

The Nunavik Natsiq Sampling Program

Natsiq (ᐃᑦᑦᑦᑦ, ringed seals) are a key species in Nunavik. They have sustained and clothed Inuit communities for thousands of years. In recent years, hunters have raised concerns over natsiq health and numbers. Spurred by these concerns and a lack documented data about seals, the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) began a community-based monitoring program with four communities and support from Makivvik. This program brings together Inuit knowledge and western science through two main components: seal sampling and youth mentorship.



The sampling program is led by community hunters. When natsiq are harvested, hunters can collect samples with the provided kits and record information to learn if they are healthy. Testing is done in Kuujuaq for parasites and heavy metals.



Does the seal look **healthy** given the time of year?



Does the seal look **skinnier** than normal?



Is there anything **abnormal** about the seal?

Are you a hunter interested in getting involved?

If you are interested in getting your community or fellow hunters involved in the sampling program then please contact us at: info@nmrwb.ca

