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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Department of Environment
Avatiliqiyikkut
Ministère de l'Environnement

KEELINIOP TUKTUIT MUNAGITJUTIGHAITIGOT KATIMATJUTAOYOT

Katimatjutaohimayot 2020-mi Naonaiyaotaitnik Havagiyaoyonik,2021-mi Kungohiktoinikut Havagiyaohimayonik, tatvalo Kaffiotilangitnik Atataghait Tuktunik Anguniakutighat

Nainaghimayot Onipkangit

Aktopa 26, 2021

Amihuuyot Avatilikiyiitkut
Havaktiit
Havakviatni Avatilikiyiit
Nunavut Kavamatkut
Kugluktuk, NU

Atanioyot Onipkangit Nainaghimayot

Nunavut Kavamatkut (GN), Havakviat Avatilikiyiitkut (DOE) katimapkaihimayot katimakatigivlugit hapkua Omingmaktok Anguniaktiit Nanigiaktoktiitlo Katimayiit (OHTO), Kugluktuk Angoniatit Katimayiit (KAA), tatvalo Ekaluktutialik Anguniaktiit Nanigiaktoktiitlo Katimayiit (EHTO) tatvani Saptaipa 16, 2021-mi, okaotigivlogit hapkua Keeliniop Tuktuit. Allat pikataohimayot katimahimangmata ukkua illaohimayot Nunavumi Angotighalikinikut Munaghiyiovlotik Katimayiit (NWMB-kut), Nunavut Tunngavik Timingat (NTI-kut), Kitikmeot Aviktoghimayomi Angotighalikinikut Katimayiit (KRWB-kut), Kitikmeot Inuit Katuyikatigit (KitIA), tatvalo ukkua Avatilikiyiitkut tatvalo Hilap Alangokpalianinganik Kanatami (ECCC-kut).

Hamna pitjutigivlutjuk katimayaktoghimayot okaotigiyaktokhutjuk una 2020-mi Keeliniop Tuktuit amigaitilangitnik naonaiyaihimangmata onipkangitnik, una 2021-mi kunguhiaktaohighinik tuktunik naonaiyaotait, tatvalo huli Kititlogit Atataghait Tuktutaghat (TAH) 105-nik, hamna ihoaghaktaohimayok tatvani Januali 2021-mi. Hamna katimatjutaohimayok tohaktitivlogit hapkua ikpigiyakaktot Angoniaktiit & Nanigiaktoktiitlo Katimayiit (HTOs) tohaktitaotiagiakakmata tamaitnik notaniklo tohaktaghanik hapkuninga amigaitilangitnik Keeliniop Tuktuitnik tatvalo tohakvigiyomavlogit ihomalotigiyaitnik pitkutaotilugo hamna Kititlogit Atataghait Tuktutaghat TAH.

Katimapkaihimangmata ilaliotihimayat ukkua malgok onipkagiyait ukkua Havakviat Avatilikiyiitkut DOE-kut havaktiit. Una hivulikpaak onipkagiyat tatvani 2020-mi tuktuit amigaitilangitnik naonaiyaoyaitnik, kimilgokutaitnik, ataniktoiyot ihomaliokutaitnik, tatvalo kiglikhaitnik hamna naonaitaoyaoyok iniktigotighaitnik. Una aipataok onipkagiyat ukkua Havakviata Avatilikiyiitkut DOE tatvunga kunguhiaktaohikinikut tuktunik havagiyaohimatitlogit tatvani Appu 2021-mi. Tamaita hapkua ikpigiyakaktot katimayioyot nalakataohimayot tohaktitivaktot ihomalotigiyamingnik nalaktaovlotik apighokataktot kioyaovaghotik. Namagiyaotiaktot okaotigiyait hapkua katimakataohimayot tatva ukkua Nunavut Kavamatkut Havakviat Avatilikiyiitkut GN-DOE havagiyaitnik namagivlutjuk havagivalialikmatjuk kiokatalikmata ihomalotaoyonik tohaktitinagikatalikmatalo ihomalotaoyonik tatvalo ihomagitialikmatjuk hapkua HTO-kut okaotigikataktaitnik havagiyaoniaktonik. Ilaliotilugo, tatvunga 2020-mi tuktuit amigaitilangitnik naonaiyaotait naonaighimalikmata hapkua 2018-mi amigaitilangit tuktuit ikkilivalianginaktot, Mamianaogaloak, hapkua amigaitilangitnik tuktuit nahaotait namagiyaoyot ikayoktoingmata hapkua nunaliit okaotikakmata tatvuna naonaiyainiahaktitlogit paknaiyakpaliangmata havagiyaoyoghanik, tatvalo hamna nuna angigaloaktitlugo tamatikhimayavut takkugivlota pingahunik tingmitjutinik atoghota naonaiyaihimayogot kititinahoaghota amigaitilangitnik tuktuit nahaotaitnik.

