



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information:

Decision: X

Issue: Establishing a White Island Caribou Sports Hunting Quota for Repulse Bay

Background:

- White Island is located just off the northern end of Southampton Island not far from Repulse Bay (Figure 1). Until the early 1900's, wolves (*Canis lupus*) and barren-ground caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*) were common on the Southampton Island/White complex. However, by 1937, wolves were extirpated from the area, followed by caribou in 1953; a direct result of over hunting.
- In 1967, 14 years following their extirpation, 48 caribou from Coats Island were introduced onto Southampton Island. Caribou numbers have since increased rapidly, in part, due to exceptional range conditions resulting from the 14-year absence of caribou from the Island. The lack of predation and low initial harvest rates also played a role in the overwhelming success of the introduction.
- The first caribou population survey (including both Southampton and White Island) was conducted in 1978 and produced an estimate of 1,200 caribou. Since 1978, subsequent surveys have documented the rapid growth of this population to 4,000 in 1987, 9,000 in 1990, 13,700 in 1991, 18,275 in 1995 and finally 29,146 in 1997. These survey results, suggest a population growth rate of +/- 27 %/yr. which, by 1991, was realized as a 5 fold increase in caribou density.
- At their present rate of growth the caribou of Southampton and White Island have/will likely exceed the Islands estimated carrying capacity of 40,000 animals. Once carrying capacity has been exceeded a significant decline in caribou numbers on both Southampton and White Islands could result.

- A quota system was initiated on Southampton Island during the 1977/78 hunting season. The initial quota of 25 males was maintained up to the 1990/91 harvesting season at which time it was increased to 300 males and 100 females. During the 1992/93 season, the department recommended increasing the commercial harvest to 1000 animals in an effort to control the growth of the herd. It was also recommended that a higher proportion of females, taken within the allotted quota, would be consistent with proposed management objectives. Subsequently, the exponential population growth curve made apparent by the 1995/96-population survey led to an increase in the commercial quota to 6000 (of which a recommended 70% to 80% should be females) in a continued effort to control the growth of the herd.
- It was hoped that the commercial harvest would provide a means of controlling the caribou population expansion as well as provide economic benefits to the community of Coral Harbour. However, the harvesting of up to 6000 adult female caribou, calculated to be the minimum harvest necessary to control the population increase, has never been met. On average approximately 2500 animals, mostly males, have been harvested. Consequently, these annual harvests are expected to have had little to no effect on controlling the population expansion.
- To date, no commercial harvest of caribou on White Island has been undertaken despite numerous occurrence reports of high caribou densities, as well as sick and lame caribou on the island. In addition, 2 confirmed cases of Brucellosis have been reported on Southampton Island. Since an increase in the incidence of disease can often be attributed to high animal densities, it is possible that the caribou of Southampton and White Island are displaying signs of over-abundance.
- The Government has met numerous times with the Coral Harbour HTO to discuss ways of controlling caribou population growth. The protection of wolves, as well as finding ways to meet the harvest target of 6000 Southampton Island caribou has been agreed upon on each of these occasions.

Status:

- Research conducted by the Department of Sustainable Development (current to February 2000), as well as observations from local hunters, continues to indicate the expansion of Southampton/White Island caribou.
- Currently, the commercial quota for Southampton Island/ White Island caribou is allocated to Coral harbour. However, since 1997, Repulse Bay has been requesting a sport-hunting allocation of 80 tags for use on White Island.

- Consultations with the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) and the region's HTO's have indicated that, specifically in the case of White Island, restrictions should not be placed on the commercial use of White Island caribou by Repulse Bay since such a harvest would have little to no effect on the Southampton Island population of caribou and may in fact be beneficial. The Kivalliq Regional Biologist, upon receiving a request for comment from the Repulse Bay HTO as to the biological implications of a sport hunt on White Island, concurred with the KWF's position.

Recommendations:

From a biological perspective, the issue of conducting sport hunts on White Island is not complex. A sport hunt of 80 caribou on White Island will at present have no negative impacts on the Southampton/White Island caribou population and in fact could be beneficial both in terms of preserving important caribou range and in terms of economic benefits to the community of Repulse Bay. **It is therefore recommended that an allocation of 80 Southampton/White Island caribou tags be established for Repulse Bay for the purposes of sport hunting specifically on White Island. This decision should be re-visited following any indications of a population decline on either Southampton Island or White Island.**

Consultations:

See notes above

Prepared By: Wildlife Service, DSD

Date: November 2002

Attachments:

