



## Executive Summary

Government of Nunavut (GN), Department of Environment (DOE) representatives conducted consultations with Hunters and Trappers Organizations/Associations (HTOs) in the Baffin region with north and south Baffin communities, on February 15 and February 16, 2022, respectively.

The intent of this round of consultations was to ensure HTOs were informed on the results of caribou composition surveys from 2021 as well as the Harvest Health Monitoring program on Baffin Island. DOE presented upcoming research programs including a telemetry-based collaring program, continued composition surveys, continued health monitoring and a discussion on Total Allowable Harvest and community observations. DOE solicited input from the HTOs and co-management partners regarding potential changes to the current TAH and non-quota limitations. The feedback collected during this round of consultations will aid the GN in future research planning and monitoring for Baffin Island caribou as well as any potential recommendations to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) for changes to the harvest of Baffin Island caribou.

This report attempts to summarize the comments made by participants during the consultations.

## 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 Kimmirut, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Kinngait, Sanirajak, Igloodik, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet and Clyde River.

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

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## Report Purpose and Structure

This report is intended to collate and summarize comments, questions, concerns and suggestions provided by the HTOs in response to the presentation (Appendix).

The following communities and organizations were consulted on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- Arctic Bay, Ikajutit HTO, February 15, 2022
- Clyde River, Nangmautuaq HTO, February 15, 2022
- Igloodik, Igloodik HTO, February 15, 2022
- Pond Inlet, Mittimatalik HTO, February 15, 2022
- Sanirajak, Hall Beach HTA, February 15, 2022
- Iqaluit, Amaruq HTO, February 16, 2022
- Kinngait, Aiviq HTO, February 16, 2022
- Kimmirut, Mayukalik HTA, February 16, 2022
- Pangnirtung, Pangnirtung HTA, February 16, 2022
- Qikiqtarjuaq, Nattivak HTA, February 16, 2022

Representatives from the DOE, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) attended each of the consultations.

## Purpose of Consultations

In order to make up for multiple postponed in-person consultations over the past two years, the DOE, as represented by John Ringrose, Baffin Regional Wildlife Biologist, and Christopher Mutch, Baffin Regional Wildlife Technician, arranged two separate but similar meetings on February 15 and 16, 2022. The co-management organizations; NWMB, NTI, and QWB were also invited to attend on both days as observers. The purpose of these meetings was to allow the DOE to present the results of the previous years research programs to the Baffin HTOs, answer any questions about the results and seek input from the HTOs regarding proposed research for Fiscal 2022-2023. HTOs were asked to provide recent observations of any changes in abundance in their respective hunting areas and how this may relate to increased harvest opportunities for the communities. The DOE intends to use this input in combination with existing scientific data in designing any future submissions to the NWMB regarding changes to the TAH for Baffin Island caribou. All HTOs attended and all co-management partners were represented during these meetings.

## Format of the Meeting

The meetings were held virtually via Microsoft Teams and tele-conference during the days of February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (see agenda below). Baffin Regional Wildlife Biologist, John Ringrose, and Baffin Regional Wildlife Technician Christopher Mutch co-chaired the meeting. John led the presentation and Christopher took the minutes. Lack of HTO representation on the morning of February 15<sup>th</sup> led to postponement until 1pm that afternoon. HTOs had previously confirmed their intent to participate. A power outage in Iqaluit briefly interrupted the meeting on the afternoon of February 15<sup>th</sup> for approximately 20 minutes as NWMB, NTI and the Iqaluit based interpreter (Innirvik Support Services Ltd.) were all disconnected until the power was restored. Each consultation started with the presentation of results from the past years research programs including health monitoring, composition surveys and collaring in North Baffin. The presentation

then focused on upcoming research that was occurring in the 2021/2022 fiscal year and proposed additional caribou collaring in central Baffin.

The HTOs were then invited to ask all questions, raise concerns, or provide advice.

After the HTOs had exhausted all questions the presentation continued with the discussion of Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and once again invited comments, observations, questions and advice from HTOs.

After the presentations, questions/discussion continued until no further questions were raised by HTOs. Following the HTOs questions and comments, the co-management partners were provided any remaining time to respond to any questions or comment on the presentation. All organizations accepted the opportunity to participate.

