



NWT SPECIES AT RISK

COMMON MUSKRAT

UPCOMING ASSESSMENT: APRIL 2026

CURRENT STATUS IN THE NWT: NOT ASSESSED

A draft **species status report** for the upcoming assessment is available for review until **January 9, 2026**.



[CLICK HERE](#)

to read the draft muskrat status report



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**SPECIES
AT RISK**
COMMITTEE

COMMON MUSKRAT STATUS REPORT

The Species at Risk Committee uses the best available knowledge from Indigenous, community and scientific sources to determine whether a species is at risk of disappearing from the NWT.

Common muskrat is scheduled for assessment in 2026.

WHAT IS IN A STATUS REPORT?

The status report includes information about species biology, population, distribution, threats and positive influences. Community observations and concerns and impacts on cultural practices such as harvesting are also considered in the assessment.

HOW CAN MY KNOWLEDGE HELP THE ASSESSMENT?

We need your help to ensure the status assessment is based on the most complete and accurate information. If you are interested in reviewing the report and submitting comments, please use the following questions to guide your review:

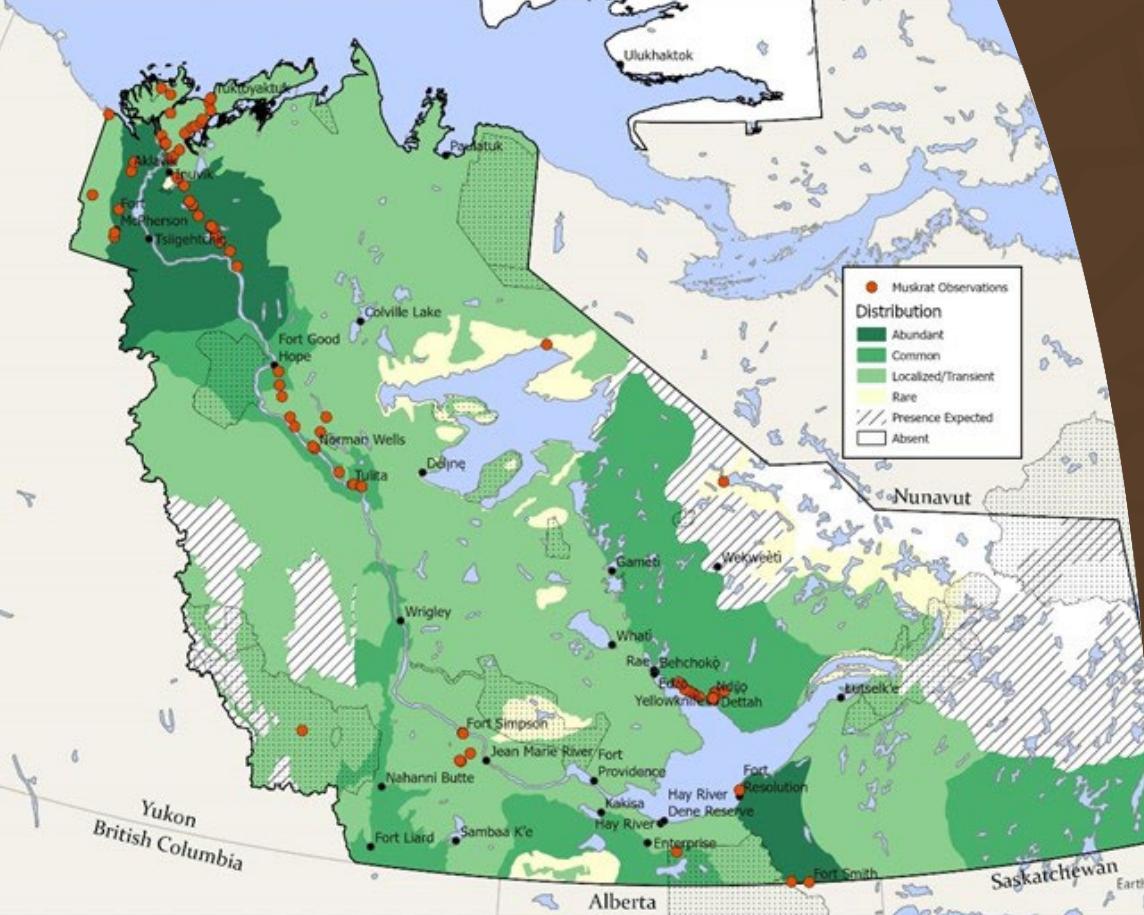
- Has the report fully investigated the best available sources of information?
- Is the information from those sources portrayed accurately?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

NWT Species at Risk Secretariat
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9
Toll-free: 1 (855) 783-4301
Fax: (867) 873-0221
Email: SARA@gov.nt.ca



www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca



Top: Approximate distribution of common muskrat in the NWT. Darker green indicates higher abundance, with pale yellow indicating rare and white indicating absence. Map courtesy of GNWT.

Bottom: Common muskrat, Vicki St. Germaine

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

These are some of the questions SARC will use to determine the current biological status of common muskrat in the NWT.

POPULATION

- How often are muskrat seen out on the land compared to the past (more, less, same)?
- What are people saying about these changes?

DISTRIBUTION

- Have muskrats disappeared from areas where they used to be? Are they found in new areas?
- Are these changes considered normal or unusual for this species? Could muskrat have gone elsewhere?
- What are people saying about these changes?

HABITAT

- How healthy is the habitat where muskrat live?
- How has the amount of muskrat habitat changed over time? Is there more, less, or the same?
- Have certain areas dried out or become more wet compared to the past? Have there been any changes in the time of year when things are wet or dry?

THREATS

- How sensitive are muskrat to natural or human-caused threats?
- What specific threats are known to impact muskrat in the NWT?
- How concerned are people about these threats?

RELATIONSHIPS

- Have changes to muskrat populations or their habitat affected traditional ways of life?
- Have cultural connections to muskrat changed? If so, how?
- Are community members concerned about the future of muskrat in the NWT? Why or why not?