

Action Plan for 2024/2025

BLUENOSE-EAST CARIBOU

– *YELLOW STATUS* –



Tuktuvialuk (Inuvialuktun, Siglitun dialect)
Tuktut (Inuinnaqtun, Kugluktuk, Western Kitikmeot)
ʔedə (K'áhsho Got'ıne, Dela Got'ıne)
ʔehdaıla Goʔekwé (Délıne Got'ıne)
Sahti ʔekwò (Tıjchq, Wek'èezhıı)

**Prepared by the Advisory Committee for
Cooperation on Wildlife Management
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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 17).

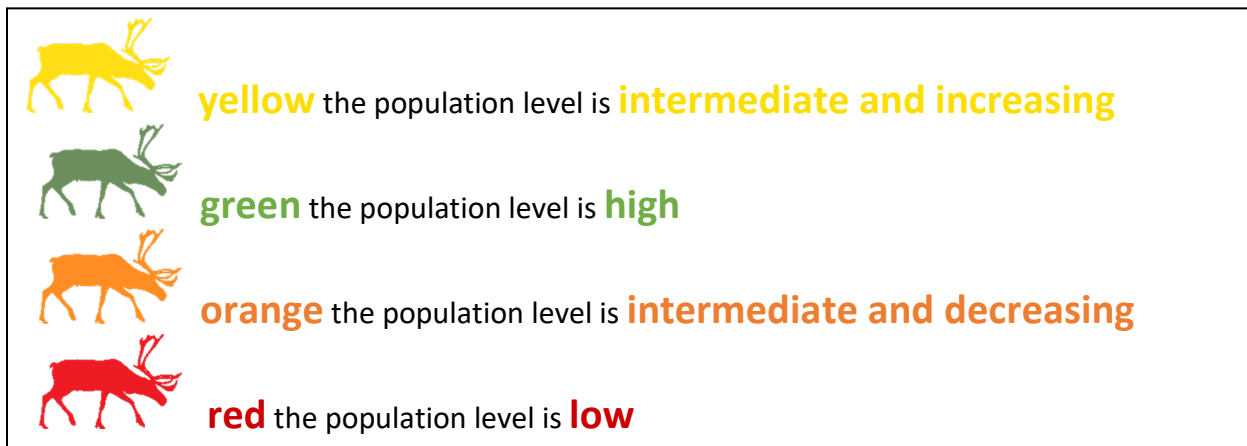


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

Status Decision 2023

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**

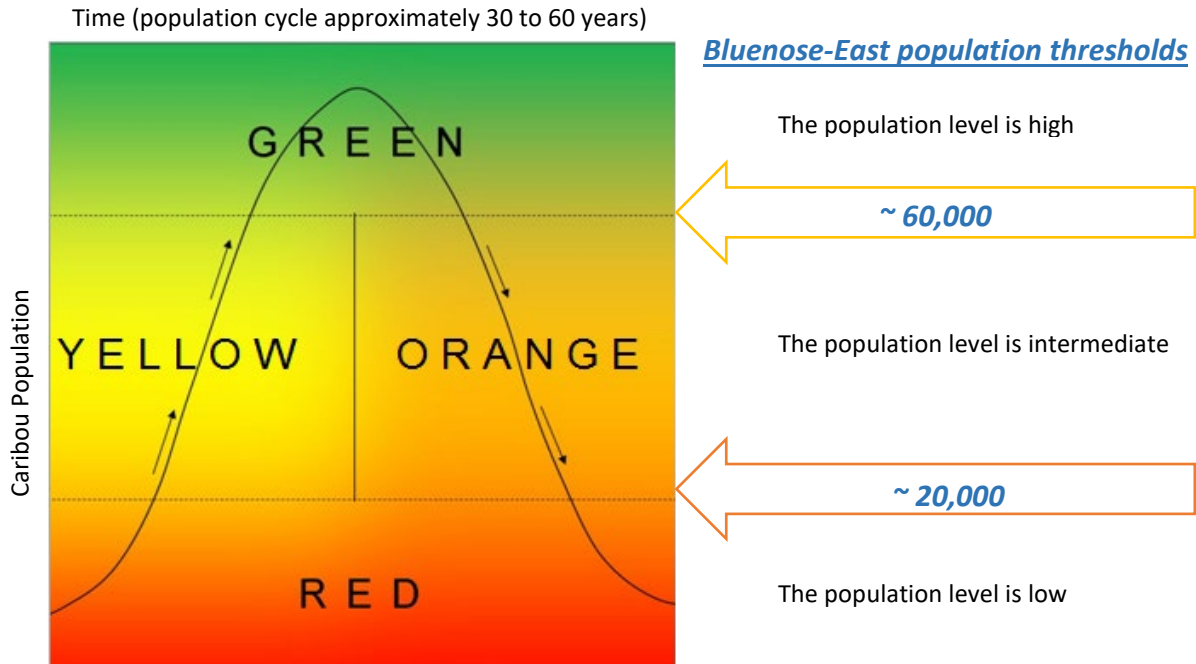
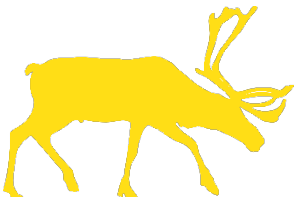


