



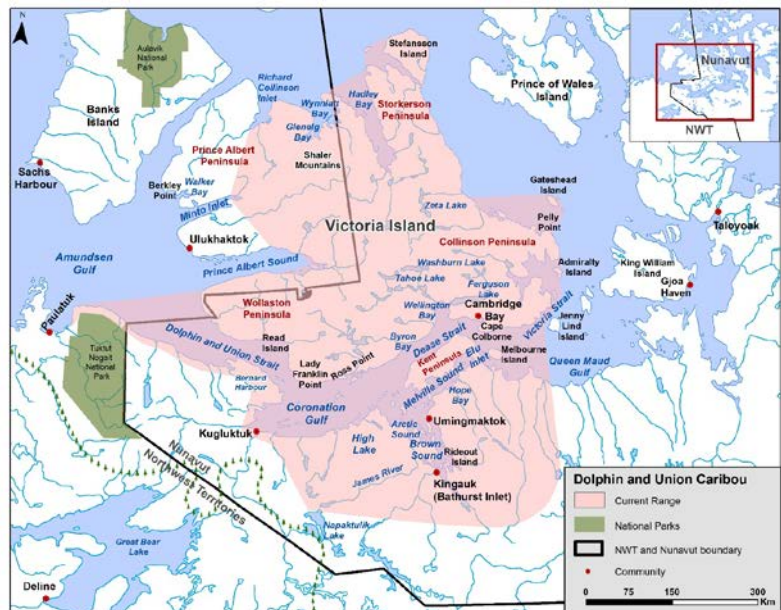
Submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

For

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Consultation plan for the proposed change in status of Dolphin and Union Caribou from Special Concern to Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)



Background:

- Dolphin and Union caribou is currently listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) as a species of Special Concern. A management plan for Dolphin and Union caribou was published in March 2018.
- Dolphin and Union caribou was reassessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as Endangered (a higher category of risk) in November 2017.
- In 2015, the herd was estimated at about 18,000 animals. Three survey estimates over the last 18 years and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge suggest a decline as high as 50-60%, which appears to have accelerated since 2010.
- The population is experiencing multiple threats, including reduced connectivity and disrupted migration between winter and summer range associated with commercial shipping in Dease Strait that is increasingly supported by ice-breakers. Climate change is linked with decreased periods of ice cover and irregularity of sea ice conditions, causing mortality through drowning and delays in migration.

- 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. The national recovery strategy will identify critical habitat to the extent possible. After critical habitat is identified, CWS will work with partners to find the best method to protect the habitat from activities that would destroy it.

Consultation Plan:

- It is expected that consultations on the proposed change in status will be held between January and October 2019. Organizations such as hunters and trappers organizations (HTOs) and regional wildlife boards will be asked to provide their formal position on the proposed listing (i.e. oppose, support or are indifferent) and with any other comments, concerns or information that they feel should be considered.
- CWS plans to consult with hunter and trapper organizations in the communities of Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Umingmaktok and Bathurst Inlet.
- Consultation packages, in Inuktitut and English, will be sent by mail and email. Packages will include: a letter, a PowerPoint, and a questionnaire. The full COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report will be provided in digital format in English only.
- To support consultations, CWS will extend an offer to provide more information, if requested, in the best means possible. A reminder email and follow-up phone calls, will be made to seek input from as many organizations as possible.
- Following consultations, CWS will summarize the consultation results and present them to the Board at the next quarterly meeting following the consultation period and seek NWMB's decision on the proposed listing of the species.

