

**Action Plan for 2024/2025**

# **CAPE BATHURST CARIBOU**

## **–YELLOW STATUS–**



Tuktuvialuk (Inuvialuktun, Siglitun dialect)  
Vadzaih (Teet'it and Gwichya Gwich'in)

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

**February 2024**

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**About the ACCWM**

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

**About *Taking Care of Caribou* and the associated Action Plans**

In late 2014 and early 2015, members of the ACCWM approved *Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan*. The Plan was developed in consultation with most of the 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 Climate Change (formerly the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories), the Minister of Environment (Government of Nunavut), and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (formerly 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 annual Action Plans provide details on the types of actions that are recommended based on a herd's status, as well as who is responsible for the actions, and when they should be done.

**Disclaimer:**

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

## ACCWM and the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan

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

## How a Herd's Status and Appropriate Management Actions are Determined

The ACCWM is responsible for determining herd status each year and developing appropriate management actions based on that status. Each fall, the member boards meet for the Annual Status Meeting (Terms of Reference [TOR] can be found [here](#)) to share information and make collaborative decisions regarding the herds, including herd status (Figure 1), according to the requirements of regional legislation and land claim agreements. The implementation of the Action Plans is also reviewed at this time and actions for the Cape Bathurst (CB) herd can be found in the Management Actions table section (see page 11).

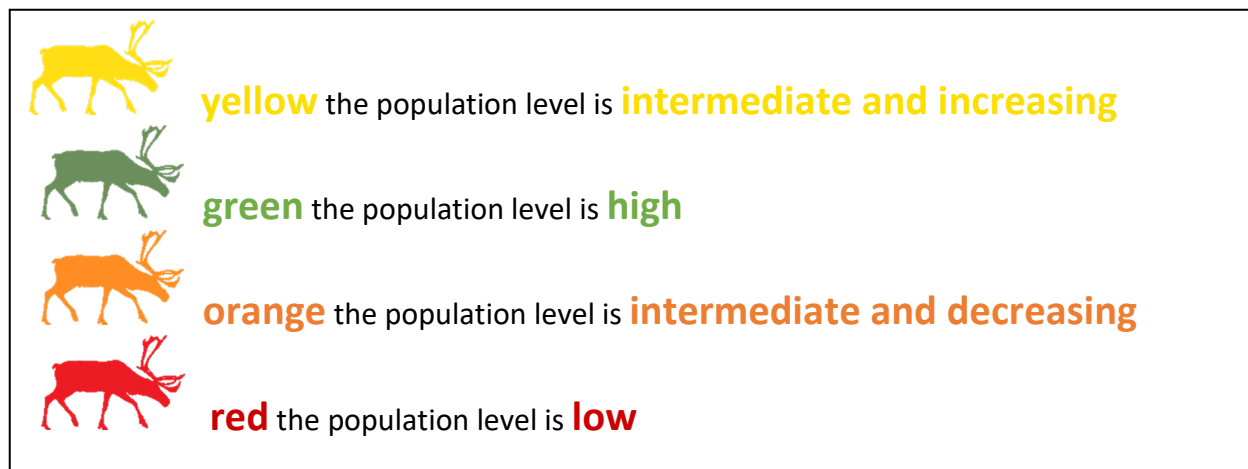


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

## Status Decision 2023

Management actions are based on these phases of the population cycle, using approximate levels or "thresholds" as a guide. Thresholds for the herds were determined by the ACCWM based on known historic highs and lows, with input received from community and technical experts in a consensus-based process. **However, it is not only the threshold value that is used to determine the colour zone – the determination of herd status takes into account all available information.** The traffic light approach to understanding risk in caribou population cycles is shown in Figure 2 along with the approximate thresholds for the Cape Bathurst (CB) herd. According to the process outlined in the Management Plan, numerous criteria are used to make an annual status decision. Information considered by the ACCWM in making the 2023 decision is summarized in Table 1 below. During the annual status meeting, stakeholders are

encouraged to provide important local and Indigenous knowledge that helps to inform the status decision. This data is reported in the Annual Meeting Summary report when it doesn't fit into the monitoring criteria listed in Table 1.

