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

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Department of Environment  
Avatiliqiyikkut  
Ministère de l'Environnement

# DOLPHIN AND UNION MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION

Consultation on 2018 Survey Results and Interim Total  
Allowable Harvest

Summary Report

October 26, 2020

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Department of Environment  
Government of Nunavut  
Kugluktuk, NU

## Executive Summary

Government of Nunavut (GN), Department of Environment (DOE) conducted a consultation with Burnside Hunters and Trappers Organization (BHTO), Omingmaktok Hunters and Trappers Organization (OHTO), Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (KAA), and Ekaluktutialik Hunters and Trappers Organization (EHTO) on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, regarding the Dolphin and Union caribou herd. Other stakeholders in attendance included Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB), Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA), Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT), Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (WMAC), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) as well as local elders and a local outfitter.

The intent of this consultation was to discuss the 2018 Dolphin and Union caribou abundance survey results and the interim Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of 42, which was implemented in August 2020. The consultation was also intended as an opportunity to hear and better understand any concerns associated with the interim TAH and to ensure the affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) were well informed on all the most recent information for this subpopulation. The HTOs also provided further input on the Dolphin and Union abundance survey that took place from late October through to the beginning of November 2020.

The consultation included presentations from DOE on the 2018 survey, analysis, results, management decisions, and timeline since the survey was completed. There was also a presentation given by University of Calgary representatives on results of Traditional Knowledge and health monitoring studies. Each of the stakeholder groups in attendance was given an opportunity to ask questions and to provide input. There was consistent input from groups present that affected communities lack confidence in the results of the 2018 abundance survey. Many feel it was an underestimate of the population at that time and that it did not account for caribou from the Dolphin and Union caribou herd that are no longer migrating and are overwintering on Victoria Island or the Dolphin and Union caribou that remain trapped on the mainland after breakup and do not reach Victoria Island in the spring

Predators were identified by many of the consultation participants as one of the highest threats to the Dolphin and Union caribou herd and a main cause of observed population declines. There were concerns expressed about increased human activities such as industrial development and shipping, which are believed to have detrimental impacts on the health of the herd and sea-ice integrity for migration between Victoria Island and the mainland. There was consistent agreement between the HTO representatives that the interim TAH, which was based on a recommended 1% harvest rate, was too low and should be increased to at least 2% (84 caribou). A few people requested an additional 60 tags, which would increase the TAH to 102 caribou.

The feedback collected during this consultation will also aid the GN in future management and research of the Dolphin and Union caribou herd.

This report attempts to summarize the comments made by participants during the consultation.





## Aulapkaiyini Naittuq

Nunavut Kavamanga (GN), Avatiliqiyikkut (DOE) uqaqatigiiktut ukununnga Burnside An'nguhiqitkut Timiqutigiyait (BHTO), Omingmaktok An'nguhiqitkut Timiqutigiyait (OHTO), Kugluktuk Angoniatit Katimayiingit (KAA), ukuatlu Ekaluktutialik An'nguhiqitkut Timiqutigiyait (EHTO) October 8-mi, 2020, uumuuna Tahiqpak Kanannangani tuktuut. Aadlat tigumiaqtuuqatauyut katimaqatauyut ilaliutiyut Nunavunmi Huradjanik Munariniqmut Katimayiingit (NWMB), Nunavut Tunngavikkut (NTI), Kitikmeot Avikturhimayuni Huradjanik Katimayiingit (KRWB), Kitikmeot Inuit Katimayiingit (KitIA), Nunatsiap Kavamanga (GNWT), Huradjanik Munariniqmut Uqaqatigiikniqmut Katimayiingit (WMAC), Avatinga Hilaup Aadlangurninnga Kaanatami (ECCC) ukuatlu inirniiriniit talvannga qablunaaniklu angunahuaqtittiyuktunik.

Uqaqatigiiknahuarninnga uqariamiknik 2018-mi Tahiqpak Kanannangani tuktuut amihuuninngit naunaiyaininngit qanurittaakhaanik unalu tadjakaffuk Tamakpiangani Pidjutittaktunik Angunahuaknikmun (TAH) 42-mit, iliuraqhimayut August 2020-mi. Uqaqatigiiktullu pivikhaqautikhamik tuhaagiamiknik nakuutqiamiklu kangirhigiamiknik ihumaaluutinik piyut tadjakaffukmut Tamakpiangani Pidjutittaktunik Angunahuaknikmun naunairiamilu ayurhaqtitauyut Anguhiqitkut Timiqutigiyait (HTO) nakuuqpiqumik naunaiykaqtayut tamainnik nutaatqianik naunaitkutanik uumunnga ilagiyanga angitqiyayunit. Annguhiqitkullu tuniyullu aadlamik qanuqtut ihumagiyamiknik uumunnga Tahiqpak Kanannangani amihuuninnginnik naunaiyainiq piyut nunguliqtumi October atulihaaliqtumut November 2020.

Uqaqatigiikninnga ilaliutiyut uqaqtakhamiknik Avatiliqiyitkunnit 2018 naunaiyaininnganik, ihivriurninnga, qanurittaakhaanik, atan'nguyap ihumagiyaminik, unalu naunaiykainiq hulilukaarutinginnik hivulliqpaamit ublumimut taimaa naunaiyairuamirak. Uqaqtullu Iliharvikyuanganit Calgary havaktinginnik qanurittaakhaanik Qangaraaluknitamik Ilihimaniq unalu aaniaqtailiniqmut munariniqmut naunaiyainiq. Tamarmik tigumiaqtuuqatauyut katimayut ilauyut tuniyayut pivikhaqautikhamik apirigiamiknik tunigiamiknilu qanuqtut ihumagiyamiknik. Pihimmaaqtuqlu qanuqtut ihumagiyamiknik katimayunit ayurhaqtitauyut nunallaanut piqalluangittut ukpiriyamiknik qanurittaakhaanik 2018 amihuuninnganik naunaiyainiq. Amihut ihumagiyut amigaitpiaqtuq amihuuninnganik talvani pipkaidjutingittuq tuktuut uumannga Tahiqpak Kanannangani tuktuut ikaungittut nurraliurvikmiknut ukiuyut Kiiliniqmi uumaniluuniit Tahiqpak Kanannangani tuktuut ikaalimaiqtut hikuiqmat tikingittullu Kiiliniqmut upin'ngakhami.

Aadlat huradjat angunahuaqtut ilitariyayut amihunit uqaqtunit atahiuuyut quulitqiyayuyut qayangnautigiyayut ukununnga Tahiqpak Kanannangani tuktuut pilluarutigiyayuyullu qun'ngiaqtauyut amihuangit ikikliyuumiliqtuq. Ihumaaluutigiyayuyullu uqaqtauyut amihunguqmat inungnik hulilukaqtut havakviuliqtut umiakkuuqtullu, ihumagiyayuyut piqaqtuq nakuungittumik pilaqutiyut qanurittaakhaanik amihuaryunganit tariup hikungalu nuutiqtitauniq Kiiliniqmit nunainnaqmiitut. Angirutiqaqtuqlu ukunanit Anguhiqitkut havaktingit tamna tadjakaffuk Tamakpiangani Pidjutittaktunik Angunahuaknikmun, pihimayut pitquyayuyumit 1 pusanmit angunahuarniqmut nampanganik, mikivallaarmat angikliyuumiqtukhaq 2 pusanmut (84 tuktuut). Qaffiuyut inuit apiriyut aadlamik 60 atatait, angikliyuumirniaqtait Tamakpiangani Pidjutittaktunik Angunahuaknikmun to 102 tuktuut.

Uqaqtamiknik katitiqtait uqaqatigiiktillugit ikayurniaqtaa Nunavut Kavamanga hivuniqmi munarigiami ihivriuriamikniklu ukuninnga Tahiqpak Kanannangani tuktuut.

Una taiguagakhaq pinahuaqtuq ihivriuriamikni uqaqtangit katimaqatauyunit katimatillugit.

## Preface

This report represents the Department of Environment's best efforts to accurately capture all of the information that was shared during a consultation meeting with Burnside Hunters and Trappers Organization (BHTO), Omingmaktok Hunters and Trappers Organization (OHTO), Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (KAA), and Ekaluktutialik Hunters and Trappers Organization (EHTO) on October 8th, 2020.

The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Environment, or the Government of Nunavut.



## **1.0 Report Purpose and Structure**

This report is intended to collate and summarize comments, questions, concerns and suggestions provided by participants at the October 8, 2020 consultation in Cambridge Bay on Dolphin and Union caribou research and management. Representatives from the affected HTOs, DOE, the NWMB, NTI, and the KRWB attended the consultation in person.

Additionally, the following parties attended the consultation by phone: University of Calgary (U of C), GNWT, ECCC, KIA and WMAC.

## **2.0 Purpose of Consultation**

The purpose of the consultation was to meet with the affected HTOs, including BHTO, OHTO, KAA, and EHTO, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the results from the 2018 population abundance survey and the interim TAH of 42 and to receive their feedback. An overview of the results from the 2018 Dolphin and Union aerial survey was provided through a presentation given by DOE representatives and the results of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and health monitoring studies were presented by representatives from the U of C.

In addition, the meeting served to provide an opportunity for representatives from affected HTOs and co-management partners to provide their feedback, ask questions and obtain clarification on the 2018 survey results and current management actions. Clarification was provided on the process to change an interim TAH, the roles and responsibilities of NWMB, as well as an overview of the co-management process.

The consultation was also intended to ensure that the HTOs were well informed on all the most recent information and plans regarding the upcoming Dolphin and Union survey. The consultation allowed HTOs and community members to voice any requests they may have regarding the survey. It is important that all stakeholders work together to manage this subpopulation in the future.

