

Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
Draft Meeting Minutes, December 14, 2020
Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm Zoom Teleconference

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey	CMA Chairperson/Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
Kaytlin Cooper	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Doug Doan	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Sam Bullock	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
William Koe	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Heather Sayine-Crawford	Environment and Natural Resources
Bruno Croft	Environment and Natural Resources
Brett Elkin	Environment and Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Allie Mayberry	Acho Dene Koe First Nation
Jessica Hurtubise	North Slave Métis Alliance
Leslie Wakelyn	Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB)
Bruce Laurich	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Isabelle Duclos	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Larry Carpenter	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Stephanie Behrens	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Deborah Simmons	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Secretariat
Joslyn Oosenbrug	Species at Risk Secretariat

1. Introductions – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Roundtable introductions.

2. Agenda – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Review of draft agenda.

Agenda approved with changes to 6, 12 and 13.

3. Minutes from last meeting – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Review and approval of draft minutes from May and September 2020.

Review and approve draft minutes from:

- May 2020 – approved with no further changes.
- September 2020 – approved with no further changes.

4. Review of action items – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

Review of action items from previous meetings and earlier outstanding action items.

5. CMA decisions made since last meeting – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

Review of decisions made since May 2020 meeting.

D2020093001: Consensus decision for Ms. Chukita Elias to replace Jodie Maring on the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) subcommittee.

D2020121401: Decision to extend the term of hairy braya on the Northwest Territories List of Species at Risk as a Threatened species by one year (to February 27, 2025).

6. Species at Risk Committee (SARC) – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

Update on revisions to the Assessment Process and Objective Biological Criteria and updates to SARC membership.

SARC Assessment Process and Objective Biological Criteria: The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* requires that SARC periodically review the objective biological criteria with the CMA. The Secretariat will provide a brief introduction to the revision today, and a more thorough update will take place at the May 2021 CMA meeting by a SARC member. Reviewing the revisions at a later meeting will allow SARC time to apply the new process and criteria at their next assessment meeting in April 2021 (Polar Bear re-assessment).

In brief, the highlight of this update is the recognition and acceptance of Indigenous and community knowledge as a system of knowing in its own right. The assessment criteria has been rethought and rebuilt to recognize the local, holistic, eco-centric, and social-spiritual context of Indigenous knowledges. To do so, two separate sets of objective biological criteria were developed by SARC, based on Indigenous and community knowledge and scientific knowledge, respectively. SARC's hope is that room is provided for both knowledge systems to exist and interact as equals.

SARC membership: As per subsection 19(2) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, Management Authorities must be given the opportunity to discuss proposed appointments. Below is a general update on SARC membership currently being considered or upcoming:

- Member/alternate appointed by WMAC (NWT): Allison Thompson was the regular member and Rosemin Nathoo was the alternate. These roles have been switched, Rosemin is now the regular member and Allison is the alternate. With subsection 19(2) discussion/comments due December 18.
- Member appointed by ENR: Alestine Andre's SARC term expires January 31, 2021.
- ECCC is revisiting appointing a Government of Canada member.

7. The Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

General updates. Call for applications January 15 – March 1, 2021

SCARF 2021/22 Application Period: The 2021/22 application period for the fund opens January 15, 2021 and closes March 1, 2021. Brochures and posters will be mailed out to CMA members. Please

advise the Secretariat if any additional copies are needed. The material will also be available for download from the website.

SCARF subcommittee membership: In October 2020, Ms. Chukita Elias joined the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) subcommittee to replace Jodie Maring (maternity leave). The subcommittee includes Amy Amos, Jessica Hurtubise, Brett Elkin, and Chukita Elias.

Appendix F of the CMA rules of conduct (NWT Species Conservation and Recovery Fund Subcommittee Terms of Reference): The subcommittee met on November 9, 2020 to discuss the 2021/22 application material and to revise **Appendix F** of the CMA rules of conduct (NWT Species Conservation and Recovery Fund Subcommittee Terms of Reference). Revisions are based on the program name change (replace “Stewardship Program with Species Conservation and Recovery Fund” throughout document) and to align content with revised text based on the application package that was updated in 2020/21. The following revisions were also made:

- Name change throughout rules of conduct.
- Under membership the following (red) text was added: The regular membership is composed of four representatives designated by the CMA, including one representative from the GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources. *As much as possible, membership shall include representation from different regions of the NWT. The term shall be designated by the CMA to a maximum of two years and can be renewed.*
- Under Sub-committee Chairperson the following (red) text was added: The Sub-committee Chairperson shall be selected from one of the regular members and designated by the ~~CMA~~ sub-committee. *The Sub-Committee Chairperson will work with the Secretariat to provide the CMA with regular updates on Sub-committee activities. The Sub-committee Chairperson will serve as spokesperson for the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund for correspondence, news media and general public enquiries. The Sub-committee Chairperson will work with the Secretariat and Management Authorities on correspondence related to Species Conservation and Recovery Fund media requests and will provide the CMA with a summary of media activity as required.*

Action A2020121401: CMA to review revised CMA rules of conduct – Appendix F: NWT Species Conservation and Recovery Fund Subcommittee Terms of Reference for approval at February 2021 CMA meeting.