Angotighat nikkitoktiit hapkua ammakut aghait kalviitlo naonaiyaktaohimayot amighoniit katimakataoyoniit hapkua amigaiknighaoyogiyaoyot tukkugaikatainaktogiyaoyot hapkuninga Killiniop Tuktuitnik tatvalo ihomagiyaoloaghotik taotoktaovaghotik ikkilivaliatjutaoloaktot tuktuit amigaitilangitnik. Ihomalotaovakmiyot hapkua havagiyaokataktot uyaghaghiokvioyoni tatvalo ummitjat amigaikpalianginaktitlogit, hapkua ihomagiyaoyot anniakutaokataliktot tuktuniit tatvalo ikkaktaktitlogit amihoakjuit tuktuit Keelinikmit tatvunga Ahiakmut. Angikatigiiktiaghimayot hapkua tamaita HTO-kut tatvagok hamna ublumi atogaoyok Hadjakaffuk Kititaohimayot Atataghat Tuktutaghat TAH 105-nik namagiyaoyok ublumi tuktutaghanik.

Hapkua kiotjutaokataktok tatvani katimapkaihimangmata ikkayotiginiakmatkuk ukkua Nunavut Kavamatkut hivunighami munagitjutighaitnik tatvalo naonaiyaihimaakniaktitlogit hapkuninga Killiniop Tuktuit amigaitilangitnik.

Una onipkagiyaoyok oktotaohimayok nainagahoakhogit hapkua okaotaohimayot katimakataohimayoniit tatvani katimakataotitlogit tuktulikinikut mighagot.

Preface

This report represents the Department of Environment's best efforts to accurately capture all the information that was shared during a consultation meeting with Omingmaktok Hunters and Trappers Organization (OHTO), Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (KAA), and Ekaluktutialik Hunters and Trappers Organization (EHTO) on September 16th, 2021.

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

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1.0 Report Purpose and Structure

This report is intended to collate and summarize comments, questions, concerns and suggestions provided by participants at the September 16th, 2021, consultation in Kugluktuk on Killiniop Tuktuit caribou research and management. Representatives from the affected HTOs, DOE, KIA, NWMB, NTI, and the KRWB attended the consultation either in person or by phone. ECCC also attended by phone.

2.1 Purpose of Consultation

The purpose of the consultation was to meet with the affected HTOs, including OHTO, KAA, and EHTO, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the results from the 2020 population abundance survey, 2021 collaring, and the TAH recommendation. An overview of the results from the 2020 Killiniop Tuktuit aerial survey, and 2021 collaring work was provided through a presentation given by DOE representatives.

In addition, the meeting served to provide an opportunity for representatives from affected HTOs and co-management partners to receive an overview, provide their feedback, and ask questions related to the 2020 survey results, 2021 collaring and current management actions.

The consultation was also intended to ensure that the HTOs were well informed on all the most recent information and plans regarding the upcoming Killiniop Tuktuit 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.

