

PCMB

Annual Harvest Meeting

February 9th – 10th, 2021



Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH



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Harvest Data Collection

- TH F&W actively seeks harvest data information from Citizens through a variety of methods:
 - Mail-outs
 - Door-to-door surveys
 - Phone calls
 - Word of mouth and follow-up
 - Citizen meetings
 - TH Website
 - Social Media



TH is now on Instagram!

- In previous years, we have had really good success with conducting door-to-door surveys with auxiliary on-call staff members in the TH Fish and Wildlife branch

Harvest for tomorrow:

✓ Shoot a bull.



Not as many bulls are needed in a healthy population.

✓ Let cows live.



Cows produce calves. Their calves grow into adults and produce more calves.

On average, a cow that lives 10 years could result in 23 more caribou.



Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Harvest Survey



TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN HARVEST SURVEY
 For the harvest year: April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021
FILL OUT THIS SURVEY TO ENTER THE FISH & WILDLIFE PRIZE DRAW!
 Prizes to be drawn at 4 pm on April 9, 2021

1st Prize: 10 x \$6 Wall tent **2nd Prize: Sporting scope** **3rd Prize: Beaver fur mitts**
PLUS! Each TH household to submit a completed survey will receive a \$20 Shop Days gift certificate in recognition of your time and valued input.

The information collected in this survey helps inform the TH Fish & Wildlife Branch of changes in harvesting practices, needs, and harvest effort of TH Citizens in the TH Traditional Territory.

Q.1: How many TH CITIZENS live in your household?
 # Elders (55+) _____ # Adults (18-54) _____ # Youth (15-25) _____

Q.2: How many TH CITIZENS in your household went hunting/fishing or gathering from Apr. 1, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021?
 # Elders (55+) _____ # Adults (18-54) _____ # Youth (15-25) _____

Q.3: Were the subsistence needs of your household met this past year? (circle one)
 All Most Some Very Little None

Q.4: How were your household's needs for meat/fish/berries met this year? (circle all that apply)
 Went hunting/fishing/gathering _____ SALMON _____ Moose _____
 If so, how much? Moose _____ Caribou _____
 Meat/fish/berries left in the freezer from last year _____
 Purchased meat/fish/berries at the store _____
 Raised livestock _____
 TH Programming (e.g. meals on wheels, etc.) _____
 Other: _____

Q.5: Did anything prevent you from harvesting as often as you would have liked? (check all that apply)
 Access problems Poor health Lack of childcare Not enough time Too crowded/unusual?
 Equipment problems Nobody to go with me Too expensive Bad weather

Q.6: During any of your harvesting trips in the TH Traditional Territory, did you see anything interesting or unusual? (examples: lots of cow moose with twins, large pack of wolves, unusual behaviour or appearance, etc.)
 Yes _____ No _____

Q.7: Do you have any concerns about anything you saw while out on the land in the TH Traditional Territory? (examples: habitat damage, user conflicts, poor harvesting practices, etc.)
 Yes _____ No _____

Q.8: Please fill in the following sections for EACH SPECIES that the TH harvesters in your household actively searched for in 2020.
 Disregard those sections for any fish, wildlife or plant species that you didn't actively search for.

SMALL GAME How much effort did you put in to searching for small game? # trips _____ # days _____ # Don't remember _____

Where did you search? (check all that apply) How much effort compared to last year (2019)?
 Goldfields Dempster Top of World Hwy Klondike Hwy
 Yukon River Stewart River Outside THTT Other: _____

Why not? (check all that apply)
 Too crowded/too many hunters Too far away/out of range
 Low abundance/not enough animals around Not enough time/ran out of time
 A licensed hunter in my household or hunting party harvested the animal(s) instead We were selective/didn't find what we were looking for

How many hunters did you see? _____
 Where did you see them? _____
 How many harvested animals did you see? _____
 Why not? (check all that apply)
 Too crowded/too many hunters Too far away/out of range
 Low abundance/not enough animals around Not enough time/ran out of time
 A licensed hunter in my household or hunting party harvested the animal(s) instead We were selective/didn't find what we were looking for

