



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

MEETING EDE 36-19-20

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT**

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020
COMMITTEE ROOM 'A'
7:00 PM

AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Public Matters:
 - a) Caribou and Wolf Population Management Briefing with the Honourable Shane Thompson, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.
5. In Camera Matters:
 - a) Wrap-up discussion
6. New Business
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
7. Date and Time of Next Meeting: At the Call of the Chair.
8. Adjournment



Bathurst & Bluenose-East Caribou Update

SCEDE - October 28, 2020

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

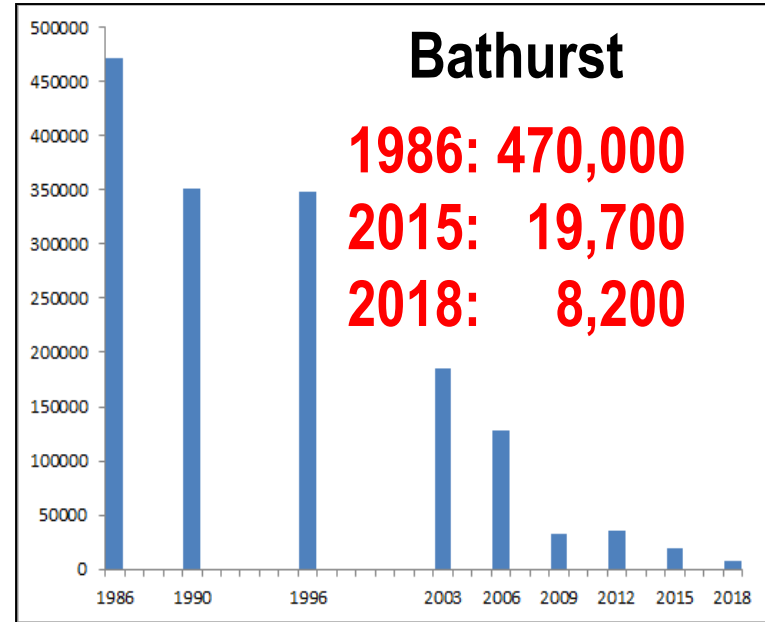
Presentation Outline

- Status of Barren-Ground Caribou in NWT
- Herd Size and Vital Rates
- Caribou Co-Management
- Management Actions to Support Caribou
- Next Steps

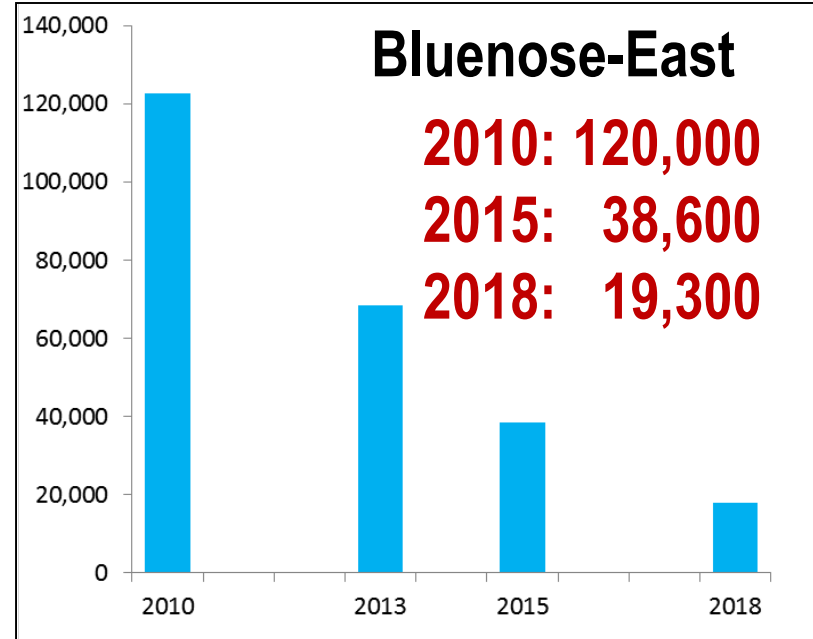
Status of Barren-Ground Caribou in NWT



2018 Bathurst Herd ~8,200 Caribou



2018 Bluenose-East Herd ~19,300 Caribou



Caribou Vital Rates (2019)

- Caribou are being **born** at good rates
 - **Pregnancy Rate (good)**

Bathurst:	86.0%	(June 2019)
Bluenose-East:	87.5%	(June 2019)
- However, cows and calves are **dying** at moderate to high rates
 - **Calf Survival (low/moderate)**

Bathurst:	30 calves:	100 cows	(Nov 2019)
Bluenose-East:	38 calves:	100 cows	(Nov 2019)
 - **Adult Cow Survival (low)**

Bathurst:	78-82 %	(2015-2018)
Bluenose-East:	72-78%	(2015-2018)



Caribou Co-Management

- **Wek'èezhìi**

- Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
- Tłįchǫ Government
- GNWT

- **Sahtú**

- Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
- Délįnę Caribou Conservation Plan
- GNWT

