



Ekaluktutuiak Hunters & Trappers Organization

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APPROVAL OF HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATIONS

Project Title: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) 2025 Proposed Research on Cambridge Bay Arctic Char including:

- Fishery-independent sampling of Arctic char and other species of subsistence and ecological importance.
- Contaminants/Microplastics Studies including Kitiga River sampling (B. Hamilton – Environment and Climate Change Canada)
- Temperature and Aerobic Scope/Physiology Studies (M. Gilbert –University of Alaska)
- Continued Acoustic Telemetry Studies of Char (and other species of subsistence importance – lake trout, ogacs and kanayoks) in the Region (Les Harris – DFO, JS Moore – Universite Laval).
- eDNA sampling as part of the Arctic Net proposal.

Project Leaders:

Les N. Harris (DFO),

Matthew Gilbert (University of Alaska),

Jean-Sébastien Moore (Universite Laval), and

Bonnie Hamilton (Environment and Climate Change Canada)

The specific objectives of our 2025 proposed research are to:

1. Continue the collection of fishery-independent data from Arctic char harvested for subsistence purposes to establish a time series of biological (including, length, weight and age) for the region. Bycatch from subsistence gill nets will also be monitored through the use of logbooks. These data will be used to assess the health and sustainability of Arctic char from this system while informing ecosystem-based approaches to management.
2. Collect stomach, tissue and genetic samples from all captured char. These will specifically be used for (1) assessing the frequency and prevalence of microplastics in the stomachs of Lauchlan River Arctic char, (2) investigating trends in mercury concentrations (and metals) in sea-run (anadromous) Arctic char in the region (3) stable isotope analyses aimed at understanding the trophic relationships of char within the marine food web, and (4) assessing contributions of discrete stock to harvest in the mixed-stock fisheries in the region. Sampling the Kitiga River and surrounding permafrost for contaminants of concern.

3. Continue to assess how warming waters may impact the health and physiology of Arctic char and other species of subsistence importance in the region (with Matt Gilbert).
4. Continue the acoustic monitoring of Arctic char and other species of subsistence importance (lake trout, kanayoks and ogacs) in the region to better understand habitat use and migrations (with Jean-Sebastien Moore) with emphasis on the Greiner system and Cambridge Bay. The marine portion of the acoustic telemetry work has come to a close and our goal is to focus on the locally important Greiner watershed and within Cambridge Bay itself. Major goals include understanding how char and trout move within the Greiner system and to assess the impacts of vessel traffic on fish (kanayok and ogac) habitat selection and movement within Cambridge Bay. This work was also funded by Polar Knowledge Canada.
5. eDNA sampling in the Greiner system and Cambridge Bay to identify the presence and abundance of fish species in the area.

Timeline: May - September, 2025

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The following section is to be filled out by each affected Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)

By signing this page, the President or Manager of the affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations indicates that the applicant has fully informed the HTO about the nature of the project and that the HTO supports or does not support the project.

EKALUKTUTIAK HTO - Cambridge Bay

supports or does not support this project.

Bonahsagak Dec 3/24
 Ekaluktutiak HTO Chairperson or Manager Date