Gwich‘in Harvest Monitoring Program
2012-2013 update

PCMB Annual Harvest Meeting, Dawson
Feb 11, 2014

Presented by
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Presentation Outline

- GRRB mandate
- Gwich’in Harvest Monitoring Program
  - Methods
  - Key Results
  - Discussion
- GRRB Recommendations to PCMB
GRRB Mandate
Mandate
The GRRB is the main instrument of wildlife, fish and forest management in the Gwich’in Settlement Area. The Board acts in the public interest, representing all the parties to the Gwich’in Comprehensive Land Claim Settlement – the Gwich’in, the people of the Northwest Territories, and all Canadians.
GRRB Role with PC HMP

- Not a Party to PCMA
- Supports the PC HMP and IP
  - Collects PC harvest data
  - Communication
  - PCTC
Gwich’in Harvest Monitoring Program
Methods

Past study
- Monthly interviews
- Directly involved RRCs and harvesters

Current study
- Species-specific harvest monitoring since 2009-2010
- Bi-annual surveys (June & November)
- Directly involves RRCs and harvesters
  - GRRB coordinates
  - RRC administers
Key Results

Harvester Participation
(June 01, 2012 – May 31, 2013)

- 271 active ungulate harvesters
- 237 interviews
- Response rate varied
  - 25% - 82%
  - Average: 44%

Credit: Robert Alexie Jr, 2012
Key Results

Reported harvest
(June 01, 2012 – May 31, 2013)

- Total caribou 368
  - Porcupine caribou  332
    - 280 male + 52 female
  - Woodland 36
    - 29 male + 7 female
Methods

Statistical Analysis

- 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

- Data concerning Porcupine caribou harvest sent to PCMB
Reported and estimated Porcupine caribou harvest 2012-2013

- Reported: 332
- Estimated: 615.4
Comparison: Reported vs Estimated Harvest 2011-2012 and 2012-2013

Participation affects results!
Porcupine caribou = 294
  ◦ 222 male + 72 female

122 harvesters responded
  ◦ 14 Aklavik
  ◦ 6 Tsiigehtchic
  ◦ 13 Inuvik
  ◦ 89 Fort McPherson
Discussion

Harvester comments

- Bull-dominated harvest
- Caribou in good condition
- Some don’t hunt: too expensive, no time, no vehicle
- Didn’t meet needs,
  - caribou too far away
- Warm, late freeze-up, rain,
  - fall 2012 and 2013
- River banks slumping
  - Trees falling over
Challenges

- Financial

- Harvester participation
  - Average response rate 44%
  - New interviewers, low interest or availability of harvesters, caribou not around, if not successful perhaps did not report
Next Steps

- Continue to refine
  - RRCs – update list, promote participation

- Continue to use best practices
  - Database completed 2013
GRRB Recommendations
Green Zone

- Based on:
  - Anecdotal information that early survey results indicate the population is in the Green zone
  - No alarming data from the GRRB monitoring program

- The GRRB supports Green Zone management designation for the Porcupine caribou herd for 2014-2015
Haii Cho!

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