2.2 Format of Meetings

The meeting was held on September 16th, 2021 and ran for approximately 6 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 Peter Taptuna, and roundtable introductions. This was followed by a presentation on the 2020 abundance survey by the Kivalliq Regional Biologist, Mitch Campbell. 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 co-management partners followed. A presentation on the 2021 collaring work was given by Kitikmeot Regional Biologist, Amélie Roberto-Charron. KIA, NTI, NWMB and ECCC were also given the opportunity to provide input. Kevin Methuen presented the GN recommendation to maintain the TAH of 105. Questions were then asked regarding the process associated with the TAH, followed by closing remarks.

3.1 Summary of Consultation

The objectives of the consultation were made clear to the HTO members prior to and at the start of the meeting. Meeting was hybrid of in-person and phone-in.

Date: September 16th, 2021

Representatives:

- GN-DOE
  - Kitikmeot Regional Manager - Kevin Methuen
  - Kitikmeot Regional Biologist - Amélie Roberto-Charron
  - Kivalliq Regional Biologist - Mitch Campbell
  - Kitikmeot Wildlife Technician – Terry Milton
  - Conservation Officer III – Allen Niptanatiak
  - Kitikmeot Wildlife Technician Trainee – Lena Davies
  - Kitikmeot Regional Biologist – Lisa-Marie Leclerc

- NWMB
  - Species at Risk Biologist – Kyle Ritchie
  - Wildlife Director - Denis Ndeloh

- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
  - Environment Officer - Peter Taptuna

- Burnside HTO
  - Absent

- Omingmaktok HTO
  - Chairman - Peter Kapolak

- Kugluktuk HTO
  - Manager – Amanda Dumond
  - Chairman - Larry Adjun

- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
  - Coordinator - Ema Qaqqutaq
  - Coordinator - Peggy Adjun
  - Technical Advisor – Pamela Wong

- Cambridge Bay HTO
  - Chairman - Bobby Greenley

- Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
  - Assistant Director of Wildlife and Environment - Bert Dean

- Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service
    - Species At Risk Biologist - Isabelle Duclos
    - Species At Risk Biologist – Carine Cote-Germain

Summary of Comments and Questions:

- HTOs are appreciative of the improved collaboration and partnerships in the 2020 survey and 2021 collaring work and commend the GN for making the survey a priority. HTOs appreciated being asked for their input in the design and planning of both projects. Working together is very important.
- All HTOs expressed that predators are a main threat to the Killiniop Tuktuit herd and are contributing to the population decline, and that the sample payment from the GN needs to be increased.
- Collaring is important and should be maintained going forward to help with monitoring.
- Communities want the sample kit program to continue to ensure the health of the herd is monitored.
- KAA would like more focus on the DU herd near Contwoyto Lake, and more focus on vegetation studies in DU range.
- KRWB feels posters are very effective way to keep communities informed of collaring and TAH, communication is key.
- OHTO reported DU caribou joining Beverly caribou herd near Bathurst Inlet area.
- KIA feels predator management should be core aspect of managing a declining caribou herd. They feel that HTOs should get more support from GN on predator incentives, community management plans. KIA complemented the GN on the 2020 survey effort and its attention to community concerns and involvement. KIA hopes to see this kind of collaborative effeot continue for future GN research programs.
- Most participants felt that a TAH of 105 is still reasonable to keep in place moving forward, given the 2020 abundance estimate and confidence in the result of that survey.

4.0 Summary

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. HTOs felt comfortable with the GN recommendation to maintain the TAH of 105, based on the 2020 survey estimate.

All parties present felt the recent collaboration between the DOE and relevant stakeholders, on the 2020 Killiniop Tuktuit population abundance survey, is a big step in the right direction for re-building relationships and trust in research. All co-management partners were also happy with the process that was followed for the 2021 collaring work, and efforts made by GN staff on that program. During the consultation, the DOE representatives were able to communicate the next steps in the management decision process. The TAH of 105 will remain in place until the NWMB has been able to review the latest submission file, based on the best available information, and decide on the harvest of Killiniop Tuktuit caribou.

