

Action Plan for 2021/2022

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 2021

Suggested citation:

Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management. 2021. Action Plan for the Cape Bathurst Caribou Herd 2021/2022 – Yellow Status. Yellowknife, NT.

Production note:

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About the ACCWM

The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management was established to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus, and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. The committee consists of Chairpersons (or alternate appointees) of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'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 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 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 12).

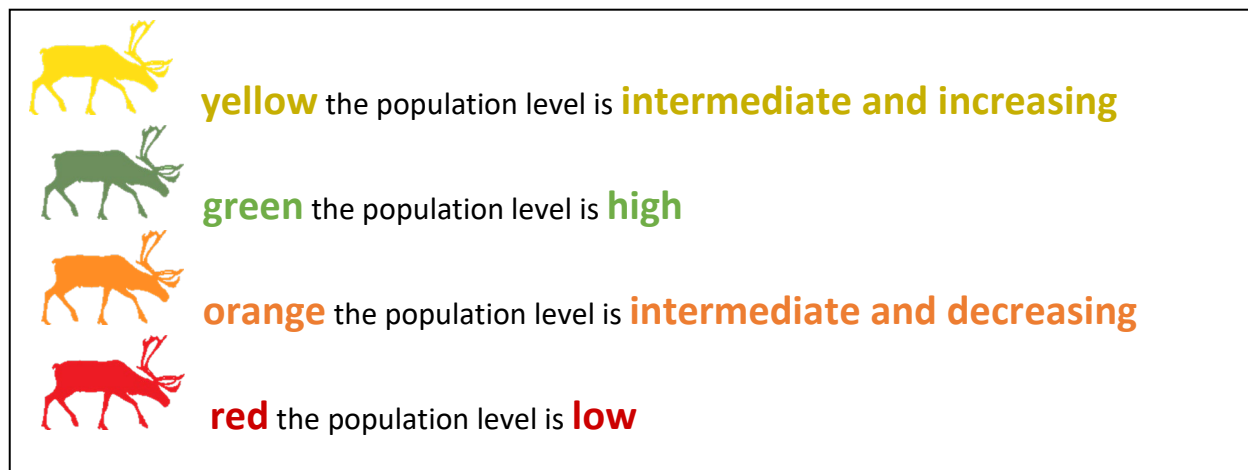


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

Status Decision 2020

Management actions are based on these phases of the population cycle, using approximate levels or "thresholds" as a guide. Thresholds for the herds were determined by the ACCWM based on known historic highs and lows, with input received from community and technical experts in a consensus-based process. **However, it is not only the threshold value that is used to determine the colour zone – the determination of herd status takes into account all 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)

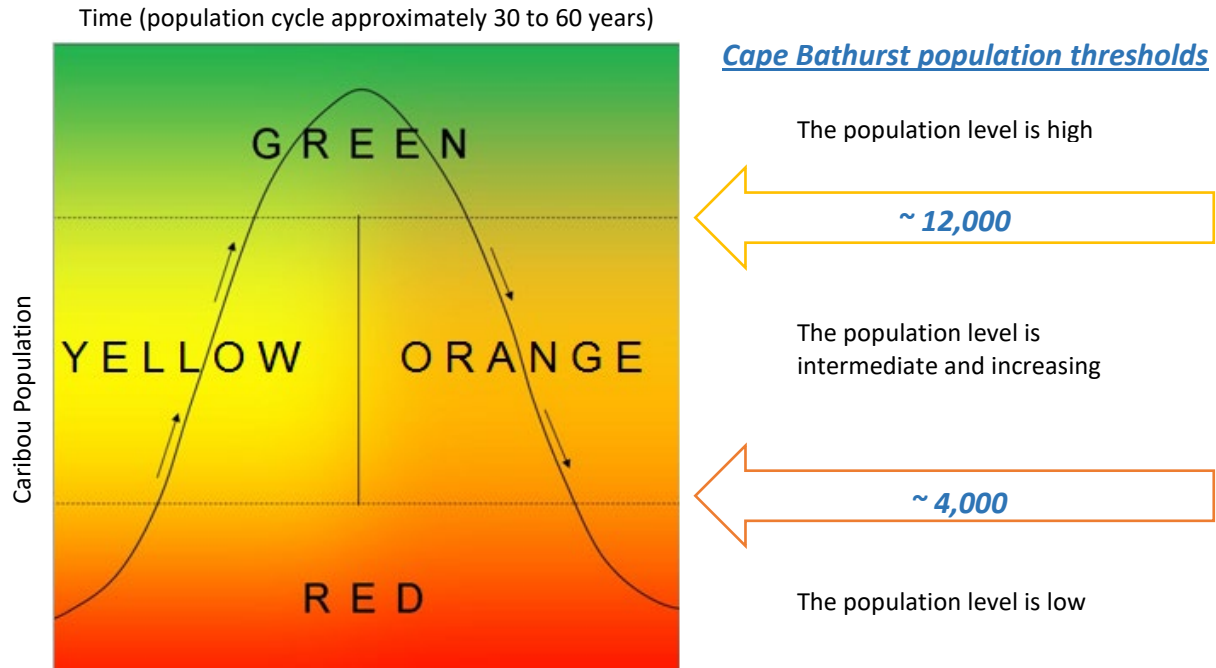
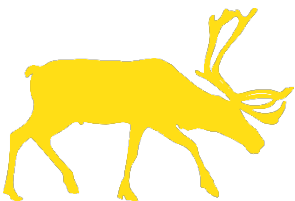


Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with defined Cape Bathurst population thresholds.

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 2020 decision is summarized in Table 1 below.

Based on the information provided, the ACCWM determined the Cape Bathurst herd status colour zone to be changed to **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)**. The ACCWM noted that the population appears to be slowly recovering based on the community observations presented. This was the second year in a row where community knowledge indicated that the status of the herd was improving while there were limited new data from scientific sources. Based on the available information, the ACCWM felt that there was sufficient evidence that the status for the herd should be upgraded to **Yellow (intermediate and increasing)**.

In 2021/22



the Cape Bathurst caribou population status is

Yellow: intermediate and increasing

Table 1: Criteria used to assess Cape Bathurst herd status in 2020.¹

Criteria	Community-Based Information ²	Scientific Information ³	Comments
Population size	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Lots on Tuk Pen - thousands of cows, lots of bulls, cows and calves all over and right until mid-September still heading north. When we first went to Tuk Pen in spring could see 500 caribou along the ridges with binoculars, mostly cows and calves. A few weeks later they went back and farther inland but still lots of caribou in the whole area. Early August to mid-September there were caribou all over.</p> <p>This spring: travelled all over range from Smoke River and Anderson River, can see caribou all over right from Liverpool bay, all the way North-Northeast on Cape Bathurst, past few years now (before that it was pretty quiet). Herds of 25-50 scattered all over the whole range. Past few years noticed increase.</p> <p>GRRB: The five hunters either did not see any caribou or saw a small bunch of around 10. It seems that this small group was seen by several hunters on and around the ITH</p>	Estimated number of adult caribou in 2018 Rigest: 4,521 ± 875	Estimated based on July post-calving ground survey

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

² Cape Bathurst caribou usually migrate through two settlement areas/regions and are typically harvested by four communities: Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Tuktoyaktuk.

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

	between Inuvik and Jimmy Lake.		
Population trend and rate of change	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT): Over the past 4-6 years, community members have seen more and more caribou all the way from Mason river up along Tuk peninsula. On Tuk Peninsula, traveling back from Mason river, a hunter saw lots of caribou with young ones, some just dropped. Right from Mason River to Cape Bathurst, from Cape Dalhousie to Tuk, last spring lots more caribou sighted than previous years.</p> <p>Not seeing the one big herd traveling like in the 70s-80s, but more than before – not one giant group but lots of smaller (30-50) groups that add up across range</p> <p>GRRB: One hunter mentioned that there is not enough BNW, let them repopulate. This was mentioned in relation to Porcupine caribou being readily available on the highway.</p>	<p>Between 1992 and 2005 population dropped from over 19,000 to ~2,500 adult caribou. Between 2005 and 2018 the herd shows a non-statistically significant increase of 4% per year (CI - 3 to 10%).</p>	<p>Trend analysis is based on Rivest estimates:</p> <p>2015 2,524 ± 284</p> <p>2012 2,447 ± 350</p> <p>2009 2,925 ± 1,252</p> <p>2006 2,039 ± 319</p> <p>2005 3,566 ± 1,373</p>
Productivity and recruitment	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT): Lots of young ones with cows. Lots of twins. More calves, more caribou</p>	<p>No recruitment survey completed in 2020 due to COVID.</p>	<p>2019 recruitment survey included both CB and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herds Estimated number of calves per 100 cows in</p>

