

Lewisporte

Municipal Habitat Stewardship

Newfoundland and Labrador Wetlands Conservation and Stewardship

NL Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change

\$25,000 Grant

The NL Wildlife Division, as its primary contribution to the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, and the implementation of the NAWMP in the province, partners with governments, landowners, resource users and industry to conserve wetlands, wetland-associated uplands and coastal habitats in order to sustain their associated waterfowl, seabird and seaduck populations.

This project sought to sign new stewardship agreements with NL municipalities and landowners and to work with existing agreement signatories to provide assistance, educate local people and work with signatories to implement habitat enhancement activities outlined in Habitat Conservation Plans.

HABITAT RETENTION

- 4 formal proposals were presented to municipal councils, and 5 new plans were drafted.
- Field assessments were completed in four cities.
- 4 stewardship agreements were signed, securing 6,706 acres of land and water.

COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

- Participated in, organised and supported 6 events.
- Attended a SAM annual general meeting and discussed SAM projects.
- Produced signage for 4 municipalities.

COORDINATION

- Participated in 7 meetings and conferences.
- Updated National Tracking System with project accomplishments.
- Held training session for the Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol.



Top: Lewisporte road sign at entrance to Bottom Brook Estuary conservation area.
Middle: A beautiful day for an interpretive walk in Gambo, NL.
Bottom: Bottom Brook Estuary, Conservation Area within the Lewisporte Municipal Stewardship Agreement.

Photo Credits: NL Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change.



Year-Round Energetics Models to Identify Critical Habitats for Murres During the Non-Breeding Season

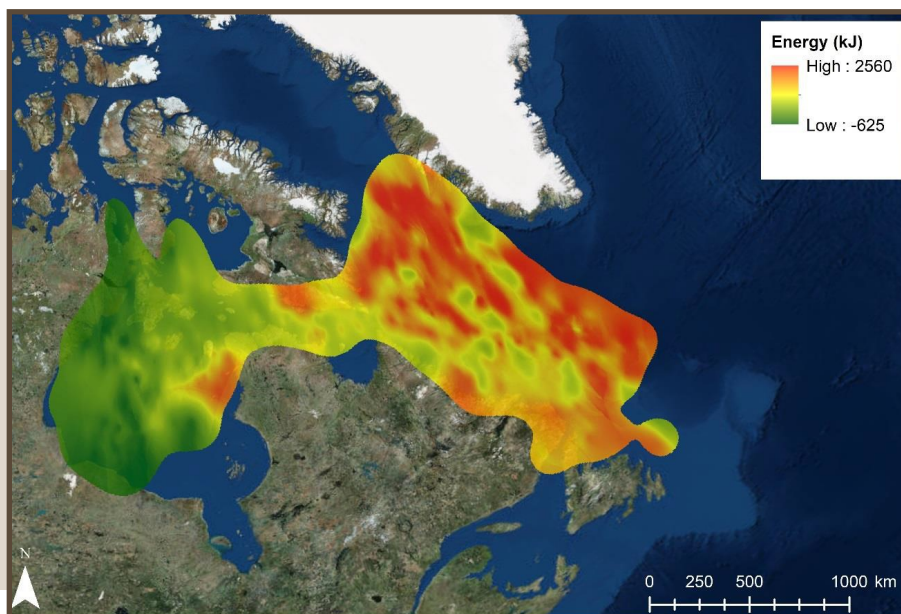
McGill University
\$11,500 Grant

The purpose of the project was to measure energy intake and expenditure year-round in Thick-billed Murres while simultaneously recording position via solar geolocation. Results will identify key time(s) of year that are critical for murres (thereby improving population models), and critical habitats year-round for protection, including habitats that could be improved for murres via reduced shipping traffic, rapid response to oil spills and formal marine protected areas.

Given that local Inuit communities have proposed creating a marine protected area in Hudson Bay and Canada will be protecting 10% of the Arctic Ocean by 2020, such information is needed quickly so that those activities can benefit murre conservation.

SCIENCE

- The team at Coats Island collected baseline murre data on survival, reproductive success, counts and tracking.
- Depth-light-acceleration loggers were attached to 44 Thick-billed Murres.
- Researchers were able to link energy budgets from 10 loggers retrieved in 2016 that had been downloaded, with timing of breeding/reproductive success.



Net Energy Intake map showing that net energy intake was lowest at moulting areas.

Photo credit: McGill University.



Population Monitoring and Tracking Murres at the Gannet Islands, NL

Acadia University

\$18,500 Grant



Censusing Murres.

Photo credits: Acadia University.



Common and Razorbill Murres.

The Gannet Islands are host to one of the key seabird colonies in coastal Labrador. The islands support the largest Razorbill colony in North America, the largest Common Murre colony in Labrador and a significant Thick-billed Murre colony. Studies have shown that Common Murres from the Gannet Islands are harvested at a rate 3-5 times higher than any other Canadian colony of Murres. This project continued the work that was initiated in 2015, conducting bird banding, monitoring chick growth population and reproductive success; and worked to assess the potential impacts of threats to Murres on the Gannet Islands.

SCIENCE

- Completed burrow counts on 2 islands: 80 Murre plot counts, 3 Razorbill plot counts, and 55 island census counts.
- Banded 65 Common Murre chicks.
- Collected 65 tissue samples from different alcids for dietary and containment assessment.
- Tracked 23 Thick-Billed Murres, deployed geolocators on Razorbills and recovered geolocators from Puffins.
- Banding and plot count data submitted to federal database managers.