



# SRRB Public Listening

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
January 2020

Government of  
Northwest Territories

# Presentation Outline – PART 1

- Wildlife Management & Co-management
- *Wildlife Act*
- *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*
- Harvest Monitoring



# Presentation Outline - PART 2

- Status and Management of Caribou in the Sahtú
  - Mountain caribou
  - Boreal caribou
  - Barren-ground caribou
    - BNW
    - BNE



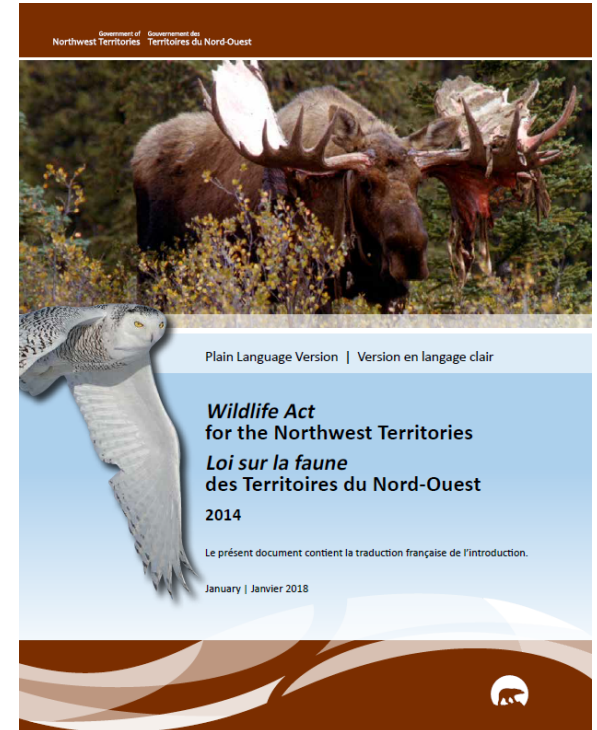
# Wildlife Management & Co-management

- ENR has responsibility for stewardship and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat
  - Shared responsibility with Indigenous Governments and Renewable Resources Boards through co-management
- Sahtú Renewable Resources Board is the main instrument of wildlife management in the Sahtú



# Legislation

- GNWT legislation
  - *Wildlife Act*
  - *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*
- Developed collaboratively with Indigenous governments and co-management boards



# *Wildlife Act*

- Provides the tools needed for conservation and management of wildlife and habitat
- Principles of the *Wildlife Act*
- Roles and responsibilities
- Objectives similar to the land claim agreements



# *Wildlife Act* – Harvest Laws

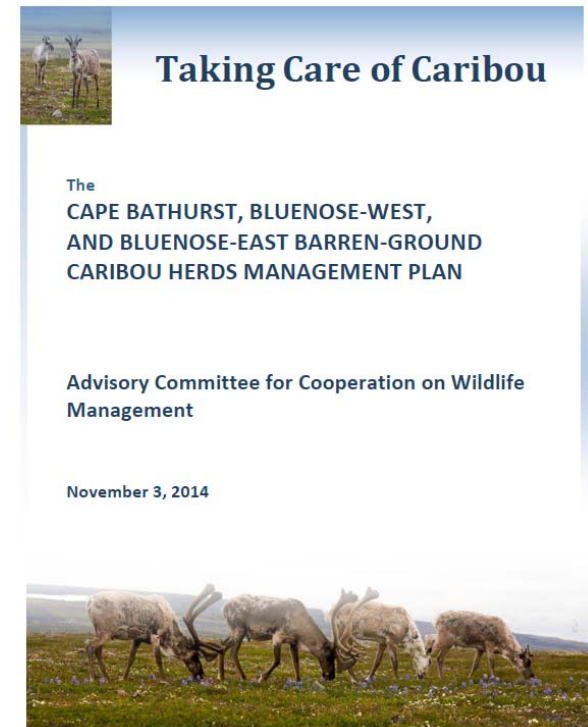
- Recognizes Aboriginal and Treaty rights
  - Anyone without these rights requires a hunting licence
- Ensures public safety and humane harvesting
- Limits harvest when there is a conservation concern
  - Process consistent with the Land Claim Agreement