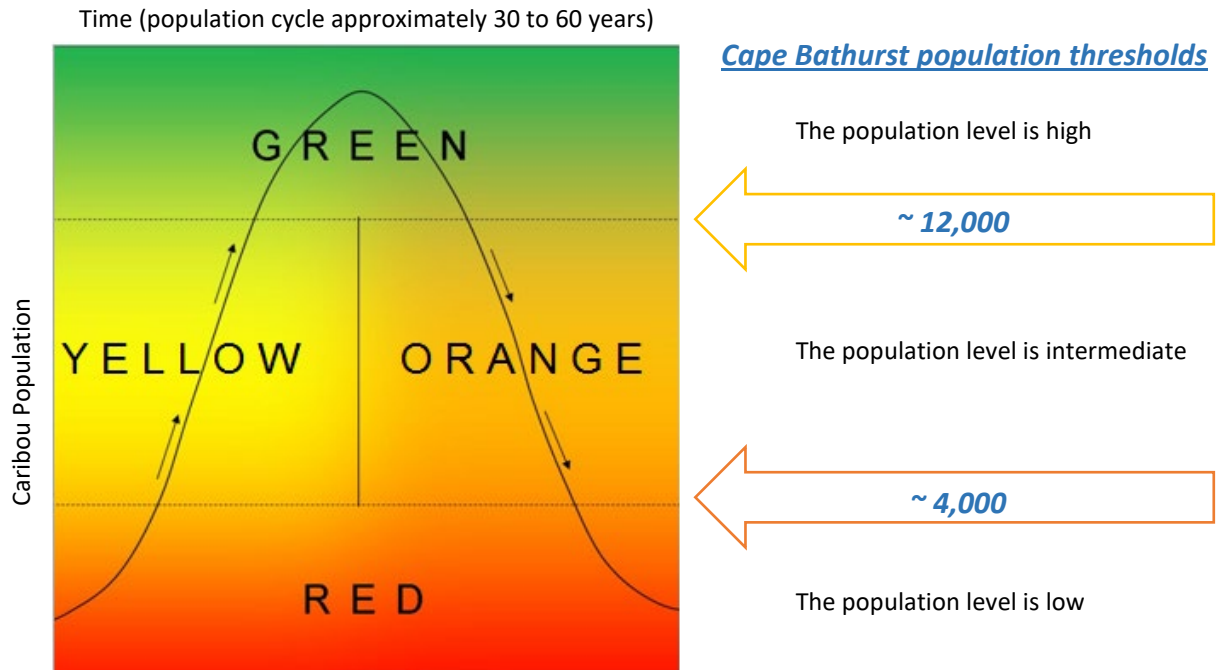


Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with defined Cape Bathurst population thresholds.

Based on the information provided, the ACCWM determined the Cape Bathurst herd status colour zone to be **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)** in November 2023. The ACCWM noted that the population continues to be slowly recovering based on the community observations presented. Based on the available information, the ACCWM felt that there was sufficient evidence for status of the herd to be maintained at **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)**.

**In 2024/25**



**the Cape Bathurst caribou population status is**  
**Yellow: intermediate and increasing**

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Cape Bathurst herd status in 2023.<sup>1</sup>

Criteria	Community-Based Information <sup>2</sup>	Scientific Information <sup>3</sup>	Comments
<b>Population size</b>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March through to late May during guiding – a big herd was seen. Mostly cows and calves. Between Cape Bathurst and Anderson.</li> <li>Near a lake at least 400 seen in late October 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herd was healthy past Kugaaluk River. Big winds pushed them into the trees. Health and numbers looked really good. Haven't seen that in a long time. 2 years ago, herds of 1500, looked good then too.</li> </ul>	Estimated number of adult caribou in 2021 Rivest: 4,912 ± 562 (95%CI)	Estimated based on July post-calving ground survey
<b>Population trend and rate of change</b>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The reason I am out there makes it difficult to count the caribou numbers. I may see ten, I harvest my few and then I am done."</li> </ul>	Between 2005 and 2021 the herd shows an increasing trend of 6% per year (95%CI of 2% to 9%)	Trend analysis is based on Rivest estimates:  2021 4,912 ± 562

<sup>1</sup> This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status in 2023 and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in *Taking Care of Caribou*.