How many did you harvest? _____
 # grouse: _____ # ptarmigan: _____
 # rabbits: _____ # other: _____

Was this enough to meet your needs? Do they live in the THTT?
 YES NO Yes No
 YES With who? # Family _____ # Elders _____ # Friends _____
 Fat _____ # Normal _____ # Skinny _____ # Sick/Injured _____

How much did you keep for your household?
 Details: _____

FISH How much effort did you put in to fishing? # nets _____ # lines _____ # days _____ # Don't remember _____

Where did you fish or set nets or lines? (check all that apply)
 Fortymile River North Klondike Blackstone River
 Yukon River Klondike River Outside THTT Other: _____

Why not? (check all that apply)
 Timing of run was off Harvest pressure
 Not enough time Limited harvest effort to conserve stocks
 Didn't fish last year Don't remember

How many SALMON did you harvest?
 # male Chum: _____ # female Chinook: _____
 # unknown Chum: _____ # unknown Chinook: _____

How much SALMON harvested compared to last year?
 More Less Similar Don't remember

How did the Chinook run appear in 2020?
 # Abundant # Average # Low # Don't know

How did the Chum run appear in 2020?
 # Abundant # Average # Low # Don't know

How many FRESHWATER FISH did you harvest?
 # Grayling: _____ # Burbot (lingcod): _____
 # Whitefish: _____ # Dolly Varden: _____

How much fish harvested compared to last year?
 More Less Similar Don't remember

Did you share a portion of your harvest with another household? Do they live in the THTT?
 YES NO Yes No
 YES With who? # Family _____ # Elders _____ # Friends _____
 Fat _____ # Normal _____ # Skinny _____ # Sick/Injured _____

How much did you keep for your household?
 Details: _____

Was the animal(s) healthy? Do they live in the THTT?
 Fat _____ # Normal _____ # Skinny _____ # Sick/Injured _____
 Details: _____

PLANT How much effort did you put in to searching for plants? # trips _____ # days _____ # Don't remember _____

Where did you search? (check all that apply) How much effort compared to last year (2019)?
 Goldfields Dempster Top of World Hwy Klondike Hwy
 Yukon River Stewart River Outside THTT Other: _____

Why not? (check all that apply)
 Too crowded/too many hunters Too far away/out of range
 Low abundance/not enough animals around Not enough time/ran out of time
 A licensed hunter in my household or hunting party harvested the animal(s) instead We were selective/didn't find what we were looking for

How many hunters did you see? _____
 Where did you see them? _____
 How many harvested animals did you see? _____
 Why not? (check all that apply)
 Too crowded/too many hunters Too far away/out of range
 Low abundance/not enough animals around Not enough time/ran out of time
 A licensed hunter in my household or hunting party harvested the animal(s) instead We were selective/didn't find what we were looking for

How many did you harvest? _____
 # Male: _____ # Female: _____
 # Moose: _____ # Caribou: _____
 # Sheep: _____ # Squirrel: _____

Was this enough to meet your needs? Do they live in the THTT?
 YES NO Yes No
 YES With who? # Family _____ # Elders _____ # Friends _____
 Fat _____ # Normal _____ # Skinny _____ # Sick/Injured _____

How much did you keep for your household?
 Details: _____

Was the animal(s) healthy? Do they live in the THTT?
 Fat _____ # Normal _____ # Skinny _____ # Sick/Injured _____
 Details: _____

WATER How much effort did you put in to searching for water? # trips _____ # days _____ # Don't remember _____

Where did you search? (check all that apply) How much effort compared to last year (2019)?
 Goldfields Dempster Top of World Hwy Klondike Hwy
 Yukon River Stewart River Outside THTT Other: _____

Why not? (check all that apply)
 Too crowded/too many hunters Too far away/out of range
 Low abundance/not enough animals around Not enough time/ran out of time
 A licensed hunter in my household or hunting party harvested the animal(s) instead We were selective/didn't find what we were looking for

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Was this enough to meet your needs? Do they live in the THTT?
 YES NO Yes No
 YES With who? # Family _____ # Elders _____ # Friends _____
 Fat _____ # Normal _____ # Skinny _____ # Sick/Injured _____

How much did you keep for your household?
 Details: _____

Was the animal(s) healthy? Do they live in the THTT?
 Fat _____ # Normal _____ # Skinny _____ # Sick/Injured _____
 Details: _____

Annually, TH collects fish and wildlife harvest data via a Harvest Survey for TH Citizens.

