



Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management – Status Meeting 2019

Bluenose East 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>Kugluktuk: This year the migration kept the herd far from community again, so observations were limited.</p> <p>Lots of small groups and many calves. Many sets of twins were sighted.</p> <p>Délı̄ne (Sahtú): Community members have not been seeing much ɁehdaɁla</p>	<p>Estimated number of adult caribou at: 19,294 ± 4,729.</p> <p>Estimated number of breeding cows 11,675 ± 2,040.</p>	<p>Estimated based on June 2018 calving ground survey and October composition survey to estimate sex ratio.</p>

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	<p>ᐱᓃᓄᓇ over the past year.</p> <p>Wekweèì (Tłı̨chǫ): There are less animals than before and they are seen in smaller groups than before.</p>		
<p>Population trend and rate of change</p>	<p>Kugluktuk: This year the migration kept the herd far from community again, so observations were limited.</p> <p>Lots of small groups and many calves. Many sets of twins were sighted.</p> <p>Délı̨ne (Sahtú): The community continues to be concerned about lack of availability.</p> <p>Wekweèì (Tłı̨chǫ): There are less animals than before and they are seen in smaller groups than before.</p>	<p>Estimated 19-20% annual rate of decrease 2015 to 2018; same rate of decline 2010-2013 and 2013-2015.</p>	<p>Herd declined by half 2015-2018.</p>
<p>Productivity and recruitment</p>	<p>Kugluktuk: Lots of calves and twins observed. Almost every female had at least one calf and many had twins.</p> <p>Délı̨ne (Sahtú): Of 12 ts'ı̨da (female) ᐱᓃᓄᓇ (Bluenose East caribou) harvested on April 21, 2019, 8 were pregnant.</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>Nov. 2019: 37.8 ± 3.9</p> <p>No survey in spring 2019.</p>	<p>Average March calf to cow ratio 2014-2018: 30.1.</p> <p>2019 results suggest good initial productivity (June), and fair-good calf survival in first 4-5 months (October).</p>

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	Wekweèì (Tłıchǫ): Not many yearlings were observed, and no cows are harvested.	Oct. 2018: 25.7 ± 3.4 April 2018 37.5 ± 2.5	
Adult composition	<p>Kugluktuk: This year the migration kept the herd far from community again, so observations were limited. Many young bulls were observed in the small groups that were sighted.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): 8 yárégo (male), 12 ts'ída (female) ʔehdáıla ʔekwé observed on April 21, 2019.</p> <p>Wekweèì (Tłıchǫ): Equal amount of bulls and cows.</p>	<p>Fall bull to cow ratio: Nov. 2019 35.3 ± 5.5 Oct. 2018 38.0 ± 5.7</p>	Slightly lower than bull to cow ratios in 2009, 2013, 2015: 42-43 Increasing herds in NWT in the early 1980s had sex ratios of about 65 bulls: 100 cows.
Body condition and health	<p>Kugluktuk: Very healthy caribou harvested; lots of fat.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): Group of ʔehdáıla ʔekwé observed on April 21 were in fair condition with some chafing on legs from ice crust on snow.</p> <p>Wekweèì (Tłıchǫ): Most animals that were harvested are healthy but they are skinnier than before. Some have reported white spots on meat, puss on meat and</p>	No new information – minimal harvest in the North Slave Region during the last two winters.	

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	legs, white stuff on legs and arms.		
Harvest levels	<p>Kugluktuk: July 1st to October 21, 2019: Total: 105 (Females: 53, Males: 52). 93 harvested in 2018.</p> <p>Déljñę (Sahtú): Harvest of a group of 25, including 8 yáręgo, 12 ts'ída and 5 calves for a total of 25 ʔehdajla ʔekwę harvested on April 21, 2019. As of November 2019, the community has agreed to ʔekwę gha máhsı ts'ıñjwe (ceremonial harvest) of 30, with maximum ts'ída (female) harvest of 6 of ʔehdajla ʔekwę for the next three years, and 50 Neregha ʔekwę. The ʔehdzo Got'jñę has curtailed financial support for community members to harvest ʔekwę.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłjchq): Harvest data has not been compiled yet. Not all 295 authorization cards were filled. Wekweèti residents were main harvesters of BNE. Other Tłjchq communities harvested on Gahcho Kue winter road.</p>	<p>Harvest very low in North Slave region 2018-2019</p> <p>Total reported winter harvest North Slave region NWT: 2017-2018 10 bulls. 2016-2017 15 bulls.</p>	<p>BNE caribou have been mostly in remote areas last 3 winters while in the NWT (in North Slave region); most North Slave hunters have harvested Beverly caribou in east on winter roads.</p>
Predator	Kugluktuk: There are lots of grizzly bears	Limited Information.	Continuing trend of more grizzly

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populations	<p>and many have twins, triplets and even quadruplets. Many of the cubs are as big as their mothers.</p> <p>101 wolves were harvested in 2018/19.</p> <p>Déljñę (Sahtú): No observations.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłjchq): There are more wolves.</p>	<p>June calving composition surveys: 2019 14 grizzly bears, 3 wolves 2018 21 grizzly bears, 1 wolf</p> <p>Four wolves were harvested near Wekweèti in Enhanced North Slave Wolf Harvest Incentive Area in winter 2018-19</p>	<p>bears than wolves seen on BNE calving grounds 2010-2018.</p>
Range and Movement patterns	<p>Kugluktuk: More east-westerly; not in range like usual.</p> <p>Déljñę (Sahtú): See information above for ʔehdaɭla ʔekwé. No other sightings noted.</p> <p>Wekweèti (Tłjchq): They are changing the way they move; they aren't around Gamèti and Whatì anymore. They used to go near the communities, but they aren't going around there.</p>	<p>Fidelity of BNE collared cows to calving ground 2008-2018: 97-98%.</p>	<p>Some years BNE has mixed a lot with Bathurst caribou to west.</p>
Environment and habitat	<p>Kugluktuk: Cool summer; good vegetation; fewer insects.</p> <p>Déljñę (Sahtú): At ʔehdaɭla, lots of snow (about 2 to 2.5 feet) with a hard crust on top on April 20-21. The food was hard to</p>	<p>Overall, an average fire year in 2019; Very few fires on BNE range.</p> <p>July insect season not severe (Bathurst range - Tłjchq observations).</p>	

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	<p>get at. ʔekwé were staying on the lake and in open areas. Chafing was reported on the legs of ʔodzı (boreal woodland caribou).</p> <p>Wekweèì (Tłıchq): There are lots of burned areas now that are changing the way the caribou move around; they are avoiding the burned areas. Berries and vegetation aren't as rich as before. There is less snow and the snow is softer than before which makes it hard for the caribou to move around. Warmer winters are causing the ice to be thinner. There were lots of warble flies this year.</p>		
Human disturbance	<p>Kugluktuk: Minimal.</p> <p>Délıne (Sahtú): Not applicable within Délıne District.</p> <p>Wekweèì (Tłıchq): No new disturbance with respect to exploration or development.</p>	Very limited, no active mines.	Tundra Copper exploration on calving grounds – not active last 3 years.
Competitors	<p>Colville Lake (Sahtú): They plan to promote harvest of moose and muskoxen which are newly coming into the area.</p>		

