



## 2026 Spring Bird/Egg Harvest and Conservation Guidelines

The following Spring Bird/Egg Harvest and Conservation Guidelines have been developed based on a combined knowledge of the land and wildlife and are designed to support an Inuit traditional lifestyle in a sustainable and responsible manner.

As an exercise of the rights of NunatuKavut Inuit and upon review by the Governing Council of the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC), and in consultation with communities and individuals, NCC is issuing the following interim guidelines to protect migratory and domestic birds and gull eggs for the spring and summer of 2026.

Hunters must understand and respect these guidelines at all times when participating in the 2026 bird/egg harvest.

### Bird Hunt

<b>Opening Date</b>	Open
<b>Closing Date (Regional)</b>	Upper Lake Melville and Labrador West: May 31, 2026 – 30 minutes after sunset
	All Other Areas: May 24, 2026 – 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 14, 2026 – 30 minutes after sunset
	All Other Areas: June 14, 2026 – 30 minutes after sunset
<b>Seasonal Take</b>	24 eggs per household
<b>Restrictions</b>	Under no circumstances will nesting areas of any other species be disturbed while hunting

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## 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 Guidelines:

- Hunters must have their valid, Full Member NunatuKavut membership card in possession at all times and a copy of these guidelines.
- Generally accepted regulations and guidelines for hunter safety must be observed at all times.
- Under these guidelines, if approached by a wildlife enforcement officer, hunters must identify themselves as Indigenous, show their membership ID card, and state that they are hunting under the conservation guidelines of NCC.
- The NCC is asking hunters 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 guidelines have been approved by NCC's Governing Council and proclaimed on April 30, 2026, pursuant to the inherent authority of NCC. Amendments to the guidelines may be made at the discretion of the Council. If further information is required concerning these guidelines, please contact NCC's ENR department at (709) 899-3317 or [grussell@nunatukavut.ca](mailto:grussell@nunatukavut.ca)

### PLEASE NOTE:

*The primary intent of issuing these guidelines is for conservation and harvesting management purposes. Enforcement Officers have been inconsistent in the past in how they deal with NunatuKavut members. NCC encourages members to practice their Indigenous right to hunt for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Members may be harassed and prosecuted for practicing their Indigenous right to hunt even under these guidelines. 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 guidelines.*