**Caribou Harvest Consultations**

**January 14 and 15, 2016, Cambridge Bay**

Minutes

09:00 Co-Chairs open meeting, opening prayer, go around the table with introductions

**Participant List**

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| **Cambridge Bay HTO** |   |
| Bobby Greenley | Chairperson |
| George Angohiatok | Vice chair |
| Jimmy Haniliak | Brd Member |
| Mark Haongak | Brd Member |
| Howard Greenley | Brd Member |
|   |   |
| **Bathurst HTO** |   |
| Peter Kapolak | Chairperson |
| Martina Kapolak | Vice chairperson |
|   |   |
| **Bay Chimo HTO** |   |
| Connie Kapolak | Chair |
| Allen Kapolak | Vice chair |
| Sam Kapolak | Director |
|   |   |
| **Kuglutkuk HTO** |   |
| Larry Adjun | Chairperson |
| Phillip Kadlun | Director |
| Jorgan Bolt | Brd member |
| Peter Taktogon | Brd member |
|  |  |
| **KRWB**Simon Qingnaqtug  | Chair |
| Ema Qaqqutaq | Secretary |
|  |  |
| **Elders** |   |
| Sam Sr. Angohiatok | EHTO |
| Tommy Norberg | Kugluktuk HTO |
| Jimmy Maniyogina | EHTO |
| Mary Kaniak | Bathurst/Bay Chimo |
|   |   |
| Bert Dean | NTI |
|   |   |
| Drikus Gissing | GN DoE |
| Mathieu Dumond | GN DoE |
| Lisa-Marie Leclerc  | GN DoE |
|   |   |
| Bruno Croft | GNWT ENR |

Lisa-Marie Leclerc and Bert Dean, **Presentation - An Overview of the Wildlife Management process in Nunavut**

Questions from presentation:

**Kugluktuk HTO** Does NWMB have an Elder Advisory Board?

 **Bert**- Not on the board but they invite participants to meetings and hearings and hold workshops.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Was Holman HTO invited to the DU issues brought up at this meeting?

 **Mathieu**- This meeting is Nunavut specific, but there was a previous meeting this week about DU and Ulukhaktuk, Paulatuk and WMAC participated.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Need to work with NWT HTCs to Unsure DU caribou is managed properly.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** Need to Involve youth, there are no youth present.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Can you provide some clarification on assignment and roles of HTO versus individuals? Bert- HTO determines how many tags to sport hunts, There are individual and HTO assignment rights, this meeting is about HTO determinations.

Lisa-Marie Leclerc, **Presentation on Consultations to date and the Process**

Questions from presentation:

**Bay Chimo HTO** If declines are so high have you ever looked for dead caribou to confirm the decline?

Lisa- it is not so much about dead caribou as about caribou not being born.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Are Surveys coordinated with NWT?

Lisa- yes, in fact NWT organized the last survey and GN staff and HTO members participated.

**Co-Chair** - DOE has an Elder Advisory Committee that reports directly to the Minister, provides specific advice on issues as well and general advice. The meet when there is a specific need and are comprised of 3 elders from each region.

Bruno Croft, **Presentation on Results of Calving ground surveys from June 2015**

Questions from presentation:

**Kugluktuk HTO** KRWB and NWMB have not participated effectively in Bathurst management plan meetings. They need to participate.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Lisa's caribou map showed tundra wintering caribou - clarification that is mainland caribou that do not migrate down to tree line, this could be more than one herd.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Is this possibly where some of the BNE/Bathurst caribou have gone?

 **Bruno**- Shows herd collar animation again to show that it is not BNE/Bathurst.

**Kugluktuk HTO** How many collars does the animation represent?

 **Bruno**- varies over time but all that have been put out from 1996 to 2013. NWT is going to increase the collars to 50 per herd to help find caribou at survey time, improves monitoring.

Bruno resume with 2nd presentation on the Bathurst herd.

Questions from presentation:

**Kugluktuk HTO** Is there herd switching?

 **Bruno**- there is not, the collars show that they are not switching and not necessarily dying.

Bruno Croft, **Presentation from BNE photo surveys.**

Questions from presentation:

**Bruno** - 20,000 km of transect flown, calving area has shrunk and density has dropped in core area, a decrease in breeding condition noted in survey.

