

Photo: K. Poole



HAVE YOUR SAY!

DOLPHIN AND UNION CARIBOU

Should Dolphin and Union caribou be listed as an **Endangered** species in the NWT?

Endangered means Dolphin and Union caribou are facing imminent extinction—they could be gone from the NWT in our lifetimes.



DOLPHIN AND UNION CARIBOU

Dolphin and Union caribou are the only caribou with a seasonal lifecycle that depends on a twice annual migration across the sea ice between Victoria Island and the mainland. Historically, they crossed the Dolphin and Union Strait—however, their migration route has been shifting east.

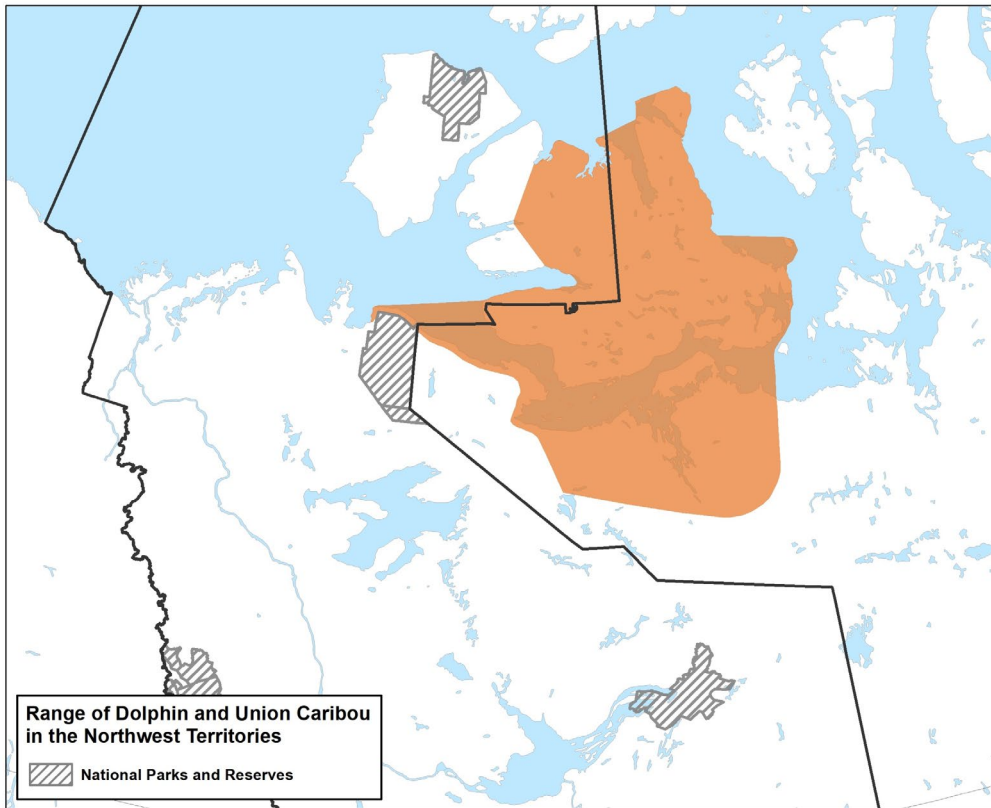
Inuvialuit and Inuit have depended on caribou for millennia. However, numbers of Dolphin and Union caribou have declined by 89 per cent since 1997. There are now only 3,800 Dolphin and Union caribou in Nunavut and the NWT. This steep decline and changes in the distribution of Dolphin and Union caribou are a serious concern for local communities.

In April 2023, the NWT Species at Risk Committee determined that Dolphin and Union caribou are **Endangered** in the NWT. The Committee identified climate change as a major factor in the decline and an ongoing threat based on concerns about changing sea ice conditions, freezing rain and other extreme weather, as well as ship traffic, industrial development and an increase in grizzly bears on Victoria Island.

The **NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC)** is an independent group of experts who hold Indigenous and community knowledge, and/or scientific knowledge about species and habitat in the NWT. They assess species based on the best available information and objective biological criteria.

Read the assessment report and learn more about Dolphin and Union caribou:

www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca



Map courtesy of GNWT

An extended range based on Indigenous and community knowledge can be found in the **Species Status Report for Dolphin and Union Caribou in the NWT (2023)**.



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For more about Dolphin and Union caribou and the NWT List of Species at Risk, visit: www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca.

DOLPHIN AND UNION CARIBOU AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

If Dolphin and Union caribou are legally listed as **Endangered** in the NWT, a recovery strategy will be required for the species within one year. A **Management Plan for Dolphin and Union Caribou in the NWT and Nunavut** has been in place since 2018 and would continue to guide management of the species until a recovery strategy can be completed.

Does being on the NWT List of Species at Risk affect harvesting?

Adding a species to the NWT List of Species at Risk does not affect anyone's ability to harvest. A status of **Endangered** on the NWT List of Species at Risk will not automatically change quotas, by-laws or regulations already in place for Dolphin and Union caribou.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Should Dolphin and Union caribou be listed as **Endangered** on the NWT List of Species at Risk? Why or why not?
- Dolphin and Union caribou has been listed as a species of **Special Concern** in the NWT since 2015. Would up-listing this species to Endangered have positive or negative impacts for you and your community? What would they be?
- Is there new or missing information that was not considered in the status report? If so, can you provide it to us or tell us where to find it?

NWT Species at Risk Secretariat

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