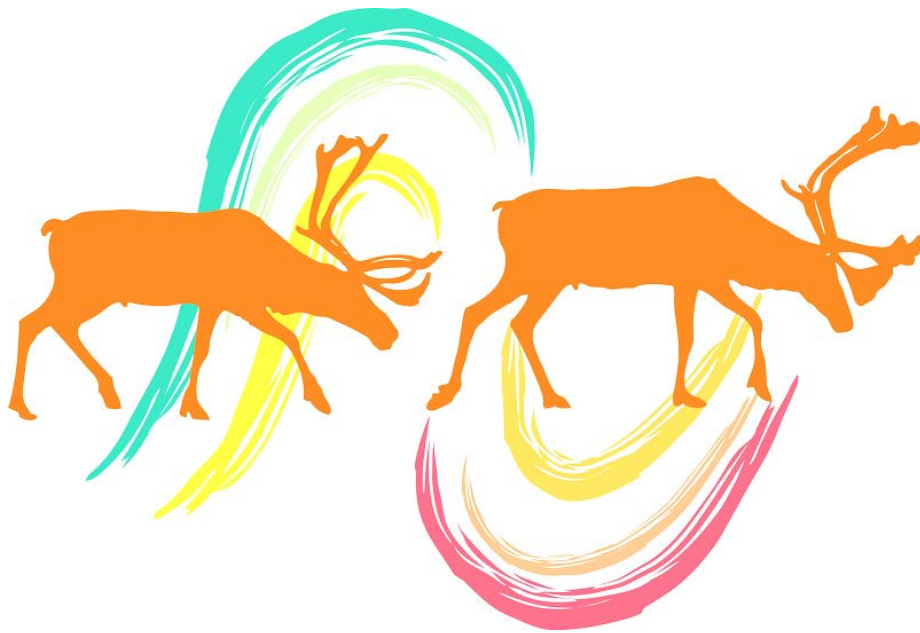


Action Plan for 2020/2021

BLUENOSE-WEST CARIBOU – *ORANGE STATUS* –



Tuktuvialuk (Inuvialuktun, Siglitun dialect)
Vadzaih (Teet'it and Gwichya Gwich'in)
ʔedə (K'áhsho Got'jne, Dela Got'jne)
ʔehdaɣla Goʔekwé (Déljne Got'jne)

**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-West Caribou Herd 2020/2021 – Orange 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'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 Bluenose West, 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 (Figure 1), 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-West (BNW) herd can be found in the Management Action table section of this Action plan (see page 18).

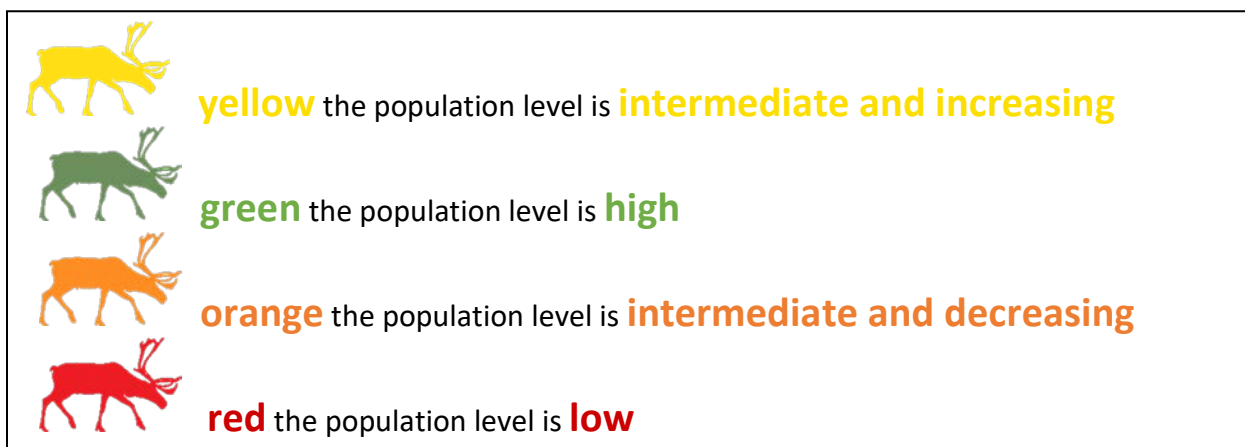


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

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 available information.** The traffic light approach to understanding risk in caribou population cycles is shown in Figure 2 (below) along with the approximate thresholds for the Bluenose-West (BNW) herd.

