



Criteria used to assess Bluenose East status in 2020.¹

Shared by the ACCWM (Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management)

Criteria	Community-Based Information	Scientific Information	Comments
Population size	<p>Kugluktuk: It was hard to make an observation as the herds were scattered herds; Lots of healthy smaller herds though.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): Haven't seen any ɔekwé this year; they don't want to see us these days. Tried looking for ɔekwé at ɔehajla and Neregha in fall and summer 2-3 times in 2020 and saw nothing.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tıchq): There are less animals than before and they are seen in smaller groups than before.</p>	<p>Estimated number of adult caribou at least 1.5 year old in 2018: 19,294 ± 4,729.</p> <p>Estimated number of breeding cows 11,675 ± 2,040.</p>	Estimated based on June 2018 calving ground survey and October composition survey to estimate sex ratio.
Population trend and rate of change	<p>Kugluktuk: Hard to say as they are staying together in smaller herds.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): The community continues to be concerned about lack of availability. This</p>	Estimated 19-20% annual rate of decrease 2015 to 2018; same rate of decline 2010-2013 and 2013-2015.	Herd declined by half 2015-2018.

¹ This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status in 2019 and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in *Taking Care of Caribou*.

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	concern has heightened from 2019.		
Productivity and recruitment	<p>Kugluktuk: Saw quite a few small herds. Fewer calves. Lots of yearlings.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): No harvest, so no knowledge on this topic.</p>	<p>Percent breeding females June 2019 on calving ground: 87.5%. (83.0% in June 2018).</p> <p>Pregnancy rate of captured cows 2019: 7/10 (70%).</p> <p>2014-2018: 46/49 (94%).</p> <p>Calf to cow ratios:</p> <p>March 2020: 41.8 ± 3.4: 100</p> <p>July 2020 46.9 ± 6.1: 100</p> <p>Oct. 2020 51.7 ± 5.0: 100</p>	<p>2018 & 2019 results suggest good initial productivity (June), i.e. high pregnancy rate.</p> <p>Calf:cow ratio March 2020 good.</p> <p>July 2020 calf:cow ratio suggests most calf mortality in first 4-5 weeks. Similar July and October calf-cow ratios suggests little mortality summer-fall.</p> <p>October ratio suggests improving recruitment. Average March calf: cow ratio 2014-2018: 30.1.</p> <p>Bluenose-East June 2019 Composition Survey occurred a few days after the peak of calving, resulted in a calf to cow ratio of 69.8 calves: 100 cows.</p>
Adult composition	Kugluktuk: More females; less bulls. Most observations made in August-October.	<p>Fall bull to cow ratio:</p> <p>Nov. 2019: 35.3 ± 5.5: 100</p>	<p>Fall 2019 survey past peak of rut; Fall 2020 survey close to peak of rut.</p>

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	<p>Déłıne (Sahtú): No sightings, so no knowledge on this topic.</p>	<p>Oct. 2020: 63.3 ± 15.7: 100</p>	<p>Higher bull: cow ratio a positive sign. Increasing herds in NWT in the early 1980s had sex ratios of 65 bulls: 100 cows (or higher).</p>
<p>Body condition and health</p>	<p>Kugluktuk: Healthy; lots of fat; nice meat colour. Not too many sick ones. No data collected this year with sampling kits due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): No sightings, so no knowledge on this topic.</p>	<p>No new information – minimal harvest N Slave Region last 2 winters.</p>	
<p>Harvest levels</p>	<p>Kugluktuk:</p> <p>NE – TAH 170 – 88 harvested</p> <p>BC – TAH – 10 – 2 harvested</p> <p>DUC – TAH 10 – 0 harvested</p> <p>Beverly – no TAH – 2 harvested</p> <p>Moose – 10 harvested</p> <p>Muskox – TAH 245 (all zones) 11 harvested</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): Zero harvest in 2020.</p>	<p>Harvest very low in N. Slave region 2018-2019</p> <p>Total reported winter harvest N Slave region NWT:</p> <p>2016-2017: 15 bulls.</p> <p>2017-2018: 10 bulls.</p> <p>2018-2019: n/a</p> <p>2019-2020: n/a</p>	<p>BNE caribou have been mostly in remote areas last 3 winters while in the NWT (in N Slave region); most N Slave hunters have harvested Beverly caribou in east on mine winter roads.</p>

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	<p>Tłı̄chq̄: Total tags = 76 Total harvest:</p> <p>Behchok̄q̄: 20 Wekweèti: 28 Gamèti: 13 Whati: 15</p> <p>The animals harvested were all bulls.</p>		
<p>Predator populations</p>	<p>Kugluktuk: Grizzly bear population high; excellent body conditions (except 1); lots of grizzly bears around where young caribou are; 15 harvested. There is now an incentive for providing samples from harvested Grizzly Bears</p> <p>High wolf population; healthy – 8 harvested</p> <p>Wolverine – 9 harvested</p> <p>Polar Bear – TAH 6 – 0 harvested</p> <p>Délı̄ne (Sahtú): No observations.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłı̄chq̄): The wolves are using the road more than other areas.</p>	<p>Limited Information.</p> <p>Incidental sightings during June caribou composition surveys:</p> <p>2019 14 grizzly bears, 3 wolves 2018 21 grizzly bears, 1 wolf</p> <p>No survey June 2020 (COVID-19)</p> <p>54 wolves removed from Bluenose-East range in 2020</p>	<p>Continuing trend of more grizzly bears than wolves seen on BNE calving grounds 2010-2019.</p>

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Range and movement patterns	<p>Kugluktuk: Scattered and fragmented herds. Caribou more westerly</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): No observations.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłıchq): BNE Caribou are in the Wekweèti region but little data is available at time of meeting.</p>	Fidelity of BNE collared cows to calving ground 2008-2018: 97-98%.	Some years BNE has mixed a lot with Bathurst caribou to west. Recent winters BNE has been mostly separate and remote.
Environment and habitat	<p>Kugluktuk: Excellent this year. Including berries. Cool summer – insects minimal</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): Lots of rain and no fires, both of which can be good for caribou, but there was rain in December which would have been hard on them.</p>	Overall, 2018, 2019, and 2020 have been below average for fires. Very few fires on BNE range.	*July insect season not severe BNE range – based on Kugluktuk observations 2018-2019-2020
Human disturbance	<p>Kugluktuk: Minimal; no industry/exploration.</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): Not applicable within Déłıne District.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłıchq): No new disturbance with respect to exploration or development.</p>	Very limited, no active mines.	

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Competitors	<p>Kugluktuk: Healthy muskox populations; MX-9 & MX-11.</p> <p>Healthy moose populations.</p> <p>Déłıne (Sahtú): There are concerns about the impacts of muskoxen in making caribou move away, and climate change</p>		