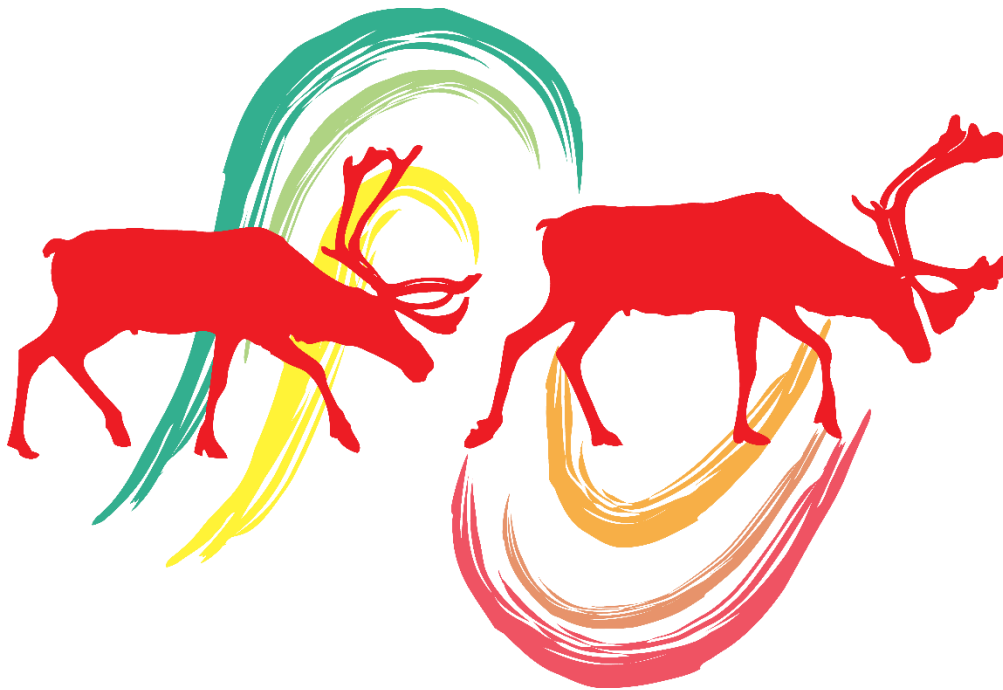


Action Plan for

THE CAPE BATHURST
CARIBOU HERD
– *RED STATUS* –



Prepared by the Advisory Committee for
Cooperation on Wildlife Management

March 15, 2017

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About the ACCWM

The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management was established to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus, and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. The committee consists of Chairpersons (or alternate appointees) of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board), Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, and Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board.

About *Taking Care of Caribou* and the associated Action Plans

In late 2014 and early 2015, members of the ACCWM approved *Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan*. The Plan was developed in consultation with most of the communities that harvest from the three herds. The intent is for the Plan to address caribou management and stewardship over the long term. It was presented to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Government of the Northwest Territories), the Minister of Environment (Government of Nunavut), and the Environment Minister (Government of Canada) in 2014. The Management Plan is supported by two companion documents: a report that summarizes recent scientific information about the herds, and a report that provides a summary of the information that was shared during community meetings to develop the Plan. Individual Action Plans were then developed for each of the three herds. These Action Plans provide details on the types of actions that are recommended based on a herd's status, as well as who is responsible for the actions, and when they should be done.

Disclaimer:

The ACCWM recognizes that the implementation of management actions moving forward is subject to appropriations, prioritizations, and budgetary restraints of the participating agencies and organizations.

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Acronyms used in this Plan

ACCWM (WG)	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (Working Group)
CI	Confidence Interval
DoE	Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
ENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
GN	Government of Nunavut
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
HTC	Hunters and Trappers Committee
HTO	Hunters and Trappers Organization
ISR	Inuvialuit Settlement Region
NWMB	Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
NWT	Northwest Territories
PCA	Parks Canada Agency
RRC	Renewable Resources Council
SE	Standard Error
TAH	Total Allowable Harvest
TG	Tłjchq Government
TNNPMB	Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
WEMP	Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan
WMAC (NWT)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)
WWHPP	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans

Introduction

This *Action Plan for Cape Bathurst Caribou* was developed by wildlife management boards with stewardship responsibilities for barren-ground caribou and their habitat in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.¹ It is the next step in a collaborative management planning process that has involved 17 communities in six land claim areas, over the last ten years. The Action Plan describes the specific actions that will carry out the **principles** and goals outlined in *Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds Management Plan (November 3, 2014)*.

Members of the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) approved *Taking Care of Caribou* (the Management Plan) in late 2014 and early 2015. The ACCWM presented the Plan to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Government of the Northwest Territories), the Minister of Environment (Government of Nunavut), and the Environment Minister (Government of Canada) in 2014. The intent is for the Plan to address management activities and caribou stewardship over the long term. The plan describes the consensus-based approach, herd definitions, principles, and goals that guided the process. It provides a framework for **Monitoring** the herds, making decisions, and taking action. Five different categories of management actions are outlined in the Plan, including **Education, Habitat, Land Use Activities, Predators** and **Harvest Management**.

Separate Action Plans have been developed for each of the three herds. Plans such as this one lay out

Management Plan **principles**:

- Management decisions will respect treaties and land claim agreements and Aboriginal harvesting rights in areas both with and without a land claim agreement
- Management decisions will reflect the wise use of the herds in a sustainable manner
- Adequate habitat (quantity and quality) is fundamental to the welfare of the herds
- Management decisions will be based on the best available information – including science, as well as traditional and local knowledge – and will not be postponed in the absence of complete information
- Effective management requires participation, openness and cooperation among all users and agencies responsible for the stewardship of the herds and their habitat. Shared use requires shared responsibility
- Harvests must be allocated in a manner which respects Aboriginal harvesting rights and the sustainable harvesting limit, if any, of each herd
- The impacts to caribou herds and their habitat must be anticipated and minimized
- Harvesting is fundamental to the cultural, social, spiritual and economic well-being of the communities of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (*Taking Care of Caribou*, p. 12).

¹ Throughout the Management Plan and Action Plans, the terms ‘wildlife management boards’ or ‘member boards’ refer to the six boards which are members of the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management.

specific objectives, tasks and priorities for the herds, and provide more details on who is responsible for management actions, as well as how and when they will be carried out. The Action Plans are based on the best current information available, but are designed to be “living documents” to allow for the adjustment of tasks as new information becomes available. They are intended to be in place three to five years, but are reviewed annually and may be revised as needed.

The ultimate goal of the Management Plan and the accompanying Action Plans is to ensure that there are caribou for today and for future generations. The management goals of the plans are to:

- Maintain herds within the known natural range of variation,
- Conserve and manage caribou habitat, and
- Ensure that harvesting is respectful and sustainable (*Taking Care of Caribou*, p. 12).

Management and Action Planning Overview

Stewardship planning for the Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East and Cape Bathurst caribou herds is founded on an “adaptive management cycle”. This means that there are ongoing efforts to monitor and assess the results of management actions, adapt when things aren’t working well, use what is learned to shape future actions, and share that information with others. This is an important process in being able to gauge the success of management actions. Figure 1 shows a diagram of the adaptive management cycle.

Issues thought to be affecting barren-ground caribou have been identified collaboratively through both scientific research and community engagement. Some factors, such as climate change, are difficult to influence, but all require cooperation and coordination for effective action. The Management Plan was developed because the ACCWM identified a need to:

- Develop a cooperative approach to managing for the herds,
- Protect the habitat in the herds’ range, and
- Make decisions on the shared harvests in an open and fair manner (*Taking Care of Caribou*, p. 6).

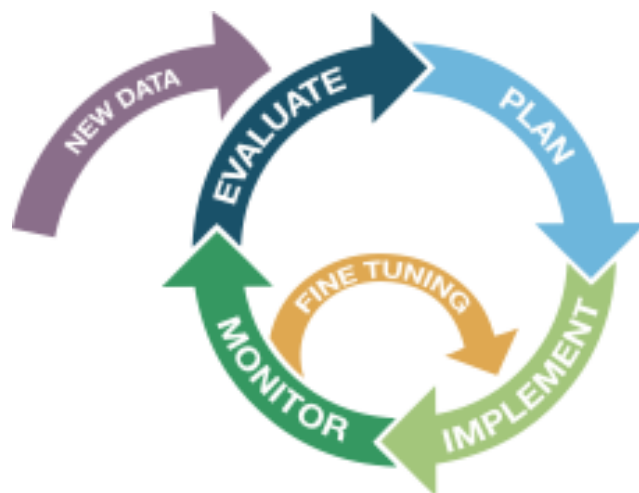


Figure 1: Diagram showing the process of an adaptive management cycle (figure from Weeks, R., and S. Jupiter. 2013. *Adaptive Comanagement of a Marine Protected Area Network in Fiji*. *Conservation Biology* Vol. 27, No. 6: 1234-1244.)

The Management Plan provides an overall framework for how this cooperation can take place. Implementation of the Action Plans is also cooperative, requiring ongoing community input and support. An inclusive, consensus-based approach is used at all stages of the planning process. Sometimes, management topics can be controversial and finding agreement is challenging. In order to honour differing perspectives yet still move ahead with planning, it was decided to be transparent about differences and acknowledge them as unresolved **'hot topics'** that are likely to require further work.

Hot topics presented in the Management Plan include:

- Defining Caribou Herds
- Exchange or Movement between Caribou Herds
- Caribou Collaring
- Perspectives on Harvesting and Harvest Monitoring
- Predator Control Programs
- Priorities for Harvest Allocation
- Cow vs. Bull Harvests.

Each ACCWM member board is responsible for approving these Action Plans for implementation within its region. Once an Action Plan is approved, it is submitted to the appropriate governments and other parties for implementation.

Roles and Responsibilities

The **Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management** was established in 2008, to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. The chairpersons of six wildlife management boards make up the ACCWM Figure 3.

The ACCWM member boards have authority through land claim and other agreements to make recommendations and decisions on wildlife management issues. Under their mandates, the boards have responsibility for wildlife and wildlife habitat management. The ACCWM can work towards consensus-based recommendations to governments regarding caribou management actions. However, ACCWM recommendations do not prohibit individual boards from providing additional recommendations, nor are individual boards bound by ACCWM recommendations.

The **Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management** consists of the Chairpersons (or alternate appointees) of:

- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC (NWT))
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)
- ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB))
- Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB), and
- Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board (TNNPMB).

Early in 2015 the ACCWM established a Working Group to prepare draft Action Plans for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds. The members of this Working Group are included in **Appendix A**. It is important to note that the success of the Management Plan and associated Action Plans is not just the responsibility of the ACCWM and its Working Group, but also relies on the cooperation of multiple partners. Potential government partners include the Government of the Northwest Territories, Government of Nunavut, Parks Canada Agency, Tłı̄chǫ Government and other Aboriginal Governments. Regional partners, which vary significantly by region, may include individual community members, community organizations such as Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs), Hunters and Trappers Committees and Organizations (HTCs and HTOs), and regional organizations.

How a Herd’s Status and Appropriate Management Actions are Determined

The ACCWM is responsible for determining herd status each year and developing appropriate management actions based on that status. Each fall, the member boards meet to share information and make collaborative decisions regarding the herds, according to the requirements of regional legislation and land claims agreements. The implementation of the Action Plans is also reviewed at this time. The annual status meeting is an opportunity for the ACCWM to invite authorized representatives of management agencies such as Environment and Natural Resources (ENR - GNWT), Parks Canada, and the Government of Nunavut, as well as harvesters, the public, and researchers to get together and discuss the best available information about the caribou. Terms of reference for the meeting are included in **Appendix B**.

New information presented and reviewed at the annual status meeting may include that from monitoring and research programs, as well as community and/or traditional knowledge. Herd status is determined based on information that includes several **monitoring indicators**. Decisions are also influenced by other information from harvesters and scientists.

Scientists and traditional knowledge holders recognize that caribou populations tend to go up and down in cycles that usually last between 30 and 60 years. The Management Plan and Action Plans rely on a “traffic light” approach to indicate the relative levels of risk associated with the different phases of a population cycle. The levels are colour-coded as follows:

Monitoring indicators used to assess herd status include:

- Population size
- Population trend and rate of change
- Productivity and recruitment
- Adult composition
- Body condition and health
- Harvest levels
- Predator populations
- Range and movement patterns
- Environment and habitat
- Human disturbance.



yellow the population level is **intermediate and increasing**



green the population level is **high**



orange the population level is **intermediate and decreasing**



red the population level is **low**

Management actions are based on these phases of the population cycle, using approximate levels or “thresholds” as a guide. Thresholds for the herds were determined by the ACCWM based on known historic highs and lows, with input received from community and technical experts in a consensus-based process. **However, it is not only the threshold value that is used to determine the colour zone – the determination of herd status takes into account all available information.** The traffic light approach to understanding risk in caribou population cycles is shown in Figure 2 along with the approximate thresholds for the Cape Bathurst herd.

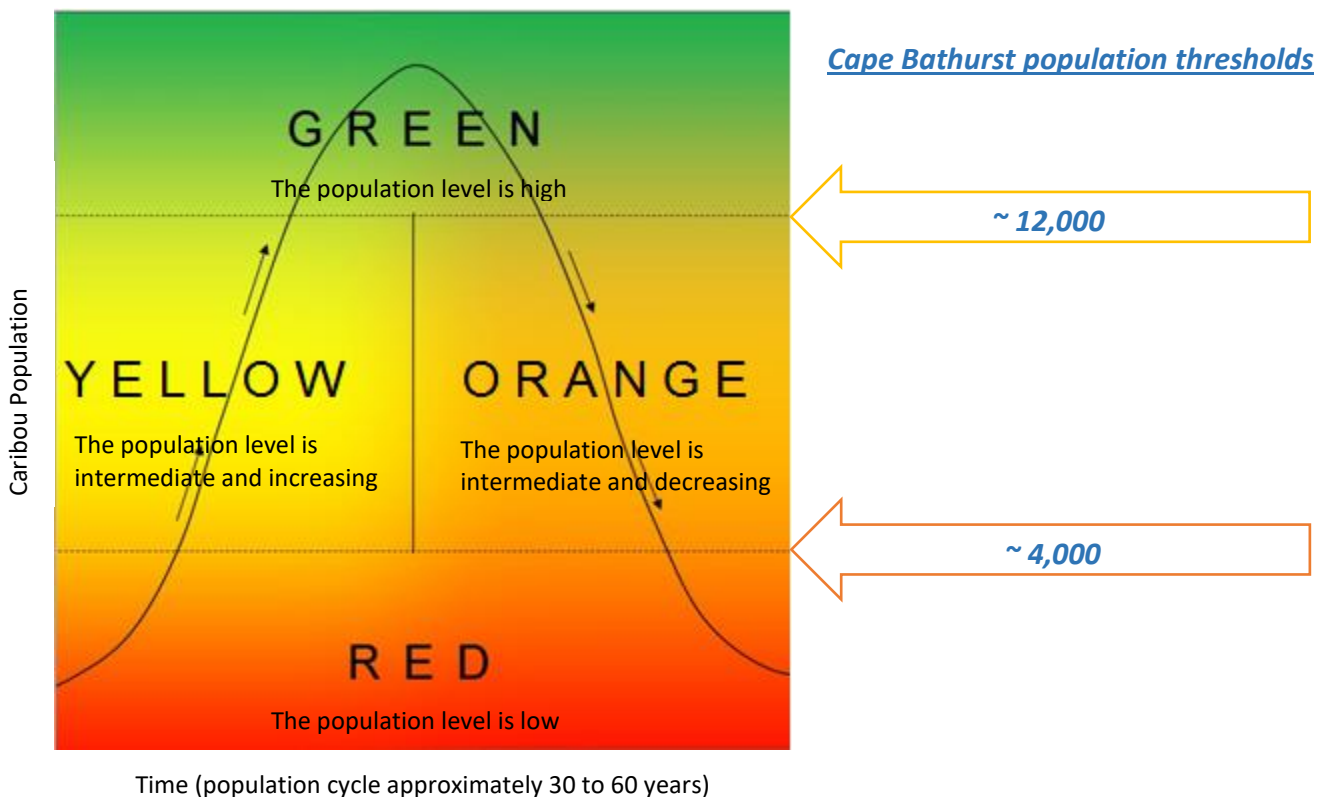


Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

Setting herd status helps provide guidance to implementers about the appropriate monitoring and management actions that should be taking place at each population level. Once herd status is set, the Action Plan includes details about what are the appropriate prioritized actions, their objectives, and what specific tasks will be done, by whom and within what timeframe.

