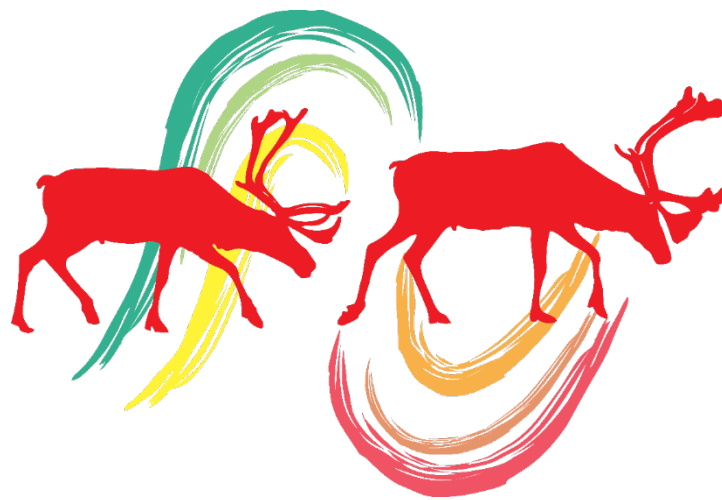




Action Plan for 2020/2021

BLUENOSE-EAST CARIBOU

– *RED STATUS* –



Tuktuvialuk (Inuvialuktun, Siglitun dialect)
Tuktut (Inuinnaqtun, Kugluktuk, Western Kitikmeot)
ʔedə (K'áhsho Got'ine, Dela Got'ine)
ʔehdaɣla Goʔekwé (Déljine Got'ine)
Sahti ʔekwò (Tłjchq, Wek'èezhì)

**Prepared by the Advisory Committee for
Cooperation on Wildlife Management
January 2020**

Suggested citation:

Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management. 2020. Action Plan for the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd 2020/2021 – Red Status. Yellowknife, NT.

Production note:

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

Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
c/o Wek’èezhì Renewable Resources Board
102 A 4504 49th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 1A7 Tel.: (867) 873-5740 Fax: (867) 873-5743
Email: jpellissey@wrrb.ca

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’é 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.* That 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 11).

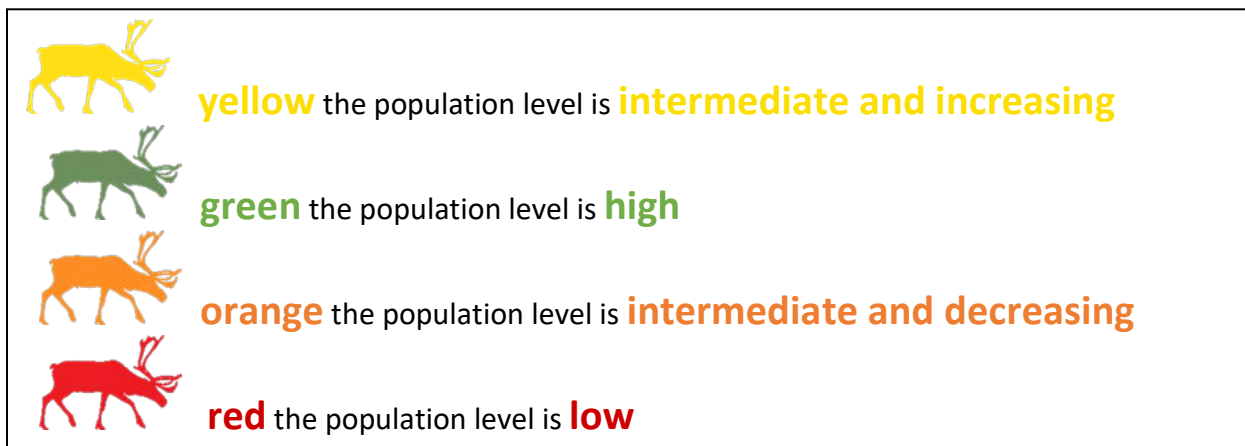


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

Status Decision 2019

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 to determine the colour zone – the determination of herd status takes into account all**

