

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey	CMA Chairperson/Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
Larry Carpenter	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Hans Lennie (AI)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Corrine Bullock	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Leigh-Ann Williams-Jones	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Leon Andrew	ᑭehdzo Got'ìᑎᑦ Gots'ᑦ Nákedì (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
Catarina Owen	ᑭehdzo Got'ìᑎᑦ Gots'ᑦ Nákedì (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
Michael Henning	ᑭehdzo Got'ìᑎᑦ Gots'ᑦ Nákedì (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
Stephanie Behrens	Tłıchq̓ Government
Orna Phelan	North Slave Métis Alliance
Brett Elkin	Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
Heather Sayine-Crawford	Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Climate Change (ECC)
Bruce Laurich	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Kelby Ogryzlo	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Secretariat
Joslyn Oosenbrug	Species at Risk Secretariat

1. Introductions – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Roundtable introductions

Introduction to new CMA reps including Corrine Bullock (WMAAC-NWT), Hans Lennie (WMAAC-NWT), Leigh-Ann Williams-Jones (GRRB), Michael Henning (SRRB) and Orna Phelan (NSMA).

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 May 2023

Minutes approved without changes.

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

Review of action items from previous meetings and earlier outstanding items

There were 7 actions/decisions identified in the May meeting that have been completed including activities related to the species assessment schedule, listing species, finalizing management/recovery documents, finalizing progress reports, and soliciting names for SARC membership. There are 2 action/decision items that will be discussed further today including the review of the Dolphin and Union caribou management plan and filling SARC member positions.

5. CMA Chairperson and Alternate – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Renewal of the Chairperson and designating an Alternate Chairperson

Chairperson

As per the rules of conduct, the CMA may designate a Chairperson. The term is two years and can be renewed. The current Chairperson is Jody Pellissey and the term expired May 14, 2023. Would the CMA like to make a motion to renew Jody Pellissey as CMA Chairperson for another 2-year term ending May 14, 2025?

Decision/Action 20231208-01: The CMA shall renew Jody Pellissey as CMA Chairperson for another 2-year term ending May 14, 2025.

Alternate Chairperson

As per the rules of conduct, the CMA may designate an Alternate Chairperson. This position is currently vacant. The CMA will put names forward for an Alternate Chairperson to the Secretariat by January 5, 2024.

Decision/Action 20231208-02: The CMA will put names forward for an Alternate Chairperson to the Secretariat by January 5, 2024.

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

Call for applications and subcommittee membership



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SCARF 2024-25 Application Period

The 2024-25 application period for the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund opens January 15, 2024, and closes March 1, 2024. Joslyn is finalizing materials and a promotion campaign for the 2024-25 application year. The new poster was shared during the meeting and includes a photo of a Northern leopard frog.

SCARF subcommittee members have discussed the need for a broader range of applications and applicants that target gaps in implementing management plans and recovery strategies that are priorities for the CMA. This year's extreme wildfire season also highlighted the need for additional research on the impacts of wildfire on species at risk (in particular, species in the South Slave region). SCARF advertising on Facebook will reflect this, as will the email invitation for applications. The subcommittee encourages all of the CMA to spread the word about SCARF to encourage more targeted applications. CMA will also have the opportunity at its February meeting to discuss SCARF's effectiveness and consider potential revisions.

SCARF Subcommittee Membership

There are currently **three SCARF subcommittee members**. Welcome to Catarina Owen of the SRRB who joined the subcommittee following the departures of Jess Hurtubise (NSMA) and Jodie Maring (WMAC-NWT). The subcommittee is seeking **one more member**, preferably prior to the evaluation meeting in March. As per the terms of reference, the regular membership of the subcommittee is composed of four representatives designated by the CMA, including one representative from the GNWT Department of Environment and Climate Change. The term shall be designated by the CMA to a maximum of two years and can be renewed. A regular member may designate an alternate.

Decision/Action 20231208-02: The CMA will put names forward for a SCARF subcommittee member to the Secretariat by January 5, 2024.

