

# Update 2019

## NWT Small Mammal and Hare Transect Surveys

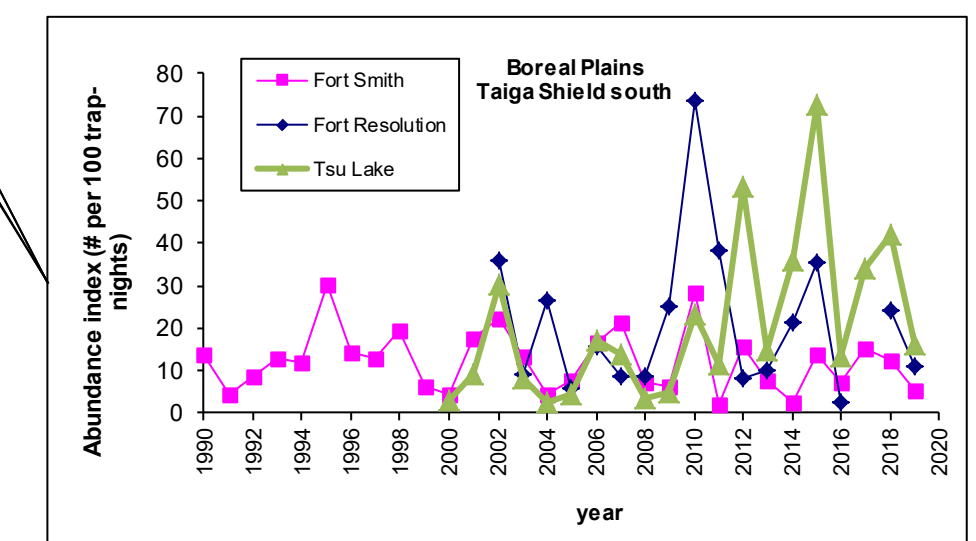
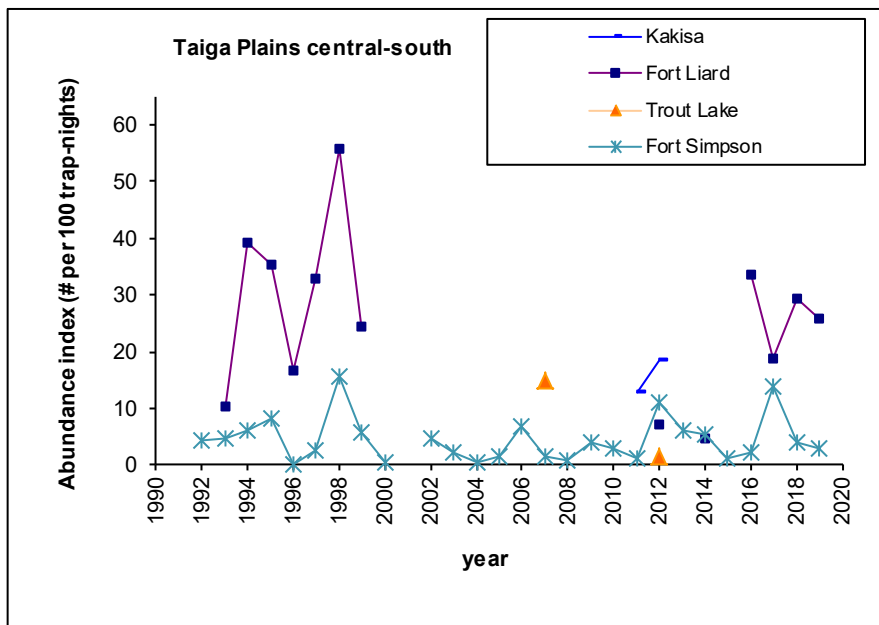
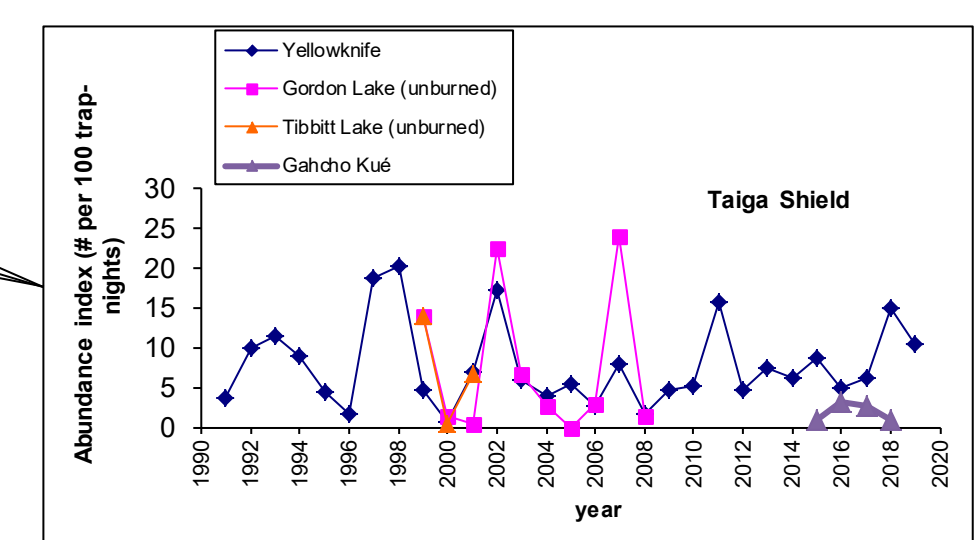
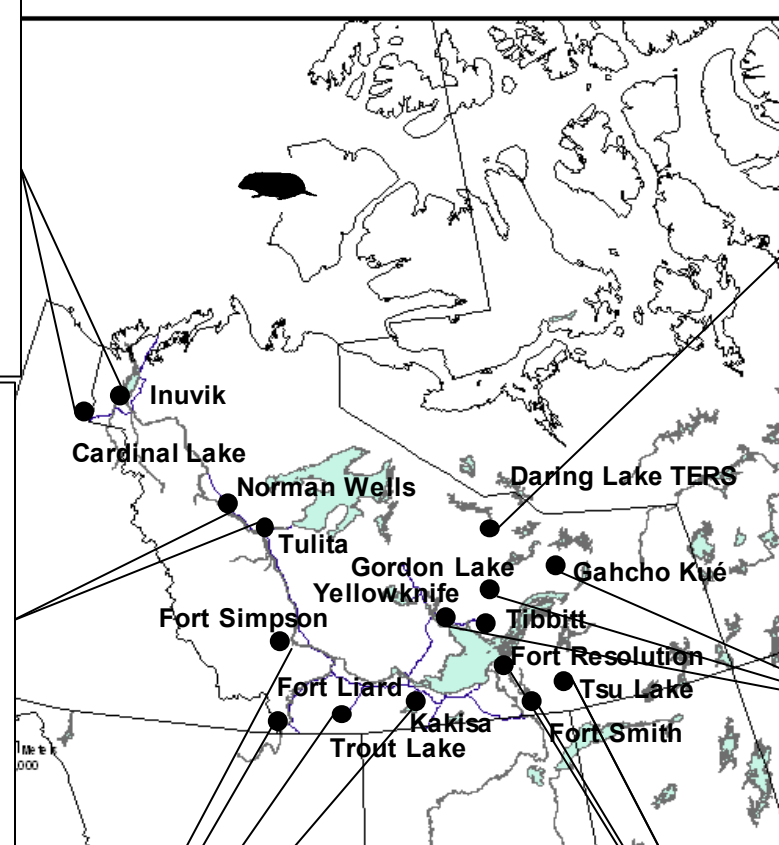