Request of the NWMB:

- That the NWMB provide Environment and Climate Change Canada with feedback on the proposed consultation process for the proposed change in status of Dolphin and Union Caribou from Special Concern to Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

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Date Drafted: 2018-Nov-01

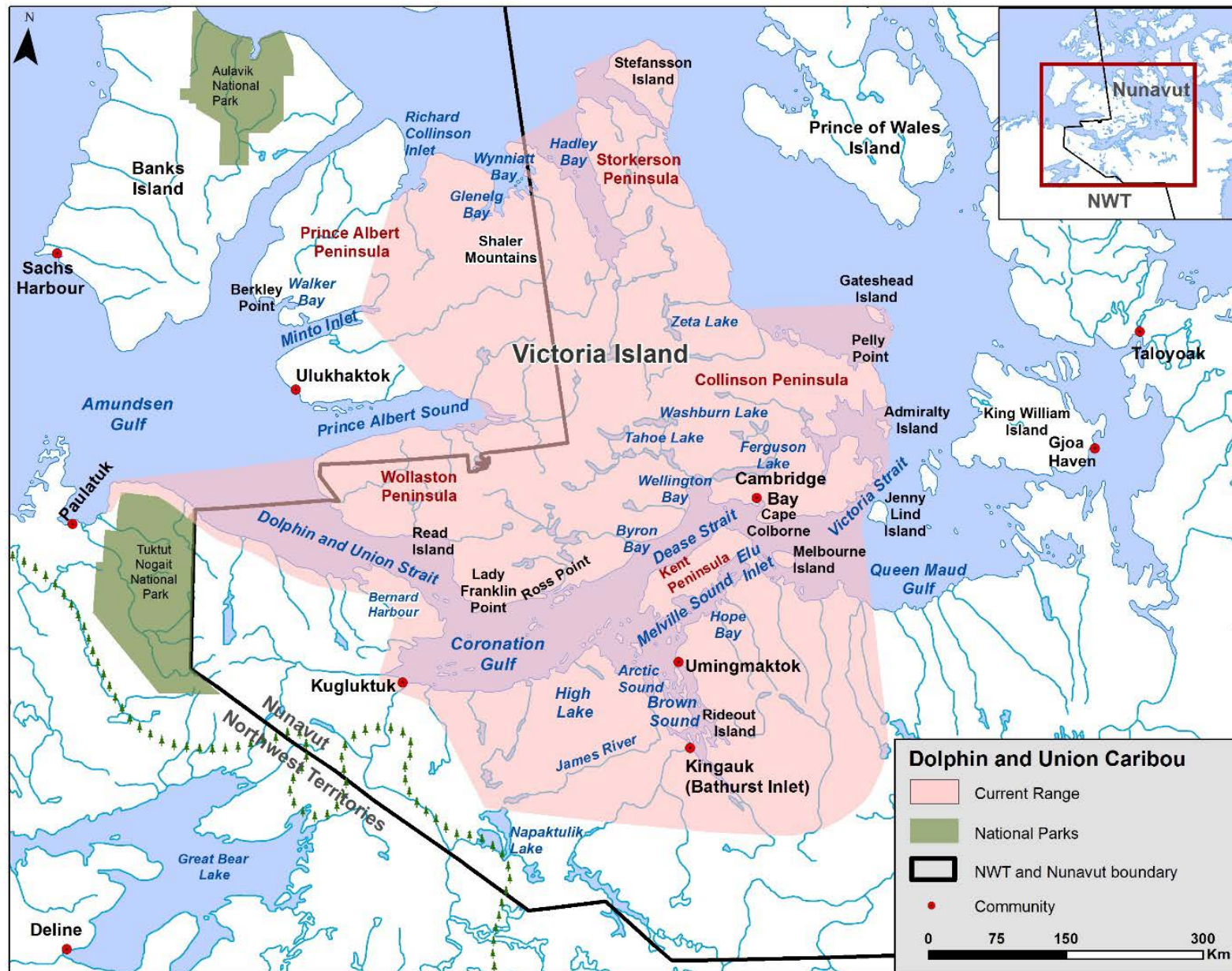


Figure 1 from the COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report 2017. Current range of Dolphin and Union Caribou, including notable place names (NWT Environment and Natural Resources, range data developed for Species at Risk program 2016).