

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)



TERM REPORT April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2007

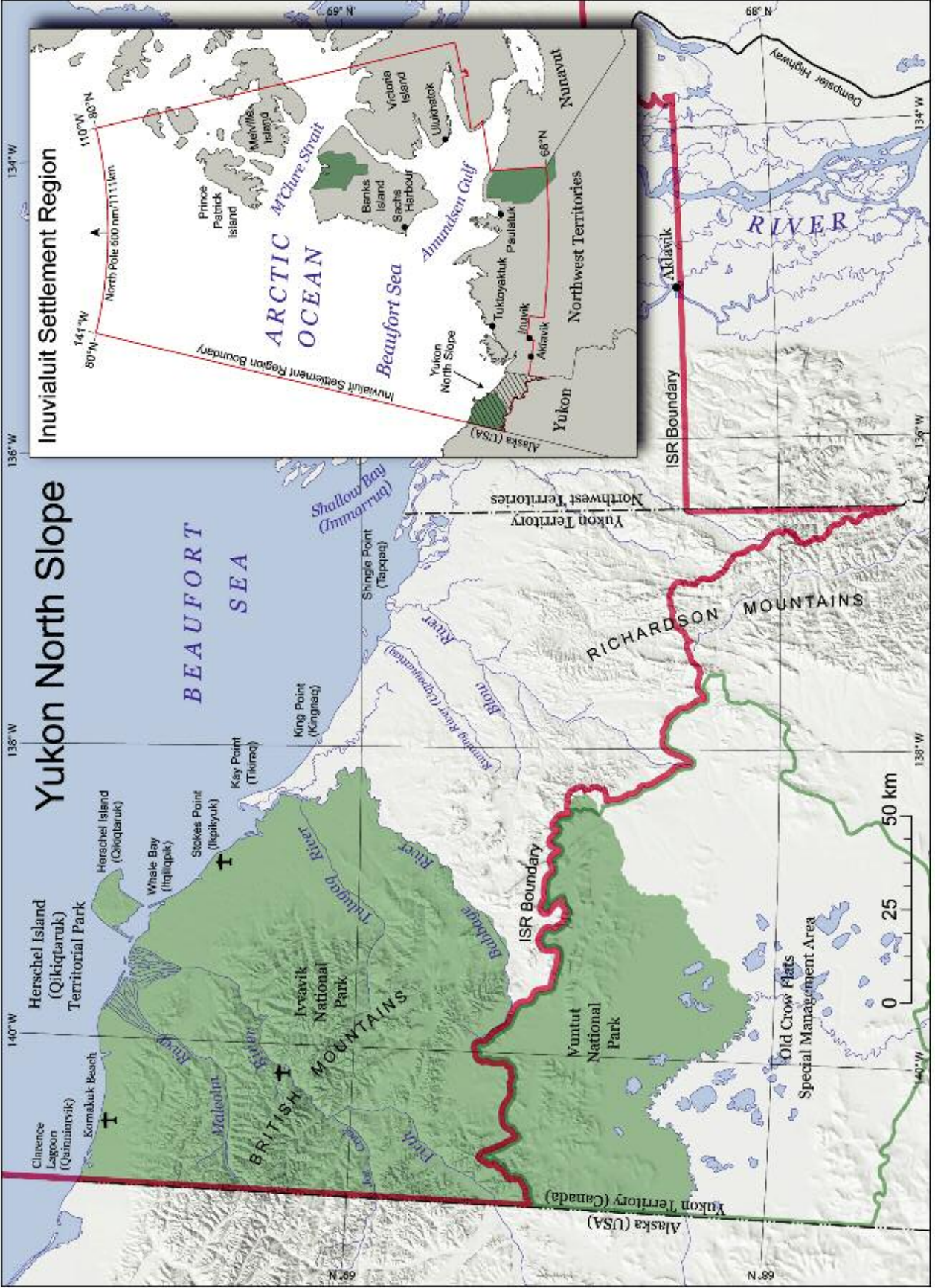


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Cameron Eckert

This report outlines the activities and projects undertaken by the Council during the two-year term from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2007.



Mike Gill

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement recognizes the unique geographic and ecological features of the Yukon North Slope, the abundance and diversity of its wildlife populations, and the importance of the area to the people who have used it traditionally. The Agreement established a special management regime to achieve the conservation purposes of the area. In order to succeed, this regime assumes and requires a high level of cooperation between governments and aboriginal organizations in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Alaska, and federal governments in Canada and the United States. The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) was one of a small and early handful of joint committees or “co-management” bodies established in northern Canada to promote collaboration in wildlife management between communities, aboriginal people and federal and territorial governments.

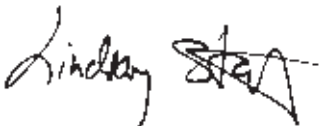
Evolving institutional arrangements, extensive joint research and monitoring programs that involve the participation of local people and communities, and cooperative initiatives amongst governments and aboriginal organizations are indicators of what has been achieved and the instruments that are available to address present and future wildlife and environmental issues on the Yukon North Slope. Today, co-management arrangements and initiatives are no longer unique to the Yukon North Slope or the Inuvialuit Settlement Region; they are established and active in other parts of Canada and in some countries far from the Canadian Arctic in both northern and southern hemispheres.

Over the two year period covered by this report, the Council has witnessed increased attention to the offshore area of the Beaufort Sea – a region that hasn’t seen a remotely comparable level of exploration and conservation activity in over a decade. This activity has been driven by several factors: the increased demand in North America for hydrocarbons and higher oil prices which can support frontier exploration; the increased desire to establish conservation management regimes in advance of large scale industrial development; and the prospect of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline which could transport Mackenzie Delta and offshore gas. It is reasonable to anticipate that over the next few years, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) and other co-management organizations established under the IFA will be increasingly involved in the review of programs and plans associated with these initiatives. All of us will be challenged to meet these demands. Cooperation and collaboration will be key to meeting these challenges.

Over the last two years, the Council’s activities have benefited greatly from cooperation and support from many quarters: the Yukon Government’s Department of Environment (Fish and Wildlife Branch, Parks Branch, and Claims Implementation and Aboriginal Affairs Branch), the Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada – Western Arctic Field Unit, the Government of the Northwest Territories’ Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Inuvik Region, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, other IFA co-management organizations, the Inuvialuit Game Council and Joint Secretariat, and federal and state researchers and managers and Inupiat organizations in Alaska. To all of these agencies and organizations we express our sincere thanks for their support and efforts.

Once again, I offer my appreciation for the generous efforts and commitment of Council members toward the conservation of wildlife, habitat and the protection of Inuvialuit traditional use on the Yukon North Slope.

Sincerely,

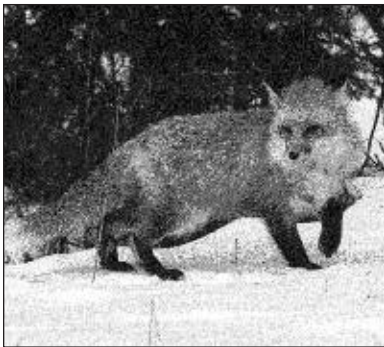


Lindsay Staples

Chair

THE YUKON NORTH SLOPE

The signing of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) marked an exciting milestone for the traditional users of the Yukon North Slope. Under the IFA, the Inuvialuit and the government successfully negotiated the creation of two parks on the Yukon North Slope: Ivvavik National Park and Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park.



The Yukon North Slope is located in the northern region of Canada's Yukon Territory and encompasses the western portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. It is an area of land and sea stretching from Alaska to the Northwest Territories, including the portion of the Yukon mainland whose waters drain into the Beaufort Sea, as well as Herschel Island, other islands, and nearshore and offshore waters.

The Yukon North Slope area is of international significance as one of Canada's most diverse Arctic environments and is home to a host of important wildlife species. The land includes braided rivers, lagoons, mountain ranges, and coastal plains. The marine environment includes near and offshore waters of Beaufort Sea. Although the region includes a number of mountain ranges, the Yukon North Slope derives its name from the gently sloping lands that drop down to the shores of the Beaufort Sea. The historic passage of the glaciers on the eastern portions of the plain makes these areas quite different from the western portions.

The North Slope is bordered to the west by the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to the south by the Old Crow Flats with its important waterfowl populations, and to the east by the Mackenzie River Delta.

The Yukon North Slope region has no roads or towns and there are few signs of development. The indicators of human presence include several drilling sites and isolated North Warning System radar sites, as well as many seasonal hunting camps used by Inuvialuit people.

