

HTO Consultation

Bluenose East and Bathurst Caribou
February 2, 2015

Issues:

Information meeting on the Alarming trends in size of the Bluenose-East caribou herd and the Bathurst Caribou from the 2014 reconnaissance calving ground survey.

Purpose of the Consultations:

A HTO consultation was organized in Kugluktuk on February 02, 2012 as the Bluenose East and the Bathurst herds appear to be in serious decline. The main objective to the meeting was to discuss with the HTO boards on the GN position of establishing an interim measure of 100 TAH for the Bathurst caribou and an interim measure of 1,000 for the Bluenose-East caribou. The TAH will be reviewed after the next population survey happening in June 2015.

Communities visited: Kugluktuk

Representatives:

GN, DoE, Wildlife Biologist: Lisa-Marie Leclerc

GN, DoE, Wildlife Technician, Myles Lamont

HTO Kugluktuk, Assistant Manager: Johnny

HTO Kugluktuk, Board members (5 members).

Subjects discussed and community views:

- Point made that fewer people on the land despite community increase
- Mention that Bathurst caribou showing empty stomachs when cleaned
- Mention of GN focusing only on Iqaluit instead of Kugluktuk and the herds that have been declining here for multiple years.
- Discussion regarding setting up a caribou group composed of local hunters, harvesters, GN, HTO and expanding that idea to other communities.
- Concern regarding 100 tags being distributed just to Bathurst area only
- Request for any NWMB public hearings to be held in Kugluktuk
- Questions regarding the frequency and span caribou fluctuations.
- Mention of HTO of Kugluktuk's voluntary actions to halt all sport hunting on Bluenose-east prior to any mention of pop decline
- Displeasure expressed regarding the efforts to consult on Baffin issues and lack of support and initiative from the GN shown in the Kitikmeot
- Frustrations regarding trophy tag (sport harvest) allocation from Cam Bay and Bathurst Inlet when people are hunting western herds around Kugluktuk which are voluntarily withheld here.
- Concern regarding enforcement of legislation and preventing hunting in some areas due to lack of staff and the vast and remotes area to cover.
- Partial distribution of tags

- Displeasure expressed regarding Maliks poster presentation in Ottawa and not being informed of that project despite having their names attached to it.
- Displeasure expressed regarding the stop of the wolf sample collection program, when GNWT have increased their incentive from \$350 to \$800 for pelt.
- Price incentives for females over males due to the ease of accessing male reproduction organs. During the winter time it is impossible to collect female organs and the sample will be biased.
- Bluenose-East TAH, 1000 animals for Kugluktuk didn't sit well with the chair and is concerned regarding community members breaking the law.
- Request to see "taking care of caribou" (Bluenose management plan) document for the next meeting in April.
- Between the 23-27th, community consultation in town for Bluenose/Bathurst- Caribou Week.
- Local hunters are willing to limit harvest if asked.