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<sup>1</sup> The MOU was approved by the NWMB at Regular Meeting No. 56.

representatives from the; GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Inuvik and Sahtu Regions, and GN-Department of Environment<sup>2</sup>. Parks Canada, Dehcho, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) declined the invitation to participate in the Working Group. The Working Group, with the assistance of a contractor, has drafted a number of versions of the management plan to the ACCWM for consideration.

#### Status of Caribou Herds:

The Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East herds occupy a large part of northern mainland Northwest Territories and western Nunavut (refer to Appendix 2 for herd ranges). The calving grounds for the Bluenose-East herd lie within Nunavut and the herd is harvested by hunters from Kugluktuk. The Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herd are not believed to be harvested by Nunavut communities.

The following section outlines the current statuses of the herds based on the “best available” scientific information:

#### Cape Bathurst herd:

The Cape Bathurst herd is estimated to have declined from approximately 20,000 in 1992 to approximately 2,000 in 2005/2006. The 2009 population estimate of ~2000 animals demonstrates that the herd is stable since 2006 but is still low in relation to historic high numbers.

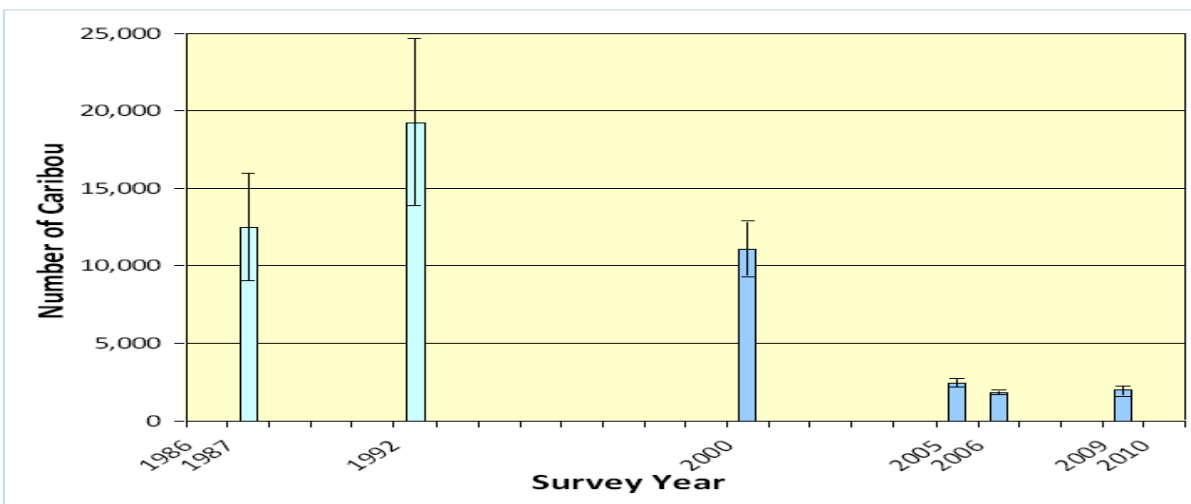
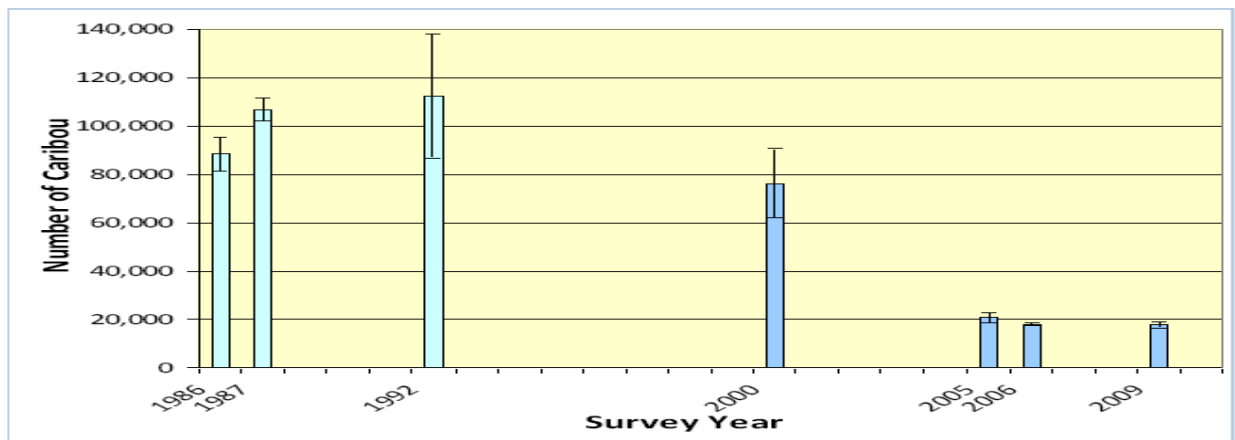