			2019: 41 ± 6.7 (95% CI).
Adult composition	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Lots of young bulls, and cows and calves. If you go out end of September start seeing more big bulls. 3-4 year old bulls are very healthy. really fat, good shape</p>	<p>There is only one bull to cow ratio for CB (2015) so trend is unknown but the 2015 results is considered normal.</p> <p>Estimated number of bulls per 100 cows in 2015: 43 ± 4.6 (SE)</p>	<p>Increasing herds in NWT in the early 1980s had sex ratios of about 65 bulls: 100 cows.</p>
Body condition and health	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): "obese"</p> <p>Fat, healthy – bulls and cows – all of them.</p> <p>Way less warble flies in the skin. Even toward end of season (March), hardly any warble flies on the back. Cold summers past two years, warbles moving south</p> <p>No observations of sick ones or bad legs.</p> <p>Used to open throat and be full of warble flies but now we just don't see them anymore, maybe that's why they're so healthy. When you watch them graze, they act like nothing is bothering them, don't jump around (less insect harassment).</p> <p>"Getting fatter"</p>	<p>The condition of both bulls and cows was on average 'good' in the 2019/2020 harvest season.</p> <p>Average back fat in 2019/2020 season was 1.42 cm (range 0 to 5 cm) for cows and 0.95 cm (range 0.95 to 9 cm) for bulls.</p> <p>The average Condition code was 2.7 for cows and 2.4 for bulls (range 1 to 4). The average percent marrow fat for cows was 90% (range 27 to 94%) for cows and 82% (Range 23 to 94%) for bulls</p>	<p>Scientific information based on harvester reported samples harvested in range of the Tuk Peninsula and CB herds. In 2019/2020 season, condition information was reported for 83 cows and 44 bulls, back fat information was collected for 86 cows and 50 bulls, and Marrow fat information collected for 84 cows and 49 bulls.</p>
Harvest levels	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Only reporting is with tags</p>	<p>I/BC/07 is a closed zone for CB.</p>	<p>In 2014/15, the I/BC/06 area was</p>

	<p>because harvest study paused</p> <p>Much more being harvested than being reported because of poaching & selling.</p> <p>Less harvested on Tuk Pen this fall</p> <p>Good sample returns in tag zone</p> <p>Need enforcement for tag attachment</p> <p>GRRB: 6 caribou (tags) were harvested out of the 34 tags available. No BNW caribou were harvested amongst the 5 hunters interviewed. One harvester went around Sitidgi Lake for fish. He saw several old tracks, some old skidoo tracks, but no gut piles.</p>	<p>A total of 221 I/BC/06 tags were possibly used in the wintering area of the Cape Bathurst herd in 2019/2020 – (124 of those have reported sex: 56 males, 68 females)</p>	<p>enlarged and now includes some of the winter range of the Tuk Peninsula and CB herds. Some of the I/BC/06 tags are now being used on these herds</p>
<p>Predator populations</p>	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Less wolves than 3 years ago.</p> <p>More wolverines</p> <p>More and more sightings of grizzly bears – will have impact on caribou</p> <p>More eagles around town</p> <p>Not large number of grizzly bears on Tuk Pen – some big dominant boars this fall– 3 taken this fall – and sows with cubs – maybe more juvenile grizzlies coming</p> <p>GRRB: Most hunters</p>	<p>Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik submitted 23 wolves in the 19/20 season.</p>	<p>A change in wolf harvest does not necessarily reflect changes in wolf abundance.</p>

