

HTO Consultation

Bluenose East and Bathurst Caribou

October 31, 2014

Issues:

Information meeting on the Alarming trends in size of the Bluenose-East caribou herd and the Bathurst Caribou from the 2014 reconnaissance calving ground survey.

Purpose of the Consultations:

A HTO consultation was organized in Kugluktuk on October 31, 2014 as the Bluenose East and the Bathurst herds appear to be in serious decline. The main objective to the meeting was to discuss with the HTO members the potential actions that GN-DOE could be implemented and identify more clearly what action the Kugluktuk HTO already identify. The objectives were then to work together, listen to local needs and priorities, listen to Inuit, learn from their way of life, and to discuss potential management short-term action.

Communities visited: Kugluktuk

Representatives:

GN, DoE, Wildlife Biologist: Lisa-Marie Leclerc

HTO Kugluktuk, Assistant Manager: Johnny

HTO Kugluktuk, Board members (4 members).

Subjects discussed and community views:

- Recommendation to prevent HTO from buying meat due to encouraging people to harvest more than they need
- Upcoming trapping program on wolves, wolverine, grizzly, etc
- Concerns regarding collaring wolves addressed
- Wanting to see pelt prices on wolves increased to encourage harvest
- Agreeance that hunters will bring in skulls of trapped carnivores in exchange for compensation
- 80/20 program not believed to work due to hunters not willing to wait for a particular sex or age to show up while hunting
- Bulls avoided this time of year due to taste, and a mixed harvest is taken according to season due to the taste of meat and thickness of the hide
- Restricting exploration camps/activity during the caribou migration
- Sign or posters to encourage people to think about hunting only what they need
- Possible funding for getting youth involved in butchering to learn how to properly harvest and collect a kill in the field.
- March/april suggested to be the best time of year for such a program
- Concerns regarding the Bluenose and Union herds discussed

- Local community members are aware of where some wolf dens are located
- Wolf pelts worth \$300-350
- Increasing interest in living out in outposts in community members
- Expression of interest in providing gut samples on harvest caribou