

Bluenose West Monitoring Table

The following table was compiled based on information shared by ACCWM Member Boards in Inuvik on November 19-21, 2019, during the annual status meeting under the framework of the *Taking Care of Caribou: The Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou Herds Management Plan*. The ACCWM will finalize an action plan for each herd based on information provided at the meeting and submit the action plans to each Member Board of the ACCWM for their review and approval. The ACCWM will finalize an action plan for each herd based on information provided at the meeting and submit the action plans to each Member Board of the ACCWM for their review and approval. Following formal approval by the Member Boards, action plans for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East herds will be submitted to governments for implementation. In the Sahtú, any actions will be shaped by the Community Conservation Planning approach that has been adopted for collaborative wildlife conservation in our region.

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

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

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

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

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	<p>around the organs, none of the rump and good bone marrow considering they are leaner. The caribou looked like they were about to put on the weight. Out of 9 caribou harvested, only 2 had visible fat on the outside.</p>		
<p>Harvest levels</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT): Members noted successful community harvest and harvesting. They haven't met quota yet (but close). Started the harvest earlier this year, in August, which was good and consisted of lots of bulls. Weather patterns determine peoples' ability to go out. There are less caribou harvesting in the treeline. There are caribou still being harvested in mid-October that don't smell, suspecting late rutting season. Rut season is usually October 8-11, but harvesters lately are getting bulls later in the season and they don't smell. Since tag system and harvest sex-ratio implemented, not enough tags to do late fall community harvest (used to harvest mainly cows in early November for winter stock up).</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Tuktoyaktuk shared that educating the younger harvesters is important. There is good information where tags are regulated in hunting zones. Successful harvest this year on Tuk Pen herd. There are less harvesters on the western coast (McKinley Bay area) because of highway access to Husky Lakes. Members noticed less people going out due to weather and other reasons, such as berry picking along the highway. Harvests leading to the rut season are mostly bulls. After freeze-up/rut season, harvesting</p>	<p>Total harvest uncertain.</p> <p>Sex of harvest is not always reported ENR believes the 80% bull target is not being met.</p>	<p>TAH tag returns in Beaufort Delta Region 2018/2019</p> <p>Inuvialuit: 345 Quota, 311 harvested</p> <p>Gwich'in: 22 quota, up to 11 harvested (1-11 estimated)</p> <p>Sahtú harvest: 300 (Estimated)</p>

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	<p>consists of young bulls and dry cows. Members shared there is caribou drymeat for sale.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT): Members stated this year not all tags were used. They had a successful community harvest and noticed people are too busy to hunt. Caribou are not in the areas where people usually hunt; they were at Miner River instead of Old Make Lake area. Harvesters have to travel further, and most people are not comfortable travelling into areas where the caribou are due to quick changes in weather (above Sitigi Lake, south storm hills). All harvests are being reported.</p> <p>GRRB: The main time of harvest was around late winter and early spring. A few harvesters went around Husky and Sitidgi Lakes for BNW. They didn't see any and saw very few tracks. They went back hunting later around Caribou Lake for woodland caribou. They weren't successful. Only one harvester interviewed was successful for BNW.</p> <p>The Ehdiitat RRC (Aklavik) mentioned that the trip to go get Bluenose West caribou was too expensive for only 5 tags. The uncertainty of the caribou location and where they could harvest them were also reasons mentioned for not having used the tags.</p> <p>A harvester mentioned that he was fine with the increase in tag numbers because the population had increased. Another mentioned that he respects the GRRB and the tag system. Nowadays, people only hunt</p>		

