

# WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE®

A Program of conservation VISIONS®

QUARTERLY UPDATE

•  
DECEMBER 2019



*We are pleased to announce the addition of both the Cabela Family Foundation and Alaska's Department of Fish & Game to the Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance.*

**More than 20 species of duck are wild harvested in the United States and Canada and duck hunting occurs in all jurisdictions, except for Hawaii.**

## Harvest Profile – North American Duck Species

### *Harvest in the United States and Canada*

Numerous duck species (*Anatidae spp.*), encompassing dabblers, divers, eiders, mergansers, sea-ducks, scoters, stiffetails, goldeneyes, teals and, of course, mallards, have long been recreationally harvested across the US and Canada. Today, duck hunting occurs in all US states, with the exception of Hawaii, and in all Canadian provinces and territories.

Approximately 25,210,605 ducks were wild caught in these 62 jurisdictions during the 2014-15 and 2015-16 harvest seasons. The total live harvest, accounting for differing average weights between species, had an estimated mass of 20,719,441 kg (~45,678,548 lbs)

which resulted in a dressed weight of approximately 10,391,690 kg (~22,909,754 lbs). Approximately 6,474,331 kg (~14,273,457 lbs) of this dressed weight was consumable, based on typical consumption habits for the various duck species harvested. Given a standard 4 oz. serving, this constitutes a likely minimum of 57,093,826 meals over a two-year period.

### *Conservation Status*

According to the 2019 Waterfowl Population Status Report, North American duck populations are estimated at 38.9 million, which is 6% lower than last year's estimate and 10% above the long-term average.

It was not always this way for North America's duck populations. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a combination of habitat

loss and unregulated hunting brought numerous duck species, including wood ducks, canvasbacks, and three species of teal, to the verge of extinction.

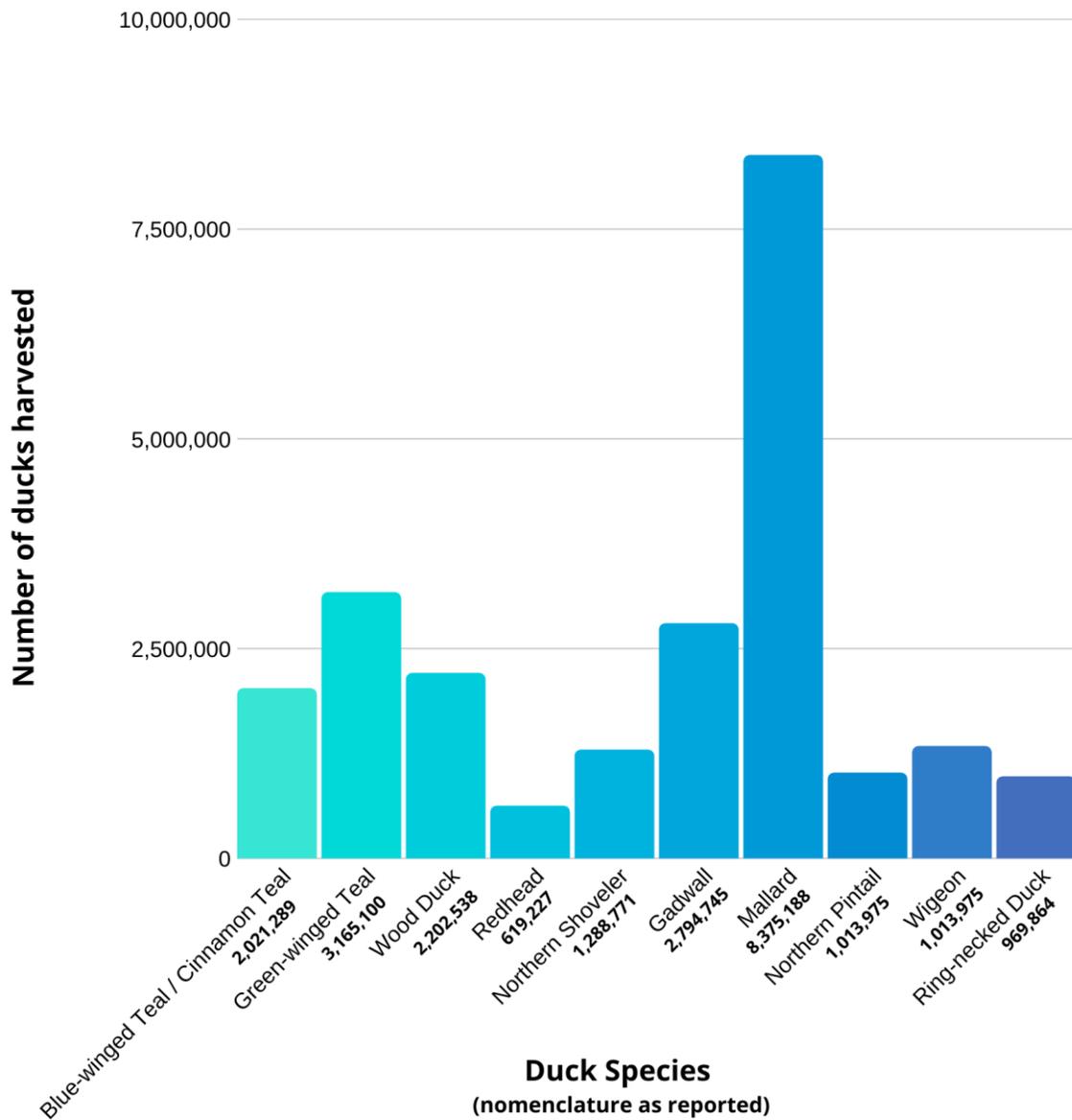
In fact, North America's conservation awakening came not a moment too soon for ducks. In 1934, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, today's Federal Duck Stamp, into law. Under the Act, all waterfowl hunters 16 years and older must annually buy and carry the stamp. Ninety-eight cents of every duck stamp dollar goes directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to purchase or lease wetlands and wildlife habitat for their inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1934, about \$800 million dollars has gone into that fund to protect habitat.



