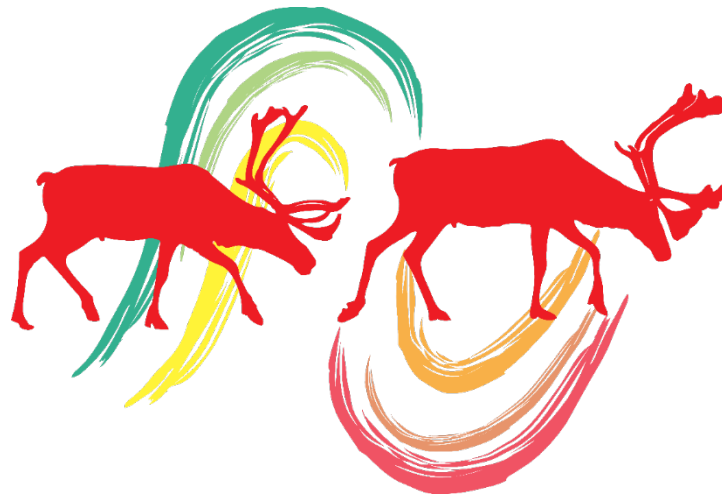




Action Plan for 2020/2021

# 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'èezhìi)

**Prepared by the Advisory Committee for  
Cooperation on Wildlife Management  
February 2021**

**Suggested citation:**

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**Production note:**

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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’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 10).