7. Engagement Results – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Results/outcomes from consultation and engagement. Secretariat also provided draft consensus agreements in the meeting binder to complete in the coming months.

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Summary of Engagement Results

Dolphin and Union caribou

- **WMAC (NWT):** We have been doing some engagement with Kugluktuk, Cambridge and Ulukhaktok in the past. But since our biologist resigned, our capacity is quite low. However, we will be doing a community tour in Ulu in January, and we will do a bit more on it then.
- **GNWT:** The GNWT did a public comment period, and this will be similar to all the species we'll talk about today. We invited the public to comment on the proposed listing and, as part of that, we provided the fact sheet on the listing, we encouraged people to look at the status report and advertised the comment period in various ways. The public comment period ran from July 5 – August 31; then it was extended to October 31 following the evacuation. There was also the online survey as way to provide comments. For the proposed Dolphin and Union caribou listing, we received 5 responses. One from outside the NWT one from Sahtú, one from Wek'eezhii and one from the South Slave. Three strongly agreed with uplisting, two strongly disagreed. Comments were also provided about the uniqueness of Dolphin and Union caribou, threats and the seriousness of them, as well as the big decline that has happened. We also received comments about caribou mixing and that the caribou may be mixing rather than declining the way we think. There was a mix of positions on the listing. We also sent letters to Indigenous Governments and Indigenous organizations (IGIOs) in the range of Dolphin and Union caribou and did not receive any responses.

American White Pelican

- **GNWT:** We did the same public comment effort as Dolphin and Union caribou. Additionally, we organized a meeting in Fort Smith to talk about Pelicans and about the proposed listing. It was initially part of the Whooping Crane festival that was postponed due to fires and evacuations, but the Pelican meeting went ahead. We did a meeting as well as a walk with John McKinnon from the Pelican Advisory Circle on the pelicans. It was a really good event. To summarize what we heard, it was a mix of perspectives on the potential listing. The situation here is there is one known nesting colony, they spend a lot of time in the NWT but they actually nest in Alberta. People talked about whether it was actually an NWT population. Pelicans are mobile and they are doing really well. There are also a number of management

practices already in place. There were also perspectives that even though actions are being taken, they are volunteer driven and we cannot always count on those – having something more formal would be good for the pelicans. The vulnerability of the pelicans to changes in water levels and diseases were mentioned in the report and how the numbers have changed in the past (e.g., chick count fluctuations) were also discussed. There were three in support, and two not in support of listing. The formal letters were sent out to IGIOs but there were no responses about the proposed listing aside from one letter that voiced concerns about use the area if they are listed. In response, GNWT confirmed that use of the area would not be impacted if the pelicans are listed.

Peary caribou Recovery Strategy

- **WMAC (NWT):** Much the same as Dolphin and Union caribou. We will be going to communities in January and I am sure we will get comments from Sachs Harbour – the population has really been booming in the last couple of years.
- **GNWT:** Same process as the listings in terms of engagement. Again, we didn't receive responses to the letters. We received four survey entries. We have been trying to emphasize that what we are proposing to do is adopt a document that has already been engaged on and this is already the work of the ISR. It is not brand new. The responses received from the online survey were supportive of the objectives and approaches. Input was provided on which objectives and approaches were higher priority, identification of ice crossings, and relationship to other species. There was general support for what is in the document.

Northern mountain caribou Management Plan

- **GRRB:** We will have our wildlife biologist returning in January and will reach out in January on this.
- **SRRB:** We have had a chance to go through the recovery measures and have identified the measures SRRB intends to implement. As well as looking at future projects that will line up with recovery measures. We are planning to do some community engagement and attempted a forum meeting to go over the material but have had to reschedule it. We anticipate having a forum in early January and after that we can finalized the measures we will plan to implement.