# *Wildlife Act*

## Transboundary Issues

- Wildlife populations span borders
- Land Claim Agreements
- Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM)



# *Wildlife Act*

## Respect for Wildlife

- Safe and respectful conduct on the land and respectful hunting



# *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*

- Purpose: prevent species from becoming extirpated or extinct
- Species at Risk Committee
- Conference of Management Authorities



# Harvest Monitoring

- Key piece of information for wildlife management
- Kept confidential
- Harvest information must be accurate, consistent, reliable and complete



# Summary of Part 1

- Collaborative co-management is the foundation of the *Wildlife Act, Species at Risk (NWT) Act* and the Land Claim Agreement
- ENR is committed to working together for the conservation and management of wildlife



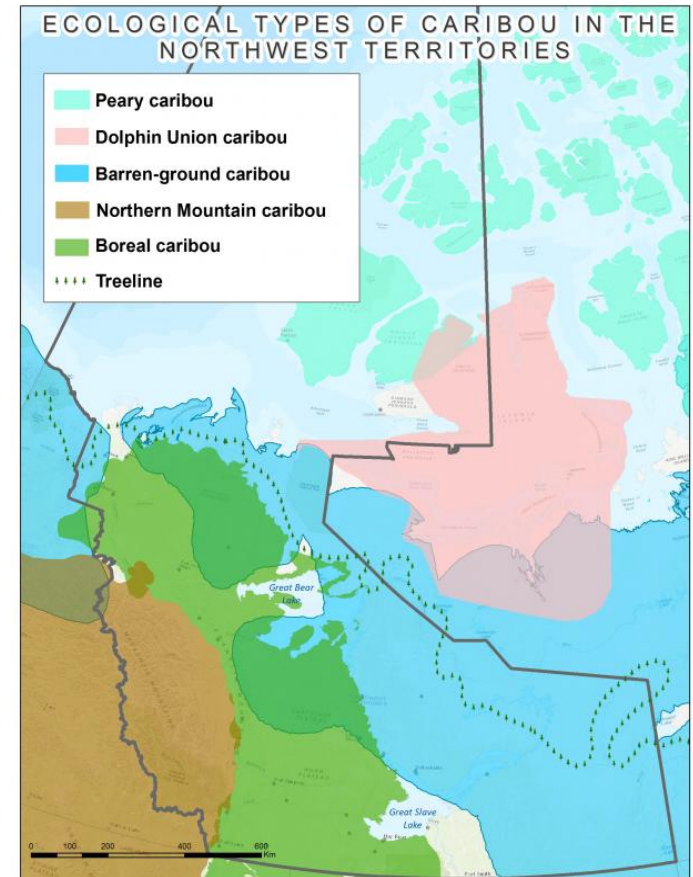
# Presentation Outline - PART 2

- Status and Management of Caribou in the Sahtú
  - Mountain caribou
  - Boreal caribou
  - Barren-ground caribou



# Types of Caribou in the Sahtú

- There are five types of caribou in the NWT
- Three occur in the Sahtú
  - Northern Mountain Caribou
  - Boreal Caribou
  - Barren-ground Caribou



# Northern Mountain Caribou Overview

- NWT population: 21,800
  - 6 herds
- Sahtú
  - Redstone herd or complex
- Limited scientific information



