



MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

9:00am – Opening Prayer and Call to order (everyone)

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey	CMA Chairperson/Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
Sam Bullock	CMA Alternate Chairperson/Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Kaytlin Cooper	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Heather Sayine-Crawford	Environment and Natural Resources
Brett Elkin	Environment and Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Rob Gau	Environment and Natural Resources, Five Antlers Working Group
Isabelle Duclos	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Bruce Laurich	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Jessica Hurtubise	North Slave Métis Alliance
Rosemin Nathoo	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Jodie Maring	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Leon Andrew	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Deb Simmons	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Ben Dosu	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Joseph Gormaly	Kátl'odeeche First Nation
Leslie Wakelyn	Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Secretariat
Mélanie Routh	Species at Risk Secretariat

1. Introductions – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Roundtable introductions.

Introduce Sam as new alternate chair. Rob Gau is attending for the morning of February 22 to present on Five Antlers Ale.

2. Agenda – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Review of draft agenda.

Agenda approved.



CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

3. Minutes – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Review and approve draft minutes from December 2021.

Minutes approved with no additional changes.

4. Review of Action and Decision Items – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

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

Long-term action items:

- The adoption of the federal Recovery Strategy for Peary caribou will begin once ECCC has finalized the document.
- The Secretariat is looking into next steps for adopting the federal Management plan for Northern Mountain Caribou.
- Tasks associated with communications and outreach for NWT species at risk are underway.
- The analysis of commonalities among actions in management plans/recovery strategies continues to be a bring forward item.

In progress action items:

- The CMA will be discussing communication strategies/initiatives today.
- The Management Partners for polar bear met in January to discuss the approach for the Polar Bear Progress Report and Review and again in February to go over the summary of implementation actions from 2018 – 2021.
- The Secretariat has a new tab on the website for the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF), but will need to work with technicians to change the colour of the tab.

Decisions items include:

- April 2021: Consensus Agreements on Implementation of the Recovery Strategy for Barren-ground Caribou and Management Plan for Bats.

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- April & July 2021: Consensus Agreement and subsequent Listing of Northern Mountain Caribou as a species of Special Concern.
- November 2021: Approval and subsequent finalization of the Hairy Braya Progress Report which was posted online for the public.
- February 2022 (or leading up to): Decision to re-list polar bear as a species of Special Concern and decision to appoint Mr. Sam Bullock as the Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) Alternate Chair.

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

Update on membership and status reports.

Status Report Updates

There are currently five status reports in progress:

- Peregrine falcon (2022 assessment)
- Boreal caribou (2022 re-assessment)
- Peary caribou (2022 re-assessment)
- American white pelican (2023 assessment)
- Dolphin and Union caribou (2023 re-assessment)

Request for proposals for the following species status reports will go out spring 2022:

- Hairy braya (2024 re-assessment)
- Common muskrat (2024 assessment)

Membership

The membership term for Lynda Yonge (appointed by the GNWT) expires March 23, 2022. GNWT is in the process of re-appointing Lynda to the Species at Risk Committee (SARC) for another term.

6. Species Conservation and Recovery Fund (SCARF) – led by Mélanie Routh (Secretariat)

General updates on the 2022/23 program year and website change.



CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

SCARF 2022/23 Application Period

The 2022/23 application period for the Species Conservation and Recovery Fund opened January 15, 2022 and closes March 1, 2022. Brochures and posters were mailed out to CMA members on the first week of January 2022. Application material (i.e., application form, report template, brochure, and poster) is available for download on the NWT Species at Risk website.

SCARF Website Change

At the 2021 December CMA meeting, the Secretariat proposed to move the “Species Conservation and Recovery Fund” page under the “NWT List of Species at Risk” header on the left-hand panel of the NWT Species at Risk website rather than having it nested within the “What Can I Do?” header. The Secretariat has moved the SCARF page on the website and the original link has been maintained. However, the Secretariat was unsuccessful in changing the color of the new tab and will need website support to make the change on the website.

7. Species at Risk Communication Strategy – led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)

Progress update on communications strategies underway and upcoming.

Five Antlers Ale

The Working Group met on January 28, 2022 to evaluate the success of the collaboration and to recommend where to direct partial proceeds. A presentation of the evaluation was provided by Working Group member Rob Gau including sales and website metrics. The CMA discussed overall satisfaction with the collaboration and recommendations for partial proceeds.

The Working Group recommended future collaborations with NWT Brewing Co. During the CMA meeting, an online poll was held that asked “what is your level of satisfaction with the Five Antlers collaboration?”. The majority of members in attendance were satisfied with the collaboration (Satisfied: 10/13 or 77%; Neutral: 3/13 or 23%; Unsatisfied: 0/13). The collaboration also matched (4/13 or 31%) or exceeded expectations (9/13 or 69%).

The Working Group also suggested that if a future collaboration is pursued to consider highlighting lesser known species to heighten their profile (e.g., northern leopard frog). The



CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Working Group also recommended increasing two-way communication tactics for future collaborations to ensure that patrons and the public are learning about species at risk. During the CMA meeting, members were asked if they would recommend the NWT Species at Risk to collaborate with NWT Brewing Co. in the future and 13/13 responded 'Yes'. During the presentation the Working Group mentioned concerns with linking species at risk with beer/alcohol. The GNWT also heard concerns in the final weeks leading up to the release of Five Antlers Ale. One option in the future is to consider a non-alcoholic beverage (e.g., a root beer).

CMA members inquired about whether more Five Antlers merchandise would be considered including pint glasses with the logo.

CMA members also discussed directing funds raised through this or future collaborations to the SCARF program. The SCARF funding is relatively small especially when divided among regions. In recent years, the SCARF fund did increase from \$30k to \$60k and often the amount of funding applied for is less than the amount of funding available.

The processes for accepting funds within the GNWT are difficult and the Working Group was looking for an elegant solution for the NWT Brewing Co. to donate partial proceeds. In addition, there is no guarantee that SCARF projects will be for caribou conservation.

New Initiatives

The CMA discussed future NWT Species at Risk communication/outreach strategies/initiatives.