<sup>2</sup> Cape Bathurst caribou usually migrate through two settlement areas/regions and are typically harvested by four communities: Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Tuktoyaktuk. Community-based information was documented in the following ways:

- The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAc, (NWT)) held community meetings in Inuvik, and Tuktoyaktuk; of these communities, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk are the communities that mostly encounter and harvest Cape Bathurst caribou. WMAc (NWT) was unable to host the community meeting in Paulatuk this year.
- Due to the lack of Gwich'in members harvesting from this herd, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) did not provide any community-based information.

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noticing 10-20yrs the ratio of calves and cows is much higher than 20/30yrs. Hard question to answer. I can't say if the population is smaller or bigger.</li> <li>Used to hunt a lot of caribou around Miner River, where I used to hunt annually. Not seeing any nowadays.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less snow in the tree line makes for more available food source.</li> </ul>		2018 4,521 ± 875 2015 2,524 ± 284 2012 2,447 ± 350 2009 2,925 ± 1,252 2006 2,039 ± 319 2005 3,566 ± 1,373
<b>Productivity and recruitment</b>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More calves and cows. Cows with even 2 or 3 calves.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeing lots of cows and calves.</li> </ul>	Pregnancy rate of captured cows 2021: 23/24 (96%).  Last recruitment survey was 2019 so no current information available.	Pregnancy based on serum progesterone.  2019 recruitment survey included both CB and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herds Estimated number of calves per 100 cows in 2019: 41 ± 6.7 (95% CI).
<b>Adult composition</b>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good mix of cows and bulls - McKinley Bay - later part of August/ early Sept - half cows and half bulls</li> <li>Every year after freeze up (Oldman Lake) they migrate east from there. Good size herd half cows and bulls</li> <li>Husky Lakes towards river side use to see lots of caribou. Now you are more likely to see a couple stray reindeer.</li> </ul>	There is only one bull to cow ratio for CB (2015) so trend is unknown but the 2015 results is considered normal.	

	<p><b>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over last few years, only see bulls in the area of Williams Lake North of old man lake. December hunting, changes, migration route change or wolves? Not the normally migration, they are staying east.</li> </ul>	Estimated number of bulls per 100 cows in 2015: 43 ± 4.6 (SE)	
<b>Body condition and health</b>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good shape right now.</li> <li>“Haven’t noticed the shape of caribou. 35 years ago we used to be more selective of the caribou we harvested, but now we take what we can get. Not aware of any abnormalities.”</li> <li>Caribou are in really good condition. Every year you will get the odd one, but not enough to create a trend. Odd comment of looks sick, or swollen joint, if its really bad they will not take it. Sample/testing - when caribou first started coming around Tuk very rare to see any caribou that were bad. When they came closer and closer to Tuk, because they were so tame we were able to observe them more easily. Females with calves, very rare that that female will have fat. Caribou are more wild now and will run as soon as they see you.</li> <li>Sometimes we do get caribou with pus marks, majority of the time you just cut that part out.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Really good. Health has been good, same as usual.</li> </ul>	<p>Condition of bulls and cows was on average ‘good’ in the 2022/23 harvest season.</p> <p>Average back fat in 2022/23 was 1.31 cm (range 0-4 cm) for cows and 1.41cm (range 0-6 cm) for bulls.</p> <p>Average Condition code was 2.27 for cows and 2.6 for bulls.</p> <p>Average % marrow fat for cows was 91% (range 87-94%) and 82% (Range 47 to 93%) for bulls</p>	<p>Scientific information based on harvester reported samples harvested in range of the Tuk Peninsula and CB herds. In 2022/2023 season, condition information was reported for 41 cows and 16 bulls, back fat information was collected for 45 cows and 11 bulls, and Marrow fat information collected for 29 cows and 18 bulls.</p>
<b>Harvest levels</b>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue around enforcement. Restriction needs more enforcement from ECC. Bylaws without enforcement are</li> </ul>	I/BC/07 and G/BC/02 are closed zone for CB.	TAH tag returns in Inuvik Region 2022/2023