Killiniop Tuktuit Meeting Transcript
September 16th, 2021

GN DU Caribou MUNAGITJUTIGHAITIGOT KATIMATJUTAOYOT

Meeting Minutes
September 16th, 2021
Visitor Heritage Center (Ulu Building)

Present:

- **DoE (GN):** Kevin Methuen, Mitch Campbell, Amelie Roberto-Charron, Lisa Marie Leclerc, Allen Niptinatiak, Lena Davies, Terry Milton
- **KAA:** Amanda Dumond, Larry Adjun
- **OHTO:** Peter Kapolak
- **EHTO:** Bobby Greenley
- **KRWB:** Pamela Wong, Peggy Adjun, Ema Qaqqutaq
- **NTI:** Bert Dean
- **ECCC:** Isabelle Duclos, Karine
- **KIA:** Peter Taptuna
- **NWMB:** Kyle Ritchie and Dennis Ndeloh

Absent:

- **BHTO**

9:17am: Meeting Begins, Introduction, Opening Prayer (Peter Taptuna)

Mitch Campbell (MC):

- Presented on 2020 Fall Abundance Survey, which happened in October 2020, covid issues complicated the survey effort but were overcome. . The survey was tricky due to restricted time in which to conduct it, and the large geographic area that all stakeholders wanted to see included..

Bobby Greenley (BG):

- Add bigger range for DU since they travel further south every winter (Suggestion)

MC:

- Amelie has a collaring program to help redraw & plan moving forward.
- The survey was put together in a short time, great group effort from all stakeholders.
- We tried to draft out areas to survey. We went to communities and came up with final strata to survey.
- We used 3 aircraft, in the red area, we saw the most, but in the blue area, not so much, & black area was low density.
- For aircraft, we had 2 Caravans and one Twin Otter, the Caravans had longer endurance.
- Method: Double observer pair, distance sampling method. Double observer pairs offer extra robustness to results. Observers switched seats throughout the day, which helps with the determination of individual observer sightability determinations. Every plane had great observers chosen by the HTO's.

- Some concerns in the past surveys, weren't binning properly, worries of mistakes & reducing overall count. These concerns were not evident in this survey. We used distance sampling as HTOs were concerned that off transect observations were not included in past surveys. Distance sampling is a method that allows for more observations further from the airplane to be included in the final estimate..
- 4 active collars during survey, not ideal but gives a bit of security. All collars sighted within high density areas and predicted by historical fall range use

Lisa-Marie Leclec (LML):

- If looking at MW A strata, collar there on Oct 24, moved towards coast, when did they reach high density strata? MC: that one died before it got to the coast.
- Similar one that just died way inland, did not move much then ended up dying in middle of November?

MC:

- May have had problem before it died, we did see caribou within that strata.
- All high + medium density was done quickly with no weather issues, done in a 2 day period (Medium), high density done in 1 day.
- Downside of multiple planes is cost.
- Very little weather issues, LDWC strata did not finish a small portion due to weather.
- LDEC, top 4 transects not finished, seen nothing adjacent to that area. LDE eastern most transects not surveyed because of low clouds, some caribou seen but very low density.
- In the very high, high and medium density area, all good visibility.
- A very small amount of reduced visibility in medium density area but patchy and not extensive. Effected a very small area. We were not able to survey all the transects , but all important areas were completed and an estimated . 92-93% of low-density areas were completed.
- We had some good aggregation of caribou in yellow which is medium density areas.
- We saw 29 wolves total, which are red triangles on the map 27 were spotted in high density areas. No grizzlies were seen, two wolverines, 30 moose-on mainland, 637 muskox and some caribou on Kent Peninsula.
- In terms of the estimate, without the mainland included, working on different methods, we ended up with a number of models, (all technical talk), they look at how many caribou were missed, in terms of double observer, we picked the model that best suits the situation. The models square off the curve and populate the estimates. This result shows a higher number (more technical talk). Island count of caribou is 1264, mainland 1330. Abundance estimate overall is 3579. With mainland strata, it is closer to 4000.
- Hoping to get under 15% CV, we got 13%. 95% confidence interval. We are 95%confident that the actual number of caribou in the survey area, lie between 2,900 and 4,966(or 5000). We are almost certain that the actual number lies within that area.

