Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting Update 2014/15

Yukon government
February 8, 2016
Licensed Harvest

Licensed hunters (Resident and Non-Resident):

- restricted to 2 bulls
- required to report their harvest by law

Total licensed harvest 2014/15 = 3 bulls

Removal of “Dempster corridor” and “Leaders Pass” regulations came into force in spring ‘15
PCH research and monitoring

- Computer population model: working on communication tools
- Body Condition Monitoring and sample collection with PCH hunters in Old Crow
- First time with satellite GPS on bulls
- Hart River Caribou Overlap Monitoring and Communication
Hunter Education

- Conservation Officers patrols
  - Limited coverage in 2014/15 & focused on Hart closure
- Check station south did not open in 2014/2015 – no caribou
- Contributed to TH’s First Hunt program
- Updating pamphlet for Dempster Highway re: First Nation/Inuvialuit harvesting rights in Yukon – will bring to Parties
YT non-resident harvest

- Outfitter:
  - Exclusive right to guide non-Yukoners
  - 4 outfitters have access to PCH (2 with quota, 2 in progress)

- Special guided:
  - Yukon residents can guide a non-Yukon Canadian
  - Common opportunity elsewhere in Canada
  - Total of 100 opportunities for caribou, moose, black bear, wolf, and coyote
  - Only where there is no limitation for residents
YT non-resident harvest

- Small component of licensed harvest:
  - Average = 17 caribou/year
  - Highest in one year was 43, lowest was 0
  - Most is from outfitter harvest
  - < 1% of total harvest in most years

Harvest by Yukon Licensed hunters

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>NR Outfitted</th>
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Fall 2015 Dempster Observations

- Heavy harvest started once caribou approached highway in mid–October
- Several sources indicate a high proportion of cows in harvest
- Good harvesting practices noted but also problems with wounding loss and meat wastage
Fall 2015 Dempster Observations

- Yukon licensed harvest for 2015–16 ~216 bulls (as of January 19, 2016)
- Conservation Officers patrols
  - Some coverage in summer when caribou close
  - ~75% of days from mid-Oct to Dec
- Check station south open and very effective at engaging hunters
Upcoming Activities

- Work with Parties to review status of harvesting rights on the Dempster
- Work with PCMB, Parties, & communities to deliver best harvesting practices
- Installing signs on Dempster
- Working with Aklavik on muskox and muskox–caribou interactions
- Continue contributing to monitoring of herd
Any questions?