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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

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Department of Environment
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Ministère de l'Environnement

CORAL HARBOUR CONSULTATION

Excerpt from Kivalliq Regional Consultation Report

Consultation Summary Report

February 10, 2020



Keenan Lindell, Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Technician
Mitch Campbell, Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Biologist
Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut
Pond Inlet, NU

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Nunavut (GN), Department of Environment (DOE) Kivalliq Research Section, traveled to the Kivalliq communities of Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Nauyasat, and Coral Harbour between February 5 and 24, 2020. GN wildlife staff, in addition to representatives from Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) met face-to-face with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) within each community and provided an update on proposed regional wildlife research programs, research results from the past 2 years, and addressed questions and concerns raised by HTO board members. Presentations with summary results of recent surveys and other details concerning Kivalliq ungulates were given by Mitch Campbell, Kivalliq Regional Biologist, assisted by Keenan Lindell, Kivalliq Wildlife Technician, and Rob Harmer, Regional Wildlife Manager for the Kivalliq Region. This year we were grateful to Clayton Tartak, Wildlife Research Coordinator with KWB, for joining us for these consultations in addition to Teresa Tufts, Lenny Emiktaut, and Saleem Dar with CWS. Their expertise on wildlife and perspectives from the Regional and Federal level was very welcome and a positive component of all discussions. HTO members were encouraged to ask any questions they may have on any subjects with regards to the current status and general health of Caribou and Musk Ox within their hunting areas as well as their thoughts on the projects we proposed for 2020-21 and any research concerns. We aimed to create a casual yet professional atmosphere, where everyone would be comfortable speaking. It was our goal not only to give, but to gain information from the HTO members, who are the primary knowledge holders of wildlife within our region. We worked to generate respectful discussion between all participants rather than a one-sided presentation. This format has been successful and is beneficial for both parties as it creates trust and promotes communication and collaboration. This report summarizes the consultation in Coral Harbour, which took place on February 10, 2020.

During the consultation, HTO members brought up numerous issues relating to caribou, the importance to maintain herd health for future generations, and the necessity of protecting calving grounds as a major priority of all the Kivalliq HTOs. Online sales of caribou meat were another urgent concern, yet HTO members were aware that it is an Inuit right to sell, barter, or trade caribou under the Nunavut Agreement. There are worries that the amount of caribou leaving the region is high and unsustainable, and that something needs to be done as soon as possible before too much damage is done. Additionally, communities are frustrated with the lack of information pertaining to the quantity of caribou meat that is leaving the region.

Discussions of muskox management zones indicated support for the creation of MX-14 zone on King William and adjacent Islands for Gjoa Haven should that creation be considered. However, modifications of the MX-10 muskox management zone as described in Plan A and Plan B (Appendix 1) received mixed support.

There was general agreement that the Southampton Island (SHI) caribou Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) and Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) remain status quo until

new information indicates an increasing trend, though the HTO wanted to discuss this recommendation further within their Board in a future meeting before committing to this recommendation. Additionally, the HTO would request another population assessment of the SHI caribou population in spring 2021 to reassess the current TAH and NQLs. The Coral Harbour HTO also indicated they would require survey results quicker following the survey so that they can be timelier in their re-assessment of current management actions and TAHs.

2.0 PREFACE

This report represents the Department of Environment's best efforts to accurately capture all of the information that was shared during the meetings with the Hunters and Trappers Organization of Coral Harbour. Keenan Lindell typed minutes during the consultation except for the CWS presentation where they took their own notes. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Environment, or the Government of Nunavut.

3.0 REPORT PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

This report is intended to collate and summarize comments, questions, concerns and suggestions provided by the HTOs in response to presentations given by Mitch Campbell, Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Biologist with the Government of Nunavut. The meeting minutes in full are included in Appendix 2. Coral Harbour was consulted on February 10, 2020.

4.0 PURPOSE OF CONSULTATION TOUR

The presentations given were to review and discuss research results, regarding the Qamanirjuaq, Beverly, Ahlak, Wager Bay, Lorillard, Coats Island and Southampton Island Caribou herds, the Kivalliq muskox research and management, and the status of the wolf telemetry program. We also presented proposed research projects for 2020/21 and obtained feedback from the HTO on matters discussed. We schedule these consultations once a year for January or February, months with low hunting activity to ensure good participation. This method is one both parties find beneficial; in fact, many HTOs mentioned they do not generally consider supporting any project without face to face consultation.