## Meeting Agenda

February 15, 2022

8:45 am	Settle in
9:00 am	Opening Prayer, introductions
9:10 am	GN Research Presentation- updates from last year
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Health Break</b>
10:15	GN presentations-Upcoming research
11:00	HTO Input- Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Igloolik, Sanirajak
<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
1:00 pm	GN Presentation-Support needed
1:30 pm	GN presentation- Harvest update/TAH discussion
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Health Break</b>
3:15pm	HTO Input- Sanirajak, Igloolik, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River
4:45 pm	Co-management partner comments/questions. **Time permitting"
5:00 pm	Wrap up

\*Morning was postponed until 1pm due to lack of HTO representation.

February 16, 2022

8:45 am	Settle in
9:00 am	Opening Prayer, introductions
9:10 am	GN Research Presentation- updates from last year
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Health Break</b>
10:15	GN presentations-Upcoming research
11:00	HTO Input- Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Kimmirut, Iqaluit, Kinngait
<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
1:00 pm	GN Presentation-Support needed
1:30 pm	GN presentation- Harvest update/TAH discussion
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Health Break</b>
3:15pm	HTO Input- Kinngait, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq
4:45 pm	Co-management partner comments/questions. <b>**Time permitting**</b>
5:00 pm	Wrap up

## Summary by Community

### February 15<sup>th</sup> – North Baffin

The North Baffin meeting was scheduled to begin at 9:00 am but by 9:45am, Nangmautaq HTO (Clyde River) was the only HTO represented on the call. A representative from Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Association (Sanirajak) attempted to join the call but was unsuccessful. Due to the lack of representation, it was decided by all parties to postpone the start of the meeting until 1pm.

At 1:20 pm the meeting began with all HTOs and co-management partners present. The GN presented the results of the North and South Baffin Composition survey, Harvest Health Monitoring and North Baffin Collaring. There were very few questions regarding the results of the previous work that was completed. The focus of the feedback from the North Baffin communities was very pro-research. The majority of suggestions from HTOs were focused on how to continue or expand the work we are currently doing but also find ways to lessen the impacts or disturbance to the caribou. There was a lot of support for the use of drone technology or snowmobiles during surveys to mitigate the disturbance and impacts on caribou. While HTOs were very supportive of the completed and proposed research, there were suggestions from NWMB to revisit animal handling procedures to better align with cultural values. The following is a brief description of each HTOs' input. This summary does not include every comment made but serves as a synopsis of the discussion.

#### Hall Beach HTA (HBHTA)

- Expressed concern about the unregulated harvest of Wager Bay caribou, specifically on the Melville Peninsula by hunters from Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet.
- Requested abundance survey of the Melville peninsula with direct input from Igloodik and HBHTA in the planning, implementation and reporting.

### Igloodik HTA

- Concern about the low numbers of caribou on the Melville Peninsula.
- Very interested in the collar data and what we will learn from it.
- Would like to see more transparency in the research process, more communication and more community involvement.
- Expressed support for collaring but wanted to make sure that we share the data in a responsible way to protect the caribou from hunters unfairly targeting the caribou's known locations.
- One representative said; "It makes it easier to harvest caribou when you should be actively looking for them. Instead of going on a computer and finding where they are. It makes it too easy. This data should be shared but it should be shared with care, that you don't give out all the information where the caribou are for the caribou's sake."

### Ikajutit HTO

- Would like to have some survey work in their area.
- Very interested in using drones to minimize the disturbance of caribou during surveys.
- Would like to see greater exchange of information between organizations.

### Mittimatalik HTO

- In recent years there were very caribou near the community and no bulls. When the numbers are low the bulls are hard to find. Now they are starting to see the bulls return to the area.
- They would also like to see surveys designed to minimize the disturbance of caribou.
- The use of snowmobiles was suggested, and they support Ikajutit HTO's suggested use of drones.

### Nangmoutaq HTO

- Would like to see more work done in their area.
- Supports collaring.
- Supports the use of drones and snowmobiles for surveys.
- Supports collaring as a tool to build towards the next abundance survey.

After all HTOs had a chance to ask all of their questions and provide as much input as they desired, the co-management partners were given the floor.

### NTI

- Repeatedly expressed concern that caribou abundance on Baffin Island is very low.
- Expressed concerned about the negative impacts of collaring when population is low.
- Expressed concern about creating smaller management zones and the hypothetical imposition of a moratorium by the GN.
- Expressed a desire to an "Inuit only" meeting with all present parties except the GN and NWMB.

## QWB

- Expressed concern regarding possible transmission of COVID-19 from humans to caribou during proposed collaring program in South Baffin.
- Echoed NTI's concerns regarding smaller management zones and a hypothetical moratorium.
- Also expressed a desire to have an "Inuit only" meeting that didn't include the GN to discuss the presentation.

