

## Caribou harvest data from Coral Harbour (2007-2011) and calculation of a basic needs level for Southampton Island caribou

With the establishment of a total allowable harvest, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) is required to strike a basic needs level as per Section 5.6.19 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA). The formula for calculating the basic needs level is outlined in Section 5.6.23 of the NLCA; it requires consideration harvest data from both the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study (Harvest Study), which was conducted between 1996-2001, and the greatest amount harvested in any one year during the five years prior to the total allowable harvest being set. The Government of Nunavut Minister of Environment made an interim decision to establish a total allowable harvest and two non-quota limitations for Southampton Island caribou on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 as per Section 5.3.25 of the NLCA. Therefore harvest data collected in the years 2007-2011 is needed to calculate the basic needs level.

Year	Number of caribou harvested - COMMERCIAL <sup>1</sup>	<u>Estimated</u> ** number of caribou harvested – NON-COMMERCIAL HARVEST <sup>1</sup>	<u>Estimated</u> ** number of caribou harvested - TOTAL
2007	2,575	1,500 ***	4,075 ***
2008	0 *	1,500	1,500
2009	843	1,500	2,343
2010	0 *	1,500	1,500
2011	0 *	1,500	1,500

**Table 1:** Number of Southampton Island caribou harvested between 2007-2011

\* A moratorium on commercial harvest was imposed in these years. In 2008, the Government of Nunavut recommended stopping commercial harvest because of concern over the spread of brucellosis and its negative effects on Southampton Island caribou. In 2010 and 2011, the commercial harvest moratoria were introduced because survey estimates suggested low population numbers. (Source: Mitch Campbell, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Government of Nunavut, personal communication)

\*\* The Government of Nunavut Department of Environment does not have records of exact numbers of caribou harvested for non-commercial purposes. The numbers indicated in the table are the estimates used in by the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, and are based on the data from the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study for harvest levels between 1996-2001 (average over this time span was 1,470 caribou harvested per year). (Source: Mitch Campbell, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Government of Nunavut, personal communication)

\*\*\* For 2007 the Government of Nunavut has used a non-commercial harvest estimate of 1,500 animals. In the Southampton Island Barren-ground Caribou Population Management Plan 2011-2013 (Management Plan) the non-commercial harvest is estimated to be 2,000 animals for the year 2007 (Table 1, page 12). This discrepancy may be due to the use of different sources. The Harvest Study was used to provide the Government of Nunavut's estimate while the sources used in the Management Plan include government reports, Hunters and Trappers Organization correspondence, and personal communications with wildlife staff. If the non-commercial harvest estimate for the Management Plan was used, the "Estimated number of caribou harvested – Total" for 2007 would be 4,575.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Mitch Campbell, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Government of Nunavut, personal communication