



CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2023

NIHTAT GWICHIN CONFERENCE ROOM

INUUVIK, NT

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey	CMA Chairperson/Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
Larry Carpenter	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Hans Lennie	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Jodie Maring	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Robert Charlie-Tetlich	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Kaytlin Cooper	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board – by videoconference
Ben Dosu	ʔehdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board) – by videoconference
Leon Andrew	ʔehdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
Stephanie Behrens	Tłıchq Government – by videoconference
Jessica Hurtubise	North Slave Métis Alliance
Levi MacDonald	Salt River First Nation
Heather Sayine-Crawford	Environment and Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Bruno Croft	Environment and Natural Resources
Bruce Laurich	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Secretariat
Joslyn Oosenbrug	Species at Risk Secretariat

FEBRUARY 21, 2023 – 1:30PM – OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER (EVERYONE)

1. Introductions – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Roundtable introductions

2. Agenda – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Review of draft agenda

Agenda approved without changes.

3. Minutes – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Review and approve draft minutes from December 2022

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Minutes approved with the addition of name of attendee from the Salt River First Nation. Also a clarification: GNWT also noted that a letter was received by the Acho Dene Koe as part of the public engagement that wasn't mentioned in December.

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

Review of action items from previous meetings and earlier outstanding items

The table below provides the status of action items from the last CMA meeting (December 2022), as well as outstanding items from previous meetings (May 2022):

20220524-06: (In progress) Secretariat to follow up on education initiative by:

- Contacting schools and teachers to determine how species at risk are covered in the classroom and what kinds of materials are needed/lacking;
- Contacting the Department of Infrastructure and Ecology North to find out how materials they have developed are being used in the classroom;
- Looking at other materials from around the country (and the world) that have already been developed on species at risk;
- Finding out what materials and messaging are already being used by Management Authorities to talk about species at risk in schools (including GNWT's On the Land Unit/Field Support); and
- Identifying gaps and opportunities to coordinate on species at risk outreach in schools.

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- Finding out what materials and messaging are already being used by Management Authorities to talk about species at risk in schools (including GNWT's On the Land Unit/Field Support); and

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- Identifying gaps and opportunities to coordinate on species at risk outreach in schools.

20220524-07: (In progress) Secretariat to: investigate and propose topics/speakers on species at risk, as well as opportunities for events (e.g. International Biodiversity Day); investigate what it would cost to hire someone on contract to organize a speaker series; reach out to Parks Canada, ENR's On the Land Unit, Ecology North and others who may already be doing outreach and education on species at risk to discuss further opportunities to coordinate efforts.

20220524-08: (In progress) Secretariat will develop a Communication Plan for NWT Species at Risk and the Communication Plan will be brought to the February meeting and will be used going into the new fiscal year (2023/24).

20220524-09: (In progress) Secretariat to develop a social media strategy that identifies different kinds of content that would be provided on the page and how it would be approved, as well as a schedule for posts and sources of proposed content (e.g. linkages with NWT Species page, NWT Council on Invasive Species, Pests and Pathogens, etc.). For follow-up at December CMA meeting.

20221209-01: (In progress) Management Authorities will review the draft Consensus Agreement accepting/adopting the management plan and submit their Annex B (Actions undertaken with respect to accepting/adopting the plan) submissions to the Secretariat by January 27, 2023 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

20221209-02: (In progress) Management Authorities will review the draft Consensus Agreement to re-list boreal caribou for another 10-year term as a Threatened species and submit their Annex B (Actions undertaken with respect to re-listing boreal caribou) submissions to the Secretariat by January 27, 2023 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

20221209-03: (In progress) Management Authorities will review the draft Consensus Agreement to re-list Peary caribou for another 10-year term as a Threatened species and submit their Annex B (Actions undertaken with respect to re-listing Peary caribou)

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submissions to the Secretariat by January 27, 2023 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

20221209-04: (Complete) Management Authorities to approve the revised Peary caribou Recovery Strategy outline via email.

5. Species at Risk Committee – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat) *Status report and membership updates*

Status Report Updates

There are currently four status reports in progress.

- **In revision following 6-month public review in January 2023:**
 - American white pelican (2023 assessment)
 - Dolphin and Union caribou (2023 reassessment)
- **Currently being drafted:**
 - Hairy braya (2024 reassessment)
 - Red-sided garter snake (2024 assessment)

Request for proposals for the following multispecies status report will go out spring 2023:

- Amphibians (includes western toad, northern leopard frog and Canadian toad)

Membership

Sam Bullock has been appointed by the GNWT, effective January 3, 2023. The term for Allison Thompson (appointed by WMAC-NWT) expired January 14, 2023. WMAC (NWT) has been notified and is working on a new appointment. There are two other existing vacancies that boards are working to fill: GRRB appointment (James Firth replacement) and SRRB appointment (Deb Simmons). Secretariat also flagged to Management Authorities that three

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other memberships will be expiring in July (Aimee Guile, WRRB appointment) and September (Arthur and Daniel Beck, GNWT appointments).

6. Indigenous Knowledge of Berries in the NWT – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

Project update

Michele provided a presentation on the project.

WMAC (NWT) noted that aqpiqs/akpiqs (cloudberries) are really affected by the sun – they go bad/turn white quicker if it's hotter. They are found in more shaded areas now and less in wide-open areas. Also noted there are a lot of expert berry-pickers in the Delta that could provide valuable observations.

WMAC (NWT) also discussed overabundant geese species (thousands) descending on berry patches – and whether that may have a positive or negative influence on berry abundance. Many have blue fronts, but in recent years they do not. SRRB noted extremely warm weather in the Sahtú a few years back, wondering if there have been any impacts on berries linked to the warm weather. May want to also indicate seasonal signs associated with berry-picking (e.g. yellowing leaves) in any published materials.

7. Species Conservation and Recovery Fund – led by Joslyn Oosenbrug (Secretariat)

Call for applications and subcommittee membership

The 2023-24 application period for the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) opened January 15, 2023 and closes March 1, 2023. Application package was distributed through email channels and printed materials (brochures and posters) were provided to CMA members at the February CMA meeting. The updated application package (i.e. application form, report template, brochure, and poster) is also available for download on the NWT



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Species at Risk website. CMA members were encouraged to share application information widely.

SCARF subcommittee member Jessica Hurtubise (NSMA) will be leaving NSMA in April and unable to continue with the subcommittee. CMA members were asked to consider potential nominations to the subcommittee for the May meeting (Secretariat to email a reminder).