Mitch Campbell's presentations included an update of the Southampton Island Caribou herd, along with a review of the status of the mainland herds. GN representatives asked about, and provided information on, the overall health of the caribou within their hunting areas based on the HTO and community members' experience. The members were also asked, whether they agreed with the information provided and the estimates generated. Members were also asked of their observations over the last two or more years and how that may help inform the research results being presented. HTO members were updated on the latest information, methods and purpose of the Kivalliq Caribou Monitoring Program and findings of an ongoing assessment of the impacts of roads on caribou movement behaviour and habitat use. Continued support was also requested for the caribou telemetry program. Also proposed were the North Eastern Mainland Caribou telemetry for spring 2020. Information on Kivalliq Musk ox herds MX-10 and 13 was also presented. We also received HTO feedback on proposed boundary changes.

4.1 Format of Meetings

The meeting ran for 2.5 hours and was facilitated by the HTO managers and Keenan Lindell. After introductions and an opening prayer, a PowerPoint presentation was led by Mitch Campbell and then translated into Inuktitut by an interpreter. The participants were invited to ask questions, raise concerns, or provide alternative recommendations throughout the meetings while Keenan Lindell was typing notes and capturing all questions and answers. The GN members then asked if the information was understandable and if anything needed more explanation. Rob Harmer was there to answer any questions regarding conservation and enforcement issues, which were frequent. After the presentation, questions/discussion continued until no further questions were raised by the HTO members. The GN staff would then ask questions regarding the member's general impression of the wellbeing of the ungulate herds and if

there is any other information we may find informative, and/or any other concerns we, the GN, should be addressing.

The GN reimbursed the HTOs for their time by providing honorariums to board members that attended the meeting. The GN also provided water, coffee, tea and snacks for each of the meetings.

This year we were joined by 3 representatives from the Canadian Wildlife Service who presented on the proposed threatened listing of barren-ground caribou on the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), by the KWB Research Coordinator, and by NTI in Rankin Inlet only. Unfortunately, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) representatives were unable to join us due to a change in schedule made to accommodate the Nunavut Planning Commissions Regional consultations.

5.0 CORAL HARBOUR HTO MEETING SUMMARY

Date: February 10, 2020

Representatives:

- GN-DOE, Kivalliq Regional Biologist: Mitch Campbell
- GN-DOE, Kivalliq Regional Manager: Rob Harmer
- GN-DOE, Kivalliq Wildlife Technician: Keenan Lindell
- GOC-CWS, Wildlife Biologist: Saleem Dar
- GOC-CWS, Wildlife Biologist Teresa Tufts
- GOC-CWS, Wildlife technician Lenny Emiktuat
- KWB, Wildlife Research Coordinator: Clayton Tartak

Coral Harbour HTO board members present

- Chair: Moses Nakoolak
- Vice Chair: Danny Pee
- Secretary Treasure: Darcy Nakoolak
- Member: Joe Sarviakjuk
- Member: Gordon Nakoolak
- Member: Kidlapik Nakoolak
- Member: Charlie Saviakjuk
- Member: Lucassie Nakoolak
- Manager: Natasha Ottokie

Duration:

2.5 Hrs.

Comments and questions:

**The HTO members requested to skip the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq portions of the presentation as they were not Herds they harvested from. **

Members have been hearing about the effects of the Meadowbank road and its effects on caribou and appreciated seeing that part of Mitch's presentation. "It's like they hit a wall" – Joe Saviakjuk, after seeing the animation of the collared Baker Lake caribou trying to cross the AEM Meadowbank road.