8. Species at Risk Communications Strategy – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

Progress update.

Status of SAR branded beverage: Recall that based on suggestions and interest from CMA members, the Secretariat pursued the development of a species at risk branded beer with NWT Brewing Co. in Yellowknife. The target species for this year will be the 5 ecotypes of caribou in the NWT Barren-ground caribou, Boreal caribou, Dolphin and Union caribou, Northern mountain caribou, Peary caribou)

- **Name:** Five Antlers Ale (available at the NWT Brewing Co./Woodyard, offsales, liquor store sales in cans)
- **Update target release date:** 2021
- Caribou specific SAR **website** as direct link (www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca/caribou)
- We will have a range of **merchandise:** for purchase at the pub (t-shirts, buffs, dish towels), disposable collateral (coasters, tent cards), and product specific give-aways/swag (koozies).

Status of conservation in art project:

- On Friday, September 25 the jury committee reviewed the Conservation in Art submissions and all pieces of art that were submitted will be included in the art show. There were 11 submissions.
- Keep an eye out for an email to update the CMA on the Mobile art show.

9. Implementation Progress Reports – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

Progress reports and management plan/recovery strategy review.

Progress Reporting: Under subsection 73(1) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the CMA must submit a progress report every five years, or sooner if so required by a management plan or recovery strategy, on the actions undertaken to implement a management plan or recovery strategy and on the progress made towards meeting objectives. And section 74 states that the CMA shall review a management plan or recovery strategy every five years. The first of these progress and review documents is due in November 2021 for Hairy braya.

- **November 2021:** Hairy braya
- **November 2022:** Boreal caribou, Northern leopard frog, Western toad
- **March/December 2023:** Polar bear, Dolphin and Union caribou

In preparation the Secretariat developed a draft for discussion using Hairy braya content from the February 2020 implementation progress update (not included in the meeting binder, but reviewed with the CMA at the meeting). Some questions to consider: What does the CMA want to see in a progress report? Is there a preference for format? Would the CMA prefer displaying information as text or in a table? Does the CMA want an annual report across all species (multispecies) or one report/review per species?

- **WRRB:** As a progress report the document should be as informative as possible but also as short as possible. The table allows you to see the progress without digging through the text. It shows actions on a specific objective. The other sections make sense, except Section 6 – which should be kept out as a separate document.
- **GRRB:** We would likely agree with WRRB to capitalize on brevity and make it as punchy as we can. The table approach is nice because it is visual and people like visual things. It lays it out from the objective to the progress and you can see it in one glance.
- **NSMA:** The table looks like it would include the information we need.

- **WMAC (NWT):** Preference for the table format. Suggestion to include information on the management authorities responsible for the species. Separate reports for each species will be good so people don't miss things.
- **TG:** Preference for the table approach. Agree to include information on management authorities.
- **ADKFN:** The table is a great approach for brevity. Suggest adding links or appendices for more information, or for more context connected to the management authorities.
- **BQCMB:** No comments.
- **ENR:** The table works well for Hairy braya, but we should also think about how it will work for species like Boreal caribou. Boreal caribou will have a lot of actions to report on; in that situation the table may not work as well. We could consider informative bullet points or using both tables and text if it makes sense for the species and information. The table will be where most people go, and text would be further into detail. These reports may also be used for multiple purposes. It would also be beneficial to list where additional information can be accessed including hyperlinks, reference to companion documents, and summaries of reports. On the topic of one versus species versus multiple species we should think of the audiences and consider what the public and the regions will be looking for in a report. Or we could do both; we can have separate reports by species and then a roll up summarizing what has been done across species.
- **ECCC:** The table is preferred over text. As for separate documents versus one, the preference is for separate documents, and then if someone is only interested in one species then they can go directly to that document.

Summary: The CMA prefers displaying progress using the table format, but we may have to revisit the format depending on the species being reported on. In instances where a number of actions have been implemented, the combination of text and table may be more effective. Separate progress reports are preferred for each species. The draft will need to add information on the management authorities section as well as references to other information (hyperlinks, reports) and sources.