**Bathurst HTO** The elders have answers to many questions that current generation has never had to deal with, elders need to share.

**Kugluktuk Elder** cows seem to be dropping calves earlier, before they get to their calving area, before they get north.

 **Bruno**- Yes, survey was just before they moved north, when about 50% have calved as there is the least movement by herd then, which is good for survey.

**Kugluktuk Elder** We (elders) do not waste caribou, we use the head the legs. passed this on generation to generation. Our children and grandchildren. Spread the guts and cover with moss when you harvest, learned from the inland people- it goes back to the land quicker.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Caribou are moving along the shore in spring, next time you survey go along the shoreline as well.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Caribou move around, do not use same area year after year, if it was the same store they would run out of food. Moving around may be part of decline.

More presentation - currently low survival rate, adult needs to be 82% currently at 71%. Cow calf ratio needs to be 30 calves per 100 cows, currently below 30%.

Questions from presentation:

**Cambridge Bay HTO** When doing surveys do you see a high number of predators? Bruno- A lot of Grizzly bears, sows with cubs not too many wolves (wolves in Bathurst area seems down).

**Kugluktuk HTO** Future surveys should include surveys of predators to get an idea of numbers.

**Bathurst** **HTO** Are surveys during the day or evening? Bruno- in June during day but dyas are long and go into evening.

**Bathurst** **HTO** Predators are quiet and resting during the day

**Lunch Break**

13:10 Bruno Croft, **Presentation from Bathurst photo surveys**

Significant retraction in calving ground, very low density as well. 8000 breeding cows, low survival, as low as 50%.

Questions from presentation:

**Cambridge Bay HTO** Has GNWT or GN listed any caribou herd under Species at risk legislation?

 Kugluktuk - only DU in NWT, Nunavut not at all.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Grizzly population is high, we want to increase grizzly bear TAH and increase sport hunts.

 **Bruno**- there is a hardship on harvesters when there is a restriction on harvest. To try and address predator concerns NWT is offering increase bonuses to wolf hunters. $200 to drop of a frozen carcass, another $400 if it is used for craft, and another $200 if it is prepare for harvest, so a total of $800/wolf if prepped for auction, but this is only for wolves on the winter range. There is a need for other actions, less predators on calving grounds would help (personal opinion, not GNWT).

**Kugluktuk HTO** Yellowknife Dene Elders told HTO member that they would kill pups in dens if wolf population got high.

 **Bruno**- Tlicho are starting to support increasing wolf harvest, which is against their longstanding practice.

**Kugluktuk HTO** What are the results of the wolf cull from years ago?

 **Bruno**- It was not effective. The next Wek’èezhìi Land and Water Board meeting will have a GNWT proposal on the feasibility of a wolf control program however Tlicho prefer a more traditional approach.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** The small recovery in cow survival (in recent survey years) is not reflected in an increase in calf survival, any reason?

 **Bruno**- Not that we know of.

**Kugluktuk HTO** The member learned from his work in talking to knowledgeable people that wolves are a problem. That elders would look on the land for dens and kills pups. Wolves are part of the big cycle of caribou. One elder has seen 4 cycles of caribou over his life. No caribou to more wolves to less caribou and then less wolves. Personally watched a migration (BNE) of 70-80 K caribou in one day. Men used to go out and hunt all winter long and bring back lots of caribou. Hunting did not impact caribou, now we hunt fewer caribou but they are still declining, Why?

 **Bruno**- When they are high they have good survival rates and good reproduction, harvest did NOT reduce the herd.

Lisa-Marie Leclerc, **Presentation on Dolphin and Union Caribou**

Collared cows east and west of Bathurst Inlet in April 2015 to catch migration back to Victoria Island.

Questions from presentation:

**Cambridge Bay HTO** in the 1970's we saw few caribou but they were all small and white now they are bigger and have some brown.

