

P.O. Box 42

Kimmirut, Nunavut, Canada

X0A-0N0

Phone Number: (867) 939-2939

February 6, 2015

Written Submission for NWMB's Public Hearing on Baffin Island Caribou Temporary Ban

The complete total banning of caribou will probably not work on a long term basis for all Nunavummiut on Baffin Island unless NTI or Government of Nunavut work together to come up with some sort of financial assistance so that Nunavummiut individuals can access. Personally some Inuit hunters will probably harvest caribou secretly and we don't want Inuit people to do that and don't want to see fines or people going to court. Most people agree about the recent survey that the estimated caribou are very low and agree with the temporary ban until NWMB do their part. And some people feel that they don't quite believe the numbers and would rather keep hunting which can jeopardize the caribou population even greater.

Most of us knew when the Caribou started decreasing when a lot of the Caribou were dying from some sort of disease or from lack of food source. At the same time & afterwards I think it changed as well when people started hunting on a bigger scale using faster snowmobiles that can go further distance and started selling caribou.

The hearing process will take some time so why don't NWMB recommend that the caribou ban continue for another year or two years and work on implementing total allowable harvest (TAH) for the ten (10) communities. NWMB should implement a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) –using a tag system for the caribou. For example use 200 caribou on an annual basis between the ten (10) communities including Hall Beach and Igloolik. I don't think ALL two (2) hundred animals will be harvested during the 3 month period. The survey results show us that the estimated numbers are very low but we also don't like to see the caribou herd to increase too high (maybe a healthy number would be 20-25,000 or whatever). Let NWMB conduct a review after five year period or whatever years would be more appropriate.

Some of the hunting rules or suggestions that can be adopted are;

- No harvesting for females during their pregnancy period.
- Create harvesting season- July 1 to September 30 – (example; for the next five years). The short hunting season period can or would make the recovery for caribou to improve.
- No harvesting during the fall & winter (for the next five years). Conduct a review after the five year period to see if the caribou population is improving.
- Stop or disallow all inter-settlement sales of caribou and all commercial hunting.

- It would also make sense to implement a (TAH) for longer period of time for the future so that the caribou population will not deplete or become a concern for our generation.
- Let the Government provide compensation or payments to hunters to kill wolves as wolves are the second main predators of the caribou. (*Examine the wolves especially where the main herd maybe located*).

These are my freedom of suggestions and hopefully can be some help.

Thank you.



Koloa Pitsiulak

Dated: February 6, 2015

Kolola Pitsiulak  
PO Box 42  
Kimmirut, NU X0A 0N0

À 9 h 6, 2015

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# Kolola Pitsiulak

PO Box 42

Kimmirut, NU X0A 0N0

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