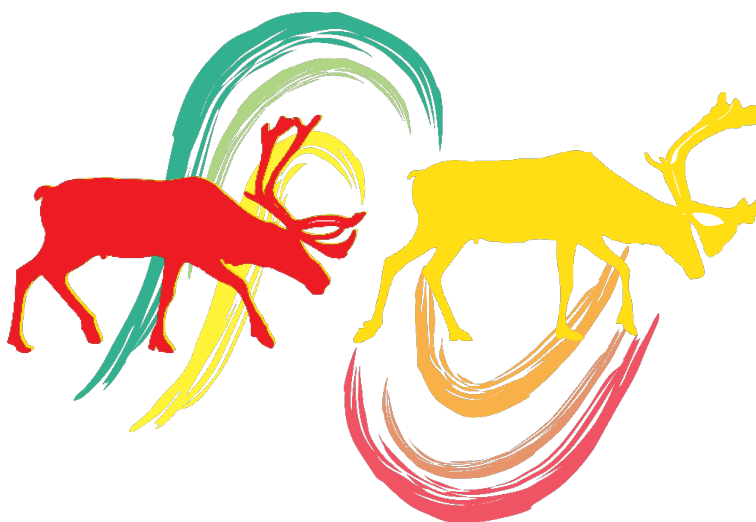




BLUENOSE-EAST CARIBOU

– RED/YELLOW STATUS –



Tuktuvialuk (Inuvialuktun, Siglitun dialect)
Tuktut (Inuinnaqtun, Kugluktuk, Western Kitikmeot)
ᑕedə (K'áhsho Got'ine, Dela Got'ine)
ᑕehdaᑭla Goᑕekwé (Dél'ine Got'ine)
Sahti ᑕekwò (Tłıchq, Wek'èezhì)

**Prepared by the Advisory Committee for
Cooperation on Wildlife Management
April 2022**

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Production note:

This Action Plan was prepared by the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management Working Group. For additional copies contact:

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About the ACCWM

The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management was established to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus, and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. The committee consists of Chairpersons (or alternate appointees) of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board), Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, and Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board.



About Taking Care of Caribou and the associated Action Plans

In late 2014 and early 2015, members of the ACCWM approved *Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan*. The Plan was developed in consultation with 17 communities that harvest from the three herds. The intent is for the Plan to address caribou management and stewardship over the long term. It was presented to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Government of the Northwest Territories), the Minister of Environment (Government of Nunavut), and the Environment Minister (Government of Canada) in 2014. The Management Plan is supported by two companion documents: a report summarizing recent scientific information about the herds, and a report that provides a summary of the information that was shared during community meetings to develop the Plan. Individual Action Plans were then developed for each of the three herds. These Action Plans provide details on the types of actions that are recommended based on a herd's status, as well as who is responsible for the actions, and when they should be done.

Disclaimer:

The ACCWM recognizes that the implementation of management actions moving forward is subject to appropriations, prioritizations, and budgetary restraints of the participating agencies and organizations.

ACCWM and the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan

The **Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management** (ACCWM) was established in 2008, to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. In 2014, the ACCWM recommended the **Taking Care of Caribou** management plan to the governments with management jurisdictions of these three herds. The plan was reviewed and updated in 2022. The plan will be revised again in 2024. The current version of the plan can be found here: [link](#)

How a Herd’s Status and Appropriate Management Actions are Determined

The ACCWM is responsible for determining herd status each year and developing appropriate management actions based on that status. Each fall, the member boards meet for the Annual Status Meeting (Terms of Reference [TOR] can be found [here](#)) to share information and make collaborative decisions regarding the herds, including herd status, according to the requirements of regional legislation and land claims agreements. The implementation of the - Action Plans is also reviewed at this time and actions for the Bluenose-East (BNE) herd can be found in the Management Action table section of this Action plan (see page 10).

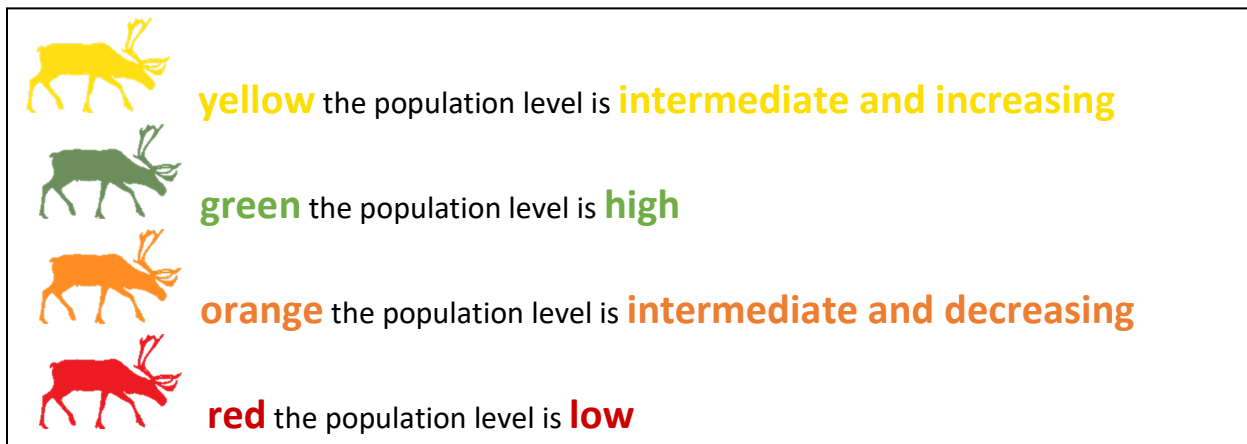


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

Status Decision 2021

Management actions are based on these phases of the population cycle, using approximate levels or “thresholds” as a guide. Thresholds for the herds were determined by the ACCWM based on known historic highs and lows, with input received from community and technical experts in a consensus-based process. **However, it is not only the threshold value that is used**