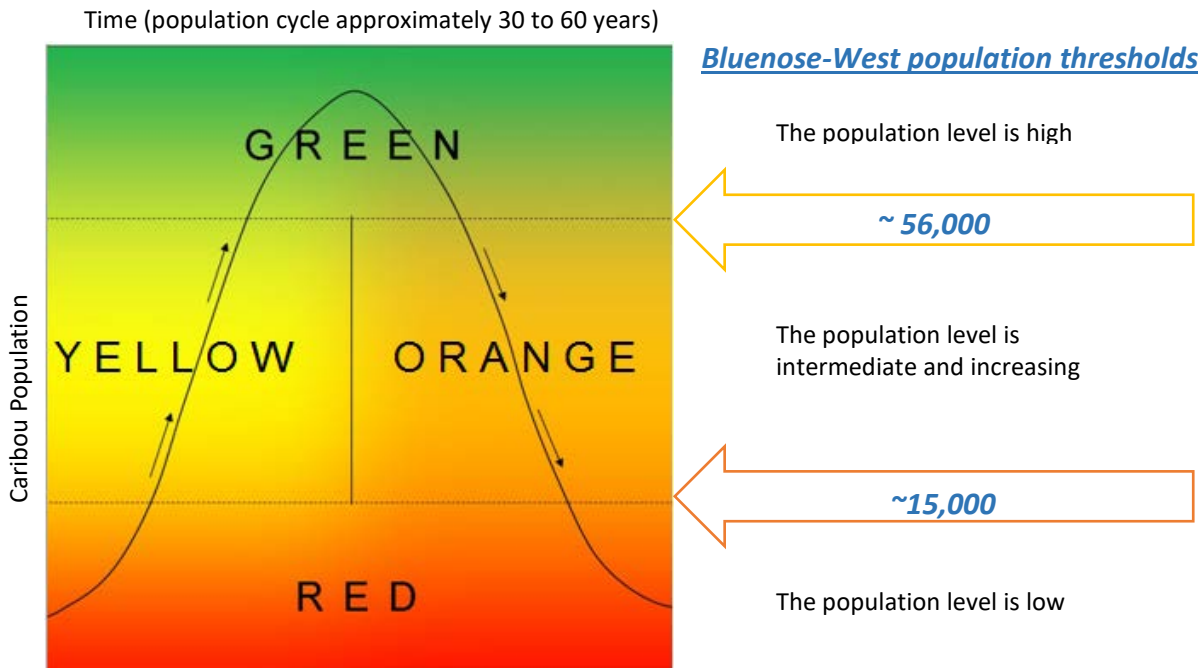


Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with Bluenose-West population thresholds.

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-West herd status colour zone to be **orange (intermediate and decreasing)** in November 2019. Community members in Inuvialuit Region observed more caribou than in the past while Sahtú and Gwich'in community members report similar or fewer numbers compared to recent years. With little new information to indicate a significant change in the population numbers, the ACCWM decided to use the precautionary principle and maintain the previous year's status designation. This decision recognizes that the herd size appears to be stable and that ongoing conservation actions are needed to help the Bluenose-West herd recover.



