

Project Description: Detecting Parasites and Contaminants in the Hudson Bay Common Eider *Somateria mollissima sedentaria* in the Belcher Island Archipelago, Nunavut

We will be accompanying Inuit to their hunting grounds using snowmobiles, and collecting Common Eiders using 12 ga shotguns and bird shot.

After a bird has been shot and retrieved by a hunter, whole eider carcasses will be frozen at -20°C and then shipped to the National Wildlife Research Centre in Ottawa for dissection and sample preparation. From each carcass, blood, feather, and tissue samples will be collected. All tissue samples will be analysed at the National Wildlife Research Centre in Ottawa for parasite and contaminant loads. We will collect up to 60 eiders (males or females) for a total of 60 samples of each type outlined in the table below for contaminant and parasite analysis. We will also opportunistically collect any dead eiders found at the site to be sent to the lab for contaminant and disease analysis.

Sample	Amount collected	Number of samples
Gastrointestinal tract	Whole organ	60
Breast muscle	Right side	60
Liver	Whole organ	60
Kidney	Whole organ	60
Spleen	Whole organ	60
Lung	Whole organ	60
Heart	Whole organ	60
Head	Whole	60
Blood	3 ml	60
Leg bone	Right leg	60
Wing	Right wing	60
Feathers	5 feathers	60
Carcasses	Whole or partial carcasses	As found