


Hunting and Trapping Management in Canada

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Background and History



The background of the slide is a soft-focus landscape. In the foreground, there are tall, thin stalks of grass or reeds. The middle ground shows rolling hills or mountains covered in a dense forest, with the sun low on the horizon to the right, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with light, wispy clouds. A solid green horizontal bar is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the title text in white.

Management of Hunting and Trapping in Canada: An Overview

Who is responsible for Wildlife Management?

- **Federal (national) Government**
 - Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service - migratory birds, endangered species and CITES issues.
 - Dept Fisheries and Oceans – Marine Mammals and anadromous and marine fish
- **Provincial/ territorial governments - terrestrial non-migratory species , including non-migratory gamebirds and other birds**
- **Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee (CWDC) - facilitates federal/provincial collaboration and harmonization of regulations and programs**

Who controls the hunting/trapping harvest?

- **Provincial/territorial wildlife/natural resources agencies provide:**
 - Conservation and management of game and furbearing species
 - Regulation of wild fur harvest, sales and exports

Is Canada divided into hunting regions?

- **Wildlife which is under the authority of provinces and territories is managed independently by each province/territory**
- **Provinces and territories may be divided into zones for the purpose of management of individual species or groups of species (e.g. moose, deer, or all large mammal species; beaver, marten, etc. or all furbearing species)**

How is control implemented?

- Each province and territory has Wildlife Act and various regulations.
- Wildlife managed independently in each jurisdiction.
- The Act and Regulations specify management measures:
 - protected species
 - seasons and bag limits
 - management zones,
 - approved weapons or traps,
 - age and training requirements, etc.
 - Reporting requirements

Do trappers/hunters in Canada need licenses?

- Provincial/ territorial licence to hunt/harvest game and/ or furbearing species (exception – aboriginal harvester may be exempt)
- Required to complete firearm, hunter and furharvester training courses in order to be entitled to purchase a hunting or trapping licence
- Provincial/ territorial government coordinated/approved courses (delivered in cooperation with hunter/trapper organizations, private training companies)
- The minimum age varies (usually at least 10 years old)
- Furbearer and other species may be taken, by permit, without a licence in human/wildlife conflict situations (e.g. wildlife causing damage to property or crops/livestock; wildlife threatening human safety)

Trapping/hunting licenses continued...

- Licenses (generally) available:
 - government offices
 - businesses appointed as vendors
 - Many jurisdictions are now selling licences directly to hunters online (e.g. <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/licences/>)

How are harvest levels regulated?

- Season length
- Bag limits
- Quotas
- Limited entry hunts for big game (control number of licences, often issued by lottery process)
- Zone specific licences or bag limit

Furbearer harvest management?

- Trapline system – only trapline holder and assistants may trap on a geographically defined area. Quotas and bag limits may apply.
- Open trapping – free to trap anywhere or limited by zone
- Trapping specific to certain private land (permission obtained)
- Aboriginal rights trapping- may or may not have exclusive rights on lands

How does government track and regulate harvest?

- Tagging bag limited species
- Mandatory kill registration
- Harvest and effort reports (often mandatory)
- Biological submissions (teeth, reproductive tracts, etc.)
- Mandatory export permit (inter provincial or inter national) (Also CITES for applicable species)

How are furbearer export/sales tracked?

- Mandatory export permits
- Auction houses and independent furbuyers document fur purchased/consigned from each trapper (paper or electronic data extracts submitted to government)
- Pelts for auction individually barcode tagged to harvester

Do hunters/ trappers in Canada need a veterinary certificate for their harvest?

- Veterinary certificates are not required for harvesting furbearers at this time
- Species specific wildlife or zoonotic disease concerns may result in regulation or restriction of movement of live or dead wildlife or parts of wildlife (e.g. movement of Cervids to control spread of Chronic Wasting Disease)

Humane Trapping Program

- Initiated by wildlife agencies of Canada in 1973 (FPCHT 1973-1981)
- Wildlife Ministers create Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) 1983

Research Objectives:

- Test trapping systems against humane trapping standards.
- Develop new technologies for rating traps.