8. Consensus Agreements for Re-listing – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Approval in principle of consensus agreements for boreal caribou and Peary caribou (re-listing)

Several corrections need to be made to signatories to the Consensus Agreements (Chairs for GRRB, SRRB, WRRB and TG) on the draft CAs. Annex Bs have been received by all Management Authorities except for the TG.

[Action 20230221-01: Secretariat to adjust names of signatories on the Consensus Agreements.](#)

Re-listing Boreal Caribou as Threatened

WMAC (NWT): Still addressing the letter received by IGC with concerns that TK was missing from the assessment and re-listing. WMAC has since responded to let them know that during the community tour they engage. WMAC (NWT) is meeting next week with IGC to confirm and/or clarify and will be able to let the CMA know whether there are any issues supporting the Consensus Agreement. WMAC (NWT) anticipates being able to support the boreal caribou re-listing and will adjust its Annex B prior to signatures if necessary following the meeting with IGC. WMAC (NWT) did not receive much feedback on boreal caribou from its annual community tour; received some comments that Peary caribou numbers are increasing.

GRRB: Community visits took place in January. There were a few comments talking about boreal caribou, small groups, climate change, impacts to caribou, interest around range planning, interest in industry and development. Range planning has been on hold due to COVID but is slated to start up again shortly in the GSA. There has not been a lot of work done

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specifically on boreal caribou in the GSA in many years – they are largely harvested opportunistically in the GSA. Community members noted that overall there are less boreal caribou than there used to be and support the re-listing as Threatened. GRRB held a board meeting in February and passed a motion to support the Consensus Agreement, pending comments from the 30-day comment period.

Secretariat clarified that a species can be reassessed before the 10-year listing term is up, keeping in mind that SARC needs an updated status report and that can take around 2 years to develop.

SRRB: There is general consensus among communities that populations of boreal caribou are declining and something needs to be done. The board met February 6-9 and passed a motion to support the re-listing as Threatened.

WRRB: Consultation in October and November in all four communities (joint between WRRB and TG). Communities agreed to a re-listing of Tq̄dzı as Threatened with reassessment in 10 years. There is uncertainty around population sizes and demographics—however, with monitoring ongoing as well as range planning, there is hope that new information will be provided soon. There is a lot of concern about climate change and the impacts of fire on caribou habitat. Also concerns about the development of a potential mine by Whatı. WRRB supports the re-listing of boreal caribou as Threatened.

GNWT asked about the general tone of the meetings and whether there was a lot of interest in talking about boreal caribou (as opposed to barren-ground). WRRB indicated there were 59 participants for all four communities and a lot of information was provided up front. Staff were able to tease out comments that were specific to boreal caribou.

NSMA: No specific update. There is more interest among membership to develop IK on boreal caribou and expand existing caribou monitoring program to include boreal caribou. This work is ongoing.

SRFN: Nothing to add.

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GNWT: Public comment period was provided for August to October and advertised by radio, print and online. Five comments were received on re-listing boreal caribou: four in support and one not in support. Letters also went out to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to ask about the proposed re-listing. A letter was received from the Acho Dene Koe with comments that indicated support for the re-listing: ADKFN indicated that re-listing would have positive impacts by supporting the protection and growth of the species working to ensure drivers of decline are studied and appropriate action taken. Also noted the need for adaptive management, careful monitoring, including Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, and more transboundary collaboration. GNWT recently received comments from the IGC and provided more information about the species assessment and engagement. Now in the process of seeking Ministerial approval to sign the CA. GNWT expects to support re-listing – waiting to hear from the Minister’s office.

Re-listing Boreal Caribou Timelines

- **May 9, 2022:** SARC provided the reassessment of boreal caribou to the Management Authorities.
- **July 9, 2022:** Deadline for the CMA to request clarification from SARC regarding the assessment.
- **August 9, 2022:** Management Authorities developed actions needed to prepare for a CMA Consensus Agreement on relisting.
- **August-November 2022:** Engagement period.
- **September 27, 2022:** CMA check-in regarding engagement period.
- **December 9, 2022:** CMA meeting to review the results of engagement.
- **January 27, 2023:** Consensus Agreement Annex B’s (Actions the Management Authorities have undertaken or will undertake with respect to listing) are due in advance of the February 2023 CMA meeting.
- **April 10, 2023:** Start signatures for consensus agreement.
- **May 9, 2023:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on adding another 10-year term.

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- **May 2023:** CMA meeting – Secretariat to draft news release for adding another 10-year term.
- **August 9, 2023:** Boreal caribou re-listed as a Threatened species. News release.

[Decision 20230221-02: Decision to approve in principle the re-listing of boreal caribou as a Threatened species on the NWT List of Species at Risk. Any changes to Annex Bs must be received by March 17, 2023.](#)

Re-listing Peary Caribou as Threatened

WMAC (NWT): Similar to above. Still need to address letter from IGC. However, good input on the re-listing was received from Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok. Both communities have been seeing more but there won't be new population surveys by ENR until later this spring/next spring.

GNWT: Same engagement as for boreal caribou. Did not receive any feedback except for the letter from IGC. Now in the process of seeking Ministerial approval to sign the CA. Expect to support re-listing—waiting to hear from the Minister's office.

Re-listing Peary Caribou Timelines

- **May 9, 2022:** SARC provided the re-assessment of Peary caribou to the Management Authorities.
- **July 9, 2022:** Deadline for the CMA to request clarification from SARC regarding the assessment.
- **August 9, 2022:** Management Authorities developed actions needed to prepare for a CMA Consensus Agreement on Listing.
- **August-November 2022:** Engagement period.
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- **January 27, 2023:** Consensus Agreement Annex B's (Actions the Management Authorities have undertaken or will undertake with respect to listing) are due in advance of the February 2023 CMA meeting.
- **April 10, 2023:** Start signatures for consensus agreement.
- **May 9, 2023:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on adding another 10-year term.
- **May 2023:** CMA meeting – Secretariat to draft news release for adding another 10-year term.
- **August 9, 2023:** Peary caribou re-listed as a Threatened species. News release.

[Decision 20230221-03: Decision to approve in principle the re-listing of Peary caribou as a Threatened species on the NWT List of Species at Risk. Any changes to Annex Bs must be received by March 17, 2023.](#)

9. Northern Mountain Caribou – led by Joslyn Oosenbrug (Secretariat) and Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Update on management plan and consensus agreement for acceptance/adoption of final management plan

All feedback received from engagement and consultation conducted by Management Authorities between August and January were applied to the draft northern mountain caribou management plan and a final draft was provided to Management Authorities by email on January 18, 2023. This version was presented for acceptance/adoption at the February 2023 meeting and additional changes (received by GNWT following this draft) were discussed.