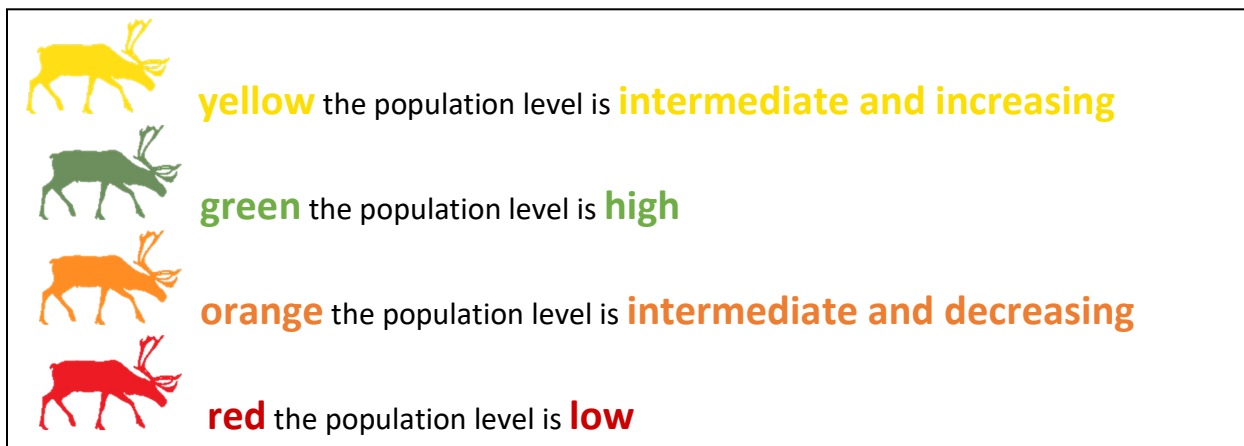


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

**Status Decision 2020**

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**

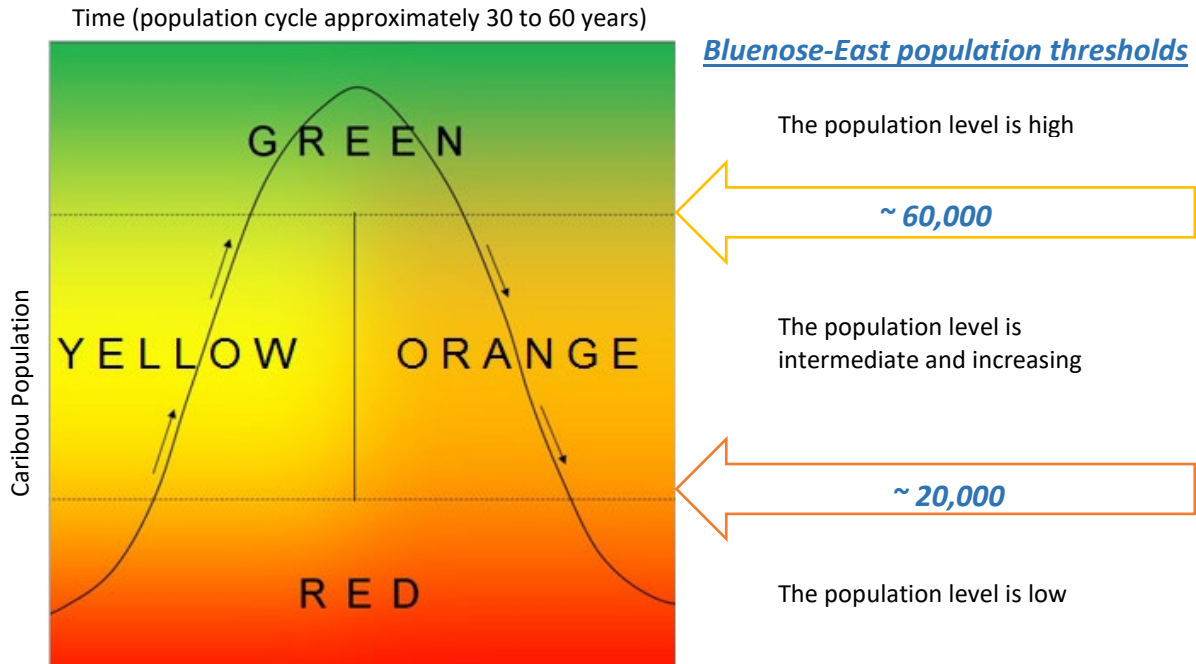



Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with Bluenose-East Population thresholds.

**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 2020. This decision recognizes that though there are some positive community and scientific observations, the observed population level is still near or below the ~20,000 threshold between red and yellow. 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. Additionally, scientific observations were limited by the Covid-19 pandemic. 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. The forthcoming 2021/22 actions will be based on this determination.



In 2021/22

the Bluenose-East caribou population status is

RED: low

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Bluenose East herd status in 2020.<sup>1</sup>

Criteria	Community-Based Information <sup>2</sup>	Scientific Information <sup>3</sup>	Comments
<b>Population size</b>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> It was hard to make an observation as the herds were scattered herds; Lots of healthy smaller herds though.</p> <p><b>Déłıne (Sahtú):</b> Haven't seen any ɔekwé this year; they don't want to see us these days. Tried looking for ɔekwé at ɔehajla and Neregha in fall and summer 2-3 times in 2020 and saw nothing.</p> <p><b>Wekweèti (Tłıchq):</b> There are less animals than before and they are seen in smaller groups than before.</p>	<p>Estimated number of adult caribou at least 1.5 year old in 2018: 19,294 ± 4,729.</p> <p>Estimated number of breeding cows 11,675 ± 2,040.</p>	Estimated based on June 2018 calving ground survey and October composition survey to estimate sex ratio.
<b>Population trend and rate of change</b>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> Hard to say as they are staying together in smaller herds.</p> <p><b>Déłıne (Sahtú):</b> The community continues to be concerned about lack</p>	Estimated 19-20% annual rate of decrease 2015 to 2018; same rate of decline 2010-2013 and 2013-2015.	Herd declined by half 2015-2018.

<sup>1</sup> This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status in 2020 and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in *Taking Care of Caribou*.

<sup>2</sup> 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, Déłıne, Whatı, Gamèti, Behchokq, Paulatuk, and Kugluktuk.

