

BRIEFING TO THE
NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
FOR



Information: X

Decision:

Issue: Summary of the Baffin Island Caribou Workshop, Iqaluit, Nunavut, July 23rd and 24th 2013.

Background: In fall 2011, the Government of Nunavut- Department of Environment conducted consultations in communities which harvest from the Baffin Island caribou population to discuss a proposed aerial survey and to get feedback on the status of the herd. All communities were in agreement that the Baffin Island caribou herd was experiencing low numbers. In the spring of 2012, the Government of Nunavut- Department of Environment conducted an aerial survey of the South Baffin region to estimate the caribou population's size. This was the first complete survey of the South Baffin region. Results from this survey showed a substantial decline in the caribou population and an estimate of approximately 2100 caribou was derived. Due to the serious concerns among communities and co-management partners, it was decided to hold a two-day workshop to bring together delegates from Hunters and Trappers Organizations and elders from affected communities to discuss potential management actions.

Overview: There were four objectives of this workshop: 1) to listen and share knowledge 2) to build understanding and collaboration 3) to address key stewardship and caribou management questions for Baffin Island and 4) to identify conservations measures to be taken by individuals, communities and management authorities. These objectives were met by a series of presentations from communities and co-management partners; focused discussion by smaller groups; and the sharing of knowledge during open discussions with the group as a whole.

The workshop was positive and participants agreed that it is important to work together to manage the herd for future generations.

Next steps were identified during the workshop. They are as follows:

1. The Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment will produce a summary report of the workshop by September 2013;
2. Participating delegates committed to return to their communities and discuss what they learned at the workshop;
3. A management plan framework has been developed and communities will use this to start the management planning process during the fall and winter
4. The Government of Nunavut –Department of Environment plans to start consultations in late fall 2013 to help communities in the management planning process.

Prepared by: Sarah Spencer, Wildlife Management Biologist

Consultations: Peter Kydd, Wildlife Management Biologist

Date: July 25th, 2013