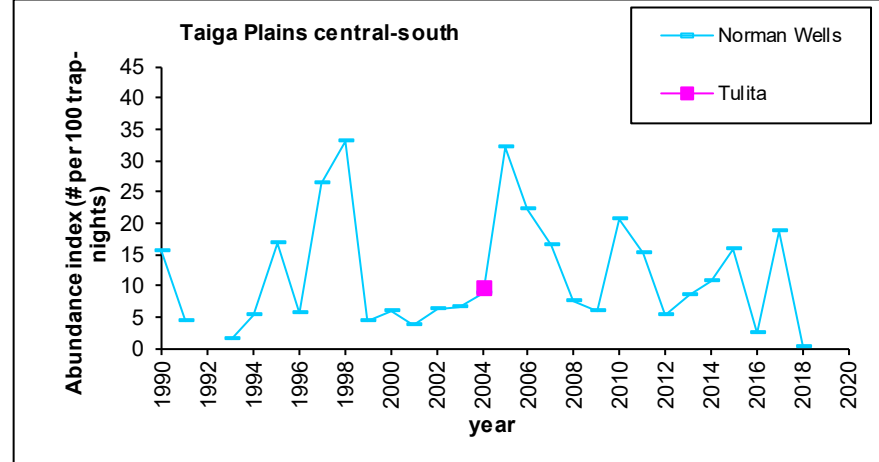
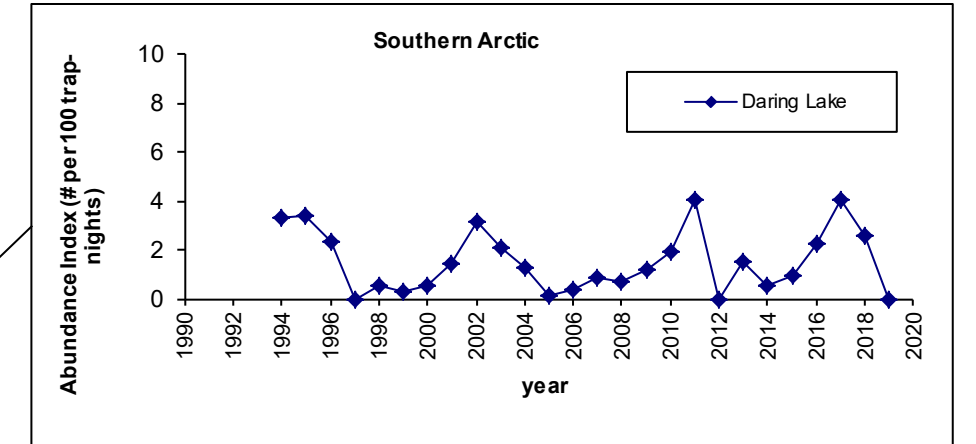
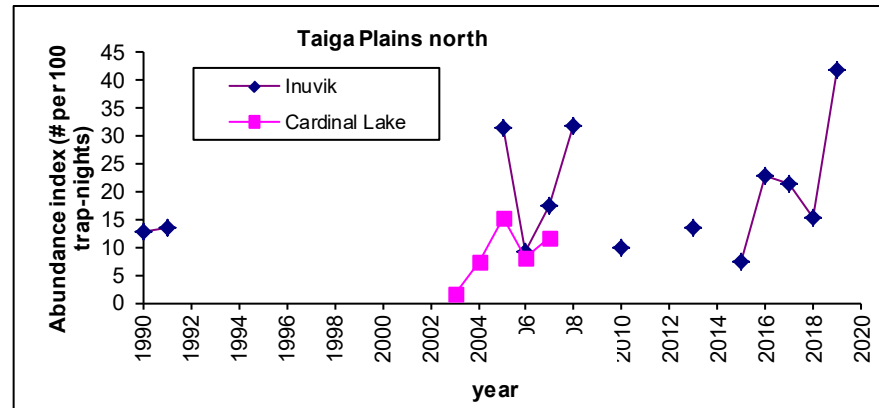
Since 1990, Wildlife officers, wildlife technicians biologists, and volunteers have been monitoring populations of small mammals and snowshoe hares near many communities in the NWT. We study voles, mice, shrews and snowshoe hares below the tree line, lemmings, shrews and voles above the tree line.



