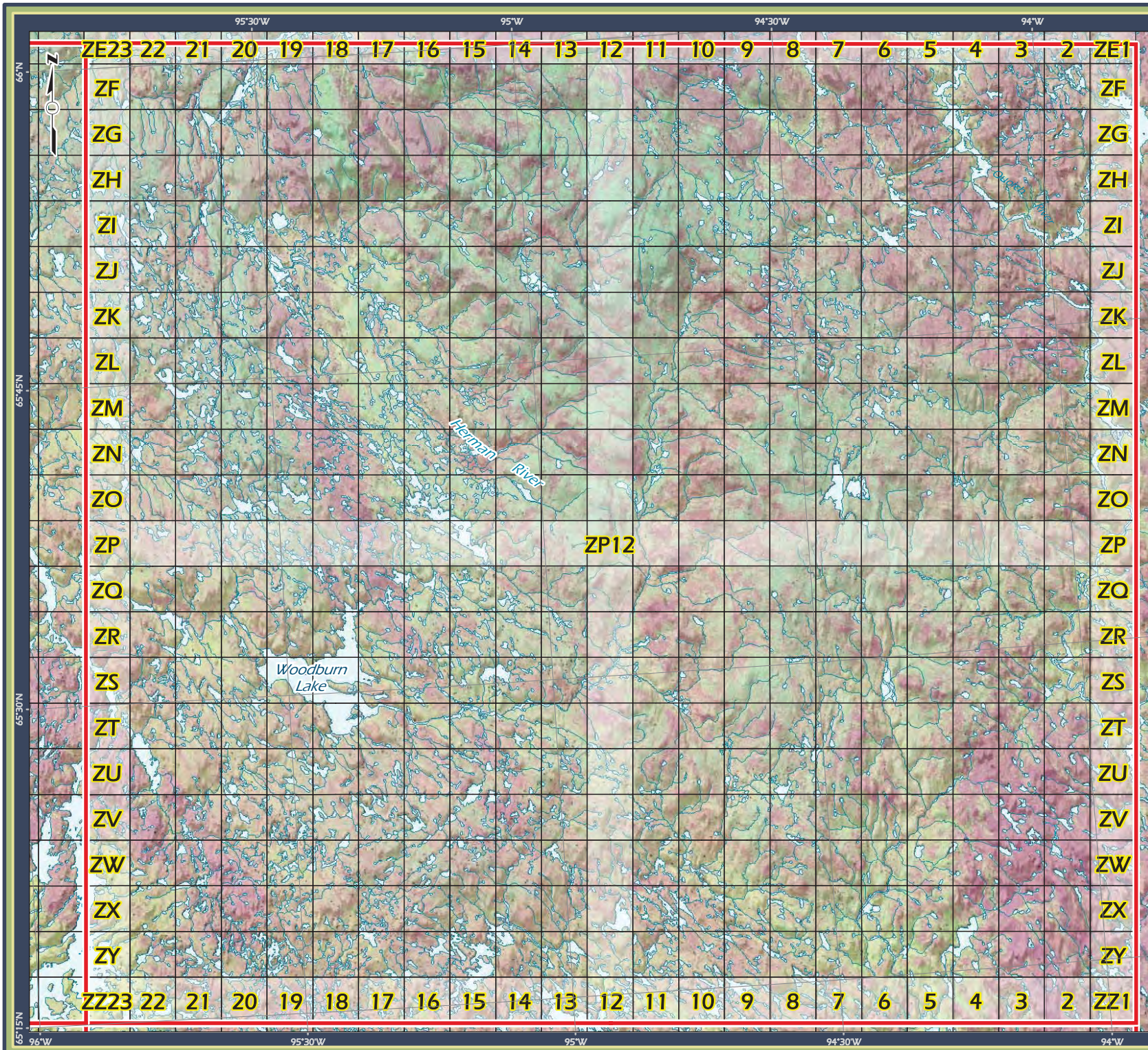
97°30'W 97°W 96°30'W 96°W

V46 45 44 43 42 41 40 39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 V24

W X Y Z AA AB AC AD AE AF AG AH AI AJ AK AL AM AN AO AP

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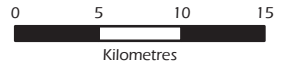


*Baker Lake
Harvest Study*

*Northeast Map
Woodburn Lake*

Key Map

Deep Rose Lake	Meadowbank River	Woodburn Lake
Aberdeen Lake	Schultz Lake	Quoich River
Mallery Lake	Pitz Lake	Baker Lake