Edits discussed included:

- Acknowledgements – new section added to acknowledge contributions by Deb Simmons.
- Species information – added text about Dehcho Dene.
- Figure 1 – Updated map added with the addition of Conservation Areas from the Sahtú Land Use Plan.

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- Threats and Positive Influences – adjusted wording to avoid confusion with critical habitat under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
- Community-led and Regional Planning – revised wording to reflect that not all of the plans are community-led, some are led regionally. Also captured work from Dehcho Dene.
- Positive influences – now includes subsections.
- Responsible harvesting practices – new section added in response to comments submitted by communities in the Sahtú and Gwich'in regions.
- Knowledge gaps – acknowledge concerns there are gaps around harvest information and there is no limit on the total number of caribou each guide-outfitter can take each year. Noted that although outfitting is a major discussion point in managing for caribou, this management plan is not the place to deal with specifics such as limits on the outfitter harvest. There will be further conversations with regard to outfitting, likely through the *Wildlife Act* and outfitting regulations in the NWT.
- Planning partners – change to wording to include DFN and ADKFN.

The following additional edits were proposed at the February meeting:

- Some RRCs had concerns with around the concept of 'managing' caribou. The management plan avoids saying managing caribou, and instead uses 'managing for caribou' or managing human activities. **Clarification will be added.**
- Traditional teachings on responsible harvest should be further reflected, not just the GNWT hunter education. Should be reflected that work has been underway prior to the 2020 program, and how it is being passed on (for example, the recent Caribou Summit in Fort McPherson). **Text will be adjusted and an image added from the GTC Caribou Summit showing Elders and youth working together to skin a caribou.**
- Bonnet Plume River has been designated a heritage river. Should this be considered under Positive Influences?

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- Communities in the Sahtu noted that other caribou types (e.g. barren-ground) have been documented mixing with the northern mountain caribou. How can this be addressed? **Text to be added to the knowledge gaps section within the paragraph for genetic clusters [see page 44 of the NMC status report].**
- Text should be added (from the Peary caribou recovery strategy) to emphasize that Part 1 (NWT Addition), Part 2 (federal Management Plan) and 2020 Status Report should be consulted together for a full discussion of NMC management in the NWT.
- Section on Next Steps should reflect not just the progress report but the 5-year review.

[Action 20230221-04: Final edits to be applied to northern mountain caribou management plan and circulated to CMA as soon as possible \(by end of day February 23\). Management Authorities to confirm their support for this draft and provide any final edits to the Consensus Agreement by March 17, 2023.](#)

GRRB: Consultation with RRCs took place at the same time as boreal caribou and peregrine falcon in January. There were not many comments as people in the GSA don't harvest NMC but members do receive NMC from outfitters. Main concern was regarding harvest levels from the Sahtú and outfitters and how population thresholds described in the management plan would be decided. General agreement for information on population numbers. Goals, objectives and measures were supported, and concerns were addressed in the latest draft. Board met January 7-9 in Inuvik and made a motion to approve the NMC MP in principle.

SRRB: Sent invitations with consultation and engagement material, provided follow-ups and social media posts. SRRB held separate sessions/meetings and had a regional forum. Compiled comments/questions and sought clarification where necessary. Concerns have mainly been addressed about the management plan, but there remain concerns with understanding the SAR process and not enough time for engagement/consultation. The Board met in February and passed a motion to accept the management plan.

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SRRB also noted there have been changes to caribou habitat and caribou distribution along the Keel River—you don't see caribou where you used to because of the traffic. There has been monitoring and fecal sample collection to look at their movements. People are very concerned as they depend on caribou for their livelihood.

GNWT: Similar to re-listing, invited public comments on management plan through advertising (radio, print and online), emails, etc. Received 11 responses. Most stated overall support. There were several suggestions for both things to include and advice on implementing the plan (e.g. how harvest should be management). Also sent letters to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations within the range but did not receive any comments. Prepared to accept in principle but require Minister sign-off. Has not yet been sent up for approval because the final management plan is required.

Northern Mountain Caribou Management Plan Timelines

- **April 29, 2021:** Consensus Agreement on Listing provided to the Minister of ENR.
- **July 29, 2021:** Northern mountain caribou legally listed.
- **June 9, 2022:** Management Authorities developed actions needed to prepare for a CMA Consensus Agreement to accept/adopt the Management Plan.
- **July 2022:** Proposed draft management plan provided to Management Authorities.
- **August to November 2022:** Engagement period.
- **September 27, 2022:** CMA check-in regarding consultation/engagement period.
- **December 9, 2022:** CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.
- **January 2023:** Final version of the NWT management plan provided to Management Authorities ahead of the February 2023 CMA Meeting.
- **January 27, 2023:** Consensus Agreement Annex B's (Actions the Management Authorities have undertaken or will undertake with respect to listing) are due in advance of the February 2023 CMA meeting.
- **April 10, 2023:** Start signatures for consensus agreement.

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- **April 29, 2023:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on Accepting/Adopting the Management Plan.
- **May 2023:** CMA meeting – Secretariat to draft news release for Management Plan.
- **July 29, 2023:** Management plan is finalized and made available to the public. News release.
- **April 29, 2024:** Consensus Agreement on Implementation due.

[Decision 20230221-05: Decision to approve in principle the acceptance and adoption of the NWT Northern Mountain Caribou Management Plan. Any changes to Annex Bs must be received by March 17, 2023.](#)

10. Peary Caribou – led by Joslyn Oosenbrug (Secretariat)

Update, discuss and provide direction on the recovery strategy

Background

Peary caribou were listed under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* in February 2014. For efficiency and to avoid duplication, the CMA has agreed to adopt the applicable portions of the federal recovery strategy for Peary caribou. The current completion deadline for the NWT recovery strategy is September 30, 2024.

Draft NWT Recovery Strategy

A first draft of the Peary Caribou Recovery Strategy was provided to the CMA on January 12, 2023. Comments were received by ECCC and WMAC (NWT) prior to the February meeting. Revisions reviewed at the February meeting included:

- **Positive Influences** – Addition of text on how Total Allowable Harvest is managed under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) to demonstrate the positive influence this may have for the species. All Peary caribou in the NWT are within the ISR and managed through IFA processes.

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- Positive Influences – text added regarding the Schedule of Studies in the federal recovery strategy.

Additional revisions proposed at the meeting included:

- Correction to text to indicate that OHTC was the Holman Island hunters and trappers committee in the 90s.
- The Sachs Harbour community has seen an increase in the number of Peary caribou.
- Section on Next Steps should reflect not just the progress report but the 5-year review.

