

Small Mammal Data Compilation Update November 2007

The Data Coordinator position was advertised in both parts of the province in June, 2007. Interviews were conducted in July and Shelley Garland was hired as the data coordinator, starting August 13, 2007. She is hired on until March 31, 2008 with a possible extension, dependent on funding. The Data Coordinator will be based out of the Wildlife Division office in Corner Brook, NL. The Coordinator position was created through cost-shared funding between the Wildlife Division and The Institute for Environmental Monitoring and Research. As a partner, the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre has agreed to administer this position and provide technical support.

The goals of this position, as determined by the Small Mammal Steering Committee (*composed of Gerry Parker (IEMR), Richard Nuna (Innu Nation), Perry Trimper (Minaskuat), Meherzad Romer (AC CDC), and Bruce Rodrigues (Wildlife Division)*) are to:

- a) Review all existing studies of small mammals from 1960-2005. For this project small mammals are defined as mice, voles, lemmings, shrews, squirrels, chipmunks, and snowshoe hare.
- b) Create an annotated bibliography of small mammal data and data sources
- c) Identify knowledge gaps
- d) Create a database using population information extracted from the studies
- e) Reconstruct historic distribution and population trends of species

Summary/update of small mammal data coordinator progress as of November 2007:

Datamining

Sources of information to date include:

- Online scientific journals
- Centre of Newfoundland Studies at Memorial University in St. John's
- Communications with government departments, non-government agencies, and other various organizations.

Creation of Reference Library

Creation of a digital reference library. To date, approximately 30 hard copy references have been scanned into digital form and included in the library and approx. 25 references already existed in digital form.

Database and Annotated Bibliography

Development of a Reference Manager database for all references that will eventually be an online, searchable database. This will allow the public access to the annotated bibliography of small mammal studies completed in Newfoundland and Labrador with some study details such as the focus, dates and location of the study.

Small Mammal Monitoring Network (SMMN)

- Collected data as part of the network, which has led to an increased understanding of the Southern red-back vole distribution in insular Newfoundland.
- Helped with the lab processing of some of the insular Newfoundland specimens collected through the network.

Future plans

- Take part in processing of Labrador specimens as part of a small mammal identification workshop.
- Interview Labrador contacts to acquire more small mammal information and references.