

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)



TERM REPORT April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009

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Richard Piirheer

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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 been more active than in any other previous term. Important and substantive issues associated with the development of new legislation and regulations affecting resource management, park management, wildlife management and Inuvialuit harvesting rights on the Yukon North Slope have demanded considerable time and energy. The Council has also provided extensive comments concerning marine storage in the offshore, the draft North Yukon Land Use Plan, and the monitoring program of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Cooperative.

One of the greatest highlights of the last two years was a special event hosted by the Council to recognize the special contributions of Aklavik Elders who have worked with the Council over many years. Their work has formed the basis for three traditional knowledge studies and important advice on numerous issues. The Council is grateful for their support and advice.

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, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and Joint Secretariat, and federal and territorial 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.



Michelle Scioffe

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.



Michelle Scioffe

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 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."



Government of Yukon

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council for the North Slope [WMAC (NS)] was established in 1988 under the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Settlement Act*, ultimately the result of the 1984 Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA).

The Council 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 Yukon Territorial Government), 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

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.**



Michelle Christensen

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.



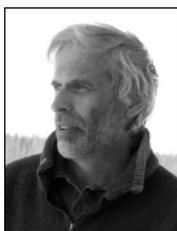
Doug Larsen: Member – Government of Yukon

Doug Larsen represents 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 *appointment ended July 2007*

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 working in Revelstoke National Park in British Columbia.



Christian Bucher: Member – Government of Canada *appointment began July 2008*

Christian has lived in the Northwest Territories for most of his life. He has worked as a logger, journeyman carpenter and commercial pilot before accepting a position with Parks Canada some 16 years ago. He was the first Site Manager for Tuktot Nogait National Park in Paulatuk before moving to Inuvik where he took on the role of Resource Conservation Manager as well as natural and cultural resources management and protection responsibilities for the three national parks of the Western Arctic. Christian currently lives in Yellowknife where he is on an assignment with the Northern Park Establishment Branch.

Ernest Pokiak: Member – Inuvialuit Game Council

Ernest works for the territorial government as regional airport manager for the Tuktoyaktuk Region. 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, Governor for Aurora College, 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
appointment ended September 2008**

Lawrence 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
appointment ended July 2008**

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 was born and raised in Aklavik and is currently working for the Hamlet of 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.





**William Storr: Alternate – Inuvialuit Game Council
appointment began October 1, 2008**

William was born and raised in Aklavik, is the current President of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee as well as the Mayor of Aklavik. He has completed the Natural Resources Technology Program in Inuvik with Aurora College, and is also an active member of the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.

***Note that only members serving for a period less than the full length of the term have dates associated with their appointments.*



Michelle Sicotte: Secretariat

Michelle Sicotte served as the Resource Person for WMAC (NS) from September 2005 through until December 2007, 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.



Michelle Christensen: Secretariat

Michelle Christensen began her work as Secretariat along side Jennifer Smith in November 2007. She holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental and Conservation Sciences from the University of Alberta which led her to spend years travelling through B.C., Alberta, Washington, and California, working on various wildlife research projects. Since 2002 she has been working in Whitehorse for several organizations dedicated to environmental research and programming, and natural resource management.



Jennifer Smith: Secretariat

Jennifer served as Secretariat along side Michelle Christensen from November 2007 to December 2008. Jennifer grew up in the Yukon and holds a diploma in Renewable Resource Management from the Yukon College. Along with her diploma, she has completed complementary course work from the Okanagan University College in British Columbia. During her time in the Yukon she has worked in various conservation, forestry, and wildlife applications.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan was created in 1994, and in 2008 work began on the Plan to reflect changing resource management circumstances and priorities. The Council anticipates a fully revised and updated Plan in 2010 - 11.

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 North Slope.

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

Volume 1 – 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.

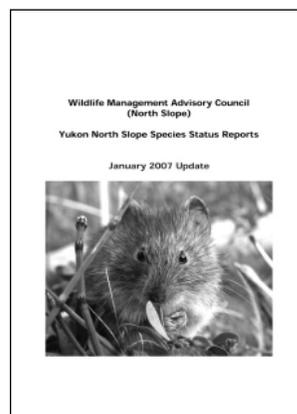
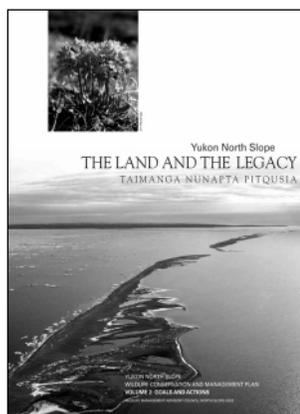
Volume Two – Goals and Actions – contains management direction for all those interested in management, conservation, and resource use in the area. It is a frame of reference against which the Council, the governments, the Inuvialuit, and other aboriginal, public, and private interests can assess efforts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

Volume Three – Wildlife Status Reports – these reports provide information on 37 different species, as well as a multitude of duck, songbird, shorebird, and insect species on the Yukon North Slope, with respect to estimated population sizes, distribution, unique population characteristics, management concerns, and information gaps. The reports were developed in 1996 and last updated in 2008. 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. Hard copies are available at the Secretariat office.