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- **GNWT:** For the implementation agreement we don't normally do engagement, but we do consider what we heard in other forums of NMC and when engaging about the listing and developing the management plan. Our process is similar to what Michael was saying with internal work – to work with the folks here to think about which actions we are already doing with certain programs, which actions will we pursue and what we do not have resources for. In the new year we will seek higher GNWT approval. We will attend the CMA meeting in February with a good idea of our position and will draft text for the consensus agreement, however, the actual Minister's approval will be done closer to the consensus agreement deadline.

Dolphin and Union Caribou Up-listing Timelines

- **December 2023:** CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.
- **January 26, 2024:** Consensus Agreement Annex B's (Actions the Management Authorities have undertaken or will undertake with respect to listing) are due in anticipation of the February 2024 CMA meeting.
- **April 10, 2024:** Start signatures for consensus agreement.
- **May 1, 2024:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on listing in another category.
- **May 2024:** CMA meeting – Secretariat to draft news release for listing Dolphin and Union caribou as Endangered.
- **August 1, 2024:** Dolphin and Union caribou listed as an Endangered species. News release.
- **May 1, 2025:** Consensus Agreement on accepting recovery strategy.
- **August 1, 2025:** Recovery strategy must be completed.
- **May 1, 2026:** Consensus Agreement on Implementation due.

Action 20231208-03: Management Authorities will review the draft Consensus Agreement to up-list Dolphin and Union caribou for a 10-year term from a species of Special Concern to an Endangered species and submit their Annex B (Actions undertaken with respect to up-listing Dolphin and Union caribou) submissions to the Secretariat by January 26, 2024 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

American White Pelican Listing Timelines

- **December 2023:** CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.
- **January 26, 2024:** Consensus Agreement Annex B's (Actions the Management Authorities have undertaken or will undertake with respect to listing) are due in anticipation of the February 2024 CMA meeting.
- **April 10, 2024:** Start signatures for consensus agreement.
- **May 1, 2024:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on listing.
- **May 2024:** CMA meeting – Secretariat to draft press release for adding another 10-year term.
- **August 1, 2024:** American White Pelican legally listed as a species of Special Concern. Press release.
- **May 1, 2025:** Consensus Agreement on accepting the management plan.
- **August 1, 2026:** Management plan must be completed.
- **May 1, 2027:** Consensus Agreement on Implementation due.

Action 20231208-04: Management Authorities will review the draft Consensus Agreement to list American white pelican for a 10-year term as a species of Special Concern and submit their Annex B (Actions undertaken with respect to listing American white pelican) submissions to the Secretariat by January 26, 2024 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

Peary Caribou Recovery Strategy Timelines

- **January 2024:** Final version of the NWT recovery strategy provided to Management Authorities ahead of the February 2024 CMA Meeting.
- **January 26, 2024:** Consensus Agreement statements and Annex B table
- **April 15, 2024:** Start signatures for Consensus Agreement on Accepting/Adopting.
- **April 29, 2024:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on Accepting/Adopting the Recovery Strategy.

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- **May 2024:** May meeting - CMA discusses and approves in principle the news release for recovery strategy.
- **July 29, 2024:** Minister of ECC provides the accepted/adopted recovery strategy to the Management Authorities and makes it public. News release.
- **September 30, 2024:** Legally required completion date for Peary Caribou Recovery Strategy.
- **April 29, 2025:** Consensus Agreement on Implementation due

Action 20231208-04: Management Authorities will review the draft Consensus Agreement on accepting the recovery strategy and submit their Annex B (actions undertaken to accept the recovery strategy) submissions to the Secretariat by January 26, 2024 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

Northern Mountain Caribou Management Plan Timelines

- **January 26, 2024:** Consensus Agreement statements and Annex A's (Actions the Management Authorities have undertaken or will undertake with respect to listing) are due in anticipation of the February 2024 CMA meeting.
- **April 29, 2024:** Consensus Agreement on Implementation due.

Action 20231208-05: Management Authorities will review the draft Consensus Agreement on implementation of the management plan and submit their Annex A (approaches partners intent to implement) submissions to the Secretariat by January 26, 2024 and inform the Secretariat of any changes to progress towards consensus.