[Action 20230221-06: CMA members to send in final comments on the first draft of the Peary caribou recovery strategy by March 15, 2023. A second draft will be provided to the CMA for review in April 2023.](#)

Timelines (Peary caribou recovery strategy)

- **April 2021:** Minister extended the completion date for the Peary caribou recovery strategy to September 30, 2024.
- **September 27, 2022:** CMA discusses the proposed approach to adopt the federal recovery strategy and draft outline during the September 2022 CMA Meeting.
- **September 29, 2022:** Recovery Strategy for Peary caribou in Canada was posted to the federal Species at Risk Registry.
- **January 2023:** Initial draft of NWT recovery strategy provided to CMA for review in advance of the February 2023 CMA Meeting.
- **February 2023:** Management Authorities discuss draft during the February 2023 CMA Meeting. CMA determines whether the initial draft is suitable to become a CMA document and provides direction on the next draft.
- **April 2023:** Second draft of NWT recovery strategy provided to CMA for review in advance of the May 2023 CMA Meeting.
- **July 2023:** Final draft provided to Management Authorities for engagement.

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- **July 2023:** Management Authorities identify actions needed to prepare for a CMA Consensus Agreement to accept/adopt the recovery strategy.
- **August to November 2023:** Engagement period.
- **January 2024:** Final version of the NWT recovery strategy provided to Management Authorities ahead of the February 2024 CMA Meeting.
- **April 2024:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on Accepting/Adopting the Recovery Strategy.
- **May 2024:** CMA meeting – Secretariat to draft news release for recovery strategy.
- **July 2024:** Recovery strategy is finalized and made available to the public. News release.
- **April 2025:** Consensus Agreement on Implementation due.

11. Progress Reports and Reviews – led by Joslyn Oosenbrug (Secretariat)

Update on Dolphin and Union caribou progress report and review

Background

Progress reports and reviews are required every five years under sections 73 and 74 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* after an implementation agreement is signed. Four progress reports have been completed to date (for hairy braya, polar bear, boreal caribou and amphibians). The next progress report and review, for the management of Dolphin and Union caribou (2018-2022), is due in December 2023.

The Dolphin and Union Management Plan was prepared jointly by the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories, in cooperation with the Government of Canada and co-management partners. Co-management partners involved in this process include: the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), Ekaluktutiak HTO, Omingmaktok HTO, Burnside HTO, Wildlife

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Management Advisory Council (NWT), Inuvialuit Game Council, Ulukhaktok Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC), and the Paulatuk HTC.

Dolphin and Union Caribou Progress Report and Review

Secretariat provided the following update:

Starting in November 2022, all partners were engaged to discuss the progress report and review and agreed to take an interjurisdictional approach (NWT and Nunavut) to reviewing and reporting on the management plan. The Secretariat (Joslyn) provided a presentation on the proposed approach to the Progress Report and Review for the Dolphin and Union caribou management plan to co-management partners (at the November user-to-user meeting, IGC board meeting, and two meetings convened with partners including HTCs and HTOs).

As a result of comments received through those two meetings, the Review has been put on hold pending the outcome of the April 2023 species assessment for Dolphin and Union caribou (which will indicate whether a recovery strategy may be required).

Efforts to develop an interjurisdictional Progress Report continue, with implementation actions by all partners (in Nunavut and NWT) requested by February 3, 2023. Actions have been received by WMAC (NWT), ECCC, GN and EHTO. The first draft of the Progress Report (Sections 1-5) was also provided to the CMA and to DU caribou management partners by email on January 20, 2023. Comments were requested by February 17, 2023. Comments have been received by IGC (Pat Klengenberg), OHTC, ECCC and GN.

Following the update, WMAC (NWT) raised questions about Nunavut's involvement (compared to other management plans/recovery strategies such as polar bear and Peary caribou) given they do not fit under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. Secretariat clarified that DU caribou are unique in that the NWT management plan was developed collaboratively with Nunavut due to species migration and the fact that they are in one territory for part of

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the year and the other territory the rest. In the case of Peary caribou, the recovery strategy is also collaborative but developed by the federal government. When it comes to reporting progress, CMA may again consider taking an interjurisdictional approach.

Action 20230221-07: CMA members to send in final comments on the first draft of the Dolphin and Union caribou progress report by March 15, 2023, with implementation actions (2018-2022) sent asap. A second draft will be provided to the CMA for review at the end of April 2023.

Timelines (Dolphin and Union Caribou Progress Report)

- **March 19, 2015:** Minister listed Dolphin and Union caribou as Special Concern under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.
- **December 7, 2017:** CMA signed the Consensus Agreement on Adopting the Management Plan for the Dolphin and Union Caribou in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- **March 29, 2018:** Minister of ENR provided the Management Plan to the Management Authorities and made it public.
- **December 19, 2018:** CMA submitted the Consensus Agreement on Implementing the Management Plan to the Minister of ENR.
- **November 2022:** Membership and contact list for Management Partners is established and initial meeting to discuss the Progress Report is scheduled.
- **December 15, 2022:** Management Partners meet by videoconference to discuss workplan and approach to joint review and progress reporting.
- **Early-Mid January 2023:** Sections 1-5 (Draft 1) of Progress Report provided to all Management Partners for review.
- **March 15, 2023:** Deadline to provide feedback/input for Draft 1 of the Progress Report, including providing implementation actions (2018-2022).
- **Late April 2023:** Draft 2 provided to all Management Partners for review once species reassessment is complete.

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- **Early May 2023:** Management Partners to meet by videoconference to discuss Draft 2 and other considerations for the development/publication of Progress Report.
- **May 31, 2023:** Deadline for Management Partners to provide input on Draft 2.
- **July 2023:** Draft 3 of Progress Report provided to Management Partners for a final opportunity to make edits.
- **August 2023:** Proposed Progress Report (final draft) provided to Management Partners for approval by their respective organizations. Provided to Management Authorities for approval as part of the CMA material for the September 2023 CMA Meeting.
- **September-October 2023:** Management Partners discuss and approve Progress Report at their respective Fall board meetings. (Management Authorities provide final approval on Progress Report during the September 2023 CMA Meeting.)
- **November 2023:** Draft news release and supporting materials to publicize the release of the Progress Report.
- **By December 19:** CMA publishes the approved Progress Report.

12. Species at Risk Communications Workshop – led by Joslyn Oosenbrug (Secretariat)

Discussion and input into: Communications Plan, Social Media Strategy and Website update for NWT Species at Risk

Communications Plan and Social Media Strategy

A revised draft Communications Plan and draft Social Media Strategy were provided to the CMA by email as Word documents in January. These drafts incorporated feedback provided at the December CMA meeting. Secretariat (Joslyn) provided a presentation on these drafts and facilitated discussion on the overall communication approach proposed for NWT species at risk.

