

NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program

DEHCHO REGION 2018-2019 SUMMARY



To watch and understand the land so it can be used respectfully forever.

2018-2019 NWT CIMP-FUNDED PROJECTS IN THE DEHCHO REGION

NWT CIMP projects in the Dehcho region address key regional cumulative impact questions.

In 2017-2018, NWT CIMP provided **\$385,000** to support **14 projects that involved work in the Dehcho region**. Approximately **56% (\$215,000)** of this funding was provided to regional and community organizations. Several of these research projects have been completed. This year (2018-2019), four projects are highlighted in the region

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

An Integrated monitoring program for a forested boreal watershed with discontinuous permafrost: cumulative impacts on water quantity and quality from climate warming and anthropogenic pressures

CIMP199 – NEW YEAR 1 OF 3

LEAD

Oliver Sonnentag, University of Montreal | oliver.sonnentag@umontreal.ca

PURPOSE

To understand impacts of melting peatlands on both water quality and water quantity in the Smith Creek area.

WHY?

The results from this project will help determine the cumulative impacts on aquatic health from climate warming and other disturbances in the Dehcho.

The Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP) provides important environmental information about cumulative impacts and environmental trends to decision-makers and communities. Cumulative impact monitoring is a requirement of settled land claim agreements in the NWT, and the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

Government of
Northwest Territories



Understanding fish mercury concentrations in Dehcho Lakes

CIMP154 - YEAR 5 OF 8

LEAD

George Low, Dehcho First Nations | geobarbgeo@hotmail.com and Heidi Swanson, University of Waterloo | hswanson@uwaterloo.ca

PURPOSE

This community-driven project has been ongoing since 2013. Its purpose is to understand why fish mercury levels vary in different Dehcho lakes and how this relates to characteristics of the catchment, the lake and fish ecology.

WHY?

To provide a better understanding of why fish mercury concentrations vary in Dehcho Lakes. This information can be used by communities and in future regulatory processes.



The field team. From top left clockwise: Elsie Lacorne, Shelley Lundvall, Heidi Swanson, Steven Nadlii, Joe Lacorne, and Brian Branfireun

Watching the Land: Knowing the Impacts of Change

CIMP191 - YEAR 2 OF 4

LEAD

Peter Redvers – K'at'l'odeeche First Nation (KFN)
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PURPOSE

To identify key indicators and gather traditional knowledge (TK) about the population and habitats of animals, including boreal caribou and fish. Emphasis will be on human impacts, climate change and how this information can help with better decision-making.

WHY?

To gather TK that can be used to inform regulatory and environmental management decisions being made by the KFN and other agencies and to provide capacity within the community to document TK information.

Cumulative impacts are changes in the environment caused by human activities and natural processes that accumulate over space and time. It is important to understand both the environmental impacts of individual developments and the cumulative impacts of many developments in a region.

Investigating cumulative impacts in the Tathlina Watershed

CIMP149 - YEAR 7 OF 7

LEAD

Melaine Simba, Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation
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PURPOSE

To understand the cumulative impacts of oil and gas development and climate change on aquatic health in the Tathlina watershed.

WHY?

To address community and regulator questions about the cumulative impacts of upstream industrial development and environmental change.



Melaine Simba collecting water samples.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NWT CIMP is guided by a Steering Committee of Indigenous, territorial and federal government representatives.

DEHCHO REGION REPRESENTATIVE

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FOR MORE PROJECT RESULTS, VISIT

nwtcimp.ca or search for the CIMP project number at nwtDiscoveryportal.enr.gov.ca

FOR GENERAL PROGRAM INQUIRIES, CONTACT

(867) 767-9233 or nwtcimp@gov.nt.ca