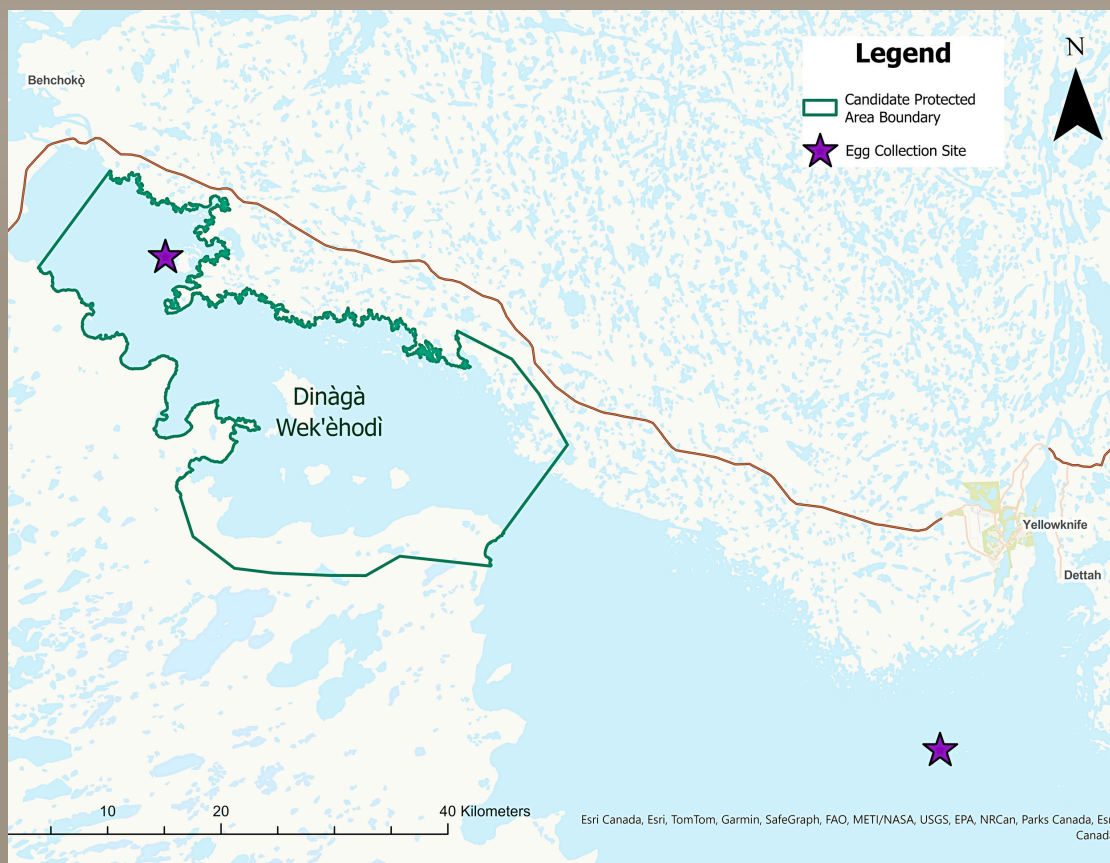




Gull and Tern Egg Monitoring in Dinàgà Wek'èhodi



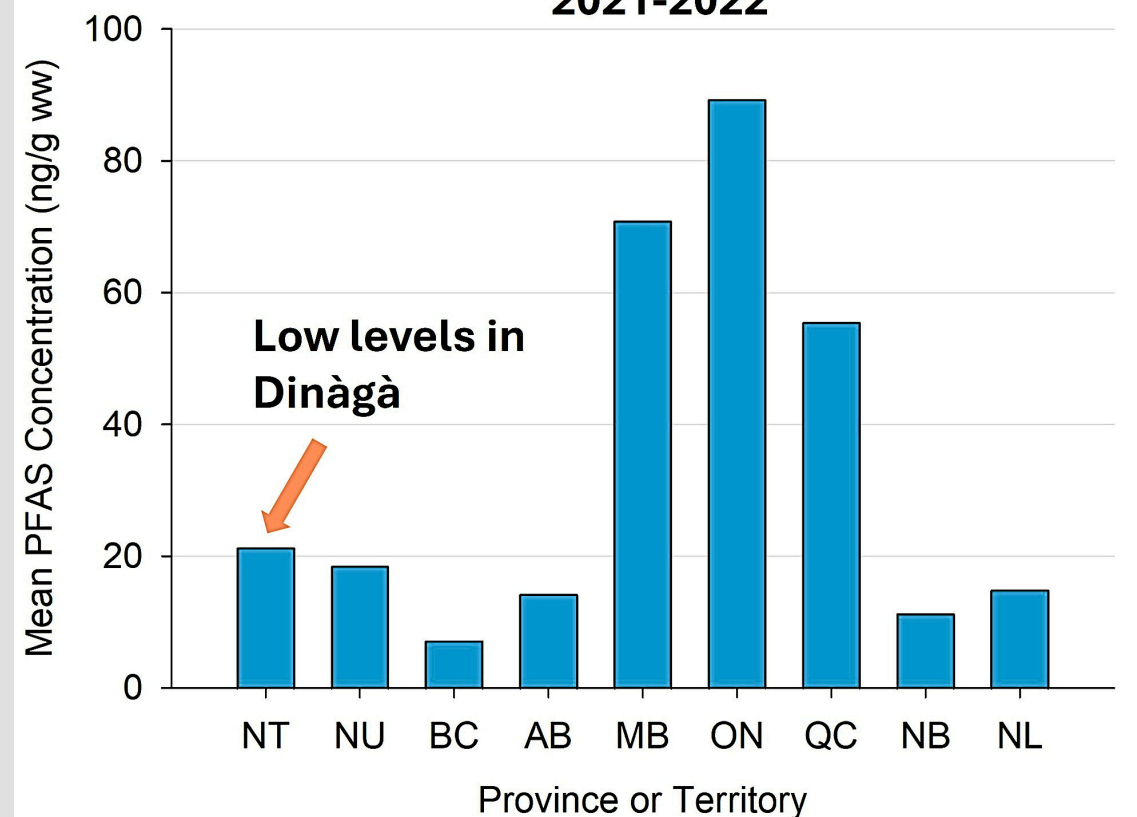
What are we doing?

- The Tłıchǫ Government, North Slave Métis Alliance, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and GNWT have been collecting eggs.
- Gull and tern eggs are obtained each June from breeding sites on Great Slave Lake in Dinàgà and near Yellowknife.
- Small numbers of eggs (one per nest) are collected, resulting in no impact to bird populations.
- Metals and organic contaminants are measured in the eggs at an Environment Canada and Climate Change Canada laboratory.

What do bird eggs tell us?

- Contaminants move long distances through the air and deposit in the NWT, while there may also be local sources.
- Eggs provide information on the types and amounts of contaminants that accumulate in the food web.
- For example, forever chemicals (PFAS) are detected in gull eggs from Dinàgà at low levels compared to other areas of Canada.
- Collecting eggs each year allows us to track changes in contaminant levels over time.

Forever Chemicals in Gull Eggs Across Canada 2021-2022



Why is this important?

- Community collections of eggs are an opportunity to share knowledge of wildlife and monitor the health of the local environment.
- Gull eggs from Great Slave Lake have been monitored since the 1990s.
- Yearly contaminant measurements allow us to assess the effects of human activities and also natural events such as wildfires.



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