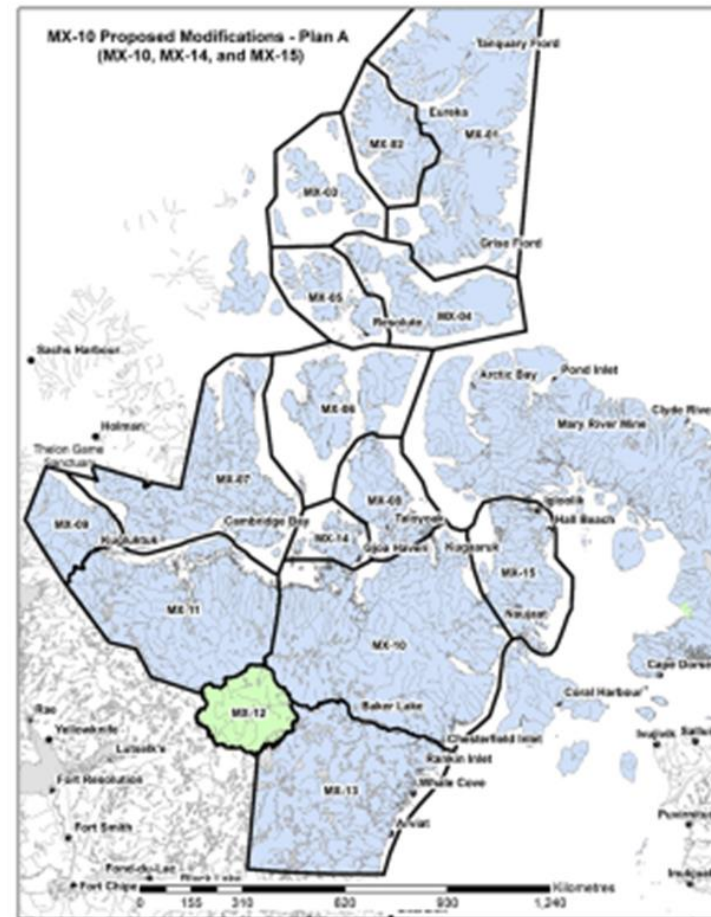
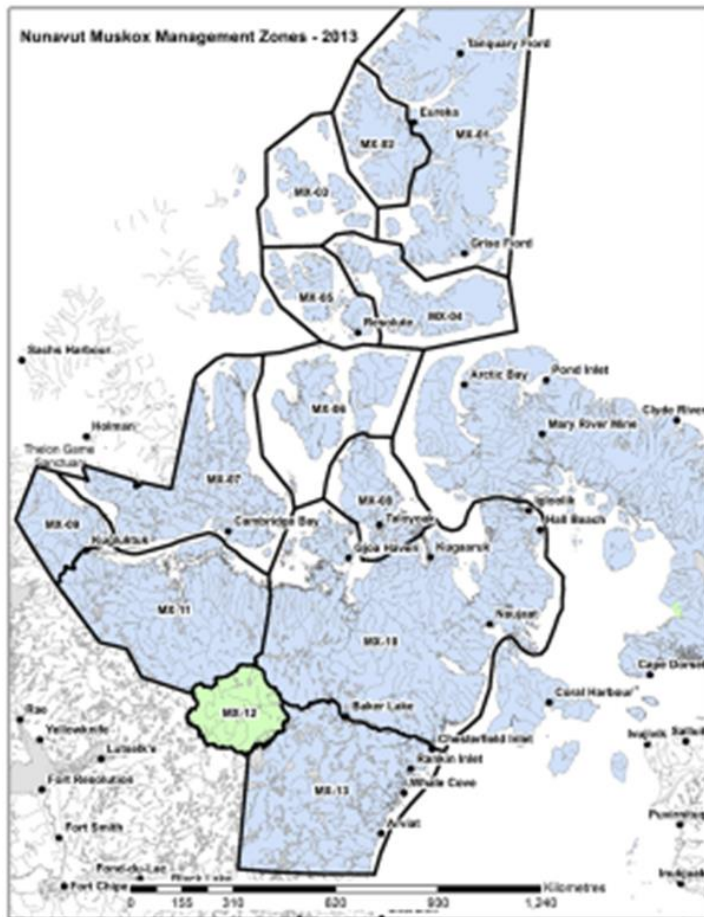
They do not believe online meat sales are a problem in Coral anymore, but they understand it is a problem on mainland Kivalliq and support the letter writing campaign to track the weight of caribou leaving the region.

There was consensus that the caribou are looking very healthy this year, there are fat caribou even in February. They wanted to know when the herd would be stable enough to remove the TAH as people would like to hunt more caribou since they rely on it for their main diet and jobs are scarce in Coral. There are concerns of Baffin Island Inuit coming by boat and hunting beluga and caribou without tags around Southampton Island, White Island and Coats Island.