Past suggestions included:

- Developing short clips explaining the species at risk process;
- Further defining species at risk in the NWT;
- An initiative to celebrate Indigenous concepts associated with species at risk;
- Developing species-specific fact sheets, posters, etc.;
- Branding/advertising in partnership with local vendors;
- Hosting a festival of nature;
- Update tools for industry portion of the NWT Species at Risk website;
- Museum display;

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MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

- Create a wildlife viewing program;
- Enhance interactive elements of the NWT Species at Risk website;
- Develop school curriculum;
- Television/social media advertising.

The CMA discussed future NWT Species at Risk communication/outreach strategies/initiatives with the following new suggestions:

- Develop material to support school curriculum on species at risk.
 - Include stories about species at risk from communities.
 - Materials shouldn't just focus on success stories and current species at risk, but also stories about species that have become extirpated or extinct.
 - Reflecting the Dene perspective - the big guys and the little guys are connected. In the school curriculum we should also tell the school kids that species have also been extirpated. The school kids could learn from species that have gone. How far we went, how many species have we lost, we are seeing less and less songbirds. And we must look at species very carefully because sometimes we miss the little guys. Those have a domino effect, the hawks and the eagles. While we want to promote species in the SAR process, we do have extirpated and extinct on our list so we want to have focus on species that have recovered because of species management but there are species that we haven't been able to save. Fact sheets, curriculum shouldn't just focus on success, but also stories that ended in loss of a species.
- Develop more Five Antlers Ale or species at risk merchandise (e.g., drinking glasses, water bottles).
- Consider projects like Five Antlers Ale but with other northern vendors (e.g., Barren-ground Coffee, Laughing Lichen, Robbie Craig).
- Consider additional/further language work (e.g., build upon past species at risk language workshops, translate some of the new SARC objective biological criteria).
 - Supplemental species at risk terminology development.
 - Terminology in the assessment process were recently updated and it might be useful to do some terminology work in Indigenous languages to help compliment the English language terms with Indigenous languages.

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MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

- Host a festival of nature or a species summit conference. This may include a call for sponsors. Such a meeting dealing with species of risk in Denendeh would highlight things like Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), wild pigs and climate change issues like water resources and permafrost. A gathering like this would bring together people and share knowledge and ideas on how we can support communities with respect to species at risk. Especially lesser known species (e.g., northern leopard frog and hairy braya).
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF) currently has a campaign that creates Non-Fungible Animals (NFAs) and Non-fungible tokens (NFTs). There was suggestion that, if feasible and ethical, this might be something to consider for the CMA. Polygon (an Ethereum sidechain) was mentioned as a possibly 'green', environmentally friendly blockchain. Although the CMA discussed this option, the overall sentiment was that the objective of WWF NFAs/NFTs is primary for fund-raising (selling digital content with proceeds used for conservation/recovery). Whereas the communication and outreach focus of the CMA is to build awareness of the species at risk process and on the species that are at risk in the NWT.
- Look into expanding the size of the SCARF pot. Information within the application notes that projects typically range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. There was a suggestion to reconsider the way this section of the application is phrased (range of funds) to encourage applications to go beyond the available pot. This will be referred to the SCARF Subcommittee for further consideration.

CMA members noted that any ongoing work for NWT Species at Risk communication/outreach will need to ensure that work reaches the communities and not just Yellowknife.

Action item A20220222-01: Secretariat to investigate school curriculums and reach out to the necessary people to determine what steps may be involved in this type of undertaking. Secretariat will also investigate museum displays and approach the Department of Education, Culture and Employment with options to add or supplement current displays with species at risk information.

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CONFERENCE OF
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MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Action item A20220222-02: The Secretariat will discuss with the SCARF Subcommittee on the amount of funding available and revise the section of the application that indicates projects typically range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to consider removing this apparent restriction.

8. Polar Bear – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)

Approval of consensus agreement on adding another 10-year term.

The Consensus Agreement has been drafted and today we are looking for in principle approval of the Consensus Agreement to add another 10-year term to listing of polar bear as a species of Special Concern.

Timelines

- **April 28, 2021:** SARC provided the re-assessment of polar bear to the Management Authorities.
- **July 28, 2021:** Management Authorities developed actions needed to prepare for a CMA Consensus Agreement on Listing.
- **August-November 2021:** Consultation/engagement period.
- **September 17, 2021:** CMA check-in regarding consultation/engagement period.
- **December 10, 2021:** CMA meeting to review the results of consultation/engagement.
- **January 28, 2022:** Consensus Agreement Annex B's (Actions the Management Authorities have undertaken or will undertake with respect to listing) were due in anticipation of the February 2022 CMA meeting.
- **April 18, 2022:** Start signatures for consensus agreement.
- **April 28, 2022:** Deadline for Consensus Agreement on adding another 10-year term.
- **May 25-27, 2022:** CMA meeting – Secretariat to draft press release for adding another 10-year term.
- **July 28, 2022:** Polar bear re-listed as a species of Special Concern. Press release.

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CONFERENCE OF
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AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Updates from Management Authorities:

- **GNWT:** Ready to make the agreement to re-list polar bear. There are no issues anticipated.
- **WMAC-NWT:** No concerns. We drafted the Annex B at our last meeting and a motion will be made during the next meeting.

The proposal to add another 10-year term to the current expiration date for polar bear as a species of Special Concern involved the GNWT and WMAC (NWT). Both Management Authorities provided in principal approved the re-listing of polar bear as a species of Special Concern.

Decision D20220222-01: Management Authorities have reached consensus in principle to add another 10-year term to the current expiration date for polar bear as a species of Special Concern.

9. Northern Mountain Caribou – led by Mélanie Routh (Secretariat) *Management plan progress update.*

Management Plan Update

During the February 2021 CMA meeting, Management Authorities agreed to adopt the federal *Management Plan for the Northern Mountain Population of Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) in Canada* as a high-level umbrella plan covering the entire NWT range.

The Secretariat provided the first draft of the Northern Mountain Caribou Management Plan to the CMA on February 1, 2022. The Northern Mountain Caribou Management Plan consists of the federal management plan plus a short addition to include requirements from the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. CMA members can provide comments or revisions to the Secretariat by Friday, February 25, 2022.

The Secretariat provided a brief overview of the first draft of the Northern Mountain Caribou Management Plan.

