

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)



TERM REPORT April 1, 2003 – March 31, 2005

YUKON NORTH SLOPE

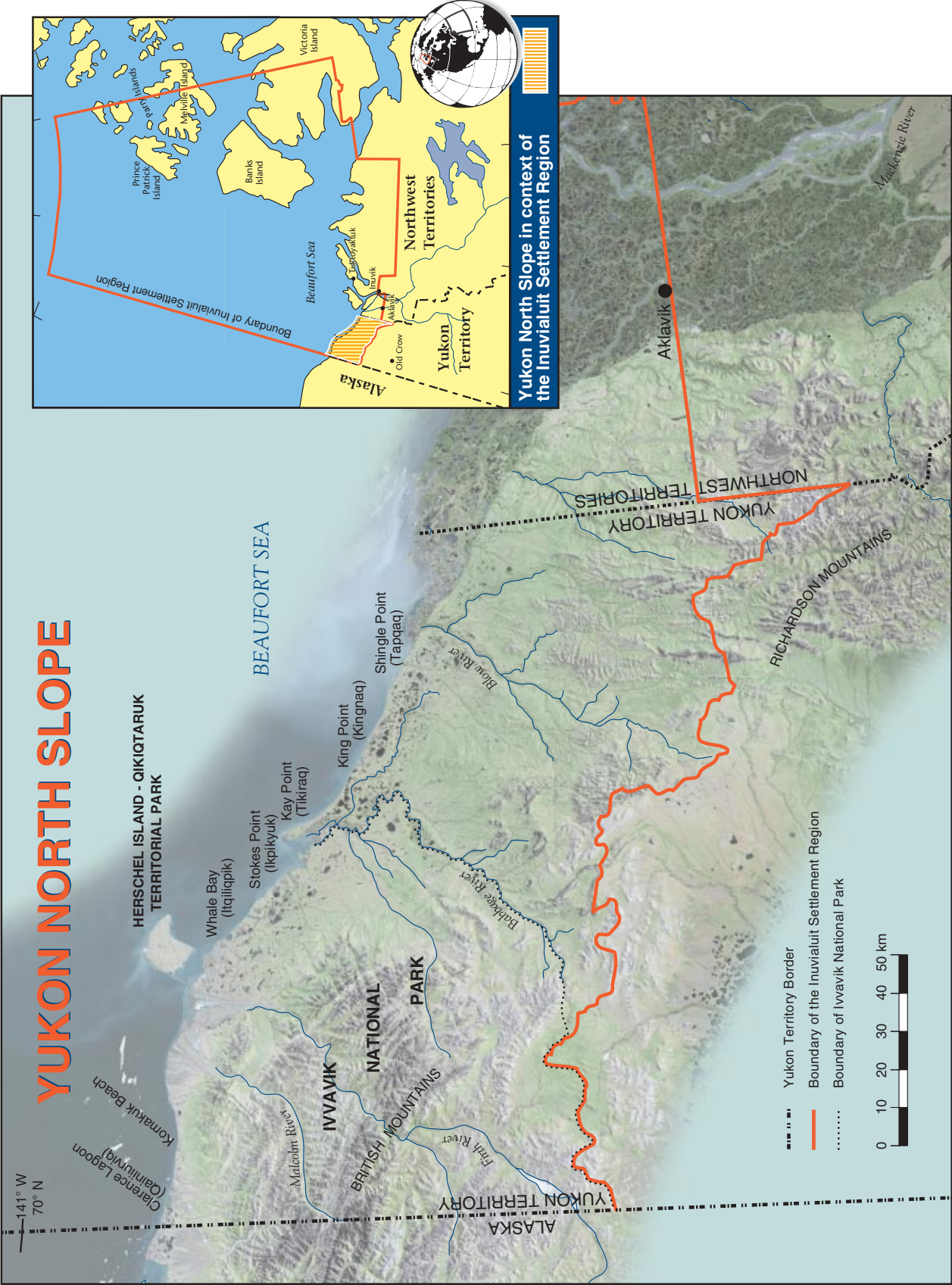


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Jim Howkins

This report outlines the activities and projects undertaken by the Council during the two-year term from April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2005.



Yukon Government

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 traditionally used it. 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. These instruments 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 the northern and southern hemispheres.

The efforts and accomplishments of the Council are dependent on a fragile commodity – cooperation. Without it, the Council has no effective means to assist in the development and implementation of plans and programs that are directed at the conservation of wildlife populations that range across territorial and jurisdictional boundaries to the south, west and east of the Yukon North Slope. The initiatives described in this report occurred between 2003 and 2005. There are very few that haven’t relied on a high level of support and collaboration between different communities, regions and jurisdictions. The 2003 North Slope Conference, the implementation of Canada’s Species at Risk Act, the documentation and application of traditional knowledge, and the development of population-based wildlife management plans (e.g. North Slope muskox) illustrate this basic fact of “co-management.”

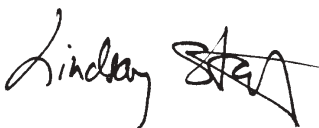
These initiatives underscore the fact that the sustainable use of shared natural resources (the “commons”) requires the sharing of knowledge, power and responsibility between peoples and governments if the goals of wildlife conservation are to be realized.

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.

Finally, on behalf of all of the Council’s members, I want to recognize the efforts of Aileen Horler, who has worked very hard and patiently for the Council over the last 10 years. No job has been too big or too small, no idea too grand or too pedestrian, for her to pursue with imagination and zeal. She is leaving the Council to pursue new endeavours. We thank her for her important contributions to our work, and we wish her well, wherever her journey should take her.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Staples
Chair

THE YUKON NORTH SLOPE

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 that portion of the Yukon mainland whose waters drain into the Beaufort Sea, as well as Herschel Island, other islands, and nearshore and offshore waters. There are no roads or towns. The isolated North Warning System radar sites, active for many years along the Arctic coast, have been downsized and cleaned up and are now unmanned. The area is of international importance as one of Canada's most diverse Arctic environments and home of the many species of wildlife.

The Yukon North Slope is also the home of the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic, who 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 basis to hunt, trap, and fish. They still use traditional gathering places in the mountains and along the coast. These seasonal hunting camps are reminders of an active and enduring human occupancy.

In recognition of the international importance of the wildlife and habitat of the area and of the dependency of the Inuvialuit upon it, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) was negotiated with detailed provisions to secure and protect this area and its people. Negotiated by the governments of Canada, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and the Inuvialuit, and proclaimed on July 25, 1984, as the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act*, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement established a broad conservation regime for the Yukon North Slope. The Inuvialuit Final Agreement recognizes the Yukon North Slope's uniqueness and importance to the Inuvialuit people and the rest of Canada.