IN 2020/21

the Bluenose-West caribou population status is
ORANGE: intermediate and decreasing

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Bluenose West status in 2019.¹

Criteria	Community-Based Information ²	Scientific Information ³	Comments
Population size	<p>Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT): Members noted the caribou numbers are higher than they have been in the last 2-3 years and they are abundant and healthy. The population have been on a steady increase over the last 3 years. This harvest season “Everyone had their share”. The caribou populations follow natural cycles, a long time ago the hills looked like they were moving with the migrating caribou; it’s not like that anymore.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): In the past 4 years, more caribou have been seen than prior to 5 years ago, and last year even more were seen.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT): Inuvik members noted it is the same as last year.</p> <p>GRRB: Four harvesters didn’t see any caribou. Some harvesters mentioned that there were more caribou 3-4 years ago in this area (Husky lakes). A harvester</p>	Estimated number of adults in 2018 Rivest: 21,011 ± 4,602	Estimate based on July 2018 post-calving ground survey

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*.

² Bluenose-West caribou usually migrate through two settlement areas/regions and are typically harvested by four communities: Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Tuktoyaktuk. In 2018, community-based information was documented in the following ways: 1. The Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) held a community meeting in Inuvik, and 2. The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC, (NWT)) held community meetings in Inuvik, Paulatuk, and Tuktoyaktuk; of these communities, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk are the communities that mostly encounter and harvest Bluenose-West caribou.

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

	<p>mentioned that there was less caribou around Miner River than in the past; they only saw old tracks. Another mentioned seeing no tracks at all. One harvester mentioned that he saw fresh tracks between Sitidgi Lake and Husky lakes. These observations were made late winter and early spring.</p> <p>Déljne (Sahtú): One or two Ɂekwé seen at Neregha (North Shore). Neregha Ɂekwé are in much smaller numbers than usual.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): No significant changes noted.</p>		
<p>Population trend and rate of change</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAc-NWT): Paulatuk members noted the population increased since last year. It's been on a steady increase in the last 3 years, this year has been especially good. The population is better than any previous years (except 2006, which was excellent).</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT): Community members observed the population is going up, a group of 300 caribou on the Tuk Pen was seen in mid-March.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT): Members noted it's hard to say because of changes in distribution. Harvesters did not see as many in the usual hunting areas.</p> <p>GRRB: Several harvesters mentioned that there is less caribou now than it used to be in a distant past. Some mentioned that they used to hunt them in the GSA,</p>	<p>Between 2005 and 2018 the herd shows a non-statistically significant decrease of 2% per year (CI -4 to 1%).</p>	<p>Starting 2019/20, TAH updated based on 4% of the most recent estimate (2018 Rivest estimate 21,011)</p> <p>Trend analysis is based on Rivest estimates:</p> <p>2015 21,535 ± 5,136 2012 32,326 ± 15,482 2009 21,773 ± 4,884 2006 28,461 ± 7,431 2005 26,228 ± 5,878</p>

	<p>around and north of Caribou Lake. Now there is none there. Trappers also used to see them around that area.</p> <p>Déljñę (Sahtú): The community continues to be concerned about lack of availability.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): No significant changes noted.</p>		
<p>Productivity and recruitment</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAc-NWT): Members observed less calves than previous years; some young ones but not as much as in the past years. They are seeing more yearlings than calves. Harvesting is happening in away from where calves and cows are; they are further east, closer to the Park. The cows and calves are in excellent shape.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT): Members observed in the Spring there are twins, a calf for every two cows in I/BC/06, the calves look very healthy with nice fur. There was a lot of calves spotted in March.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT): Members noted that harvesters are not in the area where the cows usually are, but there are some observations of one cow and one calf that was spotted alone. In 2017, there were a lot of cows and calves in Old Man/Uruqhart Lake area but they didn't see any in that area this year.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): No significant changes noted.</p>	<p>Last recruitment survey was 2017 so no current information available.</p>	