	<p>mentioned that they did not see any predators and predator tracks. One mentioned that he has not seen many predators.</p>		
<p>Range and movement patterns</p>	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Coming south later and later in the fall.</p> <p>Later and later coming out of treeline in spring</p> <p>If too much snow, they stay later on the Tuk Pen in spring</p> <p>Mid-September they were still moving north end of Tuk Pen</p> <p>Small groups (25-50) all over the range</p> <p>Closer to Tuk side there were a lot less, had to go past McKinley bay to get caribou more easily</p> <p>GRRB: Based on one harvester observations, the caribou had been grazing around, lots of tracks and trampling by Sitidgi. This was late spring. The only harvester seeking BNW mentioned that the caribou were too far away in late spring to access them.</p>	<p>In 2020, 18 CB collared cows were still active from the 2018 deployment and all but one returned to CB calving ground.</p> <p>Between 2010 and 2020, 98% of collared CB cows (168 records) returned year after year to calving ground.</p>	
<p>Environment and habitat</p>	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Cooler, wet summers past 2 years, less bugs, makes healthier caribou</p> <p>Freezing rain past couple</p>	<p>There were very few fires in the 2020 season.</p>	

	<p>years, but last few years don't think we had bad enough freezing rain that made crust on snow that limits access to food. some past years got hit harder than others.</p> <p>Changes in permafrost – slumping. Walking on land – land is soft underfoot in summer – harder to travel.</p> <p>Not as much snow as we usually have in winter.</p> <p>Snow came late last year. Wasn't much snow right until November.</p> <p>GRRB: Most hunter mentioned that the environment and habitat were similar to last year. No notable changes were recorded. One harvester mentioned that during his hunt for BNW, there was too much snow further away from the ITH and he had to turn back. The caribou were too far. One hunter mentioned that when he was out in April, it was getting warm, snow was melting fast.</p>		
<p>Human disturbance</p>	<p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMA-NWT): Flights reduced because of COVID, less disturbance.</p> <p>Fighter jets really loud though (military training). DND helicopters coming and going from Dewline sites right during</p>	<p>The largest development in the range of the CB herd is the Inuvik – Tuktoyaktuk highway that opened in November 2017</p>	<p>The Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program is using caribou collar data to assess impacts of the road.</p>

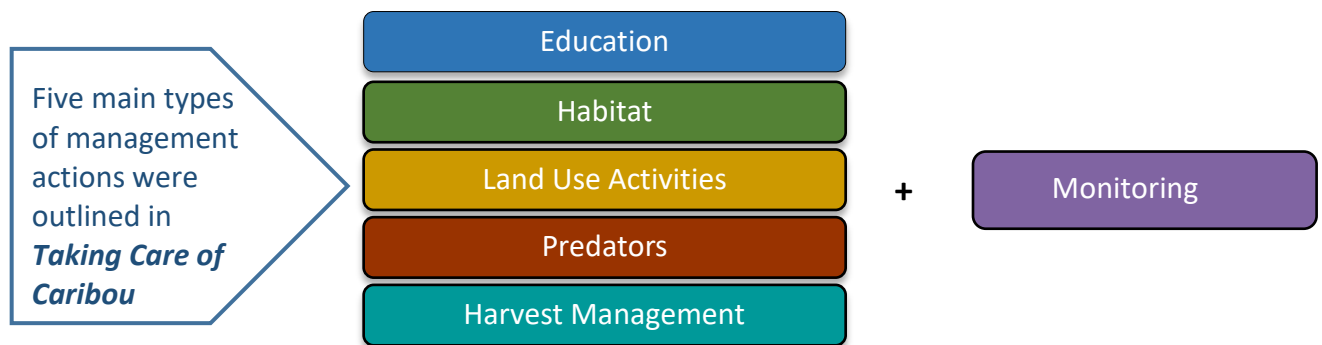
	<p>breakup.</p> <p>Seeing unknown aircrafts flying around, can't see to record aircraft numbers</p> <p>ENR caribou surveys and others</p> <p>6mo out of year flights around disturbing them</p> <p>Observed mainliner making caribou run</p> <p>Wastage. When travelling on land run into caribou only hindquarters and front taken off. huge impact.</p> <p>Need ENR presence really badly. Only dealing with 3-4 poachers in each community now, but need to educate the new hunters or next generation there will be 10 poachers. a lot of people know who's doing what but don't want to come forward. it will only get worse and worse. make an example of somebody.</p> <p>GRRB: When asked about human disturbance, all hunters either skipped the question or had no comments to bring forward.</p>	<p>and passes through the winter range of the herd. The largest development in the range of the CB herd is the Inuvik – Tuktoyaktuk highway that opened in November 2017 and passes through the winter range of the herd.</p> <p>Proposed liquid natural gas processing plant within winter range.</p>	
Competitor	<p>GRRB: Hunters mentioned that there is no competition in this area [ITH/Sitidgi and Jimmy Lake]. One mentioned that</p>		