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	<p>caribou, but it should be seasonal he said. Harvest should change depending on the season, e.g. geese in the spring, rabbit in winter. Also, now there are less hunters because there is less caribou.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): As of November 2019, the community has agreed to Ɂekwé gha máhsı ts'ıne (ceremonial harvest) of 50 Neregha Ɂekwé. The Ɂehdzo Got'ıne has curtailed financial support for community members to harvest Ɂekwé.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): An estimated 300 harvested in 2019. For the second year in a row, the annual community harvest at Ɂarakə Túé (Horton Lake) did not take place. The community has published their Dehlá Got'ıne Ɂada Plan and Tseduweh Ɂada ɁeɁa (<i>Harvest Law</i>) and is partnering with the Ɂehdzo Got'ıne Gots'é Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board) in hosting a Public Listening (Hearing) Session on <i>Sahtú RagóɁa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting</i> on January 21-23, 2020. In preparation for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session, Colville delegates participated in two Community Conservation Planning workshops. As well, Colville reviewed the Sahtú Harvest Study and is preparing a plan to support the Dehlá Got'ıne traditional food system which includes over 80 harvested species.</p>		
<p>Predator populations</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT): Members observed wolves all over the place until early October. Grizzly bear populations increasing. They are wondering whether an</p>	<p>Paulatuk submitted 0 wolves in the 18/19 season.</p>	<p>Changes in wolf harvest does not necessarily reflect changes in wolf abundance.</p>

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	<p>increase in salmon in streams would attract more bears. They didn't see a major pack of wolves that usually passes in the spring, most of wolves taken were around the community. Changing climate is creating weather conditions which prevent hunters from going out for wolves. Very large wolf packs are below the tree line. Harvested 9 wolves in April. There is no increase in wolf packs this year, but there is interest in incentives.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Members stated there are more wolves and grizzly bears. There were grizzly bears spotted with 3 cubs. There are more and larger packs of wolves, more wolverines than usual, and increasing eagles. An eagle was observed to taking calves. One observation noted a grizzly bear chasing a muskox until it aborted its young and asked if this happens with caribou. There are less hunters in the younger generation so there is less pressure on predators. The cost of gas and equipment makes it difficult to go out on the land to hunt predators. If the price of fur is too low, people won't hunt predators as much, but some people are opportunistic harvesters. There are changes in climatic condition that will affect where harvesters go. Hunters with unethical harvesting practices are characterized "human predators".</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT): Members stated they didn't see too many wolves this year, but snow was too deep and if there were predators it would be hard to escape. Not many predators, the caribou were very tame. Some small packs of wolves (4-5) around Miner River and lots</p>		

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	<p>of wolverine and wolverine tracks heading north out of the tree-line. No bears spotted in that area, indicating early emergence for their dens.</p> <p>GRRB: One harvester saw a lone wolf toward Sitidgi Lake. This harvester mentioned that too many wolves can affect the population. Wolf can affect the population a lot because they eat a lot of caribou. They should put a bounty on them. He also mentioned that there are more grizzly bears now.</p> <p>Another harvester mentioned that predators were about the same as last year around Miner River.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): No significant changes noted.</p>		
<p>Range and movement patterns</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT): Members observed the migration paths and locations changing slightly; about 40-50 km from previous harvesting locations. Caribou are to the east and west, all over, excellent range. The caribou are accessible to community while migrating.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Members observed there are more caribou in the trees because of very low snow conditions. There are less bugs and the caribou don't have to go to the coast to escape them. There are lots of caribou in the east between Anderson and Horton/Mason river, they are tamer due to less hunting pressure. Seeing much more caribou from Cape Bathurst to above Husky bend on Anderson River, and all along the Eastern shore of Liverpool Bay during</p>	<p>In 2019, 20 BNW collared cows were still active from 2017 and all returned to BNW calving ground. Between 2010 and 2019, 99% of collared BNW cows returned year after year to calving ground.</p>	