Norm Borichello



Yukon Government

THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), or WMAC(NS), was established in 1988 under the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act*, which arose out of the 1984 Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA).

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." The IFA established a co-management council to oversee and maintain this conservation regime for the Yukon North Slope, and to develop a wildlife conservation and management plan to give the regime ongoing practical effect.

The responsibilities of the Council are defined in section 12(56) of the IFA, which states:

"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)."

Since its inception, the Council has been an active and effective supporter of cooperative management on the Yukon's North Slope.



AKLAVIK HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS COMMITTEE

WMAC(NS) works closely with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) in order to fully consider the harvesting needs and concerns of the Aklavik Inuvialuit in the Council's decisions and actions. Through public meetings and through regularly scheduled meetings with the HTC's Board of Directors, WMAC(NS) has provided information and exchanged ideas on the management of wildlife on the Yukon North Slope.

The President of the Aklavik HTC participated at the Council's Strategic Planning Meeting in August 2004. The Council also supported the participation of a representative of the Aklavik HTC at a meeting of the Muskox Working Group in Inuvik (June 2003) and at the Canada-Alaska North Slope Muskox Working Group meeting in Anchorage in November 2004. (see Muskox Management, below).

The Council has also worked closely with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee in the development of programs related to the Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Project (see below). The Council's Grizzly Bear Project Community Participation Strategy has provided the framework for the Aklavik HTC's involvement in many of the project's components.

**YUKON NORTH SLOPE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

As one element of the special conservation regime it established, the IFA required the preparation of a Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Yukon North Slope. The Plan is designed to provide direction to long-term wildlife conservation management consistent with the goals of the IFA.

Volume 1 of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan (Environmental Overview) was completed in 1996. This volume provides an introduction to the land, its people, and its resources and has been distributed to over 700 agencies and individuals.

Volume 2 of the Plan (Goals and Actions) was published in the fall of 2003 after many years of consultation, review, and revisions. This volume is intended for those with management, conservation, and resource use interests 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 IFA principles and objectives.

Volume 3 of the Plan consists of Yukon North Slope Wildlife Population Status Reports. This volume was first compiled in 1996 for the purpose of providing information relevant to the environmental screening and review of development activities potentially affecting the Yukon North Slope and wildlife management in the area. For each of the 34 wildlife species included, these reports provide information, where available, on the estimated population size; the population distribution and range; unique characteristics of the population; management concerns and information gaps; and the management regime of the population through plans, agreements, legislation, regulations, and responsible agencies. The reports were updated in 2003 in preparation for the Yukon North Slope Conference to reflect current management and biological information. Information on traditional knowledge and local concerns about many of the species were incorporated (see Traditional Knowledge and the Status of Species on the Yukon North Slope, below).

All three volumes of the Plan can be found on the Council's website at www.taiga.net/wmac/wcandmplans.htm. Hard copy editions are available from the Council's Secretariat.



Yukon Government

One component of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan is a detailed report on the status of 34 wildlife species found on the North Slope (Volume 3). Recognizing that the report was based primarily on scientific research, the Council, working in partnership with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, initiated a project to collect local information on 22 selected species in the spring of 2003. Interviews were conducted in Aklavik over a two-week period. People active on the land were asked to provide information on range, body condition, habitat, and population size. A public meeting was also held to gather additional information. A full report summarizing the results of the project was published in late 2003 as "Aklavik Inuvialuit Describe the Status of Certain Birds and Animals on the Yukon North Slope" (www.taiga.net/wmac/aklavikreport/index.html). Information obtained during the study was also added to the Council's species status reports (www.taiga.net/wmac/consandmanagementplan_volume3/index.html).

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE STATUS OF SPECIES ON THE YUKON NORTH SLOPE



Wayne Lynch

WMAC(NS) continued its work to develop a management plan for the Canadian North Slope muskox population. The Council co-ordinated a meeting in Inuvik in June 2003 attended by representatives of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the GNWT, Parks Canada, the Yukon Government, and the WMAC(NWT). Participants spent the day reviewing outstanding issues and discussing a variety of management options for the muskox population.

MUSKOX MANAGEMENT

In November 2004 representatives from WMAC(NS), the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Parks Canada, and the Inuvialuit Game Council met with representatives from the U.S. federal and Alaskan state governments and Inupiat, to discuss common muskox management issues and concerns. The discussions provided much useful information that will assist WMAC(NS) in finalizing the plan. Once the plan is complete, WMAC(NS) will be able to recommend a sustainable harvest quota for Inuvialuit residents of Aklavik.

Information on the biology and management of North Slope muskox can be viewed at www.taiga.net/wmac/species/muskox/index.html



Aileen Horler

North Slope Muskox Management Working Group Meeting, Anchorage, 2004.

GRIZZLY BEAR MANAGEMENT



The management of grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope is of ongoing importance to the Council. Early in 2003, after careful review and consideration of grizzly bear population estimates and harvest levels in the western ISR over the last five years, WMAC(NS) and WMAC(NWT) agreed to support an increase of two bears from the Yukon North Slope population to the existing harvest quota.

As a result, in May 2003, WMAC(NS) recommended that the Yukon Minister of Environment provide one additional tag to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee for hunting grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope east of the Babbage River. In addition, WMAC(NS) made a recommendation to remove the zero quota for Herschel Island and re-assign the quota of 3 bears for Ivvavik National Park to include Herschel Island. WMAC(NS) also recommended the implementation of a research program within the next two years to provide new estimates for the grizzly bear populations in the western ISR. In July 2003, WMAC(NWT) recommended that one additional bear tag be allocated by the Government of the NWT to the NWT portion of the Aklavik grizzly bear hunting area. The recommendations by the two Councils resulted in tags for two additional bears being available for Inuvialuit hunters in Aklavik.

In May 2004, the Yukon Government Department of Environment, in partnership with Parks Canada and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, began a six-year grizzly bear research project on the Yukon North Slope. The research project is designed to learn about grizzly bear population size, birth rate, death rate, where bears can be found at different times of the year, and how much they move around. It will also include a review of hunter harvest activity.

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. The Council developed a Community Participation Strategy to provide a framework for local involvement in the project's many components. The Council also developed a Communications Strategy to assist all parties involved in the research project, including the researchers, regional agencies, and residents of local communities, in sharing information related to the project. Communications initiatives include the expansion of WMAC(NS)'s website to provide more information on the ecology and management of grizzly bears and the production of a regular newsletter specific to the research project (www.taiga.net/wmac/species/grizzly/index.html).



Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Research Project meeting, Aklavik, April 2004.