**Kugluktuk Elder** Long time ago they tried to cross were strong currents kept the water open. I saw lots of dead caribou where they got caught on islands and lots dead in the water.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** Is there Data for in between some of the points on the graph that shows decline because up and down is normal?

 **Lisa**- yes up and down with the big cycle is normal but this is the data we have now, will be more consistent going forward.

**Kugluktuk HTO** What are the numbers for DU caribou?

 **Lisa**- reviews numbers from presentation.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Did the survey cover all of Victoria Island?

 **Lisa**- Originally tried to cover all of calving ground but they did not congregate and all of island is too big so now we catch them as they stage for migration and they are (mostly) all along the shore.

**Break**

Bert Dean, **Presentation on Principles of Conservation**

Questions from presentation and discussion:

**Bathurst** **HTO** The ice road allowed an increase in harvest 6-7K, mostly cows.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** In 1970's in Bathurst Inlet hundreds of lines of caribou moving then the mine roads/access roads started and caribou would not cross the big snow drifts along the road edges on lakes, just were they go over land. Need to consider this when looking at development, may need to make a choice, money from development or caribou on the land.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Does the road affect the caribou (as a research question)? I could see them disrupted by the plowed banks of road. Mines are in the middle of the migration route, small crossings they built do not work, they are narrow and made of sharp broken rocks. Need wide smooth crossing at KNOWN crossing points.

Lisa-Marie Leclerc, **Presentation of GN TAH Recommendations**

GN recommendation is that no development occurs on calving areas. Status of BNE/Bathurst is such that the GN needs to make TAH recommendations to NWMB, and they are based on the principles of conservation.

Questions from presentation and discussion:

**Kugluktuk HTO** How much impact does BNL have on TAH?

 **Mathieu**- BNL is far higher than TAH recommendation so all harvest will go to Inuit.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Proposed harvest cannot be sustained, can you please explain?

 **Lisa**- Population is so low that harvest cannot be allowed. New estimate took TAH recommendation from 100 down to 30 recognising economic and cultural purposes

**Kugluktuk HTO** A letter was sent from HTO to all Kitikmeot region HTO's asking them to stop all sport hunts. Letter included other recommended action for caribou conservation.

**Kugluktuk HTO** During the meeting last year we were advised there was already a quota?

 **Lisa**- During discussion in developing a management plan for BNE, which was signed by the KRWB, there were numbers to provide management Guidance, there is no TAH currently.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Was TAH set up at the meeting on decline last year?

 **Bruno**- It was for GNWT

**Kugluktuk HTO** Want to see, GN, GNWT and NWMB working together.

**Drikus** GN has no role in jurisdictional allocations.

**Break**

16:00 Resume with questions and discussion:

**Cambridge Bay HTO** to Bruno How closely is ice road monitored?

 **Bruno** - There is a mobile conservation area which is based on live collar data and changes every 3 days. Check in booth at both ends of road to monitor, and patrols out regularly.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** I made a trip from YK to Cambridge Bay and saw caribou in trucks along road (7 years ago).

 **Bruno**, there was no restriction at that time. Then up until last year there was a 300 caribou harvest with 30% being bulls, now there is no harvest. Tibbitt to Contoyto used to have lots of harvest but now zero.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** All herds are declining, the first action is to restrict harvest, when hunters are not the cause. Predators are one other cause have you looked at other reasons? Also if you kill the alpha pear of wolves you get way more breeding, it does not help.

 **Mathieu**- NWT is trying to increase wolf harvest, GN is pondering it. No one factor is causing decline, it is mostly natural. And although harvest did not cause decline continuing the harvest will impact the herd.

**Kugluktuk HTO** The Country Food Program where there are funds for HTO to buy country food and HTO choose alternate foods to caribou, char, musk ox, and reindeer from Inuvik (this is an ED&T Program). Can individuals apply to this program?

 **Mathieu**- I will check with ED&T and get an answer

**Kugluktuk HTO**- Beneficiaries have a right to sell under the NLCA.

 **Mathieu** - yes but do not confuse a funding program with Inuit rights.

**Kugluktuk HTO** In the past people lived on the land, now no people live on the land and caribou are declining, predators are up in number. It is hard to control predators.

