

WRRB Information Request

Round 1 – Intervener Requests

IR Number: 1.21

Source: Wekeezhii Renewable Resources Board

To: Government of the Northwest Territories

Reference

Appendix B: Proposed Action to Monitor.

Request

Given that the Ahiak herd has declined 60% since 2006, how do harvest levels affect the recovery of the herd? What is the risk to herd recovery of maintaining harvest of this herd?

Response

It is difficult to make an accurate assessment of the effects of harvest on the Ahiak herd as we do not yet have a sound population estimate and we also have limited harvest information for this herd. However, the information about the rapid decline from 2006 to 2009 would indicate that any harvest from this herd should be conservative.

ENR suggests that a harvest limited primarily to bulls should have limited effects on the herd, that better harvest information needs to be collected for the Ahiak herd, and that harvest management should be re-evaluated when a population survey is completed.

Our understanding is that most of the Ahiak harvest has been from hunters from northern Saskatchewan.

ENR has worked within the past year with the Prince Albert Grand Council and Saskatchewan (SK) Environment to initiate a cost-shared program in northern SK communities that will provide better information about harvest and increase community understanding of caribou status and management on a larger scale.

The BQCMB is planning a stakeholder workshop in Saskatoon in February to increase understanding and cooperation in communities that hunt the Ahiak/Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds, and GNWT will participate and assist with travel of NWT community representatives.