



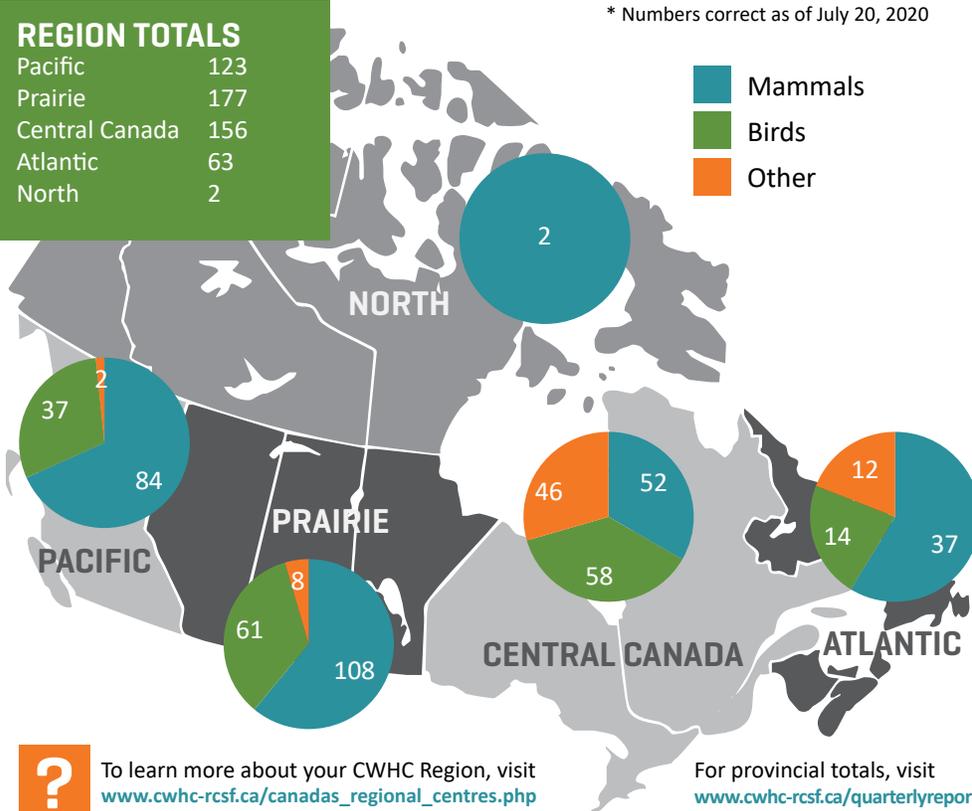
## ANIMALS SUBMITTED by region

521 ANIMALS TOTAL

\* Numbers correct as of July 20, 2020

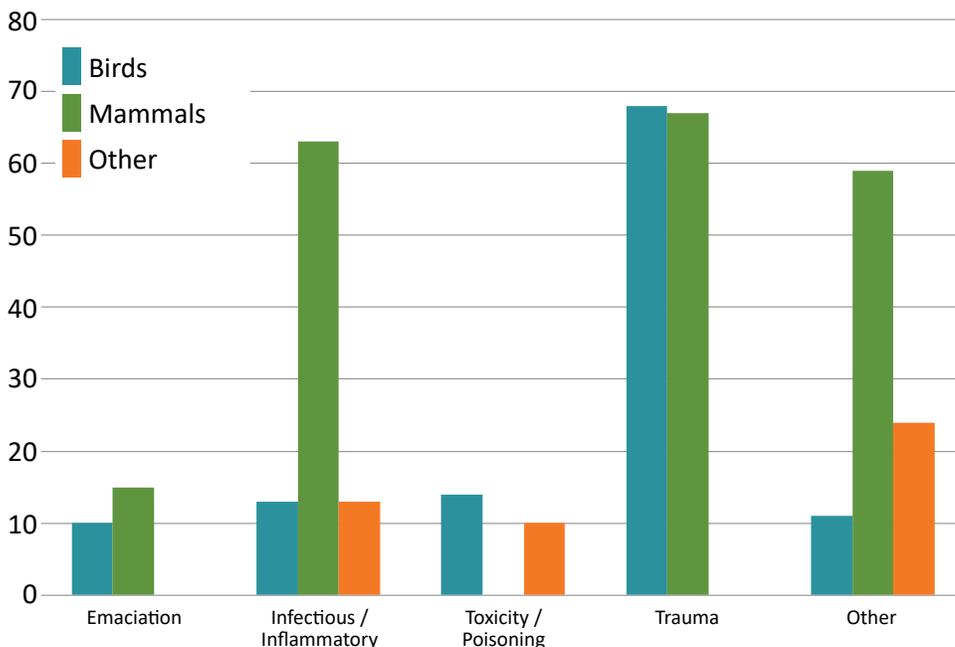
### REGION TOTALS

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Pacific        | 123 |
| Prairie        | 177 |
| Central Canada | 156 |
| Atlantic       | 63  |
| North          | 2   |



To learn more about your CWHC Region, visit [www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/canadas\\_regional\\_centres.php](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/canadas_regional_centres.php)  
For provincial totals, visit [www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/quarterlyreport](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/quarterlyreport)

## CAUSE OF DEATH category



**PLEASE NOTE:** An additional 154 cases submitted to CWHC in this quarter are still pending cause of death determination; 54 birds, 79 mammals, and 21 other species. 'Other' diagnoses include neoplastic, metabolic, and degenerative diseases as well as those cases where no cause of death could be determined.