Figure 4 Cape Bathurst Herd Population Estimates

#### The Bluenose-West herd:

The Bluenose-West herd is estimated to have declined from over 11,000 animals in 1992 to about 18,000 animals in 2005 and 2006. The 2009 population estimate of ~18,000 demonstrates that the herd has been stable since 2006 but is low in relation to historic high numbers.

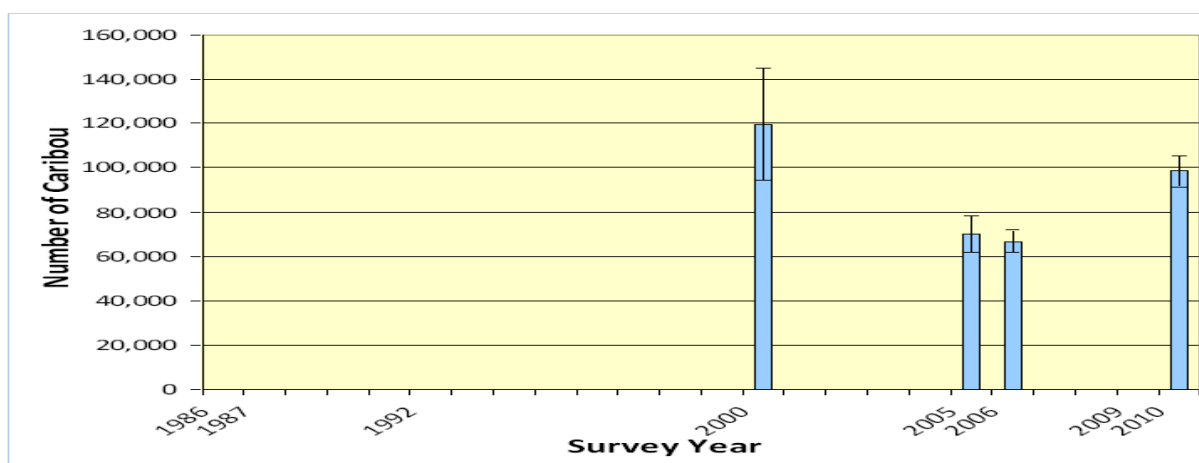
<sup>2</sup> Due to workload and other higher priorities the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment was not able to attend all Working Group meetings;



**Figure 5** Bluenose-West Herd Population Estimates

### The Bluenose-East herd:

The Bluenose-East herd has varied from ~120,000 in 2000 to about 67,000 in 2006, followed by an increased to an estimated 98,600 in 2010.



**Figure 6** Bluenose-East Herd Population Estimates

On April 27<sup>th</sup> 2011, the ACCWM had a meeting to review the final draft of the plan; the meeting was attended by representatives from NTI, the KRWB and the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO). The KRWB and the Kugluktuk HTO requested further consultation before considering support for the management plan. It should be noted that during the development of the management plan there were two rounds of consultations in all jurisdictions, except for Nunavut where only one consultation meeting took place. The Board should also be aware that all other members of the ACCWM indicated support for the plan and indicated that they would proceed with their associated decision processes in their jurisdictions.

### **Recommendation:**

There is a need to further engage the Kugluktuk HTO and the KRWB on the draft management plan in order to address any concerns. To accomplish this NWMB Wildlife Section staff recommend the following:

1. That NWMB Wildlife Section staff in cooperation with NTI, the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment and members of the ACCWM Working Group conduct a consultation with the Kugluktuk HTO. (*Please note that at the time of the drafting of this briefing note it was staff's understanding that NTI and members of the ACCWM Working Group were in favor of such an approach. A response from GN-DoE is still pending*)
2. That the consultation occurs during the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup> and that the NWMB be responsible for the coordination and associated costs of the consultation tour (i.e. meeting room and interpretation costs; travel and accommodations for NWMB staff only, honorarium for HTO Board members).