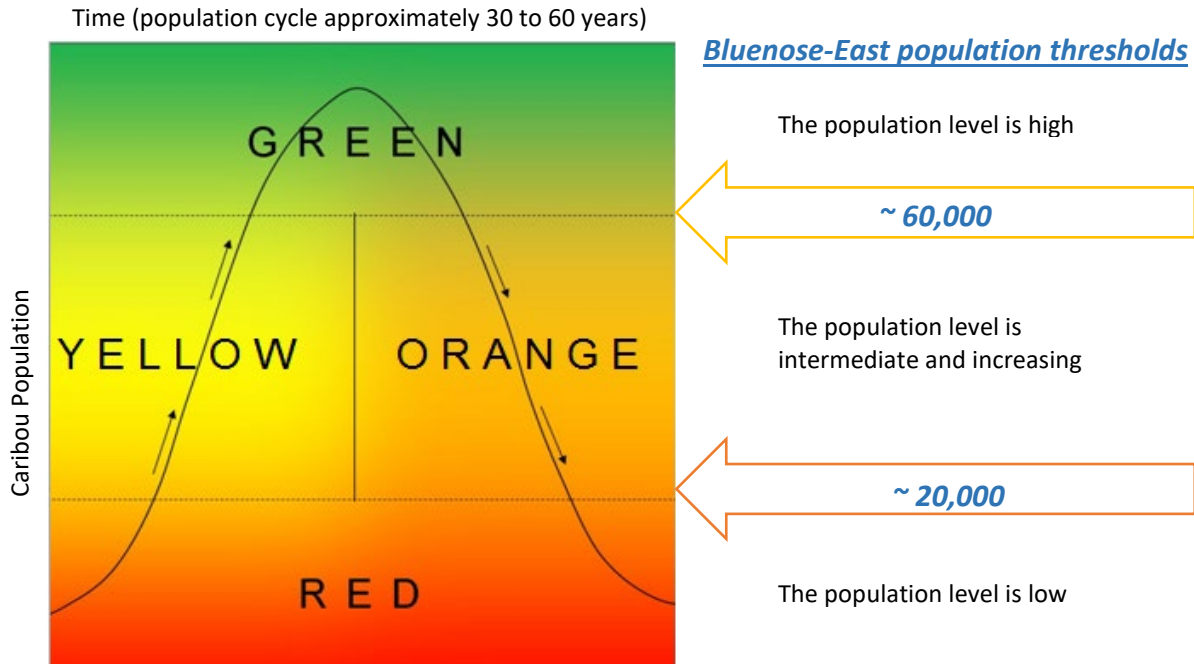


Figure 1: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with Bluenose-East Population thresholds.

to determine the colour zone – the determination of herd status takes into account all available information. The traffic light approach to understanding risk in caribou population cycles is shown in Figure 2 along with the approximate thresholds for the Bluenose-East herd. According to the process outlined in the Management Plan, numerous criteria are used to make an annual status decision. Information considered by the ACCWM in making the 2021 decision is summarized in Table 1 below. During the annual status meeting, stakeholders are encouraged to provide important local and Indigenous knowledge that helps to inform the status decision. This data is reported in the Annual Meeting Summary report when it doesn't fit into the monitoring criteria listed in Table 1.

The ACCWM met in November 2021 to discuss community-based monitoring and scientific information for the Bluenose-East caribou herd. At that time, a consensus could not be reached to determine an agreed upon status for the herd. The member boards expressed their interests in pursuing a consensus after they had time to discuss the viewpoints of the other boards with their own boards. Follow-up meetings were held in the subsequent months, but no consensus could be reached for either a **Red** or **Yellow** status. In April 2022, the member boards decided upon a hybrid **Red & Yellow** status which recognized the positive indicators while still highlighting the fact that there are concerns about the population of the herd.

The community data presented at the meeting indicated several positive observations such as the increased twinning of calves and a rise in the sub-adult population numbers in 2021. At the same time, the scientific data presented indicated that the change in population since 2018 was not statistically significant and there is no increase in the number of adult females. This was further complicated by the fact that the estimate population was right on the threshold (about

20,000) between the accepted ranges for the two statuses as described by the management plan. As previous experience with the Bathurst Herd had shown that there can be year to year increases in the population numbers while the long-term trend for the population continues downward, there was a strong sentiment that the ACCWM should err on the side of caution.

Based on the information provided and the subsequent discussions, the ACCWM determined the Bluenose-East herd status colour zone to be both **Red (low)** and **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)** in November 2021. This decision recognizes that though there are some positive community and scientific observations, the observed population level at the ~20,000 threshold between **Red** and **Yellow**. As a result of this decision, the ACCWM has decided to continue to recommend the management actions associated with **Red (low)**, with the hopes that herd will be firmly in the **Yellow** range by November 2022.

Given that a hybrid status has not previously been used by the ACCWM, member boards will need to be proactive to ensure that the public understands that the herd may not be increasing yet.