The North Slope is an extreme environment; the duration of winter is long, temperatures chilling, and the days short. Winters are followed by very short, dry growing seasons, making this area one of the world's most severe environments for people, wildlife and plants. The unique interactions of land forms, climate and life make it one of the most interesting as well.

The Inuvialuit people have a special connection to this land. They have relied on the region's wildlife for hundreds of years. While most Inuvialuit now live in nearby communities such as Aklavik and Inuvik, many return to the North Slope on an annual



Michelle Sicotte

basis to hunt, trap and fish. They use traditional gathering places in the mountains and along the coast. These seasonal hunting camps are reminders of an active and enduring human occupancy.

The Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic negotiated and signed a land claim in 1984 in order to ensure conservation and protection of the North Slope area. The Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) was negotiated with the Government of Canada and brought renewed and much deserved attention to the Yukon North Slope. This agreement also provided opportunities for the Inuvialuit to participate in economic and social development and decisions in the north. From the onset of the agreement until present the goals negotiated under the agreement have been clear in their mandate to protect this land with little change.

Section 12(2) of the IFA states: “The Yukon North Slope shall fall under a special conservation regime whose dominant purpose is the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional native use.”



Herschel Island Park Rangers

WMAC (NS) was established in 1988 under the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Settlement Act*, ultimately the result of the 1984 Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA).

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council for the Yukon North Slope is comprised of five members: two appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council, two by Government (one by the federal Minister of Environment, one by the Government of Yukon), and an independent chairperson. Each appointed member has an alternate. The Council employs a secretariat to oversee its business.

The Council was established to “...provide advice to the appropriate minister on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Yukon North Slope ...” (Section 12(56) IFA)

The Council has a mandate to:

- Provide advice on wildlife policy and the management, regulation, and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Yukon North Slope;
- Give guidance to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the Yukon Land Use Planning Commission, the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board, to name only a few organizations;
- Recommend quotas for Inuvialuit game harvesting on the Yukon North Slope; and
- Recommend measures to protect critical habitat for wildlife or harvesting purposes.

Since its inception, the Council has been a catalyst for cooperative management on the Yukon North Slope. The Council continues to work with its many partners in support of this unique and important area.

THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

The Council’s mandate is to conserve and protect wildlife, habitat and traditional Inuvialuit use within the Yukon North Slope.

WMAC (NS) MEMBERSHIP



Lindsay Staples: Chair

A resident of Whitehorse, Lindsay Staples serves as the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) Chair, and also works as a private consultant. His expertise lies in the fields of natural resource management, socio-economic and environmental impact assessment, and land claims and self-government negotiations and implementation. Lindsay has a long-standing interest in the management of the Yukon North Slope and the implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. He possesses extensive experience in negotiation, facilitation and consensus-based processes involving a broad range of public policy issues.



Danny C. Gordon: Member – Inuvialuit Game Council

Danny Gordon is currently a director of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. A resident of Aklavik, Danny is an active hunter and trapper and is strongly involved in his community.



Doug Larsen: Member – Government of Yukon

Doug Larsen is the Chief of Wildlife Management for the Yukon Government Department of Environment. He has worked for Government of Yukon since 1978, where he began his career as a moose biologist. Prior to his government work, Doug spent time in the Arctic working for the University of Alaska and the Canadian Wildlife Service. He has helped with studies on muskox and ringed seals, and he worked on Herschel Island in the mid-1970s studying polar bears.



Ron Larsen: Member – Government of Canada

Ron Larsen has served as the Chief Park Warden for Ivvavik National Park and the Operations Manager for Parks Canada's Western Arctic Field Unit for the past six years. Ron has worked for Parks Canada Agency since 1992, and is currently serving a one-year term at Revelstoke National Park in British Columbia.



Ernest Pokiak: Member – Inuvialuit Game Council

Ernest Pokiak works for the territorial government as regional airport manager for the Tuktoyaktuk Region. He is currently serving on the Board of Governors for Aurora College. Born on Banks Island, 80 km northwest of Sachs Harbour, Ernest was brought up on the land. In previous years, he has served as Mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, Chair of the Tuktoyaktuk Education Authority, and as a Director for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation Group. Ernest also worked as a Director of the Community Corporations of Sachs Harbour and Tuktoyaktuk. Ernest has almost 40 years of combined service with the federal and territorial governments.

Lawrence Amos: Alternate – Inuvialuit Game Council

Lawrence Amos is a member of the Fisheries Joint Management Committee. Born in Tuktoyaktuk, he spent 21 years in Sachs Harbour where he lived and trapped on the land. In 1990, Lawrence and his family moved to Inuvik. Lawrence has worked in the oil industry (offshore and land-based rigs) and government (Arctic airports), and continues to spend much of his time out on the land.



Dorothy Cooley: Alternate – Government of Yukon

Dorothy Cooley works in Dawson City as Regional Biologist for the Yukon Government Department of Environment. She is responsible for coordinating research and wildlife studies conducted by the Yukon Government on the Yukon North Slope. Her current position is partially funded through Inuvialuit Final Agreement implementation funding.



Wendy Nixon: Alternate – Government of Canada

Wendy Nixon is the Head of Conservation and Sustainability Section for the Canadian Wildlife Service in Whitehorse. She has worked with the Canadian Wildlife Service since 1980, focusing on caribou behaviour and ecology in northern Yukon, as well as a variety of bird studies in the Yukon and Northern British Columbia. She is co-author and co-editor of *Birds of the Yukon Territory*, the result of a decade-long project initiated to gather and share what is known about the Yukon's birdlife.



Evelyn Storr: Alternate – Inuvialuit Game Council

Evelyn Storr – who is currently working for the Hamlet of Aklavik – was born and raised in Aklavik. From 1993-2004, she worked for the Aklavik Housing Association, and has also worked for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation in Inuvik. Evelyn served as the President of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and is an active member of the Inuvialuit Investment Board.



Michelle Sicotte: Secretariat

Michelle Sicotte is the Resource Person for WMAC (NS), providing support to the Council in many areas. Since 2003, she has worked on wildlife biology, environmental education and resource management in the Yukon. Previously, Michelle was employed as a Species at Risk Biologist for the Government of Nova Scotia. Complementing her work in conservation and management, Michelle also has considerable training in leadership and communication. She holds a Masters of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies from the University of Northern British Columbia, and a Bachelor of Science in Honours Biology from St. Francis Xavier University.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The IFA was the first comprehensive land claim agreement north of 60. With its signing, certain requirements and responsibilities were delegated to the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope). Included in these responsibilities was the preparation of a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Yukon North Slope consistent with the special conservation regime that had been identified under the Agreement.

The development of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan involved cooperative partnerships with a diversity of boards, committees, organizations, governments and community people. The successful implementation of the Plan requires cooperation of all the partners to follow through on the Plan's actions.

Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan was created in 1994, and has been subsequently updated to reflect changing circumstances and values. The Plan offers guidance and information to government, co-management organizations, environmental assessment bodies, Inuvialuit and other aboriginal organizations, and the general public.

The three part Plan provides a comprehensive look at the unique North Slope environment highlighting the important relationship between the Inuvialuit and their land; outlines a series of goals, objectives and actions for the Yukon North Slope; and acts as an important resource document for anyone interested in the Yukon North.

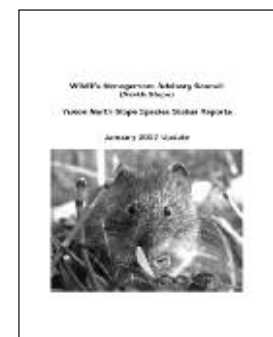
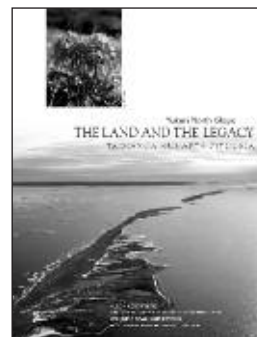
Together, the three Plan volumes play an important role in the management of the North Slope:

Volume One – Environmental Overview – introduces the Yukon North Slope. It describes the region, its natural history, and the cultural adaptations of its inhabitants. It also looks at some of the ways that the wilderness is being protected today.

Volume Two – Goals and Actions – contains management direction for all those interested in management, conservation, and resource use in the area. It is a frame of reference against which the Council, the governments, the Inuvialuit, and other aboriginal, public, and private interests can assess efforts and activities on the Yukon North Slope to uphold the IFA principles and objectives.

Volume Three – Wildlife Status Reports – these reports provide information on 34 different species on the Yukon North Slope with respect to estimated population sizes, distribution, unique population characteristics, management concerns and information gaps, and the management regimes of species. The reports were developed in 1996 and last updated in 2007. They continue to be updated every three years.