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

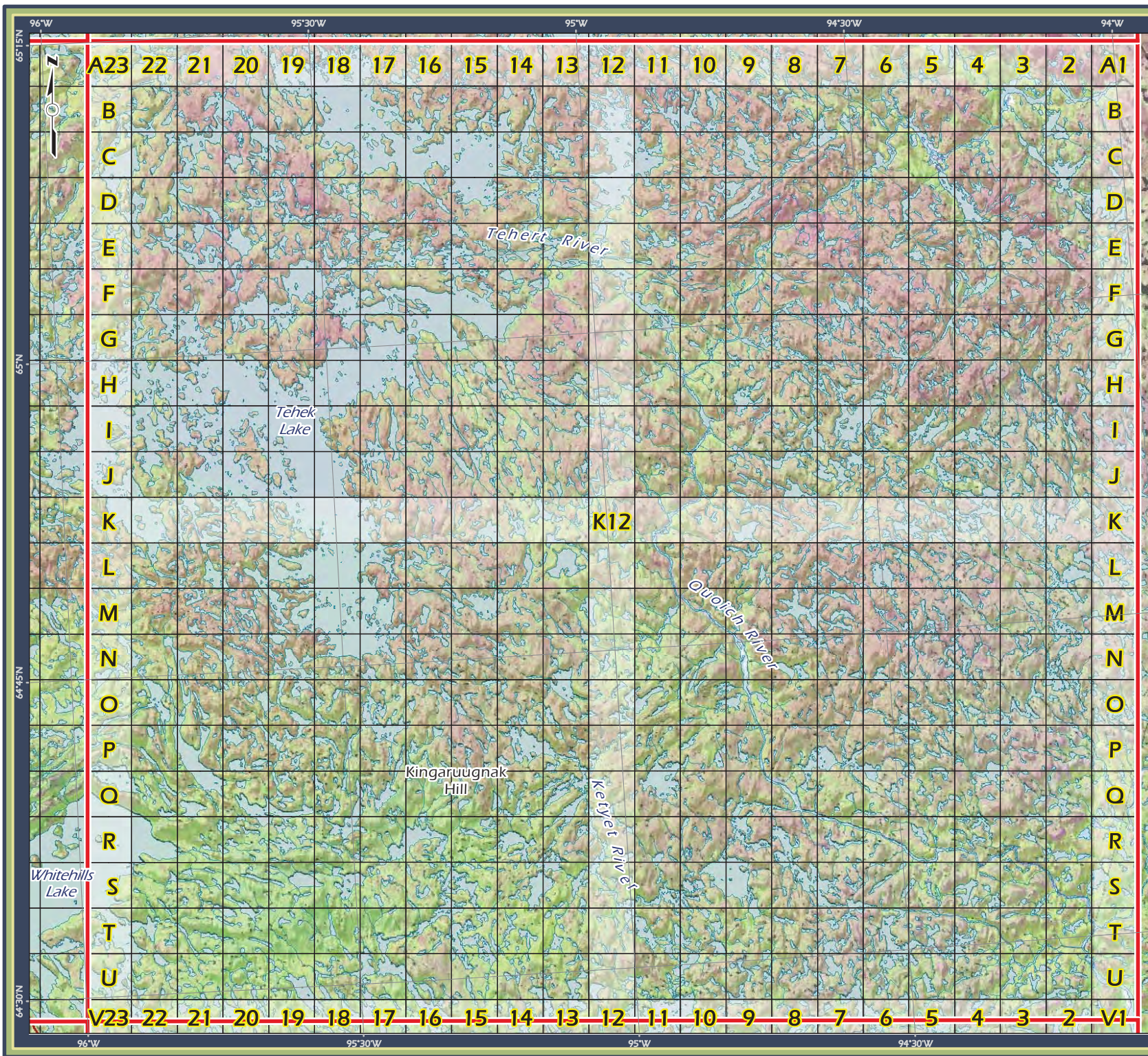
Data Sources:
 Natural Resources Canada
 GeoBase®
 National Topographic Database
 Government of Nunavut
 Agnico-Eagle Mines Inc.
 Caslys Consulting Ltd.

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By:





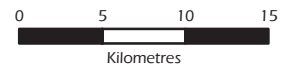
*Baker Lake
Harvest Study*

*East Center Map
Quoiich River*

Key Map

Deep Rose Lake	Meadowbank River	Woodburn Lake
Aberdeen Lake	Schultz Lake	Quoiich River
Mallery Lake	Pitz Lake	Baker Lake

Area of Detail



Projection: UTM Zone 14 NAD83

Data Sources:
 Natural Resources Canada
 GeoBase®
 National Topographic Database
 Government of Nunavut
 Agnico-Eagle Mines Inc.
 Caslys Consulting Ltd.

Prepared for:



By:



Produced By:



AGNICO EAGLE



and