# Northern Mountain Caribou Harvest

- Indigenous Harvest
- Resident Harvest
- Non-Resident Harvest



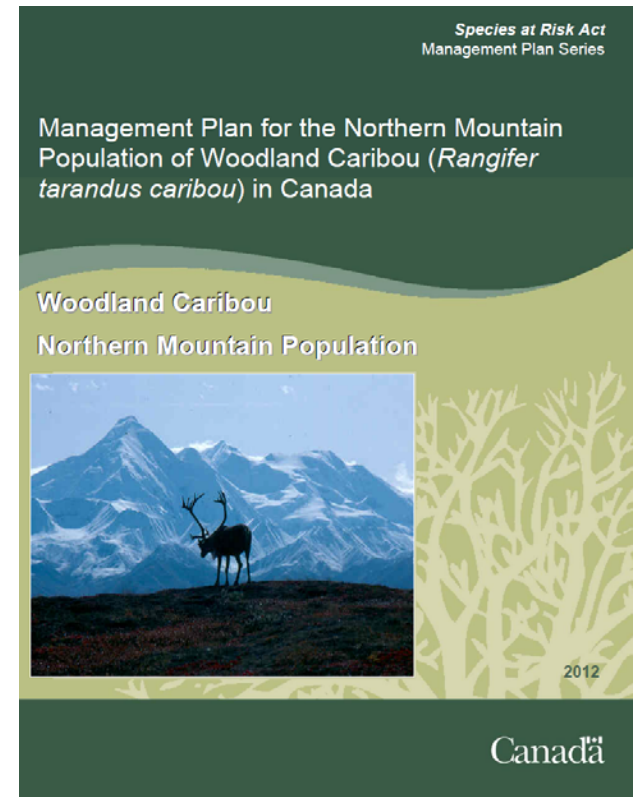
# Northern Mountain Caribou Management Concerns

- ENR has heard concerns over:
  - Levels of Harvest
  - Accessibility of the Herd
  - Disturbance

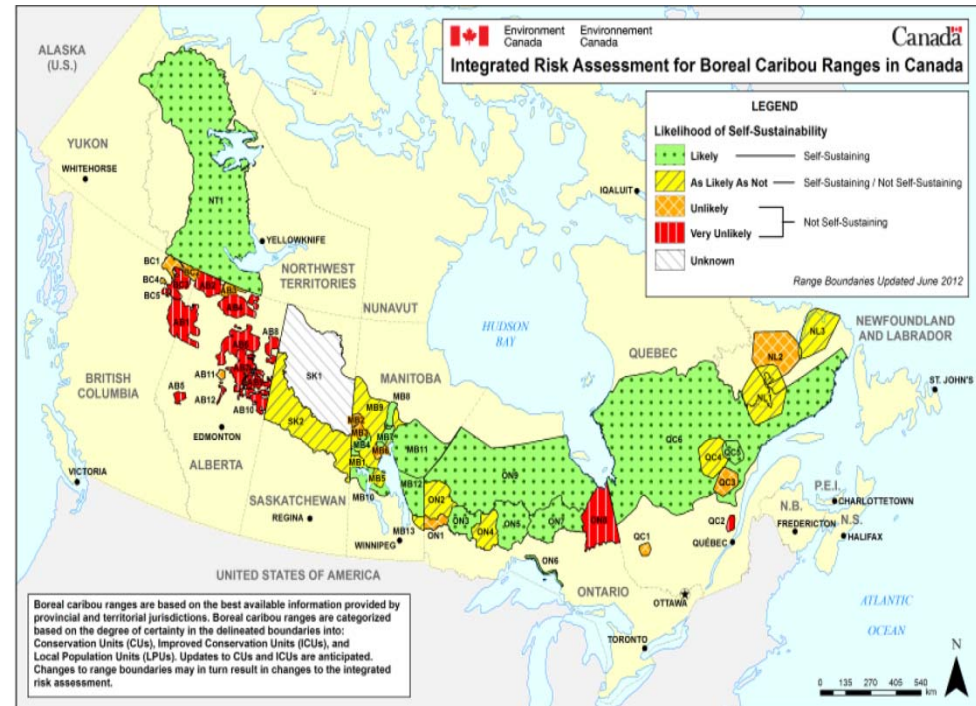
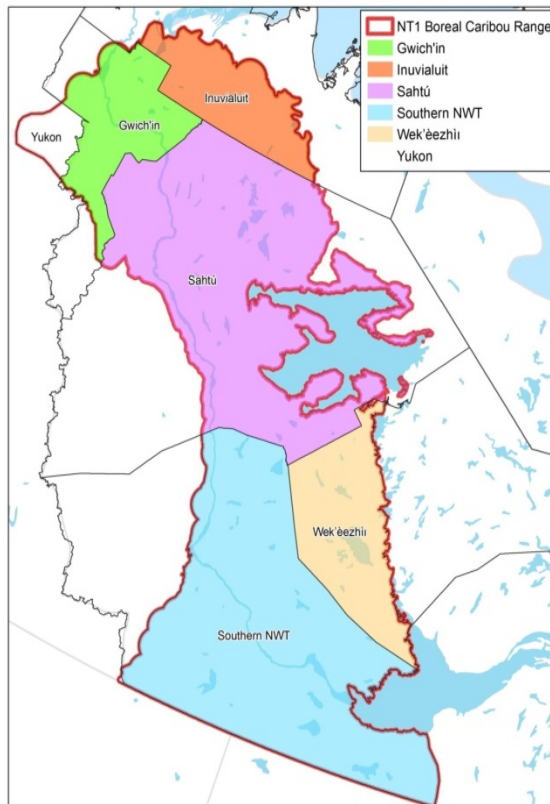


