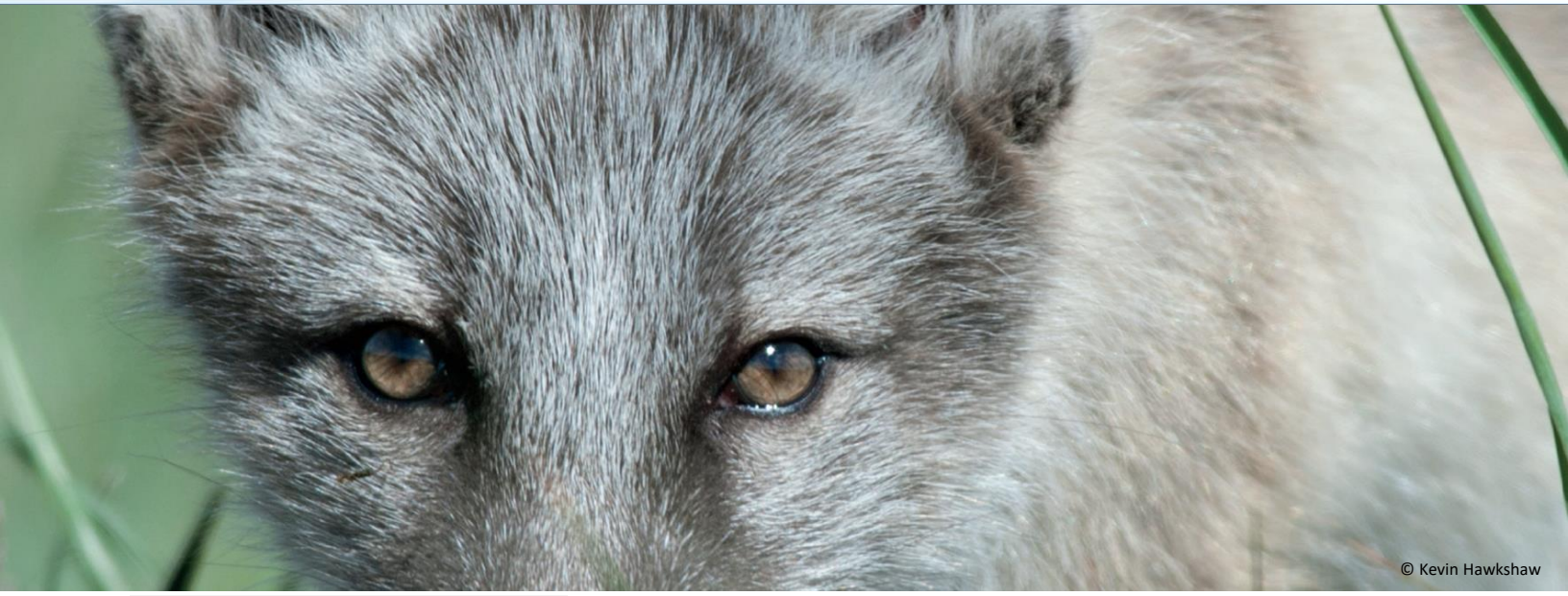
EASTERN CANADIAN ARCTIC – MANAGED WILDLIFE SPECIES

SCIENCE BRIEF



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Protect important habitats such as wetlands and polynyas at scales that preserve functional connectivity, ecosystem resilience and facilitate adaptation to climate change.*
- *Support Inuit-led management and include traditional knowledge in conservation initiatives.*
- *Adopt proactive planning approaches which support community environmental stewardship.*

Key Findings

Wildlife is culturally important to Nunavummiut and represents a critical source of country food. It is central to food security.

Responsibility for management of wildlife is shared by territorial, federal and local agencies. Wildlife is thus co-managed.

Climate change has broad-sweeping effects on wildlife including changes to timing of biological events (phenology), distribution, demography, food web and habitat.

Despite potentially increasing cumulative impacts, industry can contribute in meaningful ways to management of wildlife by investing in baseline monitoring and research.

Habitat loss associated with a reduction in the thickness, extent and duration of sea-ice coverage in the region will potentially reduce body condition, reproduction rates, and population size of polar bears.

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Franke, A., Berteaux, D., Ferguson, S., Gauthier, G., Hotson, C., Marcoux, M., Martin, Z., Sahanatien, V., Statham, S., Szor, G., and Tallman, R. 2018. Managed Wildlife Species – Science brief. In Bell, T. and T. Brown (eds.) From Science to Policy in the Eastern Canadian Arctic: An Integrated Regional Impact Study of Climate Change and Modernization. ArcticNet Inc., Quebec City, Canada.