### Species Profile: Ring-necked Duck

- Scientific name: *Aythya collaris*
- The male is a sharply marked bird of black, grey and white. Females are rich brown with a delicate face pattern (pictured at left).
- These ducks live in fairly small, shallow wetlands and dive to obtain food.
- During fall migration, they form immense flocks of several hundred thousand birds.
- The bird's ringed neck is not a good field mark as it's hard to see; look instead for a unique peaked head shape.

### Most Frequently Harvested Duck Species in the US and Canada by Number of Ducks Harvested (2014-16)



# Wild Harvested Ducks in the United States and Canada (2014-16)

**48,133,464 lbs**  
of Live Harvest



**15,009,946 lbs**  
of Consumable  
Harvest



**60,039,784**  
**Meals**  
Based on 4 oz.  
Servings



**Valued at**  
**\$194,979,199**  
Based on MINIMUM  
Retail Pricing



## PROGRESS REPORTING

### Wild Harvest Initiative® Database

#### *Recreational Angling Hunting Data*

The WHI Team completed collection and initial review of all available recreational angling data from each of the 63 jurisdictions identified in our study and all records have been entered, with the exception of creel data. We are currently reviewing all creel data to determine whether enough data are available to support meaningful modeling exercises and analyses.

A literature review focusing on live and dressed weights of freshwater fish species remains ongoing. Once complete, this will enable estimates of recreational catch biomass.

#### *Hunting and Angling Harvest Data Analyses*

The analyses of hunting harvest data remain ongoing, while preliminary

remain ongoing, while preliminary analyses of angling data have begun.

In November, the program provided an official Information Document to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) describing methodological approaches and initial data projections. This was presented during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of CBD's Subsidiary body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Montreal, Canada in response to paragraph 9(a.) of CBD's Decision 14/7 in which CBD's Executive Secretary, working with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife Management (CPW), was requested to explore sustainable wild meat harvests in temperate regions (since previous investigations have focused solely on tropical and sub-tropical areas). We will continue to provide data from the Initiative to the CBD and other similar international organizations as we move

forward with analyses and provision of results.