### **2.1 Format of Meetings**

The meeting was held on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and ran for approximately 9 hours. The meeting was facilitated and led by the DOE Kitikmeot Wildlife Manager, Kevin Methuen. The meeting began with opening remarks by Kevin Methuen, a prayer by James Eetoolook, and roundtable introductions. This was followed by a presentation by the Acting Manager of Wildlife Research, Caryn Smith. Questions took place during the presentation and participants were invited to ask questions, raise concerns, or provide advice following the presentation. A roundtable to allow feedback and input from the HTOs and KRWB followed. A presentation was given by Dr. Susan Kutz and students from the U of C, which provided an update on a Traditional Knowledge study and ongoing health monitoring research for Dolphin and Union caribou. KIA, NTI and NWMB were also given the opportunity to provide input. Questions were then asked regarding the process associated with the interim TAH and the upcoming survey, followed by closing remarks.

### 3.0 Summary of Consultation

The objectives of the consultation were made clear to the HTO members prior to and at the start of the meeting.

**Date:** October 8, 2020

**Representatives in Person:**

- GN-DOE
  - Acting Wildlife Research Manager - Caryn Smith
  - Director of Wildlife Research - Drikus Gissing
  - Kitikmeot Regional Manager - Kevin Methuen
  - Kitikmeot Regional Biologist - Amélie Roberto-Charron
  - Director of Wildlife Operations - Jason Aliqatuqtuq
  - Kivalliq Regional Biologist - Mitch Campbell
- NWMB
  - Marine Mammal Biologist - Jordan Hoffman
  - Wildlife Director - Denis Ndeloh
- Burnside HTO
  - Board member - Sam Kapolak
- Omingmaktok HTO
  - Chairman - Peter Kapolak
- Kugluktuk HTO
  - Manager - Amanda Dumond
  - Board member - OJ Bernhardt
  - Chairman - Larry Adjun
  - Board member - Bobby Anavilok
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
  - Coordinator - Ema Qaqqutaq
  - Coordinator - Peggy Adjun
  - Chairman - Bobby Klengenberg
- Cambridge Bay HTO
  - Chairman - Bobby Greenley
  - Board member - Clarence Kaiyogana
  - Board member - Peter Evalik
  - Manager - Beverly Maksagak
  - Board Member - George Hakongak
  - Board member - George Angohiatok
  - Member - Jimmy Hanikiak
  - Member - Gary Maksagak
  - Member - Richard Ekpakohak
  - Member (and translator) - James Panioyak
- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc
  - Vice President – James Eetoolook

- Director of Wildlife and Environment - Paul Irngaut
- Resource Management Advisor - Cheryl Wray

**Representatives on Phone:**

- University of Calgary
  - Dr. Susan Kutz
  - PhD Candidate - Andrea Hanke
  - MSc student - Fabian Mabrot
  - Post-doctoral researcher - Javier Fernandez
- GN-DOE
  - Baffin Regional Biologist - John Ringrose
  - Baffin Wildlife Technician - Chris Mutz
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council
  - Biologist - Rosemin Nathoo
- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
  - Assistant Director of Wildlife and Environment - Bert Dean
- Government of NWT, Environment and Natural Resources
  - Regional Biologist - Tracy Davison
- Ulukhaktok HTC
  - Board Member - Joseph Haluksit
- Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service
  - Species At Risk Biologist - Isabelle Duclos
  - Species At Risk Biologist - Rhiannon Pankratz

**Summary of Comments and Questions:**

- All HTOs expressed that predators are a main threat to the Dolphin and Union herd and are contributing to the population decline.
- Large male caribou are vulnerable to predators during the rutting season when they are physically exhausted.
- HTOs felt that the 2018 survey was flawed based on the following points:
  - It was not made clear why certain observations were not recorded
  - It is believed that the population estimate from the 2018 survey is an underestimate
  - A coastal survey does not survey a large enough area
  - Dolphin and Union caribou that do not migrate are not being counted
- HTOs were unhappy that the results and report were delayed, and that the population number was not released earlier by the GN.
- HTOs felt there should have been more consultation regarding the 2018 results before the interim TAH was implemented.

- Being able to harvest caribou is important for more than just food. Inuit need to hunt caribou to pass on the hands-on knowledge of how hunt and how to use animals in traditional ways to their children and grandchildren.
- HTOs believe that other options were not explored before restricting Inuit harvesting and that the effect of predators needs to be considered, as well as effect of insects, thinning ice, and industry.
- Some caribou are not migrating because of industrial activity (e.g. too much blasting at the Hope Bay Mine).
- HTOs are appreciative of the improved collaboration and partnerships in the upcoming survey and commend the GN for making the survey a priority. HTOs appreciated being asked for their input in the design and planning of the upcoming survey work. Working together is very important.
- In response to questions on calf recruitment: The actual value that is used to index productivity is the number of calves to the number of cows. How many cows and calves are observed, and the ratio is important to herd health. This indicates whether the herd is going up, down or stable. Every herd is a little bit different but around 25-30 calves/100 cows seems to show stability.
- In response to questions on how to plan a survey without many collared animals: Collared cows are typically very representative, however, without collared caribou, local knowledge can help to locate groups of animals. Historical survey data, historical collar data, and tracks can also be used to determine priority survey areas. Without collars more searching is typically required.
- Collaring is important and should be maintained going forward to help with monitoring.
- Collaring for the Dolphin and Union caribou herd will take place in 2021 in either the spring or the fall.
- No harvest limits were implemented following the 2015 survey although a decline was noted as other actions were being explored such as increased collaring and increased survey effort.
- The Traditional Knowledge study results supported the science in that there is an observed decline in the herd. The science puts specific numbers to the decline while the TK indicates the trends and is able to show that the declines were observed at given times based on community perspectives.
- Communities want the sample kit program to continue to ensure the health of the herd is monitored.
- Most participants felt that a TAH of 42 was too stringent. A 2% harvest rate of the estimated population was recommended by several HTOs and NTI (total of 84 animals). A few people present requested an additional 60 tags which would result in a TAH of 102 caribou.

- A TAH of 42 will be hard to allocate between communities but the KRWB recognizes they have that role.

#### 4.0 Summary

There was a consistent message from the HTOs that they did not trust the results of the 2018 Dolphin and Union caribou population abundance survey and believe the reported results to be an underestimate of how many caribou there were at the time. There is a firm belief among communities that some Dolphin and Union caribou are no longer migrating, and they are either staying on Victoria Island or not leaving the mainland. There was agreement that the herd is declining but the consensus among HTOs and co-management partners was that the interim TAH of 42 (1% harvest rate) is too low and that based on community needs and local Inuit knowledge of the herd status, the TAH should be increased to 84 (2% harvest rate). The HTOs and NTI feel that adequate consultation had not been done following the release of the final report on the 2018 survey and the interim TAH should not have been implemented without the proper consultation. HTOs feel it is important to recognize that predators are a main threat to the herd and are a main contributing factor to the population decline. Harvesting is not the cause of the decline.

On a positive note, all parties present felt the recent collaboration between the DOE and relevant stakeholders, on the 2020 Dolphin and Union population abundance survey, is a big step in the right direction for re-building relationships and trust in research. During the consultation, the DOE and NWMB representatives were able to communicate the next steps in the management decision process. The interim TAH of 42 will remain in place until the NWMB has been able to review the interim decision, based on the best available information, and make a new decision on the harvest of Dolphin and Union caribou.

## Appendix

Dolphin and Union Meeting Transcript  
October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

9:14 AM Meeting call to order

Introduction and housekeeping by Kevin Methuen

Opening prayer James Eetoolook

Kevin: Changes to agenda: U of C presentation this afternoon

Note from Bobby Greenly regarding community elders present (will ask questions through him)  
Question from James regarding how best to provide lengthy remarks, interested in giving a statement from his organization

James: The agreement recognizes rights and wildlife harvest. Conservation in our minds when dealing with issues. NA recognizes self-governance. Limitations out in place if issues with conservation. NWMB and gov responsibility do not regulate harvest unnecessarily, infringement on Nunavut rights. NTI supports that they do not feel that appropriate consultation was done. Inuit need to be involved in all aspects of conservation. When placing TAH for other herds there was extensive consultation prior to placing, with DU, there was minimal discussion. Very important part of the law through the NA

Caryn Smith: Presentation

Bobby Greenly question: Threats doesn't include predators (and they should be the most problematic issue and should be the top of the list)

Caryn response: These are not listed in any particular order, and there are two slides

Bobby response: The wording made it seem like these should have been at the top here. We don't like to repeat ourselves, and our main concern is predation. And we want to make that clear.

Caryn response: They are in no particular order and all of them are being discussed as major threats. No threat listed is being discounted as a significant threat.

Presentation continued.

15 minute break.

10:36 AM meeting resume

House keeping: U of C bumped to after 3 PM to have time for questions. Given the primary goal of getting feedback on interim TAH of 42.

Start with KHTO for feedback.

Larry: All commercial hunting ended on BNE, Bathurst and DU. Here to discuss 2018 report. Statement to GN: 2018 survey was flawed in several ways. A mistake was made, and because of that one mistake we are here to discuss. Many hunters subsist on BNE, and DU, and the 10 tags for Bathurst are for subsistence for outpost camp by Contwoyto Lake. I'd like to hear more from Susan regarding health and reproduction for this afternoon. From our TK we have a healthier herd, and that may be dished out by Susan as compared to 2015. Pass off to Amanda.

Amanda: We've had a couple of meetings since numbers came out. Not from the GN, but from NWMB. These numbers were from 2018 survey. We understand ransomware and COVID, and the delays. We were not happy that this number didn't come from the GN. We were not happy that we could not consult our community. And it comes from our HTO bylaws. But with the 50-person limit from GN regarding COVID, we couldn't have our meeting and have quorum.