**Bathurst** HTO More wolves and grizzly bears, more cubs being born. Not just wolves but grizzly bears are impacting caribou on calving grounds.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** If we could have a controlled wolf hunt to replace caribou sport hunts, more wolf and GB sport hunts would be good.

 **Mathieu**-wolf is currently unlimited for Inuit and sport hunts, likely people will not come for wolf alone (sport hunting).

**Short Discussion on 2 differing scenarios in Caribou management in Nunavut, Southampton Island and Baffin Island.**

*Baffin Island Caribou* - Inuit observed declines but Peary caribou survey took precedence for GN survey work. Finally did a survey of south Baffin once harvest problems started to show up. South Baffin survey supported the low numbers seen by Inuit but there were community concerns with the survey. Conducted a second island wide survey and estimated approximately 5000 caribou from approximately 100-150 in the late 1980's.

Tried to get community actions voluntarily but none were implemented. Therefore the minister implemented Emergency Interim Measures with a moratorium until the NWMB could come to a decision on TAH. TAH is now set at 250 bull only caribou.

*Southampton Island caribou* - SHI caribou had a population of approx. 30,000 caribou and supported a commercial harvest. Well monitored and a decline started, herd went quickly down to approx 3-4 K caribou. The commercial harvest stopped when the decline was observed but the HTO noted that significant private sales of caribou where going to supply other regions (I.e Baffin) and the HTO asked for a TAH to be implemented. NWMB approved a TAH with the HTO support. Population is now increasing and GN recommended removing the TAH but the HTO opposed due to ongoing private sale (to Baffin region) so the TAH was increased from 800 to 1600 caribou.

Questions and discussion:

**Kugluktuk HTO** Where do the numbers come from in the GN presentation (about BNE/Bathurst)?

 **Lisa** - the % to harvest under different scenarios comes from the Management plan signed by the KRWB, where there are different colour codes for different levels of caribou and the 5% harvest if the herd is in green (top of cycle), then goes to yellow and red for decline and % declines from 5 to 4 to 2.5 to 1%. and reverse when population is increasing.

 **Bruno**- The evidence is based on research and reviewed by co-management partners.

**Kugluktuk HTO** In Baffin taking from other herds (i.e. SHI) helps to make up lost harvest but here we cannot do that as other herds are also low.

Elder Comments

**Cambridge Bay Elder** - There are lots of factors for decline; predators, climate change, thin ice and drowning.

**Kugluktuk Elder** - Some data (on fish) is not counted accurately. Need to have reports of how many caribou are harvested. Some hunters waste meat (leave bones) and elders want these so hunters should bring all meat back. so elders can use, bones heads etc.

**Bathurst** **Elder** - High cost of gas and ammo is hard for hunters, selling meat is a problem, you should just get what you need for your family. Keep in mind future generations, if there is no more country food it is not healthy. We need to have caribou for the future.

End of Day 1

**January 15, Day 2**

09:00 Elder Comments

**Cambridge Bay** **elder** - In the old days we lived on the land, hunting and harvesting. Caribou only have 1 calf each, but wolves have many pups and this is a hardship on the caribou. Inuit and non-Inuit should work together and work on solutions. Today there are more people from the south and we have a bigger population of people and we should work together and find solutions.

**Kugluktuk Elder** - Wolf numbers are increasing, we hear stories of this from neighbours in Ulukhaktuk too. From the main land we here of more wolves and impacts on the caribou too. Today's ice roads and skidoos that allow for greater access and harvest. When caribou migration is coming close to Kugluktuk (Bathurst herd)sometimes 2 herds meet and migration may be changed. Noise and helicopters may also be part of the migration change.

**Cambridge Bay Elder** - I was raised on the land and so were my children. We used to travel a lot; Holman Island, and Kugluktuk area as well. Used to travel by dog team and we could not keep up to caribou when we started to hunt. Saw a lot of caribou in the past. We would track them for days to reach them. When I worked at Echo Bay Mine we saw tens of thousands waking by, it was like a sea of white. I don't want to lose them (caribou) but it is a cycle and they will come back We relied on dog teams, not as fast as a skidoo but reliable. We relied on what we could get on the land, it was a good way of life but we had hardships, we had each other and shared what we caught. We need to work together and find a solution.