Ramona Maraj

SPECIES AT RISK

The Council's Chair and members were active participants in a meeting held in Whitehorse in April 2003 between the members of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and representatives of Wildlife Management Boards across Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how they could all work together on species assessments within the range jurisdictions of the Boards. The meeting resulted in the preparation of a draft document that outlined how the Wildlife Management Boards should be involved in the COSEWIC assessment process for Species at Risk. COSEWIC used these recommendations to revise its Organization and Procedures Manual.

At the same meeting, the representatives of the Wildlife Management Boards provided comments on the recovery process for Species at Risk. These comments were forwarded to the National Recovery Working group for their consideration. Work is ongoing to incorporate a process for involvement by the Boards into the Recovery Operations Manual.

The Council's Chair attended the Species at Risk 2004 Conference in Victoria, B.C., where he made a presentation on the role of Wildlife Management Boards and the implementation of the Species at Risk legislation. He also made a presentation on multi-jurisdictional management of wildlife, using the Draft Canadian North Slope Muskox Co-management Plan as an example. The Chair participated in a workshop where he was able to present the results of the traditional knowledge species assessment completed by the Council in Aklavik.

The Council reviews and provides comments to COSEWIC on species being assessed within the region.



ECOLOGICAL MONITORING



Grant MacHutchon

The Council maintained its support for the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative (www.taiga.net/coop). The Borderlands Co-op was founded ten years ago when Environment Canada, WMAC(NS), and representatives from several different community groups started an ecological monitoring program. The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management plan established ecological monitoring as an important objective of the area. The Co-op's monitoring program was established to cover areas of the Yukon, Alaska, and NWT within the range of the Porcupine caribou herd. Since its establishment membership has expanded to include other governments departments and agencies as well as other community organizations. It has also expanded to include parts of the Mackenzie River valley and delta. The monitoring program is focused on climate change, contaminants, and regional development. Quantitative and qualitative information is collected and compiled from a number of different sources, including government and scientific research data and survey information from local people. Co-op activities include the tracking of ecological indicators and community projects. A Gathering is held each year to report on the Co-op's findings and exchange information.

The Chair assisted in the development and drafting of an information protocol for the Co-op. The Council's Chair, member Danny C. Gordon, and alternate Carol Arey attended the Co-op's ninth Annual Gathering, held in Inuvik in March 2004. The Council recommended funding for the eighth year of the Co-op's Community Monitoring Program (see IFA Funded Wildlife Research, below). The objective of this program is to record observations, on an annual basis, of changes in the environment using local community experts and interviewers.

In February 2005, the Council initiated a project to assess and determine environmental change on the Yukon North Slope, using information obtained and compiled through the programs of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op from 1996 to 2005. (For more information see Special Projects, below.)

The Council also supported and recommended funding for ecosystem monitoring programs on Herschel Island (see IFA Funded Wildlife Research, below).



Joan Eamer

Arctic Borderland Co-op's Community Monitors, 2004.

WMAC(NS) worked with the Yukon Government to co-ordinate the seventh Yukon North Slope Conference, held in Inuvik in November 2003. It was the first time the conference was held in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The conference theme was “*Meeting the Challenges of Conservation and Beaufort Development.*”

The conference examined key management issues associated with current and future Beaufort development that may affect the coastal zone of the Yukon North Slope and surrounding territorial areas. The conference also looked at the management tools available or required to address them. The chair of the conference was Dr. S. Robert Blair.

The three-day conference included several plenary presentations to familiarize participants with the historic and current context of development and resource management in the area. Traditional use, jurisdictional issues, planning for the future, and the requirements and challenges in the coastal zone and offshore were all considered. A series of ten workshops were also held to address the opportunities and challenges of Beaufort development, including priority issues and areas where efforts should be focused. Over 150 representatives from Inuvialuit and First Nations organizations, industry, and non-government and government agencies attended the conference. The summaries from the conference can be found at www.taiga.net/wmac/northslopeproceedings/nsconference_03.html

2003 YUKON NORTH SLOPE CONFERENCE



Aileen Horler

The WMAC(NS), the WMAC(NWT), and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee hosted a one-day workshop in Inuvik in December 2004. The objective of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for agencies and researchers receiving IFA funding for wildlife projects, including fish, to report on the progress and results of their study to each other and to members of the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Boards and Councils. Information was presented on 50 new or ongoing projects that took place in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region over the year. A summary of the research was compiled and is available at www.taiga.net/wmac/pdfs/summary_report_04_05.pdf

CO-MANAGEMENT IFA RESEARCH WORKSHOP



IFA-FUNDED WILDLIFE RESEARCH



Parks Canada

WMAC(NS) reviews proposals for IFA-funded research projects related to wildlife management and ecological monitoring on the Yukon North Slope, consistent with the goals of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the objectives of section 12 of the Agreement. Once reviewed and discussed, the Council makes its recommendations, as appropriate, to support projects and, if required, 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 the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan, the Porcupine Caribou Management Plan, the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan, meetings with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Aklavik HTC research priority list, community consultation at public meetings in Aklavik, and research 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 researchers or agencies that receive funding. The following is a list of projects supported by the Council in 2003-2005.

Muskox Ecology Studies

Lead implementation agencies – Yukon Government, Parks Canada

Implementation partner – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

The objective of the study is to determine the habitat and movements of the muskox on the Yukon North Slope to contribute to effective population management and to assist in determining a sustainable harvest quota. This study includes a satellite collaring program as well as composition and population counts. A representative of the Aklavik HTC participates in the field work on a regular basis.

The satellite program was begun on the North Slope in 1999. The objective of this research is to learn more about where the muskox like to live at different times of the year and how much they move around. The collars send signals to a satellite that automatically records the locations of the muskox throughout the year. The collars are also used to help locate groups of muskox when it is time to count the population. All the collars will be taken off the muskox in 2005.

For several years biologists have completed aerial surveys of the muskox in the spring and summer. These surveys provide information on the size of the muskox population, the numbers of males and females, how many calves are born each year, and how many live to be a year old. (For more information see Muskox Management, above, or go to www.taiga.net/wmac/species/muskox/index.html.)



The Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op and the Community-based Monitoring Program

Lead implementation agency – Canadian Wildlife Service

Implementation partners – 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, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board.

The Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op Community-based Monitoring Program started in Aklavik, Old Crow, and Fort McPherson in 1996 and has expanded to include other communities in the Mackenzie delta region.

Community researchers in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Old Crow, Arctic Village, Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, and Tsiigehtchic were contracted to conduct interviews with local experts and record their observations on ecological conditions over the previous year. This included observations about caribou movements and condition, fish, berries, weather, and general observations about changes in the health of the environment. The community researchers used a standardized questionnaire. A training and development session is held each year to refine the questionnaire and develop good interview and reporting techniques. Community experts who were interviewed received an honorarium. Results from all communities are compiled into a summary report and presented at the Co-op Annual Gathering each year. More information on the Borderlands Co-op can be found at www.taiga.net/coop.