QUESTION FOR CARYN: why no later composition surveys since 2015 and 2017.

Caryn response: secondhand information, as I was not the manager during the surveys. Not 100% sure why we haven't had any between 2017 and present. Hoping to have some in the future, and to involve the communities.

Drikus: Could be because of the priority. Many projects are cut due to the fact that they aren't high priority.

Drikus comment on survey (response to Larry): We are aware of the distrust towards the 2018 results. We have sent many GN staff to speak to these results and are putting numerous resources to new surveys. We have a responsibility to Inuit to protect resources. We have a due diligence to act when we see a conservation concern. And this is a big food security issue. If we do not do our job, we are accountable. TAH of 42 is interim, not forever, depends on when the NWMB will be able to have a meeting to discuss.

Larry: commend GN on work towards the survey and the pooled resources from other regions in Nunavut. Commend GN on predator work (including the grizzly program)

Amanda: I don't think the GN has thoroughly explored other options before restricting Inuit harvesting. There's no evidence of other management options. Easiest way is to restrict our people. We know predators have a huge impact on caribou populations. No evidence that the GN is looking at other things, e.g. effects of insects, sea ice, etc. TK shows that when pops are low they no longer migrate. Observations of DU caribou on mainland and not on the island after breakup. These individuals not considered.

Bobby A.: Bring up surveys and how they are done. From 18 K to 4 K. Counters were asked not to count certain areas and certain caribou. Concerns that caribou were missed during the survey. Believe that 4K is an underestimate. Felt that if the concerns of people on the land are not being considered. Biologists need to step into the Inuit boots. Need more consistent and think empathetically. Almost 50% of caribou not counted, how can they have an accurate estimate of the population based on this survey?

OJ: DU caribou don't migrate all the time. There are island caribou near where I live, yet there is no sea ice. How did they get there? Last year. If you want to save the caribou, put the price up for predators. And that will make a big help. More harvesting of the predators.

Larry: Both directors are active hunters. OJ travelled to Bathurst inlet to hunt. Many hunters travelled to NWT for collaborative wolf hunts. Thank you to NTI for gas subsidy.

Amanda: Food security. The community of Kugluktuk has already seen a restriction for BNE. We're a growing community, how will the GN help to support the people of Kugluktuk? Funds for food security aren't enough. Struggling with fish population (ongoing studies with this). Moose harvest will be increasing this year. Another concern, traditional knowledge transfer. People learn by doing. I want to be able to teach my son how to hunt. You can't teach hunting by telling. I learned through my parents, and I want my son to learn too. How can I teach him if I can't hunt the caribou? And I feel for people who weren't fortunate enough to get a caribou this fall. And we're getting to a point where we may not be able to pass that knowledge on. You know, our ancestors were conservationists. Living on these lands for thousands of years. We should be able to manage our resources according to the Nunavut agreement. But I also believe in partnership and western science. And we're seeing that in the upcoming surveys, because we need a better perspective. Commending the GN for the upcoming survey. Thank you for asking for our input for the upcoming surveys. We need to keep working together.

Peter Umingmaktok HTO: question for Caryn how do you monitor how many calves are born to each cow?

Caryn response: Lucky that we have a very experienced regional biologist here, Mitch Campbell

Mitch: Thank you for the question. Depends on the timing of the survival survey done in the spring. Not sure how it's done here. In the Kivalliq, in June you can be sure how many calves each cow has. Later it's harder, confusing as there are aggregations of calves. For recruitment, we try and see how many calves there are per 100 cows. In the Kivalliq, we use collar data. We go to areas where there are collars, and we will spend 1 hour per each collar and count the number of young bulls, mature bulls, yearlings, calves (<1 year old) and cows. The actual value that we use to index productivity is the number of calves to the number of cows. How many cows and calves we saw and the ratio? This tells us whether the herd is going up, down or stable. Every herd is a little bit different. Around 25-30 calves/100 cows seems to show stability. Anything under 25 could indicate a decline. The more under 25 the steeper the decline, and everything over 30 could indicate an increase and same, the more over 30 could be a higher increase.

Peter: One more question, how do you know where to look for a herd without collared cows? There should be many groups without collared caribou that you missed during the survey.

Mitch response: We have found that the collars are very representative. But as you know they are not 100%, never really 100%, and we have also found for the bigger herds, that if you have them overwintering in different areas, quite often the cow/calf ratio could be different in different areas, so very important that we catch all the different areas. For the Baffin which doesn't have collars, we would use the local knowledge and we would always include local hunters recommended by HTO to go out with us. And any other kinds of information available to us (past collar data, and past survey data) to high grade, which simply means fly into these areas and search them thoroughly. In the spring we use tracks to indicate whether animals are there. The composition work we do in Baffin requires more time, as there is more searching when we do not have the collars to guide our work. It is important to be fairly confident that the areas you are surveying are representative of the herd. Because if you miss a location, and if it was a

good location where there were lots of calves, then that could really impact the result and could show a lower number of cows. Important to consider all main areas.

Peter: Thank you Mitch.

Sam Burnside HTO: We believe that there was not enough consultation put forth between communities and hunters before TAH implemented. We also believe that a costal survey is not enough. We have been observing that island caribou stay on the mainland. This past spring, I observed that the Beverly herd had DU caribou overwintering with it. And when they migrated east, the DU went with them. Unsure whether the DU summered with the Beverly herd. Not all DU caribou spend the summer on the island. They stay too long and get stuck on mainland. We would like to see the survey area increased, all the way to Contwoyto lake. We also know that not all caribou will be with the collared caribou. Which is why we want to see the area increased. One fall at Contwoyto, I saw hundreds of caribou every day, but I did not see one collared caribou. And on predation, we are seeing a great increase of number of grizzly bears, and number of eagles. We see eagles harassing caribou and that's a predator that we need to keep on the mind, as it's not considered.

Cam Bay HTO:

Booby Greenly: Thank you to everyone for coming. Big thanks to GN regarding the future survey. Going back to last week to discuss the survey, we picked the best option. I didn't get an answer last week regarding my suggestion. I made a suggestion to collar caribou in the spring. We have the collars available. I was wondering if that will be going forward in the spring.

Caryn response: we have been talking about collaring. It has been something that we have been discussing. We think collaring is very important, and we discussed it as an option in the fall but it will depend on the funds available, we need to ensure that we support research on Muskox, Polar Bears and other species. However, Drikus feels it will be likely. Something that we have been working on for a number of years, is that we want to run a good MX 11 survey. It is a priority for the region, so we can have a good understanding of the population of Muskox and have a better understanding of potential impacts if there is a shift to hunting more Muskox rather than caribou.

Drikus: I fully support Caryn's comment. But I want to reiterate, that this is likely the biggest conservation issue that we are dealing with because of all of the other declines that are being experienced with other herds. We are also supporting a Northeast Mainland caribou survey; we're hoping to count all of the caribou on the mainland to get a better idea of the caribou numbers and how they combine with DU. I can commit that the collars on DU will happen in the fall or in the spring, it will happen.

Bobby G.: Question about the 2018 survey. With the shoreline graph, with the proposed survey that was done, how much was actually completed? And with the collared caribou that are outside of those grid lines, were they actually counted?

Caryn response: I apologize I am not familiar with these results, and the biologist that did the analysis isn't here. I believe that most of the lines were flown. And the numbers of collars that aren't counted within the survey area are included in the analysis and are accounted for.

Bobby G.: We all knew the population was declining. We noticed a decline over a time, from 34 K to 27K, and from 27 K to 18 K. Why couldn't the biologist see the decline and act drastically sooner and act sooner.

Caryn: Following the communication from the 2015 survey, there was a recognized decline, but at the time the recommendations for management were to try and do other things rather than focus on the harvesting limits. The monitoring periods also got shorter. Recommendation to NWMB after the 2015 survey was that there was no need at that time for a TAH.

Bobby G.: Thank you for bringing other people together for the survey. And hopefully this will really improve future survey. Information from me, sea-ice crossing and what our HTO has done. We looked at this closer and we wanted to look at the starting and ending of when the crossing should be limited near Cam Bay, unless there is an emergency. There are a few people who have comments on behalf of Cam Bay HTO.

George: the history of our people in the north, and how our elders dealt with situations like this. We grew up in a time where we didn't have caribou and muskox. My grandfather told me of a time when many caribou and muskox were available to our people. And I couldn't imagine a time with that many animals, but I couldn't imagine a time where there were that many animals. I asked what happened to all those animals. He explained that there was a time when we were could walk in any direction and see animals. My grandfather said they would come back. In the 1980s, I saw animals near cam bay. I suspect that these animals were from northern Victoria Island, they were all white, no brown on them. These animals come and go. When the population gets too high, they will have disease, run out of food, and they will die off. My grandfather gave the example of lemmings and foxes. This is the same for the larger animals, like with caribou and with predators. The decline is because the numbers are too great, sickness spreads out, and when you have too many animals you eat all the food, and you need to move elsewhere. Caribou are moving but aren't dying off. Having said that, the numbers of predators being so large. When you get a large number of predators because of a boom of caribou, they teach their children like we do, how to hunt caribou. I blame predators for the lack of calves that I have seen. And in the fall times, I see dead bull caribou after the rut. And sometimes I see them sleeping. I can walk up to them with my wife and I touched them, and they got up. After breeding the caribou are exhausted and have no energy to defend themselves against predators. Previous thought was to harvest the animal because you don't know when you will see them next. But the current government is saying leave these animals when you don't know the population. It's not the hunters' fault that the numbers are down, but we're always the first impacted.