The IFA was the first comprehensive land claim agreement north of 60. With its signing, certain requirements and responsibilities were delegated to the WMAC (NS). 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. Successful implementation of the Plan requires cooperation of all the partners to follow through on the Plan's actions.



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.

Yukon North Slope 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. 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.



Cameron Eckert

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. The Council has produced 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”*.

No surveys have been conducted on the Yukon North Slope since April 2006, however, in April 2008, biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service flew a pre-calving muskox census across the Arctic Refuge in Game Management Unit 26C between the Canning River and the United States-Canada border and between the Beaufort Sea coast and the foothills of the Brooks Range. The study concluded that the abundance of muskoxen in the area may be increasing, however, because many animals returned to Canada by October 2008, abundance is fluctuating, making long term trends difficult to determine.

The development of the Muskox Management Plan for the Canadian North Slope Muskox population has progressed over the past term. The Council continues to work with various organizations and governments across the range of the population towards a plan that will better ensure an integrated approach to the management of Yukon North Slope muskoxen throughout its range.

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.



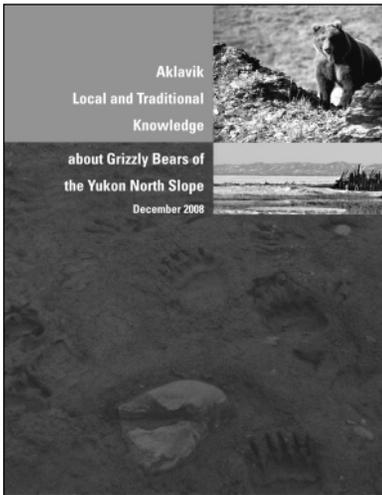
Government of Yukon



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 has produced 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”.

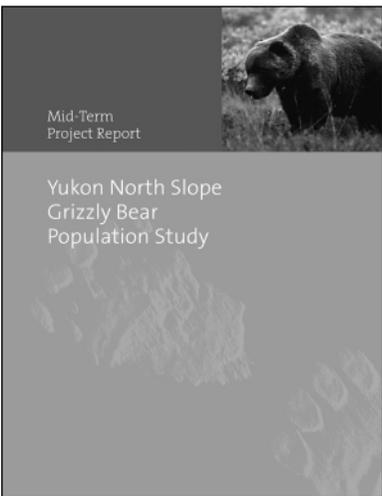


WMAC (NS) recommended funding for the grizzly bear research project and has been active in involving the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and other members of the community in the design and implementation of research activities. WMAC (NS) continued to support this project through the contribution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

Polar Bear Research and Management

Polar bear are a species of wildlife as defined by the IFA that the Council has a mandate to provide recommendations to the appropriate ministers concerning their management and conservation. In 2008 WMAC (NS) initiated steps to become more active in polar bear management on the Yukon North Slope and within the ISR in response to changing management circumstances:

- increasing public attention to the management and conservation of polar bears in the arctic generally and the western arctic specifically as a consequence of climate change related impacts and the prospect of increased industrial development;
- the recent re-assessment of the southern and northern Beaufort Sea populations by COSEWIC which the Council participated in;
- increased industrial and government interest in Beaufort hydrocarbon exploration-related activity;
- increased public attention to Yukon jurisdictional responsibilities for the management of polar bears;
- increased capacity and support within the Yukon Government to actively participate in polar bear management in the Yukon and in discussions and research at a population-wide level; and,
- heightened interest and activity by the Yukon Government in environmental and development issues occurring in the Beaufort Sea potentially affecting Yukon jurisdiction.

In 2008/2009 the WMAC (NS) participated in discussions of the Polar Bear Technical Committee and the Polar Bear Administrative Committee. This past year also marked the first year of a traditional knowledge study being conducted throughout all ISR communities on polar bear. This project proposes to gather local and traditional knowledge related to the population status of polar bears, and climate change and the influences that climate change has had on polar bears and their habitat in the Beaufort.

In the winter of 2009 a survey of all existing available interview material, archives and literature pertaining to polar bear ecology and cultural uses was conducted in order to ensure a successful and meaningful survey instrument, which will be employed next year. Project collaborators include Yukon and Northwest Territories governments, the Inuvialuit Game Council, WMAC (NWT), WMAC (NS), Parks Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The Council also attended the National Roundtable Meeting on Polar Bear (January 2009), a meeting convened by the Minister of Environment. The meeting brought together territories, provinces, wildlife management boards, scientists and others to exchange views on key challenges and threats facing polar bears in Canada.





