

Kitikmeot workshop – Yellowknife

Predators, disease, interactions

- Inuit are seeing more wolves and grizzly bears in the caribou range
- Inuit are seeing larger packs of wolves (groups of 12-16)
- Caribou stay away from muskox and muskox numbers have increased
- For parasites and disease such as brucellosis, funding needed to educate young hunters on what they should do if they encounter or catch a sick caribou
- Forest fires have an impact on habitat

Harvest

- It is important to communicate Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit principles
- For example, elders emphasize that if you wound an animal, you should make sure that you kill the wounded animal as long as your life is not in danger
- Dolphin-Union caribou are left alone in July and August because they are too far away
- For similar reasons, it is not easy to access Bluenose East caribou in June

Identification of critical habitat

- For Boothia Peninsula, certain areas should be protected and should not be disturbed. There should be no exploration there.
- King William Island is valued as an important calving ground
- In some areas, calving grounds have changed.
- Water crossings including the sea ice are important, such as in the Coppermine River area
- KIA also has a database with some information
- For the Bathurst herd, the calving grounds and migration routes are the most sensitive

Inuit values and views on caribou calving grounds and migration

- Caribou migration routes are very important
- Migration routes will be disturbed if any exploration is developed
- Caribou trails and calving grounds should not be disturbed
- First groups of caribou passing through should be left alone
- During the summer months, the antlers should not be disturbed
- Damage to habitat needs to be considered from all sources including ATVs
- There is more noise pollution from aircraft