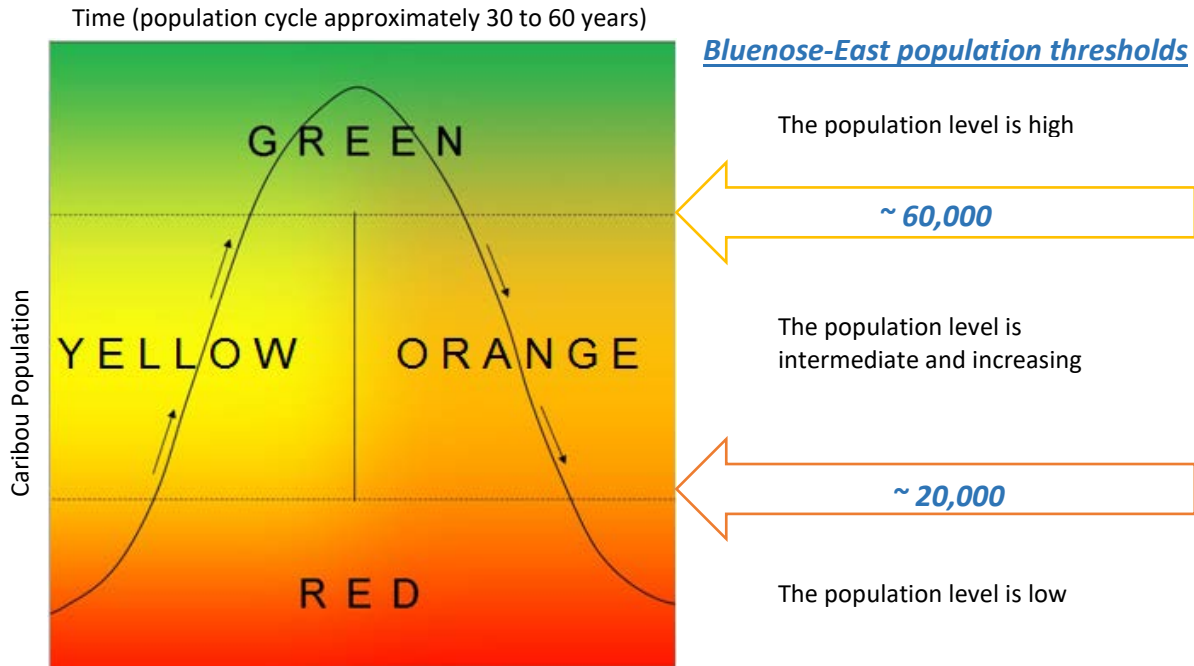



Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with Bluenose-East Population thresholds.

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 2018 decision is summarized in Table 1 below.

Based on the information provided, the ACCWM determined the Bluenose-East herd status colour zone to be **red (low)** in November 2019. This decision recognizes that though there are some positive community and scientific observations, the recent extreme decline in the population numbers merit a high degree of caution. The forthcoming 2020/21 actions will be based on this determination. The herd size continues to be low and there are concerns about the recent steep decline in the population, although there are some indications of improvement in indicators such as the fall cow:calf ratio. There was limited community data on the status of the herd as a result of the herd remaining far from each of the communities throughout the year. As such, it was felt that it was best to use the maintain the status of the herd at the same level as last year.



In 2020/21

the Bluenose-East caribou population status is

RED: low

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Bluenose East herd status in 2019.¹

Criteria	Community-Based Information	Scientific Information	Comments
Population size	<p>Kugluktuk: This year the migration kept the herd far from community again, so observations were limited.</p> <p>Lots of small groups and many calves. Many sets of twins were sighted.</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): Community members have not been seeing much ʔehdaɣla ʔekwé over the past year.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłıchq): There are less animals than before and they are seen in smaller groups than before.</p>	<p>Estimated number of adult caribou at: 19,294 ± 4,729.</p> <p>Estimated number of breeding cows 11,675 ± 2,040.</p>	<p>Estimated based on June 2018 calving ground survey and October composition survey to estimate sex ratio.</p>
Population trend and	<p>Kugluktuk: This year the migration kept the herd far from community</p>	<p>Estimated 19-20% annual rate of decrease 2015 to</p>	<p>Herd declined by half 2015-2018.</p>

¹ This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status in 2019 and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in *Taking Care of Caribou*.