Harvest data is for TH management purposes only, but may be shared with other agencies or governments if required to help with harvest management plans or management strategies.

TH Reported Harvest

of Porcupine Caribou

Harvest Dates June 1 st – May 31 st	Reported Harvest Numbers
2012/ 2013	1
2013/ 2014	2
2014/ 2015	6
2015/ 2016	12
2016/ 2017	0
2017/ 2018	0
2018/2019	1*
2019/2020	3
2020/2021	?



Body Condition

- Information from questions asked about caribou condition and availability during mail-outs and door-to-door surveys
- No abnormalities were seen in the 3 porcupine caribou that were harvested by TH Citizens in the 2019/2020 harvest year

Was/were the animal(s) healthy?
MOOSE: Fat Normal Skinny Sick/injured
CARIBOU: Fat Normal Skinny Sick/injured
SHEEP: Fat Normal Skinny Sick/injured
Details: _____

Did anything prevent you from harvesting as often as you would have liked? (check all that apply)

- Access problems Poor health Lack of childcare Not enough time Too crowded
 Equipment problems Nobody to go with me Too expensive Bad weather
 Other: _____

During any of your harvesting trips in the TH Traditional Territory, did you see anything interesting or unusual? (examples: lots of cow moose with twins; large pack of wolves; unusual behaviour or appearance; cougars, coyotes or deer; lots of tracks, etc.)

Do you have any concerns about anything you saw while out on the land in the TH Traditional Territory? (examples: habitat damage, user conflicts, poor harvesting practices, etc.)



Population Trends & Habitat

- Population trends and habitat observations are hard to establish with the low number of Porcupine caribou that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizens harvest – for example, only 3 caribou were known to be harvested by TH Citizens this past year.
- In recent years, the PCH has spent very little time (if any) in the THTT, so we have had fewer opportunities to observe the herd in general.



TH Communication Efforts

- The TH F&W branch receives direction from Council, and communicates and consults with Elders' Council, Youth Council and the General Assembly to discuss any harvest management changes that may need to be considered
- The F&W branch informs TH citizens of harvest management strategies for certain species
- We communicate current population estimates for various species and share communication materials developed by our government and others
- We are involved in various education programs (i.e. First Fish, Fall Harvest Camp, First Hunt, First Trapper, etc.)



