Conserving the Codroy Valley Ramsar Wetlands: From Awareness to Action

Intervale Associates Inc.

$ 32,000 Grant

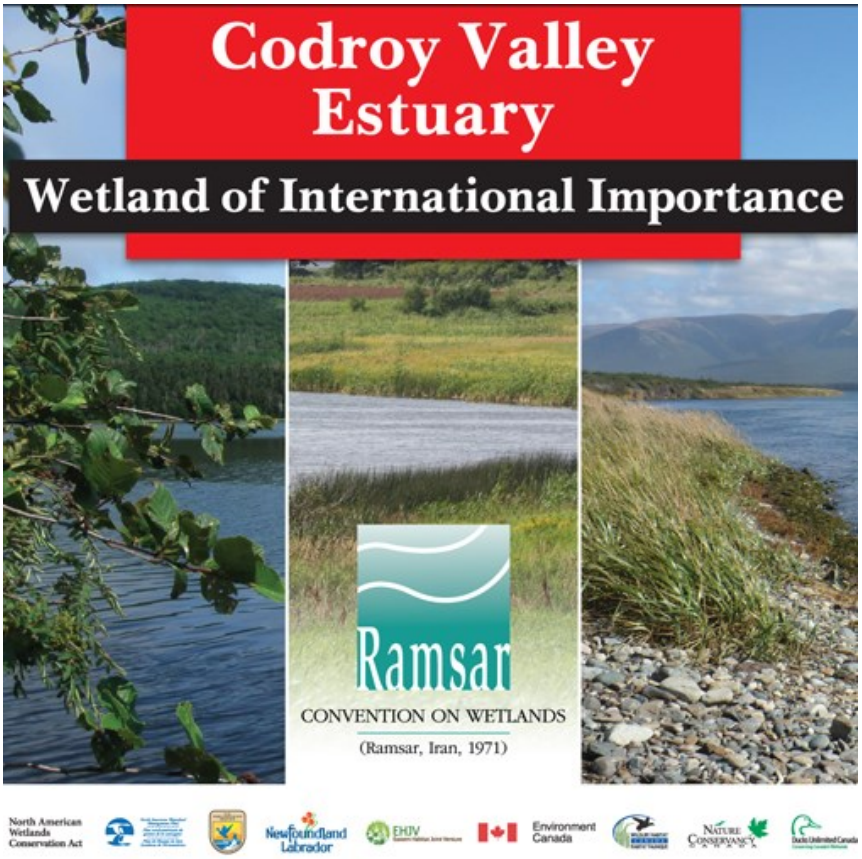
Intervale Associates, working with the Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division and residents of the Codroy Valley in south-west Newfoundland, implemented five wetlands conservation networking and education activities in the Codroy Valley, site of the Province's only Ramsar-designated wetland.

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

- 23 participants were involved in a Ramsar wetland planning workshop. 35 participants completed a tour of the Ramsar site.
- An evening program about the natural history and conservation in the Codroy Valley was executed, with 68 participants in attendance.
- A conservation sign will be installed along the TransCanada highway, to promote the Codroy Valley Estuary as a wetland of international importance.
- Introduction to birding workshop.

SCIENCE

- Waterfowl monitoring



Newfoundland and Labrador **Wetlands Conservation and Stewardship**

NL Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Conservation

$ 30,000 Grant

HABITAT RETENTION

• 8 meetings were held with municipal councils to explore interest in municipal habitat stewardship.

• Field assessments were conducted in 2 municipalities to identify habitat for conservation.

• 6 formal proposals were drafted and presented to municipal councils.

• 2 stewardship agreement was signed, securing 2,857 acres of wetland and wetland associated wildlife habitat in Indian Bay.

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

• Produced interpretive signage for 8 municipalities.

• Organized public interpretive walking tour in Burgeo, and youth nest box building/placement workshops in Deer Lake and the Codroy Valley.

COORDINATION

• Working with partners to draft/implement a provincial wetland policy and create a provincial mapped inventory of wetlands.

• Organized training for the Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol.

Salt marsh of Queen's Meade which forms a portion of the New-Wes-Valley Stewardship Agreement.

Development of colony-specific genetic markers for murres hunted off Newfoundland and Labrador

Queen's University

$ 30,000 Grant

Thick-billed Murres from breeding colonies throughout the North Atlantic, and Common Murres from colonies throughout the northwest Atlantic winter off Newfoundland, Labrador and Greenland where they are the object of an annual hunt. The winter murre or 'turr' hunt is an important part of the culture of coastal communities, and is protected under Canadian legislation. Data from band returns and geolocators indicate that murres from different colonies tend to winter in different areas, and so may be differentially impacted by the hunt.

Researchers used state-of-the-art genomic tools to develop colony-specific markers to estimate colony-specific impacts of the hunt. These results will allow managers to accurately and precisely estimate harvest derivation and to ascertain whether certain colonies are subject to unsustainable harvest pressure.

SCIENCE

- 500 DNA samples collected from murres from known breeding locations for restriction site associated sequencing, in hopes of developing colony-specific genetic markers for thick-billed and Common murres hunted off Newfoundland and Labrador.
- 384 in a sample subset analyzed to identify colony-specific multi-locus genotypes.

Photo credit: Laura Tranquilla

Queen's University researcher scientist Anna Tigano, Ph.D.