



## Criteria used to assess Bluenose West status in 2020.<sup>1</sup>

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

Criteria	Community-Based Information <sup>2</sup>	Scientific Information <sup>3</sup>	Comments
<b>Population size</b>	<p><b>GRRB:</b> 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 between Inuvik and Jimmy Lake.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> The population is about the same as previous years. Not many people have gone out as other years as the herd is more spread out.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> Observations were quite positive; There were thousands. The hills were rolling.</p>	Estimated number of adult caribou at least 1.5 year old in 2018 Rivest: 21,011 ± 4,602	Estimated based on July post-calving ground survey
<b>Population trend and</b>	<b>Délı̄nə (Sahtú):</b> Haven't seen any Ɂekwé this year; they	Between 2005 and 2018 the herd	TAH updated based on 4% of the most

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> Bluenose-West caribou usually migrate through two settlement areas/regions and are typically harvested by four communities: Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Tuktoyaktuk. In 2018, community-based information was documented in the following ways: 1. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) held a community meeting in Inuvik, and 2. The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC, (NWT)) held community meetings in Inuvik, Paulatuk, and Tuktoyaktuk; of these communities, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk are the communities that mostly encounter and harvest Bluenose-West caribou.

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

<p><b>rate of change</b></p>	<p>don't want to see us these days. Tried looking for ɬekwé at ʔehajla and Neregha in fall and summer 2-3 times in 2020 and saw nothing.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> One hunter mentioned that there is not enough BNW, and to let them repopulate. This was mentioned in relation to Porcupine caribou being readily available on the highway.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> No change from previous year.</p>	<p>shows a non-statistically significant decrease of 2% per year (CI -4 to 1%).</p>	<p>recent estimate (2018 Rivest estimate 21,011)</p> <p>Trend analysis is based on Rivest estimates</p> <p>2015 21,535 ± 5,136</p> <p>2012 32,326 ± 15,482</p> <p>2009 21,773 ± 4,884</p> <p>2006 28,461 ± 7,431</p> <p>2005 26, 228 ± 5,878</p>
<p><b>Productivity and recruitment</b></p>	<p><b>Dél̓neḡ (Sahtú):</b> No harvest, so no knowledge on this topic.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> The herds are spread out and hunters have to travel farther to get to them, so it is hard to make observations.</p>	<p>Last recruitment survey was 2017 so no current information available.</p>	<p>2017 recruitment survey estimated was 34 + 2.8 (SE) calves per 100 cows.</p>
<p><b>Adult composition</b></p>	<p><b>Dél̓neḡ (Sahtú):</b> No sightings, so no knowledge on this topic.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> About 1:1</p>	<p>There is only one bull to cow ratio for Bluenose-West (2009) so trend is unknown but the 2009 result is considered high.</p>	<p>The bull ratio is monitored because a bull dominated harvest was recommended.</p>

	<p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> The majority were cows, but with lots of bulls mixed in.</p>	<p>Estimated number of bulls per 100 cows in 2009: 70</p>	
<p><b>Body condition and health</b></p>	<p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> No sightings, so no knowledge on this topic.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Our caribou are healthy and are fat. The more isolated they are from people, the more stressed they are by wolves. So, local hunters are encouraged to spend more time in these areas.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> We're not noticing any numbers of unhealthy caribou, maybe one or two here or there.</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 2.08 cm (range 1 to 3 cm) for cows and 3.63 cm (range 1 to 5.8 cm) for bulls.</p> <p>The average Condition code was 2.4 (range 1 to 4) for cows and 3 for bulls (range 1 to 4). The average percent marrow fat for cows was 92% (range 91 to 95%) for cows and 74% (Range 33 to 95%) for bulls</p>	<p>Scientific information based on harvester reported samples harvested in range of the Bluenose-West herds. In 2019/2020 season, condition information was reported for 12 cows and 3 bulls, back fat information was collected for 10 cows and 3 bulls, and Marrow fat information collected for 12 cows and 3 bulls</p>
<p><b>Harvest levels</b></p>	<p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> Zero harvest in 2020.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> 6 caribou (tags) were harvested out of the 34 tags available. No BNW caribou</p>	<p>Total harvest uncertain.</p> <p>Sex of harvest is not always reported ENR</p>	<p>TAH tag returns in Inuvik Region 2019/2020</p> <p>Inuvialuit: 403 Quota, 341</p>