	<p>species mind their own business, and another said: <i>'There is no competition between moose and caribou. For muskox, shot them and eat them. One of the reasons why I was talking about caribou-moose is because I was in Deline. They talk about caribou going down. They were not sure about the relationship for barrenground and moose.'</i></p>		
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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 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 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: Red Status

Following principles laid out in *Taking Care of Caribou*, all actions and tasks described in this table will draw upon both community-based knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and scientific information. The ACCWM recognizes that documenting and using traditional knowledge is a priority for all member boards. The ACCWM reviews the relevant data presented at the annual meeting and provides advice to member boards.

A. Education ⁴					
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 ⁵	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level ⁶	Status November 2019 – plans for 20/21
A.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Ongoing	Top	WMAC (NWT) engages during community tour. In 2020, COVID-19 prevented some meetings. An in-person meeting was held in Tuktoyaktuk and the other communities were asked to fill out a questionnaire for the local knowledge portion of the status table.
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 launched in 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>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> <p>The C/E working group is developing more communications items (shooting targets, banners for community tours) in order to spread the message to the communities.</p>

B. Habitat

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

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

<i>Objective – address community concerns that key habitat areas are not protected sufficiently</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.1.1 Engage with community organizations and other co-management partners to identify key habitat areas. Develop a sensitive habitat report.	ACCWM WG	Summary of input/guidance from communities Provide report to ACCWM, including draft maps of key areas	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing. 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. 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.
<i>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>					
<i>Objective – ensure research and monitoring programs are relevant and addressing current information needs for habitat management</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
B.2.1 Map and track landscape disturbances. Identify and review recent relevant information and gaps.	ACCWM WG and government partners, academics	Compilation map	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	ACCWM; Member boards	Advice provided			

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 on B – 1 and B – 2, provide advice to member boards on values at risk. Member boards make and communicate recommendations for fire management	ACCWM; Member boards	Key areas identified for fire management and advice provided			

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	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-

effects data or previous gaps assessments.					East herds. Co-management boards are partners to the project.
C – 2. Provide advice on mitigation of industrial ⁸ 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 ⁹ of the Management Plan according to modern best practices.	ACCWM WG; Member boards				
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
C.2.2 Develop and/or adapt communication and education programs with/for industrial proponents	Communication and Education working group				

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

⁹ 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

C.2.3 Identify and review regulations and current inspection/enforcement strategies involving land use in caribou habitat. Recommend increased enforcement of regulations when appropriate. Work with other relevant agencies (GNWT Lands, regional Land and Water Boards)	Member boards				
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D. Predators¹⁰

D – 1. Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates

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

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
D.1.1 Gather, compile, review and present predator research and monitoring results to ACCWM	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing. Completed wolf feasibility assessment (Nov 2017) ¹¹ Dropbox created for materials

¹⁰ Management Plan has different management actions in the yellow zone however Member Boards agreed to leave unchanged for 2020/21

¹¹ <https://www.wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Wolf%20Feasibility%20Assessment%20-%202010nov17.pdf>

(including community and scientific monitoring results)					
D.1.2 Engage community organizations to identify and prioritize research needs by region	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing Research prioritization (GRRB & WMAC-NWT)
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	
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 predator management		List of existing regulations and rules		Top	

D.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding potential options for predator management		Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	<p>WMAC (NWT) is starting a contract to update the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan by September 2021, including two rounds of community input.</p> <p>GRRB and communities are updating the Grizzly Bear management plan and management agreement for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.</p>
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; Member boards	Advice provided to member boards		Top	

E. Harvest Management ¹²

E – 1. Resident, outfitter or commercial harvest remain closed¹³

Objective – limit licensed harvest to assist in herd recovery

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.1.1 Based on results of	Member boards	Recommendations provided			Done.