All three volumes of the Conservation and Management Plan can be found on the Council's website at www.wmacns.ca. Hard copies are available from the Council's Secretariat.



Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan

The Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan was developed by the Council to direct and support planning and research activities for resource managers and researchers, and to address the needs of those who live in the region and rely on its resources. The Plan was also designed to be an important tool to promote cooperative initiatives among government agencies, communities and universities, and to facilitate projects across land claims' boundaries and state and territorial borders in Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

The components of the Plan include information about issues and actions related to research, identification of information gaps, and a guide for conducting research on the Yukon North Slope.

The Research Guide component of the Plan was produced in response to a changing research environment. As a result of the IFA and the increasing responsibilities devolved to territorial governments, expectations of both researchers and communities regarding the conduct of research have changed over the last two decades. More permits, licences and review processes are now required for conducting research on the Yukon North Slope. The Guide outlines ways in which researchers can work effectively with these processes as well as logistically in communities. The Guide encourages research that is relevant to Inuvialuit communities, respectful of their interests, and that collaborative and well-received products are produced.

The Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan is a web-based plan that is available on the Council's website (www.wmacns.ca). It was prepared by WMAC (NS) in consultation with the Inuvialuit Game Council and Inuvialuit Final Agreement established co-management bodies; federal, territorial and Alaskan government agencies; Canadian and Alaskan universities; non-governmental organizations; and interested residents of Aklavik, Inuvik and Old Crow.

The Long Term Research and Monitoring Plan is designed to work in tandem with the Council's other conservation and management initiatives, including the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. This type of long term, comprehensive planning is in line with the Council's mandate to ensure long term effective management of the Yukon North Slope.



Barney Smith

Muskox Research and Management

The North Slope muskox population has been of interest to managers and local people since their re-introduction to Alaska in 1969 and 1970, and their spread to the Yukon in the 1980's. In recent years, the population has experienced a significant decline in numbers, leading to heightened conservation concerns.

Yukon muskox are studied and monitored in several ways. Aerial surveys, composition counts, satellite tracking, samples from captured muskox and community observations all contribute to what we know about these animals.

In April and July 2005, productivity surveys and composition counts were conducted on North Slope muskoxen. The need to conduct population surveys and composition counts of muskoxen in a portion of the Yukon North Slope is identified in the Draft Canadian North Slope Muskoxen Co-management Plan. These studies, conducted by YTG and Parks Canada, provide information on population size, age structure and behaviour, as well as on annual and seasonal range use and movements.

The development of the Muskox Management Plan for the Canadian North Slope Muskox population has progressed over the past term. Due to the expanding range of North Slope muskoxen beyond the Yukon North Slope, WMAC (NS) led a Muskox Management Workshop in Aklavik on November 21, 2006 to facilitate a process that could lead to a common management plan for the entire population of North Slope muskoxen in Canada. The objectives of the workshop were to attempt to reach an understanding on how to manage the population, make appropriate changes to the current management plan, and to endorse the plan and develop a strategy to move forward.

Currently, all co-management bodies are supporting the goal of the draft plan: to maintain a healthy, productive, and sustainable population of North Slope muskoxen. Fact sheets and information on the biology and management of North Slope Muskox can be found at the WMAC (NS) office as well as on the website (www.wmacns.ca).



Cameron Eckert

Grizzly Bear Research and Management

The WMAC (NS) continues to take an active interest in the management of grizzly bear on the North Slope. Research initiatives continue on the North Slope grizzly bear as part of a six- year project in which the Yukon Government Department of Environment, Parks Canada, and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Association are partners. The project began in May 2004 and will continue until 2009. Information about population size, birth rate, death rate, where bears can be found at different times of the year, and how much they move around is collected through telemetry flights, bear captures, and hair snares. A traditional and local knowledge collection component of the project began in 2005. Interviews were conducted in Aklavik, Inuvik, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife.



The Council is in the process of producing two report documents in relation to the project: a “Mid-Term Project Report- Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Population Study,” and a “Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Traditional Knowledge Report;” both will present findings from the grizzly bear project and are expected to be complete by spring 2008.

WMAC (NS) recommended funding for the grizzly bear research project and has been active in involving the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and other members of the community in the design and implementation of research activities. WMAC (NS) continued to support this project through the contribution of funds to support the involvement of Aklavik residents and the Hunters and Trappers Committee in a traditional knowledge study.

After the completion of the Grizzly Bear Research Project, the Grizzly Bear Management Plan will be updated (after 2009) to include research findings and management recommendations.

The Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Project is partially funded by the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk, a federal government program.

As part of the Habitat Stewardship Program, WMAC (NS) carried out a number of tasks over the past term that contributed to conserving and protecting species at risk and their habitats. WMAC (NS) organized an outreach and education component of the project in conjunction with the Yukon Department of Environment and the Aklavik HTC. This included the coordination of forums, interviews, and on-site workshops which included the delivery of an education program at Moose Kerr School in Aklavik. WMAC (NS) and Yukon Environment also developed the interview guide for 2006 traditional knowledge work.

During a visit to Shingle Point and Herschel Island in July 2006, the Council and Yukon Government staff met with community members to discuss waste disposal as a bear attractant. The Council conducted a test burn using existing incinerators at Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park, and completed a small-scale clean-up with youth.



Species at Risk

The Council regularly reviews and provides comments to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) on species assessments that fall within the Yukon North Slope region. WMAC (NS) reviewed and commented on COSEWIC Update Status Reports concerning short eared owls (special concern), polar bears (special concern), ivory gulls (endangered), rusty blackbirds (special concern), and peregrine falcons (non-active).

COSEWIC has a valuable role in species listing in the Yukon. Currently, there is no process to list species at risk in the *Yukon Wildlife Act*. WMAC (NS) and other Yukon boards and councils provide input at the federal level to COSWEIC and to Species Specialist Committees. Other agencies and organizations involved in species status listings include the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub Committee under COSEWIC, and Yukon Department of Environment.

The Council met with Yukon Government to discuss the development of Species at Risk legislation for the Yukon.



Other Issues

There are many other areas of concern on the Yukon North Slope that the WMAC (NS) regularly monitors and reports on. These include:

- Shingle Point DEW-Line site clean-up
- Research permitting
- Compensation for research-related losses of wildlife
- Protocols related to management of fuel caches on the North Slope
- Zoning issues in Ivvavik National Park
- Amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act
- Implementation of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA)
- Tourism impacts
- Storage of drill platforms and rigs in Thetis Bay
- Sheep Creek (Ivvavik National Park) fuel spill remediation
- Low flying aircraft affecting nesting birds over Herschel Island Territorial Park
- Chemical transfer from Steel Drilling Caisson (SDC)
- Storing of the SDC at Roland Bay
- Monitoring future oil and gas development activities in the Herschel Island area and around the SDC
- The Yukon Government's protocol for the collection of harvest data collection in Aklavik
- North Richardson Mountain Sheep planning
- Helicopter flights disturbing snow goose migration routes



Parks Canada



Parks Canada

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



Cameron Eckert

Website

In 2007, WMAC (NS) launched a new website at www.wmacns.ca. The new site features access to information about the Council, the Yukon North Slope, and conservation and management. As well, the website contains additional resources, a youth page, IFA-funded wildlife research projects, upcoming events, links to Council partners and more.

The Council is looking forward to sharing this website with everyone who has an interest in the Yukon North Slope, and hopes to provide people with an easy and informative way of learning about this exceptional place.

Newsletters

The newsletter, *Wildlife Watch*, produced by WMAC (NS) continued to inform communities and organizations about the Council's activities. Three issues of *Wildlife Watch* were distributed between 2005 and 2007.

The Council regularly contributes to the *Common Ground* newsletter, which is produced twice a year by the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat. The newsletter summarizes the activities of all Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees. In the spring 2007 edition, an article about the 2007 Yukon North Slope Conference, an event organized by WMAC (NS) and Yukon Government, was featured. *Common Ground* is available on the Joint Secretariat website at www.fjmc.ca/js_newsletters.htm.

Fact Sheets

Recently, WMAC (NS) started work on the production of a series of Fact Sheets to inform people about the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the Yukon North Slope, as well as harvesting rights and enforcement on the Yukon North Slope. With the publication of the Fact Sheets, the Council hopes to improve public knowledge of the Yukon North Slope as well as the understanding of Inuvialuit, government officials, and others who have an interest in management of the Yukon North Slope.