Management Plan/Recovery Strategy Review: Section 74 states that the CMA shall review a management plan or recovery strategy every five years. Some questions to consider for the review: What does the CMA envision for a review of the management plan/recovery strategy? What will Management Authorities require to inform the review? What time lines should we consider?

- **WRRB:** Suggested leaving out the section on review in the progress report. Information from the review can be used to inform future revisions (of the recovery strategy or management plan). The review could be more of an internal item that informs future documents following reassessments.
- **GRRB:** Section 73 and 74 are pretty important items and we will need to have a separate meeting to deal with them; it is not something you want to put on as an agenda item and only dedicate 15 minutes of discussion. The more we look into it the better plan we can come up with collectively. In addition, individuals may only be interested in a specific species.

Those individuals will be interested in what that 5-year document says. A requirement is not the only thing that should dictate communication.

- **NSMA:** Nothing further to add.
- **TG:** Nothing further to add.
- **ECCC:** Nothing further to add.
- **WMAC (NWT):** Having a separate (teleconference) meeting is a good approach.
- **ADKFN:** Makes sense to have a separate stand along document.
- **SRRB:** The separate document sounds like a good plan. It is great that we are starting with Hairy braya.
- **BQCMB:** If the outcome is for the review to remain an internal document, then you may want some sort of high level summary to share with the public.
- **ENR:** An option is to include a review section in the progress report but simply state that “the CMA has completed a review”. How much detail we want to include also helps determine the reporting. We could include a paragraph stating that a review occurred and identify the outcomes of that review (e.g. that it would be used to inform the next version of the recovery strategy or management plan). Identifying that a review occurred would be beneficial to inform the public that this requirement happened. There are benefits of doing a meeting separately, but no strong feelings about it. A separate meeting would target just the relevant management authorities for that species.

Summary: Have a section in the progress report that discusses the review. The content will be high level (outcomes). The CMA will hold a separate meeting early in the year with the hairy braya management authorities. Reviews will be separate for each species.

Action A2020121402: CMA to provide feedback on the structure of the progress report and review by the next CMA meeting (February 2021).

Action A2020121403: Secretariat to set a meeting date for the review of hairy braya with the Management Authorities.

10. Legislative Review – led by Joanna Wilson (ENR)

Progress report on legislative review. Section 147 of the Species at Risk (NWT) Act requires a legislative review of the Act in February 2020 (10 years after coming into force).

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment (SCEDE) requested information from ENR regarding their review of the *Wildlife Act* and the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. ENR provided a written submission but did not bring forward any proposed amendments to the *Wildlife Act*. ENR did bring forward recommended changes to the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* based on input from the CMA, SARC and a result of the February 2012 GNWT Internal Audit Bureau report:

- Replace “Aboriginal traditional knowledge, community knowledge and scientific knowledge” with “Indigenous knowledge, community knowledge, and scientific knowledge”

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- Related to section 19(1), allow co-management boards whose appointed member has been nominated as the Chairperson of the SARC to appoint an additional member, as the Chairperson's facilitation role does not allow them to participate fully in SARC discussions as a member.
- Amend sections 19(5)(6)(7) to allow for SARC members to be removed by appointing agencies, not currently allowed for under the Act, and to allow for the appointment of alternate SARC members to ensure that SARC is consistently able to achieve quorum.

ENR is now waiting for the results of this review and an outcome report from SCEDE.

Management Authorities were provided an option to review by SCEDE back in October.

11. Northern mountain caribou – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Updates on Aug-Nov consultation and engagement.

Timelines for northern mountain caribou:

- **August-November 2020** – consultation/engagement period.
- **December 14, 2020** – CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.
- **January 29, 2021** – The consensus agreement statements and Annex B's are due in anticipation of the February 2021 CMA meeting.
- **April 29, 2021** – deadline for consensus agreement on listing
 - Start electronic signatures on March 29
- **February CMA Meeting** – Decision on consensus agreement on listing Northern mountain caribou

Updates from Management Authorities:

- **GRRB:** Due to COVID, consultations were later than usual, face-to-face meetings were not occurring (hesitation with large gatherings) and RRCs were not meeting. Then once they were meeting they were doing elections. Northern mountain caribou is not generally harvested by the Gwich'in; however consultation material was mailed to RRCs (including fact sheet, power point presentations, letter, and a questionnaire). The deadline provided for feedback is tomorrow (December 15). GRRB is waiting for questionnaires to be mailed back. However, skimming through what has been received, there is support for a listing of Special Concern. GRRB is waiting on Gwichya Gwich'in (Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson), but those two communities are the communities that would have harvested Northern mountain caribou, they have said they will get questionnaire back. GRRB has not heard back from Inuvik and Aklavik. So far it is looking good for support for a listing of Special Concern. The board will review consultation information at February meeting. GRRB is expecting to give approval at the CMA meeting, but will have to see what the questionnaires come back with. GRRB will draft their Annex B submissions by the CMA meeting but the approval will have to wait for the motion to be passed.