Communications on species at risk include those required under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* as well as those guided by the mandates of SARC or CMA members. The communications



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plan—including key messages, approaches and tactics for communications—will help set direction for proposed education activities (see action items under 4), the upcoming website refresh, social media and help guide and prioritize communication and outreach activities CMA and/or SARC going forward.

Opening Activity

CMA members shared information about their own communications on species at risk:

1. WHAT do you communicate about?

- Which species are at risk and why?
- Status of species as at risk in my region
- Importance of different species and how to help
- What we hope to do (MP/RS) and what we are doing already (progress reporting)
- Listing proposals and recovery documents – how to have a say or CMA decisions once they have been made
- How listing affects people/communities if it is a harvested species
- When is a management plan needed?
- When is a recovery strategy needed?
- The effects of no plan or strategy
- How you can help
- Monitoring/Guardianship programs for species at risk
- What is the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*
- What is the federal *Species at Risk Act*
- NWT SARA process and how it works with the federal SARA
- Species at risk ranges and habitats
- Why we should care about lesser-known species
- Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (funding for species at risk)
- Species at risk facts or fun pictures

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2. HOW do you communicate?

- Community meetings or videoconferences
- Posters
- Social media
- Website
- Email distribution list
- Newsletters
- Regional radio
- SAR booklets
- Face-to-face presentations for students, boards, Elders and community members who don't have access to internet
- Wildlife speaker series
- Media releases
- NWT Species at Risk Viewer

Discussion: Communicating about Species at Risk

CMA members discussed the importance of conveying information about species at risk. Comments included:

- **ECCC:** We have certain criteria we have to hit, which varies from species to species and the cultural context. We also do mail out, send information, virtual meetings: we don't want the information to get so old that people forget about it. It is good to keep the conversation going and to provide access to the information communities need.
- **WMAC (NWT):** To support effective co-management, positive news needs to be communicated to prove actions work – e.g. harvest restrictions for Peary caribou and population increases in response. It is so important to show positive news. As well as accurate information. For example, harvest data is important, it is our proof. Protecting these species keeps food on our tables.

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- **SRRB:** People have a hard time understanding SAR and this is where concerns are raised with the term management plan. The communication around managing people for the conservation of species is important.
- **WMAC (NWT):** Consider climate change and the effects on adding more species to the list. More songbirds come up, eating mosquitoes, more raptors, muskrat are prey, osprey also prey on muskrat. Killer whales are getting seals now in the north, making them direct competition to polar bears. This is an avenue to show hard proof, evidence of climate changes. We are witnesses and we need to document it properly.
- **NSMA:** Recovery planning [and communicating about it] is necessary but the whole concept of SAR (e.g. NWT vs. federal level) can feel cumbersome. We need to look at how to better inform communities about the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* and how it works. Important to connect what is going on with species on the ground as the process can be cumbersome. Hard to talk about one species at a time, hard to untangle.
- **ECCC:** Consider how often are you reaching out or others are reaching out to communities. People can feel overwhelmed. If they are only ever seeing negative news, that weighs on people and they become fatigued. It is important to share success stories.
- **WMAC (NWT):** Yes, we need researchers coming up to gather information on populations or habitat. But the real hard truth comes from people staying out on the land and documenting it. For example, some Elders record the weather every day. That knowledge should be passed on to younger generations to continue accurate record keeping.
- **GRRB:** A lot of meetings are happening. A lot of the time you're not reaching the people you want to reach. You have to work to get people excited and make the work personal to them, of interest to the community members. Examples are Dolly Varden and caribou.
- **WMAC (NWT):** Engagement sometimes depends on faith in the research that is being done. Having someone local involved in all stages creates that interest along with buy-in from the community.

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- **GNWT:** Important to get people engaged with lesser-known species. Hairy braya has had a lot of recent coverage including radio – people don't have to leave their living rooms to access that information, they don't have to attend meetings, they can receive the inf. ENR also highlights work at specific times of the year, e.g. bats in bridges. People are not always aware of all of the good work being done in the NWT for species.
- **GNWT:** Would be worthwhile to highlight specific details and projects as good news stories. DU caribou progress report could have call out boxes that feature projects or projects could be promoted independent from the report.
- **GRRB:** Not all households in the NWT have access to internet. Posters are a good alternative visual. Local radio stations and CBC are also good to use – the lifeline in the Beaufort-Delta region.
- **WRRB:** WRRB has a comms plan that comes from their strategic plan. How can the various comms plans support each other?

Action 20230221-08: CMA members to send in feedback on the Communications Plan by March 31, 2023. Secretariat will send out a revised version for comment the week of February 27. Once any final comments are addressed, a final draft will be provided to the CMA for approval at the May 2023 meeting.

Social Media Strategy

The Secretariat is proposing to establish a Facebook page for *NWT Species at Risk* managed by the Species at Risk Secretariat on behalf of the CMA and SARC. This would allow the CMA and SARC more direct access to social media communication, which is currently managed by ENR (GNWT) and other Management Authorities. It would also provide necessary separation between CMA and SARC (as arms-length co-management organizations) and the GNWT.

Secretariat (Joslyn) provided a presentation on the Social Media Strategy and led a discussion about how CMA members currently use social media to share information on species at risk and potential challenges or concerns around launching a Facebook page for NWT Species at

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Risk. Content proposed for the Facebook page would be directed by the communications plan. A pilot project would help to determine the feasibility and uptake, as well as the benefits and challenges of managing a social media presence for NWT Species at Risk. The pilot project proposed in the strategy includes a minimum of one post per week to start, which could include informational posts (e.g. Did you know?, event promotion, website updates, etc.) as well as sharing curated content from other pages identified by the CMA and SARC. A schedule of upcoming posts would be provided to Management Authorities for approval at CMA meetings.

Discussion: Current Social Media

CMA members discussed how their organizations use social media to share information on species at risk. Comments included:

- **WRRB** has a website as well as an active Facebook page. Posts include: Migratory Monday, Furbearer Friday, etc. We also do an online newsletter with up to date news stories (including a species at risk section) and we have a public registry.
- **GNWT (ENR)** has a website and a Facebook presence. The Facebook page covers a lot of different ENR programs including fires, etc. We use the Facebook page for public input (management plans and legal listings). There are also frequently posts regarding “did you know?” type posts, including featuring interesting things about species at risk. We also feature events like wildlife week or bat week. Information on wildlife management programs are also shared including the mobile caribou zone.
- **NSMA** uses Facebook, Instagram and a newsletter. The newsletter is internal for membership. We’ll use some information from the newsletter in Facebook posts. Usually managed by the environment team. Newsletters are monthly. Facebook posts are irregular. In general members feel over saturated on social media. Calling members to share information has been effective. Without those phone calls members did not know about the information they have access to. Visuals are good.