Pamela Wong (PW):

- Folks not familiar with modeling, explain how you choose the model to get the estimate?

MC:

- John Boulanger was contracted out to use model, statistically, least variability, all combinations of covariates, model chosen based on his experience and covariates. (There was an extensive technical discussion, not included in these notes, on how covariates collected during the survey

were modelled and the most statistically robust models were used to estimate the abundance of the herd)
- John is used by many jurisdictions including the NWT and has an enormous amount of experience with barren-ground caribou.

Amelie Roberto-Charron (ARC):
- Covariates, fortunate that snow cover was even, which made it helpful, a bit of balance, looking at the different aspects that are being added into the model and looking at the biological rationale to fine tune.

PW:
- Which covariates come as many others be interested to know how that affects numbers?

MC:
- Covariates: Slope, elevation, ruggedness, snow cover, visibility, clouds, airspeed, altitude, green, & habitat. We have to pick the most suitable statistically robust models and covariates for an equally statistically robust estimate of abundance (more technical talk).

Kevin Methuen (KM):
- How many more minutes of your presentation? Snacks as catering has arrived? Break for 15 minutes.

MC: *Continuation of Presentation on page 12*, Conclusion, Questions?

Larry Adjun (LA):
- Conclusions – findings should be consistent with IQ + consistent surveys. They're merging into NWT herds in last two years, and have been sighted by hunters at Contwoyto Lake, and hunters WIMAC(?) also spotted DU Caribou. Who does that area fall under? Because it might be site or herd specific, who looks into those areas? Are we going to look into immigration into other herds?

KM:
- You can add to my comment, Mitch, but we manage on a herd-by-herd basis.

MC:
- Needs to be fleshed out, we aware of it, I'm not involved as much. Amelie, Kevin and Lisa can figure out genetics and get stamps, info on where they are with genetics, collaring program to determine where they are and where they're going. It's complicated, but with original info given in consultation with genetics to help with specific herds its doable.

LML:
- Collaring and movements follows will be ultimate for DU monitoring program, couple years (since 2016) IQ saying caribou DU going to islands, unusual animal, hunters think it's DU, collects samples on genetic analysis, to ID where they are being located. With time we could monitor those.
- Last winter Amelie deployed collars, management on going and on radar.

Dennis Ndeloh (DN):
- Follow up. Management we do is harvest management, issues come up on ecology and lack of resources with management, some DU would from range in NWT and beyond the Nunavut hunters

range. Will that change the way you think of it, saying oh, it is DU we are still responsible for management, because if they go beyond where Nunavut harvesters can go, we have to deal with that within the range, eventually they will come back, what extent do we have to go chasing after that one?

LML:

- Mixed caribou, very early, may see cases, need separate conversation about mixture, immigrated? Conversation and separate meeting need to happen.

PW:

- For Lisa, in regards to fecal monitoring, those reports are somewhere?

LWL:

- 2016 in one of my reports – DU 2016 population survey report (not stand alone)
  Last winter we worked with conservation officers and we worked with hunters. We collected caribou feces, bringing in scientific reports to support IQ.

ARC:

- One animal analyzed, one animal thought to be DU but was BG based on genetics. Turn around time is 6 months for genetics. 2021 DU Collaring genetics not returned yet but will inform when available.