In 2022/23
the Bluenose-East caribou population status is
RED: low
&
Yellow: intermediate and increasing

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Bluenose-East herd status in 2021.¹

Criteria	Community-Based Information ²	Scientific Information ³	Comments
Population size	Kugluktuk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small herds • Didn't observe many big herds • One herd of 3000-5000 • Sightings occur in August 	Estimated number adult caribou at least 1.5 year old in 2021: 23,202 (95%CI 19,247-27,971). Estimated number of breeding cows 12,863 (95%CI 10,816-15,298).	Estimated based on June 2021 calving ground photo survey and October composition surveys 2020 & 2021 to estimate sex ratio.
Population trend and rate of change	Kugluktuk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trend is going back up from 4-5 years ago • 40-50-year cycle 	Estimated 19-20% annual rate of decrease 2015 to 2018. Estimated stable 2018-2021 based on female estimates.	Herd declined by half 2015-2018. Herd estimate 2021 shows a small increase over 2018 based on increased bull:cow ratios.

¹ This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status at the annual status meeting and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in *Taking Care of Caribou*.

² Bluenose-East caribou usually migrate through four settlement areas/regions in the Northwest Territories and into the western portion of the Kitikmeot Region, Nunavut. The herd may be harvested by nine communities: Wrigley, Norman Wells, Tulít'a, Déłjñę, Whati, Gamètì, Behchokò, Paulatuk, and Kugluktuk. Déłjñę is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ʔehdajla ʔekwé. Colville Lake is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ʔədə. As such, the SRRB annually invites Déłjñę and Colville Lake to provide direct presentations of community knowledge to the ACCWM. As part of the SRRB's ongoing Public Listening Session series (2020-2024), publicly available community and scientific information about status of ʔehdajla ʔekwé (Caribou Point or Bluenose East caribou, ʔədə (barren-ground caribou in the K'áhsho Got'jñę District or Bluenose West caribou), people, and planning for 2021 can be found in Déłjñę and Colville responses to Information Requests, as well as Indigenous knowledge and science literature reviews. These are posted on the Déłjñę 2021 PLS Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca.

Of note are the following planning updates from Déłjñę and Colville Lake: As of October 2021, the Déłjñę Got'jñę Government has approved a revised version of the Belare Wile Gots'é ʔekwé - Caribou for All Time plan that accounts for increased conservation concerns about ʔehdajla ʔekwé. Colville Lake has developed the Dehlá Got'jñę ʔədə Plan and Ts'jduweh ʔədə ʔeʔa (Ancient Caribou Plan). Expanded versions of these plans that address SRRB recommendations and the PLS "hot topics" for 2020 and 2021 (harvest regulation, predators and competitors) will be considered by the SRRB at the Déłjñę 2021 PLS in February, 2021.

³ All scientific information and comments were provided by Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) (GNWT) unless otherwise noted.

<p>Productivity and recruitment</p>	<p>Kugluktuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of calves. Lots of yearlings. • Some twins but not as much as 2020. 	<p>Percent breeding females June 2021 on calving grounds: 91.9% June 2019 87.5%; June 2018 83.0%.</p> <p>Pregnancy rate of captured cows 2020: 18/18 (100%). 2021: 26/30 (87%).</p> <p>Calf to cow ratios: Oct. 2020: 51.7 (95%CI 47.2-55.7) March 2021: 46.7 (95%CI 41.6-52.7) Oct. 2021: 49.6 (95%CI 45.6-53.0)</p>	<p>Improving pregnancy rates 2018-2021, very high 2021.</p> <p>Improved calf:cow ratios from 2018 to 2021; very good in 2020-2021.</p>
<p>Adult composition</p>	<p>Kugluktuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good mix of cows and bulls. 	<p>Fall bull to cow ratio: Oct. 2020 63.3: 100 (95% CI 50.0-79.)</p> <p>Oct. 2021 68.7: 100 (95%CI 61.3-77.4)</p>	<p>Large increase in bull:cow ratios in 2020 and 2021 over previous years.</p> <p>Increasing herds in NWT early 1980s had ratios of 65-70 bulls: 100 cows.</p>
<p>Body condition and health</p>	<p>Kugluktuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very healthy in 2021 and 2020 • Spring harvests had lots of caribou with fat • Very few sick ones 	<p>Body condition of captured caribou (for collars) reported very good 2021.</p>	
<p>Harvest levels</p>	<p>Kugluktuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 1 to October 28/21 - 170 TAH - 155 harvested: 123 males/32 females • Lots of young bulls 	<p>Harvest low in N. Slave region 2018-2021</p> <p>Reported BNE winter harvest N Slave region NWT:</p>	<p>BNE caribou have been mostly in remote areas last 3 winters while in the NWT (in N Slave region); most N Slave hunters have harvested Beverly</p>