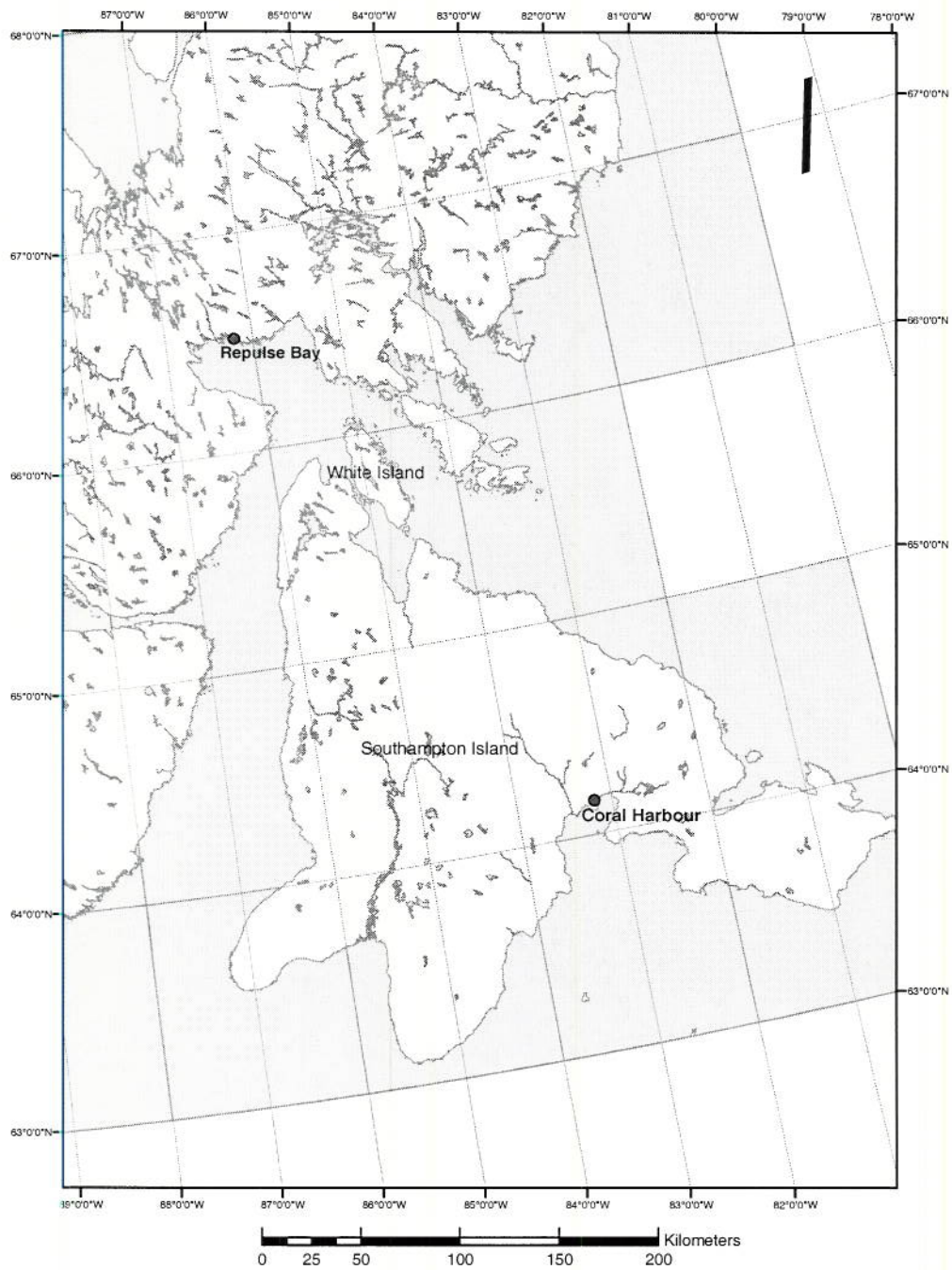


Figure 1 Southampton & White Island and their proximity to Repulse Bay & Coral Harbour.

MAY-16-02 12:05 FROM: RESOURCES WILDLIFE ECONO 15-777

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The Hon. Qlayuk Akoolak

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Ministak Angohikittkoni
Minister of Sustainable Development
Ministère du Développement durable

*For J. Noble
from David Alagalak*

*Stephen A - pls follow up
on these items & cc both the
minister & I on any correspondence
to David Alagalak + to Mr.
Forley.*

*A April 15/02
OF April 22/02*

April 10, 2002

David Alagalak,
President,
Kivalliaq Wildlife Board,
P.O. Box 229,
Arviat, Nunavut
X0C 0E0

Request for 80 Non-Resident Barren Ground Caribou Tags, White Island

Dear Mr. Alagalak,

Thank you for your letter of April 8, 2002. I have forwarded your letter to the Department of Sustainable Development for follow-up. You should hear from the department in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further enquiries.

Sincerely,

Jane Couper
Executive Assistant



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The Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

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Ministak Angohikiltkoni
Minister of Sustainable Development
Ministère du Développement durable

April 10, 2002

David Alagalak,
President,
Kivalliaq Wildlife Board,
P.O. Box 229,
Arviat, Nunavut --
X0C 0E0

Request for 80 Non-Resident Barren Ground Caribou Tags, White Island

Dear Mr. Alagalak,

Thank you for your letter of April 9, 2002. I have forwarded your letter to the Department of Sustainable Development for follow-up. You should hear from the department in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further enquiries.