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

	of availability. This concern has heightened from 2019.		
<b>Productivity and recruitment</b>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> Saw quite a few small herds. Fewer calves. Lots of yearlings.</p> <p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> No harvest, so no knowledge on this topic.</p>	<p>Percent breeding females June 2019 on calving ground: 87.5%. (83.0% in June 2018).</p> <p>Pregnancy rate of captured cows 2019: 7/10 (70%).</p> <p>2014-2018: 46/49 (94%).</p> <p>Calf to cow ratios:</p> <p>March 2020: 41.8 ± 3.4: 100</p> <p>July 2020 46.9 ± 6.1: 100</p> <p>Oct. 2020 51.7 ± 5.0: 100</p>	<p>2018 &amp; 2019 results suggest good initial productivity (June), i.e. high pregnancy rate.</p> <p>Calf:cow ratio March 2020 good.</p> <p>July 2020 calf:cow ratio suggests most calf mortality in first 4-5 weeks. Similar July and October calf-cow ratios suggests little mortality summer-fall.</p> <p>October ratio suggests improving recruitment. Average March calf: cow ratio 2014-2018: 30.1.</p> <p>Bluenose-East June 2019 Composition Survey occurred a few days after the peak of calving, resulted in a calf to cow ratio of 69.8 calves: 100 cows.</p>
<b>Adult composition</b>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> More females; less bulls. Most observations made in August-October.</p> <p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> No sightings, so no knowledge on this topic.</p>	<p>Fall bull to cow ratio:</p> <p>Nov. 2019: 35.3 ± 5.5: 100</p> <p>Oct. 2020: 63.3 ± 15.7: 100</p>	<p>Fall 2019 survey past peak of rut; Fall 2020 survey close to peak of rut.</p> <p>Higher bull: cow ratio a positive sign. Increasing herds in NWT in the early 1980s had sex ratios of 65 bulls: 100 cows (or higher).</p>

<p><b>Body condition and health</b></p>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> Healthy; lots of fat; nice meat colour. Not too many sick ones. No data collected this year with sampling kits due to COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Déljñę (Sahtú):</b> No sightings, so no knowledge on this topic.</p>	<p>No new information – minimal harvest N Slave Region last 2 winters.</p>	
<p><b>Harvest levels</b></p>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b></p> <p>NE – TAH 170 – 88 harvested</p> <p>BC – TAH – 10 – 2 harvested</p> <p>DUC – TAH 10 – 0 harvested</p> <p>Beverly – no TAH – 2 harvested</p> <p>Moose – 10 harvested</p> <p>Muskox – TAH 245 (all zones) 11 harvested</p> <p><b>Déljñę (Sahtú):</b> Zero harvest in 2020.</p> <p><b>Tłjchq:</b> Total tags = 76 Total harvest:</p> <p>Behchokq: 20 Wekweèti: 28 Gamèti: 13 Whati: 15</p> <p>The animals harvested were all bulls.</p>	<p>Harvest very low in N. Slave region 2018-2019</p> <p>Total reported winter harvest N Slave region NWT:</p> <p>2016-2017: 15 bulls.</p> <p>2017-2018: 10 bulls.</p> <p>2018-2019: n/a</p> <p>2019-2020: n/a</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 caribou in east on mine winter roads.</p>

<p><b>Predator populations</b></p>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> Grizzly bear population high; excellent body conditions (except 1); lots of grizzly bears around where young caribou are; 15 harvested. There is now an incentive for providing samples from harvested Grizzly Bears</p> <p>High wolf population; healthy – 8 harvested</p> <p>Wolverine – 9 harvested</p> <p>Polar Bear – TAH 6 – 0 harvested</p> <p><b>Déłıne (Sahtú):</b> No observations.</p> <p><b>Wekweèì (Tı̄chq):</b> The wolves are using the road more than other areas.</p>	<p>Limited Information.</p> <p>Incidental sightings during June caribou composition surveys:</p> <p>2019 14 grizzly bears, 3 wolves 2018 21 grizzly bears, 1 wolf</p> <p>No survey June 2020 (COVID-19)</p> <p>54 wolves removed from Bluenose-East range in 2020</p>	<p>Continuing trend of more grizzly bears than wolves seen on BNE calving grounds 2010-2019.</p>
<p><b>Range and movement patterns</b></p>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> Scattered and fragmented herds. Caribou more westerly</p> <p><b>Déłıne (Sahtú):</b> No observations.</p> <p><b>Wekweèì (Tı̄chq):</b> BNE Caribou are in the Wekweèì region but little data is available at time of meeting.</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. Recent winters BNE has been mostly separate and remote.</p>
<p><b>Environment and habitat</b></p>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> Excellent this year. Including berries. Cool summer – insects</p>	<p>Overall, 2018, 2019, and 2020 have been below average for</p>	<p>*July insect season not severe BNE range – based</p>