Danny C. Gordon

Porcupine Caribou Collaring Programs

Lead implementation agency – Yukon Government

Implementation partners – Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Canadian Wildlife Service, Government of the Northwest Territories, Alaska Dept. 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.

Caribou are being located using two different types of collars. Sixteen caribou are currently fitted with satellite collars. These collars automatically report the location of the animals and provide biologists with regular information about the timing and routes of the migrations. Satellite collars are more cost-effective than conventional radio collars when a large number of frequent locations is needed. They are good tools for learning about caribou movements because a plane or helicopter is not required to determine where the caribou are located. The satellite tracks the animals automatically and is helpful in showing the general distribution of the herd. The location of these caribou can be followed at www.taiga.net/satellite/index.html.

There is also an ongoing program to maintain between 80 and 100 conventional radio collars on the herd. These collars are used to locate the caribou during the composition counts and censuses. They also help researchers locate and identify individual caribou and are used to document winter range use. The collars have been very important in showing how important the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is to calving caribou.



Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Research Project

Lead implementation agency – Yukon Government

Implementation partners – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Parks Canada, WMAC (NS)



In May 2004, the Yukon Government Department of Environment, in partnership with Parks Canada and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, began a six-year grizzly bear research project on the Yukon North Slope. The focus of the project is on grizzly bears between the Firth and the Blow Rivers. The research is designed to learn about grizzly bear population size, birth rate, death rate, where bears can be found at different times of the year, and how much they move around. It will also include a review of hunter harvest activity. It is important for wildlife managers, boards, and community organizations to have this information when they are reviewing the conservation requirements of this population and harvest quotas. (For more information see Grizzly Bear Management, above, or go to www.taiga.net/wmac/species/grizzly/index.html.)

Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region

Lead implementation agency – Heather Swystun, University of Northern British Columbia

Implementation partner – Canadian Wildlife Service

The objective of this study was to monitor environmental change and effects of development in the Mackenzie Delta, using tundra swans as an indicator species for other birds and waterfowl. It was conducted by a graduate student of the University of Northern British Columbia. The study examined tundra swan nesting biology and how they use their habitat. Nesting sites were monitored over three years to see how they are being affected by environmental change and development in the Mackenzie Delta. The third and final year of this project was 2003.

Aklavik Harvest Data Collection

Lead implementation agency – Yukon Government

Implementation partner – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

The objective of this ongoing study is to collect information on the Aklavik Inuvialuit harvest of moose, caribou, sheep, swans (2003 only), and furbearers in the Yukon and NWT. Regular harvest reporting is important to assist in the management of wildlife. It is also important in assessing wildlife compensation claims in the ISR.

This program in Aklavik was started by the Yukon Government in 2002 after the Inuvialuit Harvest Study terminated. Harvest data is collected through hunter recall surveys and through tag information on species under quota submitted by hunters.

YTG contracted a local person, in partnership with the Aklavik HTC, to conduct recall interviews twice during 2003 and 2004. The surveys were conducted during freeze-up and break-up. Harvest information recorded includes species, date, location, sex, and maturity of the animal, and the hunter's name. All identifying hunter information is confidential, however, summary information on total harvest will be made public. Information collected will be added to the data collected in previous years, primarily through the Inuvialuit Harvest Study.



Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Raptor and Fox Survey

Lead implementation agency – Yukon Government

Implementation partners – Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Rangers

The objective of this survey was to document the abundance and distribution of raptors and foxes on Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk. A previous aerial survey of the island, completed in July 1999, identified 5 peregrine falcons (1 nest), 39 rough-legged hawks (15 nests), and 101 snowy owls (3 nests). The density of snowy owls is among the highest densities of owls recorded. This recent survey, conducted in July 2003, counted more birds than in 1999, except for snowy owls. Biologists were particularly interested in learning more about rough-legged hawks and peregrine falcons, as well as arctic and red foxes. The results of the survey will be used to set up an ongoing ground-based monitoring project. Every year, as part of an ongoing program, Park Rangers will visit the sites within walking distance of Pauline Cove to monitor nests and dens. They will record information such as the number of eggs and chicks at each nest site, and the number of dens occupied by the foxes.

Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Permafrost Monitoring

Lead implementation agency – Chris Burn, Carleton University

Implementation partners – Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Rangers

This is an ongoing program that was begun in 2000. It is being conducted by Chris Burn (Carleton University) and the Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Rangers. Probes have been put into the ground to measure the temperature at different levels below the surface. In summer 2003 Dr. Burn established a snow course for long-term monitoring of snow depth, active-layer thickness, and near-surface ground temperature. This study also includes the long-term monitoring of snow depth and the measurement of the thickness of the permafrost layer that thaws and freezes each year. The study will determine if the ground is warming up over time.



C. McEwen



Yukon Government

SPECIAL PROJECTS



Parks Canada

The Council undertook a number of special projects in 2003 -2005.

Yukon North Slope Coastal Zone - Literature Review and Database Development

The Yukon coastal zone includes the near and offshore waters of the Yukon North Slope as well as the zone of influence on the Yukon North Slope where the ecological processes of the coastal plain and the Beaufort sea affect one another.

The Council has prepared a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Yukon North Slope (see above). This plan recognizes the importance of the coastal zone to many fish and wildlife species in the area, and the need to conserve these species and important habitat. The plan also calls for coastal zone management planning in this area. The Council has also prepared a Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan for the Yukon North Slope. This plan recognizes research issues and needs in the Yukon North Slope coastal zone that should be addressed in the future. Both the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and the Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan require the collection of information that can contribute to an improved understanding of the conservation requirements of the Yukon North Slope coastal zone and improved planning and management of future development activities - including tourism and hydrocarbon exploration and development - in the offshore.

In 2003, WMAC(NS) conducted a review of all the documented information that could be found about the Yukon North Slope coastal zone. Information sources included journal articles, conference proceedings, databases, ongoing monitoring and research work, research licence compendia, internet sites, and experts from governments, universities, and local communities. References were also added to the Database of Information Sources, including baseline conditions, impacts, and additional information that could assist in environmental assessment and planning.

(www.yukon.taiga.net/coop/infosources/index.cfm.) An assessment was also completed of the literature pertaining to the Yukon coastal zone that can be found in the database. A report on this project is available at www.yukon.taiga.net/coop/infosources/coastal_zone_review.pdf.



Wayne Lynch

Climate Change and the Yukon North Slope

Protecting the health and integrity of the environment of the Yukon North Slope is fundamental to the conservation of wildlife and habitat, and to the harvesting opportunities they sustain. Although the region is relatively undisturbed by local development, concern about the effects of global climate change on the Yukon's coastal, marine, and land ecosystems has increased in recent years.

