Gwich’in Harvest Data Collection Project: Update & Recommendations

PCMB Annual Harvest Meeting, Dawson
February 8, 2016

Presented by
Janet Boxwell, Renewable Resources Manager
Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board
Presentation Outline

- Goal
- GRRB role
- GRRB harvest project
  - Methods
  - Results
- GRRB recommendation
- Comments

Credit: J Boxwell, 2012
GOAL: Gwich’in Harvest Data Collection

to obtain the best information we can in order to make effective wildlife management decisions for sustainability
GRRB role with Porcupine caribou data

GRRB is not a party to the PCMA or HMP but have an implementation role to collect and report on Gwich’in harvest data.
GRRB Gwich’in Harvest Data Project

Methods
Results (2014-2015)
Interim Results (Collected Nov 2015)
## Method: Community interviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRRB</th>
<th>RRC</th>
<th>Interviewer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applies for funding</td>
<td>Hires community Interviewer</td>
<td>Conducts surveys with harvesters (3 communities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data entry</td>
<td>Door prizes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial reporting</td>
<td>Returns survey forms to GRRB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports any PC harvest to PCMB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data management</td>
<td><em>Note: RRCs use slightly different collection methods but give same objective and fall within the strategic framework (cleared by PCMB)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PCMB Framework followed:
- 3 pieces of info needed for harvest estimate
  - No. of active and key harvesters (harvester list)
  - No. who participated in survey
  - No. of animals reported harvested
- Stats can be calculated for any species of interest
- Data concerning Porcupine caribou harvest provided to PCMB
Harvester participation:  
June 01, 2014-May 31, 2015

- **Potential:** 541 responses/year  
  - 245 active ungulate harvesters X multiple survey rounds

- **Actual:** 223 surveys = 41% average participation rate  
  - Aklavik 22% participation  
  - Fort McPherson 65%  
  - Inuvik 16%  
  - Tsiigehtchic 23%

- **We need to work together to improve reporting!**
Reported ungulate harvest:
June 01, 2014-May 31, 2015

- **Total caribou:** 183
  - **Porcupine caribou** 172
    - 107 Male + 65 Female
  - **Woodland** 9M + 2F

**Other ungulates:**
- **Moose** 5M + 6F
- **Dall’s sheep** 0 reported
- **Muskox** 4M
Gwich’in Reported vs. estimated PC harvest

2011-2012: 575 reported, 1016 estimated
2012-2013: 332 reported, 615 estimated
2013-2014: 172 reported, 810 estimated
2014-2015: 450 estimated

Colors:
- Blue: reported
- Orange: estimated
Reported PC Harvest Locations 2014-2015
Harvester Observations
Jun 01, 2014 – May 31, 2015

- Bull-dominated harvest
- Didn’t participate b/c no caribou
- Did not meet needs, no caribou

- Predator abundance
  - Same-less wolves, wolverine
  - Same-more bears

- Didn’t know Dalls sheep had decreased by 30% between 2010-2014, hadn’t heard about voluntary harvest closure

- Saw Bank Swallows
  - Mackenzie betw 6 mile-ferry
  - Peel at 8-Mile
  - Old Fort area

- More bank erosion, sand bars, river low

- Lots of rain Summer 2014
- Lots of snow Jan-Apr 2015
Porcupine caribou reported harvested: 424
  ◦ 213 M + 211 F
Participation decreased
Results:
  ◦ 7 Aklavik harvesters reported
    • 13 M
  ◦ 58 Fort McPherson
    • 175 M + 159F
  ◦ 13 Inuvik
    • 25M+52F
  ◦ XX Tsiigehtchic (in progress)
Your participation is important!

- Data used by decision-makers at all levels
- Better decisions!
Next Steps

- Continue to work with RRCs
  - Promote participation
  - What works for each RRC
- Use database created in 2014 to make data entry consistent and accessible
- Continue to use best practices for data collection for most accurate results

Credit: GRRB, J. Boxwell
GRRB Recommendation

- Maintain Green Zone designation
- Continue to promote bull-dominated harvests

Credit: J. Carnogursky, 2012
Update: Harvester Education

- Caribou harvester education workshop Feb 15-18, 2016
  - Tetlit RRC initiative
  - Presenters and display booths
    - GRRB will promote harvest survey
  - Could become a template for workshops in other communities
Haii Cho!

Janet Boxwell
Renewable Resources Manager
Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board
(867) 777-6615
jboxwell@grrb.nt.ca
facebook.com/grrb.nt.ca