# Northern Mountain Caribou Species at Risk Processes

- Federal
  - COSEWIC (2002) assessed as species of special concern
  - SARA (2005) listed as species of special concern
- Territorial
  - SARC will assess in April 2020

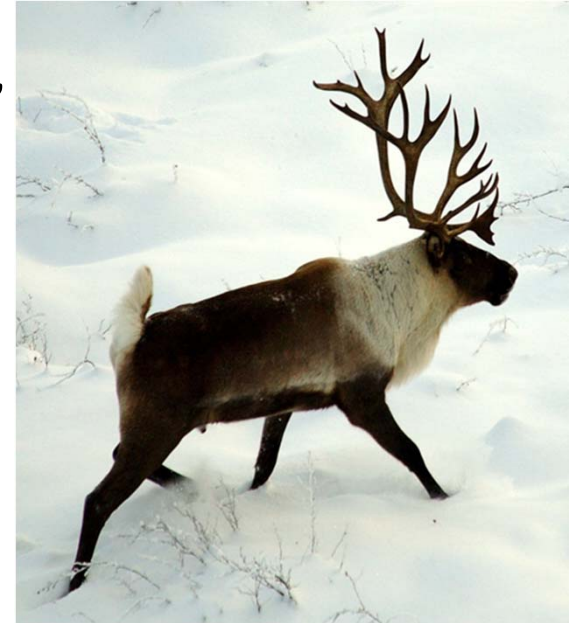


# Overview of Boreal Caribou in the NWT



# Current Status of Boreal Caribou

- Significant declines across Canada
- Species at Risk designation “Threatened”
  - Federal *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*
  - Territorial *Species at Risk Act*
- Critical habitat protection requirements
  - 65% undisturbed habitat
- Boreal Caribou trends in the NWT



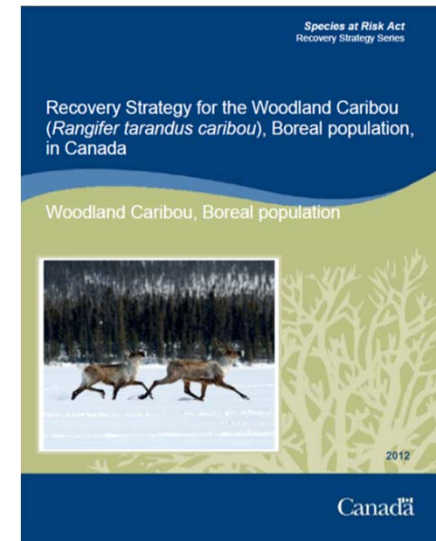
# Harvest of Boreal Caribou

- No outfitted harvest of boreal caribou
- Resident harvest: 22 caribou/year
- Indigenous harvest is opportunistic
  - SRRB Harvest Study: 36 caribou per year
  - Lack of information across the NWT