Northern areas such as the Yukon North Slope may be dramatically affected by global climate changes. A warmer climate, resulting in higher winter snowfall, earlier snowmelt, and slightly warmer summer temperatures, could have large effects on wildlife, wetlands, and migratory birds, among others. There is evidence that global warming has lowered lake levels and thawed permafrost. It has caused thinner sea ice and affected the life cycles of marine mammals and fish and the harvesting patterns of those who depend on them. Other impacts include increased erosion and landslides.

Both the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and the Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan identify the importance of maintaining a system to monitor climate change and its impact on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. These plans also call for regular reviews, updating, and reporting of climate change information to communities and decision-makers.

In 2004, WMAC(NS) undertook a project to consolidate current information about climate and climate change as it pertains to the Yukon North Slope, and adjacent areas in the NWT and Alaska, in order to provide interested parties with a better understanding of the nature and results of regional research initiatives and possible effects of any determined change. The resulting report describes past, current, and ongoing climate change-related research and monitoring. The period covered by this report is 2000 to 2005 and can be found at www.taiga.net/wmac/climatechange.html.



Parks Canada

Results of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op Programs on the Yukon North Slope (1996- 2005)

WMAC(NS) has a long-standing interest in and commitment to the programs conducted by the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op. The Council's Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan recognizes the important role played by the Co-op in maintaining an ecosystem monitoring system for the region. Over the last ten years, the Council has contributed both financial and personnel resources, and has recommended IFA funding to the Co-op's programs.

The Community-based Monitoring Program is one of the Co-op's major programs. This program was developed to document changes observed in the land, plants, and animals from year to year. (www.taiga.net/coop/community/index.html). In each participating community, a local monitor interviews experts using a questionnaire. The questionnaire asks for observations about weather, berries, caribou, fish, other animals, and the communities themselves. Aklavik Inuvialuit have been participating in the Community-based Monitoring Program since 1995.



Fisheries Joint Management Committee



Aileen Horler

The Co-op has reported some of the information obtained through this program in the form of annual summaries and posters. The bulk of the data from the questionnaires has been compiled in an Access database. Reporting of interview results specific to the Yukon North Slope is limited.

The purpose of the Council's project was to assess and determine environmental change on the Yukon North Slope, using information obtained and compiled through the programs of the Co-op, from 1996 to 2005. In order to do this, information from the Co-op's programs had to be assessed, analyzed, and summarized in a format that is specific to the area. The Council will prepare a report that describes the activities and results of the Co-op programs as they relate to the Inuvialuit residents of Aklavik and the Yukon North Slope. The Council plans to publish the results of this project later in 2005.

Update of the Guide for Researchers

In the spring of 2005, the Council undertook a review and update of the Guide for Researchers to provide accurate and current information that reflects recent changes in research-permitting requirements for the region. This guide was originally prepared in 1999 as a component of the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan. It was developed through extensive consultation with the Inuvialuit community in Aklavik and interested people in Aklavik, Inuvik, and Old Crow; with Inuvialuit agencies and co-management bodies; with federal, territorial, and Alaskan government agencies; with Canadian and Alaskan universities; and with non-governmental organizations. Consultations included two workshops, and interviews with more than forty researchers and community representatives.

The guide is a resource document for both researchers and communities. It attempts to clarify expectations and develop common understandings that will help communities and researchers work together. It also provides information and references related to conducting research on the Yukon North Slope and adjacent areas, including the Gwich'in Settlement Area of the Northwest Territories.

Topics covered include:

- How to involve communities in research and monitoring;
- How to consult with the communities;
- How to access traditional and local knowledge for research and monitoring;
- How to communicate information to the communities;
- How to conduct research in an ethical way;
- Where to find funding;
- What support services are available for research; and
- What permits, licences, and review processes apply.

The guide should be used in conjunction with the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan (www.taiga.net/wmac/researchplan), which sets out long-term research and monitoring priorities for the Yukon North Slope.

The Council continued to support the review of the Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Management Plan. The Plan, originally completed in 1991, is being updated by the Yukon Government to reflect the increase in visitor numbers and other management issues not addressed in the original version. As part of this review, the Council hosted a workshop in Whitehorse in September 2003 that brought Council members together with representatives from the Yukon Government to discuss the contents of the Plan.

The Council continues to support research and monitoring in the park. The Council recommended funding for a raptor and fox survey, and climate monitoring studies on Herschel Island which were conducted during the summer of 2003.

The Chief Park Ranger for Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park regularly attends Council meetings to provide updates on activities in the park. The Council receives briefings on priorities prior to the beginning of the field season as well as a summary report of the season's visitors, research and monitoring programs, heritage site maintenance, and other activities at the end of each year.

The Council added information on Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park to its web site. A map of the park, a bird checklist, a list of plants, and a printable brochure about the island are all now available at www.taiga.net/wmac/herschel/herschel.html.

HERSCHEL ISLAND – QIKIQTARUK TERRITORIAL PARK



Aileen Horler

PARKS CANADA AND 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.

Parks Canada played an active role in grizzly bear and muskox management and research on the North Slope. Parks also played a leading role in the development of the draft of the Canadian North Slope Muskox Management Plan. A representative from Parks Canada sits on the Council as the member for the Government of Canada.



Aileen Horler

OTHER ISSUES



Wayne Lynch

Council members addressed a number of additional issues that have bearing on the Yukon North Slope. These included:

- The Yukon's Development Assessment Process and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act
- Shingle Point DEW-Line site clean-up
- Submissions to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board
- Amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act
- Enforcement mechanisms and authority on the Yukon North Slope
- Compensation for research-related losses of wildlife
- The development of the Yukon Government's trapping regulations
- Oil and gas development in the Beaufort Sea, Mackenzie Delta, and the northern Yukon
- Research permitting
- Yukon North Slope Withdrawal Order
- The Fisheries Joint Management Committee Student Mentoring Program
- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Western Arctic/ Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning and Oceans Management Strategy.
- Development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- The transportation and storage of the Steel Drilling Caisson (SDC) at Thetis Bay, near Herschel Island.
- Preparations for International Polar Year
- Sheep Creek (Ivvavik National Park) fuel spill remediation
- Parks Canada and Yukon Government fuel cache protocols
- The Yukon Government's protocol for the collection of harvest information in Aklavik.



Barney Smith

COMMUNICATIONS

WMAC(NS) maintained its web site at www.taiga.net/wmac. The site includes information on the Council and its activities, including term reports, newsletters, fact sheets, species status reports, and links to related sites.