Peter: First I would like to comment, I respect that the GN is taking action to help preserve our resources, but are these the correct actions that the government is imposing on Inuit? I don't think a TAH should have been imposed without a proper consultation. We were provided a 100-page report and given 1-2 months to provide edits, but that wasn't enough time. The land claims agreement is not being properly followed. Our community could harvest 150-300 caribou annually, would this really have a negative impact overtime?

Caryn response: Several things to consider. Given the declining trend. We don't know what the number of the herd is right now. The number could be lower. If your community takes 150-300 that's around 5%, and if Kugluktuk does too, that's over 10%. But we are currently unsure of the numbers, which is why we're trying to be cautious. Touch back on NA, and when the results were released, we weren't able to fully consult, we also didn't know how long that could last. We didn't know we could travel here, and we need to make sure we do due diligence.

Peter: We only harvest what we need to make sure to conserve our own resources

Break for lunch

Meeting resumed at 1:10 PM.

Bobby G.: When we talked about this in the past, but why was the harvest set at 1%? I brought up the suggestion of 2%, and it was shot down pretty quick, and why was that

Caryn response: That's not off the table. We're here today to discuss options and we're asking for your thoughts and your input on the TAH of 42. We're really welcoming of any recommendations and thoughts that you might have.

Bobby G.: With other herds, 2% harvest rates are common. Why not have a standard? 2% was used for Baffin and other herds. If we keep it as a standard at 2%, would it make a large difference on the herd?

Caryn response: When we think about proposed rates of harvest, we try and be consistent, but there are other factors that we also try and take into account. Some of the bigger difference, if we were to compare Baffin with DU, one of the factors that we noted is that the DU tends to be more vulnerable to harvest, based on the nature of the migration, they aggregate close to communities, whereas Baffin tend to spread out and be less accessible. That being said, it's important to take into consideration community needs. At the end of the day, we would be remiss if we applied a blanket percent because there are herd specific challenges and differences that we need to consider.

Jimmy: I'd like to comment in regard to the caribou, my comment would be more in regards to the elders and the proposed 42 tags on DU is not very consistent seeing that we never had a collar tag system before. In the 1960s, we didn't have any caribou around this area at all. This is not the first time that the caribou has come and gone or has moved away. I want to pass on some traditional knowledge, wildlife in general from what I've been advised, you can't always predict what's going to happen to them They come and go, but you need to manage our animals and our wildlife. And in regard to our elders, how are we going to survive is something I've always thought about since the 42 has been mentioned. How am I going to go out hunting without a tag? With elders, we can't go out to the areas where the caribou are, it's far from the community. And elders need to be part of the decision-making process, and as an elder I do not agree with the 42 tags. These are the food that we put on the table for our families, and the government says that we need to stop because the caribou are declining. But the government doesn't think about how it impacts our people. And what we need to do is come to a decision on what we need to do. My father, and my grandfather have always told me that we need to manage our wildlife and take only what you need. 42 tags is really minimal to feed our families. I totally disagree with the government deciding that we will only have 42 tags. The government always putting into place management plans without proper consultations in the communities. As well we harvest the Muskox, and the caribou. But it seems that the elders are always forgotten when restrictions are put on wildlife. We need more tags so that we can bring it around so that people can have enough to eat. Also, we had no consultations from the government as to why they want a tag system. We have to manage our wildlife because it provides for our families. The wildlife are depleting, but caribou move away when the habitat is no longer good for them. This is happening near Cam Bay; the caribou are moving away. We go hunting for days, and sometimes we find caribou, sometimes we don't. What am I going to do? Break the

law and go hunting without a tag. I need to feed my family. So, what we need to do is work together to decide on a number if we are going to use a tag system.

Richard: Caribou survey history done in 2018. We had firsthand look at why that number is so low. We went out with Lisa and the survey grid we were supposed to do was never completed. And we saw a lot of caribou, but she told us not to count them. She told us not to count them because if you can't recognize if they are male, female or calves, don't count them. This figure here, just with the grid we were supposed to do, this is about 40% of what we saw. In the air, we could see caribou on both sides, but she said, just count the side close to the airplane. Myself, I thought, that we would reach the hill to count them. When we got to where we were going, we were skipping lines. The actual grids that we did, I outlined them and gave them to Beverly, and they were very low. And going off of what Bobby G. said, 42 is very low. And 65 more caribou would be good. With climate change and the ice being formed much, much later. Would you the government rather see the caribou drown on the ocean than we the Inuit harvesting them for our food? It would be better be that the people eat them than have them going to waste in the ocean. Because it will be way more than 65 that will drown. There have been people that see in the ice the antlers, where the caribou have drowned. It would be better to have the number up rather than 42, so that at least the people have caribou meat to eat, rather than drowned in the ocean. People don't waste food. But when we're told not to harvest, then those animals are wasted. They drown. I know that the caribou will rebound, because there is no sport hunting anymore. And the big males are not being disturbed to mate. And I know they will rebound, and in the survey grid shown here, most of it, we did not do. I was out last weekend, and I was at Ferguson Lake, and there were caribou there going eastwards. But the wind was coming from the northwest, and I could smell the caribou. The reason why they are not migrating through Kent Peninsula, is because there is too much blasting from Hope Bay mine. There's too much blasting and the ground shakes. They know it's dangerous, and they don't go there. I thank you for listening.

George: Good afternoon. I have been operating out of Barin Bay as an outfitter for ten years, and I have seen the numbers dwindled year by year. After 2016 I cut off all sport hunts for Muskox, and this year I was supposed to have two hunters, but it was shut down because of Covid. We were there mid-August to late-August, and we counted only 25 caribou. But in the time that I have worked out of there, I've noticed an increase in grizzlies. I have seen in separate years I have seen sows with three cubs of the year. I have seen sows with year old and two-year-old cubs, and that is very disturbing. I started noticing grizzlies on this side of the island in the mid-nineties. Seven miles north of camp, there is a wolf den. This year, we counted six wolves. Their numbers are coming up. I have been on a rescue mission on Hadley bay. I have crossed many many wolf tracks all going up to Hadley Bay. And that's quite concerning. And those two are the biggest predators for Muskox and caribou. And when a bull caribou expends his energy, he can't defend himself. Is there going to be a survey to determine the number of grizzlies on the island? And for the migration pattern on the caribou, the caribou that are being harvested in King William Island, are those DU?

Drikus response: We have to prioritize what we do with our annual budget. We receive 2-3 million dollars for all of Nunavut, not just for the Kitikmeot, and we need to prioritize. We are launching a grizzly bear project near Kugluktuk, on the mainland, but not on the island. Later this month we will have a survey for DU. As for the caribou on King William Island, I don't know.

Beverly: In our modern world, there are limitations to technology. I understand the ransomware issues, but I recommend having a paper trail. In our culture, the elders teach us. And with Bobby G.'s remark, with the declines, they were seen many years ago, why wasn't anything

done? Our land claim agreement is our laws, put into place by our elders. The predators have been discussed many, many years, we feel that it's not the harvesters that are taking down the caribou, it's the predators. My question for the GN is will they look over the food subsidy, now that you are proposing a TAH on the one species that we rely on for our nutrition? Because it's our elders and our youth that are losing that nutrition from our lands. And as HTOs, we would like more resources to be able to better support our board and provide the best information that we can. We as managers struggle to keep on top of wildlife, specifically caribou. But let's not forget that there is other species that we rely on. But my question is will the GN look over the food subsidy?

Drikus: Thank you we anticipated this concern would come up. After the Baffin decline, a system was put into place to help with the decline. It's not our department, which is easy for me to say, but that's for an MLA to bring up those concerns.

James P.: Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of our community. Thank you to everyone for participating in this issue. It's good to see all the familiar faces. What I listened to around the table, is very accurate information. The government continues to listen, but a lot of times what we discuss, what we say as a community representative, the government doesn't seem to understand the real struggles that we have. And caribou issues have been topics for a long time. For as long as we've been at the table. And in the Kitikmeot region, our people really struggle. Our concerns aren't heard, because we don't give enough push. We are too passive. Having said that, we need to get stronger, and push the government and tell them to listen. This is what we are struggling with. Caribou is our mainstay as far as putting food on the table. And it's very concerning that the government can one day say we're putting a TAH on your caribou harvest. You wake up one day, and you see on social media that this is happening today. Caribou that we depend on, on the island, its being put to halt, because the government says the caribou are being depleted. But it's not just the caribou. For years, even our polar bear subpopulations were a concern on the island with the Umingmaktok channel at the time, the government pushed for a moratorium on our polar bear population in one day. Our oral history tells us that. Without consultation this was done. It was a real struggle at the time. They put a moratorium when our hunters knew that the numbers weren't decreasing. But the shocking fact, was that the TAH was put into place without consultation. We have to abide by the land claims agreement, and the government is not doing that. We need to work together. I think right now is a good start, as Bobby G. said, we need to work together and have common ground. But I really thank our elder Jimmy for speaking about his traditional knowledge. And it's nice to see young faces at the table. And I just want to say, we need to stop being passive and fight for what we have, because that's the only way the government will listen to us. And thank you all for coming to speak about this sensitive topic. As far as I'm concerned, my grandsons and granddaughter, have asked me the same question that our elder raised. Why am I not going to go caribou hunting? And that's something that we have no control over, unless we fight it. We have leaders around the table who are willing to stand and fight this. And I hope that we can agree with the government for the sake of our people. 42 tags isn't enough for one community, let alone the 4 communities that are around the table. We can agree with the government that the numbers are decreasing, but we need to agree to a good number where we can put food on the table for our families. And one more thing, if we are going to use a tag system, then we need to have the government step up. We need the government to step in and provide subsidies. Where the hunters can have subsidies for their gas and ammunition or something that the government can put on the table, for the sake of our elders and our youth.

