

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST

FINAL REPORT 2007-2008

Yukon Fish and Game Association: TIPS (Turn in Poachers Secretly)

Project Activities:



Turn In Poachers/Turn in Polluters Overview



The Turn in Poachers/Turn in Polluters (TIP) program has been in effect in the Yukon since 1991. It was established as a joint effort of the Department of Environment and the Yukon Fish and Game Association to provide Yukoners with the opportunity to report resource violations to Conservation Officers using a toll free number.

This program is intended to serve as a compliance promotion initiative by raising public awareness concerning the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife and illegal environmental activities such as dumping waste. The knowledge that such a program exists and is well advertised not only educates and informs the public about potential areas of concern, but may act as a deterrent to those who would commit violations. While the reporting of matters that may otherwise be undetected is a direct benefit of this program, the most significant value of this program is in promoting compliance with resource legislation through education and awareness.

The TIP line is in operation 24 hrs/day to receive information about fisheries, wildlife and environmental violations. A local answering service passes information received to the appropriate Conservation Officer. If the information provided results in the laying of a charge, the caller is eligible for a cash reward. The program also provides reward payments to individuals who provide information directly to a Conservation Officer.

The Fish and Game Association has provided a Rewards Committee when required to oversee the handling of reward payments. This committee has reviewed submitted cases, and recommended reward payments based on the information provided.

Most persons who report matters do not request reward payment, and report matters out of genuine concern for our natural resources. Others however, would not report without the incentive of reward payment. Several significant poaching cases have been resolved through information received from persons who were seeking a reward. These are matters that would almost certainly never have been solved had it not been for the existence of the TIP program. This has included cases involving the wasting of meat, use of poisons, hunting of elk and deer and dangerous hunting. To date, the Fish and Game Association has reviewed 33 cases where rewards were requested and paid approximately \$20,000 to persons for reporting resource violations. The money is paid directly to persons who provided the information, by the Conservation Officers who investigated the matter.

The Department of Environment and the Fish and Game Association promote the program through various media, including TV, Radio, road signs, telephone book highlighting and through dispensing promotional material such as mugs, ball caps, key chains etc. These promotional materials are distributed by Conservation Officers during field patrols, when conducting public educational programs such as school talks, or given to various groups and organizations such as Scouts. To reduce costs, this material is often cost shared with agencies promoting conservation messages such as Fisheries Branch promoting Live Release Angling, or First Nations promoting a Harvest Reporting program. The TIP logo also appears on most departmental licences, many brochures, on Conservation Officer vehicles etc.

The Department of Environment contributes approximately \$6,000 annually towards promoting the TIP program, as well as pays for administration of the answering service and telephone book listings. The Fish and Game Association usually contributes \$1,000 annually towards the purchase of promotional material, and when required, provides reward payments.

Recent amendments to the Wildlife Act have provided authority for courts to order monies paid into the Conservation Fund (not yet established, but

legislation now enables this to occur) be directed to “a violation reporting system”. In the future, this may provide revenue towards the TIP program.

The TIP line normally receives about 75-100 calls annually that require a response from a Conservation Officer. The same phone number is also used to record information for the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery program, and occasionally to receive information about problem bears. The line is sometimes used for campground staff to report campground complaints such as loud parties, theft of firewood or vandalism.

In the 2007/2008 licencing year, 94 calls were received on the TIP line, of which 33 were of an enforcement nature that required a response by an officer.

The Turn In Poachers/Turn In Polluters program has proven successful numerous times since it’s inception. It’s difficult to measure the deterrent value of such a program, however it is clearly a positive, proactive way of informing and educating the public about concerns many Yukoner’s share about protecting our natural resources.

Summary of 2007/2008 TIP calls

Human/Wildlife Conflict	30 (down 1 from 2006/07)
Enforcement	33 (down 3 from 2006/07)
Road Kill	9 (same as 2006/07)
Wildlife Management	7 (down 2 from 2006/07)
Other	15 (up 1 from 2006/07)

Communications:

These materials have already been distributed at Bison workshops, big bull night, and will be further distributed at caribou workshops and other meetings related to hunting and fishing. The actual tips will need to be dealt with in the following year depending on what comes forward this year.

Applicant Suggestions:

The board's suggestion to focus on practical useful information items is a good one and will be continued. In future we would continue to focus on these areas and in our view there is much room to continue and expand this work.

Our association liked how the process worked this year and the relationship with the contractor you had assigned to the program.

We would appreciate the process being kept as simple and straight forward as possible.

All documents should be in a word format not just adobe.

Financial Statements: **FINAL REPORT SHEET**

<u>1. Capital expense</u>				
<u>2. Wages/Contract</u>				
<u>3. Office & Admin</u>	10% admin.		1. 658.61	
<u>4. Travel</u>				

<u>5. Materials and supplies</u>	1. John Klein 2. David Bakica 3. Deluxe first aid 4. Gunnel fish rulers 5. Trailer Logo(TIPS)		1. 800.00 2. 300.00 3. 492.72 4. 4,350.00 5. 643.39	<u>Receipts attached</u>
<u>6. Facility expense</u>				
<u>7. Other</u>			<u>Total: 7,244.72</u>	