WMAC (NS) Communication Strategy

A project was initiated to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure efficient communication within the Council, consistent external messaging, and a range of products for different audiences. This document will provide the Council with a basis for efficient and reliable communications in the future. The strategy is currently being developed and approved by the Council.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH FUNDED THROUGH THE INUVIALUIT FINAL AGREEMENT

Each year WMAC (NS) reviews research proposals for projects related to wildlife management and ecological monitoring on the Yukon North Slope, consistent with the goals of the IFA. After reviewing the proposals, the Council makes recommendations to support appropriate projects with IFA implementation funding. If required, the Council will also recommend that projects receive IFA implementation funding support from Parks Canada, the Yukon Government, and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Recommendations are based on research priorities identified in or by:

- Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan;
- Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan;
- Porcupine Caribou Management Plan;
- Inuvialuit Settlement Region Grizzly Bear Management Plan;
- Priorities identified by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the community of Aklavik; and
- Priorities identified at the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op annual gatherings

The Council monitors the progress of all recommended projects by requesting presentations and final reports from all agencies that receive funding. The following is a list of projects supported by the Council in 2005-2007.

Aklavik Harvest Data Collection

Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

Partner Organization – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

The objective of this project is to document the harvest of certain species in the Yukon and NWT by Inuvialuit hunters in Aklavik. The species of focus are caribou, moose, and sheep. In past years of this multi-year project, harvest numbers for furbearers and swans have also been included. Currently, harvest reporting for those species is largely accomplished through the use of seals and tags, and by mandatory reporting for species under quota, such as grizzly bear.

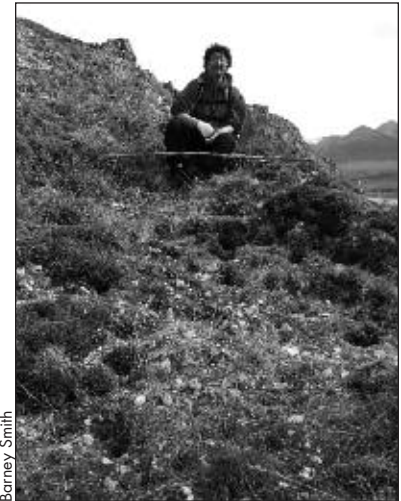
The harvest data collection for caribou, moose, and sheep, is done through an interview process. The Aklavik HTC has been actively involved with the project by contracting a local person to conduct recall interviews with active hunters in Aklavik, as well as reviewing the list of people interviewed to make sure that it is complete.

In the recall interviews, hunters are asked to report harvest information for appropriate species including species type, kill date, kill location (by Game Management Subzone in the Yukon), sex and maturity of kill, hunter name, and hunter's home community.

Interviews are conducted once a year in December.

Regular harvest reporting is an important part of wildlife management, and can also contribute to wildlife harvester compensation claims in the ISR.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES



Barney Smith



Cameron Eckert



Parks Canada

Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op

Organization Responsible – Canadian Wildlife Service

Partner Organizations – WMAC (NS), Parks Canada, Aklavik and Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committees, Yukon Government, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Inuvik, Fort McPherson, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, and North Yukon Renewable Resource Councils, Arctic Village Council, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board.

The Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op Community-based Monitoring Program runs annually and includes the communities of Aklavik, Inuvik, Old Crow, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Arctic Village, Tuktoyaktuk and Kaktovik. The program began in 1996 and has continued through the 2005-2007 term.

Local researchers in each community conduct interviews with community experts about conditions and changes observed during the year. Observations are collected on changes and patterns in berries, fish, caribou, other animals, weather conditions, and general observations. Results from all communities are compiled into a summary report, and a detailed report of Aklavik Inuvialuit observations is provided to the Aklavik HTC. The summary results are discussed at the Co-op Annual Gathering.

This ongoing project tracks changes in environmental conditions across the range of the Porcupine Caribou herd, as well as the Mackenzie Delta and adjacent marine areas. This information is of importance to both WMAC (NS) and the Inuvialuit as it provides information about environmental trends, historical context, and possible causes of these trends. The information is used to inform communities, governments and decision makers regarding existing and emerging issues about changing environmental conditions, thereby informing appropriate management decisions and directing research.

Black Guillemot Population Monitoring and Nesting at Herschel Island

Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

Partner Organization – Parks Canada

The Black Guillemot population on Herschel has been monitored since 1984. During that time, the colony has been monitored for population and nesting success and has been identified as a valuable indicator for changes occurring on the land.

The Black Guillemot population on Herschel Island is the only one in the Yukon and one of few in the western Arctic. The nearest nesting colony to it is located at Point Barrow, Alaska. Researchers have monitored the Point Barrow population since the early 1970s. The monitoring of Black Guillemots on Herschel Island has the opportunity to provide valuable links across populations for understanding changes across the Beaufort Sea region related to population declines, poor nesting productivity, changes in the physical environment, and climate change.

Recent monitoring has shown that both the Herschel Island population of Guillemots and the Point Barrow population have been declining.

During 2005 and 2006, monitoring focused on the continuation of adult counts, nest surveys, and investigation into primary prey species. The cause of the population decline has yet to be determined, but surveys show a continued downward population trend for the colony.

Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring

Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

Partner Organization – Parks Canada

The ecological monitoring program on Herschel Island is now in its 19th year. During the summer months, Herschel Island Park Rangers and the Dawson district regional biologist engage in a monitoring program designed to track changes over time by monitoring several biophysical components of the Herschel Island ecosystem.

There are three main areas of study comprising the monitoring program: vegetation, permafrost, and wildlife occurrence in relation to vegetation and terrain. To monitor vegetation, permanent plots and annual transects have been established. Ground temperature and thaw slumps are measured in these plots as well. Wildlife sightings are recorded with the surrounding vegetation and terrain, and breeding bird, guillemot, and raptor surveys are also conducted. Ecological monitoring in the Park is identified as a priority in the Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Management Plan.

Muskox Ecology Studies

Organizations Responsible – Yukon Government, Parks Canada

Partner Organization – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

The purpose of this project was to estimate current population size and composition, document seasonal distribution and movements of collared muskoxen, develop and implement a system for local travelers to report sightings, and monitor the effects of harvest on the population. This project provided the preferential locations of muskoxen during each season, as well as reproductive and population trends.

The first full survey of muskoxen done on the Yukon North Slope was in 1993, and studies have been conducted on a regular basis since. The last population count, done in July 2002, recorded 145 muskox between the Alaska border and Shingle Point. In the 2005 year the last of the satellite collars were removed. For years when collars were deployed, two aerial surveys were conducted a year.



Michelle Scotte



Parks Canada



Michelle Sicotte

North Coast Botanical Inventory

Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

Partner Organizations – Parks Canada, University of Alaska, and the Ontario Natural Heritage Program.

A team of botanists and Inuvialuit spent two summers exploring areas on the North Slope coastline through 2005 and 2006. The purpose of the project was to inventory coastal species of Yukon plants, and to assess populations and distributions, thereby providing important baseline information in the face of a changing climate. The team also carried out assessments of known rare plant distributions.

The work was carried out in July and August of 2005 and 2006. Site visits were concentrated on the coast and started near Clarence Lagoon and included Komakuk, Ptarmigan Bay, Kay Point, Shingle Point, as well as the Blow River Delta.

Results of the work conducted include: the recording of 307 species (over a third of all arctic species in the world), the addition of five new species to the Yukon, 48 new species to the Yukon Coast, and 25 new species to the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in the Yukon. No introduced plants were found.

As a result of this work, 52% of species of conservation concern had their status changed.



John Hechiel, Alaska Department of F&G

North Yukon Marmot Study

Organization Responsible – Nature Serve Yukon

Partner Organizations – Parks Canada, Yukon Government, Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, and the Polar Continental Shelf Project.

The North Yukon Marmot Study looked at distribution of marmots and distinction of species. The Alaskan marmot has currently only been found throughout the Brooks Range in Alaska. Recent traditional knowledge and reports of possible sightings have led specialists to believe there are a number of colonies of Alaskan marmots living in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in the Yukon. Locating colonies of Alaskan marmots in the Yukon would mean a new species for Canada. There is currently only one known species of marmot in the Yukon – the hoary marmot.

In addition to distribution information, the marmot survey gathered information to be used by COSEWIC to develop a conservation status assessment for *Marmota broweri* (Alaskan marmot).

The survey also allowed the documentation of Inuvialuit activities and perspectives on environmental change in foothill and mountain valleys visited.

In the 2006 summer field season, no Alaskan marmots were located; surveys will continue into 2007.

Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program

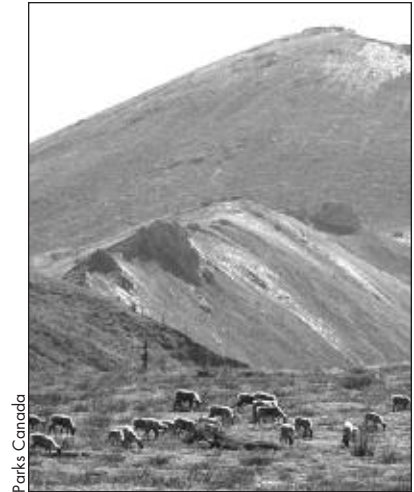
Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

Partner Organizations – Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Canadian Wildlife Service, Government of the Northwest Territories, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Parks Canada (Western Arctic and Yukon Field Units), WMAC(NS), and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.

The current Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program began in 1997 as a cooperative program between a number of wildlife agencies and boards. The program uses satellite radio collars to document seasonal range use and migration routes of the Porcupine Caribou herd. There are eleven active collars on the herd now, and the project proposes to maintain the existing eleven collars. In order to maintain this number, collars will need to be replaced as they drop off.

Satellite collars reflect the general distribution of the herd and have proved to be valuable in recording routes used and timing of migration.

A unique benefit of the collaring program is the opportunity for agencies, organizations and schools in the Yukon, Alaska, and the Northwest Territories, to track the herd online.



Parks Canada

PRISM Shorebird Surveys on the Yukon North Slope

Organization Responsible – Canadian Wildlife Service

Partner Organization – Parks Canada

The objectives of this project are to estimate the numbers of shorebirds and other tundra birds nesting on the Yukon North Slope, and to track their numbers, distribution, and habitat use over time.

“Arctic PRISM (Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring)” is a long-term program for monitoring tundra-nesting shorebirds in the North American Arctic. Each year, several regions of the Arctic are surveyed, and in 2005 and 2006 this included the Yukon North Slope/Mackenzie Delta/Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula region.

The Yukon North Slope survey recorded bird sightings. The completed data will provide an estimate of the number of pairs nesting on the Yukon North Slope, for approximately thirteen species of shorebirds as well as several other tundra-nesting bird species. This work will provide a baseline for comparison with future surveys (approximately every ten years). This will provide a measure of the importance of the Yukon North Slope to North American shorebird populations, and will enable detection of changes in the numbers of shorebirds and other tundra-nesting birds.



Cameron Eckert



Michelle Scotto

Vegetation Change on the Coastal Plain of Ivvavik and Herschel Island

Organizations Responsible – Yukon Government and Parks Canada

Partner Organizations – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Herschel Island Territorial Park.

Over a 20 year period from 1985 to 2005, vegetation inventories were conducted to assess changes in vegetation in Herschel Island Territorial Park and the coastal plain of Ivvavik National Park.

The analysis of this data has revealed significant changes in vegetation communities; it shows an increase in polargrass, lupine, and ground shrubs, and a significant decrease in lichen, as well as cover of bare ground and frost boils. Many sites have shown that the vegetation has changed from a forb-dominated tundra to a grass-dominated tundra. Rapid changes in vegetation cover can have serious implications for wildlife.

Analysis of data has indicated similar trends in the change of vegetation cover on Herschel Island and Ivvavik.



Ramona Maroj

Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Research Project

Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

Partner Organizations – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Parks Canada, and WMAC (NS)

This six year grizzly bear research project study began in 2004. The focus of this project is on grizzly bears between the Firth and the Blow rivers. The study was designed to look at grizzly bear population sizes, birth rates, death rates, where bears can be found at certain times of the year and how much they move around. Collection of this information will be important to wildlife managers, boards, and community organizations, for use in making management decisions. Population information is especially important for setting harvest quotas.

Research information has been collected through a number of different techniques including telemetry flights, bear captures, and hair snares. In addition to the scientific study, a traditional and local knowledge collection component of the project began in 2005. Interviews were conducted in Aklavik, Inuvik, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife.

Work has begun on a mid-term report and a traditional knowledge report, both of which present findings from the grizzly bear study. These will be available through the Council's website and at the Secretariat office soon.

Yukon North Slope Raptor Survey

Organization Responsible – Parks Canada (Ivvavik National Park), and Government of Yukon

Partner Organization – Yukon College

This project was developed to be integrated with the existing Canadian Peregrine Falcon Survey, a national endeavour to monitor peregrine populations in North America every five years. The last North Slope raptor survey happened in 2000; nest sites of other raptors, including gyrfalcon, golden eagle, and rough-legged hawks were included in this survey.

The objective of the Yukon North Slope Raptor Survey is to continue surveying the North Slope area for existing as well as newly established nesting sites. The latest mid-July survey assessed sites as occupied or unoccupied (by species), recorded the number and age of chicks and banded 12 chicks from four broods. Interim results for the non-Park survey area showed eight productive nests, indicating continued population recovery on the Yukon North Slope.



Parks Canada

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op (ABEKC) – Aklavik 10 Year Review Report

Since 1994, ABEKC has been collecting data from participating communities in an effort to develop a dataset that can be used for environmental monitoring and management purposes.

The purpose of this project is twofold: to compile all available annual data sets for the Yukon North Slope (including the Aklavik hunting areas in the Yukon and NWT) on a multi-year basis; and to prepare a report that provides an assessment of the data that will outline options for future analysis.

Copies of final reports will be distributed to Aklavik Inuvialuit, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop, and other interested organizations.



Cameron Eckert

Review of Research Permitting and Reporting Process

The Council brought forward this initiative to facilitate greater understanding of research occurring on the Yukon North Slope.

The Council hired a contractor to compile information on current research permitting and reporting processes for the Yukon North Slope. The other goal of the project was to outline mechanisms to aid WMAC (NS)'s awareness of North Slope research including projects conducted by academia and industry.

WMAC (NS) Photo Library

In 2006, the Council approved a proposal to create a comprehensive photo library. The library will have photos organized into categories and will be complete with photo credits. The library will provide easy access to hundreds of beautiful photos taken on the North Slope. Please contact WMAC (NS) if you have any photos to contribute from time spent on the Yukon North Slope, so that our library may continue to grow.



Parks Canada

Species Status Reports Update

WMAC (NS) regularly produces updated species status reports for wildlife on the Yukon North Slope. Information for each species includes population status, characteristics, habitat, threats, species at risk status, relevant research and monitoring information, and the current management regime for the species.

These reports were developed to serve as management tools and to provide information relevant to environmental screening and review projects. The Council is currently considering expanding the Species Status Reports to include more information.

The Reports were last updated in January 2007, in time for the North Slope Conference.

Yukon North Slope Research Guide Update

WMAC (NS)'s research guide was completed in 1999 to serve as a guide for researchers and communities involved in northern research, and was a key component of the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan. In March 2006, WMAC (NS) updated the Guide to reflect changes in contact information, funding opportunities, and permitting and regulation changes.

The Guide aims to make it easier for researchers and communities to work collectively. References and information associated with conducting research on Yukon North Slope and adjoining areas are also available. The Guide is most helpful when used in tandem with the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan, which can be found at www.wmacns.ca/conservation/ltrmp.



Noel Cockney

FJMC Summer Student Program

The Council funded the participation of an Inuvialuit youth to be involved in field activities on Herschel Island in July. The mentoring program, coordinated by the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, is intended to encourage Inuvialuit students to become future scientists and resource managers in the ISR. Noel-Leigh Cockney worked with biologists and park rangers on ecological monitoring programs. He also had the opportunity to work with park visitors.

Rare Plants and Animals on the Yukon North Slope

WMAC (NS) hired an Inuvialuit expert to support the rare plant and animal survey on the North Slope. Danny C. Gordon, an Aklavik Inuvialuit harvester, provided boat transportation, worked as a bear monitor, and assisted with fieldwork.

Climate Change Report

A report summarizing climate change initiatives and research on the North Slope was produced in 2000 and was last updated in 2005. In 2006, a contractor was hired to conduct a literature search and review of studies and reports that focus on climate change and associated issues on the Yukon North Slope and adjacent areas in the NWT and Alaska since March 2005; to update the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op's database of information sources to include recent reference to climate change, and to update the Climate Change Report with the findings.

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES

2007 Yukon North Slope Conference

WMAC (NS) worked with the Yukon Government to host the eighth Yukon North Slope Conference in Whitehorse from January 30 to February 1, 2007. The conference, “Meeting the Challenges of Environmental Monitoring and Reporting in Wildlife Management,” attracted over 150 representatives from Inuvialuit and First Nations organizations, industry, non-government and government agencies. John Donihee chaired the three-day conference which included several plenary speeches, panel presentations, communication workshops, and numerous posters which provided insight into the changes affecting the North Slope region and the challenges involved in environmental monitoring.