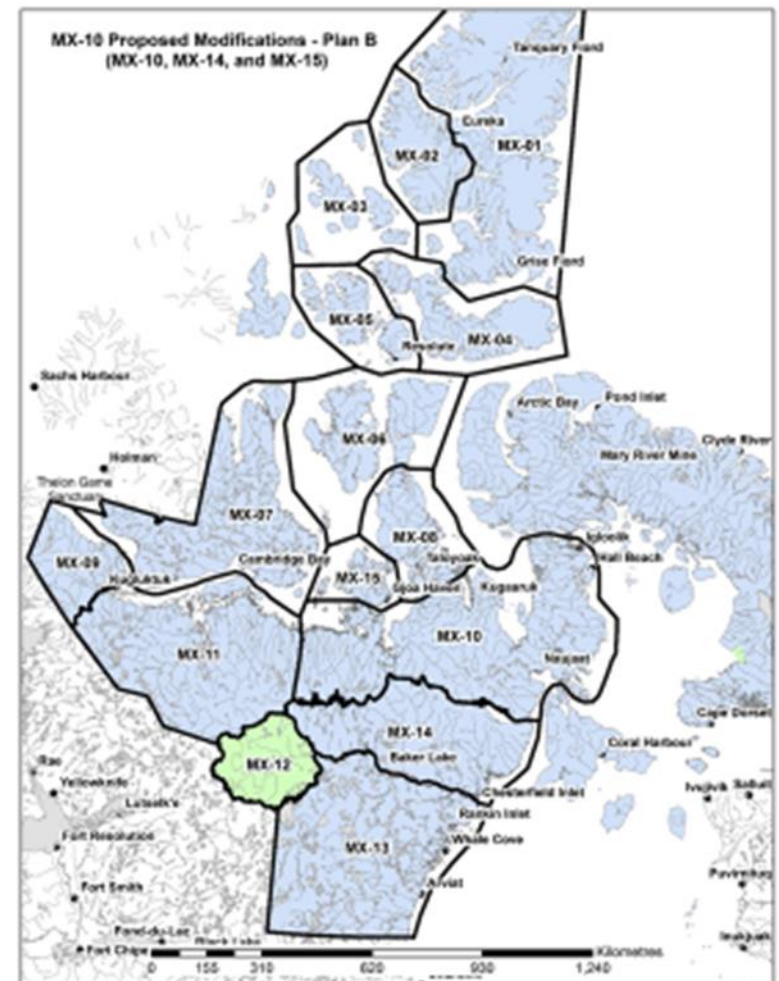
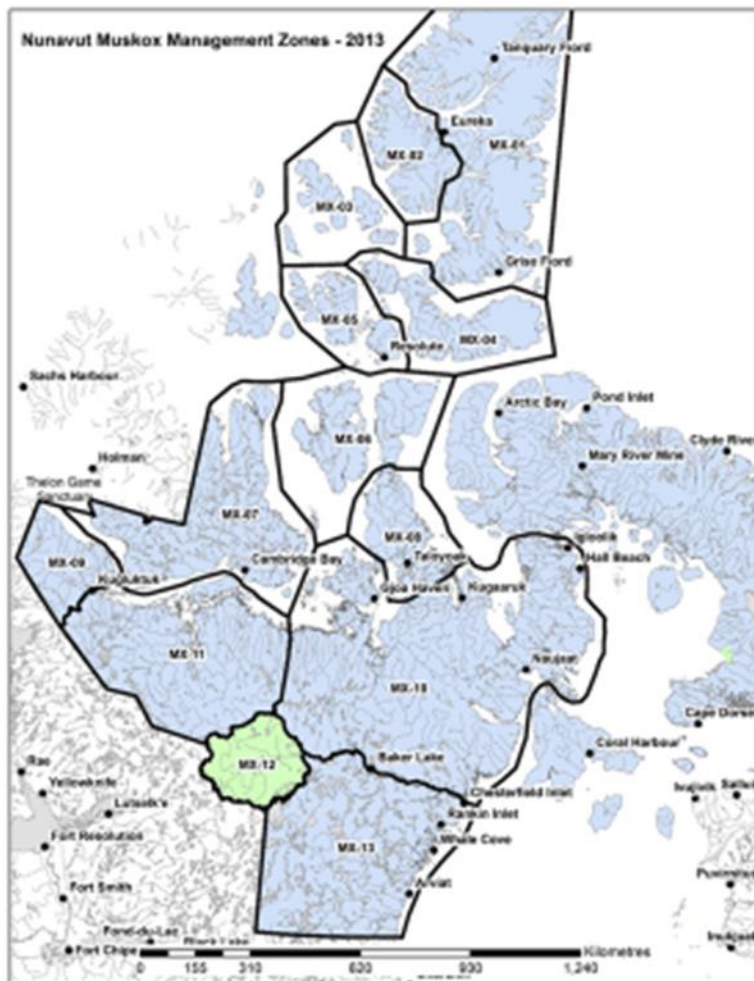
There was general agreement that the SHI caribou TAH and NQLs remain status quo until new information indicates an increasing trend, though the HTO wanted to discuss this recommendation further within their Board in a future meeting before committing to this recommendation. Additionally, the HTO would request another population assessment of the SHI caribou population in spring 2021 to reassess the current TAH and NQLs. The Coral Harbour HTO also indicated they would require survey results quicker following the survey so that they can be timelier in their re-assessment of current management actions and TAHs.