MC:

- Some evidence in Kivalliq, looks like Southampton Island caribou have left island, steep declines, herd stabilized recently, genetics came back partially mainland BG Herd. Another example for Qamanirjuaq includes an Historic account by Anne Gunn in '85-'86-'87 suggesting many Qamanirjuaq caribou wintered North of chesterfield inlet. No collars on caribou at the time to confirm.
- Events happened, may happen, may be possible in this case. May have gone to mainland BG herds, does not mean they are gone forever but could come back. But worthwhile to track with genetics + monitoring over time.

KM:

- Great point, thanks for bringing that up, keep open mind.

Amanda Dumond (AD): (HTO Question)

- More comments, not liking Lisa's comment's of bringing scientific evidence to support IQ info. Getting back to evidence from Contwoyto family seen changes in herd, Island caribou at McKay Lake different as well, all common knowledge, all IQ. Need both to get full picture. Proof in 2020 survey.
- Want to know what future research could include from GN?
- Commitment from GN? Different meetings looking at other research and not to implement a TAH, looking into Health, environment, DU Case – travel routes, migration to ocean, predators, any specific for future research?

ARC:

- Difficult to make specific commitments with the way funding works, need recommendations, DU be tabled with collar data, pregnancy data and composition.

- Mitch mentioned that consistency with Abundance survey should be there? 2022 next collaring program, three years can make other programs off of that. Another long term, renew historic collar data on migration and changes in habitat, temperature and old data all on docket now. Priorities can change on funding and other high priority programs.

MC:

- Lots of discussions internally on DU contingent and based on info, not based in region but interest for continued monitoring and looking deeper on Mainland herd, DU are recognizable and needs to be looked in depth for reasons I mentioned earlier, don't want to get surprised going into a survey, observations are there, continue monitoring and looking at genetics to track. Low cost, easy thing to do and get started, can define an area and go onto the next stage.
- Recommendation: more info important, from experience, if they (DU Caribou) are moving outside of previously understood seasonal range, more work needed. Somebody moved somewhere, the mainland is first place to look
- If it came to a research group management decision, I'd support funding such a project.

ARC:

- DU always able to run samples from those animals with genetics, recently had a suspect harvested by Cambridge Bay adding to sampling for collaring program. Always an option, and we are looking to continue.

LA:

- Suspected DU in Baker Lake?

MC:

- Could be BG, but will confirm, it did not look like the other caribou too. It happened while I was away, so I will follow up on that.

Allen Niptinatiak (AN):

- Comment, monitoring predators, you saw 27 wolves, just had hunters on holidays and they saw 30 wolves, from 3 people, one group 13, another of 8, one of 5, and 4.
- Pack of wolves that size healthy on Victoria Island, like the olden days healthy.
- Hunters are saying: Too many wolves, Government is not stepping up. Payments to hunters not enough. Hunters say not enough, same for grizzly's, are we going to continue data entry of wolves? Not added to reports, hunters saying wolf counts are too high.

MC:

- Echoing all around, survey shows high counts of wolves, will be sure to let Malik our carnivore biologist, know and suggest a monitoring project, Ill discuss with him what he is planning..

PW:

- Curious about if caribou leave and come back and genetics mix with other herds, what are indications of that?

MC:

- DU is a mix, ongoing for long time, can't think any implications, if going away and coming, if area changes, and if there is constant interaction, annual range needs to be reassessed. Example:

southern extension in its range might be normal and needs to be added, understood and surveyed?
- Research in this area needs to be more in depth, as we've got a good start with observations by hunters.

LML:
- Compliment DU and management report, genetical reports on mixing, formed as a threat, assessment and research, brought forward a couple years ago as something to monitor.

AD:
- Comment on predators, looking at your wording Mitch, it says we've been monitoring predators, we've been doing that already. survey shown a lot of wolves, now is time for action.
- In winter time, Range of BNE, NI, BE, monitors in NWT range needs to be extended. GBL + NWR. Hearing from everyone, lots of wolves and bears, we've done our monitoring, now is the time to take action now. Results from wolf incentive hunts in NWT, lots of wolves harvested this year.