Secretariat will revise the draft based on CMA review and suggests Management Authorities review more thoroughly after that set of revisions.

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MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

The next steps will be for the Secretariat to revise the first draft of the Northern Mountain Caribou Management Plan based on feedback from the CMA and provide a second draft to Management Authorities in March 2022. As per the workplan, a proposed draft is expected to be provided to Management Authorities in June or July 2022 where Management Authorities will meet with their respective boards to discuss the proposed draft. Management Authorities will carry out actions needed to approve the proposed management plan between August and November 2022. A public comment period will also occur at that time.

Timelines

- **April 29, 2021:** Consensus Agreement on Listing provided to the Minister of ENR.
- **July 29, 2021:** Northern mountain caribou legally listed.
- **June/July 2022:** Identify and coordinate the actions each Management Authority agrees to undertake in preparation for a Consensus Agreement to accept the Management Plan.
- **June/July 2022:** Proposed draft management plan provided.
- **August to November 2022:** Engagement period.
- **January 2023:** Final version provided to Management Authorities ahead of the February 2023 CMA Meeting.
- **April 29, 2023:** Consensus Agreement Accepting Management Plan.
- **July 29, 2023:** Management plan is finalized and made available to the public.
- **April 29, 2024:** Consensus Agreement on Implementation due.

10. Barren-ground Caribou – led by Bruce Laurich, ECCC

Update on federal listing process.

Background:

In 2016, COSEWIC assessed barren-ground caribou in Canada as Threatened. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)'s assessment looked at all Canadian herds together, including the Porcupine herd.



CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

February 2022 Update on Federal Listing Process from ECCC:

In December, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) presented to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) asking for a formal motion from the board. At this time, they have not put forward their decision yet. When that process is done, the NWMB will put forward their decision. The HTOs were mixed, some supported, some did not. Unfortunately, we don't know the NWMB's stance. Once NWMB provides a formal decision, there is a 60-day window in which the Minister's response is due, but a response could be that the Minister asks for more time to consider.

There is a two-year timeline in the legislation to complete the federal listing process. Although ECCC tries to abide by that timeline, it really depends on consultation. For species like barren-ground caribou we want to ensure that the process is followed, and that Indigenous knowledge and community consultations are thoroughly completed. Covid-19 also had an effect and it added at least a year to our consultations.

11. Dolphin and Union Caribou – led by Isabelle Duclos, ECCC

Update on federal listing process.

Background:

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

February 2022 Update on Federal Listing Process from ECCC:

ECCC started consultation in 2019. ECCC's process was delayed because of COVID, but they are still meeting with some partners. ECCC should be able to present to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) at their June 2022 meeting for the potential up listing. The process between the Minister and NWMB will be similar to where we are with barren-ground caribou.

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CONFERENCE OF
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AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

ECCC is developing an addendum with partners but do not know when the addendum will be completed at this point. Once completed, the addendum will be provided to the NWMB as part of the consultation process (e.g., not for approval).

12. Peary Caribou – led by Isabelle Duclos, ECCC

Update on federal 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 anticipated adopting the applicable portions of the federal Recovery Strategy for Peary caribou once it was completed. Four extensions were granted (2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021). The current deadline is September 30, 2024.

Update on Federal Recovery Strategy from ECCC:

The proposed recovery strategy was posted on the Species at Risk Registry between August and October 2021. ECCC received a few comments that were not major or significant. As such, there were no major changes to the recovery strategy. ECCC is bringing the document to the NWMB in two weeks for a decision.

13. Progress Reports and Reviews – led by Mélanie Routh (Secretariat)

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

Upcoming Progress Reports and Reviews

Progress reports and reviews are required every 5 years under section 73 and 74 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* after an implementation agreement is signed. Boreal caribou and amphibians are due in November 2022 while polar bear is due in March 2023 (4 months after boreal caribou and amphibians). However, the CMA agreed to prepare the Polar Bear Progress Report and Review under the same timeline as boreal caribou and amphibians at the September 2021 CMA meeting.

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MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Progress reports and reviews are underway for boreal caribou, amphibians, and polar bear. The Polar Bear Progress Report and Review are being developed collaboratively with partners from the Inuvialuit Settlement Region Polar Bear Joint Management Plan, which includes the Wildlife Management Advisory Councils (NWT and NS), Inuvialuit Game Council, Government of the Northwest Territories, Government of Yukon, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Parks Canada.

Overview of Progress Report Format

The Secretariat provided the first draft of the Boreal Caribou Progress Report to the CMA on January 31, 2022.

The Secretariat provided a brief overview of the first draft of the Boreal Caribou Progress Report.

Timelines (Boreal Caribou, Amphibians, Polar Bear)

- **April/May 2022:** First draft submitted to CMA.
- **End of May 2022:** Comments on draft due to Secretariat.
- **June/July 2022:** Secretariat revises draft based on comments.
- **August 2022:** Proposed final draft sent to Management Authorities for final review.
- **September 2022:** Final version provided to Management Authorities.
- **September 2022:** Final approval for final progress report/review provided at September 2022 CMA meeting.
- **November 2022:** Progress Report made public.

BQCMB: Who reviews the progress report and review?

Secretariat: Management Authorities and participants will be given the opportunity to provide input on the progress report and review.

14. Summary of Implementation Activities – led by Jody Pellesey (Chairperson) *High level updates on implementation activities by all relevant CMA members.*



CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Providing updates on implementation activities annually or periodically is not a legislated requirement, however annual or periodic reviews of progress do appear in management plans/recovery strategies and in February 2019 the CMA made the decision that it would provide annual/periodic reviews to help shift the focus from process to implementation. This will also inform the 5-year progress reports and reviews (which are legally required under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*).

Management Authorities will be providing verbal high-level updates on implementation activities during the meeting. Management Authorities will also submit to the Secretariat the filled-out tables for Progress on Implementation of Management Plans/Recovery Strategies in 2021. These tables are used to inform and populate the species progress reports. The Secretariat will also produce a summary of the annual (2021) implementation actions as a PDF.

The CMA requested that the Secretariat provide the annual summary of implementation activities via email once completed.

Decision D20220222-02: High level summaries of implementation will be provided in the meeting minutes. The compiled annual summary of implementation actions will be provided internally. And the 5-year progress report will be the finalized update of implementation actions made available for the public.