Communications

In order for the Management Plan to be successful in achieving its goal of having caribou today and for future generations, people need to know about the Plan, the management actions, and related activities. Without successful communication, we cannot expect people to be engaged, informed, active participants in *Taking Care of Caribou*.

Communication is the process of transmitting and receiving ideas and information. Communication can take many forms and is not a one-time event, but an ongoing process. It occurs at all levels and scales and is the responsibility of all groups engaged in stewarding these caribou. This includes the ACCWM as a collective and its individual member boards, the territorial governments, local resource management organizations such as HTC, HTO, and RRC, as well as individuals at the family and community level. There are special requirements for effective communication in the NWT and Nunavut, as it is an immense geographical area that crosses territorial boundaries and numerous regions with diverse cultures and environments. There is also a wide diversity of management institutions operating at different scales from the local to the national. **Appendix C** includes a detailed **Communication Plan**.



Figure 3: ACCWM and Working Group members at 2016 annual status meeting in Inuvik, NWT on Dec. 1 (missing from photo: KRWB).

Understanding Current Cape Bathurst Herd Size, Trend and Status

The ACCWM met on December 1, 2016 to review information pertaining to the status of the Cape Bathurst caribou herd. Prior to that, member boards reviewed information available and had discussions, in preparation for the annual status meeting. During status meeting discussions about Cape Bathurst caribou, up-to-date scientific knowledge was provided by ENR biologists, and community knowledge was provided by representatives from two regions – the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) and the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA).

Status Decision 2016

According to the process outlined in the Management Plan, numerous criteria are used to make a status decision. The information considered by the ACCWM in making the 2016 decision is presented below and summarized in Table 3 at the end of this section. Additional historic scientific information can be found in a report available from ACCWM members and on the ENR website.²

Based on the information provided, the ACCWM determined the Cape Bathurst herd status colour zone to be **red (low)** in December 2016. The 2017/18 actions outlined in this Plan are based on this determination. Each year at the fall status meeting the Action Plan will be reviewed. The herd size continues to be low and there are concerns about the lack of herd recovery. The board members recognized there is need for continued conservation of the Cape Bathurst herd and the valid concern raised by the GRRB that the change in the management boundaries is creating harvest pressure on Cape Bathurst herd, particularly on cows, that needs to be monitored.



The Cape Bathurst caribou population status is
RED: low

The 2016 status decision was made in accordance with the principles stated in the Management Plan. While information was provided for all of the criteria outlined in Table 3, it is hoped that in the future, even more information from all regions will be made available to the ACCWM for determining herd status, especially from community and traditional knowledge sources.

² Davison, T. 2016. Technical Report on the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou Herds: companion report to Taking Care of Caribou: The Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories. File Report No. 150. 81pp.

Information used in the 2016 Status decision

Both scientific and community knowledge helped to inform the 2016 status decision. ENR provided current scientific information at the status meeting; the data included here were presented at the meeting. Because ENR conducts post-calving photo surveys on calving grounds to estimate herd size every three years, no new population estimates were available for the 2016 decision; the next survey will be in 2018. A brief background to the relevant scientific survey methods are included at the end of this section.

Some community information was provided on each of the ten monitoring criteria. The following outlines regional approaches to gather information:

Inuvialuit Settlement Region, NWT – Information provided for this region was summarized from public meetings held in Paulatuk, Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk during a ‘Caribou Community Tour’ in Oct/Nov 2016, with representatives from the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC (NWT)), Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) and ENR-GNWT. A total of 67 community members attended the three meetings. Tuktoyaktuk was the only community to provide information for the monitoring table, as they are the only ones that consistently encounter Cape Bathurst caribou. Two meetings were planned for Inuvik, but not held due to a lack of turn-out. Representatives of the WMAC (NWT), IGC, Tuktoyaktuk National Park Management Board (TNNPMB), and HTC’s participated in the status meeting.

Gwich’in Settlement Area, NWT – the Nihtat Renewable Resources Council provided monitoring table information to the GRRB via email correspondence. All Gwich’in RRCs were invited to supply information to the table and to meet with GRRB staff if desired in order to do so; all were invited to attend the annual status meeting. NRRC members were also invited to a joint Inuvik public meeting (with WMAC (NWT)) about the action plans. In addition to two GRRB board members as ACCWM representatives and two GRRB support staff, two members of the Gwich’ya Gwich’in RRC and a staff member of the Gwich’in Tribal Council joined the public at the status meeting.

Representatives of the Wek’èezhìi (Tłı̨chǫ) and Sahtú regions abstained from providing information for the Cape Bathurst herd monitoring table as people living in those areas do not regularly encounter or use these caribou.

Population size

Representatives from the Inuvialuit and Gwich’in Settlement Areas describe the current population of Cape Bathurst caribou as low; based on observations stretching back over 30 years, people think the population of caribou may be roughly one-fourth what it used to be.

Twenty years ago, Inuvialuit harvesters considered the total herd size low, and thought it might have numbered around 20,000-25,000 caribou. Earlier, Inuvialuit elders reported that prior to

1969/70 there weren't caribou in that area at all, and people had to travel east of Anderson River to get them.

Gwich'in harvesters report that in 1970 an unofficial survey done by a local pilot estimated the total herd size at 100,000 animals. That year it took the herd five to six days to cross the river near Husky Lakes and Sitidgi Lake. Twenty-five to thirty years ago, there were many caribou in the Inuvik area. These observations are from before the scientific classification of three separate herds, but both sources indicate that the total herd (before separation into three herds) may have numbered around 100,000 animals at that time.

ENR's most recent calving ground survey was conducted in 2015. In 2015 the post-calving population survey results were used to calculate the size of the Cape Bathurst herd by two different estimation methods, the historically-utilized Lincoln-Peterson and the Rigest. Of the two population estimation methods, ENR and the boards agreed at the 2016 meeting that the Rigest is the preferred estimation method; more information on caribou population estimates is provided in the ***Background to post-calving survey methods***. The population survey results (the number of adult caribou) were:

- Rigest estimate with 95% Confidence Intervals (CI) = 2,524 + 284³
- Lincoln-Peterson estimate with 95% CI = 2,259 + 84
- Minimum count = 2,216.

The Minimum Count values are the actual number of caribou that were counted on the photos used for the survey estimate. Because there are more caribou on the landscape than get surveyed (i.e., some groups of caribou are missed by the survey), the count from the photos and an estimation calculation (Rigest and Lincoln-Peterson) are used to correct for what is missed to give a more complete estimate. In other words, the minimum count represents the absolute lowest number of adult caribou in the herd at the time of the survey.

Both the Rigest and Lincoln-Peterson estimates place the Cape Bathurst herd status well within the red zone, as the threshold between the orange and red zones for this herd is 4,000 animals.

Population trend and rate of change

Observations in the ISR were that prior to 1969/70, there were no caribou in the area south of Liverpool Bay. People used to have to go east of Anderson River. An elder (now 91) observed to the IGC that there was a 50-60 year cycle.

³ A count of an entire population of animals would be very costly if not impossible to do. A well-designed survey that samples the area where the population occurs can provide a good estimate of the population size. A confidence interval accompanies a survey estimate, to represent the variation that exists with this method. It means that if the survey were to be done repeatedly under the same conditions, the estimates would fall within that range. So with a 95% confidence interval, if the survey was repeated many times, 95% of the time the estimates would fall within that range.

Gwich'in harvesters reported to the Nihtat RRC (Inuvik) that they are seeing many fewer barren-ground caribou than they did 25-30 years ago. They are concerned that there will be a lot more access of this herd with the opening of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway and the extension of the Bluenose-West boundary.

The 2015 Lincoln-Peterson population estimate of $2,259 \pm 84$ (95% CI) caribou is statistically significantly lower than the 2012 herd estimate of 2,427. However, it is not statistically significantly lower than the 2009 estimate of $1,934 \pm 350$ (95% CI). Both the Rivist and Lincoln-Peterson population estimates seem to show a similar trend in that the herd went through a large decline and there is no evidence of recovery in the last ten years. The data indicate that over the long term there has been a 20% rate of decrease from 1989 to 2015, but the herd has been relatively stable between 2005 and 2015 at low numbers. Figure 4 shows Lincoln-Peterson population estimates for the Cape Bathurst herd for the period from 1986 to 2015.

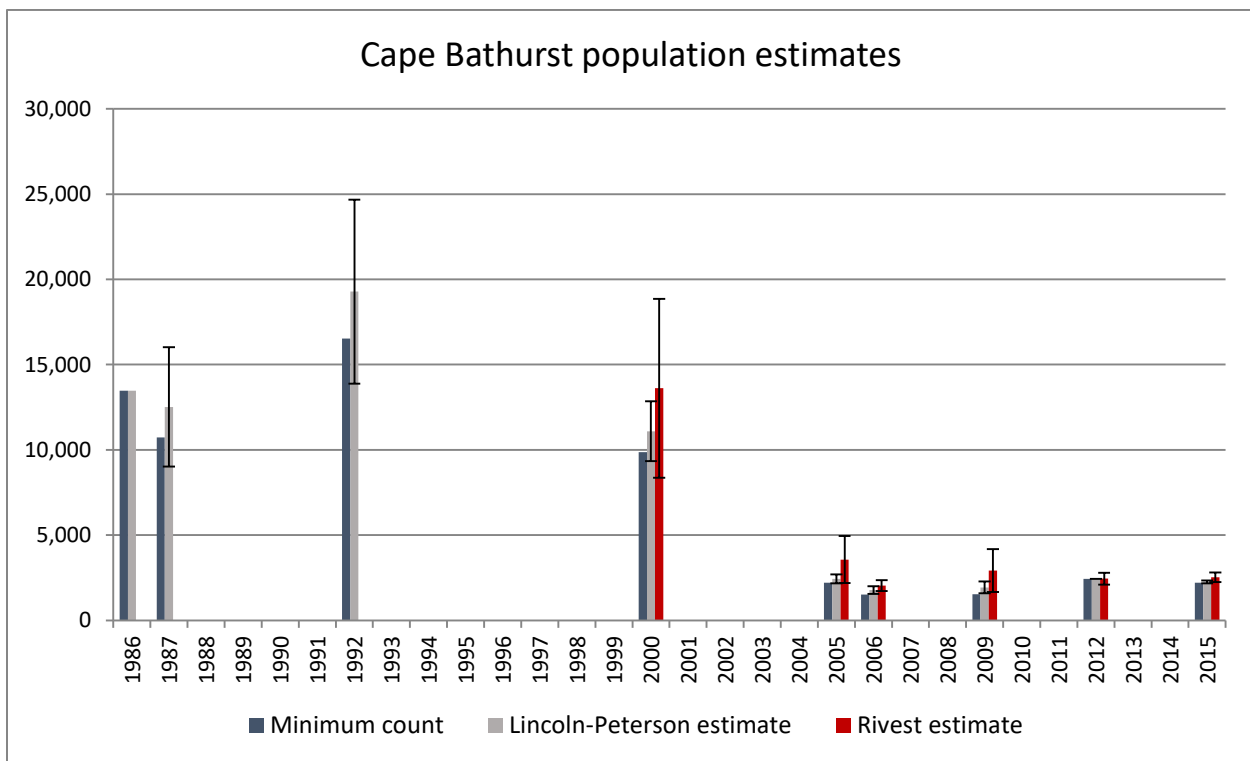


Figure 4: Graph showing Cape Bathurst herd Lincoln-Peterson and Rivist population estimates from post-calving surveys since 2000. Minimum counts are included for comparison purposes.⁴

Productivity and recruitment

In the ISR, harvesters report seeing a lot of calves lately; twins have been seen in the Cape Bathurst and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herds.

⁴ Earlier years of survey results are available in [Taking Care of Caribou](#) and the ENR technical report.

Recruitment surveys were conducted on Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst caribou together in 2016, as the herds are mixed during the survey period; a very high ratio of 54.5 ± 1.8 calves to 100 cows was found.⁵ Recruitment estimates (number of calves per 100 cows) are shown in Figure 5.

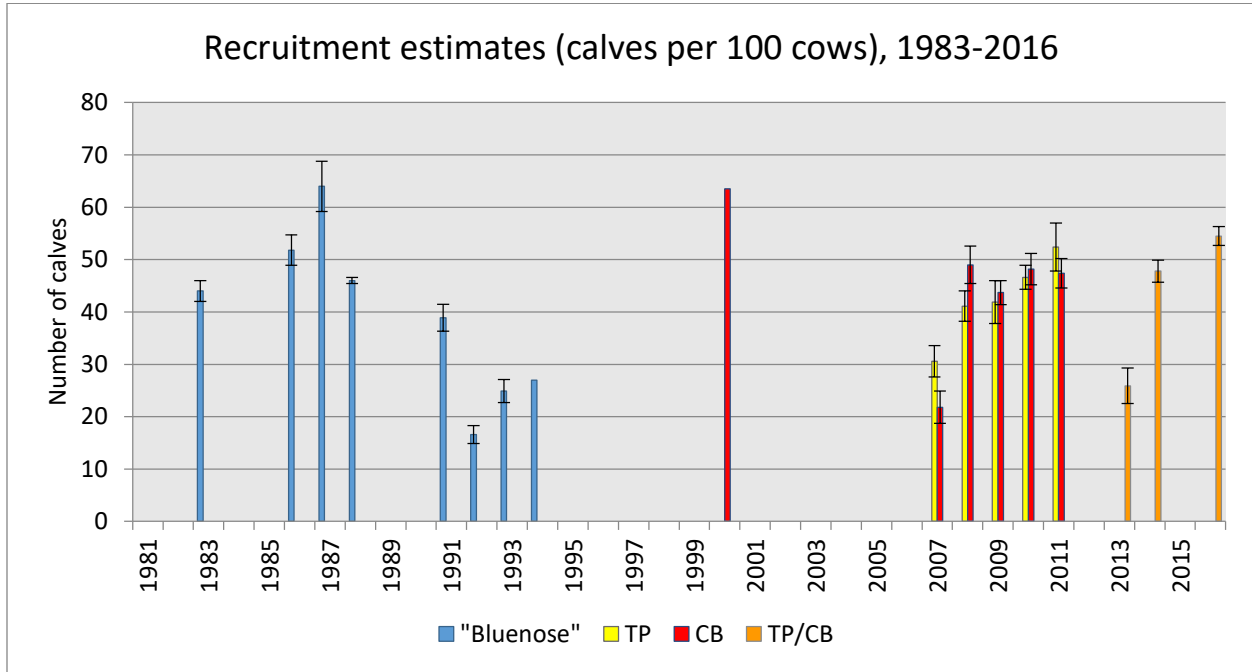


Figure 5: Recruitment estimates (calves per 100 cows) for the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula (TP), Cape Bathurst (CB), and “Bluenose” barren-ground caribou herds, 1983-2016.

