



**SUBMISSION TO THE**

**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**FOR**

**Information:**

**Decision: X**

**Issue:** There is no set number of allowable outfitter-led sport hunts for caribou herds where there is no set Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) or a current sport hunt recommendation.

**Background:**

- Current Wildlife Regulations state that sport hunters (defined here as Non-resident and Non-resident foreigner hunters) have an annual harvesting limit of 2 caribou per hunter, but there is no limitation on the number of sport hunters that can harvest this limit.
- The Government of Northwest Territories had historically set limitations for sport hunts by Barren-ground caribou management units. Under the current Nunavut legislation, barren-ground caribou are managed by herd, not management unit.

**Current Status:**

- Sport hunting is an activity that provides economic benefits to communities through outfitting and the Department of Environment (DOE) supports the continuation of sport hunting but there needs to be a limitation on this activity to ensure sport hunting does not cause further declines of caribou populations and impact subsistence hunting.
- Processes have been started to establish a TAH on some caribou herds that do not currently have them. Once a TAH is established, HTOs have the ability to designate a portion of their available tags to outfitters for sport hunting.
- As an interim approach to community concerns regarding the potential impacts of sport hunting on these herds, the DOE consulted with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) to determine an acceptable number of sport hunting tags for caribou herds for which no TAH has been established (Appendix 1; Caribou Sport Hunting Consultation Summary).

- All HTOs commented that they would like the ability to revisit the quota should there be changes to the population estimates of herds or changes to community needs.

Kivalliq community recommendations

<b>Community</b>	<b>Date of Consultation</b>	<b>In Favor of Sport Hunting</b>	<b>Recommended Number of Sport Hunt Tags</b>
Arviat	May 4, 2017	Yes	100 sport hunts for Arviat
Baker Lake	May 4, 2017	Does not support sport hunting near Baker Lake	0
Chesterfield Inlet	June 27, 2017	Yes	10 sport hunts for Chesterfield Inlet (5 from Qamanirjuaq/Beverly and 5 from Lorillard/Wager Bay)
Coral Harbour	May 8, 2017	Yes	40 sport hunts from Coates Island for Coral Harbour
Naujaat	May 3, 2017	Yes	60 sport hunts for Naujaat
Rankin Inlet	No HTO meetings for several months	N/A	N/A
Whale Cove	May 17, 2017	Yes	40 sport hunts for Whale Cove, 250 sport hunts for the region

Kitikmeot community recommendations

<b>Community/HTO</b>	<b>Date of Consultation</b>	<b>In Favor of Sport Hunting</b>	<b>Recommended Number of Sport Hunt Tags</b>
Cambridge Bay	May 11, 2017	Yes	No sport hunts from Bluenose East or Bathurst herds, 25 sport hunts from Dolphin and Union herd and 100 sport hunts from both Ahiak and Beverly herds
Burnside HTO	June 14, 2017	Yes	30 sport hunts from Bathurst herd

Omingmaktok HTO	Not available for consultation	Have previously indicated they are in favor of sport hunting	N/A
Gjoa Haven	July 20, 2017	Yes	20 sport hunts for Gjoa Haven (as long as it does not lead to a TAH being necessary)
Kugaaruk	May 17, 2017	Unsure	Did not provide a recommendation at the time
Kugluktuk	June 21, 2017	No	0
Taloyoak	May 4, 2017	Unsure	Did not provide a recommendation at the time

#### Recommendations:

- The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board set Non-resident and Non-resident foreigner sport hunting limits for caribou herds without a current Total Allowable Harvest as follows:
  - **Qamanirjuaq** caribou herd: **175** sport hunting tags
  - **Beverly** and **Ahiak** caribou herds: **150** sport hunting tags in total
  - **Lorillard** and **Wager Bay** caribou herds: **100** sport hunting tags in total
  - **Coates Island** caribou herd: no current recommendation until new population estimate is available
- The caribou sport hunting limitations can be increased or decreased through the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board process on an as-needed basis to address any conservation issues or changes to community needs that may arise.
- The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board decides the allocation of sport hunting tags between Regional Wildlife Organizations where applicable, for herds that are shared between regions.