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- **ECCC** has a Facebook page; however, you have to go through communications and it is inflexible and difficult to contribute. The Facebook page is not regional; it is ECCC not specific to CWS or SAR. There have been suggestions to post information on the Weather Network.
- **Salt River First Nation** has a website and a Facebook page that we update regularly and we send a newsletter. Elders don't always have access online so the newsletter is good.
- **GRRB** has a webpage and a Facebook page, as well as quarterly newsletters. We get most of our engagement through the Facebook page. Occasionally we do updates on research. We share information on remote cameras. We could be posting more frequently on the Facebook page. Newsletter is done twice a year after each board meeting. There is also a calendar done each year. Bumper stickers, fridge magnets, other stickers, playing cards.
- **WMAC (NWT)** does not have Facebook. We have page under the Joint Secretariat website but it is not always updated. We used to do quarterly newsletters, but we haven't done those in about a year.
- **SRRB** primarily uses its website for updates rather than social media.

Discussion: Challenges and Concerns

CMA members discussed potential challenges and concerns around launching and Facebook page for NWT Species at Risk. Comments included:

- Concerns about distinguishing between SARC and CMA posts on the same page. The two organizations sometimes need to communicate through different lenses. For example, we need to be clear that if we are talking about a SARC assessment that the post is by SARC.
- Capacity and sustainability are important. One post per week is manageable. Quarterly reviews of posts by CMA are reasonable.

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- Concerns around approvals for sharing posts from other organizations. For example, if a Management Authority does not share the same position as another management authority on a post. Sharing innocuous posts should not be an issue (e.g. process related or community meetings/consultations that are happening). **Secretariat to draft a list of partners whose posts would generally be pre-approved by the CMA. Secretariat to err on the side of caution if a post may not align with the interests of all CMA members.**
- Controversial and negative comments come in with social media and can lead to hearsay. **Secretariat to develop a policy for dealing with negative comments.**
- Important to highlight NWT-specific information on species at risk.
- What happens when the Secretariat is away?

[Action 20230221-09: CMA members to send in feedback on the Social Media Strategy by March 31, 2023.](#)

Next steps:

- Secretariat to create a list of partners, describe how CMA vs. SARC posts would be differentiated, provide a short list of sharable content and develop a policy for dealing with negative comments.
- Secretariat will send out a revised version of the Social Media Strategy for comment the week of February 27.
- Once any final comments are addressed, a final draft for a 6-month social media pilot project will be provided to the CMA for approval at the May 2023 meeting.
- The trial (and the first proposed schedule of posts for approval) would target the July to September period. Going forward, the approval schedule would be:
 - July-September posts – for approval at May CMA meeting
 - October-December posts – for approval at September meeting
 - January-March – for approval at December meeting
 - April-June – for approval at March meeting

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Website updates

Secretariat provided an update on the NWT Species at Risk website migration:

The NWT Species at Risk website is built on a Drupal 7 framework. The end of life for Drupal 7 is set for November 1, 2023. This means the Drupal community will stop supporting this version and there will be no more bug fixes or feature updates to modules and Drupal core. Some limited security fixes will continue through November 2025 through the GNWT.

The NWT Species at Risk website will need to migrate to the Drupal 9 platform. At minimum, this will require transferring the current content onto a modern web framework. However, this is also an opportunity to make a more public friendly, plain language website in addition to making it useful for the CMA/SARC as a “library” for documentation.

The Secretariat is currently navigating what this migration could look like, including options for the new website and associated costs. A contract has been established with Kellett Communications to build the new site by the end of March with tweaks and polishing into April and May. This will include a refreshed landing page but will maintain the “library” functionality required by CMA and SARC under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. Direction from the CMA, provided through the communications plan, will help guide the rebuild.

13. Summary of Implementation Activities – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson) *Updates on implementation activities from CMA members*

In February 2019, the CMA made the decision that Management Authorities would provide annual/periodic reviews to help shift the focus from process to implementation. This will also inform the 5- and 10-year progress reports and reviews (which are legally required under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*).

Management Authorities provided verbal high-level updates on implementation activities during the February CMA meeting. This year, Management Authorities were provided with a

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PowerPoint template and asked to provide 3-4 highlights for each species for which they have management responsibilities. Management Authorities also provided written progress updates to the Secretariat, which are used to inform and populate species progress reports. The Secretariat will produce a summary of the annual (2022) implementation actions as a PDF for the May 2023 CMA meeting.

Hairy Braya – WMAC (NWT) and GNWT

- **WMAC (NWT):** Reviewed the progress on recovery actions and reviewed information on populations.
- **GNWT:** In 2022 we did a hairy braya survey (as recommended in the recovery strategy every 10 years). It was very successful; we were able to revisit the previously known 13 sites. 11 are doing well and 2 no longer have HB anymore due to erosion. We were able to look in some different areas and were able to find additional sites for the plant and this was exciting. A lot of them were not on the coast so they are not subject to the erosion threat, they are more secure. We also collected seeds from across their range and they were sent to the Millennium seed bank. We are working on getting the new information into the status report. Work opened a lot of communication opportunities about the results of the survey, for example with the Tuk HTO and others in the planning phase.
- **ECCC:** Pursuing critical habitat discussions with IGC about protecting Cape Bathurst Peninsula as Critical Habitat for hairy braya. IRC will ultimately need to approve.
- **What about the Russian work?** There have been some specimens that Russian scientists have labelled as HB, botanists in Canada has been working to try to verify. Photos were shared and the HB expert is pretty confident that they are different, but it is not possible to tell for sure from the photos. The botanists are working to get access to genetic samples.

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Amphibians – GRRB, SRRB, WRRB, GNWT

- **GNWT:** We have been working with several partners on biodiversity monitoring initiative which include wildlife cameras and acoustic monitoring units (ARUs). They detect sound from birds as well as amphibians and help us learn about species distribution. As well, we support work by the NWT Council on Invasive Species, Pests and Pathogens to prevent introduction of invasive species into wetlands (boat washing station at the border, Play Clean Go, Don't Let it Loose, Clean Drain Dry). New research from Parinaz Khalilzadeh on northern leopard frog genetics showed NWT population was very differentiated from others with evidence of inbreeding.
- **GRRB:** We only have the wood frog in our region. We don't do a huge amount on amphibians: we encourage reporting sightings, provide standard advice to minimize disease, sit on NWT Council on Invasive Species, Pests and Pathogens, determine a research priority list and provide in-kind support. We share the reptile and amphibian ID book with RRCs. We don't know exactly where amphibians occur in the GSA but would be interested in helping with that type of work.
- **SRRB:** Nothing to report due to capacity issues. However, we can report that people who go out on the land have noticed that frogs have been very quiet, while you used to be able to hear them all night.
- **WRRB:** Limited activities. Social media posts about reporting sightings and about threats facing amphibians. There is one frog and one toad suspected in Wek'èezhì so we are hoping to put out ARUs to confirm distribution in the Wek'èezhì and increase knowledge in the region.
- **NSMA:** eDNA project has been ongoing for the last four years. Amphibians are a part of the targeted species. We haven't had any hits yet for NLF and western toad, but have detected wood frog. We are at the fringes of the currently known habitat spots. Last year as part of AFSAR and SCARF we installed some ARUs at Old Fort Rae and they appear to be quite busy. We have five now on the little peninsula on the North Arm.