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

Update on progress reports and reviews as per the Species at Risk (NWT) Act sections 73 and 74.

Release of Dolphin and Union caribou Management Plan Progress Report

A progress report and review are required every five years under sections 73 and 74 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The Dolphin and Union caribou progress report was released December 6, 2023.

This was a collaborative effort between multiple partners in the NWT and Nunavut. The idea was to reflect the spirit of the management plan, which is cross-jurisdictional. The intent is to carry out the review in a similar manner, with guidance from the CMA.

Update on Dolphin and Union caribou Management Plan Review

The 5-year review was paused pending the outcome of the species status assessment by the Species at Risk Committee in April 2023 and a listing decision by the Conference of Management Authorities in April/May 2024. If listed as Endangered, a recovery strategy would be required for Dolphin and Union caribou within one year. Management Authorities for Dolphin and Union caribou have agreed that the review may form part of the process to develop a recovery strategy, if required.

The Secretariat will require direction from the CMA on how to proceed with the review of the management plan and its intersection with a recovery strategy, if required. This will be discussed in February along with next steps.

Next Report/Review is for Wood Bison

Note that the next progress report/review will occur in 2025 for wood bison. Management Authorities will continue to report on implementation activities annually.

The CMA discussed the timelines for the wood bison progress report and the Secretariat will get back to them on details.

Decision/Action 20231208-06: Secretariat to look into timelines for future progress reports.

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

Membership updates and Species Assessment Schedule

Membership

SARC is composed of not more than 15 members; currently SARC has 7 members and 1 alternate. Updates to SARC membership include:

- Aimee Guile renewed for another 5-year term as an alternate member appointed by WRRB
- Leon Andrew renewed as Chairperson for another 2-year term
- Suzanne Carriere renewed as Alternate Chairperson for another 2-year term
- The appointment of Arthur Beck by the GNWT on advice of the NWTMN term expired
- The appointment of Daniel Beck by the GNWT on advice of the NWTMN term expired

Vacancies on SARC for regular and alternate members include:

- One member to be appointed by WRRB
- One alternate member to be appointed by SRRB
- One regular member to be appointed by GRRB
- One alternate member to be appointed by GRRB
- One alternate member to be appointed by WMAC-NWT
- Up to 3 Members/alternate members to be appointed by GNWT
- Also a reminder that the Act allows for a member to be appointed by the Government of Canada

The Secretariat reiterated the importance of having members appointed to SARC and voiced concerns about whether SARC will be able to meet quorum at the upcoming spring 2024 assessment meeting. If quorum cannot be achieved, the meeting will be postponed resulting in delays in the species at risk processes.

Updates from appointing organizations on vacancies:

- **SRRB:** We do not have any updates at this point and will continue looking into SARC membership.
- **GRRB:** Darren Campbell will likely be appointed as a member and we are getting closer to having an alternate member appointment.

- **WMAC-NWT:** We will likely appoint Dang-Dang Gruben as a SARC member. We also talked to the game council. Our regular SARC member may also change in the near future.
- **WRRB:** We have a meeting next week and will be addressing the SARC membership position.
- **ECCC:** We have nothing concrete at this time with regard to SARC membership. ECCC have discussed this briefly, but Bruce will talk to folks higher up on whether there is capacity or interest.
- **GNWT:** We have a candidate that we are working with to hopefully be appointed. Due to the election, we are waiting for a new Minister and we are hopeful that the proposed appointment will go to the Minister in January or February, and that we will have a decision soon. GNWT is also seeking to fill positions on advice of the Dehcho First Nation and the NWT Métis Nation.

[Decision/Action 20231208-07: The CMA will seek to fill SARC vacancies by January 5, 2024.](#)

Status Report Updates

There are currently three status reports in progress.

- **Currently in public review (until December 15, 2023):**
 - Hairy braya (2024 reassessment)
 - Red-sided garter snake (2024 assessment)
- **In progress with contractor:**
 - Amphibians (includes western toad, northern leopard frog and Canadian toad) – this will be a multi-species status report.