- **Inuvialuit**

- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- GNWT

- **Unsettled Areas**

- Indigenous governments and organizations
- GNWT

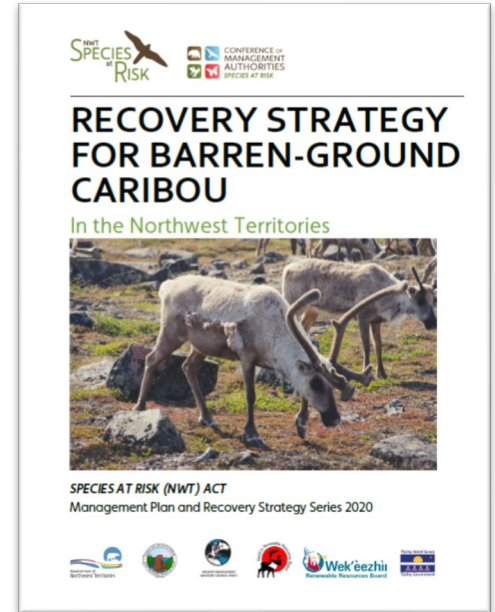
- **Nunavut**

- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
- Government of Nunavut



Guiding Documents for Co-Managing Caribou

- NWT Recovery Strategy
- Herd Specific Plans
 - Bathurst Herd
 - Taking Care of Caribou
- Community-based Plans
 - Déljñę
 - Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation



Management Actions to Support Recovery

- Harvest Management
- Habitat Protection
- Research & Monitoring
- Predator Management

Harvest Management: Bathurst Herd

- 2009: Resident & outfitter harvest closed
- 2010: Indigenous harvest limited to 300/year, 80% bulls
- 2015: All harvest closed

Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone

- WRRB Decisions: 2010, 2015, 2016, 2019
- 2016: Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) 30 bulls in Nunavut
- WRRB Decisions: 2010, 2015, 2016, 2019
- 2020: Proposal to reduce Nunavut TAH to 0 (NWMB decision pending)



Harvest Management: Bluenose-East Herd

2016:

- WRRB: Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) 750 bulls
- SRRB: Endorsed Déljine Plan (limit 150 caribou/80% bulls)
- NWMB: Endorsed Kugluktuk plan (340 caribou)

2019:

- WRRB: TAH of 193 bulls (entire herd)
- SRRB/Déljine Plan (limit 30 bulls)

2020:

- TAH in Nunavut reduced to 170



Habitat Management

- Bathurst Caribou Range Plan
- Environmental Assessments
- Land Use Planning
- Wildfire Response
- Bluenose-East Cumulative Effects Study



Research & Monitoring

- More frequent surveys
- Increased number of collars
- Research and Monitoring
 - Scientific and Traditional Knowledge
- Community-based Monitoring
 - E.g. Ekwò Nàxoède K'è (*Boots on the Ground*)



Predator Management to Support Caribou Recovery

- **Harvest restrictions** already in place
- Actions identified to **protect important habitat**
- Actions needed to **reduce predation**



Actions to Date

- Review of wolf management actions in other jurisdictions
- Wolf management expert workshops
- Wolf Technical Feasibility Assessment (2017)
- WRRB recommendations (2019)
- Discussions with co-management partners



GNWT-Tłıchǫ Government

Wolf Management Proposal 2020-2025

Main approaches:

1. Enhanced support for wolf harvesters and traditional economy
2. Wolf reduction
3. Monitoring, research and assessment



Wolf Harvester Training



Tłıchǫ Trapper Training

- Ongoing community-based program

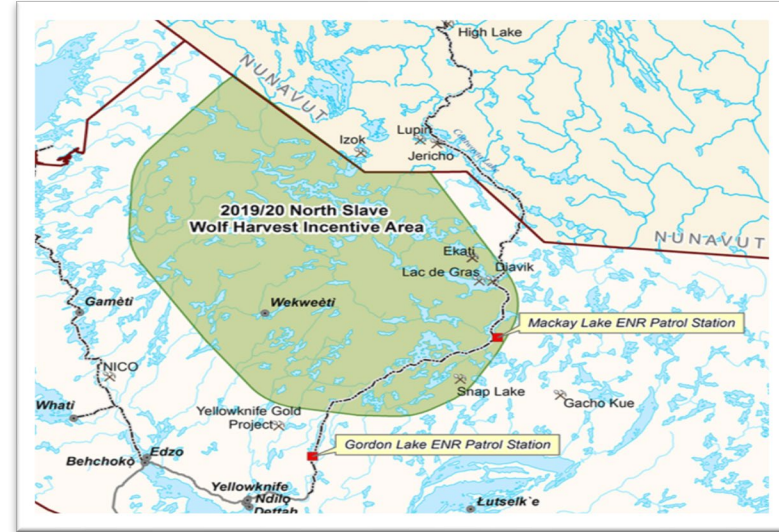
GNWT Trapper Training

- Targeted wolf harvesting workshops
- Goal to increase harvest levels and maximize value of pelts



Wolf Reduction

- **Increased incentives** for wolves harvested on caribou winter ranges
- **Nunavut hunters** can participate
- **Wolf tags** available at no cost
- **Aerial removals**



2020 Harvest and Removal Efforts

- Targets set to achieve the 60-80% wolf reduction
 - 29-39 on the Bathurst range 73-97 on the Bluenose-East range
- Total of 85 wolves were removed from the Bathurst and Bluenose-East winter ranges in 2020
 - 31 on the Bathurst range (achieved target)
 - 54 on Bluenose East range (below target but likely still meaningful)



Monitoring and Research

- Wolf collaring
- Harvester surveys
- Wolves removed
- Necropsies



Wolf Collaring

- Wolf collaring data helps us to **understand wolf movements** and association with caribou herds
- **11 satellite collars** were deployed on wolves
 - 6 on Bluenose-East range
 - 5 on Bathurst range
- Will **continue collaring efforts** this fall and next winter



Evaluation

- Measuring success will take time
- Wolf management is an important part of our overall approach to support caribou recovery
- Caribou population surveys in June 2021



Next Steps

- Continuation of current management actions
- Release of Report on SRRB Public Listening on Caribou Management in Sahtú (Fall 2020)
- WRRB Decision on Joint Wolf Management Proposal (January 2021)
- Calving Ground Surveys (June 2021)



Questions?



Artwork: J. Adamczewski, ENR