<p>rate of change</p>	<p>again, so observations were limited.</p> <p>Lots of small groups and many calves. Many sets of twins were sighted.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): The community continues to be concerned about lack of availability.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłıchǫ): There are less animals than before and they are seen in smaller groups than before.</p>	<p>2018; same rate of decline 2010-2013 and 2013-2015.</p>	
<p>Productivity and recruitment</p>	<p>Kugluktuk: Lots of calves and twins observed. Almost every female had at least one calf and many had twins.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): Of 12 ts'ıda (female) ʔehdǫla ʔekwé (Bluenose East caribou) harvested on April 21, 2019, 8 were pregnant.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłıchǫ): Not many yearlings were observed, and no cows are harvested.</p>	<p>Percent breeding females June 2019 on calving ground: 87.5%. (83.0% in June 2018). Pregnancy rate of captured cows 2019: 7/10 (70%). 2014-2018: 46/49 (94%). Calf to cow ratios: Nov. 2019: 37.8 ± 3.9 No survey in spring 2019. Oct. 2018: 25.7 ± 3.4 April 2018 37.5 ± 2.5</p>	<p>Average March calf to cow ratio 2014-2018: 30.1. 2019 results suggest good initial productivity (June), and fair-good calf survival in first 4-5 months (October).</p>
<p>Adult composition</p>	<p>Kugluktuk: This year the migration kept the herd far from community again, so observations were limited. Many</p>	<p>Fall bull to cow ratio: Nov. 2019 35.3 ± 5.5</p>	<p>Slightly lower than bull to cow ratios in 2009, 2013, 2015: 42-43 Increasing herds in NWT in</p>

	<p>young bulls were observed in the small groups that were sighted.</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): 8 yárego (male), 12 ts'ída (female) ʔehdájla ʔekwé observed on April 21, 2019.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłıchq): Equal amount of bulls and cows.</p>	Oct. 2018 38.0 ± 5.7	the early 1980s had sex ratios of about 65 bulls: 100 cows.
Body condition and health	<p>Kugluktuk: Very healthy caribou harvested; lots of fat.</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): Group of ʔehdájla ʔekwé observed on April 21 were in fair condition with some chafing on legs from ice crust on snow.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłıchq): Most animals that were harvested are healthy but they are skinnier than before. Some have reported white spots on meat, puss on meat and legs, white stuff on legs and arms.</p>	No new information – minimal harvest in the North Slave Region during the last two winters.	
Harvest levels	<p>Kugluktuk: July 1st to October 21, 2019: Total: 105 (Females: 53, Males: 52). 93 harvested in 2018.</p>	<p>Harvest very low in North Slave region 2018-2019</p> <p>Total reported winter harvest North Slave region</p>	BNE caribou have been mostly in remote areas last 3 winters while in the NWT (in North Slave region); most North Slave hunters have harvested Beverly

	<p>Déjñę (Sahtú): Harvest of a group of 25, including 8 yárégo, 12 ts'ída and 5 calves for a total of 25 ʔehdájla ʔekwé harvested on April 21, 2019. As of November 2019, the community has agreed to ʔekwé gha máhsı ts'ıñıwe (ceremonial harvest) of 30, with maximum ts'ída (female) harvest of 6 of ʔehdájla ʔekwé for the next three years, and 50 Neregha ʔekwé. The ʔehdzo Got'ıñę has curtailed financial support for community members to harvest ʔekwé.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tıjchq): Harvest data has not been compiled yet. Not all 295 authorization cards were filled. Wekweèti residents were main harvesters of BNE. Other Tıjchq communities harvested on Gahcho Kue winter road.</p>	<p>NWT: 2017-2018 10 bulls. 2016-2017 15 bulls.</p>	<p>caribou in east on winter roads.</p>
<p>Predator populations</p>	<p>Kugluktuk: There are lots of grizzly bears and many have twins, triplets and even quadruplets. Many of the cubs are as big as their mothers.</p> <p>101 wolves were</p>	<p>Limited Information.</p> <p>June calving composition surveys:</p> <p>2019 14 grizzly</p>	<p>Continuing trend of more grizzly bears than wolves seen on BNE calving grounds 2010-2018.</p>

