

Standard Operating Procedure:

Community Harvested Sample Collection – Sampling by Community

DATASHEETS

- Community Harvested Sample Collection Datasheet
- Land Use Information Datasheet
- Study Area Map

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

- GPS equipment (if possible)
- Sampling bags (Ziploc)
- Sampling envelopes (available from NWMO upon request)
- Camera (digital, mobile phone, etc.)
- Markers, pens, pencils

SAMPLING DETAILS

- If you would like to submit a tissue sample (i.e., mammal, fish, bird, vegetation) you harvested or found, please read below and fill out the Community Harvested Sample Collection Datasheet
- We are hoping to get community harvested samples of the following animals and plants from local rights-holders and stakeholders:
 - Fish (lake trout, walleye, northern pike, lake whitefish, cisco, and white sucker) (whole)
 - Canada goose, mallard duck (whole)
 - Beaver, muskrat, mink (muscle and hair)
 - Moose and whitetail deer (muscle, kidneys and liver)
 - Lynx, wolf and bear (muscle and hair)
 - Snowshoe hare (muscle or whole)
 - Ruffed/Spruce grouse (whole)
 - Berries (blueberry, cranberry, raspberry)
 - Edible or medicinal plants (wild edible mushroom, Labrador tea, chaga, Manoomin/wild rice, and rat root/sweet flag)
- A description of the sampling location, or preferably UTM coordinates taken using a GPS, should be recorded on the datasheet. Alternatively, the sampling location can also be recorded by dropping a pin in a map application on your phone to share during donation drop-off.
- If possible, please fill out the Land Use Information Datasheet and take pictures at the location the sample was harvested.
- If possible, it is best to get a sample of mammal tissue from the hind quarter of the animal to keep it consistent between species and individuals.
- The laboratory needs a lot of sample material to complete some of the analyses. If possible, try to obtain a sample of at least 500 grams, however a submission of 1-2 kg would be ideal to complete all desired analyses.
- Fish, birds, and snowshoe hare can be sent in whole and processed by the community coordinator/consultant.
- If known, please provide a note as to whether steel shot or lead shot was used if the animal was shot. If lead shot was used, try to avoid the wounded area of the animal when taking meat for a sample. It is highly recommended that steel shot be used for hunting to avoid contamination.

- If you have a beaver, muskrat, mink, or part of a lynx, wolf, or bear that you are submitting; also pluck 10 or more guard hairs (the longer hair) and place in an envelope.
- Place whole samples in clean, labelled, plastic bag (double bag if possible). Place the envelope with the hair samples in with the rest of the sample.
- Samples should be stored in a clean, sealed plastic bag (double bagged zip-lock if possible). The sample bag should be labelled as follows:

Species name
Contents (i.e., muscle, liver, kidneys, whole)
Location of Harvest (as detailed as possible)
Date/time of harvest

- All samples should be frozen on the day they are collected, if possible, and should remain frozen until they are dropped off to the community coordinator/consultant.
- Please submit samples and the datasheet to the community coordinator/consultant as soon as possible.
- If shipping samples, ensure that they are shipped frozen and properly labelled and secure in a small cooler. Mark the cooler to say, “Keep Frozen.”

Additional details: Please provide any additional information that may be useful for the project team and the laboratory, such as, unusual behavior and/or physical appearance (healthy, found dead, parasite/tumor, calf, cow, or bull etc. and estimated age). This information can also be filled out on the *Community Harvested Sample Collection Datasheet* or communicated to the community coordinator/consultant.

QA/QC REQUIREMENTS	
GENERAL MEASURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that appropriate and clean sample bags are used ▪ Do not allow the inner surfaces of sample bags to come in contact with anything other than the sample if possible ▪ Clean tools and knives should be used to process the samples and thoroughly washed with soap and water after or between samples ▪ All samples will be frozen the day they are collected or within a 12-hour period where possible to minimize the breakdown of tissue until submission