The involvement of Inuvialuit harvesters and local and regional managers was a key aspect of the conference. Discussions centered around involvement of harvesters and community members in the environmental monitoring process and the importance of communication between scientists and wildlife managers. Many community members attended to provide their first-hand knowledge on issues related to environmental monitoring.

Another focus of the conference was climate change and its effects on the environment and people. Participants examined methods of tracking adaptations of wildlife, people, and communities in their responses to the changing environment.

The conference concluded by looking at next steps for effective environmental monitoring and reporting for wildlife resources on the Yukon North Slope. The knowledge shared by speakers, panellists, and other presenters provided participants with a better understanding of the challenges facing the Yukon North Slope, especially with regard to communicating information to northern communities and using information in wildlife and resource management strategies and decisions. The 2007 North Slope Conference proceedings will be available soon on the Council’s website.



Michael Fabijan

Co-management IFA Research Day

Co-management IFA Research Day, organized by WMAC (NS), WMAC (NWT), and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC), was held in Inuvik, NWT. The purpose of the meeting was for the Inuvialuit Game Council, the government agencies, and the three co-management boards to share information about research funded by the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. Projects were recommended by WMAC (NS), WMAC (NWT), and the FJMC. The researchers involved with these projects presented their work conducted between 2005 and 2007 and provided an overview of future projects to begin in 2007-2008. The presentations covered the origin and purpose of the research, the significance of results for communities involved, and the relationship between the research and management. Presenters from the Yukon North Slope included Dorothy Cooley, Barney Smith, Catherine Kennedy, and Michael Svoboda.

A report summarizing the Research Day was produced and is available for viewing on the WMAC (NS) website.



Michelle Sicoite

Council Meetings

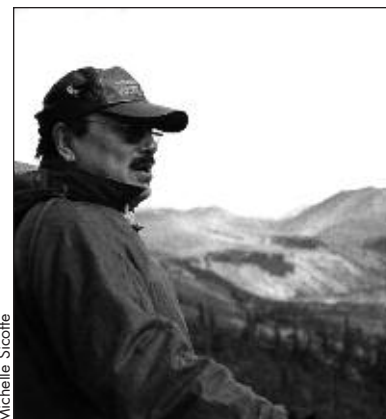
The Council held the following meetings this term:

April 9 – 10, 2005	Inuvik
June 14, 2005	Teleconference
July 24 – 25, 2005	Sheep Creek
September 24 – 26, 2005	Whitehorse
October 12, 2005	Teleconference
January 12, 2006	Teleconference
March 25 – 27, 2006	Whitehorse
May 26, 2006	Whitehorse
September 28 – 30, 2006	Whitehorse
November 23, 2006	Aklavik
January 28 – 29, 2007	Whitehorse

Other Meetings, Workshops, and Conferences

The WMAC (NS) Chair, members, representatives, and Secretariat attended numerous meetings, workshops, and conferences throughout the term that were relevant to the Council and the Yukon North Slope. They are summarized as follows:

April 26 – 27, 2005	Northern Oil and Gas Best Management Practices Symposium. <i>Whitehorse, Yukon</i>
May 4 – 7, 2005	Adapting to Climate Change in Canada. <i>Montreal, Quebec</i>
June 15 – 17, 2005	Rapid Landscape Change and Human Response in the Arctic and Subarctic. <i>Whitehorse, Yukon</i>
September, 2005	Snowchange 2005 – A Workshop on Indigenous and Local Observations of Ecological and Climate Change. <i>Anchorage, Alaska</i>
November 8 – 9, 2005	Northern Oil and Gas and the Environment Workshop. <i>Whitehorse, Yukon</i>
November 20 – 26, 2005	Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network. <i>Penticton, BC</i>
December 14, 2005	Community meeting. <i>Aklavik, NWT</i>
December 14, 2005	Aklavik HTC meeting. <i>Aklavik, NWT</i>
February 17, 2006	Beaufort Sea Partnership meeting. <i>Yellowknife, NWT</i>
March 15 – 15, 2006	North Richardson Sheep Management Plan meeting. <i>Inuvik, NWT</i>
March 24, 2006	Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op Annual Gathering. <i>Old Crow, Yukon</i>
August 14 – 15, 2006	Coastal Zone Canada meeting. <i>Tuktoyaktuk, NWT</i>
November 1 – 2, 2006	Caribou Symposium. <i>Inuvik, NWT</i>
November 21 – 22, 2006	Muskox workshop. <i>Aklavik, NWT</i>
January 23 – 26, 2007	NWT Barren-Ground Caribou Summit. <i>Inuvik, NWT</i>
January 31 – February 1, 2007	Yukon North Slope Conference. <i>Whitehorse, Yukon</i>
January 28 – 29, 2007	Joint meeting with WMAC (NWT). <i>Whitehorse, Yukon</i>
March 27, 2007	IFA Co-Management Research Day. <i>Inuvik, NWT</i>
March 30, 2007	Inuvialuit Game Council Meeting. <i>Inuvik, NWT</i>



Michelle Sicotte

PARKS MANAGEMENT

Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park was the first territorial park created by the Yukon Government. The island is the largest on the Yukon North Slope, and lies five kilometres offshore, almost directly opposite the Firth River.

Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park

The *Parks and Land Certainty Act* requires each Territorial Park to have a management plan prepared in consultation with the public which reflects not only Yukon Government policies and legislation, but also the provisions laid out in the land claims agreements.

After five years of consultation and input from numerous organizations, including the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Aklavik Community Corporation, the Inuvialuit Game Council, and WMAC (NS), the original Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Management Plan was revised and finalized in September 2006.

The Plan was first completed in 1991 and detailed a number of management issues and concerns that had arisen since the Park's inception in 1987. Since then many changes have occurred, such as increased visitor numbers, increasing oil and gas interests in the offshore, and increasing environmental impacts on historic resources. The Plan was remodelled to reflect these changes and identifies the need for the development of other strategies or plans. The Plan is available at the Yukon Department of Environment, the Council's website, or from the WMAC (NS) office in Whitehorse.

In July 2005, Council members traveled to Herschel Island to meet and revisit this spectacular landscape. This retreat gave the Council a chance to identify priorities and make decisions about future actions affecting Herschel park management.

The Council meets regularly with the Chief Park Ranger at Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Park to discuss current and planned Park activities. The Council also receives briefings on Park priorities prior to the beginning of the field season and summary reports of the season's visitors, research and monitoring programs, heritage site maintenance and other activities of the year. WMAC (NS) has continued to support the research and monitoring projects being conducted on Herschel Island, including the Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring Project, the Herschel Island Management Plan, the Vegetation Change on the Coastal Plain Project, and Black Guillemot Population Monitoring.



Cameron Eckert

Ivvavik National Park

WMAC (NS) has continued to work in partnership with Parks Canada (Western Arctic Field Unit) on issues related to wildlife research, management and ecological monitoring in Ivvavik National Park. Over the past fifty years, the Stokes Point area in the Park has seen a variety of industrial activities including a short-lived Distant Early Warning (D.E.W) Line Station, an airstrip in support of Beaufort Sea hydrocarbon exploration, and a Department of National Defense short-range radar facility. The community of Aklavik and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation have raised concerns about possible pollution left behind at Stokes Point from these activities. In response, Parks Canada has partnered with the Department of National Defense and the Royal Military College of Canada on a three-year project to complete a site investigation looking for possible contamination. The project is guided by the Stokes Point Steering Committee, composed of appointed representatives from the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Aklavik Community Corporation, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), Parks Canada, Department of National Defense and the Royal Military College of Canada. Site clean-up is expected to start in 2010.

In the summer of 2005, Parks Canada partnered with the community of Aklavik and a tour company “Arctic Nature Tours” to introduce tours of the Babbage River. The initiative began from a desire on the part of both Parks Canada and Aklavik to see more opportunities for people to visit the Park and to increase economic opportunities for local residents. A Steering Committee was established with representatives of Parks Canada, Aklavik and Arctic Nature Tours. The tours continued during the 2006 season.

As well, in July 2005, WMAC (NS) held a portion of their regular meeting in Ivvavik National Park at Sheep Creek.

A representative from Parks Canada sat on the Council as the member for the Government of Canada over the past term.

Located on the western portion of the Yukon North Slope, Ivvavik National Park boasts 10,168 square kilometres of unspoiled beauty. It is also the first Canadian national park created by a land claim. Parameters for Ivvavik National Park were set out in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), and made official via the National Parks Act.



Parks Canada

PARTNERSHIPS

WMAC (NS) continues to work with its partners toward the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional Inuvialuit use on the Yukon North Slope.