Hairy Braya – WMAC (NWT) and GNWT

- **WMAC (NWT):** Most of the work on hairy braya is carried out by the GNWT. The survey for 2020/2021 was postponed. Initially Tuktoyaktuk was not in support of a survey, but we have discussed the survey and shared information on why hairy braya is important to gain support.
- **GNWT:** Hairy braya is a really rare plant that only grows in one area in the NWT. Our hopes to carry out a survey were postponed back in 2020; right now we are actively planning to carry out the survey in August 2022. We recently met with the Tuktoyaktuk HTO to discuss the survey. As part of that survey, we plan to collect

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CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

mature seeds for seed bank and to investigate potential habitat that may have hairy braya. In terms of erosion monitoring, the NWT Centre for Geomatics developed a long-term change detection tool available at:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2effc9c8150a4abebdc9ef587865ab8e>.

It is a way of looking at Landsat imagery to observe erosion and landscape changes. The federal Recovery Strategy for Hairy Braya is now a proposed draft posted on the SARA registry and contains identification of critical habitat. In 2021, Management Authorities completed a progress report and review.

Amphibians – GRRB, SRRB, WRRB, GNWT

- **GNWT:** Acoustic Recording Units (ARUs) put out the previous year were collected in the Sahtú. We also put some ARUs out in Thaidene Nëné. ARUs record sounds of various species including amphibians. Danna Schock (amphibian biologist) examined a sample of the recordings to make recommendations. Danna Schock and Kevin Chan (Regional ENR Biologist, Sahtú) are working on a manuscript about boreal chorus frog range extensions. ENR also published a field guide for amphibians and reptiles in 2021 including range maps. ENR has been working for a while on a NWT Species and Habitat Viewer to look at spatial data online for caribou and other species at risk including northern leopard frog and western toad. Currently the NWT Species and Habitat Viewer is in a soft launch – so it is working and can be used. In terms of disease related research, there was a publication by academic researchers on ranavirus in Fort Smith as well as the Wood Buffalo area and how the ranavirus relates to amphibian populations in the area. An overview summary of aquatic wildlife diseases has been written for the State of the Environment Report. ENR did some outreach activities including public outreach and social media posts about amphibians. Ecology North also did a social media campaign funded by SCARF. [GNWT to send field guides to GRRB]
- **GRRB:** GRRB provide standard advice to people doing water sampling to control the spread of disease and ensure sanitization.
- **SRRB:** Over the past year, SRRB has not done any implementation actions for amphibians. We were appreciative of the ARU monitoring and look forward to the

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MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

results from that project. It takes time to do that analysis and we had at some point hoped to include community members, but we stalled on that front.

- **WRRB:** WRRB provided information to communities. For example, we did an “Amphibian Friday” on Facebook in August 2021. We are providing information on amphibians and providing observations to the GNWT WildlifeObs@gov.nt.ca email address.
- **KFN:** KFN was involved with amphibian work using ARUs in the southern portion of Wood Buffalo National Park. There were three detections in last season’s time period. We have several ARUs out. We may break trail to the park tomorrow and hopefully we’ll get more info. I like the idea of “Amphibian Friday” by WRRB.
- **NSMA:** In brief, we have been running our eDNA sampling in the North Slave for three summers now including targeting amphibians. We did have a hit for wood frog south of Lac La Martre in 2019 but didn’t get a hit in 2020 and we are waiting for our 2021 season results. We are hoping to deploy ARUs in the north arm of Great Slave Lake, in the middle of Dìnàgà Wek’èhodì – and we are hoping to set up recorders, wildlife cameras and collect eDNA samples.

Boreal Caribou – All Management Authorities

- **GNWT:** Range planning work is ongoing with regard to habitat conservation. The Interim Wek’èezhìi Boreal Caribou Range Plan went under review and was approved. GNWT completed a second round of community information sessions in Aklavik and Inuvik. GNWT has been working with SRRB to develop a process in that region. GNWT worked with some organizations in the Sahtú, Gwich’in and ISR to help apply for further funding for Traditional Knowledge research. For habitat disturbance, we’re continuing to track wildfires on an annual basis: 71% of habitat is undisturbed (fire disturbance = 21.5% and human disturbance = 9.1%). There are various projects we are working on. GNWT is beginning a project to develop an inventory of candidate habitat restoration sites; phase 2 of this project is expected to be the design of a habitat restoration trial project. There is lots of ongoing work with national coordination groups including cross jurisdictional Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with neighbours working together and sharing boreal caribou information. Species and Habitat Viewer (previously mentioned) has information on boreal caribou

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CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

habitat. With this tool you can find out about current habitat disturbance as well as investigate how a possible new human footprint on the land would affect habitat disturbance; this should be useful for commenting on development proposals. For work related to the Tł'chǫ All-Season Road (TASR), there is a boreal caribou harvest and habitat monitoring program that we are supporting the Tł'chǫ Government (TG) on and there are mitigation measures through the regulatory process. Population monitoring continues in Dehcho South, Dehcho North, Hay River Lowlands, Pine Point/Buffalo Lakes, Mackenzie and North Slave. Recently, collars were deployed near the Mackenzie highway corridor to collect baseline data for the Mackenzie Valley Highway project. There was a population abundance survey in the North Slave region in 2020. There is more detail in the GNWT's written implementation summary submitted to the Secretariat.

- **WMAC (NWT):** We had to turn down some of the funding that Joanna was referring to last fiscal and this fiscal because there is no capacity to do the work requested of us. With the development of the range plans (which is the main thing going on), the GNWT is looking to develop regional range plans in each of the regions. The idea was to conduct a TK habitat study with some ground truthing, but we have no capacity to do that in our office. Boreal caribou is a low priority species in the ISR – but we are looking to fund another position to help with this work.
- **GRRB:** Boreal caribou is a lower priority species in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, so we haven't done a huge amount of work for this species. We attended range planning meetings and public session in Inuvik. We updated standard advice to minimize impacts on wildlife. We also coordinated a community-based harvest study and reported total harvest and sex ratio to GNWT. However, the sample size is small and included seven boreal caribou harvested in 2020. We haven't compiled data for 2021 yet. The "Let the leaders pass" stickers were popular, so we found funding and printed more. We also attended meeting with the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC).
- **SRRB:** We are in the process of working on a series of public hearings or listening session and boreal caribou is part of the scope. Over the past year, we have been preparing for the topic of predators and competitors, but we had to delay due to covid. We are preparing for future hearings, including the 2023 hearing on wildfires and habitat. We also begun vigorous work with ENR and the communities to get ready

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for range planning activities including development of an atlas with geographic and cartographic group at Carleton University. We are thankful about funding for Indigenous knowledge work – but we were delayed due to the pandemic. We are considering how to use modelling in range planning work. We are also bridging with folks on barren-ground caribou cumulative effects modelling considering overlapping landscapes that boreal and barren-ground caribou live in.