**Kugluktuk Elder** - In old days Reid Island had a population of people living off the land, near the trading post, there was no caribou around there then. It was a long way to hunt caribou by dog team then. It was fun to travel a long way and find caribou. We would travel inland to find caribou. We would get enough caribou and load up the sled and haul it back. Today on Reid Island there are lots of caribou.

**Cambridge Bay** **Elder** - We used to have traditional law when we hunted caribou that you did not should the lead caribou in the migration, we were told by our ancestors not to take them. Today is different, hunters go by skidoo a different way of hunting. We used to rely on dog teams and they would follow the herd by scent.

**Bay Chimo Elder** - As a young girl around Bay Chimo my father told us if you come across a herd, do not shoot the leaders, they take the herd where they need to go. Had a big population of people there then, the size of Cambridge Bay or Kugluktuk now. We relied on dog teams, I remember them coming back in the evening from hunting, good teams and good hunters back then. We relied on caribou, and caught seals for dog teams. We had hardship but helped one another and shared what we had.

**Chair** - Thank you to the elders for sharing their knowledge here today as well as for sharing with youth and researchers.

One outstanding issue from yesterday on country food program but no response from ED&T yet.

Role of the **DOE Elders Advisory Committee** - Jimmy Haniliak from Cambridge Bay HTO is participating and would like to provide insight into EAC as he is a member. The committee was created by the Minister to advise him in decision making on issues from hunter education to TAH recommendations. They meet twice a year and review issues the Minister asks then for advice on. There are 3 elders from each region for a total of 9. The main goal is to help all of Nunavummiut by providing advise to help the Minister.

**Break**

Resume discussion on potential HTO actions and TAH recommendations;

**Cambridge Bay HTO**  Learned how to hunt and survive from elders. For me the Ellis river area feels like home, used to be a lot of animals. It was good to hear the elders talking this morning. Country food is my diet, store food makes me weak and my blood thins. I hunt and I share what I have, I do not take money. Never sell meat and it will be easy to find on the land.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** Started collaring DU caribou in April, it has been a long time since collars were last out and the new collars seem better. More this year to go out, hoping to get more information. Predators-HTO approves sport hunts to harvest wolves. Caribou is a touchy subject because of our dependence. Need to use traditional knowledge as to why they are declining, the elders understood animals better than the current hunters, taking leaders affects the migration. I go out all the time not to hunt but to see what the animals are doing. Caribou spook very easy now, soon as they see you they run, they are harder to hunt. Discussions always come back to hunters. Elders learned through life on the land, HTOs are trying to make proper choices for the community. The NWMB project (MESA) is to record what you see on a tablet, it tracks your route and you can take pictures. You record whatever you see as well as changes that you see.

**NTI** Did the NWMB study you participated in find anything that could help with this meetings discussions? response- there was a year end summary for about 10 users and they did see fewer caribou harvested in Cambridge Bay.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Why is the GN talking down to me? this is a colonial approach, this is not a personal attack against the chair, Inuit have rights. I do not need to be told what to do and talked down to. We feel like we were treated like children yesterday and today. Why is GN co-chairing this meeting, should have an understanding of Article 5 of NLCA. I asked about rights as a harvester, that is how I see this meeting.

**Kugluktuk HTO** What information do we get out of collars? what other than location and movement can we get? Can we get more?

 **Lisa** - There has been lots of development in collars but ultimately they all require battery life. So the trade off is other information and little battery life or a long battery life. For now our best use of collars is long battery life to maximize the time they are on the caribou and help us with finding where caribou are for surveys. When we put collars on we get blood, fecal, and fur samples and this can tell us, stress level, disease, contaminants and pregnancy. Some of this science is in the early stage of development (i.e. stress levels).

**Kugluktuk HTO** Some of our actions to protect caribou include; sending a letter to the other HTOs in the Kitikmeot seeking them to stop sport hunts, we also conduct a caribou education week for students, train how to catch and butcher other species such as moose and musk ox, promote preservation of caribou, starting a community harvest data collection program, community harvest of musk ox to help caribou, use ED&T country food program to bring in char, and reindeer.