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We have a whole array of wildlife cameras as well. NSMA has not yet had a chance to analyze the data collected by the ARUs but we will be building capacity for this. Our first winter trip just happened, and we will be going again in March. Then we will start looking at how we can assess the information. We are also looking at getting more ARUs for our guardianship programs. Our high levels results will be shared in funding reporting.

- **Salt River First Nation:** Nothing to report.

Boreal Caribou – All Management Authorities

- **GNWT:** Every year we report on habitat disturbance levels as a commitment under the NWT Recovery Strategy. The most recent data (2021): 72% of habitat remains undisturbed in NT1 range. The population information will be included in the written submission. In 2022, the Interim Wek'èezhì Boreal Caribou Range Plan was completed, range planning is active in the Wek'èezhì, southern NWT and in the Gwich'in region. We also launched the Species and Habitat Viewer, which allows users to look at landscape disturbance, project screening and habitat information. There are also recording tools specifically for boreal caribou. You can also generate a report for a theoretical new project, and it will calculate for you how the habitat disturbance will change. Projects are also ongoing to develop guidance for offsetting and habitat restoration, identify candidate sites for restoration and test restoration practices.
- **WMAC (NWT):** Boreal caribou is not very active for the ISR: we review any development activities and Hannah Currie (new ethnobiologist) is now on the boreal caribou file and will be attending range planning meetings. We also gather observations from community members when we meet about SAR.
- **GRRB:** Boreal caribou is not a particularly active file as the number of boreal caribou harvested is usually quite low (opportunistically harvested in the GSA). We did recently participate in the Gwich'in Tribal Council caribou summit. We promoted the

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harvest survey and encouraged hunters to report on harvest (primarily porcupine caribou but other ungulates as well). We also advise on the regulatory permit process with regard to caribou. Environmental coordinator position is currently vacant.

- **SRRB:** Preparing for public listening session on wildfire and climate change; held meetings to discuss boreal caribou range planning; held meetings to discuss impact of the petroleum extraction industry; encouraged and supported community conservation planning; partnered with external researchers to collect spatial information; compiled information on natural and human-caused disturbance levels; collected and compiled information on caribou populations for the Délı̄nę PLS; continued wildfire planning with Sahtu communities; continued to expand fecal sampling (genetic research to understand relationships between caribou ecotypes); held the 2021 PLS (in 2022), which promoted engagement in stewardship and conservation, promoted communication and encouraged cooperative work in both Indigenous knowledge and science; published submissions about Ṯḏzi, predators and competitors on the public registry. Partnered with communities, government and academia in Ṯḏzi research planning.
- **WRRB:** Reviewed and approved WMMPs for projects in Wek'èezhì that involve boreal caribou (e.g. opening of the Ṯjcẖ Highway); meetings to finalize Wek'èezhì range plan; began developing a forest management plan for Wek'èezhì (with GNWT and TG).
- **NSMA:** Applied for funding to expand monitoring programs (TBD). Got a hit for boreal caribou at Baker Creek through the eDNA program – not sure if this is accurate or contamination. In September 2022, staff were out at Old Fort Rae and there was caribou scat – which hasn't been seen in a little while. There were weird winds this fall, and perhaps it affected where the caribou went. Old Fort Rae is becoming an important spot for monitoring species.

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- **ECCC:** GNWT is heading the work on boreal caribou and ECCC defers to the GNWT on implementation work for 2022.

Polar Bears – WMAC (NWT) and GNWT

- **GNWT:** Genetic mark-recapture survey of South and North Beaufort subpopulations using biopsy sampling in 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023. Collaboration with Genome Canada Bearwatch – developing non-invasive polar bear ‘Biomonitoring Toolbox’ using scat, harvested samples and snow from tracks to look at DNA, health, diet, etc. CITES – information to ECCC for permits; input into Non-Detrimental Finding (NDF) report and analysis of Canadian trade in polar bears.
 - **Comment:** Concern about the number of samples and not having the room to store any more. So they may have stopped. It sounds like a good way to track and recognize the different bears but there is concern about whether there is enough freezer space.
 - **Response:** GNWT does talk with Beaufort-Delta regional biologist and we are working on getting someone up to Inuvik to help with this issue.
- **WMAC (NWT):** We have meetings between joint councils in the NWT and NU. Some have not happened for a while, so we are working with IGC to get them going again. Up to date habitat and demographic information is being collected to feed into genetic mark-recapture surveys. Speaking with HTC's to make sure what was brought forward in meetings is validated. For a few years now we have contracted folks to develop a framework to integrate Indigenous knowledge into population demographics (Polar bear Indigenous knowledge IPM Integrated Populations model (IK-IPM)). Partners in this have done work in the Chukchi sea. We are hoping it will be a baseline study for others. Once we have verification from the workshop, that should be the last step before the contractor completes the model.

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- **Yukon Government, WMAC-NS, ECCC and Parks Canada:** Most indicated that initiatives are ongoing in 2022. YG provided some examples of non-invasive research techniques being used elsewhere.

Dolphin and Union Caribou – WMAC (NWT) and GNWT

- **GNWT:** Provided information for the updated status report for SARC's 2023 reassessment. University of Calgary, HTOs and OHTC are facilitating community-based wildlife health and condition monitoring in Ulukhaktok, Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk. Ulukhaktok caribou IK from ENR interviews in 2011-2013 has been analyzed and compiled into a final report, verified by the community in 2022. Published NWT State of the Environment Report in 2022, which tracks trends in sea ice, shrub cover, shipping, caribou populations, wildlife health, etc.
- **WMAC (NWT):** WMAC held annual community tours in all six ISR communities. Met with Ulukhaktok knowledge holders for a facilitated review of the DU caribou status report prior to the reassessment. DU caribou user to user group is developing an MOU on responsibilities. Recommended mandatory harvest reporting (OHTC is consulting further on this matter). Supported up listing DU caribou to Endangered under the federal SAR legislation.
- Secretariat also received progress updates from **ECCC, GN** and **EHTO** for the 2018-2022 reporting period.