Calf to cow ratios can be impacted by the harvesting of females. For example, if a large proportion of cows are harvested and the calves are not, then the number of calves per 100 cows left in the herd will be inflated and be an inaccurate reflection of actual calf survival. Based on the management actions, a portion of the range used by the caribou in the survey is closed to harvest, however the total harvest and sex ratio of harvest is not known for the open area. Therefore, it is possible that the calf to cow ratio may be skewed. Good harvest data, including the sex of the animals, date of harvest and location, is needed to better assess the impact of this harvest on the calf to cow ratios.

Adult composition

As described in greater detail in **Range and movement patterns**, Tuktoyaktuk harvesters saw bulls come in late and in bigger bunches (e.g., Jul/Aug, groups of ~30). People are usually coming back from harvesting at end of September, but bulls were just coming in at that time (this is a shift in the timing of bull arrival).

⁵ Standard Error is a measure of the statistical accuracy of an estimate.

A fall composition survey was conducted in October/November of 2015 as part of the monitoring program for the Cape Bathurst herd. Fall surveys to classify caribou are conducted during the rut to get a bull to cow ratio. Information is presented as the number of bulls per 100 cows.

The fall 2015 survey was delayed considerably due to bad weather, with classifications finally done the 2nd, 3rd and 5th of November. This delay may have resulted in a slight low bias for the bull to cow ratio, as it occurred at the end of the rut. Although the larger groups contained both cows and bulls, there were some small groups of bulls found separately. Data from all groups were combined for one ratio as Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst collared animals were beginning to mix by the time the weather was good for flying. Each caribou was classified as a cow, calf, or bull (young or prime). Classification was based on size, size/configuration of antlers, and sex-organs (presence/absence of vulva patch, and penis sheath).

A total of 1,376 caribou were classified. The number of bulls per 100 cows was 43 ± 4.6 (SE) for the Cape Bathurst and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herds combined in 2015. There are no fall composition data from these herds to use for comparison. 2009 results for the Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East herds showed bull to cow ratios of 70 and 42.9 ± 3.4 (SE) respectively.

Body condition and health

In Tuktoyaktuk, no sick caribou were seen or reported in 2016; over-all, animals have been described as pretty healthy compared to 15 years ago (when there were a lot of lumps and ribs were visible). There are suggestions that climate change can be a cause for improved health, as it has been very easy on caribou. Animals may be fatter from running less, due to fewer bugs over last couple years.

ENR monitors body condition and health in barren-ground caribou by working with harvesters. Harvesters are asked to measure back fat, and to rate the body condition of the caribou they harvest as Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor. These ratings are translated to a numerical value between one and four, with 1 = Poor and 4 = Excellent, so they can be averaged. Scientific information is based on harvester reports and samples for the Tukoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst herds combined. Condition information was reported for 57 cows and 27 bulls; back fat information was reported for 65 cows and 30 bulls in the 2015/16 season. ENR reported that the condition of both bulls and cows was on average 'fair' in the 2015/16 harvest season. Average back fat measurements was 2.7 cm for cows and 1 cm for bulls. The back fat measurements indicate that cows were of good condition and males lower when sampled; this varies depending on what time of year animals are harvested. Results for average body condition ratings for Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst caribou herds combined are presented in Table 1 and Figure 6. Back fat measurements for Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst caribou herds combined are presented in Table 2 and Figure 7. While harvesting is closed for Cape Bathurst animals, following the boundary change, some harvesting occurring in the Bluenose-West harvest zone has included some Cape Bathurst and Tuk Peninsula caribou.

Table 1: Results from body condition sampling for the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst caribou herds combined.

Season	Gender	Average Condition Code (number of samples)
2015/16*	Female	2.04 (57)
	Male	2.33 (27)
2014/15*	Female	3.2 (40)
	Male	2.32 (28)
2013/14	Female	2.69 (26)
	Male	3.20 (15)
2012/13	Female	2.10 (10)
	Male	--
2011/12	Female	--
	Male	--
2010/11	Female	--
	Male	4 (4)
2009/10	Female	1.91 (11)
	Male	1.50 (2)
2008/09	Female	2.45 (11)
	Male	2.14 (7)

*Samples submitted from I/BC/08 harvests plus in 2014/15 and 2015/16 includes I/BC/06 samples from Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk because, based on collar data, the change of zone boundary means Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk harvesters were mainly accessing Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst caribou.

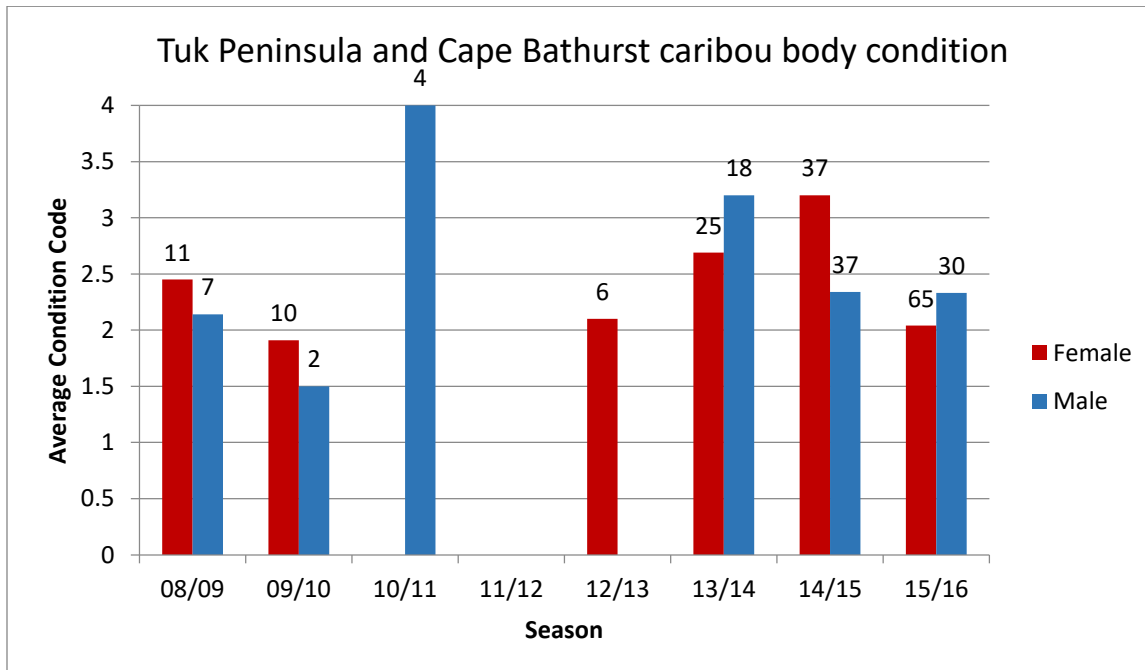


Figure 6: Average condition code, for the Tuk Peninsula/Cape Bathurst herds, assessed by hunters on a scale of 1-4 with number of samples noted at the top of the bar.

Table 2: Results from and health sampling for the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst caribou herds combined.

Season	Gender	Back Fat (cm) (number of samples)
2015/16*	Female	2.7 (65)
	Male	1.06 (30)
2014/15*	Female	2.13 (37)
	Male	1.21 (37)
2013/14	Female	1.31 (25)
	Male	3.42 (18)
2012/13	Female	1.22 (6)
	Male	--
2011/12	Female	--
	Male	--
2010/11	Female	--
	Male	4.03 (4)
2009/10	Female	0.62 (10)
	Male	0.25 (2)
2008/09	Female	0.8 (11)
	Male	0.00 (7)

*Samples submitted from I/BC/08 harvests plus in 2014/15 and 2015/16 includes I/BC/06 samples from Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk because, based on collar data, the change of zone boundary means Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk harvesters were mainly accessing Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst caribou.

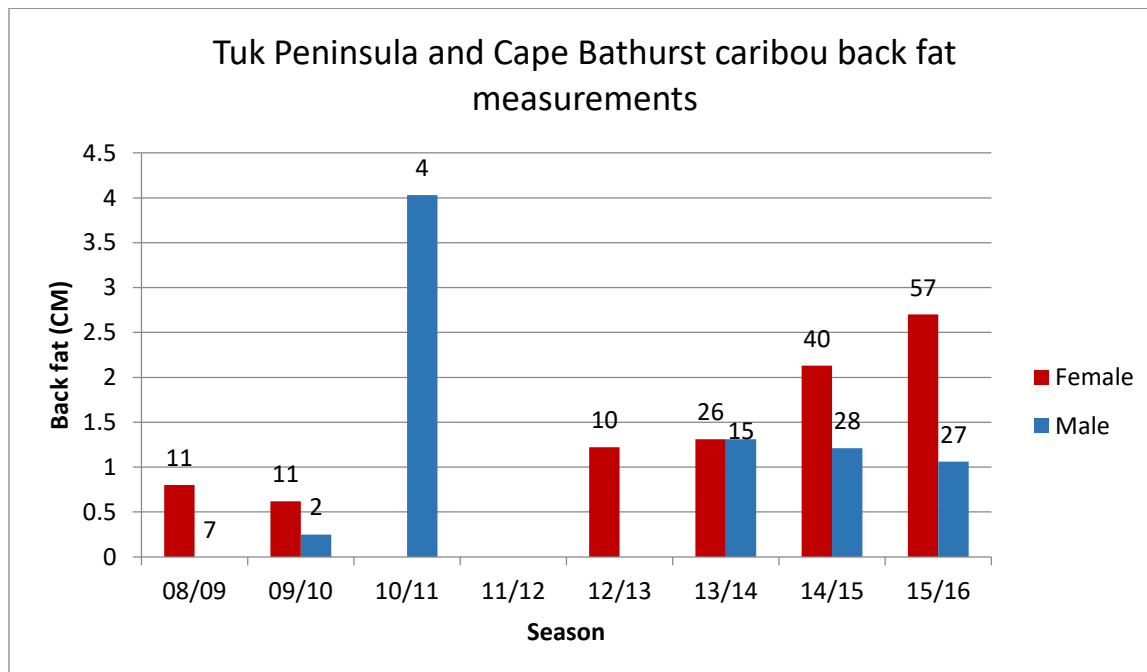


Figure 7: Average reported back fat measurement (in centimeters), for the Tuk Peninsula/Cape Bathurst herds, with number of samples noted at the top of the bar.

Harvest levels

Determining harvest levels for the Cape Bathurst herd is complicated due to changes in management zone boundaries. Prior to 2005 the harvest between Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik was estimated at about 1,600 caribou, with the majority cows. In 2007, the mainland caribou management area in the ISR – area I/BC/06 (Figure 88A) – was adjusted to reflect core areas of the herds based on recommendations from the WMAC (NWT). Area I/BC/06 was divided into three zones (Figure 8B): I/BC/08 to reflect the core area of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herd; I/BC/07 was described to reflect the core area of the Cape Bathurst herd; and I/BC/06 to reflect the core portion of the Bluenose-West herd in the ISR.

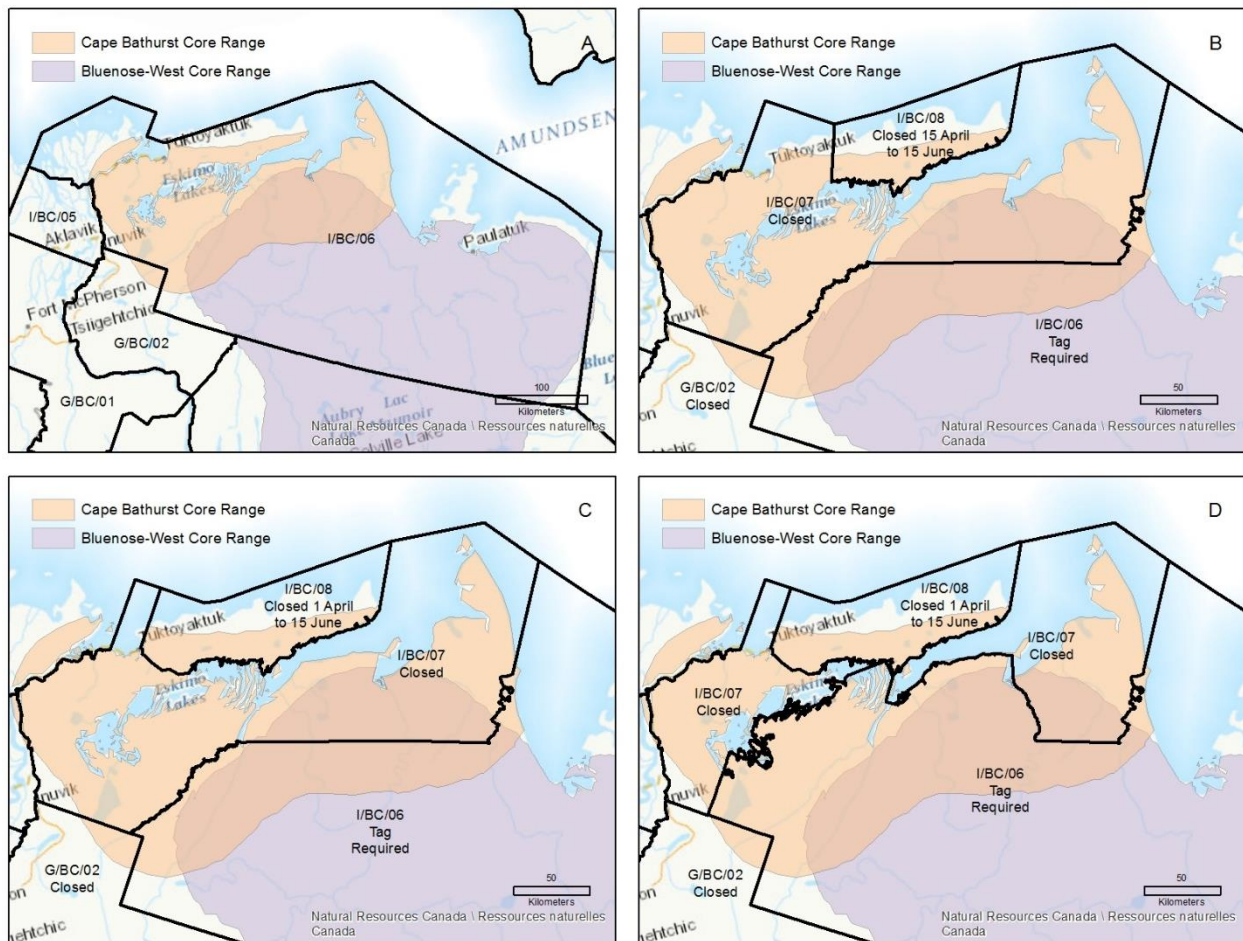


Figure 8: Caribou management areas showing core caribou range based satellite tracking data collected from cows 1996-2008 as follows A. Prior to 2007; B. Areas adjusted in ISR (2007) and Sahtú Settlement Area (2009) to reflect the core range of the herds; C. Boundary for Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula (I/BC/08) adjusted south to use north of Diamond Lake Trail as landmark (2009); D. Current management areas since 2014; I/BC/07 reduced in size along I/BC/06 boundary.⁶

⁶ Nagy, J.A., L. Johnson, N.C. Larter, M.W. Campbell, A.E. Derocher, A. Kelly, M. Dumond, D. Allaire and B. Croft. 2011. Subpopulation structure of caribou (*Rangifer tarandus* L.) in arctic and subarctic Canada. *Ecological Applications*, 21(6): 2334–2348.

