

COUNTRY FOOD SURVEY RESULTS

1. Introduction

This survey was intended as a pragmatic investigation to help inform the risk assessment of traditional food use among known Area of Interest (AOI) users. It should not be viewed as an exhaustive and comprehensive population survey of local traditional food consumption.

2. Objective

The **main objective** of the Country Food survey is to *collect data on the country food collected and eaten by the population in the vicinity of the project for the purpose of the Health Risk Assessment*. One of the secondary objectives is to use the results of the Country Food Survey to develop a sampling program for small game, fish and berries for the purpose of the Health Risk Assessment.

3. Methodology

Area of Interest (AOI)

The **Area of Interest (AOI)** covers the area where potential receptors are most likely to interact with the environment and traditional foods that may potentially be affected by the project plus an additional buffer of a minimum of 2 km. It also includes the existing DSO project (see attached map).

Population of Interest

The **population of interest** (statistical population) selected for the survey is: the number of households that potentially collect country food in the AOI (not the total population of the three local communities located near the project that consume country food in the entire region).

The households that don't collect country food in the AOI have not been considered for the survey. If the households that collect country food outside the AOI are included in the survey, the results will not be representative of the AOI and this data will not be relevant for the Howse project Health Risk Assessment. Two Naskapi Elders were however contacted to confirm that they don't use the AOI (this can also be confirmed by previous consultations and information provided by key informants). In addition, by respect for the community, it was deemed important to inform them of the survey and conduct the survey with their Elders.

Sampling strategy

The households that collect country food in the AOI are well known, through traditional Aboriginal and local knowledge, by members of the three communities. Key informants (land users, Band Councils, elders, etc.) were first contacted by phone or in person to identify households that potentially collect country food in the AOI and prepare an initial list of potential respondents. Starting from this initial list of potential respondents, a “snow ball” sampling strategy was applied during the survey. All surveyed households were asked to identify other potential land users in the AOI and these additional potential households were added to the sample. After a few surveys were completed, the same households previously identified on the initial list were mentioned again by participants, which is a good indication that the sample was adequate. This sampling strategy is especially appropriate considering the size of the communities and considering that the AOI users are quite familiar with each other’s harvesting practices and locations.

Based on this strategy, a list of 27 households that potentially collect country food in the AOI was established. We are confident that the majority of households that potentially collect country food in the AOI were captured.

Considering the small statistical population, a complete sample has been selected (random sampling is not appropriate in this case to avoid restraining the number of potential respondents). The approach has been to conduct the survey for all 27 households considering that some of them would probably not meet the survey criteria, and considering that some households would not be available for the survey or would not be interested in participating.

The 27 households were contacted by phone for the survey. When the contacted household didn’t meet the survey criteria (collect and/or eat local meats and country foods from the AOI), the country food survey was not pursued because it became irrelevant (3 households), while some households were not available because working or out of town (10 households). We have been able to reach 14 respondents that confirmed their use of the AOI. A total of 9 respondents confirmed that they collected country food in the reference year.

The survey includes the largest known consumers of country food in the AOI. With this approach we wanted to ensure that the highest potential ingestion rates of country food from the AOI were captured in the survey.

Considering the total population of the three communities, we understand that the sample number of households for the country food survey might appear low. However, three important points need to be taken into consideration in the current context:

- 1) The statistical population for this survey is the number of households that potentially collect country food in the AOI, and not the total population of the three communities who consume country food in the entire region.
- 2) Local residents in the Schefferville region (Innu, Naskapi and local non-Natives) have other preferred harvesting sites in the Schefferville region such as Iron Arm, Lac Vacher, Houston, Howells River South, Menihek etc.

- 3) The Naskapis (884 people) carry out very few activities in the AOI. They hunt, fish and collect berries outside the AOI at sites located near their community. Several key informants from Kawawachikamach confirmed that community members do not use this area and that the primary land users in the AOI are Innu families living in Matimekush.

4. Results

Highlights of the survey:

- ✓ Targeted population for the survey: recognized land use users by the communities
- ✓ Reference period for the survey is the last 12 months
- ✓ AOI: see map
- ✓ 16 surveys has been conducted- 14 of 16 usually use the AOI for collecting resources- 9 of 14 used the AOI last year
- ✓ Main destinations for hunting and fishing are zones 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28 (through the access access to Rosemary Lake) (see attached map)
- ✓ Berries are usually picked in the previous zones and in the fall (for the patridgeberry - to most common picked berry). One survey mentionned also zones 3,4 & 5 for berry & Labrador tea picking.
- ✓ These areas are used most of the time on a daily basis (daily roundtrip).
- ✓ Occasionally the users will stay on site (tent) for 2 to 3 consecutive days (mainly in the fall).The longest stay mentioned is two weeks in May during goose hunting season (25 people).
- ✓ Zones 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28 are less used in winter due to more difficult access by snowmobile. Very limited hunting activities (mainly Ptarmigan hunting) in the winter in the AOI.

Ingestion Rate - Country food from the AOI

	Meals/Month		
	Small mammals	Waterfowl	Fish
Average consumption of country food from the AOI among all surveyed household (last year)	0.3	1.8	1.7
Average consumption of country food from the AOI among hunters/fishers only (last year)	1.8	3.1	4.0
Largest consumer of country food last year in the AOI - in average	3.8	9.5	22.9
	Berries – CUPS/MONTHS (unprepared berries)		
Average consumption of berries from the AOI among all surveyed	1.7		

household (last year)	
Average consumption of berries from the AOI among household that collected berries (last year)	6.9
Largest consumer of berries last year from the AOI - in average	13.0