Peter Kapolak (OHTO):
- OHTO, Larry's comment. DU seen in NWT, have seen going with Beverly, here in Bathurst Inlet.

MC:
- Thank you, Peter for the info. Baker harvesters seeing different caribou. Samples sent out will check status. Herds are close to each other, could be mixing groups and can track with genetics. Lots of herds on the move, things happening that are different. Any more info from that area would be valuable, and will continue monitoring and keep a closer eye out.

BG: (NWMB Suggestion)
- Some info, NWMB suggested to GN, make it mandatory but anything has TAH should have samples done with anything pushing minimum 20 samples.
- Lot more patrolling from GN WLO's/CO's should be done whenever possible especially certain times of year.
- Collaring caribou should be posting info, shouldn't be harvesting, HTO's shouldn't be looking after it, info to hunters should come from the GN.

KM:
- Thank you patrols should be more after. Good strides for Cambridge Bay office with new patrol officer will keep patrols ongoing.

ARC:
- Thank you, Bobby, I have put out for approval with communication for posters and radio Ads on info on collaring and hunting, that its not illegal and ideally not to harvest them. The GN can't limit the ability of someone to harvest a collard animal, we can only recommend. Will follow up on status on info.

BG:
- Can't stop hunters from harvesting that animal, can only recommend to not harvest collared caribou.

Bert Dean (BD):

- Comments on predators, need to flag as follow up discussion.
- And more monitoring with more funding available, NTI can also support.
- Structure and formalize with reports
- Needs to support hunters by formalizing and documenting
- Sampling really helps with reporting, and getting data and communication
- CO's – a lot of info to gather together to HTO's have updates to formalize and document
- Funding always available in different pots and programs
- Willing to support
- Covid delay things, a while until regular routine, but can support now with monitoring and info from hunters with monitoring and harvest information.

BG:

- Adding to Bert, we were doing a Muskox monitoring that started a year ago in Cambridge Bay.

Isabel Duclos (ID):

- Comment, interesting conversation to consider to agenda to submit to COSEWIC, separate conversation. Will follow up with various groups involved in the next few days.

PT:

- Comment, thank you Mitch, having worked with S + R, it can be difficult to work with aircraft seasonal weather up here. Survey work done is pleasing from survey to organize, and coordinate. Exceeded expectations. KIA is happy.
- Expand on Amanda's comments on predators. Have to consider predators out there, of course if we are going to manage a declining herd, we have to focus on not just harvesters but whole picture, KIA is pleased to be involved as participation, that survey was conducted in a manner that included the IQ's so KIA is pleased with that.
- KIA is going to ensure Inuit rights got impeded. Thank you for involving us.

LA:

- Back to incentives, WIMAC giving Ulukhaktok hunters a lot higher then in Kugluktuk. We have been advocating for higher incentives for wolves, wolverines and grizzlies. We are right in thick of all 3 herds but incentives still low. Government needs to do something better for hunters because we have to hunt with GNWT behind GN's back. Still at base rate of 300$, something needs to be done and incentives needs to increase and we are in the middle of 3 herds so something has to be done proactively.

KM:

- Thank you, all comments heard, predator work needs to be done as well. Will continue to advocate for your HTO and all in the room when it comes to relaying that Info up the chain of command and senior management. Like you said Peter, when dealing with a declining herd, you have to look at the whole picture and looking around the room, no disagreements on that needs to be done.
- Thank you Mitch for the presentation and leading this survey, and for travelling here.

BREAK UNTIL 1PM

Morning minutes written by:

Lena Davies

1:12pm: Meeting continues.
Amelie Roberto-Charron (ARC): *Presents DU Collaring Program* 36 collars deployed out of 50. 4 mortalities during collaring.

KIA: Can the HTO be compensated for the mortalities?

Kevin Methuen (KM): Yes, it is up to the HTO, on how they want to deal with it.

Lisa Marie-Leclerc (LML): We collected the samples and sent it to University of Calgary

ARC: The collaring does not represent the whole herd (DU).