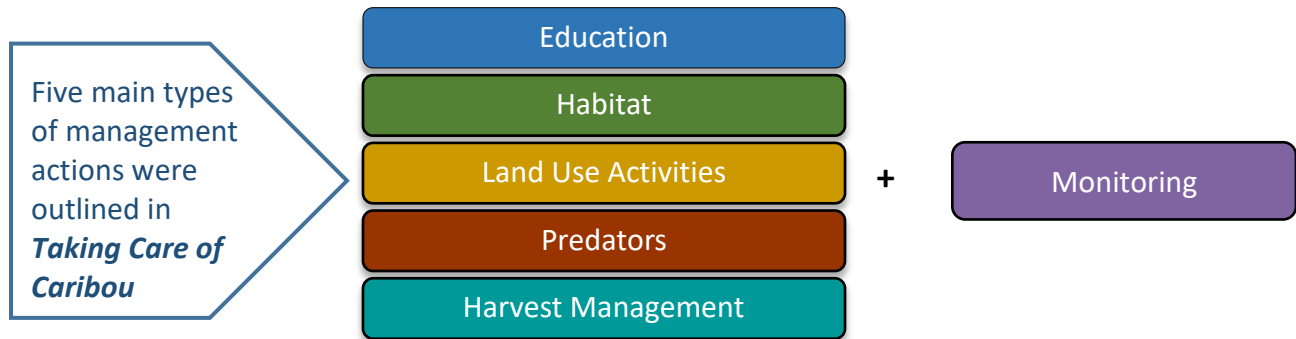
	<p>harvested</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88 were harvested (40 of which were cows). • DGG has a big push to get people back on the land for harvesting. • Through self-regulation/respect the idea is to keep the level of harvest within acceptable levels. <p>Tłıchq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total tags = 76 • Total harvest: 63 • The harvest occurred near Wekweeti and Gamètı. The animals harvested were all bulls. 	<p>2018-2019: 74 2019-2020: 76 2020-2021: 63</p>	<p>caribou in east on winter roads.</p> <p>DGG and DRRC has approved and update their community plan in Oct. with a threshold of 50 after which the community meets to talk about how to stop the harvest. There is also a threshold of 5 females which are use for ceremonial purposes.</p>
<p>Predator populations</p>	<p>Kugluktuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High number of grizzly bears observed; lots with twins, some with triplets. • Not too many wolves observed • People are saying that the wolf hunting in other areas is helping increase the number of calves they are seeing the region. 	<p>June calving composition surveys:</p> <p>2021: 6 grizzly bears, 0 wolves</p> <p>2019 14 grizzly bears, 3 wolves</p> <p>Wolf management 2020-2021 for BNE and Bathurst herds. 54 wolves removed 2020 BNE range; 135 wolves removed 2021 from mixed BNE/Bathurst/Beverly</p>	<p>Continuing trend of more grizzly bears than wolves seen on BNE calving grounds 2010-2018.</p> <p>Incidental sightings of predators on caribou surveys tend to have high variability.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grizzly bear harvest was high last year. 	herds.	
Range and movement patterns	Kugluktuk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They were closer to the community in the springtime than past few years. 	Fidelity of BNE collared cows to calving ground 2008-2018: 97-98%. Fidelity 2018-2021: 98.5%.	BNE has mixed with Bathurst in winter in some years; strong BNE fidelity to calving and summer ranges.
Environment and habitat	Kugluktuk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very healthy vegetation in the last two years. Not as many warble flies this year. Lots of birds and small insects 	Average Fire Year NWT: 500,000 Ha burned (total). 2019: 100,000 Ha 2020: 21,000 Ha 2021: 145,000 Ha	Last 3 years below average total area burned in NWT.
Human disturbance	Kugluktuk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal; no industry/exploration. 	Limited, no active mines.	Tundra Copper exploration on calving grounds – not active last 5 years. Cumulative effects project underway.
Competitors	Kugluktuk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High number of moose close to Kugluktuk Muskox had good number of calves Délı̄ne (Sahtú): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are concerns about the impacts of muskoxen in making caribou move away, and climate change. 		

Red/Yellow Status Management Actions for Bluenose East Caribou

Management actions described in *Taking Care of Caribou* fall into five main categories: **Education**, **Habitat**, **Land Use Activities**, **Predators** and **Harvest Management**.

We have included a sixth category here to capture the **Monitoring** actions that were also identified in the Management Plan. Monitoring is a key part of learning and assessing the success of management actions. For the most part, monitoring actions differ from management actions as they are not as dependent on herd status – they are ongoing in many cases, but their frequency or intensity may change with changing status.



To make it easier to find specific information for each of these action categories they have been colour-coded throughout this document.

Different actions are often required depending on whether a herd’s status is determined to be green, yellow, orange or red. A table summarizing appropriate management actions for all status levels as agreed to in *Taking Care of Caribou* is included in **Appendix B**. As the status of the Bluenose East herd is **red (low)** and **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)** each of the bulleted actions outlined for red status in that table has now been developed into a series of specific tasks in the **Management Actions Table** of this Action Plan.

Because most activities under **Education** and **Habitat** require very long-term approaches to be effective, the suggested management actions remain the same no matter the status of the herd. For actions in the **Land Use Activities**, **Predators**, and **Harvest Management** categories to be responsive to different phases of the population cycle, different actions are required depending on a herd’s status – for example, when setting a herd Total Allowable Harvest (see **Appendix G** for an explanation of how allocations and the Total Allowable Harvest for a herd are set).

Management Actions Table for Bluenose-East Caribou

Following principles laid out in *Taking Care of Caribou*, all actions and tasks described in this table will draw upon both community-based knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and scientific information. The ACCWM recognizes that documenting and using traditional knowledge is a priority for all member boards. The ACCWM reviews the relevant data presented at the annual meeting and provides advice to member boards. While the status of the herd is **red (low)** and **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)**, the member boards agreed to use the management actions outlined in *Taking Care of Caribou* for herds with a **red (low)** status.