<p>Adult composition</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAc-NWT): Members saw and harvested a lot of bulls. Successful community harvest, 21 caribou, which 19 were bulls. There are many bulls, so not harvesting many cows.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT): Members noted there are limited observations as the areas travelled (Miner River, in tree-line) is mainly bulls. The caribou are separated by the time harvesters from Inuvik go out.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): No significant changes noted.</p>	<p>There is only one bull to cow ratio for Bluenose-West (2009) so trend is unknown, but the 2009 result is considered high.</p> <p>Estimated number of bulls per 100 cows in 2009: 70</p>	<p>The bull ratio is monitored because a bull dominated harvest was recommended.</p>
<p>Body condition and health</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAc-NWT): Members noted the caribou are very very healthy, with 3-5 inches of fat. The bulls and cows are very healthy and fat. The calves look healthy too, probably because of the cool summer; less mosquitoes.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT): Members noted the caribou are really fat (one harvested in September was too fat and had less meat). the caribou are almost “obese”. The caribou are getting fatter faster in the summer because of less pressure from bugs. There is no sickness, less warble flies, less bugs due to cold damp summer.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): ʔədə appear to be in normal good health.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT): The caribou in late spring, are very lean, more</p>		<p>No Body Condition samples were collected in 2018/2019 for BNW.</p> <p>Data from samples collected in I/BC/06 in the area where the Cape Bathurst herd overwinter is in Cape Bathurst table.</p>

	<p>so than last few years. The caribou seem healthy, no sickness and clean livers. There is fat around the organs, none of the rump and good bone marrow considering they are leaner. The caribou looked like they were about to put on the weight. Out of 9 caribou harvested, only 2 had visible fat on the outside.</p>		
Harvest levels	<p>Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT): Members noted successful community harvest and harvesting. They haven't met quota yet (but close). Started the harvest earlier this year, in August, which was good and consisted of lots of bulls. Weather patterns determine peoples' ability to go out. There are less caribou harvesting in the treeline. There are caribou still being harvested in mid-October that don't smell, suspecting late rutting season. Rut season is usually October 8-11, but harvesters lately are getting bulls later in the season and they don't smell. Since tag system and harvest sex-ratio implemented, not enough tags to do late fall community harvest (used to harvest mainly cows in early November for winter stock up).</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Tuktoyaktuk shared that educating the younger harvesters is important. There is good information where tags are regulated in hunting zones. Successful harvest this year on Tuk Pen herd. There are less harvesters on the western coast (McKinley Bay</p>	<p>Total harvest uncertain.</p> <p>Sex of harvest is not always reported ENR believes the 80% bull target is not being met.</p>	<p>TAH tag returns in Beaufort Delta Region 2018/2019</p> <p>Inuvialuit: 345 Quota, 311 harvested</p> <p>Gwich'in: 22 quota, up to 11 harvested (1-11 estimated)</p> <p>Sahtú harvest: 300 (Estimated)</p>

	<p>area) because of highway access to Husky Lakes. Members noticed less people going out due to weather and other reasons, such as berry picking along the highway. Harvests leading to the rut season are mostly bulls. After freeze-up/rut season, harvesting consists of young bulls and dry cows. Members shared there is caribou drymeat for sale.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT): Members stated this year not all tags were used. They had a successful community harvest and noticed people are too busy to hunt. Caribou are not in the areas where people usually hunt; they were at Miner River instead of Old Man Lake area. Harvesters have to travel further, and most people are not comfortable travelling into areas where the caribou are due to quick changes in weather (above Sitigi Lake, south storm hills). All harvests are being reported.</p> <p>GRRB: The main time of harvest was around late winter and early spring. A few harvesters went around Husky and Sitidgi Lakes for BNW. They didn't see any and saw very few tracks. They went back hunting later around Caribou Lake for woodland caribou. They weren't successful. Only one harvester interviewed was successful for BNW.</p> <p>The Ehdiitat RRC (Aklavik) mentioned that the trip to go get Bluenose West caribou was too expensive for only 5 tags. The</p>		
--	--	--	--