All members support the creation of MX-14 muskox zone on King William Island.

6.0 APPENDIX 1



Option A maps. Left map is current GN position while the map on the right indicates one possible option for community input.



Option B maps. Left map is current GN position while the map on the right indicates one possible option for community input.

7.0 APPENDIX 2 (MEETING MINUTES)

Coral Harbour
Government of Nunavut Department of Environment
HTO Consultations 2020

HTO Coral Harbour
February 10, 2020
Location: Hamlet Chambers
Start time: 6:40 – 9:10
Duration: 2.5

Attendees:

Mitch Campbell	GN Kivalliq Regional Biologist
Rob Harmer	GN Kivalliq Wildlife Manager
Keenan Lindell	GN Kivalliq Wildlife Technician
Teresa Tufts	Canadian Wildlife Service
Saleem Dar	Canadian Wildlife Service
Lenny Emiktaut	Canadian Wildlife Service
Clayton Tartak	KWB Wildlife Technician

HTO Attendees:

Moses Nakoolak	Chair Person
Darcy Nakoolak	Secretary
Danny Pee	Treasurer
Joe Saviakjuk	Vice Chair
Gordon Nakoolak	Member
Kidlapik Nakoolak	Member
Charlie Saviakjuk	Member
Lucassie Nakoolak	Member
Natasha Ottokie	Manager

Interpreter: Bobbie Saviakjuk

Meeting Opened: 7:00
Intros

CP – As we are starting late, and we don't hunt the Qamanirjuaq or Beverly Herds, we would like to skip the Qamanirjuaq and Beverly caribou herd portion if that's okay?

MC – Yes, we can do that.

Presentation:

Kivalliq Research Program Update and Proposed Programs

Presenter: Mitch Campbell

Start time: 7:02

Kivalliq Caribou Telemetry Program

- Updating seasonal range analysis of caribou up to 2018 data, will be sending these to all HTOs once ready and will come around to consult. Last time we didn't have consult before releasing but we won't do that this time. What we want is a product that is approved by GN and HTOs
- Animation of collared caribou
- Image of collar data near Meadowbank road
- Concerns of huckleberry mine in key access corridor affects
- Road Effects – Meadowbank Road to Baker Lake. We have reviewed the report of AEM which they believe the road does not have an effect. The impact is obvious; our Disturbance effect of all-weather access road is nearly complete.
- Road effects animation fall 2018

JS – It's like they hit a wall.

MC – Yes.

- One year there was a 5-day road closure and all the caribou passed the road, but they haven't done a road closure that long and that complete again to my knowledge.
- Bringing this up just in case a similar development are considered here on SHI
- Animation of road deflection of Lorillard herd, 6 of 4 collars that deflected and joined Qamanirjuaq herd died. This was confirmed with GNWT that many caribou that change herds often die.

Southampton Island caribou herd update

- 11,992 stable
- Brucellosis Incidence & pregnancy rate graph, still high right now but declining significantly from 1998
- 2-year rotation of surveys, population is now seeming to be stable
- There was a confirmed migration of mainland caribou. We herd this from hunters and did a DNA testing and this confirms Qamanirjuaq and Wager Bay caribou DNA on SHI.
- DOE recommends status Quo until abundance surveys indicate an increasing trend.

DP – Herd is looking good, very healthy, lots of fat.

MN – Healthy herd, lots of fat right now.