A. Education ⁴					
A – 1. Develop education strategy <i>Objective – address community concerns regarding a lack of education (see various themes identified in Taking Care of Caribou) and clarify an approach</i>					
Task	Partners ⁵	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level ⁶	Status November 2021 – plans for 22/23
A.2.1 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Ongoing	Top	SRRB receives input on education needs through annual Public Listening Sessions (hearings) planned for 2020-2024. COVID-19 limited the ability of member boards to engage with communities for this task.
A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	Annually	Top	ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting

⁴ Education specific to industrial land uses is dealt with in section C – Land Use Activities (C.3.1 and C.3.2).

⁵ Potential partners have been identified for individual tasks. Leads on tasks may vary and will be determined at a later date.

⁶ While the ACCWM member boards feel that most of the management actions included here have a high priority, only those tasks and actions that call for immediate attention have been given a priority and deliverable deadline to date. These actions/tasks are categorized as ‘Top’ priority in the table. Further prioritization work (i.e., assigning High Medium or Low priority and deliverable dates to the remaining actions/tasks) will be done at a later date.

community and member board priorities, based on ToR for Communication and Education Working Group					
A.1.3 Implementation of educational strategy	Member boards, government partners and regional partners ⁷	Summary report	2018/19 and onwards	Top	<p>Working group holding regular teleconferences</p> <p>Materials placed in Dropbox for all Member boards to utilize.</p> <p>ACCWM website was revised 2021</p> <p>Several materials have been developed by the Communications and Education Working Group. This includes thank you notes and posters, post cards, shooting targets, etc.</p> <p>Social media and website posts using ACCWM communication materials.</p> <p>ENR created an annual movement animation</p> <p>SRRB: In the Sahtú Region, community conservation planning processes and the Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ı́ı - Living on the Land Forum are the primary vehicles for communication and education. The focus of educational activities is related to conservation “hot topics” of annual Public Listening Sessions (hearings); for 2021-2022, this is caribou relationships with other wildlife, and especially predators and</p>

⁷ Regional partners, who vary significantly by region, may include individual community members, community organizations, such as RRCs/HTCs/HTOs, and regional organizations.

					competitors; for 2022-2023, the focus will be on caribou, wildfires, and climate change. Indigenous knowledge and science toolkits are prepared to support knowledge sharing.
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B. Habitat

B – 1. Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas

Objective – address community concerns that key habitat areas are not protected sufficiently

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.1.1 Engage with community organizations and other co-management partners to identify key habitat areas. Develop a sensitive habitat report.	ACCWM WG	Summary of input/guidance from communities Provide report to ACCWM, including draft maps of key areas	Ongoing.	Top	Délįnę Plan identifies key habitat areas as does the land use plan for the Sahtú. Délįnę is working towards establishing the Great Bear Lake watershed as Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area in addition to the International Biosphere Reserve. This process will include identification of key habitat areas. The Tłįchq Land Use Plan currently covers Tłįchq lands. A Wek'èezhì Land Use Plan is in development for crown lands. The Ekwò Nàxoède K'è (Boots on the Ground) Monitoring Program has identified key habitat areas.

B – 2. Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat

Objective – ensure research and monitoring programs are relevant and addressing current information needs for habitat management

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.2.1 Map and track landscape disturbances. Identify and review recent relevant	ACCWM WG and government partners, academics	Compilation map			GNWT 'Inventory of Landscape Change' updated annually. Annual tracking of wildfire footprint. Mackenzie Valley GIS submission standards in place.

information and gaps.					<p>GNWT Cumulative Effects Assessment of Four Barren-ground Caribou Herds underway.</p> <p>SRRB is working with Carleton University’s Geographic and Cartographic Research Centre in development of a caribou atlas that will encompass both barren-ground and boreal caribou landscapes and will include landscape disturbance data.</p>
B.2.2 ACCWM reviews information and provides advice for research and monitoring based on information from B.2.1-4. Member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities.	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided			
<p>B – 3. Recommend important habitat as a ‘value at risk’ for forest fire management <i>Objective – ensure sufficient winter habitat for caribou</i></p>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.3.1 Based on B – 1 and B – 2, provide advice to member boards on values at risk. Member boards make and	ACCWM; Member boards	Key areas identified for fire management and advice provided to member boards			<p>GNWT, North Slave Region: Identification of key caribou habitat was submitted in 2019 with a goal of including important caribou areas as a value-at-risk (VAR) and included in wildfire response decision making.</p> <p>Sahtú region is doing early preparation for a public listening session on wildfires and climate change related to caribou</p>

communicate recommendations for fire management					conservation requirements, to be hosted by Tulít'a in partnership with ENR-FMD in 2023. GNWT, TG, and WRRB have initiated discussion for a Forest Management Plan in Wek'èezhìi.
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C. Land use activities

C – 1. Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs

Objective – ensure cumulative effects monitoring programs are operational and relevant

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
C.1.1 Identify and/or review any gaps in cumulative effects data or previous gaps assessments.	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report			GNWT Cumulative Effects Assessment of Four Barren-ground Caribou Herds underway. SRRB has obtained funding to support enhanced Délı̄nę and Colville Lake community involvement in working with ALCES to consider cumulative effects with respect to Bluenose-West ɔ̄adā and Bluenose-East ɔ̄ekwé within the Sahtú region.