**Bay Chimo HTO** Why are we rushing the agenda? There are important questions not answered yet. Chair- just trying to get through all HTO's once, then we will use the remainder of the time for open discussion.

**Bay Chimo HTO** How much surveying is done outside the calving ground? GN says caribou do not move but have not surveyed outside the calving area.

 **Bruno**- Sometimes we survey everything in one year, other times just one or 2 herds are included, it is difficult to do them all at once. Do transects 10 km apart in calving area.

**Bay Chimo HTO** 10 km apart is missing a lot of caribou, why are there no dead caribou seen? Biologists say caribou do not move, how can you say that ?

 **Lisa** - Caribou move lots, but when we fly the survey we pick a time when they move least, calving.

 **Mathieu** - Yes some caribou are missed but are 100k missed are 50k missed, are enough missed to make a difference to the decline?

 **Bruno** - The survey lines are the same every year since 1996, we were seeing lots of caribou, now we are seeing far less with the same process. They have always come back to the calving area, there is no evidence of them moving the calving area. It is very hard to count dead caribou, mostly it is about poor recruitment.

**Bay Chimo HTO** In the late 80's Bathurst caribou calved around the Inlet, then the DU caribou showed up, then the Ahiak (darker caribou) showed up.

**Bathurst** **HTO** Can you use drones to fly surveys?

 **Lisa** - there are regulations under the department of transport that do not allow it right now.

 **Bruno** - we are looking at the option but there are limitations. Currently they do not have the range needed or the ability to correct the flight path in flight. There are also high resolution satellite photos but we still need to know the exact core of the calving area and have clear skies for success.

**Bathurst** **HTO** We need to teach young hunters how to hunt caribou.

**Break**

**Kugluktuk HTO** DU caribou is starting to decline, should we start to develop a co-management plan for them?

 **Mathieu**- DU plan is in development.

**Cambridge Bay HTO**  This is the first year I have observed how hard it is to harvest a caribou -getting close and selecting, never before has it been hard to get close. In addition to reducing harvest trying to control predators should be considered.

 **Mathieu** - How would that work? what would a predator solution be, helicopter shooting?

Ideas from the group:

* Commitment from the GN to assist harvesters
* Don't harvest the alpha couple
* Wolf size has decreased over the last 30 years
* kill pups in dens
* incentive for harvesters to go after wolves
* HTOs to map wolf dens through community mapping project

**Kugluktuk HTO** Bulls are easy for wolves to harvest because they get exhausted during the rut. More wolf hunts and more wolf hunts, we should consider the feasibility.

 **Bruno** - NWT does have a wolf incentive from $200 to $800 depending on preparation of hide. Does not feel sport hunts will impact wolves.

**NTI** Good NTI incentives to help offset hunters costs. How about supplying skilled wolf hunters with gas, food, ammo and putting them out to hunt wolves?

**Break**

**Kugluktuk Elder** I saw some caribou capture on a nature show and did not like that the antlers got broken, can you prevent this?

 **Bruno** - Capture protocol review, 30 second pursuit, if not in net by then they break off, do it were there is lots of snow for cushion, in the last year capturing 100 animals we had no broken antler but did have 2 deaths. When a death occurs we immediately shut down and review the program and look for the cause and try to remedy it.

**Co-Chair** - let's try and focus the remainder of the meeting on moving forward, what else can be done in addition to the GN's TAH proposal?

**Kugluktuk HTO** We need to start teaching youth how to catch and butcher caribou.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** How is wolf incentive in GNWT implemented?

 **Bruno** - Tried in 2010-2013 to increase it to 4680 but had no effect on changing wolf harvest. that effort had a requirement to skin the wolf for auction but now it does not have that, there are differing levels, just need to drop it at the Renewable Resources Office.

**Kugluktuk HTO** More support from GN and KRWB is needed as there are 3 herds in the area and there are many meetings. Also need to educate kids.