Figure 1: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with Bluenose-East Population thresholds.

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 2023 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 2023 to discuss community-based monitoring and scientific information for the Bluenose-East caribou herd. Based on the new population survey results provided and the subsequent discussions, the ACCWM determined the Bluenose-East herd status colour zone continue to be **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)** in November



In 2024/25

the Bluenose-East caribou population status is

Yellow: intermediate and increasing

2023. This decision recognizes that even though there are some very positive community and scientific observations, the observed population level has not yet reached above the ~60,000 threshold to warrant the change to a green status.

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Bluenose-East herd status in 2023.¹

Criteria	Community-Based Information ²	Scientific Information ³	Comments
Population size	Kugluktuk (KAA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appears to be more caribou; lot more smaller herds were observed. 	Estimated number adult caribou at least 2 years old in 2023: 39,525 (95%CI 33,021-47,310). Estimated number of breeding cows 18,580 (95%CI 15,225-22,674).	Estimated based on June 2023 calving ground photo survey and October composition surveys 2022 & 2023 to estimate sex ratio.
Population trend and rate of change	Kugluktuk (KAA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People are seeing more caribou; steady increase of population. Tłıchq: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “In the winter I patrol a lot. Since the decline we don’t see a lot but in the last couple of years I see more now. So, the caribou are likely coming back now.” 	Annual rate of increase 2021-2023 32% in adult females. Considered stable 2018-2021 based on female estimates. Estimated 19-20% annual rate of decrease 2015 to 2018.	Estimates of breeding females, adult females and herd all significant increases 2021-2023.

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, Tulı́t’a, Déłıne, Whatı, Gamèti, Behchokò, Paulatuk, and Kugluktuk. Déłıne is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ʔehdaɭla ʔekwé. Colville Lake is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ɔəda. As such, the SRRB annually invites Déłıne 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 ʔehdaɭla ʔekwé (Caribou Point or Bluenose East caribou, ɔəda (barren-ground caribou in the K’áhsho Got’ıne District or Bluenose West caribou), people, and planning for 2021 can be found in Déłıne and Colville responses to Information Requests, as well as Indigenous knowledge and science literature reviews. These are posted on the Déłıne 2021 PLS Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca.

³ All scientific information and comments were provided by Environment and Climate Change (ECC) (GNWT) unless otherwise noted.