## NWMB

- Suggested that the GN revisit animal handling procedures to better align with Inuit cultural values.
- Suggested that the GN could better incorporate traditional knowledge and Inuit Qaujimagatugangit (IQ) in the design and execution of research programs by working with Inuit groups to develop defined procedures for the collection and implementation of IQ.

## February 16<sup>th</sup> – South Baffin

The South Baffin meeting had all HTOs present in the morning and began at 9:30am. All co-management partners were represented when NTI joined the meeting at 9:40am. The GN presented the same material as on February 15<sup>th</sup> and solicited the HTOs for feedback and input. Multiple HTOs expressed internal capacity issues in response to their ability to monitor the harvest and assist in GN research programs. There was an obvious spirit of collaboration between HTOs and co-management partners with multiple HTOs commenting in support of statements made by other HTOs.

### Nattivak HTA

- Requested the areas between Qikiqtarjuaq and Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River to be surveyed.
- Requested that any TAH changes be made sooner than later.

### Pangnirtung HTA

- Concerned that South Baffin is recovering faster than North Baffin.
- Would like to see separate management zones so that South Baffin can have more tags now and not be bound to the recovery in North Baffin.
- Supports Nattivak's request for a survey between the two communities.
- One representative said; "If we just count South Baffin caribou can we have more tags in South Baffin. If we were on our own could we increase the quota for South Baffin only?".
- Although previously unsupportive of collaring programs due to community concerns, the board has committed to revisiting the program with their membership.

### Mayukalik HTA

- Would like twice as many tags (+35).
- Reported seeing more caribou close to town, but less on the trail to Iqaluit.
- Would like more survey work towards Resolution Island.
- Community filled its quota in 8 hours this year.

- One representative said; "...feels there are lots of caribou near the points of these areas (near Resolution Island) where there is less hunting".
- Expressed concerns about obtaining caribou meat either through the harvest or by purchasing.
- One representative said; "It's hard to get caribou even to order it. Its hard to find caribou meat, even purchasing from other regions. Its hard even for the other regions to deliver on purchasing caribou meat too. Hard to get caribou meat all around."

#### Amaruq HTO

- Stated that managing the harvest is very difficult and takes a lot of effort.
- Approximately 2000 members and only 43 tags.
- Would like to see any increase but feel double the quota (+43) would be a good start in Iqaluit.
- Would like to challenge the GN legally for the sole responsibility to manage caribou allocations.

#### Aiviq HTO

- Very adamant that they need a new Conservation Officer in Kinngait.
- Would like to see their TAH doubled (+25).
- One representative stated; "The system that we have now people don't share. Only the people in the household are eating the catch. The system we have there isn't enough caribou meat to share."
- Expressed concern that managing their own harvest puts the HTO board members in the public spotlight and open to criticism from their membership.
- A representative said; "Some members follow the rules, and some don't".
- Without a Conservation Officer in town, the board is forced to deliver the GN's programs without adequate support.

After all HTOs had a chance to ask all of their questions and provide as much input as they desired, the co-management partners were given the floor.

#### NWMB

- Responded to questions from HTOs about the regulatory submission process.

#### NTI

- Expressed concern about the handling of wildlife (i.e. collaring) and the potential spread of COVID-19 from humans to caribou.
- Expressed displeasure with the meetings format.
- Expressed the desire to have an "Inuit only" meeting after the conclusion of these meetings to discuss the material.

#### QWB

- Expressed similar concern as NTI regarding collaring during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Repeatedly expressed disapproval of the meetings format and repeatedly asked for more time to speak on behalf of the groups that were present in the meeting.

- Stated their legal position that; Inuit systems of wildlife management are the primary tool for wildlife management in Nunavut.
- QWB would like the TAH for Baffin Island to increase by 50 annually for the next 10 years to 750 in 2032.
- Repeatedly stated that the community allocations are derived from the basic needs level of each community and not based on the relative abundance of caribou around the community.

## Conclusions

The main areas of concern or discussion from most HTOs during the meetings were focused on increased involvement in the GN research programs, methods to reduce impact on caribou from research and generally supportive of research. HTOs from South Baffin identified that community members were beginning to observe increased caribou numbers. These comments were expressed by Iqaluit, Kinngait and Kimmirut. In contrast the HTOs from North Baffin did not make similar statements.