#### Appendix 1: Caribou Sport Hunt consultation Summary (attached as separate document)

## CONSULTATION SUMMARY FOR CARIBOU SPORT HUNTING LIMITATIONS

3 May, 2017: Arviq HTO, Naujaat  
4 May, 2017: Arviat HTO, Arviat  
4 May, 2017: Baker Lake HTO, Baker Lake  
4 May, 2017: Spence Bay HTO, Taloyoak  
8 May, 2017: Aiviit HTO, Coral Harbour  
11 May, 2017: Ekaluktutialik HTO, Cambridge Bay  
17 May, 2017: Kurtairojuark HTO, Kugaaruk  
17 May, 2017: Issatik HTO, Whale Cove  
14 June, 2017: Burnside HTO, Cambridge Bay  
21 June, 2017: Kugluktuk HTO, Kugluktuk  
27 June, 2017: Aqigiq HTO, Chesterfield Inlet  
20 July, 2017: Gjoa Haven HTO, Gjoa Haven



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## Executive Summary

When a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) is established for a caribou herd, the relevant Hunting and Trapping Organizations (HTOs) are able to assign a portion of the available tags to outfitters for sport hunting. Some of the caribou herds in Nunavut do not have a TAH established and the current Wildlife regulations have a sport hunting limit of 2 caribou set for non-residents, and non-resident foreigner hunters. As a result, there is no set number of allowable sport hunts for the caribou herds where there is no set TAH. A decision from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) is required in order to establish a sport hunting limitation for herds without a TAH.

Sport hunting is an activity that provides economic benefits to communities and the Department of Environment (DOE) supports the continuation of sport hunting but there needs to be a limitation on this activity to ensure sport hunting does not cause further declines of caribou populations and impact subsistence hunting.

DOE Conservation Officers consulted with as many Hunters and Trappers Organizations as possible during their regular meetings in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions of Nunavut between May and July of 2017. The primary purpose of these consultations was to determine sport hunting limitation recommendations from each community to assist the DOE in providing appropriate recommendations to the NWMB for decision.

The recommendations from each of the consulted community HTOs were sent by the attending conservation officers to the two regional wildlife managers who then reported the information back to the Coordinator of Operations and Regulations. The recommendations were compiled and used to form the DOE recommendations for caribou sport hunting limitations.

## Preface

This report represents the Department of Environment's best efforts to accurately capture all of the information that was shared during consultation meetings with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations of the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Environment, or the Government of Nunavut.

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## 1.0 Report Purpose and Structure

This report is intended to: 1) provide the details of why and how DOE consulted with various Hunting and Trapping Organizations (HTOs) in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions to discuss caribou sport hunting limitations and community recommendations and 2) collate and summarize recommendations provided by the HTOs. The following community HTOs were consulted between May and July 2017:

- 3 May, 2017: Arviq HTO, Naujaat
- 4 May, 2017: Arviat HTO, Arviat
- 4 May, 2017: Baker Lake HTO, Baker Lake
- 4 May, 2017: Spence Bay HTO, Taloyoak
- 8 May, 2017: Aiviit HTO, Coral Harbour
- 11 May, 2017: Ekaluktutialik HTO, Cambridge Bay
- 17 May, 2017: Kurtairojuark HTO, Kugaaruk
- 17 May, 2017: Issatik HTO, Whale Cove
- 14 June, 2017: Burnside HTO, Cambridge Bay
- 21 June, 2017: Kugluktuk HTO, Kugluktuk
- 27 June, 2017: Aqigiq HTO, Chesterfield Inlet
- 20 July, 2017: Gjoa Haven HTO, Gjoa Haven

After these consultations, the DOE will provide a submission to the NWMB for decision that includes a recommendation on sport hunting limitations.

## 2.0 Purpose of Consultations

The purpose of these consultations was to discuss caribou sport hunting limitations for herds found in Nunavut without a set TAH. Each community consulted was asked to provide a recommendation that reflects how their community values caribou sport hunting. After the consultations, the DOE will submit caribou sport hunt limitation recommendations herds without a TAH to the NWMB for decision. This decision will aim to reduce the potential for overharvest due to caribou sport hunting.

### 2.1 Format of Meetings

Conservation officers (COs), in each of the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot communities, were instructed to attend their local HTO regular meeting to discuss sport hunting limitations. The meetings were held in the evenings and the CO-led consultation was part of the regular agenda. The CO asked each HTO how many tags they would like to see being made available for sport hunts since there are no current TAH for some herds.

The following questions were asked at each consultation:

- Does the HTO want to see a limit placed on the number of caribou (from herds that have no TAH) harvested in their areas by sport hunters? HTO must identify a limit by herd.
- If so, what does the HTO consider to be a reasonable number of caribou to be made available for sport hunting?
- Does the HTO have any concerns surrounding the sport hunting of caribou?