DN – What number do we have to get to get rid of the TAH?

MC – If the herd increases in the next survey then it might be ok to take off the TAH.

MN – It would be good to get rid of the quota, especially if caribou coming onto the island with the ice bridge. The main reason why we came up with the TAH is that we wanted people to always have caribou around to hunt as there are not many jobs here.

MC – Yes, and you have done a great job of managing your caribou, I would just be concerned of the Internet sales that could make the population plummet. I think your herd is stabilizing nicely and maybe another confirmed and significant increase would provide more confidence for the removal of the TAH.

MN – After hearing from all the hunters they were all together but now they have spread out throughout the island.

- Proposing another caribou survey one year from now 2021. General agreement that TAH remain status Quo until new survey results are in, though the HTO indicated that they would discuss this issue further in a future meeting before making a final decision.

MN – We have had a good winter, no freezing rain.

DP – How are the caribou on Coats Island?

MC - Coats island 1,497 in decline but they tend to fluctuate quickly on that island.

RH – You have sport hunts on coats?

MN – Yes they usually take 2 tags from there.

DN – Caribou on Coats Island are looking good.

RH – Do hunters get caribou there?

DM – Yeah, it's looking good, we are probably taking about 50.

KN – I would like to mention about caribou survey, when the survey is done, we have to wait 2-3 months, by the time we get the number many caribou may have already been killed. Would be better if we could get the number right away.

MC – We did send the numbers out in august for this last survey, but the one before that took a lot longer for many different reasons. Why it can take time to get the results to you is that we have to make sure that we have the right number, it has to go to a biometrician to verify as well. The analysis can take some time and we are usually busy with other programs during that time. It is a very busy time of year for us.

KN – From the last survey there was rumors that the numbers were really good. I know it's hard but waiting to get the number is hard for us.

MC - That's a good point we will be trying to get it out ASAP but doing it in a few weeks is unlikely because we are also very busy that time of year. I need at least 3-4 weeks to get an estimate but that's the minimum. I cannot guarantee anything, but I can give your HTO an idea of the number quicker but nothing official just by giving you the total number of caribou seen on the survey. We can tell you that we counted more or less then the last survey. Would that be helpful?

KN – Yes that would be very helpful.

MC – I will be able to give you a plot of numbers of caribou that we counted, it won't be an estimate but this I can give you before I even leave after the survey.

KN – Meadowbank road, too high is it? We hear a lot about it and it is displacing caribou? Is it just like our road to the airport?

MC – It is similar, some parts are higher, and some are the same, some areas are rocky but nothing too bad based on what I have observed.

RH – I was stationed there for 5 years, I would travel around that area with truck and ATV. They built the road on an old trail on an esker, some places are pretty high but not too hard to cross but some areas they have had to blast, and that area is left with a lot of sharp rocks that I would imagine would be hard for caribou to cross. There are some things that they have not been doing like they said they would, like dust suppression.

KN – Is that road being used every day?

RH – Yes lots of traffic every day. Before 2015 we had a good relationship and they would close the roads for the caribou to migrate passed. But after 2015 when they got new management, they stopped closing the roads fully, they say they close the roads but there are still conveyers using the road also saw an RCMP truck taking people out to look at caribou which should not have been there.

North Eastern Mainland Caribou Subpopulations

- 2011 Estimate 71,340
- We will be looking for Observers from Rankin for the upcoming NEM survey in June
-

Proposed Work

Wolf Telemetry Studies

- Now approved
- Mitch explains reasons for the collars
- Launch in late March, add collars onto wolves around Baker Lake and southern Kivalliq.
- No drugs used. Using nets from a helicopter
- Will try to see if it can be done by snow mobile
- Would like to see if wolves use the roads to coral caribou like hunters from baker have mentioned
- 3-4 collars per pack and the collars will stay on for 2 years
- Collars give location every 2 hours

NEM Survey

- June 5-15
- Survey areas, projected transects to be flown
- 3 Airplanes and 1 helicopter
- Looking for support for collaring

Kivalliq Caribou Monitoring

- We aren't adding any collars to Qamanirjuaq herd this year
- We put out 35 collars last year on Qamanirjuaq
- We have approvals to add 25 collars on the wager bay herd near Naujaat and 25 collars near the whale tail road Ahlak and Wager bay
- Requesting support letter from your HTO for 25 collars on the wager bay herd

- Collars give us 6 locations a day with accuracy up to 3 meters
- We are not proposing any collars for Lorillard and Qamanirjuaq this year

Internet Meat Sales

- No management is willing to make decisions on the meat sales because we don't have the numbers and the data on what kind of impact this is having
- All HTOs are concerned of the additional harvest for internet meat sales and want something done to manage it
- Will be doing a letter writing campaign with all the HTOs, Hopefully KWB and the GN requesting how much caribou meat is being shipped to Baffin Island.
- Once we recognize if it is a problem then we can start to try do something about it.