Wood Bison - GNWT, TG, WRRB

- **GNWT:** Implementing management plans for the three bison herds (all three working groups met in 2022); agreement to manage bison in the Edézhíe protected area based on guidance in the Mackenzie Bison Management Plan; monitoring collared bison in the Mackenzie population; new brochure on safety in bison country.

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- **WRRB:** Continued participation in the Mackenzie Bison Working Group meetings. There is a population survey proposed for this March. We also monitor habitat through the implementation of the Tł̨chq̨ Highway Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP). Approved proposal to collar Mackenzie bison (related to upcoming population survey).
- **NSMA:** Continued participation in the Mackenzie Bison Working Group. Continued country foods program for bison – funded four harvesters to hunt bison and shared meat with membership; working with younger members to hunt with their parents and document the experience to share traditional practices.
- **Salt River First Nation:** Participates in bison management working group.

Barren-ground Caribou – All Management Authorities

- **GNWT:** Increase in funding for monitoring and management activities (from ECCC and GNWT); implementing Bathurst caribou range plan and mobile caribou conservation measures; Habitat Viewer has tools for helping to model and mitigate disturbance to barren-ground caribou; ongoing cumulative effects assessment on four herds, including IK knowledge collection and summary and forecast scenarios (climate, land use, caribou populations); report underway looking at how productivity of migratory tundra caribou relates to climate and vital rates. Implementing outcomes from Respectful Harvesters meeting, including developing shared messaging between GNWT and Indigenous governments (newspapers, Facebook, signage, etc.) regarding respectful harvesting.
- **WMAC (NWT):** Participates in ACCWM for Taking Care of Caribou Plan; annual community tour includes a discussion of barren-ground caribou management actions and updates; ICK is collected as part of these tours and shared with ACCWM; a draft sensitive habitat paper is in progress after having been paused through covid— includes identification of important areas for caribou and mapping; travelled to

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- Tuktoyaktuk in August 2022 for work on position paper on Tuk Pen herd; increase in wolf hunters helping to support caribou herds as well.
- **GRRB:** Hosted ACCWM meeting in Inuvik. Participated in working groups and discussions on changes to harvest zones for Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds. Coordinate harvest survey twice a year (reporting is voluntary). Concerns that wolf population is growing with an increase in moose population – survey approved for moose. Focus is largely on the Porcupine herd, some on the BNW and CB. Also, lots of talk at the recent Caribou Summit about traditional practices versus current hunting practices, as well as respectful harvest practices.
 - **SRRB:** Supported communities to develop community conservation plans; collected community information on BNE and BNW as part of the PLS series; support communities to take part in environmental assessment processes. Deline has not seen a lot of caribou this year; Colville Lake has seen more. SRRB supporting Colville Lake with tools for monitoring climate change. BNW have not come around Deline this year. People in Colville Lake have seen some caribou near their community.
 - **WRRB:** Supported and participated in Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'e` (Boots on the Ground) program; ongoing development of the Caribou Guardians Coalition for Bathurst caribou; participated in ACCWM and BCAC status meetings and implemented appropriate management activities; finalized wolverine and grizzly bear biological assessments on the range of BNE and Bathurst caribou (in addition to earlier wolf assessment).
 - **NSMA:** Continue to be part of the Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee and Bathurst Guardians Coalition; 2022 is the third year for monitors on the Tibbitt to Contwoyto winter road. They are monitoring harvest activities and looking for disrespectful harvest or poaching. This information is shared with GNWT and monitoring is coordinated with TG. Submitted a CIMP application for funding to expand this guardianship program to multi-day monitoring and set up cameras and ARUs.
 - **Salt River First Nation:** No update.

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- **TG:** Continuing Ekwo Harvest Monitoring Program (second year in Jan 2022), including a TK element in 2022. The program was initially developed to collect harvest information and ensure hunters were not harvesting in the no-hunting zone. Now with TK added, we had some Elders go up to join the camp and share stories. Doing the same thing for 2023 but more mobile with movable camps. Continuously improving and collaborating with other IGIOs. Worked with NSMA last year but couldn't really figure out how to collaborate but we continue to share information. The program collects sex information on what's being harvested, body condition, pregnancy rates, abnormalities and other wildlife observations. A fieldbook was created for the program that monitors are using. Focussing on Tł̄chq harvesters—YKDFN, NSMN and LKDFN also have monitoring programs in place. The diga (wolf) harvesting program is still ongoing as well at Round Rock Lake. In 2022, there was a low harvest number – 3 from camp and 6 from Wekweèti. Ran from mid-Feb to mid-March. Boots on the Ground is also running from end of July to end of Sept. We have expanded the program to include another site – three areas that we are monitoring. We also have the TG Highway monitoring program focussing on collecting harvest and vegetation information.

Bats – GNWT, WRRB, TG, SRRB (+GRRB)

- **GNWT:** Joined the 'Bats and Bridges' project – surveyed 34 bridges to investigate use by bats and collected guano for species ID and disease testing – found 9 bridges used as regular bat roosts during the day; annual banding and monitoring at four little brown myotis maternity colonies, acoustic monitoring and disease surveillance; white-nose syndrome not yet detected in NWT (all samples have come back negative); NWT Species and Habitat Viewer provides ranges, critical habitat, species at risk or a biodiversity report for an area of interest.

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- **GRRB:** Backlog of ARU data was sent to the GNWT. Did not put detectors out this summer. There was a bat research that came up to do surveys of the Dempster Bat are still mentioned in meetings, no new sightings reported in the past year.
- **SRRB:** No actions to report.
- **TG:** No actions to report.
- **WRRB:** Shared information on how to report bat observations on FB page and website; any regulatory reviews it is mentioned to consider bat habitat.
- **NSMA:** Continue to deploy ARUs for bats at Old Fort Rae. Over the last four years, two little brown myotis specimens have been retrieved from cabins at Old Fort Rae and sent to ENR for testing. Neither had diseases and they were confirmed to be little brown myotis. Potential roosts on NE side where there are cliffs – this is an area identified for future monitoring.

[Action 20230221-10: TG to submit Implementation Actions for 2022 and Annex Bs for Consensus Agreements following CEC meeting at the end of February.](#)

14. Next Meeting – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Overview of upcoming meetings

- **Date for May meeting in person in Yellowknife**
 - Proposed for May 16-17, 2023
(Week after the North American Caribou Workshop in Alaska)

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