### **3.0 Summary by Community**

#### *3.1 Arviat Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 4 May, 2017

##### **Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Joe Savikataaq Jr.
- Arviat HTO: Thomas Alikaswa
- Arviat HTO: Dicky Hapanaq
- Arviat HTO: Gordy Kidlapik
- Arviat HTO: Sam Garry Muckpa

##### **Comments and questions:**

In response to questions asked by Officer Savikataaq regarding the sport hunting of caribou, the HTO members present were in support of having caribou sport hunts continue. The recommended amount was 100 caribou sport hunts for Arviat but there were no comments regarding other communities in the region.

#### *3.2 Baker Lake Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 4 May, 2017

##### **Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Russell Toolooktook
- Baker LakeHTO Members

##### **Comments and questions:**

The Baker Lake HTO does not support sport hunts for residents (non-beneficiary) or non-residents near Baker Lake.

### *3.3 Burnside HTO Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 14 June, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Candice Sudlovenick
- Burnside HTO members

**Comments and questions:**

The Burnside HTO recommended 30 caribou from the Bathurst herd be provided for sport hunting for their community. No recommendation for other communities or the herd overall.

### *3.4 Cambridge Bay Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 11 May, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Shane Sather
- Ekaluktutialik HTO Members

**Comments and questions:**

The Ekaluktutialik HTO did not support any sport hunts from Bluenose East of Bathurst herds. They recommended 25 sport hunts from Dolphin and Union herd and 100 sport hunts from both the Ahiaik and Beverly herds.

### *3.5 Chesterfield Inlet Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 27 June, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Peter Kattegatsiak Sr.
- Aqigiq HTO Members

**Comments and questions:**

The HTO recommendation was for 10 caribou sport hunts for Chesterfield Inlet (5 from Qamanirjuaq/Beverly herds and 5 from Lorillard/Wager Bay herds). There was no recommendation for other communities or herds.

### *3.6 Coral Harbour Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 8 May, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Peter Kattegatsiak Sr.
- Aiviit HTO Members

**Comments and questions:**

The Aiviit HTO recommended 40 caribou for sport hunting from Coates Island.

### *3.7 Gjoa Haven Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 27 June, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Peter Aqqaq
- Gjoa Haven HTO Members

**Comments and questions:**

There are currently no outfitters operating in Gjoa Haven, but the HTO recommended a sport hunt limit of 20 caribou. If this leads to herds around Gjoa haven eventually needing a TAH they would prefer to have no sport hunts.

### *3.8 Kugaaruk Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 17 May, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Chad Bruniski
- Kurtairojuark HTO Members

**Comments and questions:**

The Kurtairojuark HTO members were unsure of the numbers of caribou in their area so were unable to make a recommendation at the time of the consultation.

### *3.9 Kugluktuk Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 21 June, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Allen Niptanatiak
- Kugluktuk HTO Members

**Comments and questions:**

The Kugluktuk HTO does not support sport hunts for caribou.

*3.10 Naujaat Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 3 May, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: Peterloosie Papatsie.
- Arviq HTO Members

**Comments and questions:**

The Arviq HTO recommended 60 caribou sport hunts for Naujaat from the Wager Bay herd.

*3.11 Omingmaktok HTO Consultation Summary*

**Date:** N/A

**Representatives:** N/A

**Comments and questions:**

The Omingmaktok HTO supports caribou sport hunts but did not provide a recommended number.

*3.12 Rankin Inlet Consultation Summary*

**Date:** N/A

**Representatives:** N/A

**Comments and questions:**

There were no HTO board members present in Rankin Inlet available for a meeting when requested. HTO has not had meetings for an extended period of time.

### *3.13 Taloyoak Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 4 May, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Conservation Officer: David Anavilok
- Spence Bay HTO Member: Sam Tularialik
- Spence Bay HTO Member: George Aklah
- Spence Bay HTO Member: Bruce Takolik

**Comments and questions:**

The Taloyoak HTO members were unsure of the numbers of caribou in their area so were unable to make a recommendation at the time of the consultation.

### *3.14 Whale Cove Consultation Summary*

**Date:** 17 May, 2017

**Representatives:**

- GN-DOE, Regional Manager: Rob Harmer
- Issatik HTO Members

**Comments and questions:**

The Issatik HTO recommended 40 caribou sport hunt tags for Whale Cove and 250 for the region.

## **4.0 Summary**

All but two HTOs within the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions were available for consultation between May and July of 2017. The communities that were consulted expressed whether or not they were in favour of caribou sport hunting around their community and most provided a recommendation for the number of sport hunting tags in their community. Based on the feedback from the communities, the DOE will provide recommendations by caribou herd, or combined herds, to the NWMB for decision. The suggestion that caribou sport hunting limitations can be increased or decreased through the NWMB process on an as needed basis will be included in the DOE recommendations to address any conservation issues or changes to community needs that may arise.