In 2007, harvesting was closed in I/BC/07 and G/BC/02 based on recommendations from the WMAC (NWT) and the GRRB. Harvesting in I/BC/08 was closed seasonally 15 April to 15 June to allow the Cape Bathurst herd to migrate to the calving grounds.

In 2009, the boundary between the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula area (I/BC/08) and Cape Bathurst area (I/BC/07) was moved south to the Diamond Lake Trail (Figure 8C) to make it simpler for harvesters to identify the zone boundary out on the land. At the same time, the seasonal closure was extended to 1 April to protect migrating Cape Bathurst caribou.

In 2014/15, the eastern boundary of I/BC/07 was moved to Husky Lakes (Figure 8D); the adjustment of the Bluenose-West zone meant that it now included some of the range of the Cape Bathurst and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herds as well as Bluenose-West range. Concerns were raised by the GRRB that tags originally issued as part of a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for Bluenose-West caribou are now being used in an area with Cape Bathurst caribou, and this could be impacting the Cape Bathurst herd. The Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herd has also started coming into expanded area of I/BC/06 in the winter, where the tags can be used. It is difficult to tell what herd harvested animals in this expanded area of the I/BC/06 zone are from; Cape Bathurst, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and some Bluenose-West all use this expanded area. Data reported to ENR for 2015/16 showed 117 tags possibly used with 81 (27 males, 49 females) taken in this expanded area. The change in the boundary may increase the pressure on the Cape Bathurst and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herds, while decreasing the harvest of Bluenose-West caribou.

The season for the I/BC/06 tags has changed over time. Originally the season was set at 1 July - 30 June. In 2010, the season changed to 1 Sept - 31 August and in 2013, to 1 Oct - 30 Sept. This was done to allow Paulatuk more time to harvest with unused tags reallocated to them from other ISR communities. With the change of the boundary, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk have been using more of their tags but due to the season start date, in October when the bulls are in the rut, the harvest has been focused on cows. The cow harvest, likely mostly Cape Bathurst and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula caribou, needs to be reduced for conservation of the herds. There is a WMAC (NWT) recommendation to change the season start date back to 1 July to target more bulls.

Predator Populations

Harvesters in Tuktoyaktuk say they are seeing more bears, eagles and wolves in recent years. There was also an observation from around Horton River in the late 1990s, when caribou numbered roughly 25,000, that grizzly bears would stampede into the herd and catch young caribou in the summer. The Nihtat RRC (Inuvik) commented that where there are caribou there will be wolves, and programs that pay for wolf carcasses can help keep their numbers down.

ENR collects samples from wolves harvested by hunters in the Inuvik Region; samples are mostly from the winter season, when wolves tend to be hunted. The average annual harvest of wolves is 31, ranging from 20 to 47 wolves per year. Of all the Inuvik region mainland wolf

samples submitted with stomach contents, 68% of the stomach contents was caribou. These data are shown in Figures 9 and 10. ENR is now looking at a more long term analysis using stable isotopes, which will provide information on more than just wolves' most recent meal (e.g., can get more information about wolves' year-round diet).

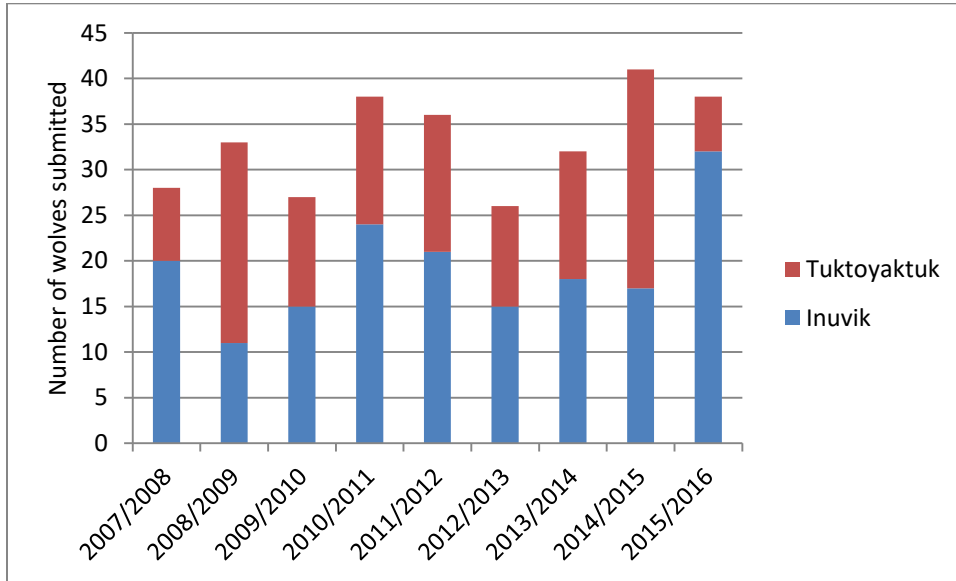


Figure 9: Number of wolf carcasses/samples submitted to ENR by Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik hunters, 2007-2016.

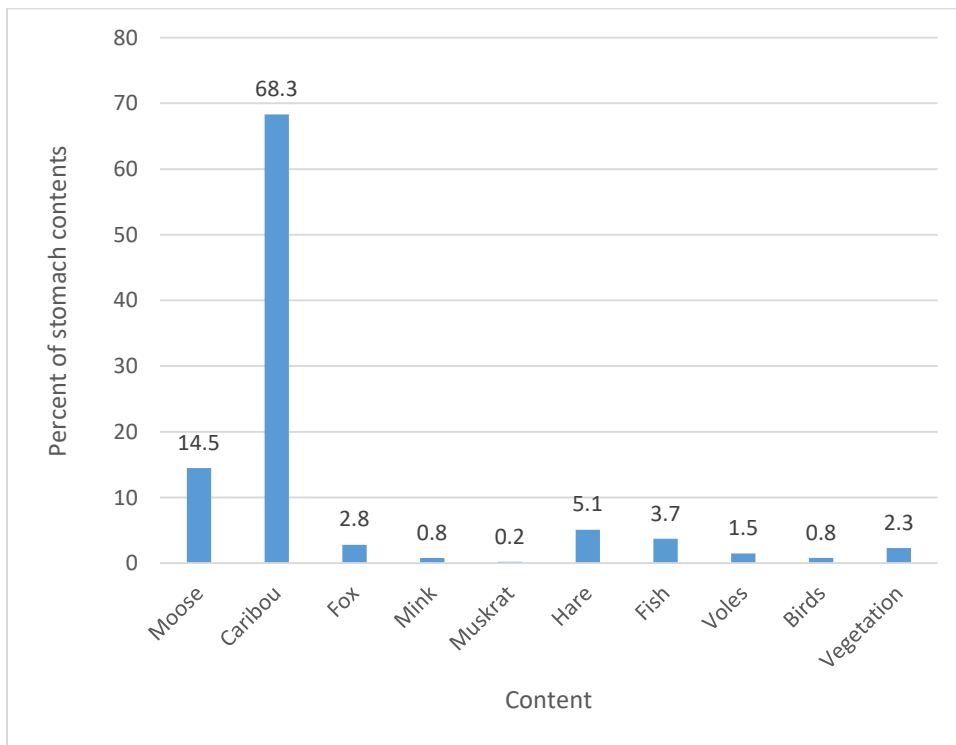


Figure 10: Results for stomach content analysis from wolf carcasses submitted by mainland communities, Inuvik Region, 2006-2010.

Range and movement patterns

Community information

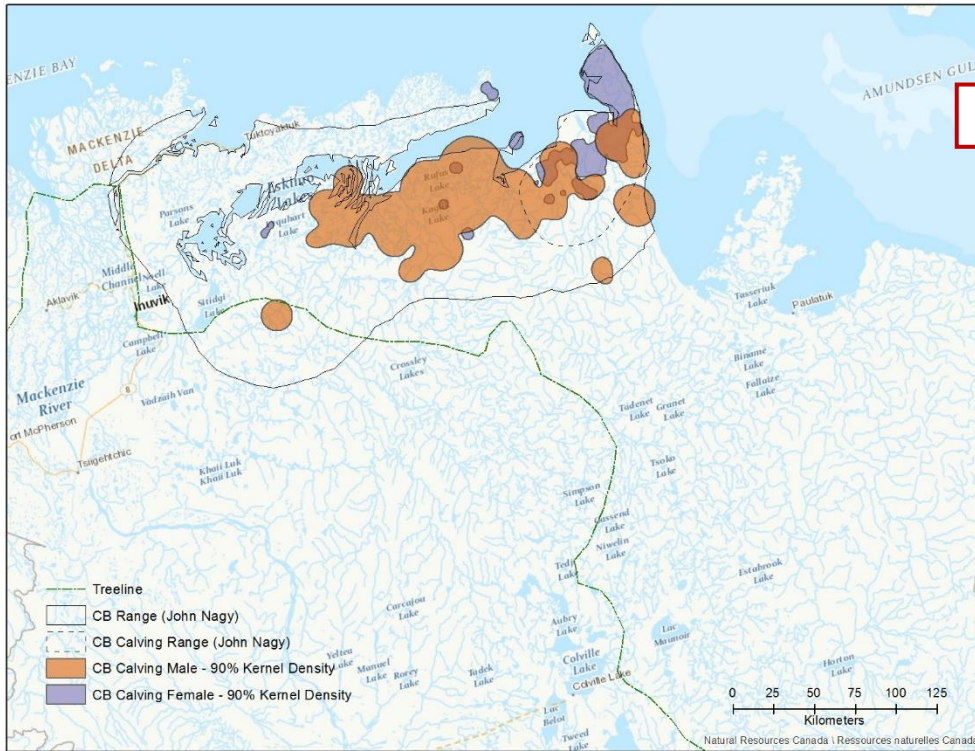
There were several comments on range and movement patterns noted from harvesters in Tuktoyaktuk:

- High numbers of caribou were seen in spring (May) travelling steady
- At Old Man Lake there is a high number of caribou in March; this is a place where the caribou are seen moving east, on their way to the calving grounds, and bulls come through the area later than cows
- The spring migration was much later than usual
- Tuktoyaktuk harvesters saw bulls come in late and in bigger bunches (e.g., Jul/Aug, groups of ~30). People are usually coming back from harvesting at end of September, but bulls were just coming in at that time (this is a shift in the timing of bull arrival)
- Caribou don't have a path like they used to; harvesters would follow those trails
- Due to low numbers of trappers there were no packed trails for caribou to follow
- Additional comment: Prior to 1969/70, there were no caribou in area south of Liverpool Bay; people used to have to go east of Anderson River. Elder (now 91) observed to IGC that there was a 50-60 year cycle in caribou populations
- Additional comment: On Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, there are still observations of reindeer and caribou mixing (hybrids)
- Additional comment: During the month of April a harvester spent time hunting muskox between Cape Bathurst and Anderson River and observed caribou moving out of the tree line and crossing Husky Lakes on their migration north to the calving ground
- Additional comment: People also noted caribou used to go right across to the Mackenzie River (1980s/90s) but they are now about a quarter of what they used to be
- Additional comment: later freeze-up may affect migration routes.

Gwich'in harvesters reported to the Nihtat RRC in Inuvik that 25-30 years ago caribou used to come to Water Lake, and numbers that high have not been seen since. Around Sitidgi Lake, the caribou tend to stay within the treeline.

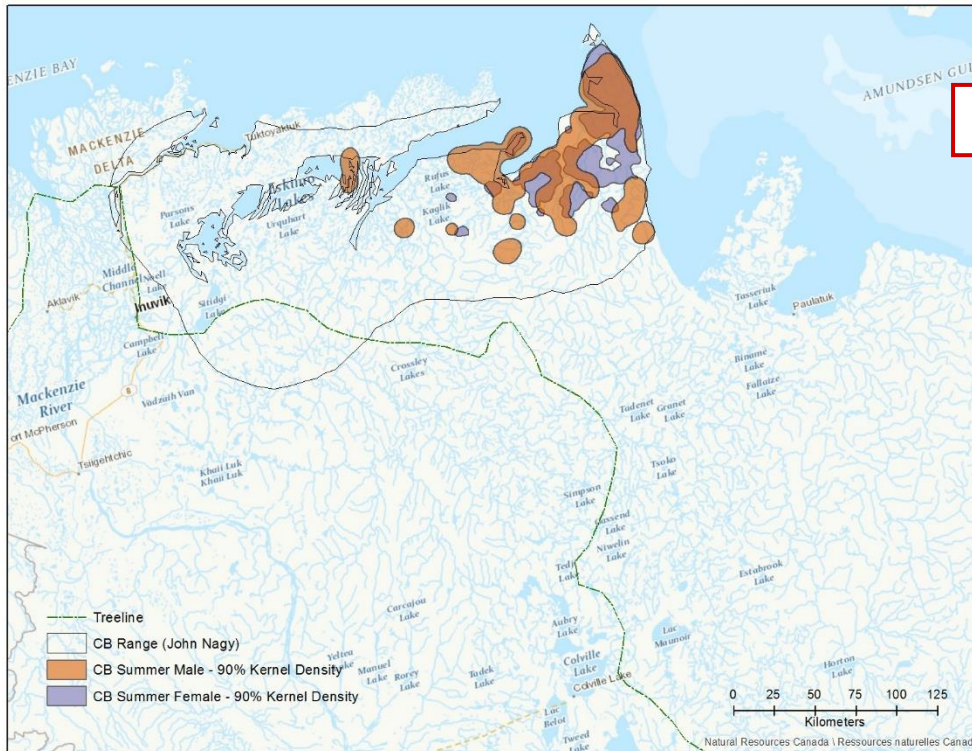
Scientific information

Updated seasonal range maps were presented using collar data from bulls and cows, 2009 to 2015. These maps are included in Figures 11 through 15.



