



## 2023 SPRING BIRD HUNT/EGG HARVEST

### Practices for Conservation on Inuit Lands in NunatuKavut

The NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) *2023 Spring Bird Hunt/Egg Hunt: Practices for Conservation on Inuit Lands in NunatuKavut* rely on local knowledge of our lands, wildlife and traditional ways. As Inuit, our relationship with our lands, waters, and ice is an important part of who we are as a people. It is our responsibility to ensure the sustainability of our traditional practices for present and future generations.

Upon review by the Governing Council of NCC and in consultation with communities and individuals, the practices outlined below encourage stewardship and assist in protecting and conserving migratory and domestic birds and gull eggs. These practices are in effect for the spring and summer hunt/harvest of 2023.

Hunters and harvesters must be familiar with and carry out these practices during the 2023 season.

We strongly encourage observations and other feedback from hunters and harvesters once the season ends so that we can continue using best practices, guided by Inuit knowledge and science.

## Bird Hunt

<b>Opening Date</b>	Open
<b>Closing Date (Regional)</b>	Upper Lake Melville and Labrador West: May 28, 2023 – 30 minutes after sunset
	All Other Areas: May 21, 2023 – 30 minutes after sunset
<b>Seasonal Take</b>	Geese: maximum 3 per household
	Other Birds: maximum 15 per household (with a maximum of 5 eiders)
<b>Restrictions</b>	Endangered, threatened or protected species shall not be harvested (e.g. Harlequin ducks)

## Egging (Gull)

<b>Opening Date</b>	Open
<b>Closing Date (Regional)</b>	Upper Lake Melville: June 11, 2023 – 30 minutes after sunset
	All Other Areas: June 11, 2023 – 30 minutes after sunset
<b>Seasonal Take</b>	24 eggs per household
<b>Restrictions</b>	Under no circumstances will nesting areas of any species be disturbed while hunting

## Protected Areas – Hunting and Egging Not Permitted

- Table Bay or St. Peter's Bay areas (the area between White Point and Long Point)
- Salt Pond in Muddy Bay (Cartwright Area)

*Note:* These areas have been excluded from the NunatuKavut Spring Bird Hunt until a conservation strategy is negotiated between NCC, NunatuKavut communities and relevant authorities.

## General Practice:

- Hunters must have their valid, Full Member NunatuKavut membership card in possession at all times and a copy of these practices.
- Generally accepted regulations and practices for hunter safety must be observed at all times.
- Under these practices, if approached by a wildlife enforcement officer, hunters and harvesters must identify themselves as Inuit from NunatuKavut, show their membership ID card, and state that they are hunting under the conservation practices of NCC.
- Hunters must follow all public health directives related to the COVID-19 global pandemic while participating in the spring hunt.
- The NCC is asking hunters and harvesters to look for any signs of potential Avian Influenza (HPAI) in birds this spring and report any sightings to NCC's Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) department. Symptoms may include:
  - tremors or lack of coordination;
  - swelling around the head, neck and eyes;
  - lack of energy or movement;
  - coughing, gasping for air or sneezing;
  - diarrhea; or
  - sudden death.

These practices have been approved by NCC's Executive Committee of the Governing Council, proclaimed on April 21, 2023, pursuant to the inherent and self-governing authority of NCC. Amendments to these practices may be made at the discretion of the Council. If further information is required concerning these practices, please contact NCC's ENR department at (709) 896-0592 ext. 229 or [grussell@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:grussell@nunatukavut.ca)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*The primary intent of issuing these practices is for conservation and harvesting management purposes. Enforcement Officers have been inconsistent in the past in how they deal with NunatuKavut Inuit engaged in hunting and harvesting of spring birds and eggging. NCC encourages members to practice their Inuit right to hunt for food, social and ceremonial purposes. NCC members may be harassed and prosecuted for practicing their Inuit right to hunt and harvest even under these practices. NCC will provide assistance, on a case-by-case basis, to the best of its ability, to Full Members who may be charged while hunting under these practices.*