	<p>challenging. Being raised to authorities. Hiring process underway, it is actively being pursued. Dedicated funded received, specifically for patrols.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The accessibility of the ITH, more hunters from Inuvik, more poaching. 6 caribou all butchered and left behind, abandoned as they may have thought we were ECC. Was salvaged.</li> <li>• Monthly HTC meetings with a dedicated spot for ECC. 15 mins on zoom is accessible, but we have not been successful in securing an invite. It is discouraging. If the issue is important enough we can allot an hour.</li> <li>• Enforcement for Grizzly harvesting, harvested and not certain if it was a necessary kill. Unused tags from previous year will be applied to DLPs. Anything concerning can be reported to the 24hr line. HTCs have powers of discipline if offenders are contravening HTC by-law rules that are signed and put in to force</li> <li>• Patrols almost catch offenders, but cannot pursue a chase. - If you see something that is not right, you have to do something about it. Management - rules when we take a tag out, process to signing out a tag and a timeline. No samples returned. Although the tags are returned, there is reason to believe that they are harvesting without tag. 90% of the tags have samples.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvest levels are being recorded.</li> <li>• Quota not filled; the tags go back to IGC to be redistributed to other communities.</li> </ul>	<p>Total of 160 I/BC/06 tags were possibly used in the wintering area of the CB herd in 2021/22 (37 of those have reported sex: 16 males, 21 females)</p>	<p>Inuvialuit: 403 Quota, 306 harvested Gwich'in: 34 quota, 7 harvested</p> <p>Sahtu: harvest unknown</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter submitted by the IHTC to change the zone a smidge at the south side of husky lakes near Bonnyville. Was denied twice.</li> <li>Tags are not being reported on properly.</li> </ul>		
<b>Predator populations</b>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wolverine in the last few years in increasing numbers.</li> <li>A lot of grizzly bears too.</li> <li>With the fires we are likely to see more predators moving north that might affect the population.</li> <li>Hungry wolves, noted that a muskox aborted her young from being chased extensively.</li> <li>“Once safe to cross husky lakes I went up to Old Man Lake, many caribou that were looking around, driven by wolves.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wolves and wolverines are at higher levels, many community monitoring reoccurring bears from cabins, not sure if calves sure if calves are being killed by them.</li> <li>Members are getting lots of wolves. Keeping the levels down at a sustainable level. Lots of Wolverine are being reported. Grizzly Bears are not as many in the past. More observations of wolves.</li> </ul>	Tuktoyaktuk submitted 1 wolf and Inuvik submitted 8 wolves in the 22/23 season.	A change in wolf harvest does not necessarily reflect changes in wolf abundance.
<b>Range and movement patterns</b>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May have come down later this year, due to warmer climate - couple of wolves observed near the camp that may have impacted the presence of caribou.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT):</b></p>	In June 2023, 26 CB collared cows were still active from the 2022 deployment and all returned to CB calving ground.	