We look at how small mammal and hare abundance changes from year to year and from community to community.

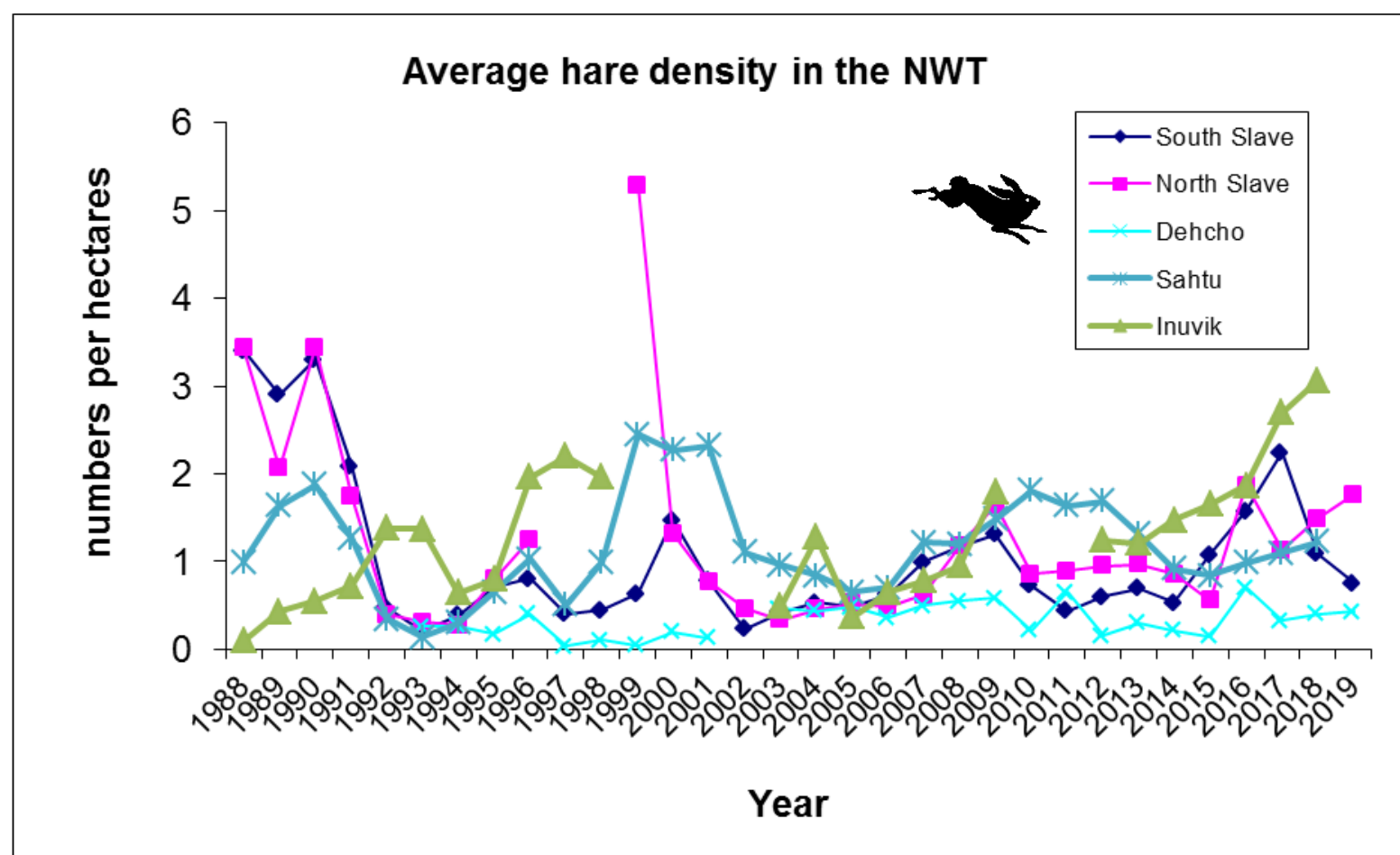
**UPDATE Not all data are in!**  
Numbers of mice and voles in 2019 were declining in most regions, except Inuvik.