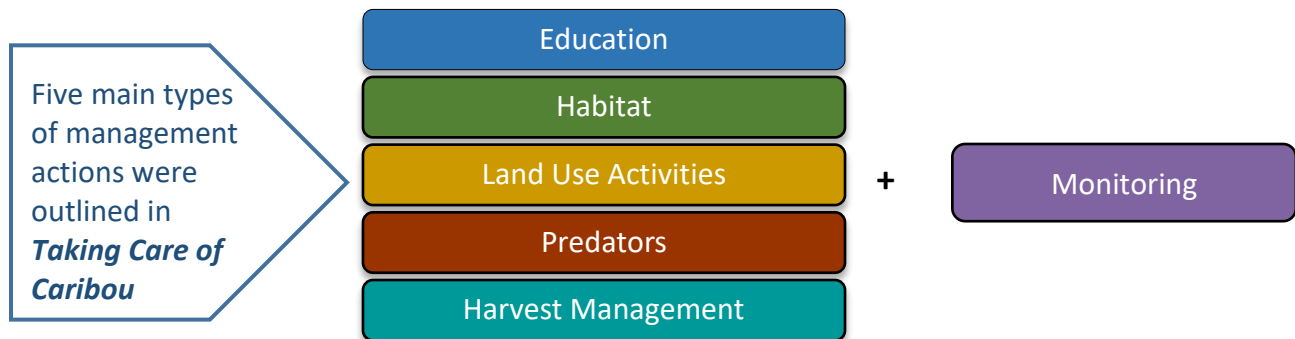
	<p>harvested in 2018/19.</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): No observations.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłıchq): There are more wolves.</p>	<p>bears, 3 wolves</p> <p>2018 21 grizzly bears, 1 wolf</p> <p>Four wolves were harvested near Wekweèti in Enhanced North Slave Wolf Harvest Incentive Area in winter 2018-19</p>	
Range and movement patterns	<p>Kugluktuk: More east-westerly; not in range like usual.</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): See information above for ʔehdajla ʔekwé. No other sightings noted.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłıchq): They are changing the way they move; they aren't around Gamèti and Whatì anymore. They used to go near the communities, but they aren't going around there.</p>	<p>Fidelity of BNE collared cows to calving ground 2008-2018: 97-98%.</p>	<p>Some years BNE has mixed a lot with Bathurst caribou to west.</p>
Environment and habitat	<p>Kugluktuk: Cool summer; good vegetation; fewer insects.</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): At ʔehdajla, lots of snow (about 2 to 2.5 feet) with a hard crust on top on April 20-21. The food was hard to get at. ʔekwé were staying on the lake</p>	<p>Overall, an average fire year in 2019; Very few fires on BNE range. July insect season not severe (Bathurst range - Tłıchq observations).</p>	

	<p>and in open areas. Chafing was reported on the legs of t̥ɔdzı (boreal woodland caribou).</p> <p>Wekweèti (T̥ıchɔ): There are lots of burned areas now that are changing the way the caribou move around; they are avoiding the burned areas. Berries and vegetation aren't as rich as before. There is less snow and the snow is softer than before which makes it hard for the caribou to move around. Warmer winters are causing the ice to be thinner. There were lots of warble flies this year.</p>		
Human disturbance	<p>Kugluktuk: Minimal.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): Not applicable within Délıne District.</p> <p>Wekweèti (T̥ıchɔ): No new disturbance with respect to exploration or development.</p>	Very limited, no active mines.	Tundra Copper exploration on calving grounds – not active last 3 years.
Competitors	<p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): They plan to promote harvest of moose and muskoxen which are newly coming into the area.</p>		

Red 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)**, 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: Red Status

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 ²					
A – 1. Develop education strategy					
<i>Objective – address community concerns regarding a lack of education (see various themes identified in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>) and clarify an approach</i>					
Task	Partners ³	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level ⁴	Status November 2018 – plans for 19/20
A.2.1 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	2018/19	Top	SRRB: Engagement through community conservation planning, especially with Colville Lake. WRRB & TG: Consultation meetings and sight in your rifle events in October and November 2019
A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on community and member board priorities, based on	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	2018/19	Top	ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting

² Education specific to industrial land uses is dealt with in section C – Land Use Activities (C.3.1 and C.3.2).

³ Potential partners have been identified for individual tasks. Leads on tasks may vary and will be determined at a later date.

⁴ 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.

ToR for Communication and Education Working Group					
A.1.3 Implementation of educational strategy	Member boards, government partners and regional partners ⁵	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 will launch in early 2020</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>WRRB & TG: Social media and website posts using ACCWM communication materials.</p> <p>ENR created an annual movement animation</p>

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	ACCWM WG	Summary of input/guidance	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing.