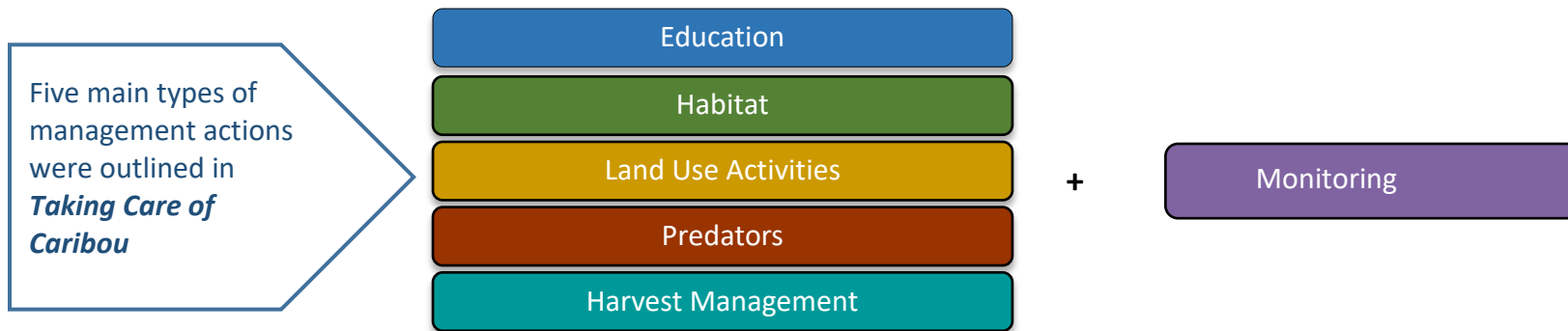
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year, caribou hunting Kugaaluk Lake. East side of Husky Lakes. Storm pushed the caribou into the trees, and you would just see a handful come out here or there, they did not emerge until the spring.</li> <li>• Seeing more caribou in the Devil Lake area. Woodland caribou are moving north.</li> <li>• They'll be in a certain area from many years, good food source in the trees so they are staying there longer.</li> </ul>	<p>Between 2010 and 2023, 97% of collared CB cows (232 records) returned year after year to calving ground.</p>	
<p><b>Environment and habitat</b></p>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment and habitat - no bumble bees, no horseflies, freezing rain. No mosquitos.</li> <li>• Cannot travel back and forth to husky lakes right now, we should be able to right now based on history.</li> <li>• At the bottom of an estuary noted the water temperature was 22.4 C degrees.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change is affecting the smallest and biggest migrations, lots of water open and Moose are really moving north on Tuk Peninsula. Shrubs are changing and moving further north. Odd year, clear blue water, super clear and Low water long place for sand bar.</li> <li>• Willows are moving north, where there used to be barren land is willows and more snow. 3ft of snow in areas that used to be wind swept barren land. Used to be able to see long distances, now that is impacted by shrubs and trees.</li> <li>• Ulukhaktok, open water impacting caribou go across straights and inlets to get to the island (Dolphin Union Herd).</li> <li>• Super low. Bugs weren't as bad.</li> </ul>	<p>There were few fires in the 2023 season on the CB Range – one major one near Noel lake</p>	

<p><b>Human disturbance</b></p>	<p><b>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More hunters impacting caribou</li> <li>• Inuvik-Tuk Highway makes more accessible, hunters from McPherson and Aklavik. People bringing boats from Inuvik to Tuk Harbour and through Husky Lakes to go hunting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal Cruise ships may be the only observed disturbance.</li> </ul>	<p>The Cumulative Effects project is ongoing, initial steps to map all current disturbance in the range show that there is a low human footprint on the range (less than 0.4% of the range)</p>	
<p><b>Competitors</b></p>	<p><b>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tags are not being reported on properly.</li> </ul>	<p>Muskox survey in March 2021 shows changes in muskox distribution from past surveys. This includes movement into range of the Cape Bathurst. Population in the ISR as a whole appears stable.</p>	

## Yellow Status Management Actions for Cape Bathurst 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. Please refer to the 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 Cape Bathurst herd is **yellow (intermediate and increasing)**, each of the bulleted actions outlined for red status in that table has now been developed into a series of specific tasks in the **Management Actions Table** of this Action Plan.

