

Harvest Management Strategy Working Group Meeting

October 4, 2007
Dawson City, Yukon

In Attendance

Working Group Members

Doug Urquhart, Facilitator
Joe Tetlich, Chair, PCMB
Deana Lemke, Secretariat, PCMB
Dick Mahoney, NND
Marsha Branigan, GNWT
Doug Esagok, IGC
Esau Shafer, VGFN
Roberta Joseph, TH
Carol Domes, GY
Wendy Nixon, GC
Wilbert Firth, GTC

Also in Attendance

Dorothy Cooley, GY
Martin Kienzler, GY
James MacDonald, TH
Shel Graupe, VGFN

1. Opening/Introductions

Roberta Joseph opened the meeting in prayer and welcomed participants to the TH traditional territory. The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m.

Following introductions, Joe Tetlich provided opening comments.

2. Background

Background information was reviewed respecting how we arrived at this point. A scoping document was prepared a few years ago by Lindsay Staples, contracted by the PCMB. This scoping document outlined the issues related to harvest management the need to bring all responsible parties together to produce a comprehensive, coordinated Harvest Management Strategy (HMS).

Harvest management is not something new for TH; they currently have a management plan for salmon harvest. It was recommended that we also include Alaska in this type of PCH planning, as it is an international herd. Hopefully our HMS will be an incentive to engage Alaska in a similar process.

Harvest studies have varied over the years. We have access to the Gwich'in harvest study, the Inuvialuit harvest study, Yukon resident harvest, non-resident harvest, Alaska sport hunting, check station information, and some Yukon FN harvest numbers. We will need to get as much harvest information as possible in order to have a clear grasp of what the actual harvest numbers are.

Summary of relevant sections of relevant land-claims agreements will be provided at the workshop (i.e. information related to total allowable harvest (TAH), in numbers or percentages). Dorothy has agreed to provide that summary.

3. Protocol Review

The HMS Protocol has been signed by all signatories to the PCMA, with the exception of Government of Canada, which has confirmed support for the HMS and the Protocol.

The terms of reference for the Working Group (WG) were discussed (as outlined in the Protocol). The WG will work on the development of the HMS Harvest Management Plan (HMP), will consult with their communities/constituents, and then recommend the HMP to the parties and the PCMB. Once endorsed, the PCMB will forward the HMP to the appropriate Ministers as recommended by the PCMB. Consultation within the communities is not constituted as big-C consultation that the governments themselves must then undertake.

Legal reviews will likely need to be undertaken by all relevant governments prior to committing to the HMP.

WG will need to collect the science-based and local and traditional information related to the herd from their respective communities and organizations. Each WG member will be equipped with a list of questions that would be pertinent to the HMP regarding the local and traditional knowledge to ensure consistent information is gathered.

The Native User Agreement will be done as a separate exercise, potentially under the direction of a steering committee. The Native User Agreement is not the responsibility of the WG.

3. Situation Analysis

Focus of the HMP should be on how to identify the harvest “zones” (green, yellow, red), how to determine which zone we are in, what the appropriate management regime is for each zone, how to monitor the harvesting activity, and how to communicate with the communities/organizations.

Point 4.3(b) speaks to monitoring the status of the population and its habitat. Monitoring the habitat would include the consideration of major changes to the state of caribou habitat such as forest fires or large new land uses in the range of the herd and consider that when determining harvesting levels.

The final HMP should not be a large document. Perhaps it could be two documents – one that is the HMP “manual” and one that includes the legal instruments that have implications to the HM (reference documents).

4. Workshop

The workshop will be held in Inuvik, on February 18-21. The WG discussed the agenda for the four-day workshop, including:

- Introductions/Overview
- Status of the herd
- FN laws and internal procedures (one from each YFN, GTC and Inuvialuit)
- Harvest Tags (Tag in a Bag)
- Bluenose Story
- Salmon Management model (TH)
- Overview of zones (red, yellow, green)
- Population monitoring – basics
- Caribou Calculator
- Red Zone discussion
- Green Zone
- Yellow Zone
- Sale, Trade and Barter
- Conclusions/Next Steps

The agenda will be finalized and distributed to all parties and invitees to the workshop as soon as possible.

5. Next Meeting

The WG will meet in Inuvik prior to the workshop, on Wednesday, October 17, at 3:00 p.m. at the Midnight Sun Recreation Centre. The WG will also meet following the workshop on the morning of October 22, in Inuvik.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Closing prayer was offered by Joe Tetlich.