	<p>uncertainty of the caribou location and where they could harvest them were also reasons mentioned for not having used the tags.</p> <p>A harvester mentioned that he was fine with the increase in tag numbers because the population had increased. Another mentioned that he respects the GRRB and the tag system. Nowadays, people only hunt caribou, but it should be seasonal he said. Harvest should change depending on the season, e.g. geese in the spring, rabbit in winter. Also, now there are less hunters because there is less caribou.</p> <p>Déljñę (Sahtú): As of November 2019, the community has agreed to ɤekwé gha máhsı ts'jñwe (ceremonial harvest) of 50 Neregha ɤekwé. The ɤehdzo Got'jñę has curtailed financial support for community members to harvest ɤekwé.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): An estimated 300 harvested in 2019. For the second year in a row, the annual community harvest at ɤarakə Túé (Horton Lake) did not take place. The community has published their <i>Dehlá Got'jñę ɤadā Plan and Tseduweh ɤadā ɤeɤa (Harvest Law)</i> and is partnering with the ɤehdzo Got'jñę Gots'é Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board) in hosting a Public Listening (Hearing) Session on <i>Sahtú Ragóɤa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting</i> on January 21-23, 2020.</p>		
--	--	--	--

	<p>In preparation for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session, Colville delegates participated in two Community Conservation Planning workshops. As well, Colville reviewed the Sahtú Harvest Study and is preparing a plan to support the Dehlá Got'Inę traditional food system which includes over 80 harvested species.</p>		
<p>Predator populations</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT): Members observed wolves all over the place until early October. Grizzly bear populations increasing. They are wondering whether an increase in salmon in streams would attract more bears. They didn't see a major pack of wolves that usually passes in the spring, most of wolves taken were around the community. Changing climate is creating weather conditions which prevent hunters from going out for wolves. Very large wolf packs are below the tree line. Harvested 9 wolves in April. There is no increase in wolf packs this year, but there is interest in incentives.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Members stated there are more wolves and grizzly bears. There were grizzly bears spotted with 3 cubs. There are more and larger packs of wolves, more wolverines than usual, and increasing eagles. An eagle was observed to taking calves. One observation noted a grizzly bear chasing a muskox until it aborted its young and asked if this happens with caribou. There are</p>	<p>Paulatuk submitted 0 wolves in the 18/19 season.</p>	<p>Changes in wolf harvest does not necessarily reflect changes in wolf abundance.</p>

	<p>less hunters in the younger generation so there is less pressure on predators. The cost of gas and equipment makes it difficult to go out on the land to hunt predators. If the price of fur is too low, people won't hunt predators as much, but some people are opportunistic harvesters. There are changes in climatic condition that will affect where harvesters go. Hunters with unethical harvesting practices are characterized "human predators".</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT): Members stated they didn't see too many wolves this year, but snow was too deep and if there were predators it would be hard to escape. Not many predators, the caribou were very tame. Some small packs of wolves (4-5) around Miner River and lots of wolverine and wolverine tracks heading north out of the tree-line. No bears spotted in that area, indicating early emergence for their dens.</p> <p>GRRB: One harvester saw a lone wolf toward Sitidgi Lake. This harvester mentioned that too many wolves can affect the population. Wolf can affect the population a lot because they eat a lot of caribou. They should put a bounty on them. He also mentioned that there are more grizzly bears now.</p> <p>Another harvester mentioned that predators were about the same as last year around Miner River.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): No significant</p>		
--	---	--	--

	changes noted.		
Range and movement patterns	<p>Paulatuk (WMAc-NWT): Members observed the migration paths and locations changing slightly; about 40-50 km from previous harvesting locations. Caribou are to the east and west, all over, excellent range. The caribou are accessible to community while migrating.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT): Members observed there are more caribou in the trees because of very low snow conditions. There are less bugs and the caribou don't have to go to the coast to escape them. There are lots of caribou in the east between Anderson and Horton/Mason river, they are tamer due to less hunting pressure. Seeing much more caribou from Cape Bathurst to above Husky bend on Anderson River, and all along the Eastern shore of Liverpool Bay during April/May. They have been seeing more in the past three years.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT): Members observed the distribution is a little different; they stayed around Miner river almost all winter, not in usual harvesting areas, which is Old Man Lake and Urquhart Lake. The caribou didn't come out of trees until at least end of April. There is a lot of deep snow. They seemed to stay late into spring.</p> <p>GRRB: A few harvesters mentioned that the caribou used to come down in the GSA, around Caribou Lake. Another harvester mentioned</p>	<p>In 2019, 20 BNW collared cows were still active from 2017 and all returned to BNW calving ground. Between 2010 and 2019, 99% of collared BNW cows returned year after year to calving ground.</p>	

