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November 17, 2023

Joe Savikataaq Member for Arviat South, Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

RE: Oral Question 633-6(2) Caribou Sport Hunting

Dear Mr. Savikataaq,

I am writing to you in response to your Oral Question 633-6(2) Caribou Sport Hunting in the Nunavut Legislative Assembly on November 1, 2023.

I want to thank you for your question regarding clarifying the definition of "decline" for caribou harvest. And what would trigger a total allowable harvest for the Qamaniruaq caribou herd and where is the "red line".

I wanted to provide some additional information regarding the definition of "decline" for caribou harvest, this is when a new population estimate is much lower than a previous population estimate. This is when the confidence level between the two estimates does not overlap, and the new estimate is lower than the previous one. In addition, this can also be if the trend over several estimates continues to show a declining trend.

In regard to your additional question, what would trigger a total allowable harvest for the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, a number of factors or considerations must be included. These factors include:

- the outcome of consultations with Hunter's and Trappers Organizations (HTO) and Regional Wildlife Office (RWO) following a new population assessment.
- Discussion from other jurisdictions and inter-jurisdictional co-management partners;
- Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit from Elders and Hunters;
- Scientific perspectives. For example, the 2004 Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board combines limited harvest estimates provided by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) to assess harvest for the herd.



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The Department of Environment is currently recommending the estimated harvest of Qamanirjuaq caribou not exceed 5% of the herd assessed population size.

The recent indication of relative stability in Qamanirjuaq Herd numbers between adjacent survey periods (2017-2022) suggests no management action is required currently.

Should the next abundance estimate show a significant decline, then the Department would recommend discussions with our co-management partners regarding the establishment of a total allowable harvest.

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Thank you,

Daniel Qavvik

Minster of Environment