



QUARTERLY UPDATE

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DECEMBER 2020



*We are Delighted to
Welcome the Wyoming
Game and Fish
Department to the Wild
Harvest Initiative®
Partnership Alliance!*

The public response to the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the present and potential future of wild harvesting activities.

WILD HARVEST & COVID-19

Public Response to COVID-19

COVID-19 has impacted nearly all facets of life for people around the globe and wild harvesting activities have not been immune to this. The impact of this pandemic on these activities and, in particular, on the public’s perception of these activities, however, has been extremely varied.

Shortly after COVID-19 emerged, the origin of the outbreak was traced back to a wet market in China and the issue of wildlife-human disease transmission suddenly became a critical issue in many peoples’ minds.

The fear surrounding this revelation triggered widespread calls from people across the globe demanding

stricter regulations surrounding the harvest and trade of wildlife. Calls have ranged from tighter regulations on existing wildlife trade practices, to global calls for veganism. These conversations, if left to escalate unchallenged, would have the potential to severely affect the future of wild harvesting traditions and practices around the world.

Meanwhile, in other facets of society, especially within the US and Canada, wild harvest has become a lifeline rather than a threat. With lost jobs and fragmented food systems, the fragility of our economic structures has hit home for countless people. Many of these individuals have now taken to the natural spaces of North America to harvest their own food – leading to a significant increase in

hunting license sales across numerous jurisdictions.

The Wild Harvest Initiative® and COVID-19

Representing a diverse community of wild harvesters and a wealth of knowledge related to the impacts and benefits of wild harvesting activities, the WHI team recognized the role this initiative had in engaging in these global movements.

In order to advise the world against knee jerk reactions concerning wild harvesting restrictions, Conservation Visions provided support to the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) in their formal response to the crisis. This partnership represents 14

international organizations engaged in work to promote conservation and sustainable use and in the wake of the pandemic, this group released a statement cautioning the global community against the introduction of blanket bans on sustainable use activities. The statement can be found here:

https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/CPW_COVID-19_statement_final_launch_16_Oct.pdf

In order to further this critical message, Conservation Visions released a short film highlighting the key principles captured within the statement. This film reached over 1.5 million viewers through Conservation Visions' outreach efforts. It can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/369479089905524/videos/375409470472118>

At the same time, to highlight the benefits of wild harvesting activities in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Conservation Visions engaged in a media campaign to celebrate the increased interest among the general public to join the wild harvest community.

This campaign included the release of a film, which emphasized the critical food security implications of wild harvesting activities. This video pointed viewers to the Wild Harvest Initiative® in its messaging and the video successfully reached over two million viewers. It can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/369479089905524/videos/329934271742334>

The effort also involved the development of social media posts and memes using popular hashtags related to the Covid-19 pandemic in order to advance key messaging related to the importance of wild harvest during this time.

Finally, Shane wrote a popular article in Sports Afield magazine discussing the importance of wild harvesting activities in light of the ongoing crisis.



PROGRESS REPORTING

Wild Harvest Initiative® Database

Hunting and Angling Harvest Data Analyses

Data regarding the recreational harvest of fish in Canada over the last 25 years has been collated and captured within the WHI database.

This data is now being overlaid with species' live and consumable weights to determine the magnitude of food represented by the recreational fishing industry within the country.

Economic Valuation

Domestic substitutes have been identified for all harvested wildlife species. Accurate costing of each of these replacements for both Canada

and the US is now being determined. It was decided that a costing associated with present year pricing would be used for this process.

Once the replacement costs for wild harvested protein have been finalized and incorporated into the WHI database for both countries, the WHI team will be able to extract quantified results related to the economic value of wild harvested protein in North

America. Something we anticipate being able to do in the coming months.

In quantifying the economic value of wild harvested protein, the magnitude of domestic replacements will be established, which will then drive the determination of the overall replacement values. The WHI team is currently looking at bringing on sector specialists to partner with the initiative in undertaking this research.

Database Updates

Quality assurance tests are being undertaken, in accordance with Conservation Visions' standard procedures, to ensure consistency and accuracy of records kept within the WHI database.

Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index

Nevada, Arizona and Alaska are now all moving forward with developing and administering surveys in their respective states. The design and implementation strategy for the surveys is being tailored to allow for the unique situation in each jurisdiction, while also maintaining sufficient consistency to enable cross-comparisons and combined analyses once the data is collected.

Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance

Welcoming New Partners

We warmly welcome the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to the Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance!

Communications

Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation joint press release

In order to publicly welcome the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation to the Wild Harvest Initiative®, Conservation Visions released a joint press release with the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation on November 26th. The press release can be found here:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/alaska-wild-sheep-foundation-partners-with-conservation-visions-wild-harvest-initiative-to-evaluate-benefits-of-wild-harvested-food-301180819.html>

Presentations and Conferences

In September, Shane participated in the Wildlife Society's 2020 annual conference, where he spoke on the "Relevance of Sustainable Use of Wildlife in a Changing Society."

Video with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management

As described above, Conservation Visions released a film with CPW this

quarter cautioning the global community against the introduction of blanket bans on sustainable use activities. This film reached over 1.5 million viewers and can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/369479089905524/videos/375409470472118>

News broadcast

Shane recently spoke to a news broadcaster from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) to discuss issues and controversies surrounding the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). The broadcast can be found here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-122-the-broadcast/clip/15810490-can-n.l.-ifaw-eyes-future-seal-hunt-exploring>

Instagram takeover

On November 13th, Shane participated in a full-day takeover of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers' (BHA) Instagram account. As part of this, BHA also launched a photo contest, for which Shane was a judge. Information about this contest can be found here:

https://www.backcountryhunters.org/2020_public_land_owner_photo_contest

BHA Instagram Takeover

IT'S BEEN A ROUGH YEAR.

You Deserve a Break.

Join Shane Mahoney on Friday, November 13th @
[instagram.com/backcountryhunters/](https://www.instagram.com/backcountryhunters/)



conservation VISIONS®

THE WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE® PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE



Not pictured are Sean Olmstead and Richard A. "Dick" Corbett