Gwich’in Harvest Data Collection Study Update

PCMB Annual Harvest Meeting, Inuvik
February 14, 2017

Presented by
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Gwich’in Harvest Data Collection
- Why important
- GRRB/RRC roles
- 2015-2016 results

Discussion
- RRC ideas for increasing harvester participation

GRRB recommendations
GOAL: Gwich’in Harvest Data Collection
to obtain the best information we can in order
to make effective wildlife management decisions for sustainability
Harvest reporting is important!

Why?

- To provide more accurate picture of Gwich’in use of resource
- Protect harvest rights
- Provides information for management decisions
- To support Traditional Knowledge
- To better understand health of populations

Credit: unknown, ENR
GRRB/RRC roles
The Board may participate in harvesting studies, in data collection and evaluation of wildlife research.

S12.8.40 - … ‘harvest studies … shall directly involve the RRCs’
S12.9.1 – The RRC in each community shall ‘encourage and promote local involvement in conservation, harvest studies, research and wildlife management’

S12.9.6 - ‘RRCs shall participate in the collection and provision of local harvest data…’

Credit: Peter Mather, 2013
Statistical analysis

- 3 pieces of info needed for estimate
  - # of active and key harvesters
  - # who participated in survey
  - # of animals harvested

- Harvest data for caribou, moose, Dall’s sheep, muskox

- Data concerning Porcupine caribou harvest provided to PCMB

Credit: Unknown
Jun 01 2015–May 31 2016
RESULTS
Reported Porcupine Caribou harvest: June 01, 2015–May 31, 2016

Caribou:

- Porcupine caribou
  - 528 Male + 374 Female
  - 902 Total
### Reported PC harvest by community, 2015–2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aklavik</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort McPherson</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuvik</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsiigehtchic</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Reported</strong></td>
<td><strong>528</strong></td>
<td><strong>374</strong></td>
<td><strong>902</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Reported harvest
- Communities have different numbers of harvesters
- Communities have different harvester participation rates
reported vs. estimated
PC harvest by year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reported</th>
<th>Estimated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>1016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>902</td>
<td>2558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harvester participation:
June 01, 2015–May 31, 2016

- Potential: 100% (550 responses/year)
  - 275 active ungulate harvesters × two survey rounds = 550

- Actual: 32% overall participation rate

- Participation by community
  - 23% Aklavik
  - 44% Fort McPherson
  - 21% Inuvik
  - 21% Tsiigehtchic
Harvest locations
Harvester comments

Harvester Ed workshop

ERRC comment – need monitoring where caribou are!
Ex. on river at Aklavik

Sight in your rifle
Use right bullet to kill animal. Need harvester ed programs for whole community.

Slope erosion.
How does it affect migration?

Seismic lines are used by caribou and predators. Some concerns about easier access for harvesters.

Credit: Eamon MacMahon, 2012
Credits: J Boxwell, GRRB 2016
Interim results: Jun 01–Oct 31, 2016

- 10 Porcupine caribou (male) reported
  - Fall 2016
  - Approx 110 surveys returned

- No caribou around
- ERRC interested in caribou monitoring and checkstation in their community when caribou in their area.
Community understanding
- Why reporting harvest is important
- How the data is collected and used

What’s working in your community?
- Survey methods
  - Door to door in person interviews?
  - Telephone interviews?
  - Surveys at RRC office?
  - Mail out surveys?
- Motivation to participate?
  - Northern Store gift cards
  - Gas prize draw
  - Harvester assistance program
  - Other ideas?
GRRB Recommendations to PCMB and Parties

- Maintain Green Zone designation
- Continue to promote bull-dominated harvest
- Continue to promote harvester and community conservation and education initiatives
Haii Cho!
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Credit: J Boxwell, 2013