**Chair** It is a problem with wolves, HTO can put in submissions for funding for wolf harvest. Educate youth, to harvest better and respect the hunt. Record the harvest. We do not want to see the Baffin situation in Kitikmeot.

**Kugluktuk HTO** The HTO should increase sport hunts for grizzly bears. There used to be more wolf hunters but now youth are not comfortable on the land.

**Co-Chair** Education should be ongoing, not just when the population is low.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** When is the next survey?

 **Lisa**- DU was just done so not for 2 years

 **Bruno** - BNE/Bathurst will be June 2018, but reconnaissance will be ongoing.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** Can you stop a survey to kill wolves if you see them?

 **Mathieu** Planes cannot land anywhere in addition to it affecting the survey results.

 **Lisa** - We will be doing more collars on DU caribou in 4 months as well as fall recruitment ground survey.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Are you willing to sit and work with NWT communities on DU caribou?

**Cambridge Bay HTO** The GN proposal is impact, it seems to target harvesters and not deal with the causes of the decline.

 **Mathieu** All co-management partners contribute to land use issues, regulatory processes, research on contaminants and disease and parasites, TAH is not the only action it is the one proposed now but the others are always ongoing.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** there are lots of issues, education and predation are the main. I work and teach land skills, wildlife knowledge. "I went to the best college in the world, My mother and father". The Elders Advisory Committee did put together a recommendation in hunter education.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** Need a study on caribou forage. There is a study on satellite imagery, use this in the future for Victoria Island.

 **Lisa** CHARS has started a vegetation study on the Island.

**Break**

**Mathieu** A review of TAH proposal and time for questions and comments

**Cambridge Bay HTO** Who is on the NWMB and where do they come from?

 **NTI**- There are 4 Inuit nominations from NTI, and the 3 regional Inuit organizations respectively, and 4 representative from GN, EC, INAC, and DFO respectively.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** What percentage of Victoria Island is rock, water, ice, vegetation? and how many caribou can this sustain? Are there too many caribou for the food available?

 **Mathieu** It is difficult to tell but satellites can help to figure it out.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** There is lots of change in the herds since 1980's, we had to go a long way for caribou then, then they were close. There are patterns of migration shift.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Snow geese can damage the land and we need to keep in mind when managing DU caribou.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** Snow geese are damaging the habitat.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Do snow geese egg collection help reduce the population?

**Lisa** Inuit, no-resident and resident are the 3 classes of hunters. As there is no TAH any resident can buy 5 tags and go and harvest 5 caribou. There are no regulations to prevent this.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** Where do these tags come from?

 **Lisa** They can be purchased at the Wildlife Office and can be used anywhere.

**Chair** HTOs could write to NPC and ask them to protect calving areas.

**Kugluktuk HTO** Migration routes are very important. Buildings and roads change routes. These paths are the safest route between summer and winter range.

 **Elders Comments**

**Kugluktuk Elder** Caribou zig zag around rocks, use the same paths year after year.

**Cambridge Bay Elder** Caribou trails are wide and easy to follow. Spots on the island with vegetation hold caribou, that is where to hunt. Need to know where vegetation is as you cannot see it in winter but caribou will be there. The more experience you get the better the hunter you are. We have to work together as co-managers but also voice concerns to ensure sustainable food from the land. Predators are a big impact, we need to find solutions.

**Cambridge Bay HTO** When we were kids and weather was extreme it was time to listen to stories. Stories of caribou so plentiful everyone had enough and were well fed. It is part of cycle but we don't know the reasons.

**Kugluktuk HTO** For information only, if we make decisions here we will be circumventing the NLCA.

 **Co-Chair** We are only discussing, which is part of the process. Anyone can make a recommendation to the NWMB and the RWO has its role to play as well.

**Closing Comments**

All participants were thankful for the opportunity to participate and for the positive nature of the meeting. Most appreciated the participation of the elders who made a big effort to sit through long stretches of meetings. Some participants noted that meeting participation was fairly new to them and they learned a lot. Most recognized the need to work together respectfully.

The o-Chairs closed the meeting with thanks to all for their efforts and contributions with hopes for success for the future.

Meeting closed at 4:00 pm.