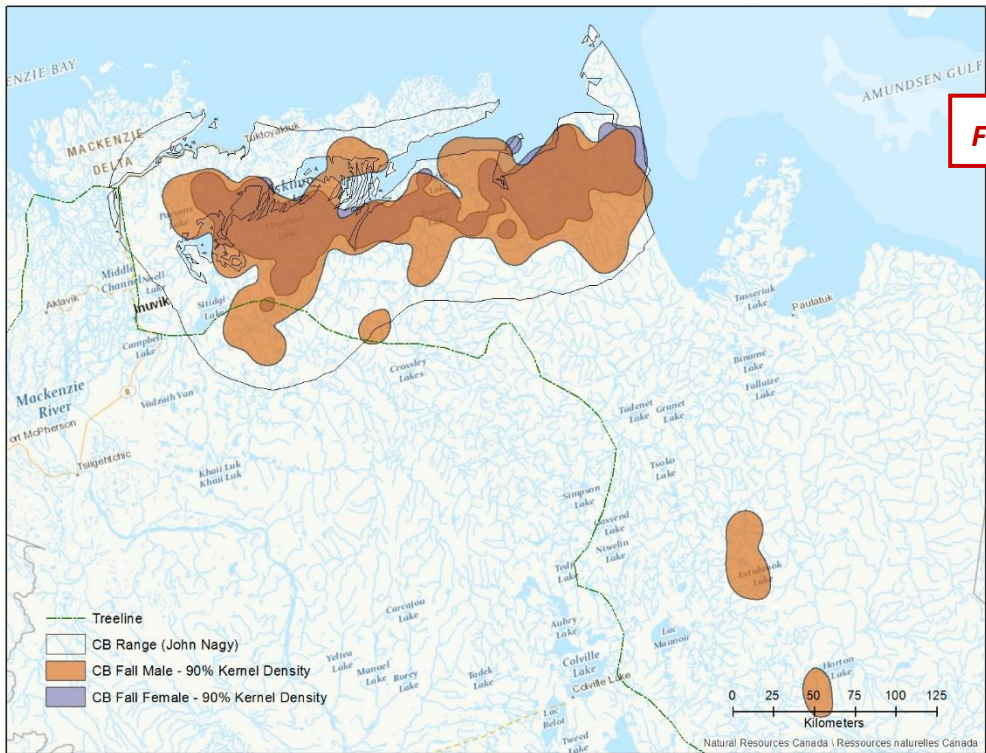
Calving

Figure 12: Cape Bathurst caribou movement patterns during calving (May 26-Jun.16) based on collared cows and bulls, 2009-2015, 90% Kernel Density polygons.



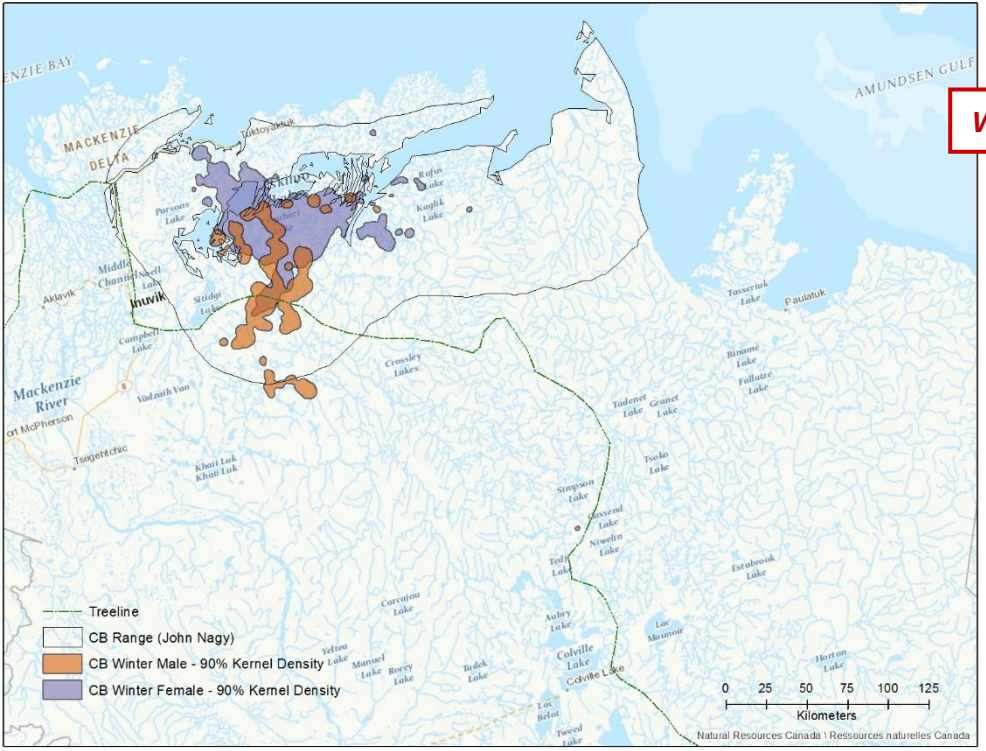
Summer

Figure 11: Cape Bathurst caribou movement patterns during summer (Jun. 17-Aug. 22) based on collared cows and bulls, 2009-2015, 90% Kernel Density polygons.



Fall

Figure 13: Cape Bathurst caribou movement patterns during fall (Aug. 23-Dec. 5) based on collared cows and bulls, 2009-2015, 90% Kernel Density polygons.



Winter

Figure 14: Cape Bathurst caribou movement patterns during winter (Dec. 6-Apr. 14) based on collared cows and bulls, 2009-2015, 90% Kernel Density polygons.

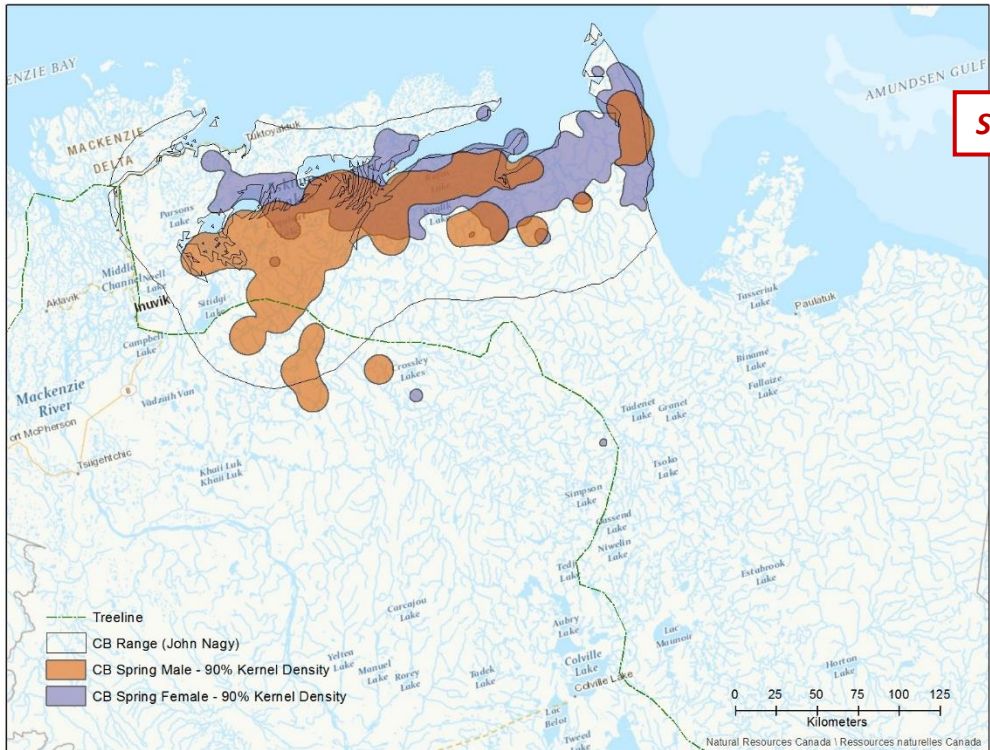


Figure 15: Cape Bathurst caribou movement patterns during spring (Apr. 15-May 25) based on collared cows and bulls, 2009-2015, 90% Kernel Density polygons.

Over-all, the scientific information indicates the following:

- During calving period cows and bulls use different range
- Summer range – cows and bulls tend to be more mixed and found in same areas
- During fall migration there is little difference in the movements of cows and bulls, although bulls will go further south
- There are some differences in winter range used between cows and bulls; bulls tend to be farther south
- In spring there is a lot of overlap with some differences; cows are generally ahead of the bulls.

Cape Bathurst caribou tend to winter together with the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herd in recent years. However, the collar data showed a high fidelity of cows to calving grounds: 84 of 88 cows (95.4%) returned to the Cape Bathurst calving ground between 2010 and 2015; no caribou moved between the Cape Bathurst and Bluemose-West calving grounds but there was three Cape Bathurst caribou that moved to Tuktoyaktuk peninsula calving grounds and four Tuktoyaktuk peninsula caribou that moved to the Cape Bathurst calving grounds.

Environment and habitat

In preparation for this meeting, in the ISR, Tuktoyaktuk harvesters reported several changes in the environment that they are witnessing that may be affecting caribou:

- Creeks are staying open longer
- Winter is not as cold and damp
- Summer is a lot cooler and there are more northeast winds
- There is not much snow – so some hunters cannot reach usual areas
- Additional comment: later freeze-up may affect migration routes. During early freeze-up historically, there used to be lots of caribou that would get caught at Liverpool Bay area that would break through the ice and drown.

ENR is not conducting any direct caribou research in the Cape Bathurst herd's range that would be similar to Parks Canada work in the Bluenose-West range, but results from other researchers doing vegetation studies indicate similar increases in shrub cover.

Human disturbance

Scientists and community members alike identified the construction and operation of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway through Cape Bathurst winter range as the main human disturbance affecting this herd. The Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans (WWHPP; both Construction and Operations versions) are meant to identify potential impacts and the monitoring and mitigations needed to reduce those impacts. Recently ENR and the Department of Transportation met with the Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk HTC's for input in developing a WWHPP for operation of the highway. Potential mitigations include posting signs or changing speed limits, or even closing the highway if there is significant migration happening. This work continues.

The Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan (WEMP) was developed to implement programs designed to assess if the predictions of the impacts of the highway on wildlife made during the Environmental Assessment were correct. Under the WEMP, ENR has been working with a statistician to analyze the baseline data from collared caribou. The caribou are collared to complete population estimate work, however, some collars were replaced by a GPS collar model that has a geofence that is activated when the caribou are within a buffer around the highway (providing more locations per day near the highway). The goal is to determine if the road construction and operation create a measureable zone of influence for the road and if caribou have measureable changes in movement patterns and rates of movements near the highway. This information can be used for adaptive management for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway, and also applied to future road developments.

Additional research is happening to monitor effects of the road on permafrost.

The Nihtat RRC (Inuvik) identified community concerns about increased human activity along the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway and resulting increased access to Husky Lakes, as well as the change of the I/BC/06 boundary; any increased activity in that area may push the caribou further away and cause them to stay in the trees for protection. The Cape Bathurst animals are observed to react quickly to harvester presence – this may be a reaction to previous

experiences with being harassed or chased. Because caribou adapt, they may learn to avoid these disturbances and go to the 500 Lakes area east of Husky Lakes.

In the ISR, Tuktoyaktuk harvesters noted that the highway construction caused caribou to turn back east (due to road steepness, equipment, traffic, etc.) and in summer the caribou won't move onto or across the road. There are worries that they have changed their migration due to road construction. Additional comments raised at the 2016 status meeting by ISR representatives included:

- Caribou may not move off the road once on it
- When researchers survey they cause the caribou to spread apart, causing the harvesters to use more gas to hunt
- Freeing of the barge, currently mired on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, in the near future may cause very high disturbance
- Low-flying aircraft – especially helicopters – are always an issue and disturb caribou.

There was a suggestion that the monitoring actions should consider surveys at different times/seasons.

Background to post-calving survey methods

The post-calving ground survey method is used to obtain a population estimate for the Cape Bathurst herd. The first survey of this kind was done in 1986. Radio-collars are deployed on caribou in March throughout the caribou range. These collars are then used to find groups of caribou in July during post-calving. On hot days with little wind when the bugs are harassing the caribou, the caribou will form large groups on the tundra. These groups are photographed from a small airplane and the number of 1+ year old caribou can be counted on the photographs.

There are two different methods to calculate a population estimate and the associated confidence interval using the information collected from the post-calving survey: Lincoln-Peterson and Rinvest. Both methods use the number of collars and the number of caribou counted on the photographs in their estimate calculations. The Lincoln-Peterson method adjusts the number of caribou counted on the photographs by a ratio of collars deployed to collars located during the survey. If all collars are found, the population estimate remains the minimum count as it assumes all animals can be located near a collared caribou. The Rinvest method takes into account the probability of finding a group based on group size and number of collars; this method will always result in an estimate higher than the minimum count.

Switching population estimates: from the Lincoln-Petersen to the Rinvest method

Estimates from both population estimation methods have been included here for comparison purposes, however ENR and the boards agreed at the 2016 meeting that the Rinvest is the preferred estimation method. In the past, the Lincoln-Petersen method had consistently been used to estimate the population size of the Bluenose-West herd. In the future, the Lincoln-

Peterson estimate will also be provided. There are several reasons for switching to the Rigest method, including:

- Other jurisdictions are using Rigest estimates to estimate population size
- The Rigest method always provides confidence intervals
- The Lincoln-Peterson method tends to have a bias towards low estimates
- Larger Confidence Intervals resulting from the Rigest method may be more realistic measures of uncertainty; the Lincoln-Peterson method may not represent actual uncertainty.

It is important to note that under ideal survey conditions, where there is adequate grouping of animals and most or all collars are found, the two methods produce very similar estimates.

Table 3: Criteria used to assess Cape Bathurst herd status in 2016.⁷

Criteria	Community-Based Information ⁸	Scientific Information	Comments
Population Size	<p>Inuvialuit: Tuktoyaktuk community members think the herd size is low. In 1997, they considered the herd size low and it was about 20,000-25,000 caribou. People also noted caribou used to go right across to the Mackenzie River (1980s/90s) but they are now about a quarter of what they used to be</p> <p>Gwich'in/Nihtat RRC (Inuvik): 25-30 years ago caribou used to come to Water Lake; haven't seen numbers that high since then. Via unofficial survey completed by local pilot (in 1970), population thought to be 100,000. They took 5-6 days to cross the river near Husky Lakes and Sitidgi Lake (prior to separation into three herds).</p>	<p>Number of adult caribou at least 1.5 years old in 2015: LP: 2,259 ± 84 (95% CI) Rivest: 2,524 ± 284 (95% CI)</p>	<p>ENR data estimated based on July post-calving ground surveys.</p>
Population trend and rate of change	<p>Inuvialuit: *Additional comment: Elder (now 91) observed to IGC that there was a 50-60 year cycle</p>	<p>20% annual rate of decrease 1989 to 2015 but stable between 2005 and 2015</p>	<p>Previous LP Estimates 2012: 2,427 2009: 1,934 ± 350 (95% CI) 2006: 1,751 ± 226 (95% CI) 2005: 2,434 ± 257 (95% CI) 2000: 11,089 ± 1,756 (95% CI)</p> <p>No significant recovery since 2005 when management actions initiated</p>
Productivity and recruitment	<p>Inuvialuit: Many Tuktoyaktuk harvesters have seen a lot of calves lately; twins have been observed</p> <p>*Additional comment: a lot of calves were observed on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the last two years as well as many twins</p>	<p>Number of calves per 100 cows in 2016: = 54.5 ± 1.8 (95% CI)</p>	<p>ENR annual recruitment survey (except in years population estimate is done). Result is for Tuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst combined, as caribou are mixed during survey period</p>

⁷ This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status in 2016, and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in *Taking Care of Caribou*. Appendix D in this document provides links to specific management action items for each of these criteria.

⁸ Community-based information noted as "Additional comment" and marked with an asterisk (*) was documented during the 2016 status meeting, and not by the regional processes described in earlier sections of this plan (see *Information use in the 2016 status decision*).