Kugluktuk HTO:

Larry: Reiterate, since 2007 Kugluktuk has stopped all sport hunts. Only Muskox is being sport hunted. We have tried in the last two years, to try for more grizzly tags, but it's been shut down by NWMB and the GN. Grizzly bear incentive: \$100 for a sample. Could you go above and beyond that like you do for polar bear. Are we getting a new incentive for grizzly bears and for wolves? Are we going to run another incentive program like we do for BNE and Bathurst? We need to put our foot down as the KHTO. I have 4 herds that I need to deal with inter-jurisdictionally. What is the next step with MX 11? Are they going forward with the MX 11 survey that was supposed to be done last year?

Caryn response: First question about sample programs for grizzly. There's a big difference between the grizzly and polar bear samples. We're just starting to increase the amount of information that we can collect for grizzly, whereas for polar bears there is mandatory reporting process. And those samples aren't only used for health, but the DNA is also used to identify abundance estimates. So that when our polar bear bios do surveys, they also use the harvester info for population estimates. Currently there is no harvest limitation on grizzlies, we are just looking at trends. For muskox, MX 11, it's really unfortunate that it's taken us a couple of years to get that going. The biggest hurdle we had on this was getting the permits from the federal government, without getting that permit we would've missed about 20% of the management unit and we wouldn't have been able to get a good estimate for that population. The good news is that now the legacy contaminated site has now been cleaned up. That should mean that the ability to get permits, should no longer be an issue, and the survey will be proposed for this year. We see this as a priority, because in having as much information in alternate species, is important so we don't have a negative impact on those species.

Drikus: Incentives question: Subsidies program is a government issue and budgetary issues and it's interdepartmental when those decisions are made. When it comes to the subsidies program, we needed to take budget from research to pay for the wolf funds. The samples are used for research, so some of the sample programs can be enhanced, but others can't.

Amanda: We're sitting here today to discuss a TAH of 42 based on the 2018 report and survey. It's very disconcerting. Before that survey there was a plan to collar 50 females and that the collars would last for three years. Why do we only have 4 now? What happened to the males that were collared.

Caryn: I don't have all the numbers for the collars right now. In 2018, 6 were harvested. The others that were taken were natural causes. Since, there was natural mortality. The male collars, I don't know the current status. But when I requested information in 2019, they had survived the winter. We have access to the collar data, and we can provide a table with all the fates of the collars.

OJ: When you make the grids, you could colour the grids, so you could see the migration of the routes.

Caryn: One of the preparations that Mitch has done for the survey, is the position of the collared caribou. We can present some of this after the break if you're interested.

Larry: In the past, Lisa gave us collar locations for each month from April to June. That's what I got (holds up single map) and last week we got this (holds up multiple maps with routes per month). And this was considered proper reporting. And this is what I want to see. I want proper reporting from this survey.

Caryn: When the maps were sent out they were sent out as they came in, so the ones that Mitch sent out were previous maps all at once. Currently we only have 4 collars on the ground, so we won't be able to provide maps with locations immediately (fewer animals are currently tagged). We have had internal discussions regarding whether we should share heat maps or real time locations. This is a discussion we need to have internally as to what we are willing to share.

Amanda: Question about samples and sample kits. Because of COVID we haven't been able to pick up sample kits. What I'd like to see is mandatory sample kits for DU. You know, I don't know why we're here discussing a TAH from a report we don't believe in. We're looking at 1% harvest from a population number that we don't believe. Things have been missed. What else has been missed. We're concerned about a disconnect between HTO and the government. There's distrust there. Sometimes it's really really hard. Regardless, we try our best to pass the information back and forth. But I worry about what the future working relationship will be. And we're using a report that we really don't like. And I wonder what the number really is. And what 1% of that is.

Bobby A.: Climate change, crossing from Richardson islands to the river. I saw a herd of caribou. Lots and lots of lots, and when I got closer, most of them were bulls, very few females. The government has many resources. I don't want to get to herding reindeer. But it gets to the currents, the currents are changing too. They're changing direction. That's going to do something to the ice where the caribou cross. That's something for the government to look into to. We are the people that get out on the field. We know where all the dangerous ice is. We stay away from it, but the caribou don't know. Having all the technology, we need to know more. Climate change is only getting worse.

KRWB:

Bobby K.: Where to start. Covid. DU caribou decline within three years from 18 K to 4 K. What happened to the 14 K? Speaking to the TAH of 42 between 5 communities. In reality we have 3, bay chino and Bathurst, we're all living in Kugluktuk or cam bay. 42 tags in 3 communities. You have 14 per community. There's about 6 people in one household. How long will that last? A couple days? Earlier mention that only 40% of survey was done in 2018. And you were supposed to do MX 11. Hasn't been done. Funny that you were concerned about doing the survey missing 20% because of Queen Maud Gulf, yet a member of our community says you only did 40% during the 2018 survey. Maybe something to bring up for the next survey, at the last grid line, do you see any additional caribou beyond the survey area? Have a general idea of what caribou is left rather than don't count those.

Peggy: We all know that caribou are being knocked by the wolves, it's part of the natural thing that wolves do? Is it not possible for the surveys to add wolf counters? Where the caribou are, the wolves are. For the survey, keep a close count on the TAH, to have mandatory reporting.

Kevin: my understanding is that all species are counted during surveys, not just the specific species. We will be making sure that the programs are in place to monitor DU caribou.

Ema: We don't have the same herds in the east as is in the west. I can't imagine being given a TAH for the Ahiak herd that we hunt. It's scary to be told that you can't hunt. I've listened about the survey and not being consulted. I can't remember the last time the survey was run, and Lisa piggybacked on KRWB to deliver the survey results. I wasn't here for some of her reports to the HTOs. I've heard some things on how the survey results were given to the communities. The

GN in the past month has agreed to do a 5X larger survey, and the HTOs are happy with that. But imposing a TAH on how past information given to the HTOs, I don't think that's fair to the harvesters because of how the information was delivered. Many of us spent several days away from home to deliver our AGM, because Lisa asked KRWB to deliver the results. I would hardly consider that a consultation. It was only information sharing. So, I'm hoping that future biologists will work with the HTOs.

Bobby K.: I remember we had one conference call, there was really short notice, TAH of 42 put out of nowhere. I don't think our HTOs were notified by the survey results. It sure would've been nice to know that this was coming rather than just one conference call out of the blue. Sometimes harvesters are out on the land and may be doing something illegally without knowing. We Inuit should always be informed of every little thing happening on our lands. This coming out of nowhere was like a slap in the face. Like we don't matter. I'm hoping that in the long run the government will change their ways in communicating before putting on a TAH. Is there any way that we can remove the TAH until the next survey?

Drikus: there is no way to remove it, it needs to run through the NWMB system. This 42 is an interim for this harvest season but could change this harvest season. Denis can inform on the process later. This 42 will change based on a public hearing process, and the survey that Mitch is planning.

Ema: KRWB met around the second week of September to inform me that they will not be distributing the 42 TAH, but we acknowledged in the September 15 letter to Drikus, but later on they met, and acknowledged that there is a decline and we need to deal with it and stressed that we will distribute them after today's meeting, and the board passed a motion working this out. They also mentioned that they didn't just want to distribute the 42 to the different communities with an uncertain survey number. I still don't know when we will be distributing the 42 TAH, but we will. Just uncertain when.

2:51 PM Break

3:12 PM Meeting resumed

Susan: Susan Kutz presentation.

Question from George: Cow being skinned had testicles, what could cause that

Susan response: Hermaphrodites occur periodically in all mammal species, and that sounds like that was the case here.

Presentation resumed- Pass off to Andrea Hanke

Question by Bobby Greenly: With the predation part of it, if you look at the number of predators, matches the decline that was presented in the 2018 report.

Question by Peter Evalik: Does the TK knowledge support western science that has been presented today?

Response by Andrea: In general, TK and western science do support one another, and declines are occurring. Same trends are being observed. The surveys give numbers and TK gives us the information from the past. What's really interesting that's brought by TK, is that the peaks and

the declines started at different times. Starting in Kugluktuk in 2003, but if we look at the curve from Cam Bay, then the peak was in the 2000s and dropped in the mid-2000s. Don't think the populations surveys would've showed that spatial variation.

Presentation resumed- Pass off to Fabian Mavrot

Presentation resumed- Pass off to Javier

Larry question: I find it interesting that the population is 'healthy' yet our population is decreasing

Response Xavier: We should be careful in interpreting these results are. We are talking about body condition and cortisol, which may not relate to population health.

Amanda question: I wanted to ask about sample kits and the number of samples coming in. What would be the implications of a lower sample size on your work?

Javier response: Lower sample size is problematic from a scientific perspective. The smaller sample the lower reliability there is in the results. However, samples can occur from other work, including collaring and other programs.

Amanda question: Clarify, know whether the number of sample kits will have an implication on the study? Kugluktuk had 0 spring of 2020, and now there will be a maximum of 42 samples with the TAH.

Susan response: We won't have any data from spring 2020 to compare the previous years. Sample size per community will be smaller. Fabian also mentioned annual interviews, so even if people weren't harvesting caribou, harvesters and community members can still provide observations and important information from being on the land.

Larry question: FYI Kugluktuk does reporting volunteering of any other species to the wildlife officers.

Putting up maps of collared data by Mitch

Question from Jimmy: Wondering about other migratory caribou that migrate from King William Islands?

Mitch response: Survey strata has not been included for the King William islands. Unknown for right now.

Response from Jimmy: I'd really like to see the area to be included. I know this because I have seen this movement. And so have others near Gjoa Haven.