Cameron Eckert

Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC)

WMAC (NS) works together with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to develop and promote wildlife management on the North Slope. Concerns, including harvesting needs of the Aklavik Inuvialuit are addressed through regularly scheduled public meetings. WMAC (NS) consulted with the Aklavik HTC's Board of Directors in December 2005.

The WMAC (NS) worked with the Aklavik HTC on a number of issues this term, including the Canadian Muskox Management Plan, the North Slope Grizzly Bear Project, and the Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring Plan.

Inuvialuit Game Council

The Inuvialuit Game Council represents the collective Inuvialuit interest in matters concerning wildlife management and habitat in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The IGC appoints Inuvialuit members to all co-management bodies under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. The IGC assists WMAC (NS) and all other co-management bodies when requested, advising on any issue that concerns the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. WMAC (NS) has two Inuvialuit members appointed by the IGC.

WMAC (NS) and the IGC met to both discuss concerns and also organize workshops throughout the term.

June 14 – 17, 2005	Holman
September 6 – 9, 2005	Whitehorse
December 7 – 10, 2005	Inuvik
December 13 – 16, 2006	Inuvik
September 30 – October 3, 2006	Whitehorse
March 28 – 31, 2007	Inuvik
March 30, 2007	Inuvik

Porcupine Caribou Management Board

The Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) is a joint management board that was established under the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement in 1985. WMAC (NS) works with the PCMB to develop strategies and recommendations to conserve and protect the Porcupine Caribou Herd on the Yukon North Slope. The Council continued to support the PCMB's Porcupine Caribou Collaring Program. It provided input into the preparation of a harvest management strategy which was initiated by the PCMB due to a concern over the declining population of the herd.

Other Partnerships

WMAC (NS) also works with a number of other partners such as the Arctic Research Institute, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op, state, federal and Inupiat organizations in Alaska, and the Government of Northwest Territories, as well as a number of other councils, boards and committees throughout the Yukon and Canada.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2006

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT
REPORT

J. Kim Tanner, C.A., Ltd.

Chartered Accountant

To the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope):

I have reviewed the financial position of Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) as at March 31, 2006, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Council.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that operations in the year are not, in all material respects, in accordance with the terms of the contribution agreements entered into with Government of Yukon during the year.



Chartered Accountant

Whitehorse, Yukon

May 15, 2006

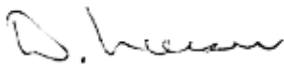
Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2006 (unaudited)

	2006	2005
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	159,409	176,224
Accounts receivable	9,100	1,309
GST receivable	4,519	2,523
	173,028	180,056
Capital Assets (notes 2, 3)		
Cost	31,158	28,609
Less accumulated amortization	24,881	23,130
	6,277	5,479
	179,305	185,535
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	4,612	7,591
Wages and employee benefits payable	2,597	1,805
Due to Government of Yukon	252	253
Deferred revenue (notes 2, 4)	167,031	171,872
	174,492	181,521
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)	(1,464)	(1,465)
Investments in Capital Assets (note 2)	6,277	5,479
	4,813	4,014
	179,305	185,535

Approved by:



G Councillor



G Councillor

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year Ended March 31, 2006 (unaudited)

	2006	2005
Revenues		
Government of Yukon contribution	194,126	162,143
Parks Canada	24,278	—
Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Program	21,600	—
Interest income and other	1	4
	<u>240,005</u>	<u>162,147</u>
Expenses		
Administration		
Bookkeeping	1,500	1,500
Honoraria	37,433	19,761
Interest and bank charges	73	149
Library	—	3,545
Newsletter	1,486	1,058
Office and telephone	13,023	16,417
Professional fees	2,208	1,668
Rent	5,022	4,552
Term report	6,863	193
Travel and meetings	24,042	15,806
Wages and employee benefits	63,659	53,039
	<u>155,309</u>	<u>117,688</u>
Project Costs		
Porcupine Caribou Management Board	2,000	—
TK Database	2,700	—
IFA Communications	2,070	—
Ecosystem Monitoring Ten Year Report	4,836	3,000
Habitat Stewardship Program	34,617	—
Bylaws, regulations, legislation	725	1,200
Climate change	—	6,000
Coop Ten Year Report	—	6,800
Grizzly Bear Management	—	8,982
Grizzly Bear Research	24,278	—
Rare Plants and Animals	4,000	—
Summer Student Field Project	3,000	—
Muskox Plan	—	9,649
Workshops, conferences and studies	3,920	726
	<u>82,146</u>	<u>36,357</u>
Total Expenses	237,455	154,045
Excess (Shortage) of Revenue Over Expenses	2,550	8,102

Statement of Changes in Net assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2006 (unaudited)

	2006			2005
	Investment in Capital Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)	Total	Total
Balance at Beginning of Year	\$5,479	\$(1,465)	\$4,014	\$(2,649)
Excess (shortage) of revenues over expenditures	—	2,550	2,550	8,102
Purchase of capital assets	2,549	(2,549)	—	—
Disposal of capital assets	—	—	—	—
	8,028	(1,464)	6,564	5,453
Amortization of capital assets	(1,751)	—	(1,751)	(1,439)
Balance at End of Year	\$6,277	\$(1,464)	\$4,813	\$4,014

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended March 31, 2006 (unaudited)

	2006	2005
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash receipts from Government of Yukon	\$213,563	\$209,015
Cash received from Government of Canada	—	125,000
Cash received from other sources	21,600	4
Cash paid for administration costs	(156,883)	(124,938)
Cash paid for IFA implementation project costs	(92,546)	(40,029)
	(14,266)	169,052
Cash Flows from Financing and Investing Activities		
Purchase of capital assets	(2,549)	(3,013)
Increase (Decrease) in Cash for the Year	(16,815)	166,039
Cash at Beginning of Year	176,224	10,185
Cash at End of Year	\$159,409	\$176,224

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2006 (unaudited)**1. Nature of the Financial Statements**

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) was created pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement to advise federal and territorial governments on matters pertaining to Yukon North Slope wildlife and habitat issues.

2. Significant Accounting Policies**a) Capital Assets**

Capital assets are recorded on the statement of financial position at cost, in the year purchased. Amortization is provided at rates sufficient to amortize the cost over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Capital assets are amortized using the declining balance method at rates set out in note 3.

The investment in capital assets reflects the total amortized cost of all capital assets owned by the Council.

b) Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue represents funds received under a contribution agreement or a specific project which are available to cover expenses in the next fiscal year as described in note 4.

3. Capital Assets

	2006			2005	
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Computer equipment	30%	\$21,703	\$18,901	\$2,802	\$4,003
Office equipment	20%	9,455	5,980	3,475	1,476
		\$31,158	\$24,881	\$6,277	\$5,479

4. Deferred Revenue

	2006	2005
Government of Yukon	\$66,310	\$46,872
Parks Canada	100,722	125,000
	\$167,031	\$171,872

5. Financial Instruments

The Council's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and deferred revenue. Unless otherwise noted, it is the Council's opinion that the Council is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

6. Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make assumptions and estimates that have an effect on the reported amount of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could be different from those estimates.

7. Economic Dependence

The Council is economically dependent upon the Government of Yukon, which provides funding for administration and implementation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2007

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT
REPORT

J. Kim Tanner, C.A., Ltd.

Chartered Accountant

To the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope):

I have reviewed the financial position of Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) as at March 31, 2007, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Council.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that operations in the year are not, in all material respects, in accordance with the terms of the contribution agreements entered into with Government of Yukon during the year.