- **WRRB:** The Interim Wek'eezhìì Boreal Caribou Range Plan was approved by WRRB in 2021 and we are looking forward to meeting on the final range plan. Many planned activities have not had any progress, primarily due to covid. The board has been monitoring the movements of collared boreal caribou because of the TASR and ensuring that they are reviewing and commenting on Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans (WMMPs) and water and land use permits in that area. Also, we reviewed and provided comments on the guardian program that is going to run specific to the TASR highway, monitoring along the highway including harvest along the highway. We provided comments where required.
- **ECCC:** GNWT is basically leading the range planning process. Nothing more to add.
- **KFN:** We are very involved in range planning. We had a meeting this past November focussing on the way the Marxan analysis works and are implementing new engagement tools and surveys to have members provide real time feedback.
- **NSMA:** Similar to amphibians, we had a hit for boreal caribou under the eDNA project in 2020. There is a possible chance that the eDNA was from a harvested caribou at a cabin upriver and we detected it down river. NSMA colleague Jessica Smart will be attending the southern NWT range planning meeting. NSMA conducted a TK survey on boreal caribou for southern NWT range plan.
- **SRRB:** We have been learning and hearing more and more about folks that visit the northern edge of the Sahtú region indicating that boreal are moving north. Going forward it'll be interesting to see what is happening with that distribution. Our board has supported some collars being put on caribou to understand the baseline for boreal caribou along that route in the Sahtú region. We are working with ENR for community involvement in understanding caribou from a boots on the ground perspective. Interested in WMAC saying that boreal caribou are low priority in their region with the only boreal caribou area at the southern edge. We have been hearing from Colville



CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Lake finding that boreal caribou are moving into their area, interested in hearing from ISR whether they are seeing changes over time.

- **WMAC (NWT)** – We are expecting boreal caribou and other species to move north due to wildfire. There are boreal caribou north of where they are currently shown, and there have been some unusual observations of boreal caribou on the tundra. We have heard interesting tidbits, but haven't been able to dig into it too deeply. It is not that boreal caribou is not a priority; it is just of lower priority compared to barren-ground caribou calving areas. When it comes to habitat studies and handling large sums of money we are doing that for a number of other species and capacity is an issue. A point of future dialogue between WMAC (NWT) and SRRB.

Polar Bears – WMAC (NWT) and GNWT

- **WMAC (NWT):** Polar bear work includes work with the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) as well. We are working with WMAC (North Slope) on a project to include integrated traditional local knowledge into the next subpopulation estimate in Southern Beaufort and Northern Beaufort populations. This project started last year, and we are using a contractor based in Alaska working with a population modeller. They did a literature review of available information on polar bear Indigenous Knowledge and the background methods for using Indigenous Knowledge (IK) in population modelling in general for wildlife species. The integrated population model is a Bayesian statistics model that will be used for the upcoming polar bear estimate. A couple more field seasons left and coming up with some coding and methodology, systematic IK interviews that don't capture all of the knowledge of the species that can feed into the model in qualitative and quantitative ways so that the number that comes out is informed by Indigenous Knowledge as well. Takes many different sources of information. That is one of the big things that we have been working on. WMAC (NWT) and IGC took turns hosting user-to-user meetings for Inuvialuit-Inupiat and Inuvialuit-Inuit. We also consulted on the proposed relisting of polar bear. WMAC-NWT participates in the Polar Bear Technical Committee (PBTC) which puts together best available information. We are leading some initiatives with WMAC-NS as part of PBTC including a paper describing how the PBTC has used Indigenous knowledge in the past and how it will use IK in the future – this also links to how SARC uses IK in status

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AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

assessments. Canada is updating the non-detrimental finding for polar bear (CITES). GNWT and WMAC used SCARF to do a pilot study on eDNA on polar bear tracks out of Uluktaktok to be able to identify by genetic material, individual markers from bears, from the snow where their tracks are. WMAC-NS put together communications materials and a nice comic that describes polar bear co-management and puts information together that comes from the TK study that we published with the Joint Secretariat, includes beautiful artwork and good communication: <https://wmacns.ca/yukon-north-slope/wildlife/nanug/sharing-knowledge-nanug/>

- **GNWT:** WMAC-NWT mentioned the non-detriment finding relating to CITES. Also related to CITES we provided information on harvested polar bears into the regulatory system that tracks polar bear hides and parts under CITES – that work is ongoing. We are also involved in the ongoing tracking of all human-caused mortalities in the ISR through the tag system. There is an annual report on that that goes to the WMACs and the IGC for review. We are involved in some national coordination and expert bodies that work on polar bear such as the Polar Bear Technical Committee and Polar Bear Advisory Committee. We are in the midst of working on the population survey for Northern Beaufort and Southern Beaufort using genetic mark recapture and exploring options including DNA darting, hair snag, scat and eDNA. ENR is participating in the BEARWATCH project looking at development of a low- and no-impact monitoring toolkit. It will be interesting to see how eDNA advances over the next couple of years.