#### *Economic Valuation*

Efforts to collect data regarding the economic value of commercial fish landings, as well as fish pricing data at the retail level, remain ongoing. Given the number of species and variations in reporting standards between jurisdictions, this is proving quite time-consuming.

Research to determine the best methodology to calculate fair market values for wild harvested meat and fish also remains ongoing. Additional consultation with industry experts is required.

Compilation of data to conduct the replacement cost analysis remains ongoing. Expert consultations have recently begun.

### Database Updates

Database additions and improvements remain ongoing to facilitate more advanced analyses and these are being performed by Triware Technologies, our new service provider. In terms of development, we are currently working on “domestic substitutes.”

Additionally, we have designed a new database back-up system which will become operational this month.

### Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index

Preliminary analyses on the results of the first Wild Harvest Initiative® Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Survey, which was administered in the state of Texas with assistance from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, are now complete. Results of analyses and initial conclusions will follow.

Additional jurisdictional surveys for the states of Nevada and Arizona are now being planned, with others to follow.

### Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance

#### Welcoming New Partners

We have recently secured new partnerships with both the Cabela Family Foundation and Alaska’s Department of Fish and Game and welcome both to the Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance.

Partnership discussions are ongoing with a number of other entities including (but not limited to) Browning, MTN Ops, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

*Cabela Family Foundation Press Release:*

[https://www.prweb.com/releases/cabela\\_family\\_foundation\\_joins\\_wild\\_harvest\\_initiative\\_partnership\\_alliance/prweb16775190.htm](https://www.prweb.com/releases/cabela_family_foundation_joins_wild_harvest_initiative_partnership_alliance/prweb16775190.htm)

## Communications

### Communications Committee

We held the first meeting of the WHI Communications Committee on October 31, 2019. Important points/next steps to arise from this discussion include:

1.) Conservation Visions will regularly produce marketing materials which it will share with all Partners.

2.) Conservation Visions will develop messaging focused on each of the WHI’s categories of benefit or primary relevancies: food security; human health and fitness; wildlife, fish and habitat conservation; animal health and welfare; the economy; the environment; and hunter and angler recruitment, retention, and reactivation.

3.) Partners will work bilaterally with Conservation Visions to produce a minimum of one WHI communications product, i.e. a short film, annually, that will be shared with, and by, all Partners.

4.) Conservation Visions will digitally provide final drafts of WHI Meeting posters that may be duplicated for display by Partners.

5.) Partners will consider how WHI materials/messaging can be best distributed to their own dedicated audiences/memberships.

6.) Partners will report metrics on Partner-led WHI communications efforts to Conservation Visions quarterly.

7.) Conservation Visions will reach out to Partners to establish contacts and a schedule to facilitate metrics reporting.

8.) Conservation Visions will design a standard template to provide collated metrics in regular WHI Quarterly Reports.

9.) The Conservation Committee will meet, by phone, once every 2 months.

### Website

The new WHI standalone website, introduced at the 1<sup>st</sup> Partners’ Meeting, is ready to launch. Partners are reminded to provide requested content (i.e. logos, social media channels, etc.) as soon as possible to prevent further delays.

### Social Media

Our social media following continues to grow and we now have a combined following of more than 1,200,000 individual users on Facebook alone.