	<p>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><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Far people less went hunting. People who hunt as a subsistent living got CERB and may have chosen to stay home. Less than 130 caribou were harvested. Community did not go hunting in Horton Lake but about 5 caribou were harvested while fixing up camp. For the first time in oral history, a moose was seen in Horton Lake. Did a scouting flight a week and a half later saw caribou spread out with groups of 5 to 50. One big herd of muskox was seen in the area.</p> <p>More woodland caribou closer to the community.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> Lots more caribou around, harvest has shifted to mainly bulls during a community harvest. 18 bulls and two cows were harvested.</p>	<p>believes the 80% bull target is not being met.</p>	<p>harvested</p> <p>Gwich'in: 34 quota, 6 harvested</p> <p>Sahtú: harvest unknown</p>
<p><b>Predator populations</b></p>	<p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> No observations.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> Most hunters mentioned that they did not see any predators and predator tracks. One mentioned that he has not seen many predators.</p>	<p>Paulatuk submitted 0 wolves and Colville lake submitted 0 wolves in the 19/20 season.</p>	<p>Changes in wolf harvest does not necessarily reflect changes in wolf abundance.</p> <p>Raptors are being monitored along a small section of the</p>

	<p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Lots of wolves. Bears seem healthy and hardly show up in the community. When there are more hunters and trappers on the land, then the wolves have less of an impact on the caribou.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> Monitoring of predators, including eagles, is happening. Wolves are following the herds into the calving grounds. Hunters have been asking for more tags for grizzly bears as the population appears high.</p>		Hornaday River by Parks Canada.
<p><b>Range and movement patterns</b></p>	<p><b>Délı̄ne (Sahtú):</b> No observations.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> 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><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Different movement pattern this year as we have less snow than in previous years.</p> <p><b>Paulatuk (ISR):</b> The caribou are resilient and move large distances when they need to find good habitat. Observations are really positive. Their migration is close to the community. This</p>	<p>In 2020, 12 BNW collared cows were still active from the 2018 deployment and all returned to BNW calving ground.</p> <p>Between 2010 and 2020, 99% of collared BNW cows (208 records) returned year after year to calving ground.</p>	

	hasn't been seen this since the 1980s. They were just 3km south of town.		
<b>Environment and habitat</b>	<p><b>Déljñę (Sahtú):</b> 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> <p><b>GRRB:</b> 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><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> No fires. Permafrost melts have led to changes in habitat.</p>	There were very few fires in the 2020 season.	
<b>Human disturbance</b>	<p><b>Déljñę (Sahtú):</b> Not applicable within Déljñę District.</p> <p><b>GRRB:</b> When asked about human disturbance, all hunters either skipped the question or had no comments to bring forward.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Hardly any disturbance.</p>	Minimal human disturbance.	
<b>Competitors</b>	<b>GRRB:</b> Hunters mentioned that there is no competition in this		March 2020 in Muskox survey

	<p>area [ITH/Sitidgi and Jimmy Lake]. One mentioned that 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> <p><b>Délıne (Sahtú):</b> There are concerns about the impacts of muskoxen in making caribou move away.</p> <p><b>Colville Lake (Sahtú):</b> Lots of muskox and bigger herds are seen some closer to the community. The muskoxdn are everywhere and eat up a lot of the food the caribou rely on.</p>		<p>completed in the Sahtú</p> <p>March 2021 surveys in more regions.</p>
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