

**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.

| <b>Sample</b>          | <b>Amount collected</b>    | <b>Number of samples</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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                 |