MN – Even if it's not from our caribou, we support that we would like to know how much weight of caribou is going to Baffin Island.

MC – Okay great and why it is important that Coral supports this is because you have been through it.

KN – Do we have to be concerned about Baffin Island coming onto SHI to hunt caribou? Them coming here and catching what they want without tags. They come here to hunt beluga and they may also be catching caribou.

MC - They are not supposed to do that, they would have to get tags from your HTO if they are coming to SHI, they can hunt from coats without a tag but if they hunt caribou off SHI, that's illegal. If you hear about this, please inform Troy and Rob and they can investigate. They need tags.

KN – We don't mind if they're in an emergency if they catch caribou, but we are concerned if they are just coming here to hunt caribou.

RH – That's is totally understandable if it's an emergency, but these tags are yours and if they do want tags then it's up to you if you want to give them some of your tags or not. Would you know if there are meat sales from here to Coral?

DP – They are not coming to the community.

MC – Even if they catch a caribou for emergency, they still have to tell you about it.

MN – Some people usually come here and ask their family from Coral to share tags.

MC – Okay yeah that's fine.

MN – Now we can see through the phone on face book and we can see people hunting on the island.

MC – If you see that then take a screen shot and let Troy know.

MN – We saw 3 fresh caribou heads in the summer around Somerset Island, probably people from Cape Dorset.

MC – Some hunters from Cape Dorset a couple years ago got reported quickly and they got investigated because the CO was told quickly.

CS – It is also people from Naujaat they go to white island to catch caribou, people also go to coats to catch caribou.

MC – I have heard about this, but I don't know how much they are taking but coats has no tags so it's tricky to do anything about them, however, people from Naujaat would need tags to take caribou off white island.

NM – We should be able to sue them if they are caught hunting off white island like some sport hunters from Naujaat getting big bulls off white island.

RH – Suing them would take a long time in court. But tell our COs if you know about people hunting where they shouldn't be.

MN – When I was around White Island in the summer, I saw boats from Naujaat going to White Island every day.

GN – Is there a way to stop sellers from selling SHI caribou?

MC – Right now if they are selling meat but using their tag and there is nothing, we can do about this.

RH – If they are using their tags then we are limited to what we can do because it's an Inuit right to sell caribou in the NLCA. If there are things you can see that are excessive beyond their 4 tags, you should let Troy know.

MC – We will probably be starting up the sampling program in April, we don't have an exact price, but it probably would be about \$50.

MN – We usually set aside some caribou for events maybe we could use these. It does help a lot going through Troy to stop a lot of people from selling. If they do not have the sticker the agent won't allow them on the plane.

RH – That's is great but it's because it's a relationship Troy has with the agent.

MC – But it is good to know that that is working.

Presentation done: 8:09

CWS Presentation: 8:25 – 8:50

Musk Ox Studies 8:50 – 9:10

- MX 10 pop. 3,239 as of 2017 survey
- MX 13 pop. ?
- Showing survey findings, location of musk ox seen on survey
- We want to increase the quota by 5
- Igloolik and Hall Beach want tags
- MX boundaries MX 10 is so large we have to consult with all the communities in order to increase quota
- Plan C, create MX 14 for King William Island also create MX 15 for Naujaat, Hall Beach and Igloolik.
- Plan B is to create MX 14 to be for mainly Baker Lake caribou and draw border around Gary Lakes. This would make it a lot quicker and easier to change quotas for that zone no need to consult the Kitikmeot communities. But baker mentioned they do want to harvest north of Gary Lakes, in this case they would need permission from KRWB. They may want it to stay the same.

LN – I support Gjoa Haven having MX 14

****All Members agree to MX 14 though do not see any value in changing the remainder of the management zone. ****

Meeting adjourned: 9:10