WMAC(NS) continued to produce a newsletter, 'Wildlife Watch,' to inform user communities of the Council's activities and provide updates on issues of community interest. Over 500 copies of each issue of Wildlife Watch were distributed. The newsletters can be viewed at www.taiga.net/wmac/watch.

The Council is also a regular contributor to 'Common Ground,' the newsletter produced twice a year by the Joint Secretariat in Inuvik. This newsletter provides a summary of the activities of the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees. Copies of 'Common Ground' can be viewed at www.fjmc.ca/js_newsletters.htm.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council held meetings in Whitehorse, Aklavik, and Inuvik. WMAC(NS) held a joint meeting with WMAC(NWT) in Whitehorse and two joint meetings with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee in Aklavik. The Council also hosted community meetings in Aklavik in both 2003 and 2004.

The Council met in August 2004 to consider the focus of Council activities for the next few years. This two-day retreat was a chance for Council members to identify priorities and make decisions about future actions that will contribute to maintaining healthy wildlife populations and habitat, and to continuing Inuvialuit harvesting activities on the Yukon North Slope.



Dorothy Cooley

WMAC(NS) Planning Meeting – August 2004

**OTHER MEETINGS,
WORKSHOPS, AND
CONFERENCES**

The WMAC(NS) Chair, members, representatives and Secretariat attended a number of workshops and other meetings throughout the term, relevant to the ongoing activities of the Council. These workshops and meetings are summarized as follows:

April 2003	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), Whitehorse
May 2003	11th Northern Furbearer Conference, Whitehorse
July 2003	Yukon North Slope Muskox Management meeting, Inuvik
September 2003	Herschel Island Park Management Plan workshop, Whitehorse
October 2003	Inuvialuit Game Council, Whitehorse
October 2003	Marine Environmental Quality workshop, Inuvik
November 2003	Joint Secretariat Board of Directors, Inuvik
November 2003	Yukon North Slope Conference, Inuvik
December 2003	Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvik
February 2004	Environmental Impact Review Board, Inuvik
February 2004	Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative – Ninth Annual Gathering, Inuvik.
March 2004	Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvik
March 2004	Species at Risk 2004 Conference, Victoria, B.C.
March 2004	Joint Secretariat Board of Directors, Inuvik
June 2004	Inuvialuit Game Council, Tuktoyaktuk
September 2004	Inuvialuit Game Council, Yellowknife
November 2004	Canada-Alaska North Slope Muskox Working Group meeting, Anchorage
December 2004	Workshop on research funded through the IFA, Inuvik
December 2004	Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvik
February 2005	EMAN North meeting, Yellowknife
February 2005	Alaska Forum, Anchorage
March 2005	Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) workshop, Whitehorse
March 2005	Porcupine Caribou Management Board, Whitehorse
March 2005	Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act workshop, Whitehorse

WMAC(NS) MEMBERSHIP

The Council consists of four members and an independent chairperson. Two members are appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council, one by the Government of Canada and one by the Government of Yukon. The Council is supported by a Secretariat located in Whitehorse.

The Council's membership in 2003-2005 was as follows:

Lindsay Staples: Chair

Lindsay lives in Whitehorse and works as a private consultant in the fields of natural resource management, socio-economic and environmental impact assessment, and land claims self-government negotiations and implementation. He has a long-standing interest in the management of the Yukon North Slope and the implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. He has extensive experience in negotiation, facilitation, and consensus-based processes involving a broad range of public policy issues.

Danny C. Gordon: Member – Inuvialuit Game Council (until September 2004)

Danny is a resident of Aklavik. He is an active hunter and trapper and is a director of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. Danny served on WMAC(NS) from 1993 to 2004.

Herbert Felix: Member – Inuvialuit Game Council

Herbert is a resident of Tuktoyaktuk. He is also a member of the Environmental Impact Review Board. Herbert enjoys participating in co-management activities.

Ernest Pokiak: Member – Inuvialuit Game Council (after September 2004)

Ernest was born on Banks Island, 50 miles northwest of Sachs Harbour, and was brought up on the land. Ernest has served as the Mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, the Chair of the Tuktoyaktuk Education Authority, and was a Director for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation Group. He also served as a Director of the Community Corporations of Sachs Harbour and Tuktoyaktuk. Ernest is currently serving on the Board of Governors for Aurora College. In 1999 Ernest retired after 35 years, combined service with the federal and territorial governments. In June 2002, he returned to work for the territorial government as regional airport manager for the Tuktoyaktuk Region.

Evelyn Storr: Alternate – Inuvialuit Game Council

Evelyn was born and raised in Aklavik. She worked for the Aklavik Housing Association from 1993 to 2004 and is currently working for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation in Inuvik. Evelyn has served as the President of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and is a member of the Inuvialuit Investment Board.

Carol Arey: Alternate – Inuvialuit Game Council (until September 2004)

Carol is a resident of Aklavik. From the time Carol was six days old she has spent her summers at Shingle Point and considers the North Slope her home. Carol was active with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee for many years. She is currently the President of the Aklavik Community Corporation.

Lawrence Amos: Alternate – Inuvialuit Game Council (beginning September 2004)

Lawrence was born in Tuktoyaktuk. He spent 21 years in Sachs Harbour where he lived and trapped off the land. In 1990, Lawrence and his family moved to Inuvik. Lawrence has worked for the oil industry (offshore and land-based rigs) and government (Arctic airports) and still spends lots of time out on the land. Lawrence is also a member of the Fisheries Joint Management Committee.

Martin Raillard: Member – Government of Canada (until October 2003)

Martin is the Manager of the Environmental Conservation Branch of Environment Canada in Whitehorse. The Environmental Conservation Branch includes the Canadian Wildlife Service. Martin worked in Inuvik for a number of years with Parks Canada.

Ron Larsen: Member – Government of Canada (after October 2003)

Ron has worked for Parks Canada since 1992. He has spent the past six years working as the Chief Park Warden for Ivvavik National Park and the Operations Manager for Parks Canada's Western Arctic Field Unit. Ron resides in Inuvik.

Wendy Nixon: Alternate – Government of Canada

Wendy is head of the Conservation and Sustainability Section for the Canadian Wildlife Service in Whitehorse. She has been with the Wildlife Service since 1980, working on caribou behaviour and ecology in northern Yukon and a variety of bird studies in the Yukon and northern British Columbia. She is co-author and co-editor of the book that is too big to put into your daypack - Birds of the Yukon Territory.

Doug Larsen: Member – Government of Yukon

Doug is the Chief of Wildlife Management for the Yukon Government Department of Environment. He has worked for YTG since 1978, starting out as a moose biologist. Prior to this work, Doug spent time in the Arctic working for the University of Alberta and for the Canadian Wildlife Service. He has helped with studies on muskox and ringed seals, and spent some time on Herschel Island in the mid-1970s, studying polar bears.