¹² Management Plan has different management actions in the yellow zone however Member Boards agreed to leave unchanged for 2020/21

¹³ 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).

discussions concerning a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and harvest ratios, member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities					
E – 2. Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction ¹⁴ <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			
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			

¹⁴ 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 Discuss and propose regional proportional allocations ¹⁵	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 to member boards.	ACCWM	Proposed TAH and definition of majority bull harvest	Every year, following annual status meeting		
E.2.B.2 Each member board consults with communities on regional TAH as required by their respective land claim agreements (including public hearings as required by respective land claim agreements)	Member boards	Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions			WMAC (NWY) and GRRB have not recommended any change to the closure of I/BC/07 and G/BC/02 to caribou harvesting.
E.2.B.3 Boards recommend TAH to Minister		Recommendations provided			
E – 3. Prioritize the collection of harvest information (see F – 1. Develop harvest monitoring program) <i>Objective – record accurate harvest information</i>					

¹⁵ The processes for determining Total Allowable Harvests and regional allocations are described in Appendix F.

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.3.1 Assess status of harvest reporting programs (see F – Monitoring) and identify any challenges and priorities, in collaboration with communities	ACCWM WG with government partners and regional partners	Review report of existing programs		Top	
E.3.2 Adjust educational programming or communication plan if required (see A - Education)		Revised materials, as needed		Top	
E – 4. Recommend harvest of alternate species and meat replacement programs, and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods <i>Objective – explore other species to harvest to reduce pressure on caribou</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.4.1 Develop list of regionally appropriate alternate species for harvest and options for meat replacement programs, based on best available information.		List of alternate species and meat replacement options			

E.4.2 Collaborate with partners to recommend the development and funding of harvest or sharing programs (may include trade and barter, community hunts or freezers, etc.)	Member boards	Recommendations provided			
E.4.3 Adapt existing Communication Plan and educational materials to better promote use of alternate species and meat replacement programs (see A – Education and Appendix C)	Education and Communication Working Group	Draft communication plan and education materials			
E – 5. Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors (see footnote clarifying monitoring and enforcement responsibilities at C – 4).					
<i>Objective – maximize approaches and tools to ensure compliance of regulations</i>					
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
E.5.1 Engage community organizations and enforcement officers regarding	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing. Community tour.

enforcement/monitoring approaches and whether they are adequate.					
E.5.2 Member boards provide recommendations to government based on ACCWM advice	Member boards	Recommendations provided	Ongoing	Top	
E.5.3 Engage partners to assist in training and implementing community monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Funding plan, training program	Ongoing	Top	Various community monitoring programs active in the region (JS-CBMP, Imaryuk, Munaqsi)

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		Summary report	Ongoing	Top	Ongoing.

organizations regarding appropriate programs for harvest data collection					
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	
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>					
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			ISR harvest study was reviewed in 2020-2021. Work is ongoing to restart the harvest study with recommendations from the review.
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 program(s) based		Finalized CBM program			Ongoing

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			
F.3.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		Top	

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	Next post calving survey: July 2021
F.3.5 Support appropriate scientific monitoring studies	Member boards	Approval by member boards	Annual status meeting		Caribou Collar discussion paper to be completed in 2021
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.3.6 Gather, compile and present results to ACCWM		Status of all monitoring criteria communicated to the ACCWM	Annual status meeting	Top	
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Acronyms used in this Plan

ACCWM (WG)	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (Working Group)
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	Tłıchǵ 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 Nations¹⁶
- Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), GNWT
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
- Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association)
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
- Parks Canada Agency
- Tłıchq Government
- Tukturnogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhıi Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

¹⁶ 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.