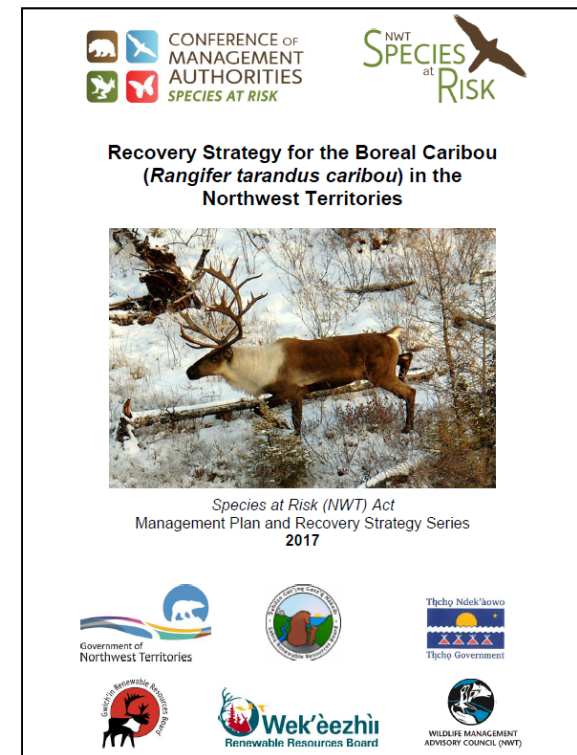
# Section 11 Agreement

- Boreal Caribou Conservation Agreement
- “Made in the North” Approach
  - NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy
  - NWT Boreal Caribou Implementation Agreement
  - Framework for Boreal Caribou Range Planning
- Development of 5 Regional Range Plans by 2023
  - Federal funding to support the planning process



# Conservation, Management and Recovery

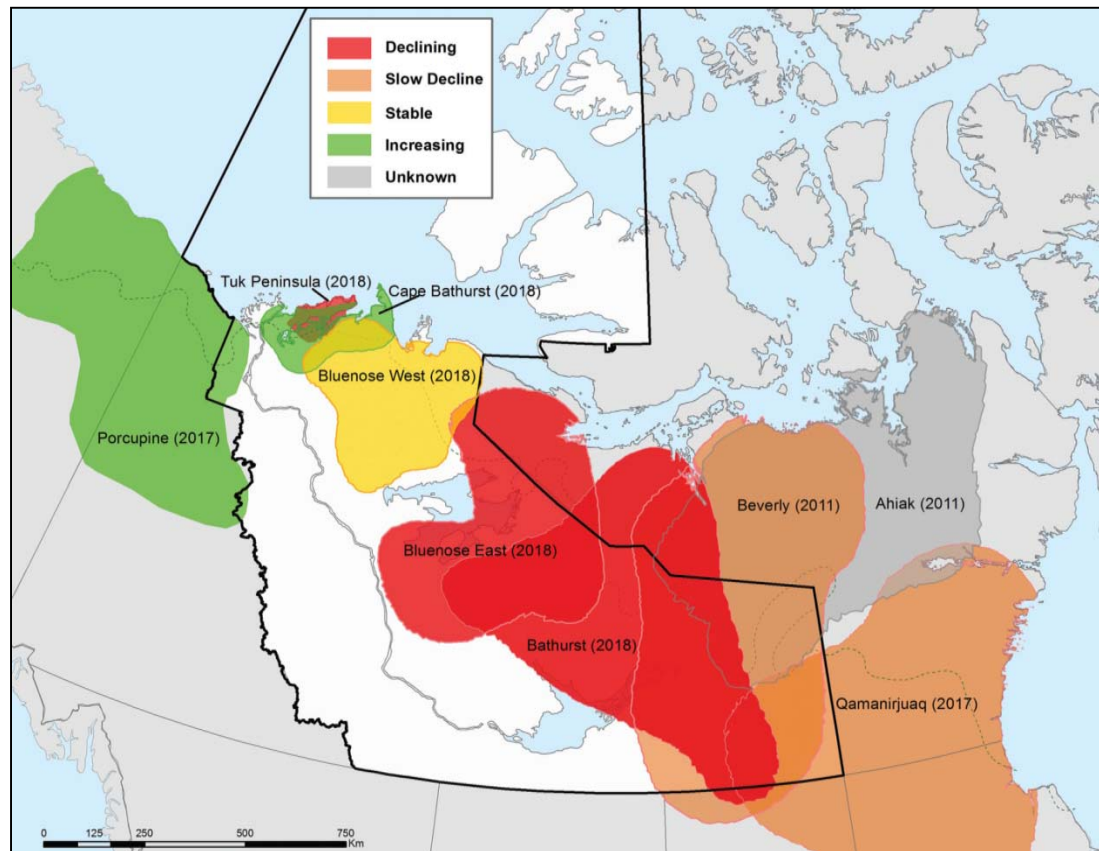
- Implement the National and Territorial Recovery Strategy
- Balanced approach to conservation and sustainable development
  - Boreal caribou range planning
  - Protecting critical habitat
  - Harvest management
  - Enhance research/monitoring using scientific, local and traditional knowledge



