

HUNTING AND FISHING

The land claim agreements for the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) reflect the importance of fish and wildlife to Carcross/Tagish people. The Final Agreement talks about the hunting and fishing rights that people will have on different lands in the Yukon. It also describes activities that will help keep fish and wildlife populations healthy and plentiful. The Self-Government Agreement provides C/TFN with the ability to pass laws to regulate hunting, fishing and trapping on C/TFN Settlement Land.

HARVESTING RIGHTS

Carcross/Tagish people will have the right to harvest fish and wildlife for food for themselves, their families, and for ceremonial purposes in C/TFN's Traditional Territory at any time.

These harvesting rights can only be limited for conservation, public health or public safety reasons. If a limit is placed on the harvesting of some species, Carcross/Tagish people will be able to harvest a guaranteed share of that limit (the Final Agreement defines a process for setting limits).

If Carcross/Tagish people want to hunt or fish in another First Nation's Traditional Territory, they will

SUBSISTENCE is the use of fish and wildlife to eat and for food for traditional ceremonial purposes. It also refers to the use of the non-edible parts of the fish and wildlife that have been hunted or caught for food (such as the hide). These non-edible items might be used for things like clothing, shelter, medicine, or cultural and spiritual purposes.

need to get either a Yukon hunting or fishing license or the written consent of the First Nation in whose Traditional Territory they want to hunt or fish. They will only be able to hunt or fish on the other First Nation's Category A Settlement Lands with permission from that First Nation, even if they have a Yukon hunting or fishing licence.

Beneficiaries of other First Nations will be able to hunt in C/TFN's Traditional Territory only if they have a Yukon hunting license or C/TFN's consent. They will need C/TFN's permission to hunt or fish on Category A Settlement Lands.

TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST

One of the goals of the C/TFN Final Agreement is to conserve fish and wildlife, as well as their habitats. A Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council (RRC) will be set up to help manage fish and wildlife for current and future generations. C/TFN is guaranteed membership on the RRC and a role in its responsibilities.

The RRC, and the Yukon-wide Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, may recommend to government that limits be placed on the number of freshwater fish or wildlife that may be harvested in a year in C/TFN's Traditional Territory for reasons of conservation, public health or public safety. This kind of limitation would be called a "Total Allowable Harvest."



Photo courtesy of Brian Shanahan

Moose and Woodland Caribou

If a Total Allowable Harvest is ever required for moose or woodland caribou in the C/TFN Traditional Territory, priority would be given to the subsistence needs of Carcross/Tagish people. For moose, C/TFN will be able to harvest the number needed to satisfy C/TFN subsistence needs or they will get the first five moose and no less than 75% of the remaining number of moose available for harvest. Whichever number is lower is the amount that will be available to Carcross/Tagish people, if hunting needs to be limited.

For woodland caribou, Carcross/Tagish people will be able to harvest the number needed to satisfy C/TFN subsistence needs or 75% of the number of caribou available for harvest, whichever number is less.

If there is a question about how many moose or woodland caribou Carcross/Tagish people need for subsistence if a Total Allowable Harvest is required, then C/TFN and the Yukon government will try to reach an agreement together. If they are unable to reach an agreement, the matter can be referred to the Dispute Resolution Process set up under the Final Agreement.

Other species

It could be necessary to place harvesting limits on animals other than moose or caribou. If this happens, C/TFN and the Yukon will decide how many animals can be harvested and what share Carcross/Tagish people will receive.

FRESHWATER FISH

The Yukon must ensure that the subsistence needs of Carcross/Tagish people for freshwater fish are given priority over the needs of other harvesters. The Yukon must also respect the special importance that C/TFN attaches to certain water bodies in its Traditional Territory: Snafu Lake, Tarfu Lake, Little Atlin Lake, Tagish Lake, Nares Lake and Bennett Lake.

From time to time, C/TFN and the Yukon will jointly review whether or not Carcross/Tagish people are able to catch the fish they need for food. If the needs are not being met, C/TFN and the Yukon will try to reach an agreement on how best to meet them. If the parties do not agree, the matter can go to the Dispute Resolution Process set out in the Final Agreement.

TRAPLINES

Over time, up to 70% of the traplines in C/TFN's Traditional Territory will be allocated to Yukon First Nation beneficiaries or beneficiaries of a transboundary claim. Up to 70% of the traplines in the C/TFN Traditional Territory may be designated as Category 1 Traplines (a trapline holder must consent to any change in the designation of their trapline). C/TFN will have the final say in who gets a Category 1 trapline. Nothing in the Final Agreement can force a person to give up a trapline.



Photo courtesy of Yukon government

Contact the Ratification Committee for more information.

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This fact sheet highlights elements of the Carcross/Tagish land claim agreements. It should not be relied on for legal interpretation of the Final and Self-Government agreements.