Chartered Accountant

Whitehorse, Yukon

July 26, 2007

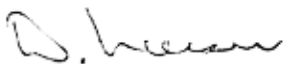
Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2007 (unaudited)

	2007	2006
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	152,551	159,409
Accounts receivable	64,327	9,100
GST receivable	3,637	4,519
	220,515	173,028
Capital Assets (notes 2, 3)		
Cost	34,493	31,158
Less accumulated amortization	27,498	24,881
	6,995	6,277
	227,510	179,305
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	35,883	4,612
Wages and employee benefits payable	1,854	2,597
Due to Government of Yukon	252	252
Deferred revenue (notes 2, 4)	183,984	167,031
	221,973	174,492
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)	(1,458)	(1,464)
Investments in Capital Assets (note 2)	6,995	6,277
	5,537	4,813
	227,510	179,305

Approved by :



G Councillor



G Councillor

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year Ended March 31, 2007 (unaudited)

	2007	2006
Revenues		
Government of Yukon contribution	209,547	194,126
Parks Canada	—	24,278
Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Program	21,600	21,600
Interest income and other	6	1
	231,153	240,005
Expenses		
Administration		
Bookkeeping	2,805	1,500
Honoraria	21,834	37,433
Interest and bank charges	30	73
Library	1,255	—
Newsletter	638	1,486
Office and telephone	11,963	12,102
Professional fees	2,500	2,208
Rent	5,117	5,022
Term report	196	6,863
Travel and meetings	11,653	24,042
Wages and employee benefits	58,365	63,659
	116,356	154,388
Project Costs		
Bylaws, regulations, legislation	750	725
Climate change	1,000	—
Communications Plan	850	—
Contact database	2,971	—
Ecosystem Monitoring Ten Year Report	—	4,836
Grizzly Bear Research	—	24,278
Habitat Stewardship Program	40,078	34,617
IFA Research Review	2,241	—
IFA Communications	567	2,070
Longterm Research and Planning	1,000	—
Muskox Management	12,086	—
North Slope Conference	20,552	—
Photo Project	539	—
Porcupine Caribou Management Board	—	2,000
Rare Plants and Animals	—	4,000
Species Status Reports	6,015	—
Summer Student Field Project	—	3,000
Traditional Knowledge Database	—	2,700
Website	14,699	921
Wildlife Conservation Management Plan	4,161	—
Workshops, conferences and studies	3,947	3,920
	111,456	83,067
Total Expenses	227,812	237,455
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures for the Year	3,341	2,550

Statement of Changes in Net assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2007 (unaudited)

	2007			2006
	Investment in Capital Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)	Total	Total
Balance at Beginning of Year	\$6,277	\$(1,464)	\$4,813	\$4,014
Excess (shortage) of revenues over expenditures	—	3,341	3,341	2,550
Purchase of capital assets	3,335	(3,335)	—	—
Disposal of capital assets	—	—	—	—
	3,335	6	3,341	2,550
Amortization of capital assets	(2,617)	—	(2,617)	(1,751)
	718	6	724	799
Balance at End of Year	\$6,995	\$(1,458)	\$5,537	\$4,813

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended March 31, 2007 (unaudited)

	2007	2006
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash receipts from Government of Yukon	\$164,334	\$213,563
Cash received from Government of Canada	—	—
Cash received from other sources	21,606	21,600
Cash paid for administration costs	(127,287)	(156,883)
Cash paid for IFA implementation project costs	(62,176)	(92,546)
	(3,523)	(14,266)
Cash Flows from Financing and Investing Activities		
Purchase of capital assets	(3,335)	(2,549)
Increase (Decrease) in Cash for the Year	(6,858)	(16,815)
Cash at Beginning of Year	159,409	176,224
Cash at End of Year	\$152,551	\$159,409

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2007 (unaudited)**1. Nature of the Financial Statements**

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) was created pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement to advise federal and territorial governments on matters pertaining to Yukon North Slope wildlife and habitat issues.

2. Significant Accounting Policies**a) Capital Assets**

Capital assets are recorded on the statement of financial position at cost, in the year purchased. Amortization is provided at rates sufficient to amortize the cost over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Capital assets are amortized using the declining balance method at rates set out in note 3.

The investment in capital assets reflects the total amortized cost of all capital assets owned by the Council.

b) Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue represents funds received under a contribution agreement or a specific project which are available to cover expenses in the next fiscal year as described in note 4.

3. Capital Assets

	2007			2006	
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Computer equipment	30%	\$21,703	\$19,742	\$1,961	\$2,802
Computer Class 45	45%	2,133	480	1,653	—
Software	100%	1,202	601	601	—
Office equipment	20%	9,455	6,675	2,780	3,475
		\$34,493	\$27,498	\$6,995	\$6,277

4. Deferred Revenue

	2007	2006
Government of Yukon	\$83,263	\$66,310
Parks Canada	100,722	100,722
	\$183,984	\$167,031

5. Financial Instruments

The Council's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and deferred revenue. Unless otherwise noted, it is the Council's opinion that the Council is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

6. Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make assumptions and estimates that have an effect on the reported amount of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could be different from those estimates.

7. Economic Dependence

The Council is economically dependent upon the Government of Yukon, which provides funding for administration and implementation.

APPENDIX 1

Extracted from *Western Arctic Claims (The Inuvialuit Final Agreement) Settlement Act (1984)*

Yukon North Slope

12. (1) For the purposes of this section, "Yukon North Slope" means all those lands between the jurisdictional boundaries of Alaska and the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, north of the height of land dividing the watersheds of the Porcupine River and the Beaufort Sea, and including adjacent nearshore and offshore waters and islands.

Principles

12. (2) The Yukon North Slope shall fall under a special conservation regime whose dominant purpose is the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional native use.
12. (3) Subject to subsections (5) to (15):
- (a) all development proposals relating to the Yukon North Slope shall be screened to determine whether they could have a significant negative impact on the wildlife, habitat or ability of the natives to harvest wildlife;
- (b) other uses within the Yukon North Slope shall be considered and may be permitted if it is shown that there would be no significant negative impact on wildlife, habitat or native harvesting;
- (c) other uses within the Yukon North Slope that may have a significant negative impact on wildlife, habitat or native harvesting shall be permitted if it is decided that public convenience and necessity outweigh conservation or native harvesting interests in the area; and As amended January 15, 1987
- (d) development proposals relating to the Yukon North Slope that may have a significant negative impact shall be subject to a public environmental impact assessment and review process.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

12. (46) In order to provide for joint planning by the native people and the governments in the Yukon North Slope with respect to the principles set out in subsections (2) and (3), a Wildlife Management Advisory Council shall be established as soon after the execution of this Agreement as is practicable.
12. (47) The Council shall have as permanent members a Chairman and an equal number of native and government members.
12. (48) The permanent members of the Council shall include at least one person designated by the Government of the Yukon Territory and one person designated by the Minister of the Environment of Canada.
12. (49) In addition to permanent members of the Council representing government, temporary members may be co-opted from government departments as they may be required from time to time.
12. (50) The permanent members of the Council appointed to represent the native interests shall include persons designated by the Inuvialuit, and, subject to agreements, by other native groups that have acquired harvesting rights in the Yukon North Slope under their land claims settlements.
12. (51) The Chairman of the Council shall be appointed by the Government of the Yukon Territory, with the consent of the native members and Canada.
12. (52) The permanent members of the Council shall each have one (1) vote. The Chairman shall have a vote only in case of a deadlock. Temporary members shall not have a vote.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

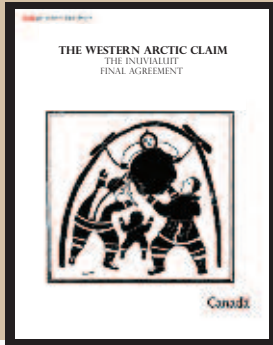
12. (53) The Council may establish rules and adopt by-laws regulating its procedures.
12. (54) The Government of the Yukon Territory agrees to provide a secretariat to assist in meeting the administrative needs of the Council.
12. (55) Each party shall pay the remuneration and expenses of the members of the Council that it appoints or designates.
12. (56) The Council shall provide advice to the appropriate minister on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Yukon North Slope and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the Council shall:
 - (a) provide advice on issues pertaining to the Yukon North Slope to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the Yukon Land Use Planning Commission, the Review Board and other appropriate groups;
 - (b) prepare a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Yukon North Slope for recommendation to the appropriate authorities as a means for achieving and maintaining the principles of conservation set out in subsections (2) and (3);
 - (c) determine and recommend appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting of game in the Yukon North Slope; and
 - (d) advise on measures required to protect habitat that is critical for wildlife or harvesting including those referred to in subsection 14(3).

As amended January 15, 1987.

*Refer to act for complete references.



Mike Gill



The Co-management System As established in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement

Inuvialuit Organizations

Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs)

- Aklavik HTC
- Holman HTC
- Inuvik HTC
- Paulatuk HTC
- Tuktoyaktuk HTC
- Sachs Harbour HTC

Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC)

Co-management Groups

- Environmental Impact Screening Committee
- Environmental Impact Review Board
- Fisheries Joint Management Committee
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)

Government Agencies

- Canada (INAC)
Government of Yukon
Government of the Northwest Territories
- Canada (INAC)
Government of Yukon
Government of the Northwest Territories
- Canada (DFO)
- Canada (PC)
Government of Yukon
- Canada (CWS)
Government of the Northwest Territories

Each HTC appoints members from their Board of Directors to form the IGC

IGC appoints members to co-management groups

Each co-management group involves an equal number of government and Inuvialuit

Government agencies appoint members to co-management groups

The Joint Secretariat provides administrative, technical, and logistical support to Inuvialuit organizations and co-management groups.



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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