



June 5, 2013

Hon. Michael Miltenberger
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
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Via Email

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Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus
Tłıchǫ Government
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Re: 2013/2014 Bathurst Caribou Herd Management Recommendations

Further to the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board's letter, dated May 31, 2013, the Board would like to submit the attached information to support its management recommendations for the Bathurst Caribou herd for the 2013/2014 harvesting season (Motion #331-24-05-2013). If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or jsnortland@wrrb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Judas".

Joseph Judas
Chair

Cc Ernie Campbell, Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources
Fred J Mandeville, Superintendent, North Slave Region, Environment and Natural Resources
Laura Duncan, Tłıchǫ Executive Officer, Tłıchǫ Government
Kerri Garner, Director, Department of Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government

Supporting Information

- The Bathurst Caribou herd population estimate for 2012 (35,000) is not statistically different from the population estimate for 2009 (32,000). The population estimate is based on information provided by Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) in its November 5, 2012 letter, which does not have confidence intervals associated with the 2009 and 2012 population estimates. During the Board's December 2012 meeting, ENR presented explicit values for population estimates for the Bathurst Caribou herd from 1985 to 2012; however, confidence intervals were provided only on figures but not as explicit values. Based on visual examination of the figures provided, the confidence intervals do overlap between 2009 and 2012, which suggests no statistical difference in the population estimates.
- The estimate of Bathurst Caribou breeding cows for 2012 (16,000) is not statistically different from the breeding cow estimate for 2009 (16,600). The breeding cow estimate is based on information provided by ENR in its November 5, 2012 letter, which does not have confidence intervals associated with the 2009 and 2012 breeding cow estimates. During the Board's December 2012 meeting, ENR presented explicit values for breeding cow estimates for the Bathurst Caribou herd from 1985 to 2012; however, confidence intervals were provided only on figures but not as explicit values. Based on visual examination of the figures provided, the confidence intervals do overlap between 2009 and 2012, which suggests no statistical difference in the breeding cow estimates.
- There is a common assumption that harvest in R/BC/01 is primarily from the Bluenose-East Caribou herd; harvest in R/BC/02 is primarily from the Bathurst Caribou herd. Based on satellite collared caribou data provided by ENR, the mixing of the Bathurst Caribou herd and Bluenose-East Caribou herd in R/BC/01 during the winter of 2013 made it difficult to differentiate harvest.
- There is a common assumption that harvest estimates are a minimum value. The Board used a conservative approach to setting harvest targets.
- Based on harvest data collected by Tłıchǫ Government and ENR as presented on the May 8, 2013 Caribou Harvest map, the reported harvest for the winter of 2013 indicated an approximately 50:50 bull:cow harvest ratio compared to the recommended 80:20 bull:cow ratio.