Because most activities under *Education* and *Habitat* require very long-term approaches to be effective, the suggested management actions remain the same no matter the status of the herd. For actions in the *Land Use Activities*, *Predators*, and

**Harvest Management** categories to be responsive to different phases of the population cycle, different actions are required depending on a herd’s status – for example, when setting a herd Total Allowable Harvest.

### Management Actions Table for Cape Bathurst Caribou: Yellow 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. Implement communication and 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 <sup>5</sup>	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level <sup>6</sup>	Status November 2023 – plans for 24/25
A.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Ongoing		WMAC (NWT) engages during annual community tour. ACCWM swag was used for door prizes.

<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.

A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on community and member board priorities, based on ToR for Communication and Education Working Group	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	Annually		<p>ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting</p> <p>WMAC (NWT) identifies priorities during community tour</p> <p>GRRB reviewed the educational strategy.</p>
A.1.3 Implementation of educational strategy	Member boards, government partners and regional partners <sup>7</sup>	Summary report	2018/19 and onwards		<p>Working group holding regular teleconferences</p> <p>Materials placed in Dropbox for all Member boards to utilize.</p> <p>ACCWM website launched in 2020 and updated in 2021.</p> <p>Several materials have been developed by the Communications and Education Working Group. This includes thank you notes and posters, post cards, shooting targets, etc.</p> <p>ECC created an annual movement animation.</p>

<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.

					GRRB is providing RRCs with information on wildlife diseases and parasites to distribute to their members.
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## B. Habitat

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

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

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.1.1 Engage with community organizations and other co-management partners to identify key habitat areas. Develop a sensitive habitat report.	ACCWM WG	Summary of input/guidance from communities  Provide report to ACCWM, including draft maps of key areas	Ongoing	<b>Top</b>	Ongoing. Member boards are developing of a sensitive habitat report in 2023/2024.  WMAC and IGC formed working group in order to develop an Inuvialuit position paper with important habitats and conservation actions and priorities. The final draft is awaiting community verification.

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

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

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
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B.2.1 Map and track landscape disturbances. Identify and review recent relevant information and gaps.	ACCWM WG and government partners, academics	Compilation map	Ongoing		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 research and monitoring based on information from B.2.1. Member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities.	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided			
B – 3. Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management <i>Objective – ensure sufficient winter habitat for caribou</i>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Deliverable date</b>	<b>Priority level</b>	<b>Status</b>
B.3.1 Based on B – 1 and B – 2, provide advice to member boards on values at risk.	ACCWM; Member boards	Key areas identified for fire management			



Member boards make and communicate recommendations for fire management		and advice provided			
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### C. Land use activities

C – 1. Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs.  
*Objective – ensure cumulative effects monitoring programs are operational and relevant.*

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
C.1.1 Identify and/or review any gaps in cumulative effects data or previous gaps assessments.	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report			GNWT is moving forward with NWT CIMP to use ALCES program for cumulative effects monitoring within the ranges of the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East herds. Co-management boards are partners to the project.

C – 2. Provide advice on mitigation of industrial<sup>8</sup> impacts to proponents and regulators.  
*Objective – minimize industrial impacts to caribou and their habitat.*

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status

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

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 Apply Appendix G: member boards make and communicate recommendations to proponents (including air carriers and other subcontractors) and regulators.	Member boards				<p>WMAC (NWT) and other ISR partners review proposals going through EISC.</p> <p>The GRRB reviews research, regulatory, and land access permit applications and provides advice to proponents on best practices for reducing their impacts on caribou and other wildlife.</p>
C.2.3 Develop and/or adapt communication and education programs with/for industrial proponents	Communication and Education working group				
C.2.4 Identify and review	Member boards				

<sup>9</sup> Appendix G of Taking Care of Caribou: [https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/rev\\_bluenose\\_caribou\\_herds\\_draft\\_management\\_plan\\_v10\\_final\\_signed\\_-\\_nov\\_4\\_2014\\_0.pdf#page=81](https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/rev_bluenose_caribou_herds_draft_management_plan_v10_final_signed_-_nov_4_2014_0.pdf#page=81)