Criteria	Community-Based Information	Scientific Information	Comments
Adult composition	Inuvialuit: In Tuktoyaktuk bulls came in late and in bigger bunches (e.g., Jul/Aug in groups of ~30). People are usually coming back from harvesting at the end of September, but the bulls are just coming in	Number of bulls per 100 cows in 2015: = 43 ± 4.6 (SE)	ENR composition surveys. Result is for Tuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst combined, as caribou are mixed during survey period
Body condition and health	Inuvialuit: In Tuktoyaktuk no sick caribou have been seen; animals have been pretty healthy compared to 15 years ago (when there were a lot of lumps and ribs were visible). Climate change can be a cause for improved health, as it has been very easy on them. Caribou may be fatter from running less, due to fewer bugs over last couple years due to cooler temperatures	Condition of both bulls and cows was on average 'fair' in the 2015/16 harvest season. Average back fat in 2015/16 season was 2.7 cm for cows and 1 cm for bulls	Scientific information based on harvester reported samples for Tuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst herds. Condition information was reported for 57 cows and 27 bulls, back fat information was reported for 65 cows and 30 bulls in 2015/16 seasons
Harvest levels	Gwich'in/Nihtat RRC (Inuvik): There used to be a commercial harvest of these caribou (25-30 years ago) when numbers were way up. There are current concerns about impacts of Bluenose-West tags on this herd	I/BC/07 is a closed zone for Cape Bathurst Estimated 117 tags used in Tuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst area in 2015/16	In 2014/15 the I/BC/06 area was enlarged and now includes some of the winter range of the Tuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst herds. Some of the I/BC/06 tags are now being used on these herds
Predator populations	Inuvialuit Tuktoyaktuk: More bears, eagles, and wolves are being seen *Additional comment: Back in late 1990's on Horton River Dew Line clean-up, caribou were ~25,000; grizzlies observed to stampede into the herd and catch young caribou in summer Gwich'in/Nihtat RRC (Inuvik): Where there are caribou there will be wolves. Paying for carcasses of wolves can help keep wolf numbers down	Yearly harvest of wolves is 20 to 47 wolves (average 31). 68% of wolves stomach content analyzed was caribou	ENR collects samples from wolves harvested in the Inuvik Region

Criteria	Community-Based Information	Scientific Information	Comments
<p>Range and movement patterns</p>	<p>Inuvialuit: In Tuktoyaktuk high numbers of caribou were seen in spring (May) traveling steady. At Old Man Lake there is a high number of caribou (March). Bulls came in late and in bigger bunches (e.g., Jul/Aug, groups of ~30). Caribou don't have a path like they used to; harvesters would follow those trails. Due to low numbers of trappers there were no packed trails for caribou to follow. Elder (now 91) observed to IGC that there was a 50-60 year cycle.</p> <p>*Additional comment: Prior to 1969/70, there were no caribou in area south of Liverpool Bay. Used to have to go east of Anderson River.</p> <p>*Additional comments: on Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, there are still observations of reindeer and caribou mixing (hybrids). During month of April a harvester spent time hunting muskox between Cape Bathurst and Anderson River and observed caribou moving out of the tree line and crossing Husky Lakes on their migration north to the calving ground. People also noted caribou used to go right across to the Mackenzie River (1980s/90s) but they are now about a quarter of what they used to be.</p> <p>Gwich'in/Nihtat RRC (Inuvik): 25-30 years ago caribou used to come to Water Lake; haven't seen numbers that high since then. In 1970 they took 5-6 days to cross the river near Husky Lakes and Sitidgi Lake. Around Sitidgi Lake, the caribou tend to stay within the treeline.</p>	<p>Updated seasonal range maps presented at status meeting showed a high fidelity of cows to calving grounds – 84 of 88 cows (95.4%) returned to the Cape Bathurst calving ground (2010-2015), as well as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During calving period cows and bulls use different range. • Summer range – cows and bulls tend to be more mixed and found in same areas • During fall migration there is little difference in the movements of cows and bulls, although bulls will go further south <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some differences in winter range used between cows and bulls; bulls tend to be farther south • In spring there is a lot of overlap with some differences; cows generally ahead of the bulls 	

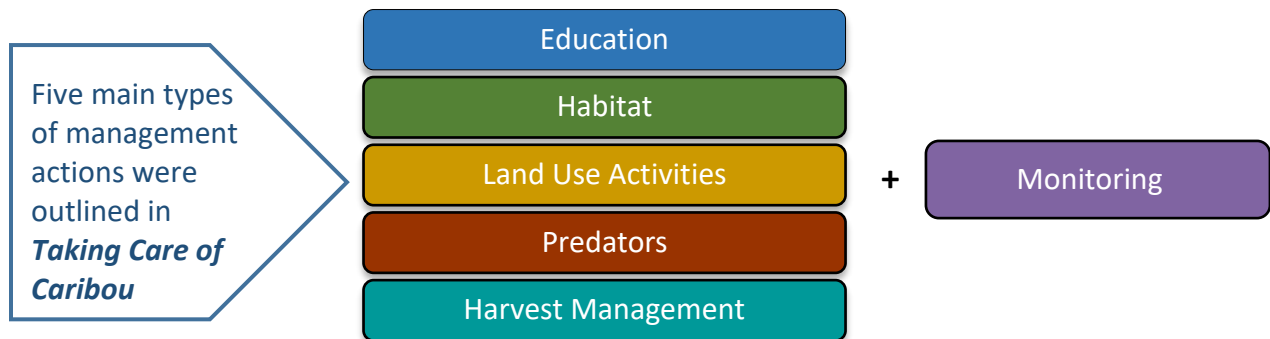
Criteria	Community-Based Information	Scientific Information	Comments
<p>Environment and habitat</p>	<p>Inuvialuit: Tuktoyaktuk reports creeks stay open longer; winter is not as cold and damp; summer is a lot cooler and there are more northeast winds. There is not much snow – so some hunters cannot reach usual areas</p> <p>*Additional comment: later freeze-up observed may affect migration routes. Early freeze up historically - there used to be lots of caribou that would get caught at Liverpool Bay area that would break through the ice and drown</p>	<p>ENR is not conducting any direct caribou research in the Cape Bathurst herd's range that would be similar to Parks Canada work in the Bluenose-West range, but results from other researchers doing vegetation studies indicate similar increases in shrub cover.</p>	

Criteria	Community-Based Information	Scientific Information	Comments
<p>Human disturbance</p>	<p>Inuvialuit: Tuktoyaktuk reports that low-flying aircraft – especially helicopters – are always an issue and disturb caribou. Highway construction caused caribou to turn back east (due to road steepness, equipment, traffic, etc.). This summer the caribou won't move onto/across the road. They have changed their migration due to road construction.</p> <p>*Additional comments: caribou may not move off the road once on it. When researchers count they cause the caribou to spread apart causing the harvesters to use more gas to hunt. Concerns about freeing of the (mired) barge in the near future may cause very high disturbance.</p> <p>Gwich'in: Nihtat RRC (Inuvik) Cape Bathurst herd reacts quickly to harvester presence. Concerns about this resulting from being harassed or chased. There are concerns about impact of Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway and change of the I/BC/06 boundary to the herd. Caribou adapt and may learn to avoid it and may go to the 500 Lakes area east of Husky Lakes. There are also concerns about increased human activity along this highway to access Husky Lakes which may push caribou further away. Around Sitidgi Lake, the caribou may stay in the trees; this may be for protection.</p>	<p>The Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway currently under construction goes through Cape Bathurst winter range</p>	

Red Status Management Actions for Cape Bathurst Caribou

Management actions described in *Taking Care of Caribou* fall into five main categories: *Education*, *Habitat*, *Land Use Activities*, *Predators* and *Harvest Management*.

We have included a sixth category here to capture the *Monitoring* actions that were also identified in the Management Plan. Monitoring is a key part of learning and assessing the success of management actions. For the most part, monitoring actions differ from management actions as they are not as dependent on herd status – they are ongoing in many cases, but their frequency or intensity may change with changing status.



To make it easier to find specific information for each of these action categories they have been colour-coded throughout this document.

Different actions are often required depending on whether a herd's status is determined to be green, yellow, orange or red. A table summarizing appropriate management actions for all status levels as agreed to in *Taking Care of Caribou* is included in **Appendix E**. As the status of the Cape Bathurst herd is **red (low)**, each of the bulleted actions outlined for red status in that table has now been developed into a series of specific tasks in the **Management Actions Table** of this Action Plan. Links between monitoring criteria and relevant actions are provided in **Appendix D**.

Because most activities under *Education* and *Habitat* require very long-term approaches to be effective, the suggested management actions remain the same no matter the status of the herd. For actions in the *Land Use Activities*, *Predators*, and *Harvest Management* categories to be responsive to different phases of the population cycle, different actions are required depending on a herd's status – for example, when setting a herd Total Allowable Harvest (see **Appendix F** for an explanation of how allocations and the Total Allowable Harvest for a herd are set).

Management Actions Table for Cape Bathurst Caribou: Red Status

Following principles laid out in *Taking Care of Caribou*, all actions and tasks described in this table will draw upon both community-based knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and scientific information. The ACCWM recognizes that documenting and using traditional knowledge is a priority for all member boards.

A. Education ⁹				
A – 1. Develop education strategy <i>Objective – address community concerns regarding a lack of education (see various themes identified in Taking Care of Caribou) and clarify an approach</i>				
Task	Partners ¹⁰	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level ¹¹
A.1.1 Strike an Education and Communication Working Group	ACCWM and government partners ¹²	Education and Communication Working Group meeting	2017/18	Top
A.1.2 Develop a Terms of Reference	ACCWM Working Group	Finalized TOR, approved by ACCWM	2017/18	Top
A.1.3 Determine existing materials, programs, gaps, and opportunities for collaboration	Education and Communication Working Group	List of existing materials and programs, and opportunities for collaboration	2017/18	Top
A.1.4 Engage community organizations ¹³ for input on educational strategy	Education and Communication Working Group,	Summary of input / guidance from	2017/18	Top

⁹ Education specific to industrial land uses is dealt with in section C – Land Use Activities (C.3.1 and C.3.2).

¹⁰ Potential partners have been identified for individual tasks. Leads on tasks may vary, and will be determined at a later date.

¹¹ While the ACCWM member boards feel that most of the management actions included here have a high priority, only those tasks and actions that call for immediate attention have been given a priority and deliverable deadline to date. These actions/tasks are categorized as ‘Top’ priority in the table. Further prioritization work (i.e., assigning High, Medium or Low priorities and deliverable dates to the remaining actions/tasks) will be done at a later date. Because the Cape Bathurst harvest is closed, no Harvest Management actions or tasks were identified as a priority in this action plan.

¹² Potential government partners include: GNWT, GN, PCA, TG and other Aboriginal Governments.

¹³ Throughout this document, “Engage community organizations” means that the member boards of the ACCWM will decide in any circumstance whether the community perspective is adequately represented within each boards’ discussions, or whether a further process of community/community organizations’ engagement is necessary.

	with assistance from ACCWM	communities and related revisions		
A.1.5 Develop educational strategy, allowing for regional differences	Education and Communication Working Group	Document outlining strategy	2017/18	Top
A.1.6 ACCWM reviews educational strategy and provides advice to member boards ¹⁴ for approval	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	2017/18	Top
A.1.7 Implementation of educational strategy	Member boards, government partners and regional partners ¹⁵	Summary report	Apr 2017 and onwards	Top
A – 2. Develop education materials <i>Objective – address community concerns regarding a lack of education on sustainable and respectful use, as well as caribou ecology</i>				
A.2.1 Develop draft materials based on results of A.1.3 and A.1.4	Education and Communication Working Group	Draft education materials	2017/18	Top
A.2.2 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	2017/18	Top
A.2.3 Revise and distribute materials		Send finalized educational materials	2017/18	Top
A – 3. Community education events / programs <i>Objective – address community concerns regarding a lack of education on sustainable and respectful use, as well as caribou ecology. Limit wounding loss and improve identification of individual caribou.</i>				
A.3.1 Develop events / programs based on results of A.1.3 and A.1.4	Education and Communication Working Group, with assistance from ACCWM WG and regional partners	Develop 1-3 workshop curricula / programs		

ACCWM member boards have discretion as to what community organizations are engaged and how the engagement takes place.

¹⁴ Throughout this Action Plan, the term ‘member boards’ refers to the six boards which are members of the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM), including the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board, ʔehdzo Got’jñę Gots’ę Nákedi (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board), Wek’èezhii Renewable Resources Board, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, and Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board.

¹⁵ Regional partners, which vary significantly by region, may include individual community members, community organizations, such as RRCs/HTCs/HTOs, and regional organizations.

A.3.2 Engage community organizations regarding type and timing of workshops in each region	Education and Communication Working Group, with assistance from ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions		
A.3.3 Deliver workshops / events	Education and Communication Working Group, with community organizations and government partners	Minimum target: delivery of one workshop / event per region, per year		
A.3.4 Hold sight in your rifle events		Minimum target: delivery of one workshop / event per region, per year	Ongoing	
A – 4. School and youth education events / programs <i>Objective – address community concerns regarding need for education and engagement of youth. Increase knowledge transfer between elders and youth</i>				
A.4.1 Adapt education materials (developed in A – 2) for school use (at elementary and high school levels)	Education and Communication Working Group	Education packages for community agency / organization use		
A.4.2 Adapt community education programs / events (developed in A – 3) for use in school and youth-focused settings appropriate for each community and region (e.g., back to the land camps)		Draft youth-focused workshop curricula / programs		
A.4.3 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and program delivery		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions		
A.4.4 Program delivery	Community groups / agencies	Minimum target: delivery of one workshop / event per region, per year		
A.4.5 Encourage and promote hunter mentorship – develop programs	Community groups / agencies, with schools	Minimum target: delivery of one workshop / event per region, per year		

B. Habitat

B – 1. Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas

Objective – address community concerns that key habitat areas are not protected sufficiently

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level
B.1.1 Compile and review ENR Technical Report, SARC BGC Status report, land use plans, results of monitoring programs, etc. for information	Government partners and ACCWM WG	Compilation of existing materials	2017/18	Top
B.1.2 Engage community organizations for identification of key habitat areas	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	2017/18	Top
B.1.3 Identify key habitat areas in a sensitive habitat report based on information from B.1.1 and B.1.2	Government partners and ACCWM WG	Provide report to ACCWM, including draft maps of key areas	2017/18	Top
B.1.4 ACCWM reviews sensitive habitat report and provides advice to member boards for approval	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	2017/18	Top
B.1.5 Member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided	2017/18	Top

B – 2. Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat

Objective – ensure research and monitoring programs are relevant and addressing current information needs for habitat management

B.2.1 Map and track landscape disturbances	Government partners	Compilation map		
B.2.2 Identify and review recent relevant information (e.g., including results from research, monitoring; see C – Land Use Activities, also F – Monitoring Actions)	ACCWM WG and government partners, academics	Summary report	Every year before annual status meeting	
B.2.3 Identify and / or review any gaps or previous gaps assessments		List of gaps identified		
B.2.4 Seek collaborators to help refine research questions and knowledge gaps		Advice included / received from collaborators		
B.2.5 ACCWM reviews information and provides advice	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards		

for research and monitoring based on information from B.2.1- B.2.4				
B.2.6 Member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided		
B – 3. Recommend important habitat as a ‘value at risk’ for forest fire management <i>Objective – ensure sufficient winter habitat for caribou</i>				
B.3.1 Based on results of B – 1 and as results of B – 2 are available, provide advice to member boards on values at risk	ACCWM	Key areas identified for fire management and advice provided to member boards		
B.3.2 Member boards make and communicate recommendations to fire management	Member boards	Recommendations provided		