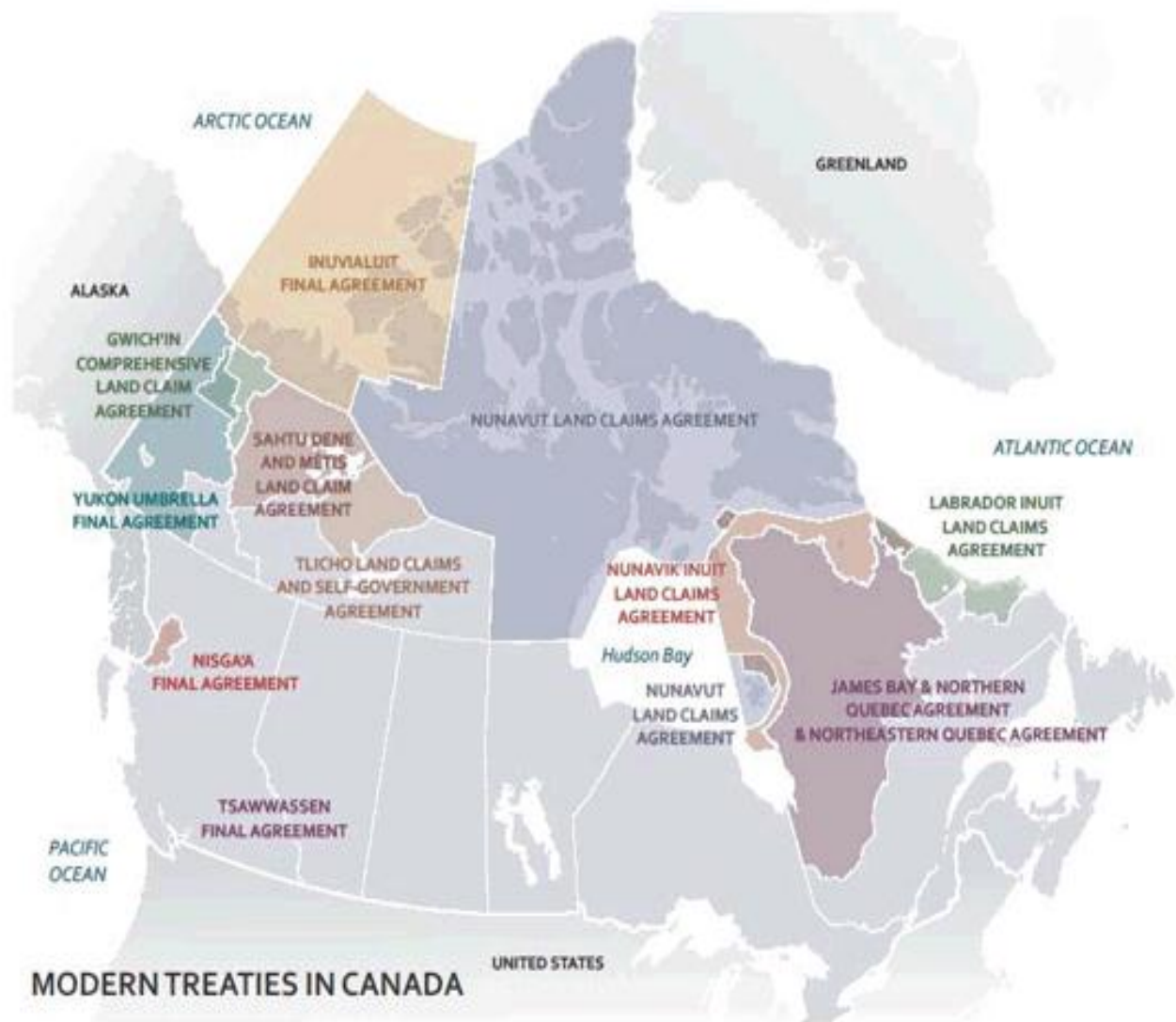
NWMB staff believe that this approach would be consistent with its obligations as a member of the ACCWM and its roles and responsibilities assigned to it through the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Upon completion of the consultation and the incorporation of feedback from the Kugluktuk HTO and the KRWB, the management plan would be brought to the NWMB for decision as per s. 5.2.34 (d) of the NLCA.