C – 2. Provide advice on mitigation of industrial⁸ impacts to proponents and regulators

Objective – minimize industrial impacts to caribou and their habitat

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
C.2.1 Review Appendix G ⁹ of the Management Plan according to	ACCWM WG; Member boards				SRRB: Preliminary preparations are underway for a Public Listening Session (hearing) on caribou and the Sahtú mixed economy in 2024.

⁸ In this context, the term “Industrial” includes major development projects such as roads.

⁹ Appendix G of Taking Care of Caribou: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/rev_bluenose_caribou_herds_draft_management_plan_v10_final_signed_-_nov_4_2014_0.pdf#page=81

modern best practices.					
C.2.2 Apply Appendix G: member boards make and communicate recommendations to proponents (including air carriers and other subcontractors) and regulators.	Member boards				<p>The GRRB reviews research, regulatory, and land access permit applications and provides advice to proponents on best practices for reducing their impacts on caribou and other wildlife.</p> <p>SRRB reviews permit and license applications and provides advice on wise practices with respect to wildlife and landscapes; where possible, proposals are discussed with the Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ı̨ı - Living on the Land Forum and/or ʔehdzo Got'ı̨ı (Renewable Resources Councils) to support input from community leadership organisations.</p>
C.2.3 Develop and/or adapt communication and education programs with/for industrial proponents	Communication and Education working group				
C.2.4 Identify and review regulations and current inspection/enforcement strategies involving land use in caribou habitat. Recommend increased enforcement of regulations when appropriate. Work with other relevant agencies (GNWT	Member Boards				<p>SRRB: Public Listening Session (hearing), scheduled for 2024, will discuss caribou and the mixed economy in the Sahtú. Early preparations are underway in 2021 for this process.</p>

Lands, regional Land and Water Boards)					
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D. Predators

D – 1. Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates

Objective – determine which predators impact caribou and the relative intensity of their impacts

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
D.1.1 Gather, compile, review and present predator research and monitoring results to ACCWM (including community and scientific monitoring results)	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report	Ongoing	Top	<p>Completed wolf feasibility assessment for Bathurst caribou range (Nov 2017)¹⁰, which can be applied to other barren-ground caribou herd ranges.</p> <p>KHTO members participate in two harvest and monitoring programs.</p> <p>Completed grizzly bear biological assessment and initial options for management for Bathurst caribou range (Nov 2021), which can be applied to other barren-ground caribou herd ranges. The Wolverine biological assessment is underway.</p> <p>SRRB: Indigenous knowledge and science “toolkits” (literature reviews) were compiled on predator-caribou relationships in preparation for the Public Listening Session (hearing) on <i>T̓ch’ádií hé Gots’edí (Living with Wildlife): Caribou Predators and Competitors</i>.</p>
D.1.2 Engage community organizations to	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance	Ongoing	Top	SRRB: Dél̓neḡ 2021 Public Listening Session (hearing) addresses knowledge regarding predators including wolves.

¹⁰ <https://www.wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Wolf%20Feasibility%20Assessment%20-%202010nov17.pdf>

identify and prioritize research needs by region		from communities			It is expected that this will give rise to research priorities in the region for predators.
D.1.3 ACCWM reviews and provides advice to member boards. Boards recommend research priorities to appropriate authorities	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided	Ongoing	Top	WRRB has a Reasons for Decision report that was submitted in January 2022, as part of the wolf management program. SRRB will be delivering a Reasons for Decision report in 2022, with a focus on predators.
D – 2. Consider recommending options for predator management <i>Objective – review information from all partners to determine whether predator management is a viable option</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
D.2.1 Engage with other jurisdictions that have predator control experience	ACCWM; member boards	Information for summary report		Top	The SRRB has encouraged other jurisdictions and the GNWT to present submissions to the 2021 public listening session on the topic of predators. Wolf Feasibility Assessment and Grizzly Bear Biological Assessment were developed with input from other jurisdictions.
D.2.2 Identify jurisdictional / regional rules and regulations around predator management		List of existing regulations and rules		Top	GNWT: enhanced Wolf Harvest Incentive Area has been created in the North Slave Region. This area overlaps with the current wintering range of the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds. SRRB: The Public Listening Session (hearing) on <i>Tłch'ádıı hé Gots'edı (Living with Wildlife): Caribou Predators and Competitors</i> will address the central question, "What should people's role be in maintaining healthy relationships between caribou and other wildlife?"

D.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding potential options for predator management		Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	SRRB: Public Listening Session (hearing) focused on predators will occur in 2022.
D.2.4 ACCWM provides advice to member boards regarding options for predator management. If justified, member boards recommend predator management tools to appropriate authorities		Advice provided to member boards		Top	WRRB and SRRB have provided information to the member boards.

E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Resident, outfitter or commercial harvest remain closed¹¹

Objective – limit licensed harvest to assist in herd recovery

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.1.1 Based on results of discussions	Member boards	Recommendations provided			Done (2015/2016).

