



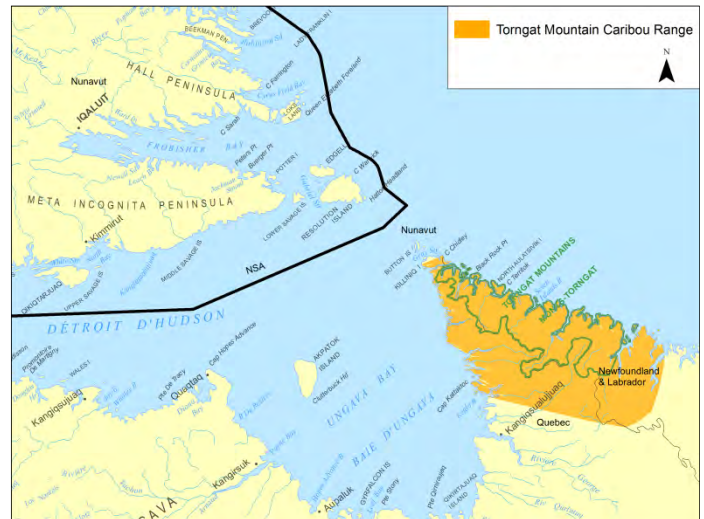
Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

For

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Pre-listing consultations for the Caribou (Torngat Mountains population) as Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)



Background:

- The Torngat Mountains population of Caribou was assessed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in November 2016.
- The coat of the Torngat Mountains population is almost white in the winter, but medium to light brown in the summer. These caribou are medium-sized and have long legs.
- COSEWIC’s reason for designation: This population is restricted to the Ungava Peninsula of eastern Québec, northern Labrador, and Nunavut (Killiniq and adjacent islands). A quantitative trend is not available because survey data are limited, but the total population was estimated to be 5,000 individuals in 1980 and 930 individuals in 2014, suggesting a significant decline. Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge also indicates a decline.

- The population meets Endangered status because the estimated 698 mature animals exist in a single population, a population decline is evident, and a decline is predicted to continue because of harvest and a decrease in habitat quality associated with climate change. The population may be facing imminent extinction because of the low numbers remaining.
- In October 2017, COSEWIC submitted its assessment of the species to the Minister of the Environment. The Minister of the Environment will respond within 90 days, by posting a response on the SARA Public Registry. The response statement will indicate the scope of the consultation and timelines.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) will consult with the appropriate Minister(s), wildlife management boards and Indigenous organizations on changes to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk (Schedule 1) of the *Species at Risk Act* for terrestrial species.
- For species that are listed as Endangered, a recovery strategy is to be prepared within one year of the species' addition to Schedule 1 and added to the Species at Risk Registry. Recovery strategies are prepared in cooperation with the jurisdictions, wildlife management boards, and Indigenous organizations.
- If the Torngat Mountains population is listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* a national recovery strategy will be written that identifies the threats to the species and its habitat, and sets population and distribution objectives for the survival and recovery of the species. The national recovery strategy will identify critical habitat to the extent possible. After critical habitat is identified, ECCC will work with partners to find the best method to protect the habitat from activities that would destroy it.
- Prohibitions against killing or harming the Torngat Mountains population will automatically come into force if the species is listed. In the territories, these automatic prohibitions only apply on federal lands that are under the authority of the Minister of the Environment or the Parks Canada Agency, such as National Parks and National Wildlife Areas. As well, these automatic prohibitions do not apply to people engaging in activities in accordance with conservation measures under a land claims agreement.
- Based on the range of the Torngat Mountains population, it is unclear to ECCC if community consultations should occur in Nunavut.
- ECCC colleagues in the Atlantic Region as well as Quebec Region will consult with partners in their respective areas.

