



## Appendix A

### Summary of feedback received from consultations in Nunavut on the proposed listing of Barren-ground Caribou as Threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)

February 2018 – January 2020

#### Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board AGM

November 17, 2019

- We presented an overview of what SARA is, discussed the health of the Baffin herd and threats to its recovery. We discussed the implications of SARA-listing, the anticipated timeline for a decision on the listing proposal and what the steps would be if caribou is listed. Following the presentation we had a discussion and asked what the Board suggested is needed to support the Baffin herd to ensure it is healthy for future generations; and whether the Board agrees, disagrees, or has concerns with the SARA listing proposal.
- We presented the slides in both English and Inuktitut. In addition, we provided each member with printed copies of the presentation in both English and Inuktitut, an Inuktitut version of the COSEWIC report, an English summary of the COSEWIC report, a glossary of terms in the COSEWIC report in both languages, and questionnaire sheets in both languages.
- One member noted that the caribou on Baffin Island cross back and forth from the mainland so when it looks like there is a dip in population numbers it's only because they have moved to the mainland.
- There was a question about what makes herds distinct and whether the assessment considered that individuals move around between herds.
- A question from the Kitikmeot Wildlife Board representative asking when we would come to consult with the Kitikmeot.
- A few members noted concern that the knowledge of Inuit elders is being lost as elders pass away and that that knowledge is the best resource for information on caribou cycles, habits and general biology.
- The QWB wildlife advisor noted that the Baffin caribou herd has historically been this low during each of their cycles and that it's not unusual. He noted that it is wrong to blame harvesters for declines.
- One member asked if we personally thought the caribou herds are declining.
- One member noted that there is Inuit knowledge on caribou population cycles and that they are related to the population cycles of lemmings.



- One member asked if there is a listing, if a management plan would address development. He also asked if things got better, at which point could caribou be removed from SARA?
- One member asked about how we would address the threat of climate change to the recovery of BGCA.
- One member noted that the Baffin herd is already managed by the GN and there is already a draft management plan.
- A few members noted that a new survey of Baffin Island is desperately needed. The surveys that were used to establish the current TAH were flawed and they want to see a new one completed with more Inuit involvement.
- One member asked if we follow western science or Inuit knowledge in our processes and noted that IQ indicates that caribou will recover.
- We did not receive any requests for further consultation on the proposed listing from any of the QWB representatives or audience members.

#### Kivalliq Wildlife Board AGM

October 23, 2019

- We presented an overview on the health of the Kivalliq herds, the main threats to caribou in that region, the implications of SARA-listing, and our proposed plan to revisit communities in the Kivalliq in early 2020.
- Representatives from the NWMB, BQCMB and GN were supportive of our approach to the topic and the material that we presented.
- One Board member asked how HTOs can receive more support if caribou is listed
- One asked how a 'plan' is implemented and if it's the GN management plan that gets adopted
- Another member asked how SARA provisions would be enforceable.
- No members objected to our plan to do further consultations in the region.

#### Cambridge Bay

HTO and public meetings, February 26, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process. They also want to be involved in the drafting of the recovery strategy.



- They would appreciate a herd-by-herd assessment as they are in the opinion that their herd is doing fine.
- Increased predation: would like to see an incentive for hunters to harvest wolves.
- They are worried about their income (subsistence and income hunting).
- Kugluktuk [Bluenose-East and Bathurst herds]:
- HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process.
- They would appreciate a herd-by-herd assessment, and worry about the flexibility in prohibitions and how it will be applied to local management.
- They noticed an increase in wolf and wolverine populations.

#### Gjoa Haven

HTO meeting, March 1, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process.
- They are worried about the Caribou declining, the species is critical for their way of life and food security. They are interested in collaborating to help the species recover.
- They mentioned various reasons why they see less Caribou than before :
  - Increased predation (wolves, wolverines and grizzlies)
  - They are seeing a lot more Muskox than before
  - Climate Change: Caribou are vulnerable to migration on thin ice.
- They would like to improve youth education regarding hunting practices.

#### Kugaaruk

HTO meeting, February 27, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process.



- They would appreciate a herd-by-herd assessment, they never heard of any studies done in their region.
- They are worried about harvest restrictions and food security.
- They mentioned various reasons why they see less Caribou than before :
  - Increased predation (wolves)
  - They are seeing a lot more Muskox than before
  - Mining (chemicals, plane/helicopters flying low)
  - Climate Change : They noticed a lot of rain on snow event making the foraging harder for the species.
  - Natural cycle of caribou population
  - Diseases

#### Rankin Inlet

HTO meeting, March 5, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process. They would like to see an Inuit representative on COSEWIC committee.
- They would appreciate a herd-by-herd assessment, they never heard of any studies done in their region.
- Increased predation: They are seeing more wolves and grizzlies than before.
- They want to be involved in drafting the recovery strategy. Management plans already in place in some regions should be recognized.
- Some agreed to the listing of the barren-ground caribou.