C. Land use activities				
C – 1. Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs <i>Objective – ensure cumulative effects monitoring programs are operational and relevant</i>				
Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level
C.1.1 Building on work done in Habitat (B – 2), identify and review recent relevant information (e.g., CIMP, ENR, DOE)	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report		
C.1.2 Identify and / or review any gaps or previous gaps assessments		List of gaps identified. Collation of previous gap assessments		
C.1.3 ACCWM reviews information and provides advice for research and monitoring based on information from C.1.1 - C.1.2	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards		
C.1.4 Member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided		
C – 2. Work directly with proponents and regulators of exploration and development activities to advise on mitigation measures <i>Objective – minimize industrial impacts to caribou and their habitat</i>				

C.2.1 Identify parties involved in industrial activities on a herd's range (e.g., regulators, proponents and active developers)	ACCWM WG and other relevant agencies / partners (e.g., Land and Water Boards, ILA)	List of regulators, proponents, active developers		
C.2.2 Engage community organizations to identify land use concerns and how they should be addressed. Engage with regulators to identify any existing protocols	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities and current regulatory protocols		
C.2.3 Identify and / or develop mitigating advice and / or recommendations, targeted to specific audiences, including standards provided in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i> (Appendix G)	ACCWM WG, regional and government partners	Recommendations provided		
C.2.4 ACCWM reviews information and advises member boards	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards		
C.2.5 Member boards make and communicate recommendations to proponents (including air carriers and other subcontractors) and regulators, including updates on herd status and sensitive habitat report	Member boards	Recommendations provided; results of C.2.2 and herd status provided		
C.2.6. Using information provided in C.2.1 – C.2.5 member boards maintain direct involvement in the development and implementation of WWHPPs and WEMPs and mitigation	Member boards	Development of WWHPPs and WEMPs		
<p>C – 3. Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all, including proponents and airlines <i>Objective – address concerns regarding land use activities impacting caribou habitat, and a lack of information on best practices / mitigating advice</i></p>				
C.3.1 Develop and / or adapt existing education packages specific to proponents, regulators, air carriers and any other users not already covered by actions in A – Education and C – 1 and C – 2 (recreational, traffic)	Education and Communication Working Group	Draft materials		

C.3.2 Communicate educational materials developed in C.3.1		Finalized materials sent out		
C – 4. Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors ¹⁶ <i>Objective – evaluate and track effectiveness of enforcement, and ensure community monitoring programs have a role in supporting application of land use regulations</i>				
C.4.A.1 Identify relevant agencies involved in inspection, enforcement and monitoring	ACCWM WG and other relevant agencies / partners (e.g., Land and Water Boards, ILA)	List of relevant agencies and regulations	2017/18	Top
C.4.A.2 Compile and review acts / regulations and current inspection and / or enforcement strategies and levels	ACCWM WG and regional partners	Summary report	2017/18	Top
C.4.A.3 Engage community organizations regarding enforcement approaches	ACCWM WG	Summary of input and guidance	2017/18	Top
C.4.A.4 Based on information from C.4.A.2 and C.4.A.3, assess enforcement, and provide advice about increased inspection or enforcement and / or regulation changes as required	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	2017/18	Top
C.4.A.5 If and as required, member boards provide recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided	2017/18	Top
C.4.B.1 Compile and review information on capacity, roles and opportunities for community monitors. Include identification of existing programs	ACCWM WG and regional partners	Summary report	2017/18	Top
C.4.B.2 Engage community organizations regarding potential opportunities for community monitors	ACCWM WG	Summary of input and guidance	2017/18	Top
C.4.B.3 Provide advice and ensure that mitigating advice provided in (C.2.3) includes roles for	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	2017/18	Top

¹⁶ Enforcement is an action whereby delegated officers ensure compliance to an act of parliament or legislative assembly, or a regulation disseminated under an act where there is a sanction for failure to “comply” normally in the form of a fine or imprisonment. Monitoring is an action whereby community monitors (as described in this plan) observe and report on all aspects of land-use activities and wildlife management to the relevant agencies and/or regulators. A community monitor has no delegated legal authority.

community monitors where appropriate				
C.4.B.4 If and as required, member boards provide recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided	2017/18	Top

D. Predators

D – 1. Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates
Objective – determine which predators impact caribou and the relative intensity of their impacts

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level
D.1.1 Gather, compile, review and present predator research and monitoring results to ACCWM (including community and scientific monitoring results)	ACCWM WG and government partners	Summary report	2017/18	Top
D.1.2 Engage community organizations to identify and prioritize research needs	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities	2017/18	Top
D.1.3 Identify and prioritize research needs based on information resulting from D.1.1 and D.1.2	ACCWM WG and government partners	Advice provided to ACCWM	2017/18	Top
D.1.4 ACCWM reviews and provides advice to member boards	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	2017/18	Top
D.1.5 Member boards recommend research priorities to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided	2017/18	Top

D – 2. Consider recommending options for predator management.

Objective – review information from all partners to determine whether predator management is a viable option

D.2.1 Compile results from research regarding predator management / control programs	ACCWM WG and government partners	Literature review		
D.2.2 Engage with other jurisdictions that have predator control experience		Information for summary report		
D.2.3 Identify jurisdictional / regional rules and regulations around predator management		List of existing regulations and rules		
D.2.4 Compile and review information from D.2.1-3		Summary report		

D.2.5 Engage community organizations regarding potential options for predator management		Summary of input / guidance from communities		
D.2.6 ACCWM provides advice to member boards regarding options for predator management	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards		
D.2.7 If justified, member boards recommend predator management tools to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided, if needed		

E. Harvest Management

E – 1. Resident, outfitter or commercial harvest remain closed¹⁷

Objective – limit licensed harvest to assist in herd recovery

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level
E.1.1 Based on results of discussions concerning a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and harvest ratios, member boards make and communicate recommendations to appropriate authorities	Member boards	Recommendations provided		

E – 2. Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction¹⁸

Objective – limit subsistence harvest to assist in herd recovery

E.2.A.1 Compile historical and current harvest information by region	Member boards and government partners	Summary documents		
E.2.A.2 Review information from preceding step with community organizations and advise regarding regional processes (e.g., public hearings)	Member boards and regional partners	Summary of input / guidance from communities		

¹⁷ The process differs in Nunavut, where the Land Claim Agreement (1993) specifies that an Inuk “shall have the right to dispose freely to any person any wildlife lawfully harvested. This includes the right to sell, barter, exchange and give either inside or outside the Nunavut Settlement Area” (5.7.30).

¹⁸ As strict conservation measures are needed areas with land claim agreements establish a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH). As circumstances require each ACCWM member (with the exception of the TNNPMB) will set the TAH for their region. When a herd is shared over land claim areas and/or areas without settled land claim agreements proportional allocations are set as to determine how the user groups will share the TAH.

E.2.A.3 Meetings to discuss and propose regional proportional allocations ¹⁹	Member boards and other traditional users	Provide percentages for inclusion in Action Plan		
E.2.B.1 Based on information presented at annual status meeting, ACCWM proposes a herd TAH and sex ratio	ACCWM	Proposed TAH and definition of majority bull harvest	Every year, following annual status meeting	
E.2.B.2 ACCWM advises member boards regarding the proposed herd TAH, based on E.2.B.1	ACCWM	Proposed TAH provided to member boards		
E.2.B.3 Each member board consults with communities on regional TAH as required by their respective land claim agreements (including public hearings as required by respective land claim agreements)	Member boards	Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions		
E.2.B.4 Boards recommend TAH to Minister		Recommendations provided		
E – 3. Prioritize the collection of harvest information (see F – 1. Develop harvest monitoring program) <i>Objective – record accurate harvest information</i>				
E.3.1 Assess status of harvest reporting programs (see F – Monitoring) and identify any roadblocks / challenges to success	ACCWM WG with government partners and regional partners	Review report of existing programs		
E.3.2 Based on E.2.B.1-3, work with communities / partners to identify what additional support or cooperation is needed, and how best to provide it		Regional workshops as required		
E.3.3 Adjust educational programming or communication plan if required (see A - Education)		Revised materials, as needed		
E – 4. Recommend harvest of alternate species and meat replacement programs, and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods <i>Objective – explore other species to harvest to reduce pressure on caribou</i>				
E.4.1 Based on available information, identify alternate species populations whose status allows increases in harvest	ACCWM WG with government partners	List and rationale of potential alternate species / populations		

¹⁹ The processes for determining Total Allowable Harvests and regional allocations are described in Appendix F.

E.4.2 Engage community organizations to determine regionally appropriate species / populations and options for meat replacement programs	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions		
E.4.3 Based on information resulting from E.4.1 and E.4.2, develop list of regionally appropriate alternate species for harvest and options for meat replacement programs		List of alternate species and meat replacement options		
E.4.4 ACCWM reviews list and provides advice to member boards	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards		
E.4.5 Member boards recommend alternate species populations and / or meat replacement programs to users. Collaborate with partners to recommend the development and funding of harvest or sharing programs (may include trade and barter, community hunts or freezers, etc.)	Member boards	Recommendations provided		
E.4.6 Adapt existing Communication Plan and educational materials to better promote use of alternate species and meat replacement programs (see A – Education and Appendix C)	Education and Communication Working Group	Draft communication plan and education materials		
E – 5. Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors (see footnote clarifying monitoring and enforcement responsibilities at C – 4). <i>Objective – maximize approaches and tools to ensure compliance of regulations</i>				
E.5.1 Identify relevant agencies involved in inspection, enforcement and monitoring, and prepare summary of regulations and policies they are operating from	ACCWM WG and other relevant agencies / partners (e.g., Land and Water Boards, ILA)	List of relevant agencies, regulations, and policies including summary	2017/18	Top
E.5.2 Engage community organizations and enforcement officers regarding enforcement approaches	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance	2017/18	Top
E.5.3 Assess if current enforcement approaches and	ACCWM WG and regional partners	Summary report	2017/18	Top

levels are adequate. Evaluate capacity, roles and opportunities (e.g., for community monitors)				
E.5.4 Based on information from E.5.1 - E.5.3, provide advice to member boards about increased enforcement and/or regulation changes as required	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	2017/18	Top
E.5.5 Member boards provide recommendations to government	Member boards	Recommendations provided	2017/18	Top
E.5.6 Engage partners to assist in training and implementing community monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Funding plan, training program	2017/18	Top

F. Monitoring

F – 1. Develop a comprehensive harvest reporting program

Objective – develop or adapt existing harvest reporting programs to collect and provide standardized harvest data from all regions

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level
F.1.1 Compile and review information on existing harvest reporting programs and develop minimum standards	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18	Top
F.1.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for harvest data collection		Summary report	2017/18	Top
F.1.3. Adapt harvest reporting programs based on information from F.1.1 and F.1.2. to standardize harvest data		Finalized harvest reporting program	2017/18	Top
F.1.4 Implement harvest data collection program	Member boards and government partners	Collections initiated	2017/18	Top
F.1.5 Establish annual data reporting template		Template	2017/18	Top
F.1.6 Adapt and / or develop database and protocols		Pilot database program developed	2017/18	Top
F.1.7 Gather, compile and present total herd harvest data to ACCWM	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18	Top

F – 2. Develop and initiate community-based monitoring (CBM) programs (including observational and experiential data)

<i>Objective – develop or adapt existing community-based monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i>				
F.2.1 Compile and review information on existing community-based monitoring programs	ACCWM WG	Summary report		
F.2.2 Compile existing traditional knowledge documentation and identify any new documentation / work required as basis for a community-based monitoring program	ACCWM WG with regional partners	Draft 'state of traditional knowledge' report(s)		
F.2.3 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for community-based monitoring to collect herd status information (see Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>)	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		
F.2.4 Adapt and / or develop CBM program(s) based on information from F.2.1-3		Finalized CBM program		
F.2.5 Recommend appropriate CBM programs including TK studies	Member boards	Recommendations provided		
F.2.6 Establish data-sharing arrangements and / or information-sharing protocols	Member boards and regional partners	Signed data-sharing agreements		
F.2.7 Adapt and / or develop database	ACCWM WG	Database program developed		
F.2.8 Gather, compile and present results to ACCWM	Regional partners	Summary report	Fall / Annual ACCWM meeting	
<i>F – 3. Conduct scientific monitoring to assess herd status</i>				
<i>Objective – develop or adapt existing scientific monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making</i>				
F.3.1 Compile and review information on existing scientific monitoring programs	Government partners and regional partners	Summary report		
F.3.2 Engage community organizations regarding appropriate programs for scientific monitoring to collect herd status information (see also	ACCWM WG	Summary of input / guidance from communities		

F2.3) and appropriate ways for collaboration				
F.3.3 Research and develop mechanism for collaboration between regions, compiling information and reporting on research programs	ACCWM to determine responsible parties	Decide on mechanism for collaboration		
F.3.4 Construct scientific monitoring schedule based on engagement and Table 1 in <i>Taking Care of Caribou</i>	ACCWM WG	Annual report / work plan	Fall / Annual ACCWM meeting	
F.3.5 Support appropriate scientific monitoring studies	Member boards	Approval by member boards	Fall / Annual ACCWM meeting	
F.3.6 Establish information sharing protocols	Government partners	Information shared according to protocol		
F.3.7 Gather, compile and present results to ACCWM		Status of all monitoring criteria communicated to the ACCWM	Fall / Annual ACCWM meeting	

Appendix A: List of ACCWM Working Group members

The ACCWM formed a working group to draft the Action Plans that accompany the *Taking Care of Caribou* Management Plan. The Working Group included representatives of the following organizations:

- ʔehdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Dehcho First Nations²⁰
- Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), GNWT
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
- Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association)
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and
- Parks Canada Agency
- Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

²⁰ The Dehcho First Nations organization is part of the Working Group, but has had very limited involvement. There is an outstanding invitation for them to join the ACCWM.

Appendix B: Terms of reference for the ACCWM annual status meeting

Background

Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds Management Plan outlines a long-term framework for management actions that are based on a herd's status. The ACCWM is responsible for determining herd status each year and recommending appropriate management actions based on that status. This is done at an annual status meeting, normally held in late November. Management and action planning are based on a July 1 to June 30 harvest year.

Purpose of the Annual Status Meeting

The purpose of the annual status meeting is to:

- Assess the population status of the herd,
- Determine the management (colour) zone that applies to the herd based on the assessment, and
- Recommend management actions for the following year.

Financial Considerations

The individual boards of the ACCWM are responsible for expenses related to their members' participation, and the administrative costs of convening meetings, as outlined in their Memorandum of Understanding (2016). Individual boards of the ACCWM will cover the expenses of their members' travel to and participation in the annual status meeting. They will take turns hosting the meeting, and will cover the costs for the meeting room and other associated costs of hosting the meeting. Host boards may seek supplementary funding to cover these costs as needed. All other participants of the annual status meeting are responsible for costs they may incur in their participation.

Host requirements

The meeting chair/host party shall provide secretariat services to the Committee for the hosted meeting. For further clarity, secretariat services include, but are not limited to, organizing a meeting, preparing a meeting agenda, coordinating preparation of background information, taking notes and preparing meeting minutes and correspondence.