## SELECTED disease counts

### RABIES

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Examined | 457 |
| Positive | 9   |

### WHITE NOSE SYNDROME

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Examined | 139 |
| Positive | 1   |

### AVIAN INFLUENZA

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Examined | 98 |
| Positive | 1  |

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The AI viruses detected were of low-pathogenicity and North-American lineage. Both live bird samples and dead animal submissions are included.

### SNAKE FUNGAL DISEASE

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Examined | 8 |
| Positive | 1 |

### NEWCASTLE DISEASE

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Examined | 58 |
| Positive | 0  |

### WEST NILE VIRUS

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Examined | 43 |
| Positive | 0  |

**PLEASE NOTE:** The cases reported above represent the data that are currently available in the CWHC database and should be considered preliminary. These data do not include all diagnostic testing for the selected pathogens carried out in Canada; additional testing is performed by other agencies and organisations. Examined refers to any candidate species for this disease. Testing is not always performed, unless the disease is suspected during necropsy or histological examination. Numbers are correct as of July 19, 2019.

For more information visit [www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/quarterlyreport](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/quarterlyreport)



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Tularemia Outbreak in Muskrats at Long Point, ON

On April 13, the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative Ontario/Nunavut Region (CWHC ON/NU) was alerted to a mass mortality event involving muskrats in the Crown Marsh area of Long Point. The initial report indicated that over 35 muskrats were found either sick (weak and barely responsive when approached) or dead in the area. Samples were collected and delivered to the CWHC at the Ontario Veterinary College for post-mortem examination. Post-mortem examination on collected muskrat carcasses. Multiple muskrats were found to have enlarged internal lymph nodes as well as numerous pinpoint white foci throughout the spleen. Microscopic examination of these tissues revealed random regions of necrosis (cell death) scattered throughout both the liver and spleen with numerous Gram-negative bacteria noted on Gram stain. Based on these findings, spleen and liver samples from three affected muskrats were sent to the Public Health Agency of Canada, National Microbiology Laboratory, in Winnipeg, for further testing. PCR testing revealed that all samples from the three submitted muskrats were positive for *Francisella tularensis* (the causative agent of tularemia).

During an outbreak situation, it is presumed that bacterial levels would be higher in the surrounding environment, so caution is warranted for anyone who is traversing through the area or wading into the water in the Crown Marsh area of Long Point. There is also a danger to off-leash dogs as they can become infected and develop similar symptoms to humans, especially if they consume infected meat. It is recommended that dogs are kept on leash and monitored closely while in this area. It is recommended that people do not handle wildlife found dead unless they are wearing protective gloves (or a similar protective barrier) to prevent direct contact of the animal with the skin. Anyone who handles dead wildlife (even while wearing the appropriate protective gear) should wash their hands thoroughly to minimize the chances of exposure. If anyone encounters dead wildlife in Ontario, please report it to the CWHC ON/NU region at 1-866-673-4781 or e-mail [on-nu@cwhc-rcsf.ca](mailto:on-nu@cwhc-rcsf.ca).

## FEATURED project

### NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE INCIDENT REPORT

Sightings and identification of individual North Atlantic right whales (here after referred to as right whales) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (GoSL) have been increasing. In 2017, an unprecedented right whale mortality event occurred in the GoSL where 12 right whales were found dead with the primary causes of death for seven whales determined to be due to either vessel strike or entanglement in fishing gear. Another right whale mortality event occurred during the summer of 2019 where 9 right whales were found dead in and around the GoSL. The 2019 right whale incident report which was produced through a collaboration of the CWHC with the Marine Animal Response Society (MARS) focuses on the necropsy results for five of the 2019 right whale carcasses which were available for necropsy investigation, and also provides context on the other 2019 incidents, right whale conservation, mitigation efforts, and marine animal stranding networks in Canada.

#### Key Findings:

- The causes of death for four of the whales that received necropsy (EG2019-01, EG2019-02, EG2019-03, and EG2019-06) was considered either probable or suspect vessel strike].
- The cause of death of the fifth whale to receive a necropsy (EG2019-07) could not be determined.
- Comparison of carcass response between the 2017 and 2019 mortality events indicates significant improvement in rapidity of towing identified carcasses to shore, but continued delay in identifying floating carcasses.
- More research is needed to understand right whale habitat use in Canada, as well as the human activities in these waters to prevent further right whale deaths.
- Effort should be made to understand the differences in inter-annual mortalities and assess the efficacy of mitigation measures.

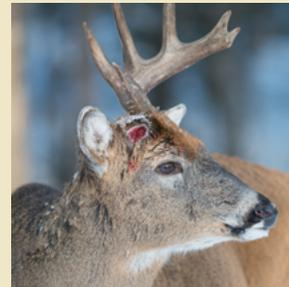
## WILDLIFE HEALTH tracker



After spending several days in the region of Montreal, the humpback whale is found dead: A collision with a boat is suspected.



CWHC Atlantic operates a year-round bat hotline for all of Atlantic Canada. Media in all four Atlantic provinces has helped to promote the bat hotline, here is one of many news article: [Public asked to report bat sightings in P.E.I. to hotline.](#)



B.C. will have mandatory CWD testing again this fall in the southeast corner of the province.



CWHC Western/Northern recently received the carcass of a juvenile mountain lion from southwest Saskatchewan that fell ill after eating a porcupine, quills and all.

For more information, click the image, or visit [www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/quarterlyreport](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/quarterlyreport)

CREATING A WORLD  
THAT IS SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE  
FOR WILDLIFE AND SOCIETY

