



PUBLIC LISTENING UPDATE:

Sahtú Ragóza (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting

Preparing for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session

Notice to Sahtú leaders, Parties, and neighbours, November 21, 2019

Community Conservation Planning Workshops

Two Community Conservation Planning Workshops were held on October 29-31 (in Tulít'a) and November 5-7 (in Colville Lake) to assist community delegates in preparing for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session. Australian Conservation Coach Stuart Cowell and SRRB Community Conservation Planner Kirsten Jensen provided training in planning tools, including situation analysis (the WHY) and results chains (the WHAT) in developing stories or evidence as the basis for decision-making on *Sahtú Ragóza (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting*. Participants helped with a preliminary scoping of information required for the Public Listening Session.

Pre-Public Listening Teleconferences

Máhsı to the Parties that participated in Teleconference #1 on November 15 in preparation for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session. The teleconference was helpful in providing the Parties with an opportunity to ask questions, provide input on information required in the proceeding, and alert the Pehdzo Got'ine Gots'ê Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board – SRRB) about clarifications required. This Update provides information following from points raised Teleconference #1.

Teleconference #2 is scheduled for **January 13, 2020, 1:00-3:00 pm**, and will focus on process questions related to the Public Listening agenda. Please confirm your attendance to info@srrb.nt.ca or call 867-588-4040.

Information Requests (IRs), Responses to IRs, Written Presentations, and Final Written Submissions

Information Requests are welcome from Parties by **November 25** on the topic of *Sahtú Ragóza (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting*. The deadline for submission of responses to these questions is **December 13**. The information received will be available on the Public Registry (www.srrb.nt.ca) and may serve as the basis for submissions and presentations by the Parties.

If Parties wish to submit additional information requests following review of responses to Round 1 Information Requests, the SRRB may provide an opportunity for **Round 2 Information Requests by December 20, with deadline for responses on January 13.**

Initial guidelines for presentations will be provided by December 13. The deadline for submission of written versions of presentations for the Public Listening Session is **January 17, 2020.** This maximizes the time allowed for preparing presentations, while providing Parties and the public with three days to consider questions or points of clarification that they wish to raise at the Public Listening Session on **January 21-23.**

The deadline for final written arguments is not until **February 10,** meaning that Parties will have 18 days after the Public Listening is completed to prepare their final written submissions, in response to and in light of any new information that they may have acquired at the Public Listening. This aspect of the Public Listening Schedule was carefully planned to allow as much time as possible for Parties to prepare final submissions.

This decision, as with other decisions concerning the Schedule, was made in consideration of the unique issues of procedural fairness that arise when working with communities that may face obstacles in relation to capacity.

Other Relevant Processes

Annual Status Meeting: ACCWM (Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management)
ACCWM Member Boards met in Inuvik on November 20 for their annual Status Meeting as required by the *Taking Care of Caribou* plan for Bluenose West, Bluenose East and Cape Bathurst ᐱᓃᓃᓃ/ᐱᓃᓃᓃ. The Member Boards considered both community and scientific monitoring information on the status of these herds, including input from Délı̄ne and Colville Lake. The outcome will be a status report with general guidance on conservation actions that will be relevant for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session. The monitoring information for Bluenose West and Bluenose East ᐱᓃᓃᓃ/ᐱᓃᓃᓃ will be posted on the Public Registry. According to the terms of the *Taking Care of Caribou* plan, the SRRB is required to make a determination on the proposed status of these herds by no later than January 13, 2020.

Draft NWT Recovery Strategy for Barren-Ground Caribou

The Colville 2020 Public Listening proceeding was launched during the review period for the draft *NWT Recovery Strategy for Barren-Ground Caribou* prepared by the Conference of Management Authorities on Species At Risk. The Recovery Strategy is a legal requirement following from the designation of barren-ground caribou as Threatened in July 2018. Comments to the SRRB on the draft Recovery Strategy are due by **November 29.** A Fact Sheet about the Recovery Strategy is appended. Additional information, including draft documents, fact sheets, review instructions, and survey, are available at: www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca.

Although the Recovery Strategy will not be finalized until July 2020, the draft provides general principles and guidance based on current best practices for caribou conservation in the NWT. It will help to inform specific recovery actions for Bluenose East and Bluenose West ᐱᓃᓄᓄᓄ/ᐱᓃᓄᓄᓄ determined as a result of evidence presented at the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session and subsequent Sessions. For this reason, the draft Recovery Strategy is posted on the Public Registry.

Public Listening Attendance

Colville and the SRRB are working to ensure that participants at the Public Listening Session will be comfortable and well fed during their stay. For this reason, it will be necessary to book accommodations and estimate the necessary catering requirements in advance.

Each Party or community delegation is asked to forward the following information to info@srrb.nt.ca or phone 867-588-4040 by **December 13, 2019**:

- The name of the main contact, as well as their phone number and email address
- Number of individuals attending the Public Listening Session

Future Public Listening Topics

The Colville 2020 Public Listening Session is the first in a series of Sessions that together will constitute a Public Hearing. Each Sahtú community will be invited to host a Session over the coming two to three years. The preliminary list of topics is based on key issues identified by communities and co-management partners. Each topic will be refined in collaboration with the hosting community, and informed by relevant discussions at preceding sessions. Preliminary topics addressing the question, “What is the most effective way to conserve caribou?” are as follows, with approximate timelines:

Session 2 – Knowledge of Caribou and Landscapes, fall 2020

Session 3 – Caribou and Predators, winter/spring 2021

Session 4 – Wildfires, Climate Change and Caribou Habitat, fall 2021

Session 5 – The Sahtú Mixed Economy and Caribou Conservation, winter/spring 2021

Board Member Update

The SRRB Board is celebrating the addition of two new Board members. Details about Board Members and the nomination process are available at www.srrb.nt.ca. Because the Board is lacking members, alternates are serving as full Members in accordance with SRRB policy, representing the mandate of the Board. On December 3-5, Board members will be participating in a training session in Norman Wells in preparation for the Public Listening series, including a review of the Hearing rules, procedures for hearing evidence, and the Conflict of Interest and Bias policy.

Current SRRB Board members are as follows:

George Barnaby, Acting Chair
Camilla Rabisca
Camilla Tutcho

Jennie Vandermeer
Keith Hickling
Samuel Haché

Timeline Summary

Community Preparation Workshops in each Sahtú community	November 25-December 13
Issuance of Round 1 Information Requests	November 25
Second Round Identification of Parties	December 3
Submission of Responses to Round 1 Information Requests	December 13
Issuance of Round 2 Information Requests	December 20
Submission of Responses to Round 2 Information Requests	January 13, 2020
Pre-Public Listening Teleconference #2	January 13, 2020
Deadline for Written Presentations	January 17, 2020
Public Listening in Colville Lake	January 21-23, 2020
Deadline for Final Written Arguments	February 10, 2020
SRRB Report with Reasons for Decision Released	March 31, 2020

Contact Information

Don't hesitate to contact us with questions and suggestions!

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