KM: The meat comes back and compensation is offered.

HTO: How long does it take from start to finish? (Collaring)

ARC: Protocol is 15 minutes, We try to alleviate the stress from the animal.

Bobby Greenley (BG): Collaring on Victoria Island might be difficult to do. By the time they go to Victoria Island, it will be difficult.

ARC: Absolutely. The reason why we looked at Victoria Island, the DU there was staying call year in Victoria Island.

BG: Lots of ground to cover on Victoria Island when they migrate.

Ema Qaqqutaq (EQ): Thanks for the caribou (4 mortalities) that was returned to the HTO, will the HTO be compensated?
KM: Yes.

EQ: Quana.

Amanda Dumond (AD): For slide 10, which community did the mortality go to? How many collars left?

ARC: Kugluktuk, 34 collars.

AD: LML, Is the pregnancy rate stable? Are the males part of the calculation? From previous collaring, why are the pregnancy rate low?

LML: Deflect to ARC.

ARC: We compared the pregnancy rates in previous years, but discrepancies were identified. Information will be verified, and as soon as possible will be shared.

LA: Clarification, the procedure is that we capture a specific caribou in a herd. (During collaring).

ARC: Yes 1 caribou is captured in a herd, specifically females. Future recommendation, continue collaring, do on the ground survey's, collaborate with HTO, and stakeholders.

BG: No questions, but you can see in the animation (map), that it will be difficult in Victoria Island for collaring/surveying.

PT: Comment, mainland has more rugged country than Victoria Island.

LCL: Try to collar in Victoria Island, collaborate with Uluhaktok for ground survey.

Peggy Adjun (PA): 1 harvested, not even 2 weeks that was collared. Maybe put it out there, in the public, that there's collaring going around in the area.

Allen Niptinatiak (AN): The hunter used a rifle with an open sight, Which makes it hard to see the collar.

MC: We try to blend the collar into the caribou as predators will single a collared caribou out if the collar is coloured.

KIA: Question, main objection was the mainland, what is the next objective on Victoria Island Caribou?

ARC: Yes, we are trying to collab with NWT to collar the area.

MC: There will be discussions at the next research meeting.

PT: For the 4 that was killed, were any tags used?

KM: Yes, for the 4 that were killed, unfortunately they came out of the TAH.

KIA: How many were pregnant?

ARC: All 4 were pregnant.

BG: Question to the HTO, were all the tags used last year?

LA: Yes and we were fortunate enough that Beverly was close. Were all the DU tags used last year?

AN: Yes.

KM: Management recommendations: 105 TAH for DY in January 2021. Due to the population estimate, the TAH stays the same (105). Update on NWT, ENR will be assisting HTC on collaring, max harvest of 50 DU caribou per year with mandatory sampling. They've increased predator collection payment. (From 200$ to 600$).

LA: We are okay with 105 as it rotates annually with Cambridge Bay. But we would like 50/50 annually but after consultations, it will rotate annually. Wolf incentives should be increased from the GN. I feel that we're way behind on the wolf incentives. Please continue the sample kits.

BG: Yes we should increase on the wolf incentives. 105 TAH is fine, better than the 42 that was recommended last year.

KM: We never had a TAH for DU before and it was challenging.

LA: I appreciate the daily input for the DU survey as it did not happen in the past.

PA: We want to inform people that this is what is happening to the herd. Keep the public informed. The more people know, the better.

EQ: We should also focus on predation issues on the caribou as well. Not just lowering the harvest of the caribou.

BG: I agree with the predation issue.

Kyle Ritchie (KR): Is the GN bringing anything to the board?

KM: Yes.

KR: Bathurst decision letter, is there grizzly bear/wolverine update?

MC: Yes, it was successful.

KIA: Agreeable to the status quo. We would like to see HTO get more support on predator incentives. We would also like to see HTO do management on their own.

End Meeting ~3:30pm