



NWT CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON ADOPTING THE *MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DOLPHIN AND UNION CARIBOU (RANGIFER TARANDUS GROENLANDICUS X PEARYI) IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND NUNAVUT*

The Conference of Management Authorities has reached a consensus (hereafter referred to as the "Consensus Agreement") on the following:

To adopt, in accordance with section 63 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Management Plan for the Dolphin and Union Caribou in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

INTERPRETATION

For greater certainty, terms and processes in this Consensus Agreement are as defined and described in the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

For greater certainty, the Management Authorities for Dolphin and Union caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus x pearyi*) in the Northwest Territories are the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

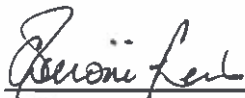
WE THE UNDERSIGNED, having reached this consensus on this 7th day of December 2017, provide this Consensus Agreement to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).



Witness



Rob Gau, Member
Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)



Witness



Fred J. Mandeville
Assistant Deputy Minister - Operations
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories

ANNEX A

REASONS FOR THE CONSENSUS AGREEMENT

On March 19, 2015 the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, acting on the direction provided by the Conference of Management Authorities in their *Consensus Agreement on Listing Dolphin and Union Caribou as Special Concern in the NWT (Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus x pearyi)* (December 2014), added Dolphin and Union caribou to the NWT List of Species at Risk as a species of Special Concern. If a species is listed as Special Concern, the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* provides a two year period for the Conference of Management Authorities to prepare and complete a management plan for that species unless an extension under subsection 59(2) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* is applied. In this case, a 15 month extension (to March 31, 2018) was applied.

The *Management Plan for the Dolphin and Union Caribou in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut* (Management Plan) describes the management goals and objectives for Dolphin and Union caribou in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and recommends approaches to achieve those objectives. The Management Plan was developed to meet the requirement for a management plan under the territorial *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* as well as a national management plan under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, and to meet management needs in Nunavut. Development of the final Management Plan respected co-management processes legislated by the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* and the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

The Management Plan was prepared jointly by the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories, in cooperation with the Government of Canada and co-management partners. Co-management partners involved in this process included: the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), Ekaluktutiak HTO, Omingmaktok HTO, Burnside HTO, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Inuvialuit Game Council, Ulukhaktok Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC), and the Paulatuk HTC.

The Management Authorities for Dolphin and Union caribou in the Northwest Territories are confident that the Management Plan satisfactorily addresses management requirements for Dolphin and Union caribou, as required by the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*.

This Consensus Agreement was informed by the review of the Management Plan, the Species at Risk Committee's assessment and reasons for assessment of Dolphin and

Union caribou, the approved species status report, public input (solicited by the Management Authorities), and the results of Crown consultation duties performed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. No information was provided to the Species at Risk Committee by the Conference of Management Authorities or a Management Authority under paragraph 31(1)(c). Actions taken by the Management Authorities with respect to the required approvals and their preparation for the development of the Consensus Agreement are described in Annex B of this Consensus Agreement.

The Management Plan was developed appropriately with input from the necessary parties. The Management Plan includes appropriate recommended objectives and approaches for the management of Dolphin and Union caribou, as well as descriptions of threats and positive influences, as required under section 61 of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The Management Plan will help the Management Authorities decide what actions to take, how to prioritize their work, and how to allocate their resources in order to manage Dolphin and Union caribou in the NWT.

For these reasons, the Management Authorities for Dolphin and Union caribou under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the Government of the Northwest Territories) agree to adopt the *Management Plan for the Dolphin and Union Caribou in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut*.

ANNEX B

ACTIONS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE UNDERTAKEN OR WILL UNDERTAKE WITH RESPECT TO ADOPTING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

As provided for in paragraph 66(3)(b) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC (NWT)) and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), having agreed to adopt the *Management Plan for the Dolphin and Union Caribou in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut*, are reporting the actions they took or agree to take with respect to the completion and approval of this Consensus Agreement:

To facilitate the plan development, an introductory meeting outlining the management planning process took place in February 2015 with representatives of communities and co-management partners within the range of Dolphin and Union caribou. Two joint meetings were held in Nunavut: in Kugluktuk (March 2015) and Cambridge Bay (January 2016) with representatives of the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., WMAC (NWT), Inuvialuit Game Council, Hunters and Trappers Organizations from Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, and Bathurst Inlet, and Hunters and Trappers Committees from Paulatuk and Ulukhaktok. The Government of Nunavut, GNWT, and Government of Canada also attended the meetings. The meeting participants discussed the content and framework of the management plan, new information on Dolphin and Union caribou, threats to the population, approaches to address threats, and options for harvest management. The joint meetings provided opportunities for harvesters and co-management partners from Nunavut and the NWT to discuss Dolphin and Union caribou issues and to share their knowledge. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, traditional knowledge, and local knowledge were shared to help form the foundation of this management plan and inform the document throughout. Notes were produced after each meeting that summarized the input and guidance provided by co-management partners. As each draft of the management plan was completed, it was provided to all co-management partners for their review and input.

In addition, the GNWT and WMAC (NWT) visited Ulukhaktok and Paulatuk in July 2014 to discuss listing Dolphin and Union caribou. They returned to the community of Ulukhaktok in June 2015 to discuss the Dolphin and Union Caribou Management Framework. Comments and feedback were considered and incorporated into the management plan.

Community meetings were held in Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Paulatuk, and Ulukhaktok in April 2016 to review the draft management plan. Each section of the plan

was summarized and explained with the goal of collecting feedback from Hunters and Trappers Organization/Committee board members and from community members. Notes were later produced that summarized the input and guidance provided by each community.

Input from all parties including the general public was solicited once more through the posting of the proposed draft plan for comment on the federal Species at Risk Public Registry and on the NWT Species at Risk website.

The GNWT also consulted on the draft management plan with the Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. with respect to potential infringement of established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights. The GNWT explained the consequences of the management plan and the implementation agreement to follow. The GNWT explained that completing the management plan and implementation agreement would not result in any automatic prohibitions or protections for species or habitat, and would not change harvest quotas, regulations, or habitat protection already in place. The GNWT requested input on whether the proposed management plan, if implemented, could potentially adversely affect established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights. No concerns were expressed with respect to the management plan or its implementation. After reviewing the input received through consultation, the Government of the Northwest Territories' assessment is that the management plan and its implementation will not adversely affect asserted or established Aboriginal or treaty rights. The GNWT recognizes that future management actions arising from the NWT species at risk process regarding Dolphin and Union caribou may have the potential to adversely affect Aboriginal or treaty rights. If actions for the management of Dolphin and Union caribou that have the potential to adversely affect Aboriginal or treaty rights are contemplated in future, such as changes to harvest regulations or legal habitat protection, the GNWT would consult on these changes before implementing them.

Feedback received during engagement and consultation was fully considered when drafting the final plan. The final plan was then submitted to the Government of Nunavut, GNWT, Government of Canada, WMAC (NWT), and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for approval. Detailed records of comments and how they were addressed are on file at the Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Yellowknife.

At their September 2017 Regular Meeting, WMAC (NWT) agreed to accept the final Management Plan for Dolphin and Union Caribou (Resolution 09/17 #1).