### SBSTTA-23

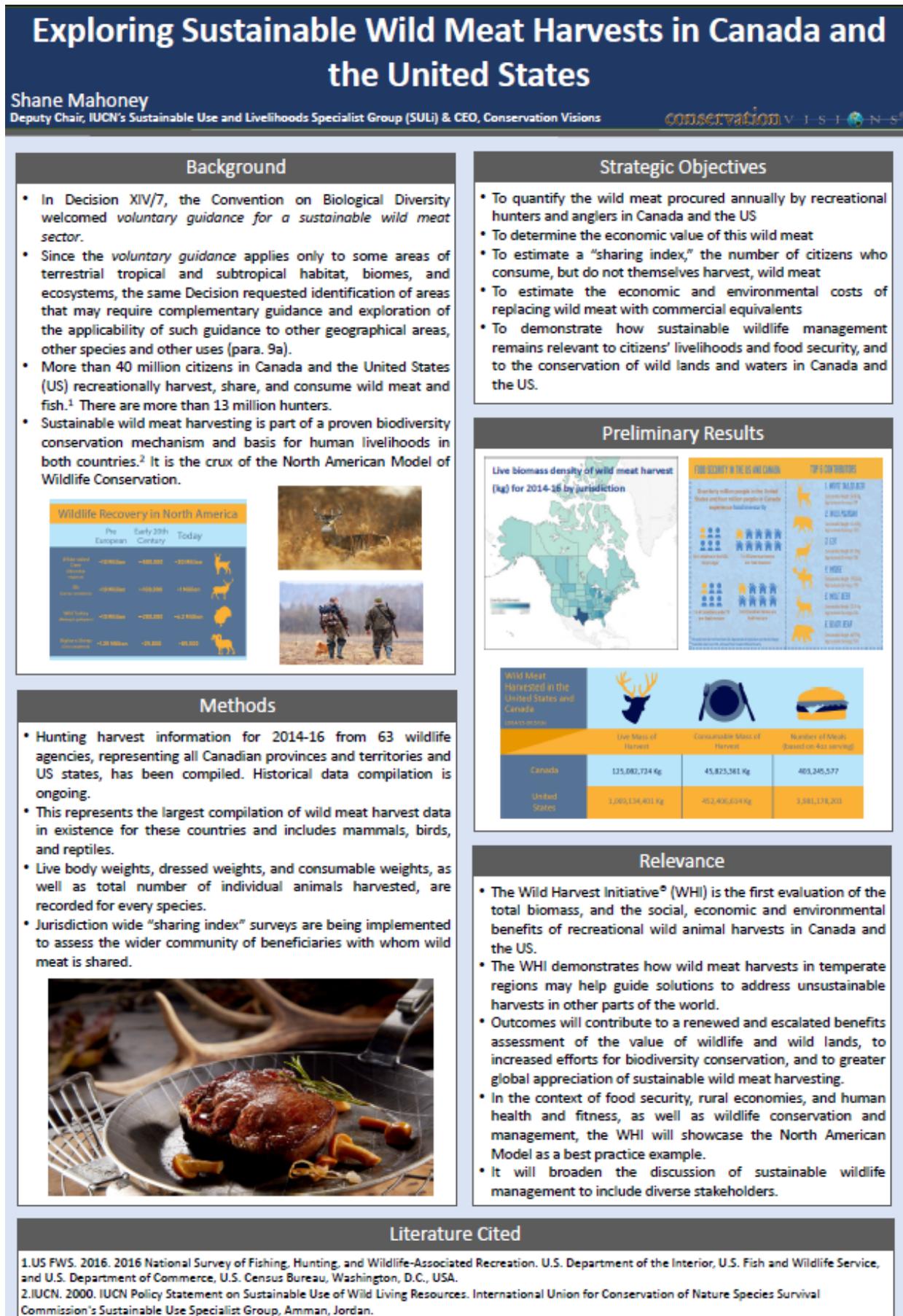
In addition to the Information Document provided to the CBD during SBSTTA-23 (please click the link below to view), Conservation Visions also presented an academic poster about the Wild Harvest Initiative® and sustainable wild meat harvests in North America. This is presented in Figure 1.

*Information Document:*

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/dfef/f7d6/e70e24d4d67f6b1815895e5e/sbstta-23-inf-20-en.pdf>



Figure 1: Academic poster presented at the Convention on Biological Diversity's 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Montreal, Canada, 25-29 November 2019.



### Literature Cited

1. US FWS. 2016. 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C., USA.

2. IUCN. 2000. IUCN Policy Statement on Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources. International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission's Sustainable Use Specialist Group, Amman, Jordan.

# THE WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE® PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE



Not pictured are Sean Olmstead and Richard A. "Dick" Corbett