	<p>that they have moved away maybe because the food they get usually was not there anymore. Another harvester doesn't think that movement patterns have changed since last year.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): No changes noted.</p>		
<p>Environment and habitat</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAc-NWT): Members noted the summers are longer but cooler, rainy, and less bugs. A lot of stronger winds from all directions except from south, which is more than usual. There was rain in October and November 2018, March/April 2019 and this past October. There are no concerns about species in Paulatuk region, there an abundance of caribou, beluga, char, seals, geese. The community noted members can't predict storms anymore. There were storms in February and October, which was unusual. A member shared they got a reindeer in late August, wondering if it's a mixed breed. The reindeer was hanging out with 15 other bulls, its fur had white spots, short legs, big antlers, no velvet on the antlers. If this reindeer was all the way here, they must be everywhere.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT): Members noted an icing event in January with about a half-inch ice layer. The icing events cause caribou and other animals to lose hair on their legs. Summer weather is cooler, less bugs. Ice isn't thick</p>	<p>There were very few fires in the 2019 season.</p>	<p>Forage map is still in production. Consultant hired to write up results by March 2020.</p>

	<p>enough, limits caribou movements across water bodies. There are more slumps and slides.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT): Members noted there is deep snow until late spring, a bit of icing earlier, more noticeable in the tundra than in tree line. In the end of February, some hills were glazed making it hard for the skidoos to climb. Lots of slumping in places there never used to be, which is dangerous for traveling. A lot more landslides too, further south around Caribou Hills area. There are many rivers getting silty and shallower, starting to affect travelling routes. Shallow Bay, areas you can't even go through due to low waters.</p> <p>GRRB: A harvester mentioned that during springtime, it was fairly warm. He mentioned that the lakes were slushy, but that there was lots of snow in the forest, around 3-4 feet. Two harvesters mentioned that the snow was the same as usual, both for the forested area and the barren.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): See information above for Neregha ɔekwé. No other sightings noted.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): Nothing unusual noted.</p>		
<p>Human disturbance</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT): Members stated the industry are not following community guidelines and flying low. There are tourists and visitors in the Park without</p>	<p>Minimal human disturbance. TNNPMB/Parks Canada agreement</p>	

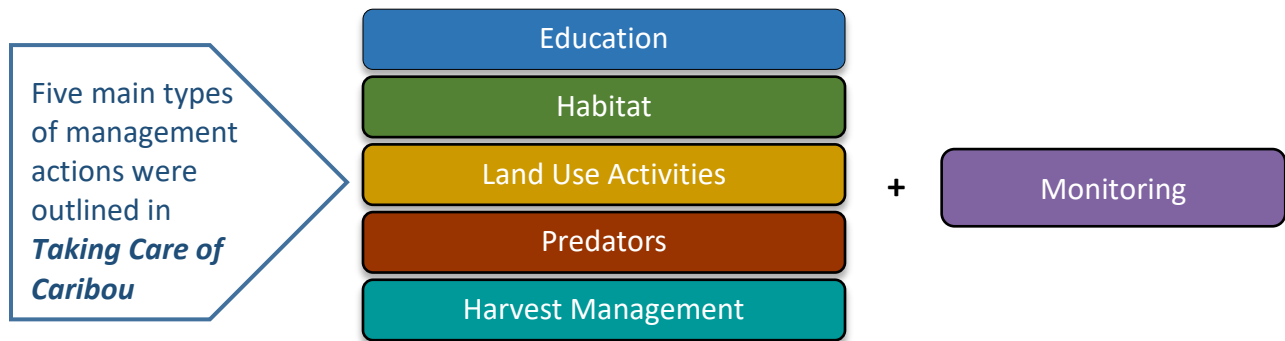
	<p>community knowledge while the caribou are there. The members also shared research has cumulative effects on species and on communities.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT): Members stated the caribou are very tame. It was hard to travel because of icing and thick trees. There was less hunting pressure this year. Aircraft are not a concern as they fly really high. Perhaps more caribou spotted from road this year than previous years; quite few around Jimmy Lake and towards Husky Lakes. Members were not concerned around ITH. The caribou around road are very tame. Lots of dust on southside of ITH, covering the land.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Members stated the caribou get really skittish when they are hunted and chased with fast skidoos (instead of being patient). Enforcement presence needs to increase, need an ENR officer based in Tuktoyaktuk all year and regular patrols. Should increase enforcement in no harvest areas and when tags are finished. Asked if more funding for investigations than patrols</p> <p>GRRB: A harvester mentioned that when the oil and gas industries started, the population declined. A harvester mentioned that he doesn't think harvesters are having a big impact on the caribou now. He believes that the harvest is sustainable and attributes the low</p>	<p>to minimize overflights during calving and post-calving continues.</p>	
--	---	---	--