Small mammal abundance indices in the NWT - 1990-2019

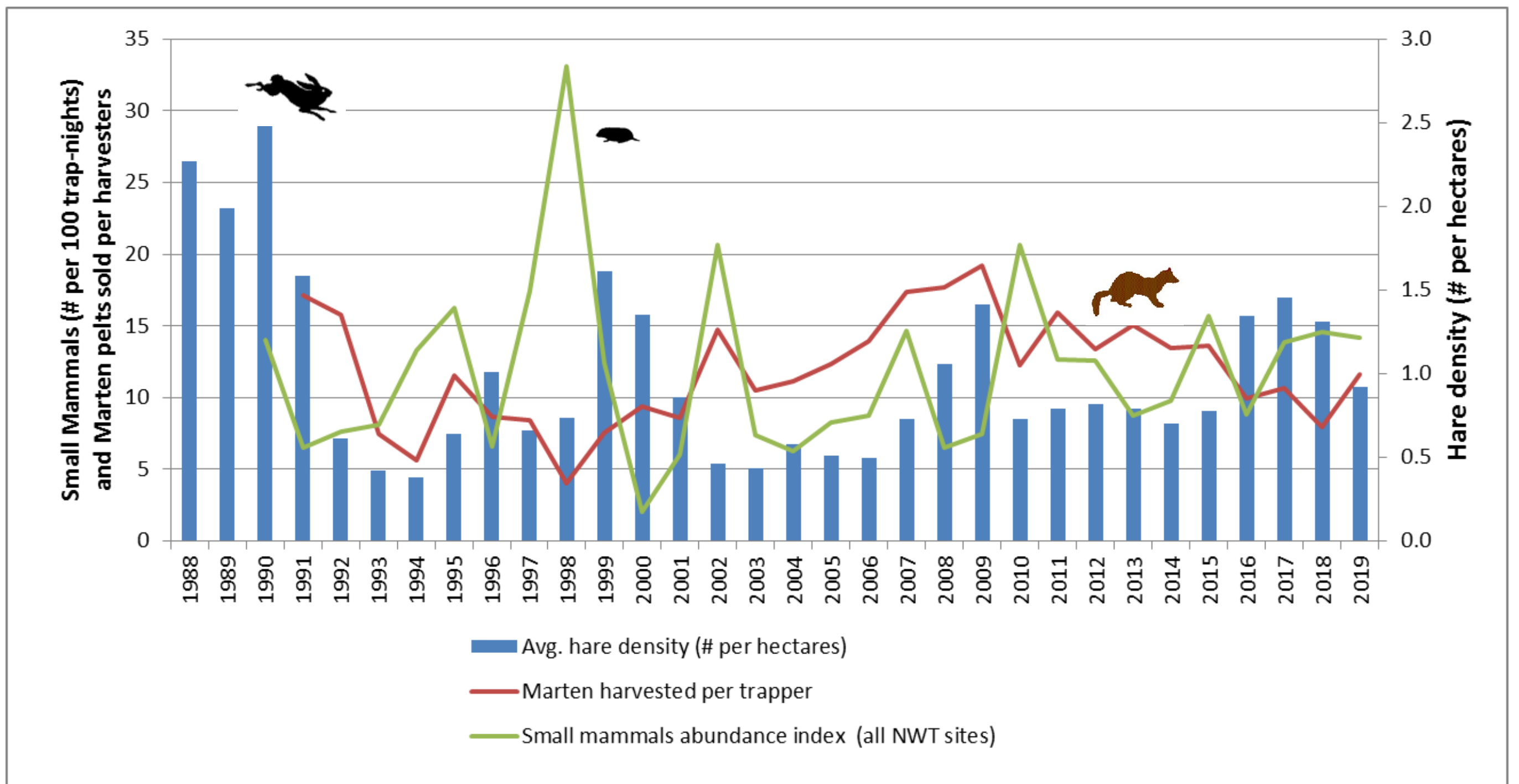
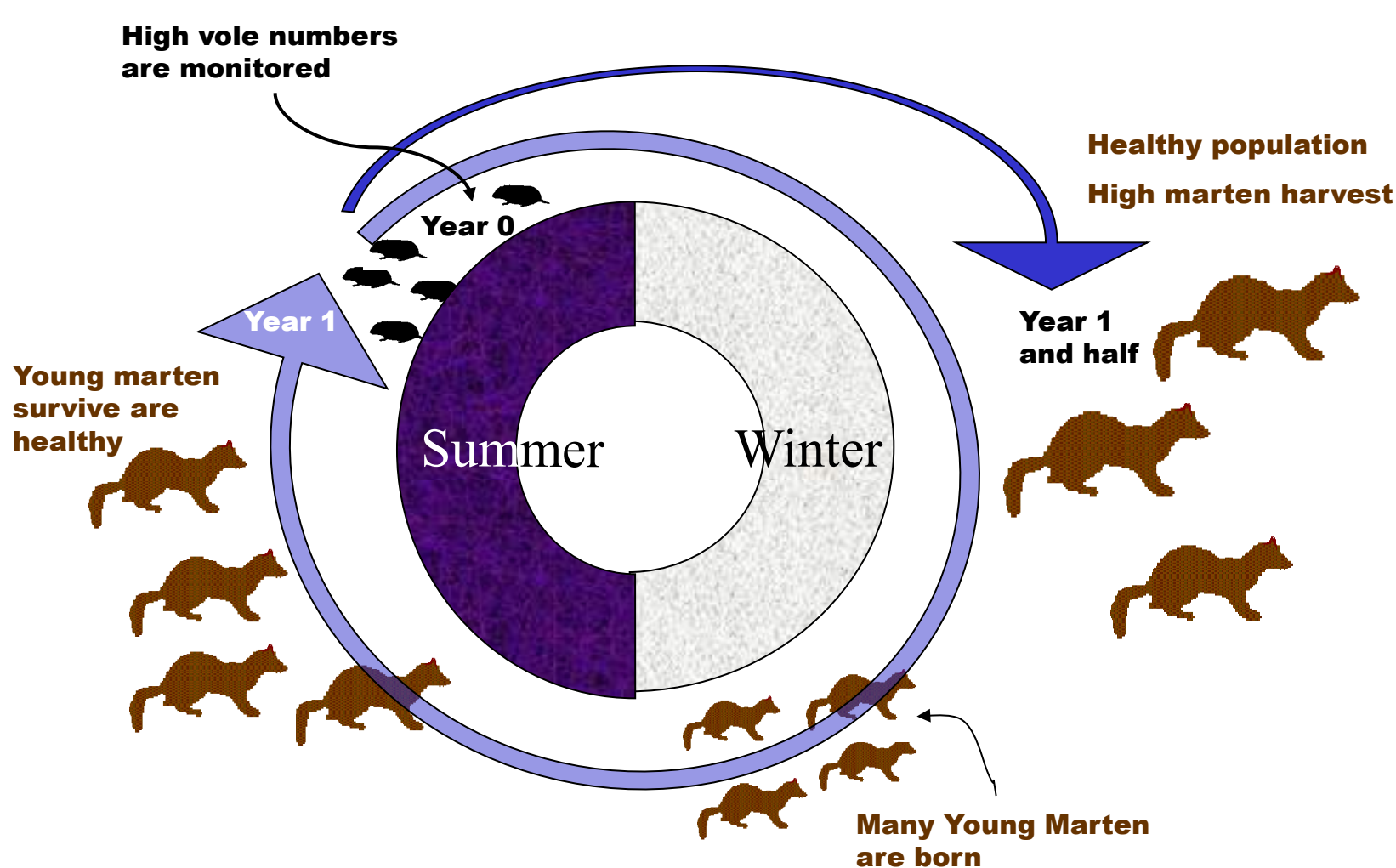