<p>Productivity and recruitment</p>	<p>Kugluktuk (KAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are observing lots of cows with calves; lots of yearlings. <p>Tłıchq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 32 groups, 19 groups had least one adult cow These 19 groups comprised a total of 46 cows and 28 calves. • From this small sample, we estimated an average calf: cow ratio of 60.3 calves per 100 cows (± 10 SE). • This ratio in the fall suggests high calf survival through spring and summer. Likely not representative of the herd due to small sample of caribou groups. • Often challenging in the fall to differentiate a calf from a yearling because some calves have large bodies & long antlers. This also indicates that calves born in June have been growing well and are healthy. 	<p>Percent breeding females (June):</p> <p>2023 80.9%; 2022 86.2%; 2021 91.9%; 2019 87.5%.</p> <p>Pregnancy rate captured cows:</p> <p>2020:18/18 (100%); 2021:26/30 (87%); 2022:5/9 (55%); 2023: 24/25 (96%)</p> <p>Calf to cow ratios:</p> <p>Oct. 2023 51.4; Oct. 2022: 52.3; Oct. 2021: 49.6</p> <p>Mar 2023 40.9; Mar 2022: 46.9; Mar 2021: 46.7</p>	<p>High pregnancy rates 2019-2023.</p> <p>Very good calf:cow ratios 2021-2023 March and October.</p>
<p>Adult composition</p>	<p>Kugluktuk (KAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good mix of cows and bulls; lots of calves and yearlings. 	<p>Fall bull to cow ratio:</p> <p>Oct. 2023: 58.2; Oct. 2022: 64.8; Oct. 2021: 68.7; Oct. 2020: 63.3.</p>	<p>Large increase in bull:cow ratios 2020-2023 over previous years. Comparable to increasing NWT herds of the early 1980s (60-70 bulls: 100 cows) and much higher</p>

	<p>Tłıchǫ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, we saw a high proportion of tsıdaa and yagoa (young bull & young cows). In some herds, a high proportion of yagoa (young cows) were observed. • Indicate that most calves and yearlings survive overwinter. • In September 2023, we continued to see many young caribou. • Good sign to see high proportion of young caribou: yagoo and yagoa. • It means that most calves and yearlings survive overwinter. • "You can tell all caribou around here are young, because of the way they are moving. They are moving fast – bouncing & trotting”. • Note that in 2022 we saw many fat and healthy bulls; with big antlers and big bellies. This fall we did not see any large bulls around Deèzàatì. 		<p>than the declining Bathurst herd of the early 2000s (31-38 bulls: 100 cows).</p>
<p>Body condition and health</p>	<p>Kugluktuk (KAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most caribou harvested were healthy; one weekend 9 caribou were harvested with various health issues. • These health issues are possibly caused by biting insects. 	<p>Body condition of captured caribou (for collars) reported very good 2021-2023.</p>	