⁵ Regional partners, which vary significantly by region, may include individual community members, community organizations, such as RRCs/HTCs/HTOs, and regional organizations.

organizations and other co-management partners to identify key habitat areas. Develop a sensitive habitat report.		from communities Provide report to ACCWM, including draft maps of key areas			Déljñę Plan identifies key habitat areas as does the land use plan for the Sahtú. The Tlicho Land Use Plan currently covers Tlicho lands. A Wek'èezhì Land Use Plan is in development for crown lands. TG & WRRB: The Ekwò Nàxoède K'è (Boots on the Ground) Monitoring Program has identified key habitat areas for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds.
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 <i>Objective – ensure research and monitoring programs are relevant and addressing current information needs for habitat management</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.2.1 Map and track landscape disturbances. Identify and review recent relevant information and gaps.	ACCWM WG and government partners, academics	Compilation map			GNWT 'Inventory of Landscape Change' being updated. Annual tracking of wildfire footprint. Déljñę is working a TK mapping project in the Great Bear Lake area. Mackenzie Valley GIS submission standards in place.
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	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided			

recommendations to appropriate authorities.					
B – 3. Recommend important habitat as a ‘value at risk’ for forest fire management <i>Objective – ensure sufficient winter habitat for caribou</i>					
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 communicate recommendations for fire management	ACCWM; Member boards	Key areas identified for fire management and advice provided to member boards			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.

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 – Expression of Interest submitted to NWT CIMP to use ALCES program for cumulative effects monitoring within the ranges of the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East herds.

C – 2. Provide advice on mitigation of industrial 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 ⁶ of the Management Plan according to modern best practices.	ACCWM WG; Member boards				
C.2.2 Develop and/or adapt communication and education programs with/for industrial proponents	Communication and Education working group				
C.2.3 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 Lands, regional	Member Boards				

⁶ 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

Land and Water Boards)					
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--

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	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing Completed wolf feasibility assessment for Bathurst caribou range (Nov 2017) ⁷ , which can be applied to other barren-ground caribou herd ranges. KHTO & GN DOE are working on a wolf pilot sampling program Dropbox folder created for people to add materials. WRRB, TG, GNWT & GN: Members of the Grizzly Bear/Wolverine Biological & Management Feasibility Working Group, which started September 2019
D.1.2 Engage community organizations to identify and prioritize research needs by region	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing Research prioritization (GRRB & WMAC-NWT) WRRB: To begin a research prioritization exercise in Wek'èezhìi in 2020

⁷ <https://www.wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Wolf%20Feasibility%20Assessment%20-%2010nov17.pdf>

D.1.3 ACCWM reviews and provides advice to member boards. Boards recommend research priorities to appropriate authorities	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided	2018/19	Top	
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	WRRB: submitted request for a wolf management proposal to GNWT and TG in January 2019; no response to date.
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.
D.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding potential options for predator management		Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	
D.2.4 ACCWM provides advice to member boards regarding options		Advice provided to member boards		Top	

for predator management. If justified, member boards recommend predator management tools to appropriate authorities					
---	--	--	--	--	--

E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Resident, outfitter or commercial harvest remain closed⁸

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 concerning a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and harvest ratios, member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided			Done (2015/2016).

⁸ 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).

E – 2. Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction⁹

Objective – limit subsistence harvest to assist in herd recovery

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			
E.2.A.3 Meetings to discuss and propose regional proportional allocations ¹⁰	Member boards and other traditional users	Provide percentages for inclusion in Action Plan			
E.2.B.1 Based on information presented at annual status meeting, ACCWM proposes a herd	ACCWM	Proposed TAH and definition of majority bull harvest	Every year, following annual status meeting		

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ The processes for determining Total Allowable Harvests and regional allocations are described in Appendix F.

TAH and sex ratio to member boards.					
E.2.B.2 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			
E.2.B.3 Boards recommend TAH to Minister		Recommendations provided			WRRB: 2019 Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Proceeding, determined a TAH of 193 bulls only.
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 Tliche communities as well as collection by RRO.

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 for harvest and options for meat replacement programs, based on best available information.	Member Boards	List of alternate species and meat 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			

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
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 on existing harvest reporting programs and develop minimum standards	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing.
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		Finalized harvest reporting program	2018/19	Top	

F.1.1 and F.1.2. to standardize harvest data					
F.1.4 Implement harvest data collection program	Member boards and government partners	Collections initiated	2018/19	Top	
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
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	ACCWM WG with regional partners	Draft 'state of traditional knowledge' report(s)			

documentation / work required as basis for a community-based monitoring program					
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			
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 collect herd status information (see also F.2.3) and appropriate ways to collaborate	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	
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	
F.3.5 Establish information sharing protocols	Government partners	Information shared according to protocol		Top	Member boards & ACCWM will ask ENR 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	

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 Nations¹¹
- 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
- Tłıchq Government
- Tukturnogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhıı Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

¹¹ 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.