- **SRRB:** The SRRB was able to engage with the three communities that have a stake in the stewardship of Northern mountain caribou. We met with the Fort Good Hope RRC and they were offered an opportunity to provide written comment. In the end we did not receive written comment. The community was interested in developing their own plan for Northern mountain caribou. And they don't feel that there is a concern for Northern mountain caribou in their areas. However, they did have concerns for Northern mountain caribou around the Tulita district so they did support a listing of Special Concern. When we met with Norman Wells about the proposed listing, we were told that this was long awaited, they were happy with the proposal, and it addressed localized concerns that they had for years with Northern mountain caribou in the Canol area. This was echoed in the 2020 Colville Public Listening. SRRB also spent time with Tulita; they had a somewhat different perspective. They appointed a caribou committee and did engagement of their own. They wrote to the SRRB with Tulita district concerns, however for them the idea of listing under *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* would result in others coming in and controlling their harvest. They were adamant that they did not agree with listing under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. People displacing caribou, etc. and mining. The board met last week on December 4 and they moved a motion and approved supporting listing of Special Concern based on the information compiled in our region.
 - **ENR question:** the letter you got from Tulita, did they talk about the management planning process. Wondering about their statement that listing wouldn't help. **SRRB response** – a lot of comms between SRRB and RRC. Nío Ne P'ęęę Begháre Shúhta Goęepe' Narehǎ – Trails of the Mountain Caribou Plan more effective as a conservation approach than listing. Drawing on community planning approach was discussed – so they are aware that that is also a prospect.
- **ENR:** ENR held a public comment period (individuals and organizations were invited to comment and provide information on support/no support). The comment period began on July 31 and ENR ended up extending it to November 6. There was also an online survey which we received 4 responses. We also received 2 letters. GNWT also sent letters to the IGOs in the NMC range inviting comment. At this point, we have had 6 responses and of those most were in favor of the listing, one of the 6 was opposed. Internally we are in the process of developing the ENR position on listing.

Next steps: Management Authorities will need to submit their Annex B submissions to the Secretariat by January 29, 2020 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

12. Bats – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Review results of consultation/engagement. Development of implementation consensus agreement.

Timelines for bats:

- **August-November 2020** – consultation/engagement period.
- **December 14, 2020** – CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.
- **January 29, 2021** - The consensus agreement statements and Annex A's are due in anticipation of the February 2021 CMA meeting. The draft consensus agreement respecting

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implementation of the bats management plan was included in the May and December 2020 meeting material and distributed by the Secretariat.

- **February CMA Meeting** – Approval of bats implementation agreement
- **April 9, 2021** – The legal deadline for completion and submission of the implementation consensus agreement.
 - Start electronic signatures on March 29

Updates from Management Authorities:

- **SRRB:** No updates.
- **WRRB:** No updates.
- **TG:** No updates.
- **ENR:** No updates. More of an internal exercise because consultation and engagement is on management plan. We are working on our internal process.

Next steps: Management Authorities will need to submit their consensus agreement statements and Annex A's to the Secretariat by January 29, 2020 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

13. Barren-ground caribou – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Review results of consultation/engagement. Development of implementation consensus agreement.

Timelines for barren-ground caribou:

- **August-November 2020** – consultation/engagement period
- **January 29, 2021** - The consensus agreement statements and Annex A's are due in anticipation of the February 2021 CMA meeting. The draft consensus agreement respecting implementation of the barren-ground caribou recovery strategy was included in the May and December 2020 meeting material and distributed by the Secretariat.
- **December 14, 2020** – CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.
- **April 9, 2021** – The legal deadline for completion and submission of the implementation consensus agreement.
 - Start electronic signatures on March 29
- **February CMA Meeting** – Approval of barren-ground caribou implementation agreement

Updates from Management Authorities:

- **WRRB:** No updates.
- **GRRB:** No updates. GRRB will provide a statement by January 29.
- **TG:** No updates.
- **WMAC (NWT):** At our previous meeting we drafted brief language for the Consensus Agreement and listed out the points for Annex A and we will send that to the Secretariat.
- **SRRB:** No updates.
- **BQCMB:** When is the consensus agreement made public? July 2021.