Mitch response: With that information, another thing that we can do, is potentially discuss collaring animals that could be representative of that movement and possibly genetic scat samples on King William Island to get an idea of how many animals and what species would be occurring there.

Kevin adds: Officer in Gjoa Haven was told by chair of HTO that he harvested animals that seemed to be DU animals.

Bobby Klengenber question: Did a trip down to Ellis river, spotted DU caribou with Ahiak caribou on Ellis river

Mitch adds: Heard from Baker Lake hunters that they believe that they are at times capturing DU caribou in that area. We have asked for genetic samples for these animals. Caribou do move quite far distances.

4:58 PM break for dinner

Resume meeting 6:30 PM

Attima KIA: I am here on my own, not on behalf of KIA. Everybody here knows that hearing the information from GN about caribou. With that, their population is down, but I don't think it's that, they just moved from where the food is available to them. We are being penalized for the number of tags given.

Peter KIA: Thanks to Caryn for the presentation and overview on the present situation. In 2007 the number started to go down in the past there's been discussion about use of threats calculator (used in 2014). During that period where the numbers were going down, 2007 and 2015, went down to 18 K. Quite a drastic decline. Were threat calculators and other management tools used to identify priorities with the decline?

Caryn response: if you're referring to a threats calculator being used during the listing process, no we did not use this process. However, we did include more collars on the ground, and increased the monitoring on the herd and the DU caribou became a higher priority.

Peter KIA: This tool used by many jurisdictions for wildlife management planning. Leading up to 2018 when it was identified that the pop survey was going to take place, was there any indication of any indication of caribou collars, how many were on the ground in 2015 and 2018.

Caryn response: Over 30 collars were used to inform the 2018 survey.

Peter: the threats calculator is used by other organizations to better understand threats of a species. Proposed program to collar will give more confidence in the data. We need to have higher confidence level in the data.

Bobby G.: The way the collaring system started was in 2014, we weren't keen on the collaring system, we went with 25 collars. After seeing how the animals would react after the first year or so, we added an additional 25 collars. Which gave a total of 50 collars.

Peter KIA: Needs to be clear that all research activities requires collaring, so it's crucial that animals get collared.

NTI:

James E.: Pleasure to know the history of the herd. Dates back to 1950s, and George talked about it. It's a history as well. Regulations are good, but when you don't assess whether it's working the way it's supposed to be working. For example, Muskox, the Canadian government banned the hunt of Muskox, and they thought they were doing a good job. But Inuit were eating the Muskox anyways. They knew that the animal would run in circle. The nature created them,

so let the nature care for them. You need to harvest part of the animals so that the animals are healthy. If the population grows too large the sickness kicks in, therefore reduces the population of the animal. The survey history in 1984 to 1997 they increased 20 K animals and from there it drops. We always say we want less invasive method research, and here we are talking about collaring again. What happened to the consultations before you set the 42? But in the NA you need to consult before a TAH is imposed. I think that's against the Canadian constitution agreement. I think the figure 42 is too small. I don't think you can put a dent in the population with an extra 60 animals. The nature created them for Inuit to feed on them, and that 42 is not enough and I think based on faulty research in 2018. Like the elders said, they saw a number of animals and they were told not to count them. In your mind you have to ask that question: how does that system work. I think there is a better system that estimating the number where we harvest less even though the numbers are needed. I think you have to change your thinking are you going to be popular or unpopular. You're here to work with the people.

Paul: What they said really shows the knowledge that is being passed on and that they have been working with the caribou for a long time, and it shows that they have respect for the animal. We were clearly told that you do not waste. That's one of the unwritten laws of the Inuit. Inuit aren't just going to waste animals they depend on them and we all know that. As for the interim TAH that was put into place it clearly states that you need to tell Inuit that will be impacted before you put it in place with meaningful consultation with the communities. And it was encouraging that you want to hear from people and to make changes. We have already heard from Bobby G. that 2% would be better than 1% and it makes sense they rely on the caribou. So what I'm asking is would you be able to agree to 2% rather than 1% until the next survey is done? When the survey indicates the next number we can revisit it again, but my question is then, if you were to come up with a higher number, would that just be for Nunavut or would you have to share it with NWT? And also, I don't know whether many of the people here understand the system, but I'll ask anyways, how long will this interim TAH be in place, is it until the next survey? As we know, Arctic knowledge is improving. You say it's expensive, and it's true! It is, but with the technology that we have today, like drones, they can do surveys and what not, would that be cheaper, and that's an option that we can really look into. We would like to support the people of Cambridge bay and Bay Chimo on their request to have the TAH increased to 2%. Thank you.

Kevin: My understanding of the jurisdiction of our minister is that any TAH would only be applied to the herd in NU, not in NWT. In terms of the timeline and then when a new TAH would be in place, that would be up to when NWMB to have a meeting, so I would ask NWMB to comment on that.

Denis: I will add comments when NWMB provides comments.

Question from Richard: I was born in Wellington bay, our ancestors didn't go looking for the caribou, they would wait for the caribou. They had drives where they would drive the caribou. When the Europeans came there was a lot of running around and even now. Lots of movements, airplanes, snowmobiles, and mines. The mines make noise, and the caribou run away from the noise. But a long time ago when our ancestors used to wait for the caribou. They didn't make noise. It would scare the caribou. They would use sign language say, get ready they're coming. But now? What are we doing? We're running after the caribou rather than waiting for them. They spook them. I just want to thank NTI for the comments that they make that are very true. Thank you very much.

James P.: All of us here are here to listen and make comments on what we think, It never a pleasure to impose any restrictions or how much you can get to a hunter that can service for 10 thousand year on it. But we are very conservative as well. But we will be here for quite a while, the future generations. Thank you.

George: When you were mentioned on the phone UHTC, they might be on the phone. What is their plan if there are any there for the management for the DU herd? That would be an important piece to know. Not only for them but for us as well. Especially if we have to live with the TAH for months of for years.

Kevin: It is an important question which is why they were included in the meeting today, along with other partners from across the border, but I do not believe that they are currently on the phone.

George: And if they aren't on the phone it would be nice to know how their information is spread.

Bobby Greenly: I can answer a little bit for you there, we have a working group with our HTOs here and Uluhoktok and Paulatok. It's new, and it's something we should have done long ago given what is going on with our shared herd. They mentioned possibly doing an aerial survey and ground-based surveys. We have been working closely with the other HTOs and we have been communicating very very well. But I can't answer anymore, but hopefully that helps a little bit.

Drikus: I can also provide some additional discussion on inter-jurisdictional interactions. Our minister shared the results with GNWT and wrote a letter that identified our concerns. The NWT minister wrote back saying that they were willing to work with us. Ultimately there needs to be discussion as it is a shared herd. Technically the 42 should be a shared TAH, however the time that we feel the herd is the most vulnerable is when they aggregate in the spring and in the fall. Most of the harvest from what I've seen has been in Nunavut. But there will need to be more discussion. There will hopefully be a ministerial meeting that will be bringing together the ministers together soon.

Mitch: there have been initial discussions with the GNWT and affected HTC's and although the plans are still tentative the GNWT is looking to charter their own aircraft, and the remaining three would be the GN and the community members here. And the priority strata that have been discussed would be surveyed. To compliment the surveys, the GNWT hope to run land surveys in areas that wouldn't be possible to be surveyed. Hopefully we will be successful, and the information can be brought together to get a better idea on the herd.

Bobby Greenly: The GN has no jurisdiction in the NWT, but then you mention that the 42 should be shared. So, are you trying to combine the NU and the NWT? I just want to get that clear.

Drikus: The interim decision is just for NU, but when the NWMB makes a decision on the TAH the NWMB needs to consider the harvest in other jurisdictions as well. So, there should be meetings with different jurisdictions. With BNE there was a discussion, and that needs to happen with this herd too. We didn't expect it to be this steep and we didn't feel that we needed a TAH. And the new population was a shock. Which is why we redid the analysis. But at the end of the day, it will be up to the board. When NWT put a moratorium on Bathurst, NU had a harvest for many years after that.

Larry: I wanted to make a comment on the inter-jurisdictional wildlife board. We have an open-door concept to deal with all our shared herds. We give them our information and they give us theirs. We work together on a specific herd. And in the past, they tried to impose, and we fought back. We are involved on three working groups, for three different herds, and eventually we'll likely see one for Beverly and Ahiaik.

James P.: Wanted to follow up regarding what was asked with the GNWT delegates and the participation. For your information when I was still with KRWB we did have a working group with NWT. As well NTI was present. We had a meeting in Edmonton discussing many of the same topics. And the GN and GNWT were present. And we came to a consensus where we wanted to work together and this was the exact same discussions, where we talked about TK and how the communities need to be more involved and representatives from both governments all agreed that it was a good idea to have a good working relationship and have a co-management working group and that's where we left it. UHTC there mentioned that they had never been involved in that level of discussions and I'm sure that the department of environment should have records of that. And the GN biologists were involved. And so, any information from that meeting should have been brought up to the attention of the Inuit government. And both sides agreed that they would be working with the working group. But it has come to this! Now we're talking about an interim TAH. We want a request for a public hearing about this. We can make that request through KRWB.