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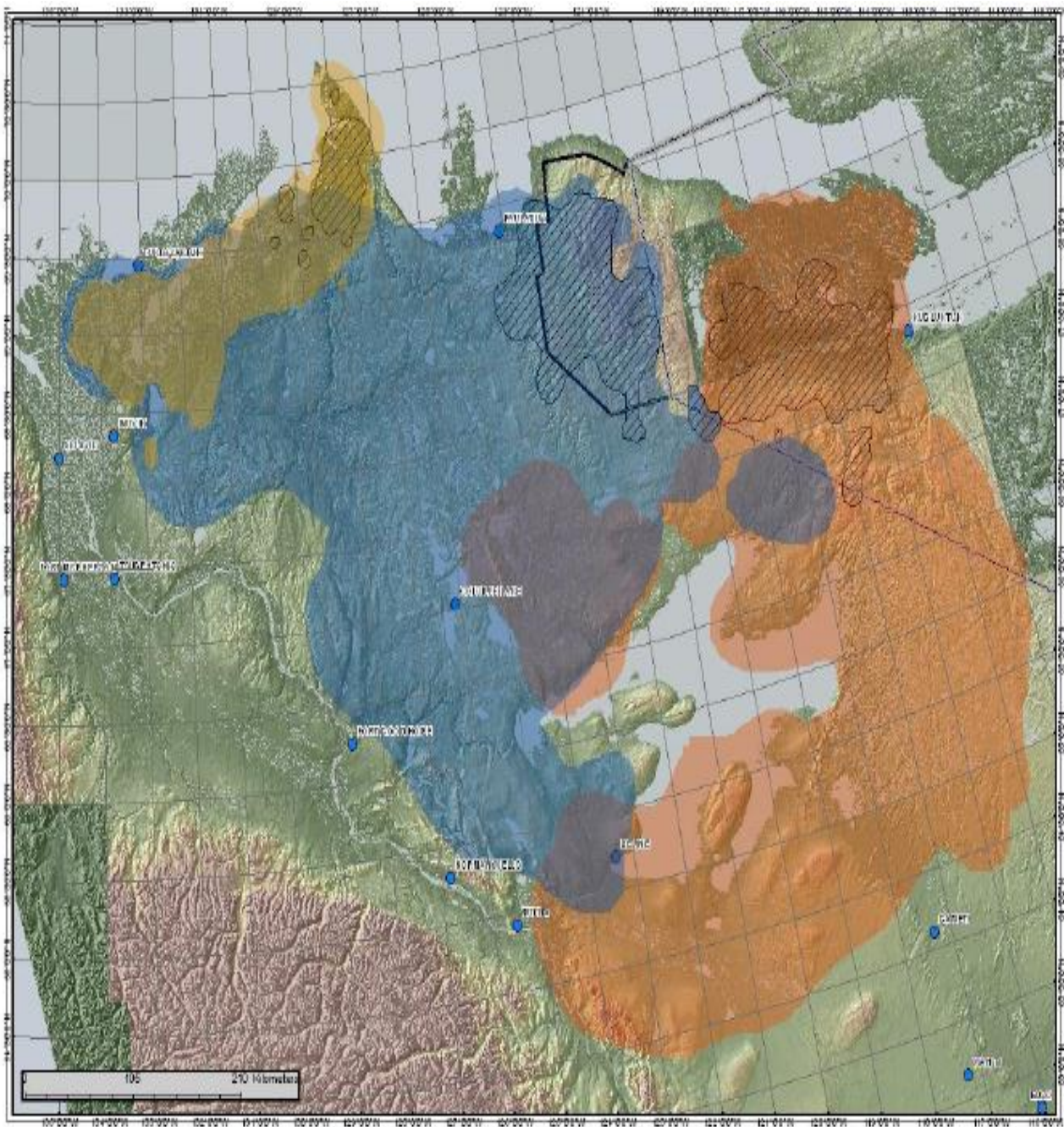
**Date:** June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

## APPENDIX 1: Other Boards and their jurisdictions





## APPENDIX 2: The Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East herd ranges



**Figure 2** Overlapping herd ranges, based on collar data from 1996 to 2004 (ENR-GNWT)