Education

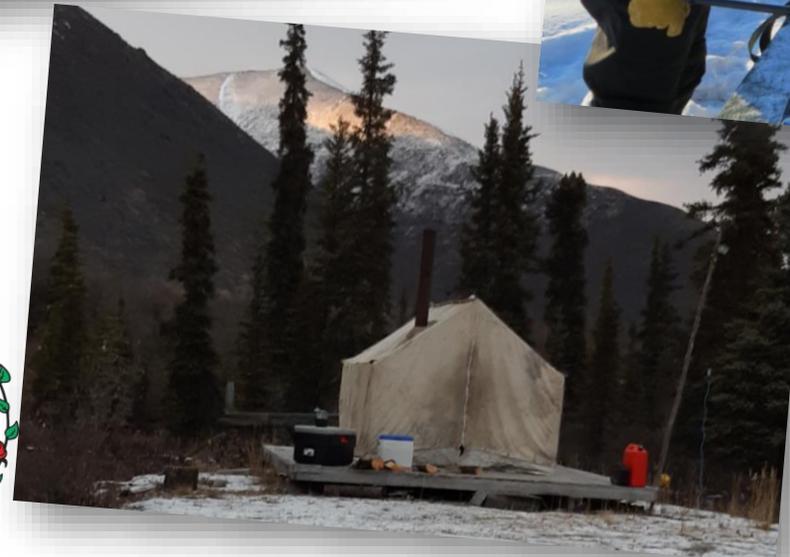
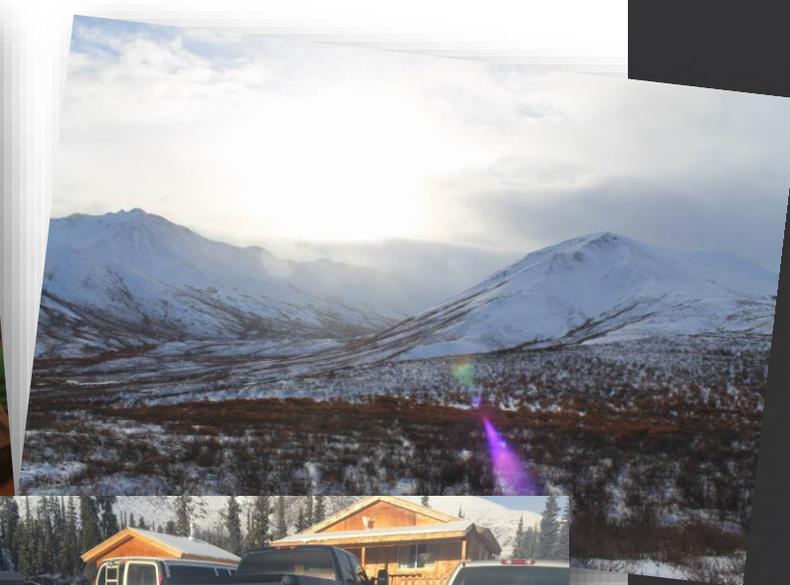
- For over two decades, TH has been educating our youth on the respectful harvesting practices at TH's successful program, "First Hunt"
- Since 1994, TH has held a camp every year up the Dempster Highway at Cache Creek
- Today, our youth and Citizens go out onto the land and harvest food by using the practices they've learned from the First Hunt camp
- TH Leaders, Elders, Citizens and other members of the Dawson community strongly support this program to ensure that respectful practices of taking food from the land will continue for generations to come



Education is a key responsibility for managing subsistence harvesting within the TH Traditional Territory

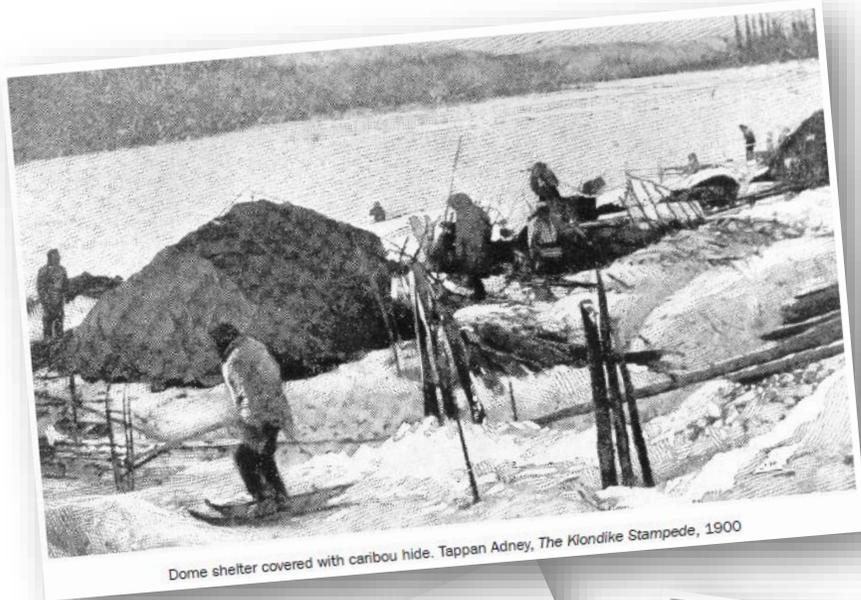


First Hunt



Nothing Wasted

Traditional Uses of Caribou



Dome shelter covered with caribou hide. Tappan Adney, *The Klondike Stampede*, 1900



Caribou skin dress.
Royal Ontario Museum, D.A. Cameron Coll.