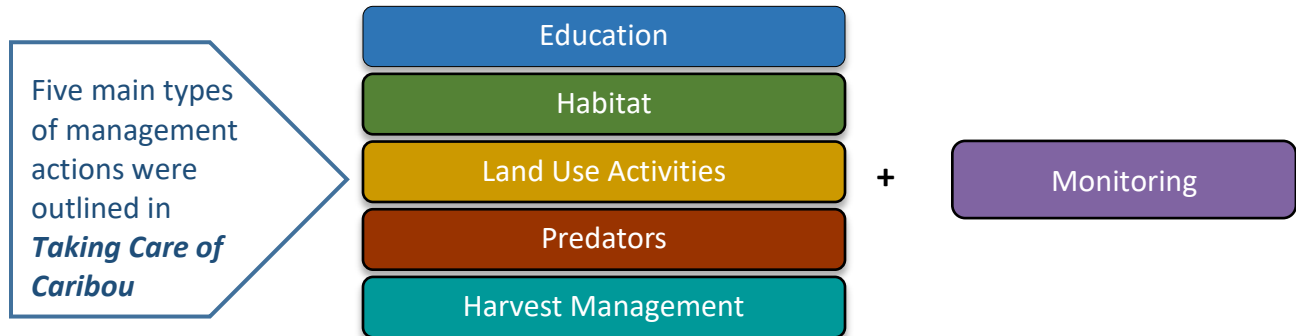


	<p>minimal</p> <p><b>Déljñę (Sahtú):</b> Lots of rain and no fires, both of which can be good for caribou, but there was rain in December which would have been hard on them.</p>	<p>fires. Very few fires on BNE range.</p>	<p>on Kugluktuk observations 2018-2019-2020</p>
<p><b>Human disturbance</b></p>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> Minimal; no industry/exploration.</p> <p><b>Déljñę (Sahtú):</b> Not applicable within Déljñę District.</p> <p><b>Wekweèti (Tłjchq):</b> No new disturbance with respect to exploration or development.</p>	<p>Very limited, no active mines.</p>	
<p><b>Competitors</b></p>	<p><b>Kugluktuk:</b> Healthy muskox populations; MX-9 &amp; MX-11.</p> <p>Healthy moose populations.</p> <p><b>Déljñę (Sahtú):</b> There are concerns about the impacts of muskoxen in making caribou move away, and climate change</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 <sup>4</sup>					
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 <sup>5</sup>	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level <sup>6</sup>	Status November 2020 – plans for 20/21
A.2.1 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Ongoing	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	Annually	Top	ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting

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

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

<sup>6</sup> 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 <sup>7</sup>	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 launched 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 &amp; 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.  GNWT Cumulative Effects Assessment of Four Barren-ground Caribou Herds to be completed in 2021.
B.2.2 ACCWM reviews information and provides advice for research and monitoring based on information from B.2.1-4.	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided			

Member boards make and communicate 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			GWNT, 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 <i>Objective – ensure cumulative effects monitoring programs are operational and relevant</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
C.1.1 Identify and/or review any gaps in cumulative effects data or	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.

previous gaps assessments.					
C – 2. Provide advice on mitigation of industrial <sup>8</sup> impacts to proponents and regulators <i>Objective – minimize industrial impacts to caribou and their habitat</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
C.2.1 Review Appendix G <sup>9</sup> 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	Member Boards				