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

Update on online platforms for NWT Species at Risk

Update on Website Migration

Background: The current NWT Species at Risk website is built on a Drupal 7 framework. The end of life for Drupal 7 was set for November 1, 2023, but has since been extended to January 5, 2025. After this date, the Drupal community will stop supporting this version and there will be no more bug fixes or feature updates to modules and Drupal core.

In August/September 2022, the Species at Risk Secretariat began investigating the steps required to migrate the current NWT Species at Risk website to a newer Drupal platform. In early 2023, a contract was established with Kellett Communications to build the new site by the end of March with tweaks and polishing into April and May. This process has taken longer than anticipated due to multiple rounds of site edits and the evacuation in August/September 2023.

Update: Development of the new website is almost complete and expected to launch in early-mid January to coincide with the call for applications for the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund. The new website includes a refreshed landing page and a new site map but maintains the “library” functionality required by CMA and SARC under the Species at Risk (NWT) Act. Direction from the CMA, provided through the communications plan, helped guide the rebuild.

There will be a public service announcement on the GNWT website and a Bearnet post to announce the new site, as well as a post on social media to be shared by CMA members.

Question: When do we start using the new website and stop using the old one?

Answer: The new site will be the same URL (www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca) – so we don’t have to worry about overlap. The Secretariat will release a Public Service Announcement sharing with the public the new site.

Question: Will the portal still be available on the new site? Will the passwords be the same?

Answer: Yes. Access to a portal with meeting binders and related information will be maintained. If issues are encountered with passwords, please let the Secretariat know.

Social Media Content Calendar

The Secretariat provides a quarterly calendar of social media content for approval by the CMA. The content is used to populate the NWT Species at Risk Facebook page and supplemented by shared posts from partner pages (e.g. WRRB, ECC, ECCC, TG, etc.). There are approximately 1-2 posts per week. The current content calendar for approval was provided in the meeting binder and covers January-March 2024. The next content calendar will be approved at the February meeting.

[Decision 20231208-08: The Conference of Management Authorities approved the January-March 2024 social media content calendar with edits.](#)

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

Overview of upcoming meetings

- February 20-22, 2024 (Inuvik)
 - Implementation Activities – due January 30
 - Approval (in principle) of Consensus Agreements
 - Direction on 5-year review and approach to potential recovery strategy
 - Proposed revisions to the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund
- May 21-24, 2024 (Yellowknife)

Species at Risk Workplan – At a Glance

The table below outlines the CMA/SARC workplan and includes type of activity and species

Year	Activity	Species
2024	Assessment	Hairy braya (reassessment)
		Red-sided garter snake
	Listing	American White Pelican (assessed Special Concern 2023)
		Dolphin and Union Caribou (reassessed Endangered 2023)
	Management Plan/Recovery Strategy	Peary caribou (adoption of federal recovery strategy by September 30, 2024)
Implementation	Northern mountain caribou (management plan)	
2025	Assessment	Northern leopard frog (reassessment)
		Western toad (reassessment)
		Canadian Toad
	Management Plan/Recovery Strategy	Dolphin and Union caribou (recovery strategy)
	Implementation	Peary caribou (recovery strategy)
Progress Reporting and Review	Wood bison	
2026	Assessment	Wood bison (reassessment)
		Common Muskrat
		Rock cranberry (lingonberry)
	Management Plan/Recovery Strategy	American White Pelican
	Implementation	Dolphin and Union caribou (recovery strategy)

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	Progress Reporting and Review	Northern myotis
		Little brown myotis
		Barren-ground caribou
2027	Assessment	Northern myotis (reassessment)
		Little brown myotis (reassessment)
		Barren-ground caribou (reassessment)
		*SARC will be initiating the RFP process and writing of the barren-ground caribou status report a year in advance (starting in the spring of 2024 rather than in 2025)
	Implementation	American White Pelican (management plan)
2028	Assessment	Muskoxen

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