# Barren-Ground Caribou Background

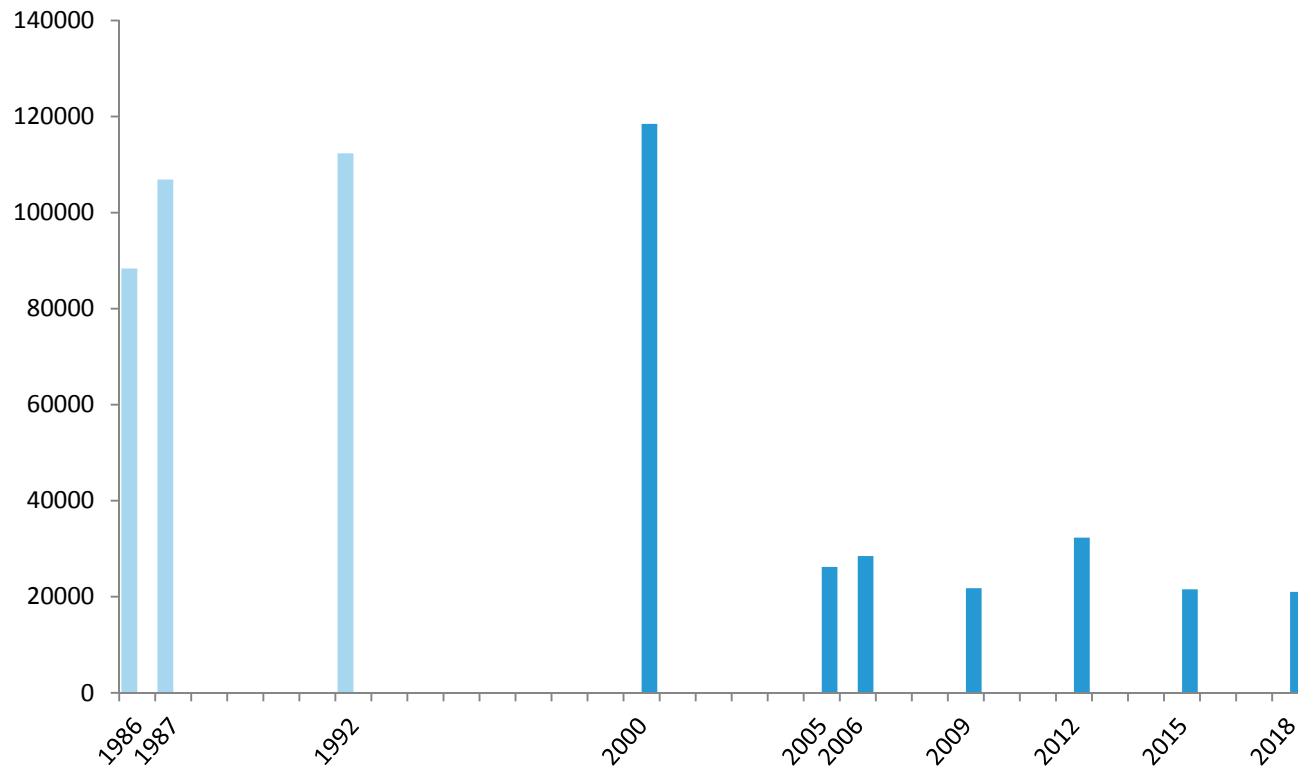


# Barren-ground Caribou Status



# Bluenose-West Herd Status

**Bluenose-West Surveys Between 1996 and 2018**

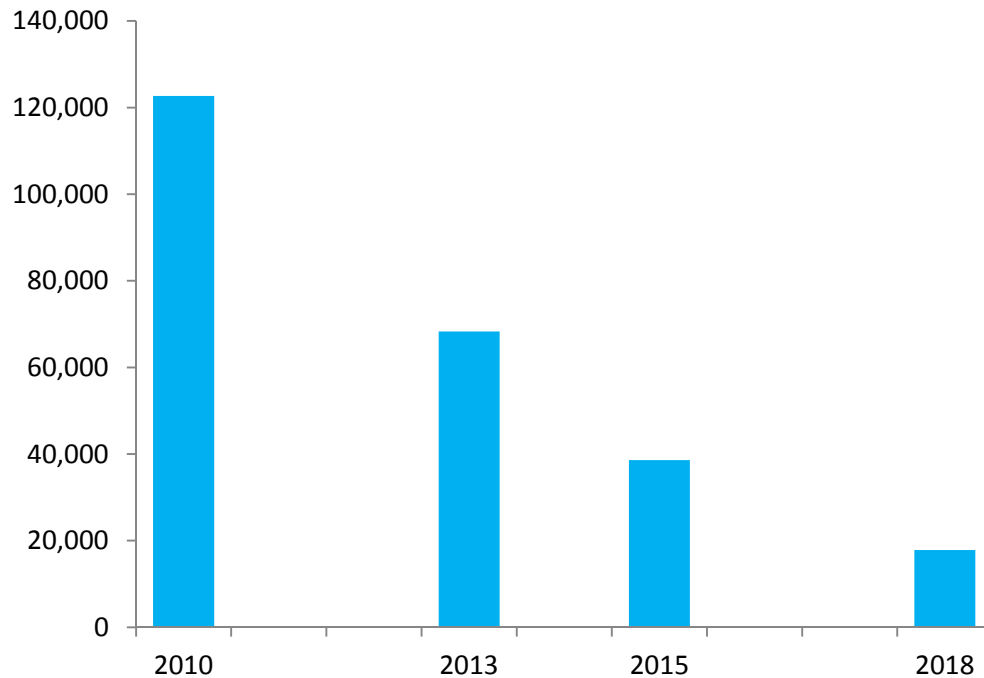


Bluenose-West Population Estimates	
1986	88,369
1987	106,887
1992	112,360
2000	118,472
2005	26,228
2006	28,461
2009	21,773
2012	32,326
2015	21,535
2018	21,011



# Bluenose-East Herd Status

## Bluenose-East Surveys Between 2010 and 2018



Bluenose-East Population Estimates	
2010	122,697
2013	68,295
2015	38,592
2018	19,294



# Barren-ground Caribou Harvest

- BNW herd migrates through:
  - Inuvialuit Settlement Region
  - Gwich'in Settlement Area
  - Sahtú Settlement Area
- BNE herd migrates through:
  - Inuvialuit Settlement Region
  - Gwich'in Settlement Area
  - Sahtú Settlement Area
  - Nunavut



# Barren-ground Caribou BNW Harvest

- Responsibility for management is shared between WMAC (NWT), SRRB, GRRB, and GNWT
- A TAH for the BNW herd was established in 2007
  - SRRB held a public hearing in Fort Good Hope, consistent with requirements of the SDMCLCA
  - TAH was set as 350 for the Sahtú region allocated to Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells
- Updated TAH in 2019