Participating groups: Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (Tulita); Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (Inuvik); Aurora College (Tsu Lake); Ka'agee Tu First Nation (Kakisa); (Gahcho Kue) De Beers; in collaboration with ENR (all other sites)

**UPDATE** A peak is expected by 2020 or 2021, but hare numbers are already going down in South Slave. Hare survey was not done in Sahtu.



To gain more information on prey fluctuations in NWT ecosystems, we look at how the populations of voles and snowshoe hare in one year may affect abundance of their predators a year and a half later. Martens are predators of both voles and snowshoe hare. However, their harvest is not predicted the abundance of both preys, but may be predicted by pelt prices. Lynx are specialists, they fed mostly on snowshoe hares. Lynx harvests more closely match cycles in hare density indices.



### Share your information!!

We would like to increase the number of sites collecting information on small mammals and hares to help improve predictions of furbearer harvest potential at the Regional level and to monitor long-term trends. Survey protocols are available.

Your observations on furbearers, hare and small mammal abundance are valuable to predict harvest.

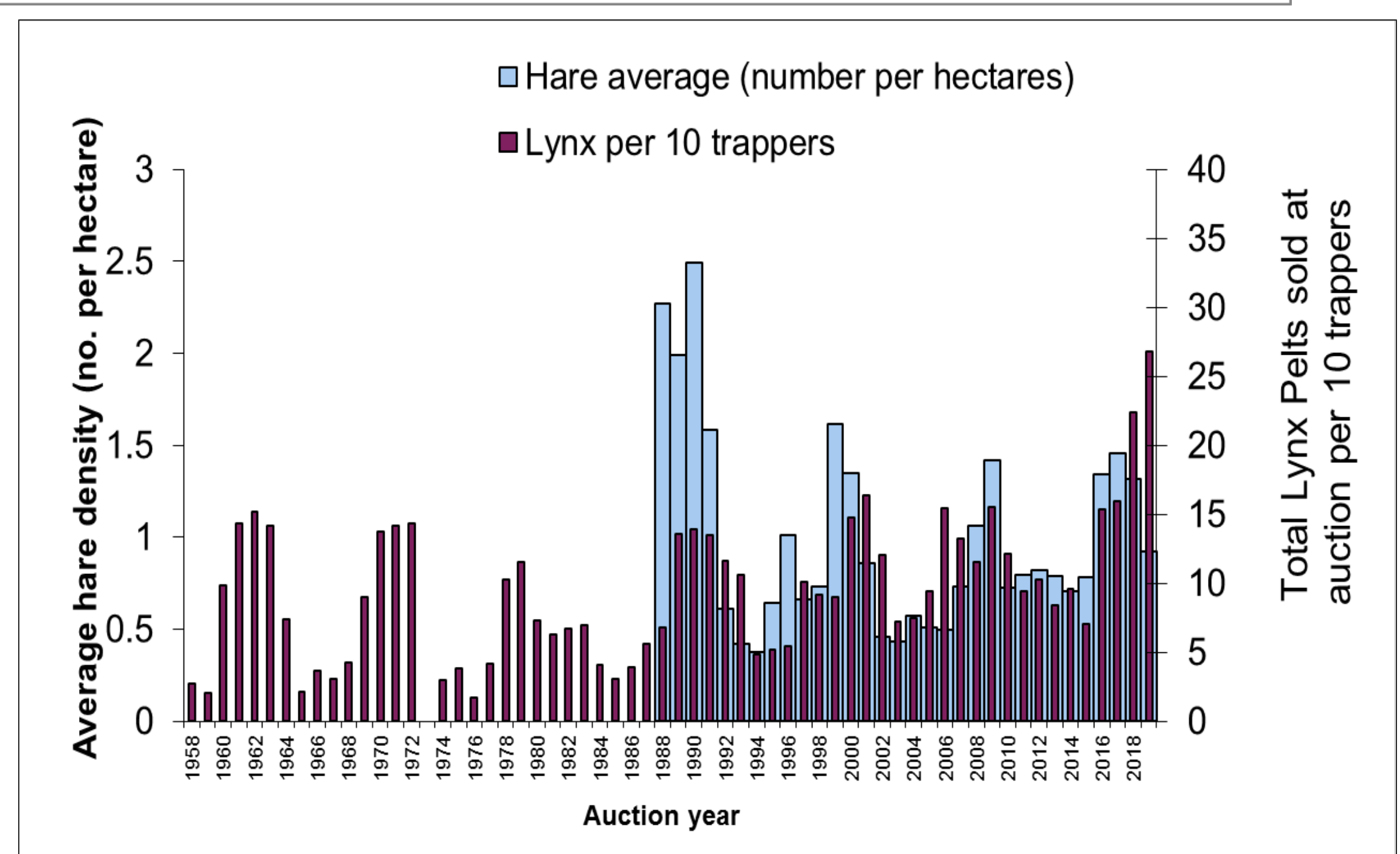
Surveys are conducted also in Wood Buffalo National Park and Gahcho Kue.



The NWT SM-Hare Survey is performed in cooperation with:



Canada  
DE BEERS  
GROUP OF COMPANIES



For more information contact your Regional Biologist.  
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources

Government of the Northwest Territories  
Extra posters are available at  
WildlifeOBS@gov.nt.ca