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

<sup>9</sup> 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](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)

regulations when appropriate. Work with other relevant agencies (GNWT 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>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed wolf feasibility assessment for Bathurst caribou range (Nov 2017)<sup>10</sup>, which can be applied to other barren-ground caribou herd ranges.</p> <p>KHTO &amp; GN DOE wolf sampling program pilot program are ongoing. GN will be doing TK and SK studies on grizzly bears in 2021.</p> <p>Dropbox folder created for people to add materials.</p> <p>WRRB, TG, GNWT &amp; GN: Members of the Grizzly Bear/Wolverine Biological &amp; Management Feasibility Working Group, which started September 2019</p>

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



D.1.2 Engage community organizations to identify and prioritize research needs by region	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing  Research prioritization (GRRB & WMAC-NWT)  WRRB: To begin a research prioritization exercise in Wek'èezhìi in 2020
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	
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>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
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		Summary of input / guidance		Top	SRRB: Public listening session focused on predators will occur in 2021.

regarding potential options for predator management		from communities			
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	

## E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Resident, outfitter or commercial harvest remain closed<sup>11</sup>

*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	Member boards	Recommendations provided			<b>Done (2015/2016).</b>

<sup>11</sup> 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).

ratios, member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities					
E – 2. Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction <sup>12</sup> <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			
E.2.A.3 Meetings to discuss and propose regional proportional allocations <sup>13</sup>	Member boards and other traditional users	Provide percentages for inclusion in Action Plan			

<sup>12</sup> 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.

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

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 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			Revised Délıne Belare wı́le Gots'ę ʔekwé plan is pending board approval. The updated plan includes harvest thresholds and acknowledges that the current red status is not business as usual.
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>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
E.3.1 Assess status of harvest reporting programs (see F – Monitoring) and	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 Tlıcho communities as well as collection by RRO.

identify any challenges and priorities, in collaboration with communities					TG: Two monitors travelled to Wekweeti to monitor the harvest in the area.
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>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
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	Member boards	Recommendations provided			

barter, community hunts or freezers, etc.)					
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>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
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 the community plans
E.5.2 Member boards provide recommendations to government	Member boards	Recommendations provided	2018/19	Top	

based on ACCWM advice					
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		Finalized harvest	2018/19	Top	

programs based on information from F.1.1 and F.1.2. to standardize harvest data		reporting program			
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>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
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	ACCWM WG with regional partners	Draft ‘state of traditional knowledge’ report(s)			



and identify any new 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> )	ACCWMM 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	Member boards and regional partners	Signed data-sharing agreements			

/ or information-sharing protocols					
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		
<b>F – 3. Conduct scientific monitoring to assess herd status</b> <i>Objective – develop or adapt existing scientific monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
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	ACCWM to determine responsible parties	Decide on mechanism for collaboration		Top	

reporting on research programs					
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 is developing 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 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

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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

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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 Nations<sup>14</sup>
- 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).

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<sup>14</sup> 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
<b>Education</b>	<p>Recommend education programs for all status levels. Ideas for educational themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting total use of harvested caribou, and proper butchering and storage methods;</li> <li>• Limiting wounding loss;</li> <li>• Letting the leaders pass;</li> <li>• Promoting community hunts with experienced hunters;</li> <li>• Use of alternate species; and</li> <li>• Increased sharing of traditional foods.</li> </ul>			
<b>Habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas;</li> <li>• Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat;</li> <li>• Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management.</li> </ul>			
<b>Land use activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs;</li> <li>• Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs;</li> <li>• Provide advice on mitigation of the impacts of exploration and development activities to proponents and regulators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs;</li> <li>• Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators;</li> <li>• Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines;</li> <li>• Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work directly with proponents and regulators of exploration and development activities to advise on mitigation measures;</li> <li>• Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs;</li> <li>• Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines;</li> <li>• Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors.</li> </ul>

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