



ՀԾՇԸ յին  
ԱԵՐԾԸՆԸ,  
ԹԶԳՎ ՏԼԷՐՈՒՅՆՔԸ ԵՄԼՅՈՐ  
ՈՂԻՆԵՐԸ 1379  
ՃԵՐՃԵՐԸ ԽՕԱ ՕՀՕ

៤៨ 22, 2020

ለኢትዮ: Dolphin ፌዴራል Union ሪፖርት – 2018 ዓዲስአበባ በስኔነት

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ՃՐԼԸ ՀԱՅ ՀԱՅ 2020.

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Joe Sam Keltay

1. հայէցնե

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com



**ᓇᓱᑦᑐ ሪፖርት  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

# ѧՆՎԸԾԱԾԾՄԸ ՚ՆՎՀԵՐԸ ՚ՆՎՀԵՐԸ ՚ՆՎՀԵՐԸ ՚ՆՎՀԵՐԸ ՚ՆՎՀԵՐԸ ՚ՆՎՀԵՐԸ

## Տամագալինահանրիտ անցուցիչ առաջարկ անունը՝ ՚ՆՎՀԵՐԸ ՚ՆՎՀԵՐԸ ՚ՆՎՀԵՐԸ

### Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

◀△ 28, 2020

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**ᓇᓱᕗᒻ ላጀጀᓂᐅጀጀ ንጀጀጀ ቅጀጀጀ**  
Nunavummi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijikit Katimajat  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

‘ԵՇՏՐԱՋՈՒՅԹԵ՞Ը ՇՐՋԱԲԱԾ, ‘Ե՞ՄՆԴԱՑՔ ՇՐՋԱԾԾԾՇՎՈՒԾ ՇԼՇԸՆԱԲՇԱԺԵԴԱԾ’:

በበኩፌፋርኩ,

*Daniel Shumway*

ՀԾԾԸ ՀԾԾԸ  
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◀▶ 10, 2020

ՀԾԴՐԸ ՀԱՅ  
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Joe Sam Thomas  
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Mr. Daniel Shewchuk  
Chairperson,  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
PO Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

June 22, 2020

**Re: Dolphin and Union Caribou – 2018 Survey Results and Management**

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

In October 2018, the Government of Nunavut (GN) Department of Environment (DOE) conducted an aerial survey of the Dolphin and Union caribou herd using the fall shoreline methodology established and used since 1997. Additional survey analysis was completed to include new genetic information, and to ensure the results included all available information following some external concerns with methodology. The additional analysis delayed the completion of the final report, but the results and the final report are now completed and have been shared with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), co-management partners, and with management authorities in the Northwest Territories.

The results of the 2018 population survey and a recent Traditional Knowledge study (report in progress) have indicated the Dolphin and Union caribou herd is experiencing a drastic decline, which represents a serious conservation concern for the future recovery of this herd. The current population estimate is 4,105 caribou, which is a continued decline from the estimate of 18,413 caribou in 2015 and 34,558 caribou in 1997. Traditional knowledge studies conducted in 2003 and 2018-2020 also indicate that there have been significant declines in the herd around the communities of Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk since peaks around the 1980's to 2019. There has also been substantial harvest from the Dolphin and Union caribou herd since the 2018 survey as a response to the declines of neighbouring Bluenose East and Bathurst caribou herds. Concerning demographic indicators of this herd such as low calf to cow ratios, lower pregnancy rates in harvested animals, and a low bull to cow ratio, have also shown a need to take action for the protection of this herd. The current decline is not due solely to harvest but with very few animals, the risk posed by harvest is significant and could result in continued population decline and/or extirpation on some parts of the traditional herd range.

It is more important than ever that we work together to conserve this herd for future generations of users in both jurisdictions by doing everything we can to help facilitate recovery. The communities that harvest from this herd have been leaders in the stewardship of their wildlife populations. There have been some measures taken by HTOs in Nunavut that should be commended, such as cancelling sport hunting on the herd, but given the drastic decline of this herd, additional measures are needed to support recovery before it is too late.

My Department had intended to consult in the spring of 2020 with the affected HTOs, co-management partners, and relevant users and management authorities in the Northwest Territories, but the travel restrictions in place due to COVID-19 have delayed this process. Due to the seriousness of the herd status and given the possible delays in completing a fulsome consultation process, my Department is recommending an interim decision for urgent and unusual circumstances, as outlined in section 5.3.24 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. I request that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) make a decision on this matter in time for implementation prior to the start of harvesting in the Fall of 2020.

The recommendation is for a 1% harvest limit (42 caribou) herd-wide while the consultation process is being completed and until new information is available, including results from a new population survey. Maintaining a small harvest would help to preserve cultural practices and traditions. As this is a shared herd with users in the Northwest Territories (NWT), we are initiating discussions within Nunavut and the NWT to determine how to appropriately share the suggested harvest of 42 caribou. The Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board would be the responsible agency for the allocation of the harvest to the relevant Nunavut Communities. Given the seriousness of the decline in this herd, a new population survey is tentatively planned for 2021. This recommendation is also in line with the Management Plan that was approved by the NWMB.

Management actions should be enacted as soon as possible in order to reduce the risk of further significant declines and/or extirpation from some parts of the Dolphin and Union caribou herd range. There will need to be an expedited process to develop a plan forward for a fair shared allocation of the harvest between the jurisdictions and users. An adaptive management approach is recommended including regular monitoring to advise changes to harvest restrictions so that actions reflect population size and trajectory. The DOE will work to ensure they replace lost collared animals due to mortalities and start the planning of the new population survey as soon as COVID-19 restrictions permit these activities.