	<p>numbers to predation.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): People noted that the winter road has had an impact by increasing access for visiting harvesters since it was first built.</p>		
Competitors	<p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): They plan to promote harvest of moose and muskoxen which are newly coming into the area.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT): Members noted there are stray reindeer and the muskox are moving south and west. Tuktoyaktuk wants to deal with invasive species and/or competitors before they get out hand. Asking if could track harvesting from hunters from other communities, possibly increase communication.</p>		

Orange Status Management Actions for Bluenose West 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-West herd is **orange (intermediate and decreasing)**, 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 West Caribou: Orange 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 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 2019 – plans for 20/21
A.1.1 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Annually	Top	WMAC (NWT) engages during community tour SRRB: Engagement through community conservation planning, especially with Colville Lake and Déljñę.
A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on community and member board priorities, based on ToR for Communication	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	Annually	Top	ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting WMAC (NWT) identifies priorities during community tour.

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.

and Education Working Group					
A.1.3 Implementation of educational strategy	Member boards, government partners and regional partners ⁷	Summary report	2018/19 and onwards	Top	<p>Working group holding regular teleconferences</p> <p>Materials placed in Dropbox for all Member boards to utilize.</p> <p>ACCWM website 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>ENR created an annual movement animation</p> <p>SRRB was involved in the programs such as the Dene Ts'jli camp which discussed hunter mentorship and caribou in general.</p> <p>ENR Beaufort Delta Region holds 4 SIYR per year in communities in the ISR and GSA. 2019: Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson. GRRB was involved this year and shared ACCWM material.</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

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

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.1.2 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	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing. Déljñę Plan identifies key habitat areas as does the land use plan for the Sahtú. GRRB working with Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (GLUPB) to identify critical habitat for caribou in the GSA. GLUPB could support measure for habitat management for barren-ground caribou recommended by the ACCWM in the GSA. Parks Canada is working on a BNW forage project in Tutkuk Nogait National Park to predict and map summer forage quality and availability for BNW. This is expected to be able to act as a baseline to monitor changes in forage availability overtime. Once completed, it will be shared with ACCWM.
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.	Government partners	Compilation map			GNWT 'Inventory of Landscape Change' being updated. Annual tracking of wildfire footprint. Mackenzie Valley GIS submission standards in place.
B.2.2 ACCWM reviews information and provides advice for	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided			

research and monitoring based on information from B.2.1-4. 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 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			

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 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 <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 ⁸ of the Management Plan according to modern best practices.	ACCWM WG; Member boards				
C.2.2 Apply Appendix G: member boards make and communicate recommendations to proponents (including air carriers and other subcontractors) and regulators.	Member boards				WMAC (NWT) and other ISR partners review proposals going through EISC. GRRB reviews proposals through the Land and Water board.
C.2.3 Develop and/or adapt communication and education	Communication and Education working group				

⁸ 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

programs with/for industrial proponents					
C.2.4 Identify and review regulations and current inspection/enforcement strategies involving land use in caribou habitat. Recommend increased enforcement of regulations when appropriate. Work with other relevant agencies (GNWT Lands, regional Land and Water Boards)	Member 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	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing Completed wolf feasibility assessment (Nov 2017) ⁹