- **ADKFN:** nothing to add.
- **NSMA:** Minor addition. NSMA is slowly working on implementation of their guardianship program.
- **ECCC:** No Updates.
- **ENR:** Similar to bats, we have drafted our statements. Our approval process should be complete soon after.

Update on federal listing process from ECCC: We had meetings lined up for December (virtually) in Nunavut for our final round of consultations for listing. Unfortunately the resurgence in COVID put that on hold. We have one scheduled for January in Cambridge Bay and more in the New Year with the goal of being completed in March. However, we are not sure how well virtual meetings will go in Nunavut. After that the listing proposal will go to the NMWB and they will have to make a decision at their next meeting in March. ECCC is consulting with HTOs and HTC's and where meetings have been requested. For specific questions, contact Bruce Laurich and he will direct inquiries appropriately.

Next steps: Management Authorities will need to submit their consensus agreement statements and Annex A's to the Secretariat by January 29, 2020 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

14. Dolphin and Union caribou – led by Isabelle Duclos (ECCC)

Progress update on federal listing process.

Background: Dolphin and Union caribou is currently listed under SARA as a species of Special Concern (2011). In 2017, the species was reassessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as Endangered.

Update on federal listing process from ECCC: Consultations started in April 2019 in NU and NWT. ECCC visited all communities included in the Dolphin and Union caribou range. ECCC still needs to do a public meeting in Cambridge Bay, the first one we did had low attendance. The public meeting was scheduled for March 23, but cancelled due to COVID. The new meeting is scheduled for February 4, but it is likely that ECCC will have to postpone the meeting again.

15. Peary caribou – led by Isabelle Duclos (ECCC)

Progress update on federal recovery strategy. CMA decision on NWT recovery strategy extension.

Background Peary caribou (WMA-NWT and GNWT): Peary caribou were listed under the SAR (NT) Act in February 2014. For efficiency and to avoid duplication, the CMA anticipated adopting the applicable portions of the federal recovery strategy for Peary caribou once it was completed. Three extensions were granted (2015, 2017, 2019) with the last one indicating a completion date of December 31, 2021. On that timeline, the CMA consensus agreement to accept the Peary caribou recovery strategy would be due in September 2021. ECCC is hoping for approval by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in September 2021 – this will not leave enough time for the CMA to review the recovery strategy for adoption.

Update on federal recovery strategy from ECCC: ECCC consulted with the HTC and HTOs earlier this year on the latest version and the identification of critical habitat. Only sea ice crossings have been identified as critical habitat for this species. WMAC-NWT, IGC, GNWT and GN supported the posting of the proposed recovery strategy on the federal registry for public consultations. The recovery strategy was officially sent to Ottawa at the end of November, so it should be posted in March for a 90 day consultation period. The consultation period will be 90 days instead of the usual 60 days due to COVID. Once consultation is completed, the next step is to submit the recovery strategy to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) and this is anticipated to happen in September 2021. If NWMB does their own consultations then it may delay completion of the recovery strategy by about 6 months. Similarly, if the NWMB requests significant changes, then ECCC will go back to the other partners and propose those changes. The CMA will have an opportunity to see those changes before the document is posted as final.

Timelines (for the completion date of December 31, 2021):

- September 30, 2021 – Consensus Agreement to adopt the recovery strategy finalized
 - o October – December 2020 – Actions to Prepare for CA on accepting RS due
 - o January – April 2021 Consultation and engagement on RS
 - o May 2021 – meet to discuss consensus agreement
 - o ~August 27, 2021 – Annex B submissions due
 - o ~September 3, 2021 – Signing to commence
- December 31, 2021 – Recovery Strategy and CA made available to the public (end of extension)
- September 30, 2022 – Consensus Agreement on Implementation
 - o December 31, 2021 – Actions to Prepare for CA on Implementation
 - o May 2022 – Consensus agreement statements and Annex A
 - o September 30, 2022 – Consensus Agreement on Implementation made public

Action A2020121404: CMA to make a decision on how long to extend the completion date of the Peary caribou recovery strategy by the next CMA meeting (February 2021).

16. Next meeting – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Scheduling for February 2021 meeting and May 2021 meeting.

- **February 23-25, 2021:** The February meeting is a regularly-scheduled meeting and will include in-principle approval of consensus agreements. Typically this is an in-person meeting; however considering the current situation with COVID the CMA will meet via Zoom teleconference.
 - o Be prepared for the following agenda items:
 - Approval of bats implementation agreement
 - Approval of barren-ground caribou implementation agreement
 - Decision on consensus agreement on listing Northern mountain caribou
 - Implementation summaries - updates on your RS/MP implementation activities need to be submitted to the Secretariat by the beginning of Feb
- **May 10-14, 2021:** regularly-scheduled meeting