Dolphin and Union Caribou – WMAC (NWT) and GNWT

- **WMAC (NWT):** A lot of work on Dolphin and Union caribou in the past few years because there are concerns with their population numbers. For direct harvest management actions, the council has been doing a lot of consultations with Ulukhaktok because there is new information all of the time. In 2020, a survey was done and results in 2018 showed a steep decline. We went in October 2020 and March 2021, in both of those in-person meetings we also sent out surveys. We were thinking about more intensive management actions. We heard back from the OHTC this spring, putting out community level restrictions; HTC put a non-mandatory closure to the spring harvest because that is when the caribou are migrating back to Victoria Island

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MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

to calve. Harvest was closed for a time period. Only 50 caribou total could be harvested – which was not a problem this year, because they only harvested about 20 caribou; caribou are not in the area. HTC also asked us to implement mandatory harvest reporting and sampling that would be implemented through a by-law in ENR's *Wildlife Act*. It is with ENR right now. In the meanwhile, to track harvest we have a community harvester conducting a mini-harvest study because our harvest study was paused a couple years ago because of covid as well as tragedies in the community, but we should be getting harvest information soon. WMAC has been acting as the main secretariat for the user to user groups. Actions include interjurisdictional meetings as Dolphin and Union caribou is a shared population with Nunavut. In July and last week we had user to user meetings that included all of the co-management partners to discuss issues. We had a 3-day meeting to share harvest observations and information, as well as information from researchers including findings related to health and TK on Dolphin and Union caribou. The caribou are being considered for up-listing federally, and community members felt information was missing, so ECCC is developing an addendum to the 2017 COSEWIC report. WMAC is working with partners to make that addendum accurate and correct. There is a TK project to review old interviews done by ENR from 2011-2013. It has been a while, but we have a contractor with the University of Calgary to finalize that report and make recommendations.

- **GNWT:** There has been community-based work on caribou health and condition, including annual interviews about population movements and health. We are hoping to deploy collars on Victoria Island in 2022. On the predator front, there is a collaboration beginning with academic researchers on grizzly bear diet and camera trapping for grizzly bears. Ongoing program of wolf sample collection as well.
- **ECCC:** ECCC is waiting to see how the Addendum piece evolves. Aiming to bring it to NWMB in June as part of the package with the proposed up-listing.

Wood Bison - GNWT, TG, WRRB

- **GNWT:** Management plans for each of three bison herds were previously completed and collaboration on bison management primarily takes place through the working groups. The Mackenzie Working Group met twice, the Nahanni Working Group met

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CONFERENCE OF
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AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

once, and the Slave River Lowland Working Group met once last year as well. They will all meet again in 2022 on implementing those herd plans. This past year we implemented changes to re-open Mackenzie harvest which was closed after a big population decline; now the herd seems to be recovering. We will continue to work with communities (Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte and Fort Providence) where there are problems with bison in communities and help facilitate harvest in communities, including facilitating use of ENR facilities to butcher meat for community use in Fort Liard and buying meat handling equipment for use in Nahanni Butte. This helps reduce bison problems in the community. Ecology North did a project funded by SCARF to develop a teacher's guide and learning materials as part of their growing group of education materials and will be distributing to educators. ENR also shared information on wood bison via social media. ENR has also done work on population estimates and health monitoring. Every summer ENR monitors for Anthrax. We did not find anthrax this past summer. We also take samples of harvested animals and road kill. We will continue to monitor the Bison Control Area. Research wise, we are partnering with the University of Laval and the University of Saskatchewan on the Sentinel North project studying habitat selection and relationships between wood bison, moose, boreal caribou and predators like wolves and bears in the boreal forest. The project is underway with collars deployed in 2021 in Mackenzie range. This will help us learn a lot about bison and habitat selection and what influences wood bison survival. In addition to the NWT partners, we also collaborated with external parties like Parks Canada, Alberta, Yukon and the IUCN Bison Specialist Group.

- **WRRB:** WRRB participates in the Mackenzie Bison Working Group and we did meet a couple of times in 2021. WRRB approved the reopening of the Mackenzie harvest closure in place since 2012. There has also been Tlicho highway work to monitor bison and habitat. The Board approved wildlife research collaring bison for monitoring and management purposes including 26 collars (some with cameras).
- **KFN:** Unable to attend meeting. Will have observers go out with ENR to do a count.
- **NSMA:** NSMA also participates in the working group. We had four tags for bison. We provided funds to set up a community hunt, once back half of each bison was distributed to the broader NSMA membership. One member went out, three tags planned for the next month. Hunt ends mid-March. This has been an interesting

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program and members were really happy with the broader distribution of this food source.

- **GRRB:** question for GNWT – did you report anything for bison in Nahanni Butte?
- **GNWT:** Nahanni Butte is where we bought meat handing equipment to help use tags to reduce bison in the community.
- **GRRB:** I visited the community and we stayed at the motel, there was huge bison nudged against the window that scared me. We heard from a lot of local people that visitors shouldn't startle bison because they rub against things and damage homes or vehicles. Wanted to look at some means of harvesting more bison to subsidize food needs. Wondering if more came from that.
- **GNWT:** This is an ongoing issue in those communities, and we are always working with those communities to help or find ways to discourage bison from coming into the town and maintain safety. Addressed in the herd management plan for that herd. Reducing human-bison conflict and reducing negative interactions in Liard and Nahanni Butte are part of that plan. As the working group meets (they are new only met a couple/three times), they talk about how to deal with bison in the community and there will be tags available and we will talk to them about to use them to reduce conflict in the community.
- **SRRB:** Question on monitoring bison. Do you have any idea if some bison have gone up the Mackenzie Valley road past Wrigley? I heard a report of a bison being seen on the side of the road.
- **GNWT:** Bison are not usually that far north. We had some beside check points on the Fort Simpson Highway, but that is the farthest north we've seen them. If you have a photo or a date that would be helpful.
- **SRRB:** We have seen muskox too.