Sincerely,


Jane Cooper
Executive Assistant

David Alagalak
President KWB
Box 229
Arviat, NU
XOC OEO

July 15, 2002

David,

Please be advised that on July 7, 2002 a briefing note to the Minister was done up from our office of DSD in Arviat in support of issuing 80 non-resident barren ground caribou tags to the Arviq HTO in Repulse Bay. This is in support of a request from them for these tags to be allocated for White Island, which is part of the Southampton Island caribou population. This letter is for your records. If you require any further information please call me at (867) 857-2828.

Thank-you very much,



Dan Shewchuk
Regional Wildlife Manager
DSD, Kivalliq Region
Box 120
Arviat, NU
XOC OEO

MAY-10-02 12:05 FROM RESOURCES WILDLIFE ECONO ID:777

KIVAJIJO WILDLIFE BOARD

P.O. Box 229 Arviat, Nu XOC QED
Telephone: (867) 857-2692/2196/2197 Fax: (867) 857-2910

representing HTO's

Repulse Bay

Ungava Harbour

Laker Lake

Chesterfield

Lankin Inlet

Whale Cove

Arviat

Date: April 8/02
To: Minister Okesite
Fax #: 975-5036

- From:
- David Alagalak - **President**
 - Lucy Kasidjak - **Executive Director**
 - Janet Aket - **Regional Liaison Officer**
 - Debbie Arnelek - **Secretary/Treasurer Clerk**
 - Other

Number of pages including cover page 2

Message:

APR 08 2002
RECEIVED

PLEASE CALL IF THERE'S ANY PROBLEM IN RECEIVING.

"Responsible use of wildlife in protection of our culture."
"b'c/d'g'p' b'ld'c' f'g'n'c'c'g' A'p'c'g'c'."

Department of Sustainable Development BF Cover Page

Return By: Apr 22, 2002

Subject: Request for 80 Non-Resident Barren Ground Caribou Tags, White Island

Document Number: LC-00798

Document Date: Apr 10, 2002

Today's Date: Apr 17, 2002

Document Forwarded To: Atkinson, Stephen

Document Forwarded By: Campbell, Alex

Document From: Cooper, Jane

Action:

- Reply for Alex Campbell's signature
- Reply for Minister's Signature
- Comments
- Briefing note
- Status report
- As per attached comments
- Other

*Please follow-up
with Mitch Campbell
and Jan.*

*A short BW on
this would be good.
Thanks.*

Notes:

Please follow-up with these items and cc both the Minister and I on any correspondence to David Alagalak and to Mr. Farley.

When correspondence is returned to this office, please make sure this page is on top. Thank You, c

MAY-10-02 12:04 FROM: RESOURCES WILDLIFE ECONO ID: 777

ΔδΑ'Α-α-η-η'η'
Department of
Sustainable Development
Ikupigvilirijjkk
Ministère du Développement
Durable

Memo

Date: May 10, 2002
To: Mitch Campbell 857-2986
Dan Shewchuk
From: Siu-ling Han

Re. Briefing note -- KWT request for White Island Caribou tags

Please find attached the briefing note request and supporting information which Stephen asked me to pass on to you. Although the "BF" date indicates reply required April 22nd, I only just rec'd it today, so I guess as soon as you can put it together would be appreciated.

It appears that a letter of reply to Mr. Alagalak, as well as a briefing note for the Minister's office are needed, please.

Let me know if you have any questions, and when you think a reply could be prepared.

thank you.

MAY-10-02 12:08 FROM: RESOURCES WILDLIFE ECONO ID: 777

KIVALLIQ WILDLIFE BOARD

P.O. Box 229 Arviat, NU X0C 0E0

Telephone: (867) 857-2990 Fax: (867) 857-2990

Arviat HTO

David Alagalak
President
Kivalliq Wildlife Board
P.O. Box 229
Arviat, Nunavut
X0C 0E0

Repulse Bay

April 8, 2002

Etah Harbour

Minister Akosuk
Minister of Department of Sustainable Development
Government of Nunavut
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Ker Lake

Re: Approval request for 80 Non-Resident Barren Ground Caribou Tags --
White Island

Esterfield

Dear Sir,

Arviat Inlet

We had previously requested for approval of 80 Non-Resident
National Citizen Caribou Tags and White Island Caribou Tags from
Trappers Organization

We would like to hear of the progress of this request in writing by
fax to our office at (867) 857-2990.

Arviat Cove

Sincerely,



David Alagalak
President
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Arviat

c.c: Steve Mapsalak, President, Arviat HTO, Repulse Bay
Hon Kovic, Chairman, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

"Responsible use of wildlife is protection of our culture."
"Aqunngit piliqutinnit qauyasat ilagimut."/>

meeting 34