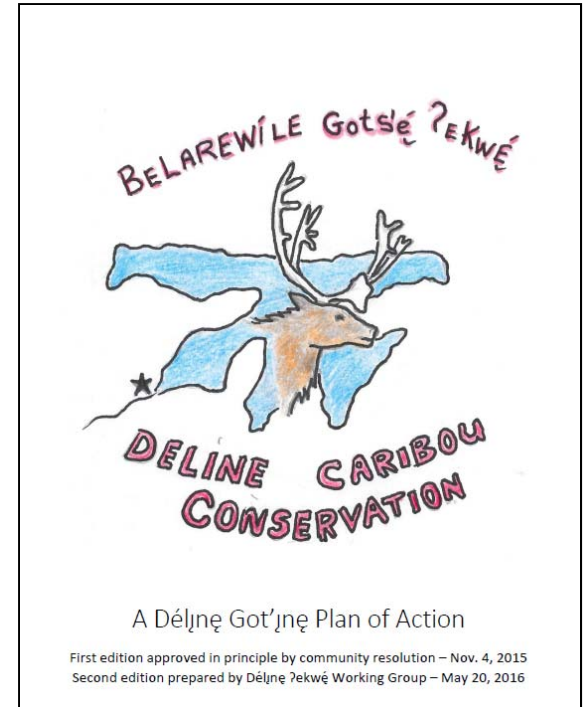
# Barren-ground Caribou BNE Harvest

- Responsibility for management is shared between WRRB, SRRB, NWMB, and GNWT.
- Public Hearings were held:
  - WRRB (2016, 2019)
  - NWMB (2016, 2020)
  - SRRB (2016)



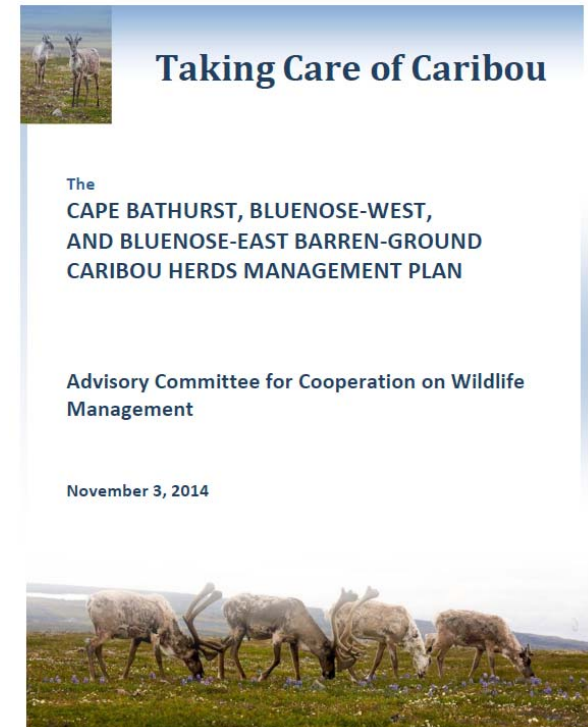
# Barren-ground Caribou BNE Harvest – Délıne

- Délıne's Belare Wıle  
Gots'ę ʔekwę - Caribou for  
All Time Plan
  - Harvest target of 150
  - 80:20 ratio of bulls to cows



# Barren-ground Caribou Management

- ACCWM Taking Care of Caribou management plan
  - Annual status meeting
  - Associated herd action plans



# Barren-ground Caribou Species at Risk Processes

- Federal
  - COSEWIC (2016) assessed as threatened
  - SARA (pending)
- Territorial
  - SARC (2017) assessed as threatened
  - CMA (2018) listed as threatened



# Status and Management of Caribou in the Sahtú Summary

- A Shared Responsibility
- Wildlife Co-Management System
- Working Together Takes Time and Commitment