Bats – GNWT, WRRB, TG, SRRB (+GRRB)

- **GNWT:** There has been some work going on in collaboration with the University of Alberta on acoustic monitoring for bats including in the Sahtú which we have supported. Part of that University of Alberta research project will look at how bat behaviour changes with latitude with regard to sunset and sunrise. The Species and Habitat Viewer has information on at risk bats and their habitat. We have been doing

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CONFERENCE OF
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AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

ongoing summer monitoring at four little brown myotis maternity sites including Fort Smith, Kakisa, Hay River and Fort Providence. We are banding bats and looking at colony size and reproduction. We have also done acoustic monitoring opportunistically over the years. This year we initiated more systematic acoustic monitoring according to the North American Bat Monitoring Program protocol. We worked with partners to establish monitoring in seven different grid cells, doing stationary point surveys and mobile surveys for bats. We are hoping it will be ongoing. We were also involved in acoustic monitoring work in Thaidene Nënë – some bat recorders were put out there as well in 2021. There has been some work developing a training material module for deploying acoustic units including recorders. With regard to bat health, we participate in various coordinating groups primarily focused on white-nose syndrome (WNS). We test for WNS when dead bats are submitted, or when handling bats. There is no WNS in the Northwest Territories yet and we follow safe handling procedures to help prevent human-caused spread. There was a report that was published last year on the NWT Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment that addressed climate change as a threat to bats and other species – this document is available online. On the climate change front, ENR filled a new staff position for a Climate Change Ecologist. The Climate Change Ecologist will be working on a climate change adaptation plan for wildlife. There were a series of social media posts on the ENR Facebook page, every year we do bat promotion during Bat Week (last week of October). We gave public presentations on bats and WNS. Ecology North also did some social media on bats.

- **WRRB:** WRRB has done limited work on bats. We have primarily provided information on bats through website and social media posts. During Bat Week we did several posts on Facebook to promote reporting observations.
- **SRRB:** We worked with ENR on deploying and picking up bat monitors. We are really motivated to find bats in our area, in addition to the bats that have been recorded in the mountains.
- **GRRB:** We have four bat detectors, three out this past summer; one has a loose connection, so we didn't put it out. We haven't had a chance to look at the data. We don't have a good analysis program to do that. Takes a lot of time. I saw my first bat in Inuvik, it flew down my driveway. I didn't have a bat detector out, so I put one out. I haven't had a chance to look yet. There was a report from Faye in ENR of a bat in

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CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

town on October 8, 2021; the temperature was around 5 degrees. Surprised that they were out but we'll put a detector out.

- **KFN:** No updates for bats this season. We would be interested to get involved in banding and monitoring stations in and around Hay River. Joanna will reach out to Joseph. Irene from KFN was out with ENR last summer helping put out bat detectors.
- **NSMA:** We are slowly getting involved in bat monitoring. Jessica Smart is working with Sam Haché (CWS) looking at how NSMA could implement bat monitoring in guardian work. NSMA applied to AFSAR for a few bat recorders hoping to set up at Old Fort Rae. We had a community trip out to Old Fort Rae and we found a dead bat that we sent to ENR who confirmed it was a little brown myotis. We are looking forward to setting up recorders to determine other bat species that may be present.
- **GRRB:** I have seen a few bats in Nova Scotia. Interesting because when you see one you know it is a bat because it is a little creature that flies like a dishwasher with wings. It bounces all over the place. What I wanted to ask was, I hear a lot about acoustics and monitoring and bat detectors. Has anyone put out bat houses to provide habitat?
- **GNWT:** Regarding bat houses, there are lots of bat houses in the Southern NWT. For example, at the Lady Evelyn falls campground near Kakisa there is a maternity colony in a bat house. There are lots of places in that region where people have put up bat houses in that community as an effort to encourage bats to move out of their buildings. Kakisa and Fort Smith homeowners are using bat houses. A few years ago, with help from federal funding, we conducted a bats in buildings outreach program that helped people build bat houses and put them up. In the Sahtú, there was a bat house building workshop that combined bat house and education outreach. There have been workshops like that in Yellowknife and Hay River as well. Not sure if bat houses have made it further north. There has been a lot of interest in putting bat houses up in about the last 5-years. When people contact ENR we share information on bat houses.
- **NSMA:** Have bat houses worked for homeowners?
- **GNWT:** We don't have systematic information on whether bat houses have helped homeowners. Last summer when we were working in the South Slave area, we did see bats using some bat houses. But I don't know how many are occupied or if they have been taken up by maternity colonies.

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- **GRRB:** I think I do have a bat box kit, so I could put one up.

Barren-ground Caribou – All Management Authorities

- **GNWT:** Barren-ground caribou management is done under herd specific management plans. The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) has management plans for Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-East, and Bluenose-West. BQCMB also has a management plan. We support and use those plans for primary guidance. The Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee met in December 2021. We increased support for Indigenous led on-the-land monitoring programs for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds. We secured funding from ECCC to help with costs of surveys (composition and fall transect). We have monitored population size in 5 barren-ground caribou herds (Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, and Bathurst) via photographic surveys in June or July every 3 years, the last of these in 2021. Additional monitoring includes seasonal composition surveys to monitor calf:cow ratios, bull:cow ratios, calf productivity in June, and assessment of collar-based cow survival. We are working with the Government of Nunavut on monitoring the Beverly herd. For predators, we assessed wolf abundance on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East ranges in winter (2020 survey and biomass equations). We are also collaring wolves (Bathurst, Bluenose-East, and Beverly) to learn more about tundra wolf ecology. We contracted Don Russell and company to assess trends in climate variables and their associations with caribou demographics. We initiated a collaborative cumulative effects assessment, including potential effects of climate change, for the ranges of the Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst herds. We supported a graduate student project on caribou responses to mine winter roads that was just completed. Following reports of poor caribou hunting practices, we hosted a meeting on hunting practices. We are implementing the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan and are working on habitat conservation initiatives. A hunter education program was developed for resident and non-resident hunters; a pilot project to use it as a credit course in high schools is beginning. There has also been public messaging on topics like identifying sex, mobile zone, taking only what you need, including press releases and social media.