NWMB:

Denis: 8 months ago, we were all seated around this table, and Jorgen one of our board members that has since passed said: do you know your mandate. I would first start with that, let's start with the clarification of NWMB's mandate. The role of the board is to facilitate or to integrate Inuit input into the government decision making process. And most decisions are suggested by government, but the final decision is also implemented by the government and our role is to make sure that Inuit input is included. On July 18, 2020, we received a letter from the GN to implement an interim TAH of 42. In September, when the board considered the GN proposal, the board reviewed this request and came to two conclusions: 1. Inuit had not been considered, and 2. The board even that it's a tribunal doesn't have any powers with 5.3.24. If the government decides that there is an emergency, then the NA gives you the power to make an interim decision. However, when you do, we will review this decision as soon as practical. So, the minister later confirmed that they would then implement the TAH of 42. So, the position of board is to now gather information. This consultation is a key piece of that process. To answer Paul's question, this item will be on the board agenda in December 2020, whether or not they think that they will have enough information for this, it's up to them to make that decision. But I heard some comments from the government that I would like to clarify, which will help us as we try to analyze and come up with options for the board. The GN said that the interim TAH will be in place until consultations and until more information is present. So, my first question to the GN is, what plans do you have in terms of management decision for DU?

Drikus: Our next steps are, this is a consultation of the 2018 survey, you will receive the 2018 consultation record which will include all of the information that we have received from this meeting. We hope to run a 2020 survey. You can choose to make a decision now, or you can wait until the new results. The process now is to be based on the 2018 result. From a government perspective you have enough information to proceed. We can't tell you what to do. The only concerns after that, is how long it takes to get the report. It could take 6 months or a year. And if the weather is bad, we may not even be able to conduct our survey.

Denis: My next question is about the decision to set a TAH of 42. As I said the GN has full authority to do what they have done. But I have a question of the motivation of urgent and unusual. And this is because I have heard two lines of argument here. So, the urgent and unusual threats, were these related to urgent threat to the species and the unusual threat to Inuit. Was it the threat to caribou that was urgent? Or was it the delay that was caused by COVID?

Caryn: I don't think it's fair to say that the decision was based on one of the other, I think it was based on both. There was an urgent need for conservation of the species, and the unusual circumstance was the global pandemic. If we had waited and not acted, we don't know how bad the situation would've gotten. This wasn't an easy decision, but many factors were taken into consideration when the situation was faced.

Denis: The last question I have is if you can go to slide 13 (slide with the timeline). On December 2019, stated that NWMB staff released population estimates to the public. My question is, when was the intended date for this information to be released to the public? The NWMB provides funding to the government to conduct research on wildlife in NU, and according to the process of administrating that grant, the government researchers have to provide a result to the NWMB one year after the project. We supported the 2018 DU survey and the final results were due September 19, 2019. So, we got a report from Lisa-Marie. After that, in December, we need to inform our board members on the status of our caribou herds. So, we took the information from the report from the GN on the status of the DU. And at that meeting, the board invited the KHTO. And apparently at that meeting, it was the first time that the KHTO heard the results of the 2018 DU survey results. When was the GN intending to release that information?

Drikus: I personally have no issues releasing preliminary information to the community. And we can say that the information is preliminary, and that we are still working on it, but there will be a confirmation and a report to follow up. However, in 2015 preliminary results were released and they were used as part of the COSEWIC process, and the federal agents suggested the listing of DU under SARA. So when we had preliminary results when it went from 18K to 4K, we realized that if we release this information, DU could get listed as Endangered federally. We were criticized by NTI in 2015, and we didn't want to be further criticized. When NWMB released the number, there was no criticism from NTI. Which was interesting. Our intent was to release the number when the final report was submitted.

Peter Evalik: The question I have is if a change can't be made today on the interim TAH, how long will it take for a change to be made? When I asked the GN whether a change can be made, and the GN said no it's up to NWMB, but Denis just said that the decision was made by the GN. So I'm asking for clarification here.

Caryn: What we are saying today is that the interim TAH was made by the GN, given that the normal process couldn't be run. But we're picking up where we left off. We're now going through consultation and providing information to NWMB, and then NWMB will make a formal decision on the TAH. And it is their role to formally decide on a TAH and submit it to our minister.

Drikus: Caryn is 100% correct. And maybe there is a confusion. The minister made this decision, but he can't reverse it like that. When he makes a decision, he takes it to cabinet and it needs to go into legislation as an order for it to go forward. So, our minister presented to cabinet, and cabinet decided on the interim decision. And that can only be changed when the board makes a decision. And this can happen quickly. However, it can also take more time. We

have heard that people are interested in a public hearing, that could take longer. However, it still needs to be taken through the board. The board can decide to have a meeting tomorrow.

Peter: If the results of the survey show favourable, can the TAH be removed almost instantly? We could have a daily report coming from Mitch on how many caribou are being counted daily, would we still need to have a TAH in place?

Caryn: Of course if we get high numbers compared to the 2018 survey, we would put together the recommendation for a different management strategy. But what if that survey comes back and it's not good news. Well then, we'll need to deal with that. Regardless of what that number is, we'll need to address it and make recommendations. We will need to make sure to involve all the co-management into the recommendations.

Peter: Drikus mentioned that the results, they want them to get out there. So, I don't know how you deal with counting caribou. But it would be valuable to know whether Mitch sees 8K caribou a day or 100 caribou a day.

Denis: So first to bring you back to the role of NWMB, the board will begin it's review of the interim decision in December. By that time, they will have provided the board with minutes from this meeting. So, the board will have the 2018 survey report and these minutes, that will detail everything that was said in this room. They may say that we have heard enough to make a decision, or they may decide that we need to hear more from the Inuit and that we need another meeting, ultimately it'll be all up to them. They can make up their mind with what they want to do.

Peter: So, with RWOs and our chairman KRWB, will they have that opportunity to be present to speak what we would like for the board to see? Based on what was said here today. You know, the survey that we don't trust, no proper consultation. I guess, will KRWB and the chairman of the other HTOs affected, could they participate.

Denis: Yes, they are always welcome. But all the co-management partners are important members and can be part of the discussion. What can also help, for the written record, an RWO and an HTO can write in their position on the issue and can be added to the record.

Paul: When GN was created, Inuit had a lot of expectations that they would be represented by this government. So, when you are making recommendations to the board you need to reflect both sides, Inuit knowledge and science in your submission. And that's what Inuit are expecting from their government to be represented. You mentioned that you will be making internal recommendations to the minister, and you heard from these consultations the thoughts from these RWOs, HTOs, and their thoughts are that 2% are more accurate to the needs of the community. So, my question is when you make your recommendations to the minister, will you include this information?

Drikus: Yes, we will. We get the results from the survey, we consult, and then we will do our best to accommodate, then we submit to the board. There is an IQ report as well that will be included in this submission as well.

Paul: Will you recommend 2%?

Drikus: I can't say yes, in case the minister says no.

Paul: Going back to my question and the representation of the minister. Will you relay that information to the minister?

Drikus: Yes.

Mitch: Just a quick addition to the survey talk, there is a process for getting formal results. And there's a method we use, and that's called line counts. And we've done it to other surveys. We look at how the results will compare to the previous year. So, we will do that and we will be able to make decisions pretty fast.

Peter: So, with the lines, will they be the same as the last survey? or will it be the 5X larger areas

Mitch: Yup, we're shooting for an area that is 5X greater than the 2018 survey. Even though we are surveying more area and we expect more information, we expect we will see most of the animals in the coastal areas. We can also compare the same areas that were surveyed in 2018 to the upcoming survey, and we can take that information to know whether it will be higher or lower than the previous year. So we can relay to all stakeholders whether we think that the population estimate will be higher or lower than the 2018 survey.

Kevin: Can you speak to the urgent need for observers

Mitch: We are hoping to have 4 planes. One will be staffed by GNWT, but the other three will be staffed by GN staff and community members. In three planes, we'll need a minimum of 12 observers, and maybe a few backups in case someone is no longer able to attend. If we can get the most experienced hunters and observers that would be ideal. We will be in a day early to go over the methodology with the observers, and we want a lot of community involvement.

Kevin: In terms of logistics I can be a primary point of contact for this. Myself and Amelie can be a point of contact for this.

Mitch: At the start we hope to have two planes in Kugluktuk and two in cam bay and surveying the high priority strata, and then we will go to the option 1 areas, and then we will keep going if we are lucky with weather.

Bobby Greenly: what is the max number of days?

Mitch: 4.5 days for option 2, 7 days for option 1. But if there are any weather days or any turnarounds we will need to adjust for that. Another concern is how many caribou we could possibly be missing because of poor sight ability. If we get poor visibility and poor weather, we'll need to go to the next step. However, we're going to hope for good weather, but we'll be pulling out all the stops. We have a couple methods to know whether all the caribou are being counted, and we'll be doing that.

Rosemin: Have the strata in option 1 been prioritized?

Mitch: Yeah, they have. As soon as it's done I will send it to everyone, and if anyone wants a higher priority area, that's easy, just let me know and I can change it around.

Peter: Being a treasurer for the HTO, I'm always thinking money. I'm assuming that the GN will compensate.

Mitch: Yeah, absolutely. They will be.

Peter: Bev don't forget to sharpen your pencil.

Attima: After the survey is done, who will be writing up the IQ report, is it the same as the scientists?

Caryn: The traditional knowledge study was just completed by Andrea Hanke from U of C and those results were shared with the communities and co-management partners.

Rosemin: I would like to provide an update for today. Just so all the communities are aware, we are working with the GNWT to do ground-based surveys. So, we will be also collecting information in that way. So, we just spent the afternoon with the HTC to discuss the information there, and will share information as soon as available.

Mitch: reminder to please share letters of support, this survey requires full community support.

8:26 PM short break then closing remarks

Closing remarks:

KIA:

Peter: We appreciate getting to participate in the discussion. Thank you.

Rosemin: I have no comments because I missed most of the meeting, but I look forward to reading the minutes. I didn't have much to say. Thanks.

U of C:

Andrea: Thank you for letting us participate and to Kevin for moderating.

NTI:

Burt: I don't have anything to add.