	<p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The herd is healthy because there are no people and few wolves to bother them. <p>Tłıchq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the caribou we saw looked healthy and in good body condition. • Most cows are “fat”, and some have been described as “good”. • The mothers are fat, but their calves are still just “good” as they spend most of their energy to grow. This time of year (September) caribou are mostly fat as they have eaten all summer in preparation for winter. We have not observed any large bulls, compared to many bulls seen last year. • “Caribou eat a lot in the fall to get fat for the winter. When they get fat this time of year they are in good shape for the winter”- Joe Zoe • The calves are healthy and have grown larger body size at end of September. At times, its challenging to differentiate between a calf and yearling; some calves have grown almost as tall at their mothers and 		
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	the antler has grown longer than what is considered a “normal” calf antler.		
Harvest levels	<p>Kugluktuk (KAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022-2023 TAH: 170 harvested • 2023-2024 TAH 170: • 127 harvested to Oct 25/23 • 104 male; 23 female • Alternative harvest is supported through increased number of muskox tags and no tag requirement for harvesting moose. <p>Tłıchq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was zero harvest of BNE caribou during the harvesting season of 2022/23. • There was a community hunt planned, but the unprecedented warm weather in May caused the lake ice to melt too fast, before hunters from Wekweètì could get out to hunt. 	<p>Reported BNE winter harvest in N Slave region NWT:</p> <p>2018-2019:74; 2019-2020:76 2020-2021:63; 2021-2022:76.</p>	<p>BNE caribou have been mostly in remote areas the last 3 winters while in the NWT; most N Slave hunters have harvested Beverly caribou in east on winter roads.</p>
Predator populations	<p>Kugluktuk (KAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of grizzly bears; wolves; wolverines. 	<p>June calving composition surveys: 2023: 19 grizzly bears, 0 wolves seen; 2022: 5 bears, 1</p>	<p>Continuing trend of more grizzly bears than wolves seen on BNE calving grounds in 2018-2023.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases in grizzlies sighted by community members correlates with survey data. Grizzlies sighted in previous years are returning year after year. <p>Tłjchoq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tłjcho teams were at Deèzàatì from Sept 15 to Oct 4, numerous caribou herds were around the lake and surrounding area. No predators or tracks (wolves, bears, wolverine) were observed during the three weeks at Deèzàatì. In 2022, no predators were seen, but tracks of three wolves were observed on a sand beach at Deèzàatì. Both years, caribou have been spread out around the lake, but no predators have been observed. 	<p>wolf; 2021: 6 bears, 0 wolves; 2019: 14 bears, 3 wolves.</p> <p>Wolves removed from BNE/Bathurst/Beverly winter ranges:</p> <p>2022-2023 142 wolves; 2021-2022: 69 wolves; 2020-2021: 135 wolves; 2019-2020: 85 wolves.</p>	<p>Incidental sightings of predators on caribou surveys tend to have high variability.</p> <p>Extensive mixing of 3 caribou herds in winter in recent years (2021-2023).</p>
<p>Range and movement patterns</p>	<p>Kugluktuk (KAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring migration was closer to Kugluktuk. The fall migration was more westerly, to the west. This made it harder for the harvesters to access the BNE caribou. 	<p>Fidelity of BNE collared cows to calving ground 2008-2018: 97-98%. Fidelity 2018-2023: 97-99%.</p>	<p>BNE has mixed with Bathurst in winter in some years; even some mixing of BNE with Beverly in winter, e.g. 2020-2021. Strong BNE fidelity to calving & summer ranges.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesters are seeing a lot of caribou in areas to the outside of the survey area covered by ECC. <p>Délı̄ne (DRRC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No BNE caribou have been in the region 3 years. <p>Colville Lake (BAFN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The herd at Good Hope Bay is pretty huge. <p>Tłı̄chǫ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elder Joe Zoe explained that the caribou are now coming back to their old trails at Deèzàatì, and that the herds are moving south to Rawalpindi and Mesa Lake; the traditional caribou harvesting areas for the Tlı̄cho. • Watching a group of caribou on north side of Deèzàatì, Joe Zoe explained that “they are following their old trail, that they used many years ago”. • “We have been here for many years now watching and protecting caribou, looks like they are coming back now” - Joe Zoe. • After two weeks of watching caribou migration at Deèzàatì in 2022, the 		
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	<p>elder Joe Zoe described a level of confidence that the caribou are “coming back”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It's looking good now, for a while they were gone, but it looks good now.” • “They are coming back to their old trails - they never forget them ...They always come back”. 		
<p>Environment and habitat</p>	<p>Kugluktuk (KAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very hot, dry summer; wet fall; mosquito season was shorter than usual. • Berries were very plentiful this year. • There were a lot of wasps, horseflies and butterflies this year. <p>Déłıne (DRRC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires are happening all over the region. Smoke made it difficult to travel. • Lakes have a lot of overflow. <p>Tłıchǫ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This fall it was cold, windy, and dry; there were no insects, blackflies or mosquitos. During summer there was lack of rain, and vegetation was dry, resulting in low insect activity overall. 	<p>Average Fire Year NWT: 500,000 Ha burned (total). 2019: 100,000 Ha 2020: 21,000 Ha 2021: 145,000 Ha 2022: 687,000 Ha 2023: 4,200,000 Ha (preliminary estimate)</p> <p>2014: 3,500,000 Ha</p>	<p>2023 Area burned NWT biggest ever. Also biggest fire year for Canada.</p> <p>2019-2021: below average total area burned in NWT.</p>