Meeting preparation

Preceding the annual status meeting, the following steps will take place:

1. A meeting date will be set by the ACCWM and communicated to all partners
2. Researchers, community members, and other interested parties may be invited to present information and/or participate as appropriate, eight weeks prior to the status meeting

3. Eight weeks prior to the meeting, member boards will collect, compile and coordinate monitoring information to be shared with other boards. Other agencies and organizations that may also have information will be approached at this time (*e.g.*, PCA, GN, *etc.*). Member boards use this information to populate the monitoring table
4. Four weeks prior to the meeting, parties need to confirm attendance at meeting. Regionally populated versions of the monitoring table are then distributed to confirmed attendees. This will include all information available from community monitoring, traditional knowledge work and scientific monitoring, and will include harvest information
5. There is an expectation that each member board will come to the annual status meeting prepared to discuss herd status and propose management actions through consensus.

Meeting format

The annual status meeting will be organized into two working sessions, with the following steps taking place during those sessions:

1. Public information and comment meeting
 - Review available information from each region
 - Receive presentations, summary reports, etc.
 - Review and discuss actions that were implemented in preceding year
 - Review and evaluate implementation of actions under communications strategy
 - Introduce and discuss actions that are proposed for upcoming year.
2. In-camera meeting of the ACCWM and support staff
 - Finalize monitoring table, based on all regional input
 - Collectively review and discuss all available community-based information (including traditional knowledge) and scientific information
 - Member boards deliberate to determine herd status, considering all information that was presented during the public information and comment meeting
 - Evaluate implementation of priority actions in Action Plan from previous year
 - Review recommended management actions based on status and prioritize actions for coming year
 - At the conclusion of each meeting, the participating members shall determine the chair/host and date of the next meeting.

Meeting deliverables:

1. Written summary of the meeting, including proposed status decisions for three herds, the populated monitoring table, and a rationale for the status decision for review and consideration by each member board
2. Recommendations for prioritized, status-appropriate management actions and revised Action Plans

3. Revised communications actions as needed
4. Determination of the confidentiality of the information.

Following the annual status meeting, the chairs of the member boards present these deliverables to their respective boards for review and consideration. Each member board then follows the process laid out in their land claim agreements to determine whether they support, oppose or accept the recommended status and associated actions with comments or revisions.

Within 30 days, the ACCWM representatives will each meet with their individual member boards (via teleconference or in person) to formalize their board's position regarding the status decision and recommended actions. Each member board then communicates their position to the Minister; other ACCWM member boards are copied on this correspondence. The ACCWM then submits updated Action Plans for implementation. In Nunavut, the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board will communicate their position regarding status and actions to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for a decision (NWMB). The NWMB then will forward their decision and recommendations to the Department of Environment Minister for approval prior to implementation.

Amendments to Annual Status Meeting Terms of Reference

This Terms of Reference will be reviewed from time to time as the ACCWM member boards may determine. Any member board may propose amendments at any time, but amendments proposed within three months of the annual status meeting shall not be reviewed by the ACCWM until after the meeting. The board proposing the amendment(s) has a responsibility to forward them to all member boards. Boards shall have 90 days to provide comment. Once approved by all the member boards, the amended Terms of Reference shall supersede any previous versions.

Appendix C: Communication Plan

This communications plan is a living document. Its current version reflects the knowledge and understanding of the ACCWM during the first round of action planning in 2015 and early 2016. It is expected that it will evolve as the ACCWM and its member boards continue to implement *Taking Care of Caribou* and the associated Action Plans. This communication plan addresses the specific context of managing for these caribou herds in the NWT and Nunavut, which includes a diversity of indigenous and non-indigenous cultures and languages, and various types of wildlife management institutions. This plan focuses on formal communications while recognizing that a lot of communication takes place in informal ways in the north (for example, one on one conversations, phone calls, etc.).

Goals and Objectives

Clear principles and methods for communication will help to ensure that:

- All groups can effectively participate in sharing knowledge of the caribou and of the Management Plan;
- Groups will work together to discuss and implement effective management actions; and
- Trust and confidence in management processes will be built.

Taking Care of Caribou describes communications about caribou stewardship as being accessible and active, as well as two-way between knowledge holders and wildlife managers.

Our goals are for communications about Action Plan implementation to be regionally appropriate. Communications should also be timely so that no one is left guessing as to what decisions have been made, what events are planned, what herd status and monitoring results are, and what activities and actions are underway. Successful communications should help support decision making, and help build awareness and understanding of who the ACCWM is, as well as its mandate and those of its member boards. When sharing information with the public, our goal is to be consistent and make materials clearly identifiable and related to *Taking Care of Caribou*.

Communication objectives may change as management actions are implemented, depending on the type of ideas and information being shared. Many objectives are interconnected and some communications will touch on multiple objectives. Our overall objectives are: announcing and sharing information; building awareness; increasing community and partner participation; and education. Below are some examples of the types of information that may be shared for each of these objectives as *Taking Care of Caribou* is being implemented:

Announcing and Sharing Information

- *Taking Care of Caribou* Management Plan, Community Engagement Report, Technical Scientific Report

- Herd specific Action Plans
- Decisions made by wildlife managers
- Meetings or public events
- New programs and how to participate
- Changes to policy or regulations
- Newly complete reports or reviews
- Perspectives and knowledge
- Partner, community or organizational discussions, concerns or activities with regard to the caribou.

Building Awareness

- ACCWM, mandate and members
- Newly implemented programs
- Successful events held
- Recognition of partnerships and teamwork.

Increasing Community and Partner Participation

- Motivating harvesters to participate in sampling programs
- Encouragement of the public to follow management decisions
- Recruiting people to help plan events
- Recruiting people to participate in meetings or events related to management actions
- Requesting partner feedback or participation on working groups
- Requesting funding support for management actions.

Education

- ACCWM, mandate and members
- Management and Action Planning processes
- The colour-coded herd status
- Any voluntary or regulated limits on harvesting, such as changes to regulations
- Rationale for harvest regulations (e.g., why harvesting mostly bulls rather than cows may be preferable)
- What is being researched or monitored and why
- Results of research or monitoring programs
- Impacts of current or proposed land use activities to caribou and ways to mitigate impacts
- Educational themes, such as promotion of respectful hunting and butchering practices, information about caribou diseases and human health risks, and other themes described in *Taking Care of Caribou*. (Note: other education specific activities are including in the Education section of the management actions table in this document).

Responsibilities

An Education and Communication Working Group will help prepare official communications about *Taking Care of Caribou* and the implementation of management actions that come from the ACCWM as a committee to the public, or that come from ACCWM member boards on

behalf of the ACCWM to their regional communities. Such official communication is a different type of communication than when community organizations or individuals contact their HTC, RRC or ACCWM member board, for example.

The ACCWM and the Education and Communication Working Group need to ensure that overall messaging about the ACCWM and its member boards as well as situational messaging are pre-approved. The ACCWM and its Working Group also need to consider their communication objectives, both long standing and situational, when considering messaging. In addition, the Education and Communication Working Group should also track input given to the ACCWM and ACCWM responses to those inputs. For example, this may include feedback regarding a potential product from a target audience.

The individual boards of the ACCWM will each be responsible for delivering the prepared communications within their regions as scheduled. They will be required to assist the Education and Communication Working Group by giving timely feedback and direction regarding what methods, messages, and audiences will be appropriate for meeting communication objectives in their regions.

While communication will span both formal and less formal methods, overall it will rely on teamwork and cooperation to successfully deliver common messaging about *Taking Care of Caribou* and associated actions.

Target Audiences

For every type of communication method used in implementing management actions, care will need to be taken to determine the specific audience and to target communications appropriately. Several examples of possible target audiences for communication include:

- Youth and schools
- Harvesters
- Proponents and developers
- Regulators
- Air carriers
- Visitors
- Potential funders.

A further task of the Working Group will be to consider how to incorporate languages into communication messaging to ensure that it is regionally appropriate. It is expected that the ACCWM and the Education and Communication Working Group will be responsible for developing messaging that can be adapted by member boards to regional situations with local languages incorporated according to individual board protocols. The Working Group and ACCWM can be a forum for sharing best practices in using local languages.

Timing and Frequency

For *Taking Care of Caribou* to be successful, it is important that communications are timely and appropriately paced. There need to be regular annual communications of the work of the ACCWM. There will also need to be communications that are responsive to decisions between annual status meetings, including responses to urgent situations. The Education and Communication Working Group can help respond through assignments from the ACCWM to prepare materials in these different situations. The Education and Communication Working Group can also make recommendations to the ACCWM regarding timing and frequency.

Again, the individual boards of the ACCWM have a high level of responsibility in ensuring that communications and reviews of draft products prepared by the Working Group are done in a timely fashion and are appropriate for their region.

Methods

There are many communication techniques which may be used depending on the particular message and the intended audience. The Education and Communication Working Group, with feedback from regional partners, will need to consider what each target audience encounters, reads, listens to, watches and engages in, to help place messages where they will be seen and accessed, and to ensure that communications are in a suitable format for the chosen audience. Visual messaging that helps the public easily recognize *Taking Care of Caribou* communications should be used in products prepared by the Education and Communication Working Group. For example, communications may include a recognizable logo with “*Taking Care of Caribou*” as the tagline.

Examples of possible communication methods that were suggested by community members during public engagements for *Taking Care of Caribou* include:

- Posters
- Fliers and brochures
- Radio announcements and programs
- School visits
- Presentations, such as at HTC or RRC meetings
- Newsletters
- Promotional materials (*e.g.*, items such as caps, T-shirts, mugs, bumper stickers, magnets, cloth grocery bags, *etc.*)
- Internet and social media, such as organization websites, Facebook pages, YouTube feeds, podcasts
- Letters to the Editor
- News stories, columns, and reports
- Press releases and press conferences
- Written or in-person briefings to airlines or developers
- Community events, such as on-the-land gatherings, sight-in your rifle events, *etc.*
- Word of mouth
- Music

- Exhibits and public art
- Books or other reading material, such as education modules
- Television (*e.g.*, cable stations can show PowerPoint ads for a low cost; purchased ad time can also be used to convey messages)
- DVDs, such as hunter training videos
- Theatre plays or skits
- Story telling.

The annual status meeting of the ACCWM and its Working Group is another opportunity for face-to-face communication between representatives of management agencies, community members, the public and scientists.

Resources

Successful communications will depend on the availability of resources, including staff, funds and other resources, such as technical equipment needed for various media types. Adequate funding will need to be sought out and budgeted for to ensure that full opportunity is provided for dialogue about the status of herds and management actions being considered or underway. Care should be taken to look for opportunities for partnerships and donated resources that might be available for communications needs (*e.g.*, in editing, translating, printing, publishing and disseminating information).

Evaluation

Each year, the ACCWM will meet to review implementation of the Action Plan(s). Part of this review will include an evaluation of communications made to and from the ACCWM, Plan partners, and the public. It is important to evaluate how well communications were carried out and how well they worked in meeting communications goals and objectives. A template for evaluation can be built from the list of objectives and should also include consideration of the Education and Communication Working Group process and its interactions with and responsiveness to direction from the ACCWM. The communications plan itself will also be reviewed for possible revisions at that time. Good communication would mean that groups effectively participated to share knowledge, and that they worked together to discuss and implement actions and built trust and confidence in management processes. As with the Management Plan, an adaptive management approach will be taken to ensure communications are effective as *Taking Care of Caribou* is implemented.

Appendix D: Criteria used to assess herd status with links to relevant actions in the Management Actions Table for Cape Bathurst Caribou: *Red Status*

Information	Examples of links to relevant actions in Management Actions Table
Population size	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) C. Land use activities (C.2 and C.3) E. Harvest Management (E1, E.2, E.3, and E.4) F. Monitoring (F.2 and F.3)
Population trend and rate of change	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) C. Land use activities (C.2 and C.3) E. Harvest Management (E1, E.2, E.3, and E.4) F. Monitoring (F.2 and F.3)
Productivity and recruitment	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) E. Harvest Management (E1, E.2, E.3, and E.4) F. Monitoring (F.2 and F.3)
Adult composition	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) E. Harvest Management (E1, E.2, E.3, and E.4) F. Monitoring (F.2 and F.3)
Body condition and health	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) E. Harvest Management (E1, E.2, E.3, and E.4) F. Monitoring (F.1, F.2, and F.3)
Harvest levels	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) E. Harvest Management (E1, E.2, E.3, and E.4) F. Monitoring (F.1, F.2, and F.3)
Predator populations	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) D. Predators (D.1 and D.2) F. Monitoring (F.2 and F.3)
Range and movement patterns	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) B. Habitat (B.1, B.2, and B.3) C. Land use activities (C.1, C.2, C.3, and C.4.B) E. Harvest Management (E.2 and E.4) F. Monitoring (F.2 and F.3)
Environment and habitat	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) B. Habitat (B.1, B.2 and B.3) C. Land use activities (C.1, C.2, C.3, and C.4.B) F. Monitoring (F.2 and F.3)
Human disturbance	A. Education (A.2, A.3, and A.4) B. Habitat (B.1, B.2, and B.3) C. Land use activities F. Monitoring (F.2 and F.3)

Appendix E: Summary table of management actions presented in *Taking Care of Caribou*

Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone				
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low
Education	<p>Recommend education programs for all status levels. Ideas for educational themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting total use of harvested caribou, and proper butchering and storage methods; • Limiting wounding loss; • Letting the leaders pass; • Promoting community hunts with experienced hunters; • Use of alternate species; and • Increased sharing of traditional foods. 			
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas; • Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat; • Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management. 			
Land use activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of the impacts of exploration and development activities to proponents and regulators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators; • Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; • Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work directly with proponents and regulators of exploration and development activities to advise on mitigation measures; • Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; • Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; • Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors.

Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone				
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low
Predators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; Consider recommending options for predator management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; Consider recommending options for predator management.
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend easing limits on subsistence and then resident harvests ; Consider recommending outfitter and commercial harvests at discretion of the ACCWM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support harvest by beneficiaries of a Land Claim and members of an Aboriginal people, with rights to harvest wildlife in the Region; Recommend that if subsistence needs are met resident harvest should be permitted (with limits); Potentially recommend resident (non-beneficiary), non-resident, sport hunts, and/or commercial harvests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend a mandatory limit on subsistence harvest based on a TAH accepted by the ACCWM; Prioritize the collection of harvest information; Recommend no resident, outfitter or commercial harvest; Recommend a majority-bulls harvest, emphasizing younger and smaller bulls and not the large breeders and leaders; Recommend harvest of alternate species and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods, such as the use of community freezers; Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend harvest of alternate species and meat replacement programs, and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods; Prioritize the collection of harvest information; Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction; Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors; Resident, commercial, or outfitter harvest remain closed.

Appendix F: Determining allocations and Total Allowable Harvests

In areas of Nunavut and the NWT that have land claims agreements, when strict conservation measures are needed, a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) is established. The TAH is based on what is considered to be an acceptable percentage of the herd to harvest, considering where it is in its population cycle, whether cows or bulls are harvested, and associated risks to the herd. This means that as a herd's status changes, the TAH will change.

Harvest allocations are an agreed-upon set percentage of how the total harvest from a herd is shared between groups. Agreements about allocations are based on harvest levels and according to the requirements of regional legislation and of land claims agreements. Priorities for harvest allocations are laid out in *Taking Care of Caribou* (p. 48).

The ACCWM recognizes that it is important to work collaboratively when discussing a TAH for shared herds. With the exception of the TNNPMB, each ACCWM member may, if circumstances require, set a TAH for their region; allocation is then done within the region according to what is outlined in individual land claims. Within this setting, communities may also choose to voluntarily restrict harvest – for example, a regional council such as an HTO may set community by-laws that affect harvesting.