¹¹ The process differs in Nunavut, where the Land Claim Agreement (1993) specifies that an Inuk “shall have the right to dispose freely to any person any wildlife lawfully harvested. This includes the right to sell, barter, exchange and give either inside or outside the Nunavut Settlement Area” (5.7.30).

concerning a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and harvest ratios, member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities					
E – 2. Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction ¹² <i>Objective – limit subsistence harvest to assist in herd recovery</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.2.A.1 Compile historical and current harvest information by region	Member boards and government partners	Summary documents		Top	
E.2.A.2 Review information from preceding step with community organizations and advise regarding regional processes (e.g., public hearings)	Member boards and regional partners	Summary of input / guidance from communities			SRRB: The Sahtú Harvest Study was validated by the five ʔehdzo Got'Inę (Renewable Resources Councils); community reports on the data and validation results were prepared; the final report on the SHS was presented at the 2020 Public Listening Session (hearing) on <i>Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting</i> .
E.2.A.3 Meetings to discuss and propose regional	Member boards and other traditional users	Provide percentages for			

¹² As strict conservation measures are needed areas with land claim agreements establish a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH). As circumstances require each ACCWM member (with the exception of the TNNPMB) will set the TAH for their region. When a herd is shared over land claim areas and/or areas without settled land claim agreements proportional allocations are set as to determine how the user groups will share the TAH.

proportional allocations ¹³		inclusion in Action Plan			
E.2.B.1 Based on information presented at annual status meeting, ACCWM proposes a herd TAH and sex ratio to member boards.	ACCWM	Proposed TAH and definition of majority bull harvest	Every year, following annual status meeting		
E.2.B.2 ACCWM advises member boards regarding the proposed herd TAH, based on E.2.B.1	ACCWM	Proposed TAH provided to member boards			
E.2.B.3 Each member board consults with communities on regional TAH as required by their respective land claim agreements (including public hearings as required by respective land claim agreements)	Member boards	Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions			Harvest regulation issues in the Sahtú region are under judicial review. The 2019 edition of Déljñę's <i>Belare Wile Gots'ę ʔekwę – Caribou for All Time</i> plan has been approved by the Déljñę Got'jñę Government, and acknowledges the need for reduced harvest threshold given the Red Zone status of Bluenose-East caribou.

¹³ The processes for determining Total Allowable Harvests and regional allocations are described in Appendix F.

E.2.B.4 Boards recommend TAH to Minister		Recommendations provided			WRRB: 2019 Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Proceeding, determined a TAH of 193 bulls only. SRRB: Role of community conservation planning and TAH is under judicial review.
E – 3. Prioritize the collection of harvest information (see F – 1. Develop harvest monitoring program) <i>Objective – record accurate harvest information</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.3.1 Assess status of harvest reporting programs (see F – Monitoring) and identify any challenges and priorities, in collaboration with communities	ACCWM WG and regional partners	Review reports from existing programs		Top	TG & GNWT: collection of harvest information conducted by community monitors and community directors in Tlicho communities as well as collection by RRO. TG: There are community monitors in Wekweètì monitoring the harvest in the area. SRRB: Pending approval of community conservation plans, which include harvest monitoring components.
E.3.2 Adjust educational programming or communication plan if required (see A - Education)		Revised materials, as needed		Top	
E – 4. Recommend harvest of alternate species and meat replacement programs, and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods <i>Objective – explore other species to harvest to reduce pressure on caribou</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.4.1 Develop list of regionally appropriate alternate species	Member Boards	List of alternate species and meat			SRRB: the Sahtú Harvest Study includes 84 species, and was used as the basis for developing a Sahtú harvest calendar. Community conservation plans include alternative harvest as a component.

for harvest and options for meat replacement programs, based on best available information.		replacement options			
E.4.2 Collaborate with partners to recommend the development and funding of harvest or sharing programs (may include trade and barter, community hunts or freezers, etc.)	Member boards	Recommendations provided			SRRB: Funding has been secured for a multi-year Dene Béré (Country Foods) Campaign that will support development of country food security plans.
E.4.3 Adapt existing Communication Plan and educational materials to better promote use of alternate species and meat replacement programs (see A – Education and Appendix C)	Education and Communication Working Group	Draft communication plan and education materials			
E – 5. Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors (see footnote clarifying monitoring and enforcement responsibilities at C – 4).					
<i>Objective – maximize approaches and tools to ensure compliance of regulations</i>					

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.5.1 Engage community organizations and enforcement officers regarding enforcement/monitoring approaches and whether they are adequate.	Member Boards	Summary of input / guidance	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing. Community tour SRRB: Enforcement is a feature of community plans.
E.5.2 Member boards provide recommendations to government based on ACCWM advice	Member boards	Recommendations provided	2018/19	Top	
E.5.3 Engage partners to assist in training and implementing community monitoring programs	ACCWM	Funding plan, training program	2018/19	Top	TG, GNWT & WRRB: expansion of the Ekwò Nàxoède K'è (Boots on the Ground) Monitoring Program to Bluenose-East caribou herd range.