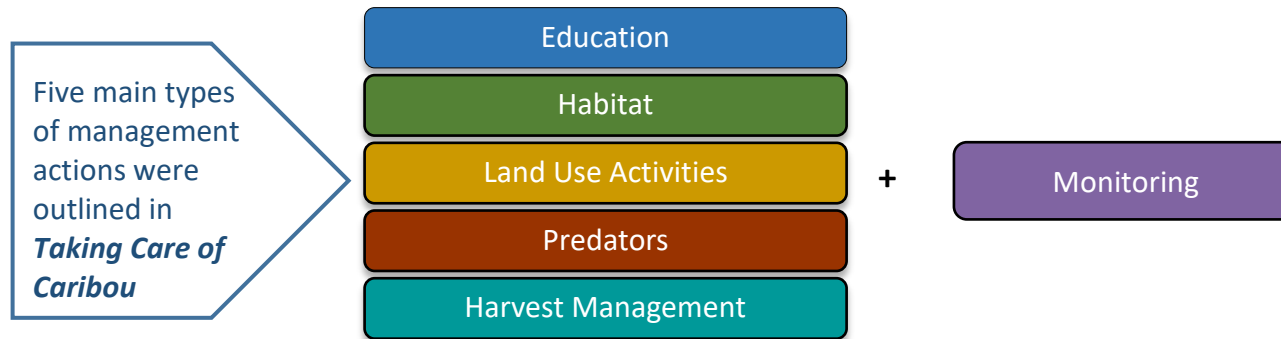
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water level has dropped extremely low. • The water level seems worse than last year. • The low water levels are also creating rocky shorelines for the caribou to travel on. • This rocky edging can potentially cause injuries for the caribou; the caribou are at risk of getting their hooves stuck between the rocks and get injured in the exposed rocks. • Tundra fire seen at Contwoyto Lake. John Franklin said that he never seen a tundra fire in that area. • “Caribou food is getting dry too early.” • “Land is too hot and dry.” • “Summer season is longer, and it is drier.” • “It used to snow mid-September, now there is more smoke than snow.” • 		
<p>Human disturbance</p>	<p>Kugluktuk (KAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little human disturbance other than usual air traffic. 	<p>Limited, no active mines. Development footprint in 2021: 0.015% of range.</p>	<p>Cumulative effects assessment project underway.</p>

	<p>Tłıchq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around Deèzàatì, there is one active exploration company (Golden Planet). During summer 2021, the company did extensive mineral exploration by helicopter during July and August over a large area on the northeast side of Deèzàatì, around the river from Itchen Lake. • By the outflow of the river from Itchen Lake, there is an old exploration camp with garbage and debris from fall down camps scattered along the esker, on east side of the river. • Old fuel drums found at several locations around Deèzàatì; most likely left behind by mineral exploration companies. 		
<p>Competitors</p>	<p>Déłıne (DGG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muskox are a concern. They seem to scare the Boreal caribou. • Moose are moving towards the north shore and towards Colville Lake. <p>Tłıchq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two moose were observed at Red Rock Lake. One cow and a bull ran 		

	<p>up the hill once we spotted them from the boat. The bull was dark black color and very large.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No behavioral changes or issues were noted between moose and caribou.• No muskox was observed around Deèzàtì.		
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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 **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.

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 2023 – plans for 24/25
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.

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.

A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on community and member board priorities, based on ToR for Communication and Education Working Group	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	Annually	Top	ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting
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>ECC created an annual movement animation</p> <p>SRRB: In the Sahtú Region, Hjdó Gogha Sėnégots'ıá (Planning for the Future) processes and the Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ııı - Living on the Land Forum are the primary vehicles for communication and education. The focus of educational activities is related to conservation</p>