⁹ <https://www.wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Wolf%20Feasibility%20Assessment%20-%2010nov17.pdf>

and monitoring results to ACCWM (including community and scientific monitoring results)					KHTO: Wolf collaring is happening. Dropbox folder created for people to add materials.
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)
D.1.4 ACCWM reviews and provides advice to member boards. boards recommend research priorities to appropriate authorities	ACCWM; member boards	Advice provided to member boards	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		Information for summary report		Top	
D.2.2 Identify jurisdictional / regional rules and regulations around		List of existing regulations and rules		Top	

predator management					
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 for predator management. If justified, member boards recommend predator management tools to appropriate authorities	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards		Top	

E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Resident, outfitter or commercial harvest remain closed¹⁰

Objective – limit licensed harvest to assist in herd recovery

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
------	----------	---------------------	------------------	----------------	--------

¹⁰ 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.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
E – 2. Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction ¹¹ <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			Done
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			

¹¹ 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.

E.2.A.3 Meetings to discuss and propose regional proportional allocations ¹²	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 TAH and sex ratio	ACCWM	Proposed TAH and definition of majority bull harvest	Every year, following annual status meeting		
E.2.B.2 ACCWM advises member boards regarding the proposed herd TAH, based on E.2.B.1	ACCWM	Proposed TAH provided to member boards			
E.2.B.3 Each member board consults with communities on regional TAH as required by their respective land claim agreements (including public hearings as required by respective land claim agreements)	Member boards	Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions			

¹² The processes for determining Total Allowable Harvests and regional allocations are described in Appendix F.

E.2.B.4 Boards recommend TAH to Minister		Recommendations provided			4% TAH based on most recent population estimate was recommended by the WMAC(NWT) and GRRB
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 roadblocks / challenges to success	ACCWM WG and regional partners	Review reports from existing programs		Top	
E.3.2 Adjust educational programming or communication plan if required (see A - Education)	Communication and Education WG	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	Member boards	List of alternate species and meat replacement options			Ongoing work as part of community-based planning programs. ISR/GSA harvest reported through tag program; SSA harvest reporting plan being developed. Alternate harvests are being promoted regionally. In Nunavut there is a program to subsidize harvesting in

programs, based on best available information.					Muskox, in the Sahtú alternate species are promoted for harvesting the GRRB is discussing options for commercial harvests.
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	Member boards	Summary of input / guidance	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing.

organizations and enforcement officers regarding enforcement/monitoring approaches and whether they are adequate.					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	

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	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18 2018/19	Top	Ongoing.

develop minimum standards					
F.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for harvest data collection		Summary report	2018/19	Top	Ongoing.
F.1.3. Adapt harvest reporting programs based on information from F.1.1 and F.1.2. to standardize harvest data		Finalized harvest reporting program	2018/19	Top	
F.1.4 Implement harvest data collection program	Member boards and government partners	Collections initiated	2018/19	Top	
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)
Objective – develop or adapt existing community-based monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.2.1 Compile and review information on existing community-based monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Summary report			
F.2.2 Compile existing traditional knowledge documentation and identify any new documentation / work required as basis for a community-based monitoring program	ACCWM WG with regional partners	Draft 'state of traditional knowledge' report(s)			
F.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for community-based monitoring to collect herd status information (see 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		Finalized CBM program			

program(s) based on information from F.2.1-3					
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 Compile and review information on existing scientific monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Summary report		Top	
F.3.2 Engage community organizations regarding	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	

appropriate programs for scientific monitoring to collect herd status information (see also F.2.3) and appropriate ways to collaborate					
F.3.3 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.3.4 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.3.5 Support appropriate scientific monitoring studies	Member boards	Approval by member boards	Annual status meeting	Top	
F.3.6 Establish information sharing protocols	Government partners	Information shared according to protocol		Top	Member boards & ACCWM will ask for clarity from ENR on releasing scientific information.

F.3.7 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	Tłıchǫ 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'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Dehcho First Nations¹³
- 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
- Tıjchq Government
- Tuktut 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.