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)					
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## D. Predators

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

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

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
D.1.1 Gather, compile, review and present	ACCWM WG and	Summary report	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing. Completed wolf feasibility assessment (Nov 2017) <sup>10</sup>

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

predator research and monitoring results to ACCWM (including community and scientific monitoring results)	government partners				<p>Dropbox created for materials.</p> <p>WMAC (NWT) is updating the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan. Two rounds of community input have been completed, and the final draft is being reviewed internally.</p> <p>GRRB and communities are updating the Grizzly Bear management plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.</p>
D.1.2 Engage community organizations to identify and prioritize research needs by region	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	Ongoing	Top	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Research prioritization (GRRB &amp; WMAC-NWT)</p> <p>The GRRB continually gathers and records research interests that are brought forward by community members. We also perform a review of our research and management priorities every five years, which includes consultations with each RRC.</p>
D.1.3 ACCWM reviews and provides advice to member boards. boards recommend research priorities to appropriate authorities	ACCWM; member boards	Advice provided to member boards	Ongoing	Top	

## E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Recommend easing limits on subsistence and then resident harvests. <sup>11</sup>

*Objective – support a balanced harvest to assist in herd recovery.*

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.1.1 Based on results of discussions concerning a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and harvest ratios, member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendation provided as required			

E – 2. Consider recommending outfitter and commercial harvests at discretion of the ACCWM. <sup>12</sup>

*Objective – limit non-subsistence harvest to assist in herd recovery.*

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
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<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).

<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.

E.2.1 ACCWM to discuss based on E.1.1	Member boards	Recommendations provided as required			
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## 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	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing.
F.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for harvest data collection		Summary report	Ongoing	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	Ongoing	Top	In 2024/2025, the WG will prioritize the collection of harvest information this will be supported through the development of an annual harvest data reporting template that will provide consistency across the regions, supporting a comprehensive harvest reporting system.
F.1.4 Implement harvest data collection program	Member boards and government partners	Collections initiated	Ongoing	Top	
F.1.5 Establish annual data reporting template		Template	Ongoing	Top	
F.1.6 Adapt and / or develop database and protocols		Pilot database program developed	Ongoing	Top	
F.1.7 Gather, compile and present total herd harvest data to ACCWM	ACCWM WG	Summary report	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing.
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 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)		Top	In 2024, the WG consider compiling a draft state of traditional knowledge report. Upon consideration, it was determined to undertake this report following the Sensitive Habitat, and Harvest Data Reporting Template reports.
F.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for community-based monitoring to collect herd status information (see	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities			



Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>					
F.2.4 Adapt and / or develop CBM program(s) based on information from F.2.1-3		Finalized CBM program			Inuvialuit CBMP is running with Imaryuk and Munaqsiyit monitors
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			Next post calving survey: July 2024
F.3.2 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	WMAC (NWT): Priorities collected on annual community tour
F.3.3 Research and develop mechanism for collaboration between regions, compiling information and reporting on	ACCWM to determine responsible parties	Decide on mechanism for collaboration		Top	

research programs					
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		Caribou Collar discussion paper completed in 2021
F.3.6 Establish information sharing protocols	Government partners	Information shared according to protocol		Top	Completed - The ACCWM corresponded with GNWT about sharing of preliminary population numbers in 2019. Commitment made by GNWT to provide survey results as soon as possible.
F.3.7 Gather, compile and present results to ACCWM		Status of all monitoring criteria communicated to the ACCWM	Annual status meeting	Top	Government partners presented information gathered at 2021 ASM.

## Acronyms used in this plan

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

## Appendix A: List of ACCWM Working Group members

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

- ʔehdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Dehcho First Nations<sup>13</sup>
- ENV Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
- ECC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 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
- Tłı̄chǝ Government
- Tukturnogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

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<sup>13</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>

## 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>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>