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

					“hot topics” of annual Public Listening Sessions (hearings), the focus of the next session will be on caribou landscape. 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	Ongoing. Member boards will pursue the development of a sensitive habitat report in 2023/2024. 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
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B.2.1 Map and track landscape disturbances. Identify and review recent relevant information and gaps.	ACCWM WG and government partners, academics	Compilation map			<p>GNWT 'Inventory of Landscape Change' updated annually.</p> <p>Annual tracking of wildfire footprint.</p> <p>Mackenzie Valley GIS submission standards in place.</p> <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. 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,	ACCWM; Member boards	Key areas identified for			GNWT, North Slave Region: Identification of key caribou habitat was submitted in 2019 with a goal of including

provide advice to member boards on values at risk. Member boards make and communicate recommendations for fire management		fire management and advice provided to member boards			important caribou areas as a value-at-risk (VAR) and included in wildfire response decision making. Sahtú region is doing early preparation for a public listening session on wildfires and climate change related to caribou conservation requirements, to be hosted by Tulit'a in partnership with ECC-FMD in 2023. GNWT, TG, and WRRB have initiated discussion for a Forest Management Plan in Wek'èezhii.
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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
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⁸ In this context, the term “Industrial” includes major development projects such as roads.

C.2.1 Review Appendix G ⁹ of the Management Plan according to modern best practices.	ACCWM WG; Member boards				SRRB: Preliminary preparations are underway for a Public Listening Session (hearing) on caribou and the Sahtú mixed economy in 2024.
C.2.2 Apply Appendix G: member boards make and communicate recommendations to proponents (including air carriers and other subcontractors) and regulators.	Member boards				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. 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'ı̄ı̄ - Living on the Land Forum and/or ʔehdzo Got'ı̄nę (Renewable Resources Councils) to support input from community leadership organisations.
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.	Member Boards				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.

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

Recommend increased enforcement of regulations when appropriate. Work with other relevant agencies (GNWT Lands, regional Land and Water Boards)					
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D. Predators

D – 1. Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs)
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>

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

					SRRB: Indigenous knowledge and science “toolkits” (literature reviews) were compiled on predator-caribou relationships in preparation for the Public Listening Session (hearing) on <i>Tjch’ádii hé Gots’edı (Living with Wildlife): Caribou Predators and Competitors</i> .
D.1.2 Engage community organizations to identify and prioritize research needs by region	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	Ongoing	Top	SRRB: Délıne 2021 Public Listening Session (hearing) addresses knowledge regarding predators including wolves. 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.

E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Recommend easing limits on subsistence and then resident harvests ¹¹

Objective – support a balanced 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			

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. Consider recommending outfitter and commercial harvests at discretion of the ACCWM. ¹² <i>Objective – limit non-subsistence harvest to assist in herd recovery</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.2.1 ACCWM to discuss based on E.1.1	Member boards and government partners	Recommendations provided as required		Top	

F. Monitoring

F – 1. Develop a comprehensive harvest reporting program <i>Objective – develop or adapt existing harvest reporting programs to collect and provide standardized harvest data from all regions</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.1.1 Compile and review information on existing harvest reporting programs and	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing.

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.

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	In 2024/2025, the WG will prioritize the collection of harvest information this will be supported through the development of an annual harvest data reporting template that will provide consistency across the regions, supporting a comprehensive harvest reporting system.
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 Wekweètì.
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 harvest data to ACCWM	ACCWM WG	Annual summary table	2018/19	Top	Ongoing. Presented at ASM
<p>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></p>					

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)			In 2024, the WG consider compiling a draft state of traditional knowledge report. Upon consideration, it was determined to undertake this report following the Sensitive Habitat, and Harvest Data Reporting Template reports.
F.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for community-based monitoring to collect herd status information (see Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>)	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities			

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 scientific monitoring to	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	WRRB participated in 2021 BNE Calving Ground survey.

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 ECC for clarity on releasing scientific information.
F.3.6 Gather, compile and present results to ACCWM		Status of all monitoring criteria communicated to the ACCWM	Annual status meeting	Top	Ongoing. Presented at ASM.

Acronyms used in this Plan

ACCWM (WG)	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (Working Group)
CBMP	Community Based Monitoring Program
CI	Confidence Interval
ENV	Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
ECC	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
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	Tłıchq 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 Nations¹³
- Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut
- Environment and Climate Change (ECC), 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
- Tłıchq Government
- Tuktu Nogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhıı Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

¹³ 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.