

The role of hunters in sustainable wildlife conservation management in Sapporo

-The present condition and attitude of hunters-

(札幌市における持続的可能な野生動物保全管理のための狩猟者の役割

-現在の狩猟者の実態と意識調査-)

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The hunter plays an important role to prevent agricultural farm and forest from the damage by wildlife. Hunting is also useful to contact the wildlife population and the balance of these habitats. The population of hunter in Japan has been declining and the ageing of hunter has continued since the 1970s. In recent years, the number of wildlife has increased in Hokkaido and consequently serious damages to agricultural and forestry products causes in Hokkaido. This study aims to investigate the recent hunting activities, hunter`s attitudes toward regulations, the hunting environment and also to clarify the reason why the number of hunter in Japan has decreased.

The interview was conducted for several hunters and officials of Hokkaido. The questionnaire was carried out at Sapporo branch of the hunting club. At the meeting of the hunting club where most of the member of the club came together, questionnaire was distributed to the participants in Nov, 2015 and then collected. The response rate was 80%. The main matter of questionnaire was consisted of the following four categories. (1) Attributes of the hunters such as age and occupation. (2) Motives of the hunting and the future prospects. (3) A hunting system and environment. (4) The social contribution of hunters. After the collection, the questionnaire was analyzed by using Excel and SPSS.

In order to understand hunting awareness and environment around the hunters, the interview to six hunters, Canadian wildlife researcher, Germany journalist and four famers were performed. According to the interviews, each hunter has different conscience on the hunting. On the other hand, famers do not understood hunting system enoughly. As the results of questionnaire, average age of hunter of Sapporo hunting club was 58.4 and hunting experience was 22.3 years. About the hunting awareness, there is no significant difference due to the generation. Most of respondents has some discontents toward hunting system, especially the gun management system in Japan.