Co-management partners identified the need to incorporate IQ into wildlife research programs including incorporating Inuit cultural values into wildlife handling protocols and issues with the amount of time provided during the meetings.

QWB and NTI raised concerns about handling of wildlife because of risks associated with COVID-19. HTOs did not raise these concerns during the meetings.

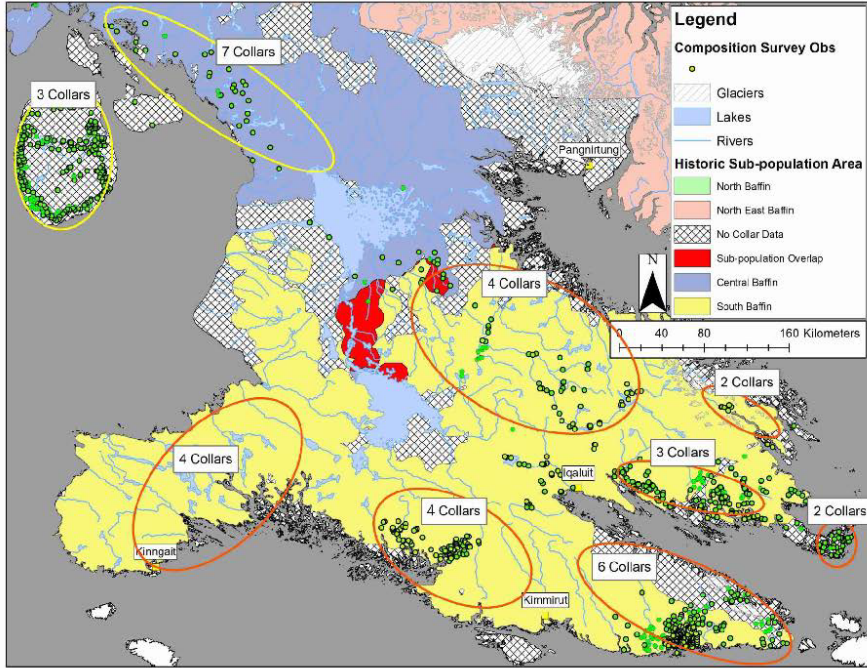












## 4) Planned research

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Collaring in South Baffin delayed until March/April 2022

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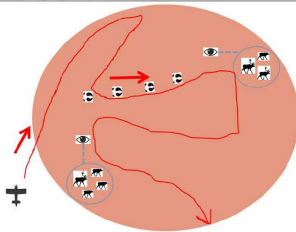
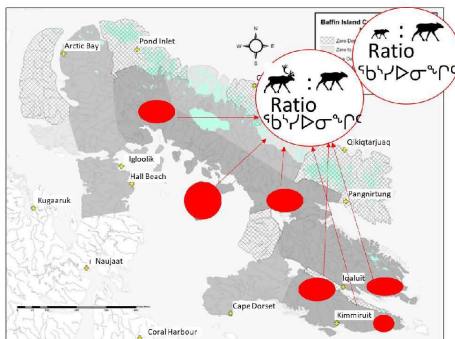
Include HTO participation

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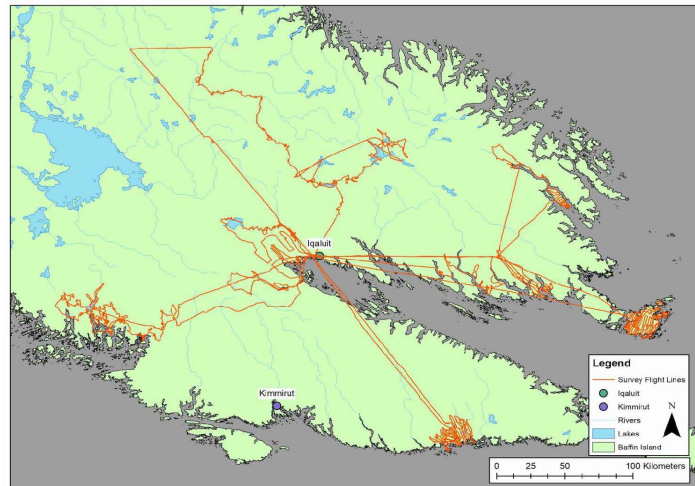
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## 4) Planned research ᖃᐅᐱᕐᑲᐱᕐᑲ ᐸᐱᕐᑲᐱᕐᑲ



Composition Survey-South Baffin

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## 9) Discussion ᐅᑦᑲᑦᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ



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## Extra Information



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