#### Whale Cove

HTO meeting, March 6, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members expressed some worries about their harvest rights.
- They mentioned various reasons why they see less Caribou than before :
  - Increased predation (eagles, wolverines)
  - They are seeing a lot more Muskox than before
  - Natural cycle of caribou population



- Diseases: They noticed swollen hooves (brucellosis)
- Mining

#### Arviat

HTO meeting, March 7, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members would like to see a herd-by-herd assessment as they think their herd is stable.
- They mentioned various reasons why they see less Caribou than before :
  - Sport hunting happening south of Arviat
  - Migration routes have changed
  - Increased predation (wolves, grizzlies, wolverines)
  - Moose habitat range has recently extended to their region
  - Hunting ways have changed (bullet type, transportation)

#### Baker Lake

HTO meeting, March 8, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process. They would like to see an Inuit representative on COSEWIC committee.
- They are worried about their harvest rights and food security.
- They haven't seen the Qamanirjuaq herd for a long time, and mentioned potential causes of the caribou decline, i.e. changing migration routes, natural cycle of the caribou population, forest fires, and increased predation.
- They want to see the recovery strategy being elaborated cooperatively with all territories and provinces sharing the herds. Attention to the migration routes and its protection should be emphasized.



## Chesterfield Inlet

HTO meeting, March 9, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process.
- The caribou have other predators, like wolves, grizzlies and wolverines that are also responsible for their decrease.
- They are worried about their harvest rights.
- Some noticed the caribou have recently started to increase in the area.

## Iglolik

Public meeting, September 25, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- Community and HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process.
- They are worried about their harvest rights and food security; they see this proposed listing as an additional hardship done to their community and traditional way of life.
- Most of them believed the caribou population is going through a natural cycle and will eventually come back on its own. Some people mentioned the population numbers were not trustworthy.
- They want more responsibility in regards to managing their own herd, instead of having outsiders getting involved. They also didn't appreciate all the herds being merged together for the listing assessment.

## Hall Beach

Public and HTO meetings, September 26, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.



- Community and HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process.
- Most of them believed the caribou population is going through a natural cycle and will eventually come back on its own.
- The caribou have other predators, like wolves that are also responsible for their decrease.
- They are worried about their harvest rights and food security. Some of them thought animals should not be surveyed and didn't like outsiders coming to interfere with their wildlife management.

#### Naujaat

Public meeting, September 27, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- Community members wanted to see local management of the herd. They didn't like having their caribou lumped in with other herds across Canada as part of the assessment of Barren-ground caribou or in future recovery plans. Some of them mentioned the survey methodology was not trustworthy.
- Most of them believed the caribou population is going through a natural cycle and will eventually come back on its own.
- They are worried about their harvest rights being affected after the listing.

#### Arctic Bay

Public meeting, October 16, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- There were strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation in the assessment of the caribou and decision-making regarding the wildlife management. They would like to see more traditional knowledge involved throughout the process.
- Community members mentioned the cause of decline is most likely due to wolf predation and natural cycle of the caribou population. They strongly believe the caribou will come back on their own.
- Community members were also worried about their harvest right and food security.



## Pond Inlet

Public meeting, October 17, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- Community and HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and decision-making. They would like to see more local management and are concerned about their harvest rights.
- There were some doubts regarding the numbers of caribou and the survey methodology.
- Most of them believed the caribou population is going through a natural cycle and will eventually come back on its own.
- One person asked for a further investigation on the actual causes of decline of the Baffin herd

## Clyde River

Public and HTO meetings, October 18, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- Community and HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and decision-making. They would like to see more local management and are concerned about their harvest rights.
- One member mentioned there was a generational conflict where the younger hunters want to try new wildlife management methods, but the elders disagree. The Inuit's profound respect for elders makes the younger generation hesitant to talk about it.
- Community members also mentioned potential causes of the caribou decline, i.e. the natural cycle of the caribou population, the predation by wolves, female-male ratio allowed for hunting, and the new technology (snowmobiles scare caribou away).

## Iqaluit

HTO meeting, October 22, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- Community and HTO members expressed strong concerns about the lack of Inuit participation and traditional knowledge in the assessment of Barren-ground caribou and the decision-making process.