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	<p>April/May. They have been seeing more in the past three years.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAc-NWT): Members observed the distribution is a little different; they stayed around Miner river almost all winter, not in usual harvesting areas, which is Old Man Lake and Urquhart Lake. The caribou didn't come out of trees until at least end of April. There is a lot of deep snow. They seemed to stay late into spring.</p> <p>GRRB: A few harvesters mentioned that the caribou used to come down in the GSA, around Caribou Lake. Another harvester mentioned that they have moved away maybe because the food they get usually was not there anymore. Another harvester doesn't think that movement patterns have changed since last year.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): No changes noted.</p>		
<p>Environment and habitat</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAc-NWT): Members noted the summers are longer but cooler, rainy, and less bugs. A lot of stronger winds from all directions except from south, which is more than usual. There was rain in October and November 2018, March/April 2019 and this past October. There are no concerns about species in Paulatuk region, there an abundance of caribou, beluga, char, seals, geese. The community noted members can't predict storms anymore. There were storms in February and October, which was unusual. A member shared they got a reindeer in late August,</p>	<p>There were very few fires in the 2019 season.</p>	<p>Forage map is still in production. Consultant hired to write up results by March 2020.</p>

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	<p>wondering if it's a mixed breed. The reindeer was hanging out with 15 other bulls, its fur had white spots, short legs, big antlers, no velvet on the antlers. If this reindeer was all the way here, they must be everywhere.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Members noted an icing event in January with about a half-inch ice layer. The icing events cause caribou and other animals to lose hair on their legs. Summer weather is cooler, less bugs. Ice isn't thick enough, limits caribou movements across water bodies. There are more slumps and slides.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT): Members noted there is deep snow until late spring, a bit of icing earlier, more noticeable in the tundra than in tree line. In the end of February, some hills were glazed making it hard for the skidoos to climb. Lots of slumping in places there never used to be, which is dangerous for traveling. A lot more landslides too, further south around Caribou Hills area. There are many rivers getting silty and shallower, starting to affect travelling routes. Shallow Bay, areas you can't even go through due to low waters.</p> <p>GRRB: A harvester mentioned that during springtime, it was fairly warm. He mentioned that the lakes were slushy, but that there was lots of snow in the forest, around 3-4 feet. Two harvesters mentioned that the snow was the same as usual, both for the forested area and the barren.</p>		

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	<p>Déljñę (Sahtú): See information above for Neregha ɔekwé. No other sightings noted.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): Nothing unusual noted.</p>		
<p>Human disturbance</p>	<p>Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT): Members stated the industry are not following community guidelines and flying low. There are tourists and visitors in the Park without community knowledge while the caribou are there. The members also shared research has cumulative effects on species and on communities.</p> <p>Inuvik (WMAC-NWT): Members stated the caribou are very tame. It was hard to travel because of icing and thick trees. There was less hunting pressure this year. Aircraft are not a concern as they fly really high. Perhaps more caribou spotted from road this year than previous years; quite few around Jimmy Lake and towards Husky Lakes. Members were not concerned around ITH. The caribou around road are very tame. Lots of dust on southside of ITH, covering the land.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAC-NWT): Members stated the caribou get really skittish when they are hunted and chased with fast skidoos (instead of being patient). Enforcement presence needs to increase, need an ENR officer based in Tuktoyaktuk all year and regular patrols. Should increase enforcement in no harvest areas and when tags are finished. Asked if more funding for investigations than patrols</p>	<p>Minimal human disturbance.</p> <p>TNNPMB/Parks Canada agreement to minimize overflights during calving and post-calving continues.</p>	

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	<p>GRRB: A harvester mentioned that when the oil and gas industries started, the population declined. A harvester mentioned that he doesn't think harvesters are having a big impact on the caribou now. He believes that the harvest is sustainable and attributes the low numbers to predation.</p> <p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): People noted that the winter road has had an impact by increasing access for visiting harvesters since it was first built.</p>		
Competitors	<p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): They plan to promote harvest of moose and muskoxen which are newly coming into the area.</p> <p>Tuktoyaktuk (WMAc-NWT): Members noted there are stray reindeer and the muskox are moving south and west. Tuktoyaktuk wants to deal with invasive species and/or competitors before they get out hand. Asking if could track harvesting from hunters from other communities, possibly increase communication between HTC's.</p>		