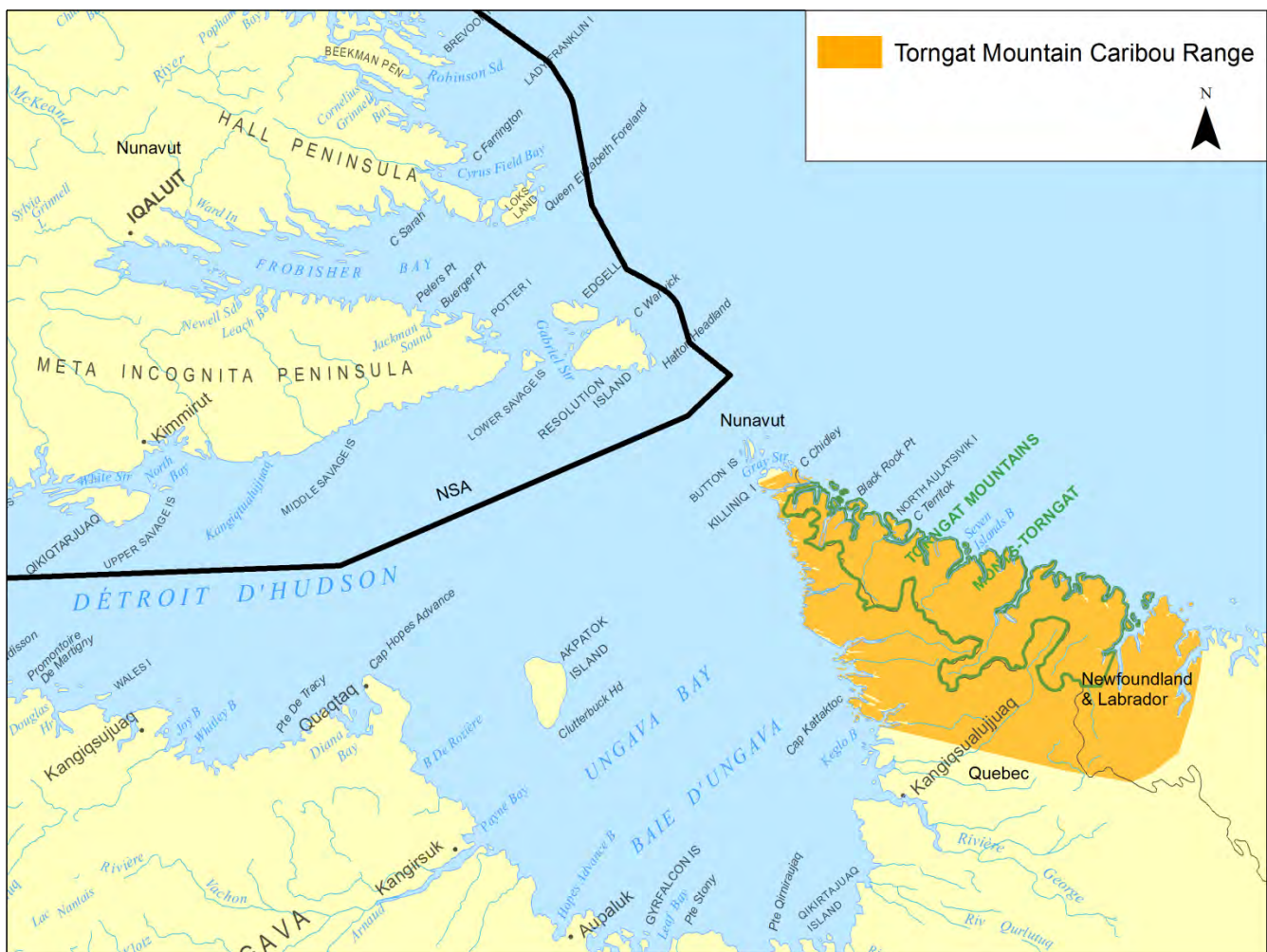
Next Steps - Consultation Process:

- Jurisdictions and wildlife management boards, including the NWMB and the Government of Nunavut, will be asked to review and provide input into the draft Terrestrial Issues Flagging (TIF) document, which outlines the species' current status, presence on the landscape, projected impact of listing, and issues flagged. This process helps inform the decision on the consultation timeline – normal or extended.
- It is expected that consultations on the proposed listing will start in January 2018.

Request of the NWMB:

That the NWMB considers whether it wishes to be consulted on the proposed listing of Caribou (Torngat Mountains population) and subsequently make a decision on approving the listing of Caribou (Torngat Mountains population) under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, or if the NWMB will choose to not perform its decision making function under section 5.2.34(f) of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* with respect to Caribou (Torngat Mountains population).

That if the NWMB decides to exercise its decision making function on Caribou (Torngat Mountains population) that the NWMB considers whether or not community consultations should occur in Nunavut, and if so which communities ECCC should contact.



Caribou (Torngat Mountains population) – Range

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