



John Nagy/CNWT

NWT SPECIES AT RISK HAVE YOUR SAY! SHOULD PEARY CARIBOU CONTINUE TO BE LISTED IN THE NWT AS A THREATENED SPECIES?

Threatened means Peary caribou are likely to become Endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to their extirpation or extinction.



PEARY CARIBOU

Peary caribou are the smallest North American caribou. Their coat is mostly white in winter and slate-grey in the summer. They are found in small groups on the arctic islands of the NWT and Nunavut.

Peary caribou need large areas with a variety of habitats throughout the year, and the ability to move around to different parts of their range. Sea-ice crossings are important movement corridors for Peary caribou.

Populations of Peary caribou in the NWT declined steeply between the 1960s and the 1990s, due to over-harvesting, predation and severe weather reducing access to food. Over the last 20 years population numbers have slowly increased—but they remain far from historic levels.

The NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC) determined that Peary caribou are **Threatened** in the NWT based on concerns about negative effects of climate change that could limit access to important habitat and affect the way they cope with severe weather conditions. There are also concerns about expanding industrial development and marine traffic.

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.



For more information, contact your local renewable resources board or the NWT Species at Risk Secretariat at sara@gov.nt.ca or by calling toll-free: 1 (855) 783-4301.

RE-LISTING PEARY CARIBOU

The legal re-listing of Peary caribou as **Threatened** in the NWT would lead to the finalization and adoption of an NWT recovery strategy for the species, which would support the conservation and recovery of Peary caribou in the NWT.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why were Peary caribou reassessed as **Threatened** in the NWT?

Peary caribou need large areas and the ability to move freely between and within islands. Severe weather and changing wind-ice conditions due to climate change could prevent caribou from reaching their food. Their small and variable population size make Peary caribou especially vulnerable to extreme weather events.

Knowledge holders are concerned that changes in climate and sea ice, combined with increased marine traffic and other threats such as grizzly bear predation, could lead to the species becoming Endangered if these threats are not managed or reversed.

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 mean harvesting must stop. Keeping Peary caribou on the NWT List of Species at Risk will not automatically change quotas, by-laws or regulations already in place.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Should Peary caribou remain on the NWT List of Species at Risk as a Threatened species? Why or why not?
- Peary caribou were initially listed as Threatened in the NWT in 2014. How has the listing affected you or your community? Would the re-listing have positive or negative impacts?
- 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?

Left: Charles Francis, Right: John Nagy/GNWT