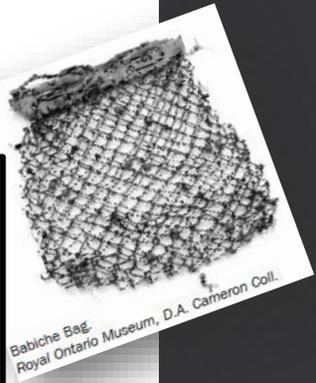
Caribou skin parka.
Royal Ontario Museum, D.A. Cameron Coll.



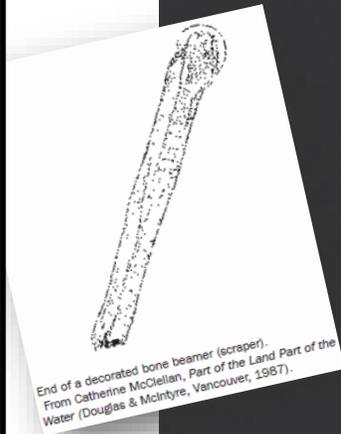
"Interior of Indian Skin-house." From Tappan Adney, *The Klondike Stampede*, 1900.

Everything on that caribou is used. Even the feet was hanging dry. They hang it up, it don't spoil. Like the moose nose they burn the hair off it. You could hang it and it'll keep for a long time to come. Then they start to bundle dry meat just like baling fish...In the fall time there's lots of fat caribou. Nothing is wasted on that. They make lard out of the fat, and they use all the bone. They pound it up and they make grease out it. That's something like Crisco. Real high rich fat, grease... They make clothes with parky skin...They make sleeping robe with skin, and they make Skidoo suit for little kids. They look like Skidoo suit so I call it Skidoo suit, because I had one myself. It was one you don't need underclothes under. You just slip it on and we go. You never get cold with that one. That's how caribou is used for many things. You make robe. You make rope with it. You make dog harness, dog collar, so everything there is for everything.

ANNIE HENRY, BLACK CITY, 1992



Babiche Bag.
Royal Ontario Museum, D.A. Cameron Coll.



End of a decorated bone beamer (scraper).
From Catherine McClellan, Part of the Land Part of the Water (Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, 1987).