- They would also like to be involved in the scientific research. The survey methodology is not clear to them, and they believe a herd-by-herd assessment would be much more relevant.
- They believe the caribou populations are going through natural cycle and will eventually come back up on their own.
- Many were worried about their harvest rights and would like to see investigation on other threats like predation, industry and impact of research.

#### Qikiqtarjuaq

Public and HTO meetings, October 23-24, 2018

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO board members expressed their concerns about the harvest restrictions and mentioned they want to collaborate to see the caribou population increase again.
- HTO and community members mentioned the helicopters from mining companies were an important threat to the caribou (scaring them away).
- The wolf population is also an important threat to consider.
- Some of them strongly believed the caribou will come back on their own. They migrate long distance and undergo natural cycles of population density.

#### Coral Harbour

Public and HTO meetings, January 22, 2019

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- Community members were concerned about the mining activity and identified industry as one of the main threats to caribou.
- Community members identified climate change as an on-going threat to caribou.
- Several community members believe caribou undergo natural cycles of population density. When populations are too abundant the numbers drop, but increase again when vegetation grows back.
- Community members expressed interest in knowing current local caribou numbers, particularly on Coats Island.
- The lag time between caribou surveys and results is too long. The community members would like to be informed of the health of the herds more quickly, so they can better manage their harvest.
- Community members expressed interest in knowing how caribou herds across Canada were doing, and how they were being managed.



## Cape Dorset

Public and HTO meetings, January 23, 2019

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- Community members questioned the accuracy of the range of Barren-ground caribou herds shown on the maps
- Community members weren't sure that caribou populations will cycle up and down as they have in the past because of all the things that have changes
- Community members were concerned about the affect of the mines on caribou and want to find ways to protect the caribou from mining. Critical habitat is one way to protect habitat for caribou.
- Community members were concerned about predation from wolves, and suggested wolf control
- Community members were concerned about harassment of caribou by helicopters and airplanes
- Some community members though that caribou are not threatened, and have just moved to another area
- Community members were concerned that caribou are not surveyed often enough
- Community members spoke about the importance of using Inuit Qaujimajungit
- Community members were concerned about the possible impact that listing caribou might have on harvesting

## Kimmirut

Public and HTO meetings, January 24, 2019

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members expressed strong concern regarding the listing of all Barren-ground caribou herds as one. They believe South Baffin and North Baffin populations should be considered separately.
- Several HTO and community members do not believe the South Baffin population is in decline.
- Several HTO and community members believe caribou undergo natural cycles of population density. When populations are too abundant the numbers drop, but increase again when vegetation grows back.
- Some community members do believe caribou populations on South Baffin Island are in decline, support the listing, and believe more survey efforts are required.



- Community members expressed concern related to methods used to survey caribou (e.g. helicopter use), and suggest using less intrusive methods.
- Community members identified parasites and wolves as threats, and expressed an interest in better understanding how parasites (e.g. ticks) have arrived and how they impact the caribou.
- HTO and community members expressed concern about their harvest rights and the lack of Inuit participation in the listing process.

### Taloyoak

Public and HTO meetings, February 26, 2019

- ECCC presented a PowerPoint describing the federal species at risk process, why barren-ground caribou have been assessed as threatened, and what it would mean if barren-ground caribou are listed as threatened under the federal species at risk act.
- HTO members did not agree with the delineation of the herds. They advised that caribou from various herds (Peary and Ahiak) interbreed and mix with Boothia Peninsula caribou, and that the range of the Boothia Peninsula herd actually extends further south than Taloyoak. Interbreeding may have caused the original Boothia Peninsula caribou to move south, but all caribou in the area are considered as one herd.
- HTO and community members identified wolves and muskox as threats to the Boothia Peninsula herd, and expressed an interest in establishing an incentivised culling program for wolves.
- HTO members were interested in knowing more about the various threats and their impact on caribou herds.
- HTO and community members expressed concern about their harvest rights.
- HTO and community members found the information presented was very broad, and would like to see more concrete survey data showing caribou population estimates in their area before deciding to support the listing. They do not want to rush any decisions.
- Some community members do not believe their local herds are at risk or are declining, while others do believe they are a threatened species.
- Community members strongly support conservation and believe maintaining clean hunting grounds (free of carcasses) and minimizing waste is very important. They believe their people need to take more accountability and think a carcass cleaning program could be beneficial.
- HTO and community members believe growing populations are increasing the harvest pressure on caribou unlike before. For this reason, it is important to work collaboratively, and plan for the future to ensure caribou are conserved.