James E.: Thank you Kevin. I'd like to say that all of us represent the same population and we need to make a sound decision by working together, and I'm hopeful that the upcoming survey will be done properly. There's lots of times that research being done isn't done the way it should be. And the outcome is negatively imposed on harvesters. And we don't want to see that. Let us see more accurate rather than estimate of population counting. We're going to be here and we are the consumers of our wildlife and we will be for quite some time in the future. And I would like to thank all of you for taking part, the more the better. I just came back from a round table discussion of the biggest project yet in Nunavut that is being proposed by Baffinland. It's a big project that will be affecting almost the whole north, and I think we need to be listened to, the people. You need people. Especially harvesters when something like this is being imposed on them, we need to do our part, but most of us have been saying that what you are suggesting is unacceptable and that it's based on faulty information. All of us are working for the same

people, and we need to make sure that we're representing those people. Is it really a conservative estimate, we need to know. And we need to work together. Have a good trip back home. Hopefully the NWMB will make a sound decision on behalf of the people they represent. Thank you.

Paul: Thank you elders for your wisdom. You've lived with caribou for a long time. And you've experience living without it. I have full confidence that the survey will be done with Mitch, he's a good man. He can get the job done properly. I expect that we will hopefully see different numbers, good numbers with the proper survey being done. This is a public government we need to be consulted. Hopefully, that will be done in the future too. Meaningful consultations. There may be times in the future where this happens again, but consultations are important. They build trust. We expect our government to do proper consultations. It's a tough job for NWMB, they need to balance both TK and science, but they can do it they've done it before. Thank you and thank you for having me.

Bobby Greenly: Thank you to everyone who participated today. Thank you to our elders and interpreters. These types of situations are difficult. But we're discussing and hopefully we're moving forward with getting better numbers and a better count. But the trusting is a big thing. And I think it'll work out to everyone's favour. Like the elders say that we all have to work together. I've learned so much in the last 7 years as chair. And that's with everything. Going out on the land, you learn as you go, you learn lots. Every time you go out you learn something new. Meetings are the same. At every meeting, we learn new things. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone in this room that participated today.

George: Thank you everyone. I do have mixed feelings hearing everything that I have heard today. You know when we come across problems in our life, we dig down to reach those problems, we're not doing that here. Hunters who have the least impact on these animals are being targeted, but they aren't the problem. You know that you need to go directly to the problem. In this case, predators. We're being targeted as the impact of the decline, and that's not right. I feel badly about having to work with it this way. I have explained that over the years elders have told us there will be rises and falls. I have seen the caribou and the Muskox come and go. It's a cycle. Mother Nature controls that cycle. And for us to impede that is wrong. We shouldn't be penalizing hunters. They're not the direct cause. Thank you.

Peter: Thank you to all of the people here. They have all the science but the TK knowledge that's just as important as the western science. Thank you for the clarity. I'm just a young guy in comparison to these elders.

Bobby K.: Thank you to everyone for coming. I'm not used to this large group gathering anymore. But getting used to it. I'm not happy with the 42. We would like it to be increased by 60 tags. Growing up all my life. I have seen the caribou migrate all my life. And for my whole life they have been crossing. The DU out of all caribou have the largest ocean to cross, all other caribou cross lakes, but the DU cross the ocean. When the DU cross, they usually have a couple inches of ice. But for caribou if the wind breaks up the ice they can't go anywhere. That could be the major cause for the caribou decline. The migration route changes. Elders tell us that. But putting the tag of 42 without consultation, it hurts. Regardless of whether you hear our voices or our opinions nothing can be changed. I hope that the next survey results are better. For 40 years I've seen the caribou move through there, and I think that this survey will be the most populated survey with caribou. My issue nowadays is predators, and I'm hoping that in the long run we can minimize the predators and get funding through our HTOs to help with the gas costs and other costs. Our own locals can go and take care of predators in these remote areas.

It hurts to know that we need to divide 42 tags. It causes issues and conflict between people and communities. And on that note, I'm hoping that it can be increased another 60 until the next count is done. Thank you very much.

Ema: Thank you for inviting KRWB. Good to be here and to listen to concerns. I hope that from here we can work closer, this is not an easy subject to talk about and I hope that we are more informed next time around. Thank you.

Larry: Thank you for this meeting. As everyone has stated, I am quite certain that the next survey will be done properly. It is hard for Inuit. I'm talking for the largest Inuit community in the Kitikmeot. I have a lot on my mind but thank you everyone for participating and I look forward to going to Iqaluit for the NWMB meeting. Thank you.

OJ: This is my first survey and thank you for having me.

Amanda: We need action on past surveys. We need to look at other factors that are impacting our herds. I'm always happy and proud to speak on behalf of our board. I speak for our community members and I speak for our elders and our youth. I speak for my dad and for my son. I hear from my dad, speak from what you know. Speak from the heart. So thank you.

Bobby K.: Meeting objectives were going in the right direction. Shows that we can communicate and work things out. I think one thing we need to deal with is climate change that we can do nothing about.

Larry: Thank you to Cheryl for her work on Kugluktuk Community Management Plan.

Peter: Thank you for the invitation. And I want to echo what has been said about Mitch. I think he'll do a good job. I have worked with him in the past, and he works hard, and I want to commend him on his hard work.

Sam Kapola Burnside HTO: Thank you for inviting me. And thank you to Cam bay for hosting us. The Inuit are being pointed at as the cause for the decline.

Attima: I have experience working with NWMB, and it's mostly Inuit working with the board even though the chair isn't an Inuk. We always want to hear about the IQ knowledge. For caribou declining there's a lot of issues that touches the decline. Predators are still a concern. When the population is low, we maybe use .2% of the population. In December meeting, I hear that will be a conference meeting. Which is too bad, but we have to stay healthy.

Jordan: thank you to cam bay, and we will be taking all the information that was shared today and other documents.

Kevin: I easily learn more one day than spending an entire day behind my desk. I think it's very important for the co-management to work together.

Drikus: Thank you very much to everyone who took the time to come today. In my view, this is a great example of the co-management process. We may not always agree, but I feel that we will have a way forward. This was a very constructive meeting. We're very committed to working together and I just wanted to make sure that the people are aware of our responsibility. We have a commitment according to the Nunavut agreement.

Caryn: I don't have a lot more to add, but I would again, like to say thank you. Thank you for allowing us to come here and for coming here to chat with us and help us move forward. We just want you to know that we will do everything we can to make this process go smoothly.

Jimmy.: Just for caribou, we only have discussion on caribou, and I don't really like the TAH as an elderly person. But we have to work together and the staff who are listening you need to take into consideration the advice of our elders. Their advice is still important and we need to pay attention to it. Seeing that caribou are declining, myself I have seen the caribou activities in my area. You also need to remember the ancestors' advice; those are the ones that we shouldn't forget. Their advice is on the spot. Thank you all.

Richard: I just want to thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions and what we have done today and faced fear. Because if you don't face fear it will overtake you. And what we are doing here is overcoming the fear of the caribou declining. But we need to work together and have faith. But this number is too low. We need to have faith with the people that have done the survey. I have worked with Mitch before and I know we will get good results. We need to think positive. Thank you.

Naikok Hakongak: We as Inuit know how many caribou are out there but we don't usually count them. We say we see few or a lot. But I look forward to seeing how the scientists will count these caribou. If I go out there and they say, don't count outside the lines. I'll bring a notebook and count outside the lines and I will count all of the predators that I see. Safe travels to all those going home. And thank you for inviting me.

Cheryl: Thank you to everyone for their time and their honesty today. I wanted to add a bit of context to a question that George had with our working relationship with the NWT. We do have an active working group. Our working with the HTCs is facilitated by NTI and by YMAC, and it's a form where we can share our conservation concerns. We do have that working group face to face. And again, thank you it's a pleasure to see you all face to face after a number of months, and good luck with the upcoming surveys.

Mitch: I just want folks to know that I'm very honored to be part of this working group. I've learned early on that the success of any survey relies on Inuit knowledge. If there's any ability that I have to work on these surveys has been by listening to the Inuit throughout my career. Throughout this process I hope that people will be free to continue sharing that knowledge. People around the table may be involved and I hope they can share their knowledge during their survey. We will do the very best we can, and we hope we can get a result that people can feel we can work forward with. Thank you so much.

Jason: thank you very much I'd like to speak in Inuktitut. Thank you for letting me be part of your meeting. I haven't spoken but I have listened. As you have a big concern, and I am listening. Although we have different roles, although I am coming from the GN we have one common goal. We have a concern because wildlife is our prime resource for providing for our families. Although we have differences and different opinions, we don't want to see that come between us. We need to move forward although it's a difficult task. We know that this will not only happen now but again in the future. We have listened to your concerns and what you don't like about the process, but what I'm saying is that we need to work together as well. That's what I want to talk about. Although we have different views different concerns, we have a common goal and we need to work together for a common solution. I'm hoping that we can work together. Thank you very much for welcoming us. I hope that when we meet again, we'll have a better solution for our people. Thank you very much.

James P.: Thank you everyone who was seated here today. I also appreciate all the comments. I'm very happy for all of your presence. Listening to the elders, I appreciated it. I appreciate the presence of the HTOs. We can see that you are trying to help your people. And for our younger generation we have to have that too. And of course, people have concerns. I'm aware of that as to how to put food on the table for their family. However, everyone has to work together. And we need to listen to our elderly people. Thank you everyone. I give you my appreciation for the ability to speak and express my concerns, but my heart feels a bit better even if I don't like the TAH. We need to have better working groups and working relationships and we need to improvise those needs for our younger relationships. Have a good and safe trip home. Thank you to all.

Attima: Update the meeting in December will be in person!

Closing prayer James E.  
Meeting ends at 9:30 PM.