Harvest Pressure



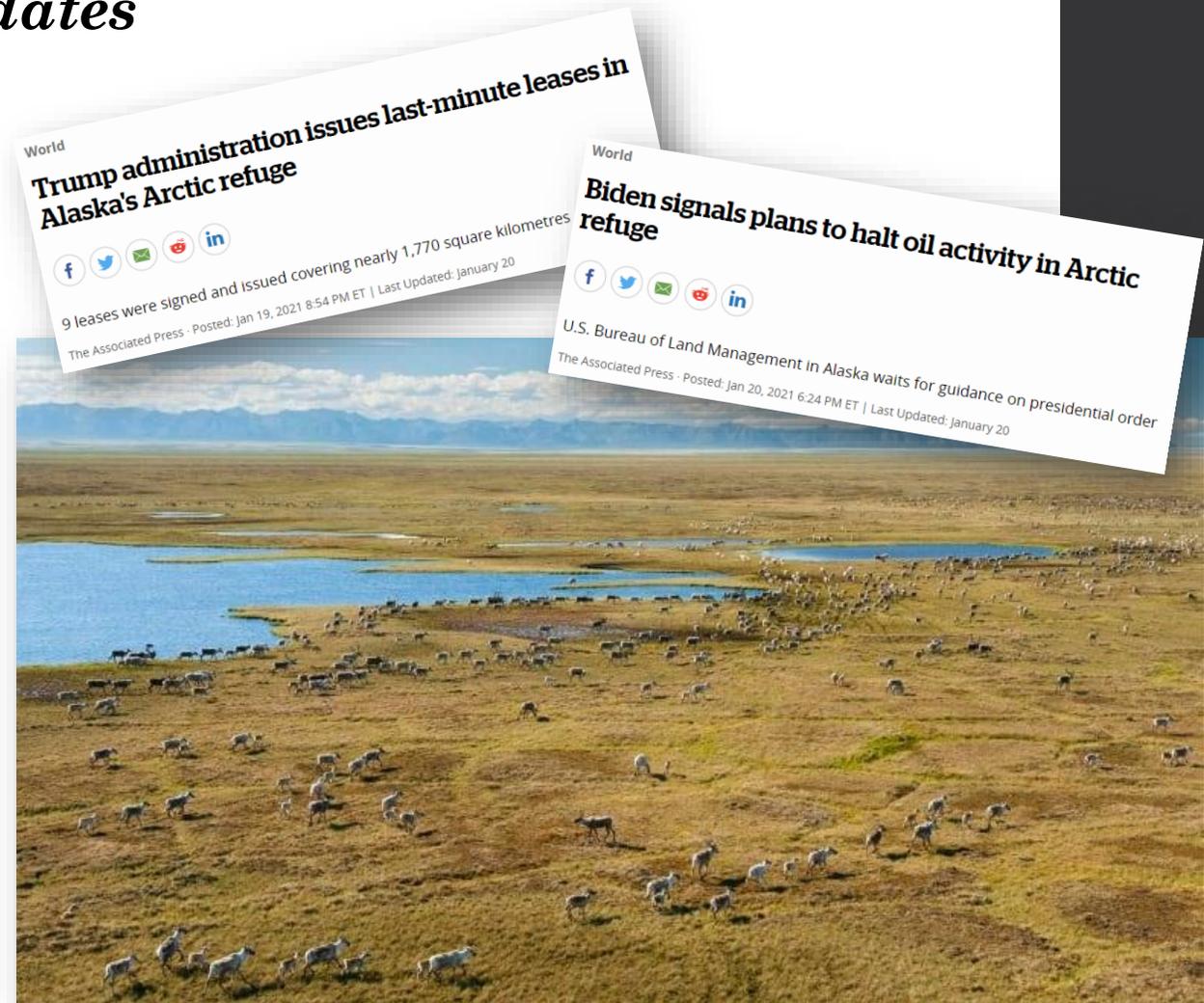
- Current increasing pressure on moose and declining salmon populations has already and will continue to increase demand for other sources of wild meat – such as the Porcupine Caribou Herd
- Looking forward, the Porcupine Caribou Herd will continue to be increasingly important as a food source within the TH Traditional Territory



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Updates

- TH firmly opposes to any level of oil and gas development in the critical habitat of the PCH
- TH has been consistently responding to oil and gas development assessment processes in ANWR since Dec 2017, when the '1002 area' lands were opened to oil and gas development under the last US government administration.
- We have opposed the Environmental Impact Statement, the Record of Decision, the lease sale, and proposed 3D seismic exploration activities.
- We will continue to support the full protection of the '1002 area' lands, and we sincerely hope that the new US Administration will fulfill their promises to protect this vital area for the future of the PCH.



TH Priorities

Harvest Reporting & Collection of Traditional Knowledge

- Improve communications with TH citizens for harvest data reporting
- TK-based survey to collect information on changes to weather patterns, herd migration, hunting corridors, health of the land, etc.
- Offer meat processing workshops (with H&S) to teach butchering skills and meat processing techniques (e.g. sausage making, dry meat, freezer packaging, etc.)
- Cultural skills workshops such as hide tanning and drum making, and traditional clothes making.

Ethical & Respectful Harvesting

- TH community and Councils support ethical and respectful harvesting
- TH supports continued communications and education on Best Practices
- TH supports education initiatives carried out by the PCMB
- Respect your harvest
- TH supports hunting camps that educate hunters on safe and respectful hunting practices

Shoot to kill. Take only what you need, and use all that you take.





Mähsi cho

Thank you