Dorothy Cooley: Alternate – Government of Yukon

Dorothy works in Dawson City as Regional Biologist for the Yukon Government Department of Environment. Dorothy is responsible for coordinating research and wildlife studies that are conducted by the Yukon Government on the Yukon North Slope. Her position is partially funded through IFA implementation funding.

Secretariat

Aileen Horler has been providing administrative support to the Council since May 1995. She has a background in international development and wildlife biology.



Presentation of plaque to Danny C. Gordon by Lindsay Staples during a meeting in Aklavik, in appreciation of his many contributions to co-management in the ISR.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT MARCH 31, 2004

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

Chartered Accountant

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT
REPORT, MARCH 31, 2004

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, 2004 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 and Environment Canada during the year.



Chartered Accountant


Whitehorse, Yukon

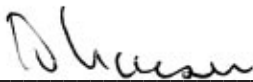
April 26, 2004

Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2004 (unaudited)

	2003-04	2002-03
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	10,185	11,539
Accounts receivable	1,630	1,826
GST receivable	6,110	4,903
Capital Assets (notes 2, 3)		
Cost	25,596	28,473
Less accumulated amortization	21,691	23,224
	3,905	5,249
	21,830	23,517
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	24,226	9,896
Due to Government of Yukon	253	253
Deferred revenue (notes 2, 4)	—	9,588
	24,479	19,737
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)	(6,554)	(1,469)
Investment in Capital Assets (note 2)	3,905	5,249
	(2,649)	3,780
	21,830	23,517

Approved by:

 Councillor

 Councillor

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (unaudited)

	2003-04	2002-03
Revenue		
Government of Yukon—contribution	168,088	165,606
Government of Yukon—North Slope Conference	10,000	—
Government of Yukon—TK assessment	2,000	—
Parks Canada	3,000	—
Interest income and other	3	2
	<hr/> 183,091	<hr/> 165,608
Expenses		
Administration		
Bookkeeping	1,000	798
Honoraria	31,099	32,958
Interest and bank charges	24	104
Newsletter	1,158	1,961
Office and telephone	10,328	9,584
Professional fees	976	900
Rent	4,347	4,347
Secretariat fees	36,589	36,975
Term report	8,320	501
Travel and meetings	22,556	20,401
	<hr/> 116,397	<hr/> 108,529
IFA Implementation Project Costs		
North Slope Conference	21,434	—
Species at risk	3,860	—
Muskox communications	—	6,202
TK Assessment	14,802	4,024
Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan	10,623	7,033
Ecosystem monitoring	3,000	2,970
Web page development	2,070	3,004
Bylaws, regulations, legislation	—	1,594
Grizzly Bear management	—	8,824
Coastal zone planning workshop	—	4,986
Herschel management	2,871	2,534
Library	4,810	4,910
Muskox plan	8,309	4,192
Database update	—	2,000
Wildlife conservation management plan printing	—	4,005
	<hr/> 71,779	<hr/> 56,278
Total Expenses	188,176	164,807
Excess (Shortage) of Revenue Over Expenses	(5,085)	801

Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2004 (unaudited)

	2003-04			2002-03
	Investment in Capital Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)	Total	Total
Balance at Beginning of Year	5,249	(1,469)	3,780	4,893
Excess (shortage) of revenues over expenditures	—	(5,085)	(5,085)	801
Purchase of capital assets	—	—	—	—
Disposal of capital assets	—	—	—	—
	5,249	(6,554)	(1,305)	5,694
Amortization of capital assets	(1,344)	—	(1,344)	(1,914)
Balance at End of Year	3,905	(6,554)	(2,649)	3,780

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended March 31, 2004 (unaudited)

	2003-04	2002-03
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash receipts from Government of Yukon	170,500	154,638
Cash received from Government of Yukon	3,000	—
Cash received from other sources	3	2
Cash paid for administration costs	(109,876)	(103,795)
Cash paid for IFA implementation project costs	(64,981)	(57,915)
	(1,354)	(7,070)
Cash Flows from Financing and Investing Activities		
Purchase of capital assets	—	(801)
Increase (Decrease) in Cash for the Year	(1,354)	(7,871)
Cash at Beginning of Year	11,539	19,410
Cash at End of Year	10,185	11,539

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2004 (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

	2003-04				2002-03
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Computer equipment	30%	18,690	16,630	2,060	2,943
Office equipment	20%	6,906	5,061	1,845	2,306
		25,596	21,691	3,905	5,249

4. Deferred Revenue

	2003-04	2002-03
Government of Yukon	—	9,588

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. The fair values of 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 on the Government of Yukon, which provides funding for administration and implementation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT MARCH 31, 2005

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

Chartered Accountant

**REVIEW ENGAGEMENT
REPORT, MARCH 31, 2005**

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, 2005 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 9, 2005

Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2005 (unaudited)

	2004-05	2003-04
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	176,224	10,185
Accounts receivable	1,309	1,630
GST receivable	2,523	6,110
	180,056	17,925
Capital Assets (notes 2, 3)		
Cost	28,609	25,596
Less accumulated amortization	23,130	21,691
	5,479	3,905
	185,535	21,830
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	7,591	24,226
Wages and employee benefits payable	1,805	—
Due to Government of Yukon	253	253
Deferred revenue (notes 2, 4)	171,872	—
	181,521	24,479
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	(1,465)	(6,554)
Investment in Capital Assets (note 2)	5,479	3,905
	4,014	(2,649)
	185,535	21,830

Approved by:


 _____ Councillor


 _____ Councillor

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (unaudited)

	2004-05	2003-04
Revenue		
Government of Yukon—contribution	162,143	168,088
Government of Yukon—North Slope conference	—	10,000
Government of Yukon—TK assessment	—	2,000
Parks Canada	—	3,000
Interest income and other	4	3
	<hr/> 162,147	<hr/> 183,091
Expenses		
Administration		
Bookkeeping	1,500	1000
Honoraria	19,761	31,099
Interest and bank charges	149	24
Library	3,545	—
Newsletter	1,058	1,158
Office and telephone	16,417	10,328
Professional fees	1,668	976
Rent	4,552	4,347
Secretariat fees	—	36,470
Term report	193	8,320
Travel and meetings	15,806	22,556
Wages and employee benefits	53,039	119
	<hr/> 117,688	<hr/> 116,397
IFA Implementation project costs		
North Slope Conference	—	21,434
Species at risk	—	3,860
TK Assessment	—	14,802
Wildlife Conservation & Management Plan	—	10,623
Ecosystem monitoring	3,000	3,000
Web page development	—	2,070
Bylaws, regulations, legislation	1,200	—
Climate change	6,000	—
Co-op Ten Year Report	6,800	—
Grizzly Bear Management	8,982	—
Herschel Management	—	2,871
Library	—	4,810
Muxkox Plan	9,649	8,309
Workshops, conferences and studies	726	—
	<hr/> 36,357	<hr/> 71,779
Total Expenses	154,045	188,176
Excess (Shortage) of Revenue Over Expenses	8,102	(5,085)

Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2005 (unaudited)

	2004-05			2003-04
	Investment in Capital Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets (Deficit)	Total	Total
Balance at Beginning of Year	3,905	(6,554)	(2,649)	3,780
Excess (shortage) of revenues over expenditures	—	8,102	8,102	(5,085)
Purchase of capital assets	3,013	(3,013)	—	—
Disposal of capital assets	—	—	—	—
	6,918	(1,465)	5,453	(1,305)
Amortization of capital assets	(1,439)	—	(1,439)	(1,344)
Balance at End of Year	5,479	(1,465)	4,014	2,649

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended March 31, 2005 (unaudited)

	2004-05	2003-04
Cash flows from Operating Activities		
Cash receipts from Government of Yukon	209,015	170,500
Cash received from Government of Canada	125,000	3,000
Cash received from other sources	4	3
Cash paid for administration costs	(124,938)	(109,876)
Cash paid for IFA implementation project costs	(40,029)	(64,981)
	169,052	(1,354)
Cash flows from Financing and Investing Activities		
Purchase of capital assets	(3,013)	—
Increase (Decrease) in Cash for the Year	166,039	(1,354)
Cash at Beginning of Year	10,185	11,539
Cash at End of Year	176,224	10,185

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2005 (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

	2004-05				2003-04
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Computer equipment	30%	21,703	17,700	4,003	2,060
Office equipment	20%	6,906	5,430	1,476	1,845
		28,609	23,130	5,479	3,905

4. Deferred Revenue

	2004-05	2003-04
Government of Yukon	46,872	—
Parks Canada	125,000	—
	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. The fair values of 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 on 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 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 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
 - (d) development proposals relating to the Yukon North Slope that may have a significant negative impact shall be subject to a public environment 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 North Slope with respect to the principles set out in subsection (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 the 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 have one (1) vote. The Chairman shall have a vote only in case of a deadlock. Temporary members shall not have a vote.

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 ministers on all matters relating to wildlife policy and 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 the 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 in the Yukon North Slope including those referred to in subsection 14(3)*.

*Refer to act for complete references.

NOTES: _____

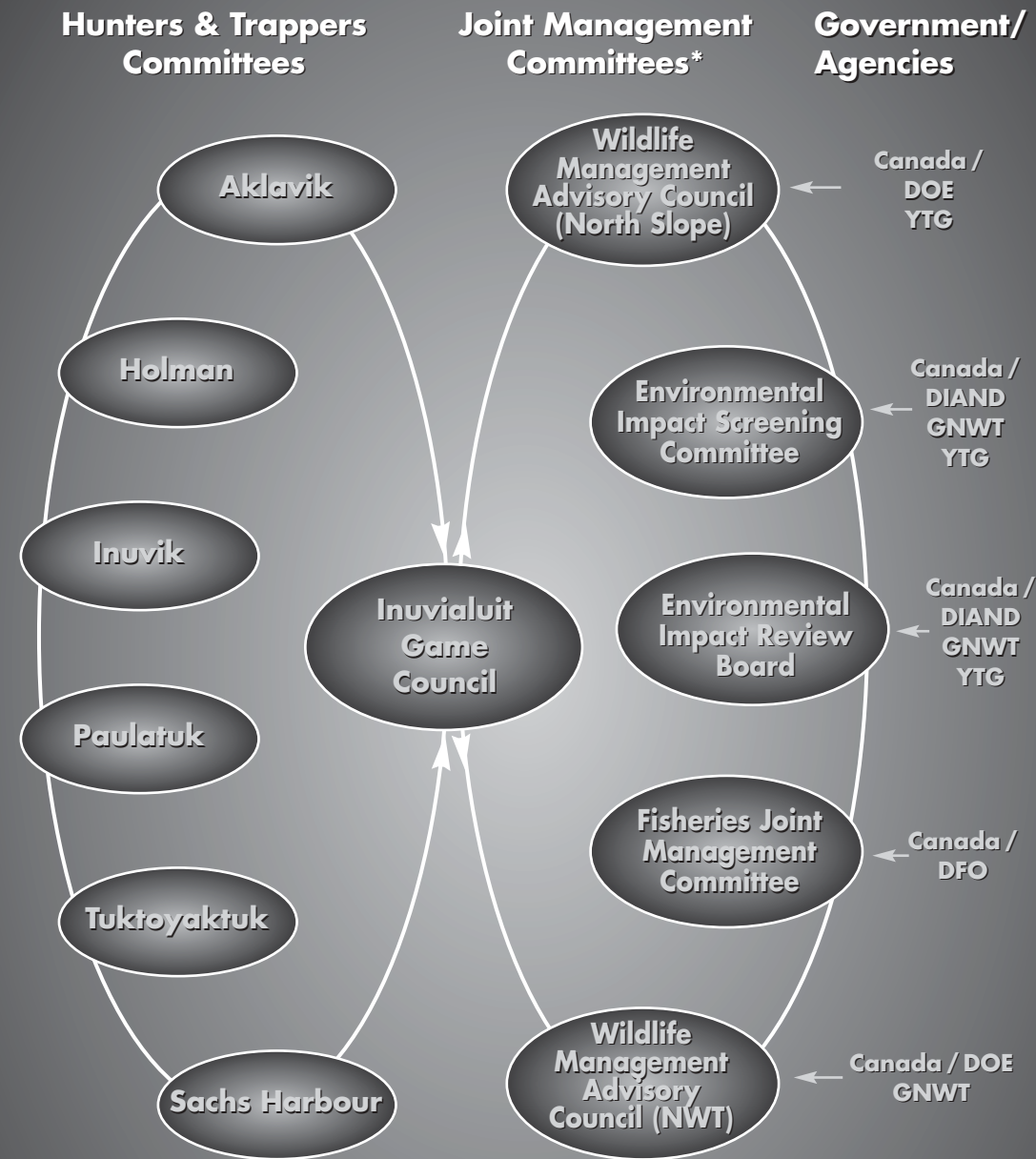
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APPENDIX 2

ORGANIZATION

of environmental and wildlife management bodies established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement



The Joint Secretariat provides administrative, technical, and logistical support to the organizations and committees.

* Participation is 50% Inuvialuit and 50% Government
 GNWT - Government of the Northwest Territories; YTG - Yukon Territorial Government;
 DFO - Department of Fisheries & Oceans; DOE - Department of the Environment



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