F. Monitoring

F – 1. Develop a comprehensive harvest reporting program

Objective – develop or adapt existing harvest reporting programs to collect and provide standardized harvest data from all regions

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.1.1 Compile and review information	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing.

on existing harvest reporting programs and develop minimum standards					
F.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for harvest data collection		Summary report	2018/19	Top	Ongoing.
F.1.3. Adapt harvest reporting programs based on information from F.1.1 and F.1.2. to standardize harvest data		Finalized harvest reporting program	2018/19	Top	
F.1.4 Implement harvest data collection program	Member boards and government partners	Collections initiated	2018/19	Top	TG has a community monitor collecting harvest data in Wekweèti.
F.1.5 Establish annual data reporting template		Template	2018/19	Top	
F.1.6 Adapt and / or develop database and protocols		Pilot database program developed	2018/19	Top	
F.1.7 Gather, compile and present total herd	ACCWM WG	Annual summary table	2018/19	Top	Ongoing. Presented at ASM

harvest data to ACCWM					
F – 2. Develop and initiate community-based monitoring (CBM) programs (including observational and experiential data) <i>Objective – develop or adapt existing community-based monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.2.1 Compile and review information on existing community-based monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Summary report			
F.2.2 Compile existing traditional knowledge documentation and identify any new documentation / work required as basis for a community-based monitoring program	ACCWM WG with regional partners	Draft ‘state of traditional knowledge’ report(s)			
F.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for community-based monitoring to collect herd status information (see	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities			

Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>)					
F.2.4 Adapt and / or develop CBM program(s) based on information from F.2.1-3		Finalized CBM program			TG, GNWT & WRRB: expansion of the Ekwò Nàxoède K'è (Boots on the Ground) Monitoring Program to Bluenose-East caribou herd range.
F.2.5 Recommend appropriate CBM programs including traditional knowledge studies	Member boards	Recommendations provided			
F.2.6 Establish data-sharing arrangements and / or information-sharing protocols	Member boards and regional partners	Signed data-sharing agreements			
F.2.7 Adapt and / or develop database	ACCWM WG	Database program developed			
F.2.8 Gather, compile and present results to ACCWM	Regional partners	Summary report	Annual ACCWM meeting		
F – 3. Conduct scientific monitoring to assess herd status <i>Objective – develop or adapt existing scientific monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.3.1 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	WRRB participated in 2021 BNE Calving Ground survey.

scientific monitoring to collect herd status information (see also F.2.3) and appropriate ways to collaborate					
F.3.2 Research and develop mechanism for collaboration between regions, compiling information and reporting on research programs	ACCWM to determine responsible parties	Decide on mechanism for collaboration		Top	
F.3.3 Construct scientific monitoring schedule based on engagement and Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>	ACCWM WG	Annual report / work plan	Annual status meeting	Top	
F.3.4 Support appropriate scientific monitoring studies	Member boards	Approval by member boards	Annual status meeting	Top	ACCWM developed a discussion paper on alternatives to collaring caribou.
F.3.5 Establish information sharing protocols	Government partners	Information shared according to protocol		Top	Member boards & ACCWM have asked ENR for clarity on releasing scientific information.
F.3.6 Gather, compile and		Status of all monitoring criteria	Annual status meeting	Top	Ongoing. Presented at ASM.

present results to ACCWM		communicated to the ACCWM			
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Acronyms used in this Plan

ACCWM (WG)	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (Working Group)
CBMP	Community Based Monitoring Program
CI	Confidence Interval
DoE	Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
ENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
GN	Government of Nunavut
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
HTC	Hunters and Trappers Committee
HTO	Hunters and Trappers Organization
ISR	Inuvialuit Settlement Region
NWMB	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
NWT	Northwest Territories
PCA	Parks Canada Agency
RRC	Renewable Resources Council
SE	Standard Error
TAH	Total Allowable Harvest
TG	Tłı̄chǫ Government
TNNPMB	Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
TOR	Terms of Reference
WEMP	Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan
WMAC (NWT)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)
WWHPP	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans

Appendix A: List of ACCWM Working Group members

The ACCWM formed a working group to draft the Action Plans that accompany the *Taking Care of Caribou* Management Plan. The Working Group included representatives of the following organizations:

- ʔehdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Dehcho First Nations¹⁴
- Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), GNWT
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
- Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association)
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
- Parks Canada Agency
- Tłı̄chq̄ Government
- Tukturnogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

¹⁴ The Dehcho First Nations organization is part of the Working Group, but has had very limited involvement. There is an outstanding invitation for them to join the ACCWM.

Appendix B: Summary table of management actions presented in *Taking Care of Caribou*

Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone				
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low
Education	<p>Recommend education programs for all status levels. Ideas for educational themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting total use of harvested caribou, and proper butchering and storage methods; • Limiting wounding loss; • Letting the leaders pass; • Promoting community hunts with experienced hunters; • Use of alternate species; and • Increased sharing of traditional foods. 			
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas; • Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat; • Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management. 			
Land use activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of the impacts of exploration and development activities to proponents and regulators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators; • Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; • Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work directly with proponents and regulators of exploration and development activities to advise on mitigation measures; • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; • Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors.

Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone				
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low
Predators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; Consider recommending options for predator management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; Consider recommending options for predator management.
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend easing limits on subsistence and then resident harvests; Consider recommending outfitter and commercial harvests at discretion of the ACCWM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support harvest by beneficiaries of a Land Claim and members of an Aboriginal people, with rights to harvest wildlife in the Region; Recommend that if subsistence needs are met resident harvest should be permitted (with limits); Potentially recommend resident (non-beneficiary), non-resident, sport hunts, and/or commercial harvests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend a mandatory limit on subsistence harvest based on a TAH accepted by the ACCWM; Prioritize the collection of harvest information; Recommend no resident, outfitter or commercial harvest; Recommend a majority-bulls harvest, emphasizing younger and smaller bulls and not the large breeders and leaders; Recommend harvest of alternate species and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods, such as the use of community freezers; Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend harvest of alternate species and meat replacement programs, and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods; Prioritize the collection of harvest information; Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction; Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors; Resident, commercial, or outfitter harvest remain closed.