DOE believes the above noted recommendation is the best balance based on the current available scientific information and Traditional Knowledge/*Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* to ensure harvest is set to a sustainable level and could help support a recovery of Dolphin and Union caribou.

I know the NWMB members and staff are committed to ensuring the valuable resources of Nunavut, such as this important caribou herd, are managed successfully for future generations. I look forward to working together to ensure this herd's recovery and sustainability.

Sincerely,



Hon. Joe Savikataaq  
Minister of Environment

Cc: Jimmy Noble Jr., Deputy Minister of Environment  
Steve Pinksen, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Research



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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

July 28, 2020

Hon. Joe Savikataaq  
Minister of Environment,  
Government of Nunavut

## Dear Minister Savikataaq:

**Re: NWMB Decision on the Government of Nunavut's Proposal to Establish an Interim Total Allowable Harvest for the Dolphin Union Caribou Herd**

NWMB Decision

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Internal In-Camera Meeting (INT005-2020), on July 13, 2020, the Board considered your department's request that the NWMB establish a Total Allowable Harvest of 42 caribou for the Dolphin and Union Caribou herd as an "interim decision for urgent and unusual circumstances, as outlined in section 5.3.24 of the *Nunavut Agreement*." Furthermore, your request is to have a Board decision made in time "for implementation prior to the start of harvesting in the Fall of 2020."

The Board made the following decision:

*RESOLVED*, that the Board inform the Government of Nunavut that the Board will review the matter should the Government of Nunavut use its Nunavut Agreement section 5.3.24 authority to establish an interim Total Allowable Harvest for the Dolphin and Union caribou herd.

## **Reasons for the NWMB's Decision**

The NWMB takes seriously the results of the 2018 population survey and traditional knowledge survey by researchers from the University of Calgary, and previous studies, that show that the Dolphin and Union caribou population continues to drastically decline. Indeed, science data suggests that the population has declined severely over the last twenty years and there is no sign of a rapid recovery. Your department's consideration to establish a Total Allowable Harvest of 42 caribou is intended to reduce the risk of further decline "while consultations are being completed, and until new information becomes available." As per the *Nunavut Agreement* section 5.3.24, the power to make and implement interim management decisions lies with the Government of Nunavut. Should the Minister decide to make and implement a Nunavut Agreement pursuant to section 5.3.24, the NWMB is mandated to, and will, review the Minister's (or the Minister's delegate)



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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

### **Other Considerations**

The Board understands that on June 18, 2020, the Government of Nunavut held a teleconference with co-management partners to discuss the proposed management recommendation and to receive feedback and plans to conduct in-person consultation as soon as possible. The Board also understands that the Government of Nunavut intended to conduct in-person consultation in the spring of 2020 but was unable to conduct consultations because of travel restrictions in place due to COVID-19. On this matter, the NWMB considered that before the Board can make a decision on the management of Dolphin Union caribou it will require a reasonable detailed summary of relevant consultations with affected Inuit, including the results of the consultation and what, if any, accommodations were made. On this case, the Board was not able to make a decision without consultation with affected Inuit.

If you require any information, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

*David Simcock*

Daniel Shewchuk  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc: Jason Aliqatuqtuq, Government of Nunavut  
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut



August 10, 2020

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
P.O Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

**Re: NWMB Decision on the Government of Nunavut's Proposal to Establish an Interim Total Allowable Harvest for the Dolphin and Union Caribou Herd**

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

Thank you for your decision letter, dated July 28, 2020, concerning the proposed interim Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for the Dolphin and Union caribou herd.

To reiterate the decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB):

- o RESOLVED, that the Board inform the Government of Nunavut that the Board will review the matter should the Government of Nunavut use its Nunavut Agreement section 5.3.24 authority to establish an interim Total Allowable Harvest for the Dolphin and Union caribou herd.

Due to the urgent conservation concern for the Dolphin and Union caribou herd, I intend to move forward with the interim decision and implement a TAH of forty-two (42) caribou until the consultation process with affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations, and other co-management partners is completed and additional information is collected to inform a new management recommendation.

I know the NWMB members and staff are committed to ensuring the valuable resources of Nunavummiut, such as this important caribou herd, are managed successfully for future generations. My Department will make certain your Board staff are well informed of the consultation planning and process.

I look forward to working together to ensure this herd's recovery and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Savikataaq".

Hon. Joe Savikataaq,  
Minister of Environment

Cc. Jimmy Noble Jr., Deputy Minister of Environment  
Steve Pinksen, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment  
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Research



Mr. Daniel Shewchuk  
Chairperson  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
P.O Box 1379  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

**Re: NWMB Decision on the Government of Nunavut's Proposal to Establish an Interim Total Allowable Harvest for the Dolphin and Union Caribou Herd**

As a follow up to my letter on August 10, 2020, I want to inform the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) that as per section 5.3.24 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, I have implemented a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of forty-two (42) caribou for the Dolphin and Union caribou herd, effective immediately. This decision was not made lightly and was in response to the urgent conservation concern for this herd.

In addition, Department of Environment staff are planning in-person consultation with the affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) and relevant co-management partners in early October to discuss the interim TAH, future management recommendations, and ongoing monitoring of this important caribou herd. Department staff are also investigating options and the availability of resources to run a population estimate survey of the Dolphin and Union caribou herd as early as possible.

My Department will work with your staff to ensure you have what is needed to conduct a Board review of this interim decision, as outlined in section 5.3.24 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. I look forward to working together to ensure this herd's recovery and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Joe Savikataaq,  
Minister of Environment

Cc. Jimmy Noble Jr. - Deputy Minister, Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut (GN)