Budget:

- \$30,5 million (1983-2016) for trap testing

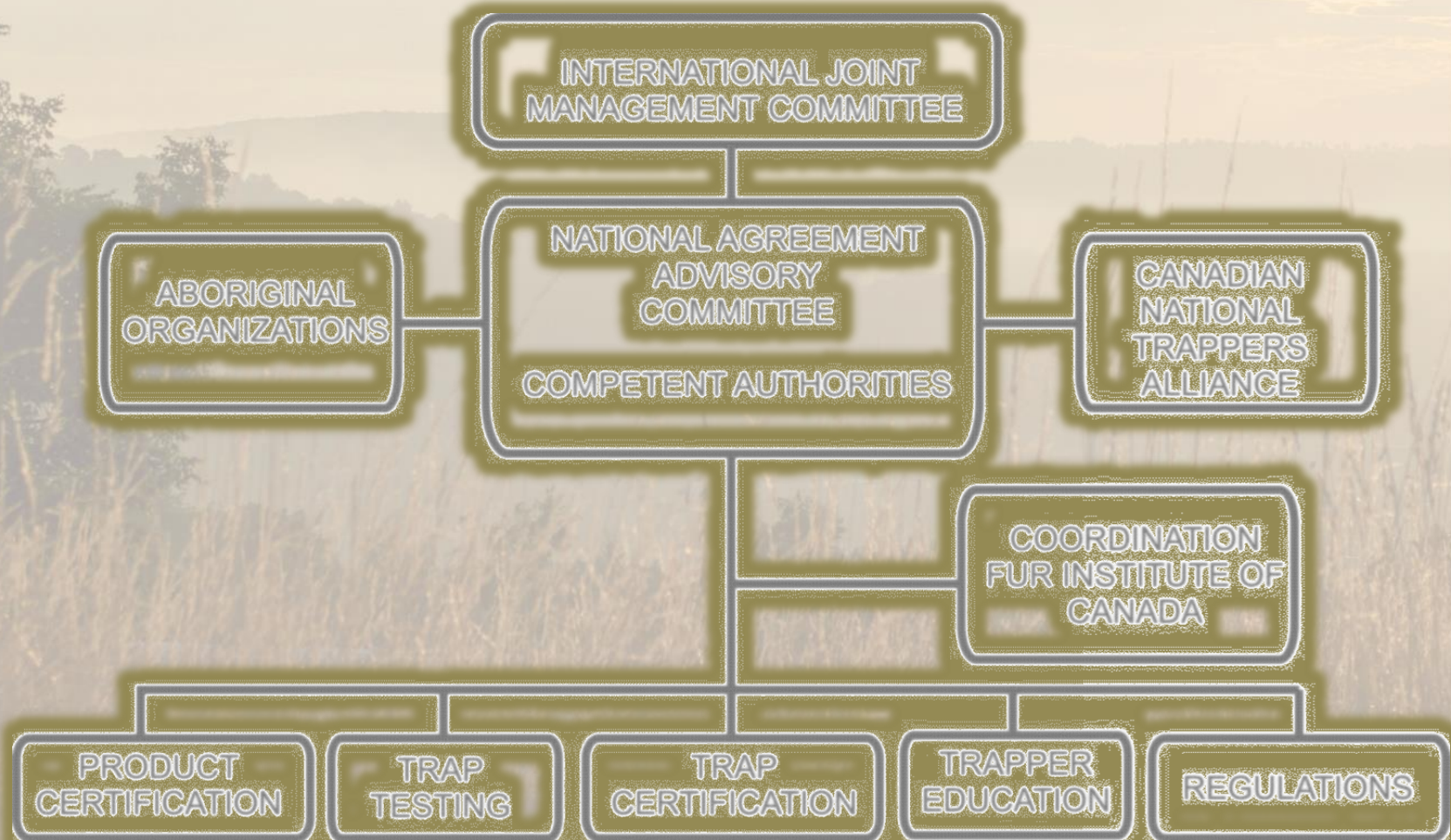
Canadian Trap Research

- **Coordinated by Trap Research and Development Committee - FIC**
- **Priorities driven by requirements of the AIHTS since 1997**
- **Direction from Canadian Wildlife Directors, advised by committee provincial managers of wild furbearers**
- **All research in accordance with protocols of Canadian Council of Animal Care**

AIHTS IMPLEMENTATION MODEL

Key elements - National harmonization and concertation

A central coordinating agency



Canadian Trap Research Partners