CONFERENCE OF
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

- **WMAC (NWT):** Our primary activities for barren-ground caribou involve ACCWM and implementing the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan. This includes an annual tour to the communities to collect local knowledge and provide an update on species at risk. We're involved with predator monitoring, grizzly bear hair snagging on Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway monitoring program. We continue to do annual reviews of harvest limits based on information that we get, as well as work with IGC on bylaws including Total Allowable Harvest. Partnering with ALCES cumulative effects assessment project, including attending training workshops – ongoing project.
- **GRRB:** We advised research and regulatory applications on best management practices and harvest surveys were conducted in a long-term study – most of the information was on Porcupine caribou. Information from harvesters on health, status and movements was presented to ACCWM. GRRB implemented actions and worked with ACCWM on the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan. We distributed the “Let the leaders pass” stickers although some public outreach was suspended due to covid.
- **SRRB:** Our main focus was working on supporting submissions from parties to the 2021 public listening session with a focus on caribou relations with other wildlife including predators and competitors and also working with the ACCWM. We have had to delay public listening sessions due to covid. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to convene in the next couple of months. Future sessions will focus on wildfires and climate change, as well as caribou and the mixed economy. We will be addressing all three ecotypes of caribou that live in or travel through the Sahtú. Communities are working on their plans as proposals to submit to public listening sessions. Some of these things are in the works. Following from the 2020 public listening sessions, judicial review is underway; several parties in the CMA are going to be participating in that judicial review.
- **WRRB:** WRRB participates in annual Advisory Committee for Cooperation of Wildlife Management (ACCWM) status meeting and implementation of appropriate management actions for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East caribou herds. Also participated in revisions to the Taking Care of Caribou management plan. WRRB was part of completing the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan and participated in the first annual Bathurst caribou status meeting. Supported and participated in the 2021 Ekwò Nàxoède K'è Program at Kòk'èeti (Contwoyto Lake).

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AUTHORITIES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Participates in the ongoing development of the Caribou Guardians Coalition. Much of the Board's work is through ACCWM or Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee. Continued support of ground-based wolf harvest and review of annual wolf control program report. Participates in meetings that are related to the Bathurst caribou range plan where they are considering Bathurst caribou habitat.

- **ECCC:** Update was provided yesterday.
- **KFN:** The barren-ground caribou range doesn't really impact KFN.
- **NSMA:** NSMA sits on the Bathurst Caribou Advisory Council, and we attended several meetings. In December and January, there was work to develop an action plan including winter road monitoring. Last year we started up a monitoring program as part of our guardian program to monitor from Yellowknife to the mines. Guardians drove up to Diavik with a booklet with input from ENR and TG. Members were typically observing and reporting what they saw including illegal harvesting (gut piles, large carcasses not taken back), and anything else they felt necessary to report. Safety is always a priority so NSMA didn't do any enforcement, just reporting. There were three trips this season and trips planned coming up in the next month. We are building our guardianship program. NSMA attended the respectful harvest workshop. Key messages heard were how do we report to ENR, how can guardians report to ENR, how to report to communities. NSMA staff participated in the June calving surveys when members were not able to go. It was a good experience to understand how the surveys were done and how the data is used.
- **BQCMB:** The BQCMB Board is multi-jurisdictional at a community and government level. Over the next year we will be updating and revising the management plan for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds. Elements are similar to the NWT Recovery Strategy, including monitoring, habitat protection, harvest management, education, filling info gaps. GNWT is involved in monitoring through the Beverly collaring program and some surveys. The Government of Nunavut does population surveys for both herds on the calving grounds. We are hoping for a population survey of the Qamanirjuaq herd in June 2022. Ongoing focus has been on the Nunavut Land Use Plan that has been underway since 2010 or so. There was supposed to be regional public meetings on the 2021 draft land use plan last fall, delayed now until perhaps next fall. A lot of the work we do is possible only thanks to outside funding including from WWF-Canada for our harvest reporting project in Kivalliq region. However,

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CONFERENCE OF
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MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2022
9:00AM – 12:00PM

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

progress since fall 2019 has been hindered due to a lack of in-person meetings, so we will update our plans next year. There has been effort over several years working with ECCC on the federal species at risk listing, resulting in BQCMB support for listing. We also have a big role in communications including newsletters issued twice each year. With regard to the Tibbitt to Contwoyto winter road, we are raising alarm on disrespectful harvest. Additional education and communication projects are dependent on funds from outside sources. Incoming Executive Director (Tina Giroux-Robillard) will be starting in April. A lot of what we hope to do in the near future is to increase involvement with communities and supporting our own community representatives. The Board has representatives from only 8 communities and over 20 communities harvest from the herd. We had hoped to get funding from outside sources to do more community engagement work, including from SCARF but that was denied. BQCMB is not a land claims-based board and we have limited funding and capacity.

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

Overview of upcoming meetings.

- **May 24-26, 2022** in Yellowknife as a blended approach with call-in options.

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Species at Risk Workplan – At a Glance

The table below outlines the CMA/SARC workplan over the next 5-years and includes type of activity and species.

Year	Activity	Species
2021	Listing	Listing of northern mountain caribou (29 July 2021)
	Assessment	Polar bear (re-assessment)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Hairy braya
2022	Listing	Polar bear (add another 10-year term)
	Assessment	Peary caribou (re-assessment)
		Boreal caribou (re-assessment)
		Peregrine falcon
2023	Progress Reporting and Review	Boreal caribou
		Amphibians (Northern leopard frog and Western toad)
		Polar bear
2024	Assessment	American White pelican
		Dolphin and Union caribou (re-assessment)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Dolphin and Union caribou
	Management Plan/Recovery Strategy	Northern mountain caribou (management plan)
2025	Assessment	Hairy braya (re-assessment)
		Muskrat
	Management Plan/Recovery Strategy	Peary caribou
2025	Assessment	Northern leopard frog (re-assessment)
		Western toad (re-assessment)

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		Canadian Toad (assessment)
	Management Plan/Recovery Strategy	Peary caribou (adoption of Federal recovery strategy by September 30, 2024)
	Progress Reporting and Review	Wood bison
2026	Assessment	Wood bison (re-assessment)
		Red-sided garter snake

Summary of Actions and Decisions:

Action item A20220222-01: Secretariat to investigate school curriculums and reach out to the necessary people to determine what steps may be involved in this type of undertaking. Secretariat will also investigate museum displays and approach the Department of Education, Culture and Employment with options to add or supplement current displays with species at risk information.

Action item A20220222-02: The Secretariat will discuss with the SCARF Subcommittee on the amount of funding available and revise the section of the application that indicates projects typically range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to consider removing this apparent restriction.

Decision D20220222-01: Management Authorities have reached consensus in principle to add another 10-year term to the current expiration date for polar bear as a species of Special Concern.

Decision D20220222-02: High level summaries of implementation will be provided in the meeting minutes. The compiled annual summary of implementation actions will be provided internally. And the 5-year progress report will be the finalized update of implementation actions made available for the public.