Government of Yukon

Porcupine Caribou Research and Management

Both scientific and traditional knowledge are important to caribou management, but unlike scientific knowledge, no comprehensive record of traditional knowledge for the Porcupine Caribou herd has been gathered to date. In recognition of the value of traditional knowledge, WMAC (NS) launched: The Peoples of Aklavik and the Porcupine Caribou: A Traditional Knowledge Study.

The main objectives of the research were to:

- learn about movement patterns, distribution, range, population trends, habitats and health of the Porcupine Caribou herd;
- understand more about the relationships between caribou and the peoples of Aklavik;
- establish a body of information that can provide a background or frame of reference to assess changes in the herd and peoples' use of caribou;
- inform WMAC (NS) educational materials and general management;
- and to inform development and implementation of the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan and Porcupine Caribou Management Board educational materials.

Thirteen Inuvialuit and one Gwich'in were interviewed by a social scientist, as well as community experts, through in-person semi-structured interviews. Various aspects of caribou ecology were made clear and much of the information gathered about the relationships between people and caribou will serve useful for young hunters in Aklavik, as well as wildlife managers. Food security was determined to be an increasingly important management issue to address.

This work coincides with work proposed by the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) to document traditional knowledge related to the Porcupine caribou herd across their range for use in educational materials and the development of a Harvest Management Plan.

The Council has been active over the past year in consultations with the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's Working Group in the development of a Harvest Management Plan. The Plan is currently in draft form and expected to be complete by summer 2009.

The Council also continues to support Yukon Government caribou population monitoring programs.



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 the Yukon's Department of Environment.

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



Doug Larsen



Wayne Lynch

Other Issues

There are many other areas of concern and initiatives on the Yukon North Slope that the WMAC (NS) regularly monitors, reports on, and has contributed to over the term. These include:

- Shingle Point DEW-Line site clean-up.
- Screening of development activities through the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board, as well as through the Yukon Government for Yukon Science and Explorer Act Permits.
- Yukon policy for compensation for research-related losses of wildlife.
- Protocols related to management of fuel caches on the North Slope.
- Monitoring future oil and gas development activities in the Herschel Island area.
- Yukon Government's protocol for the collection of harvest data in Aklavik.
- North Richardson Mountain Sheep planning.
- Review of Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action.
- Review of Integrated Ocean Management Plan.
- Review of North Yukon Land Use Plan.



Parks Canada

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



Cameron Eckert

Website

In 2007, the 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, IFA-funded wildlife research project listings, upcoming events, links to Council partners and more.

Newsletters

The newsletter, Wildlife Watch, produced by WMAC (NS) continued to inform communities and organizations about the Council's activities. Four issues of Wildlife Watch were distributed during the term.

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. Common Ground is available on the Joint Secretariat website at www.fjmc.ca/js_newsletters.htm.

Fact Sheets

WMAC (NS) completed 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. Printed on the fact sheets and available separately are a series of maps of the North Slope that show game management subzones, ISR and park boundaries, as well as major landmarks and features. Contact the office or visit the Council's website for copies.



factsheet

Wildlife Management Advisory Council North Slope

May 2008

Enforcement

Many agencies enforce laws on the Yukon North Slope

Many different government agencies are responsible for enforcing hunting, trapping and fishing laws on the Yukon North Slope, for both Inuvialuit and non-Inuvialuit harvesters. This factsheet describes who is responsible for what.

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) identifies the Yukon North Slope as a special area where the conservation of wildlife, the environment and Inuvialuit traditions are some of the most important things. The IFA sets out the hunting, trapping and fishing rights of the Inuvialuit. There are also other laws that affect harvesting in the Yukon North Slope, like the federal Fisheries Act and the Yukon Wildlife Act.

The size and remoteness of the Yukon North Slope makes it expensive and difficult to enforce these laws. However, governments have agreed to share the responsibility of law enforcement. For example, Hunters and Trappers Committees (HTCs) may make bylaws to help regulate harvesting activities in their area. If an HTC makes a bylaw for the Yukon North Slope area, it may become a regulation under the Yukon Wildlife Act. If that happens, then Yukon or Northwest Territories officers would help enforce the regulation. Royal Canadian Mounted Police can also help enforce the Yukon Wildlife Act. The bylaws developed by the HTC apply within Inuvialuit National Park and are enforced.

People on the land can help

Laws are just in place to protect people, the environment and wildlife. All agencies work together to share information about what is going on out on the land so they can help protect it.

However, harvesters on the land are usually the first to know if someone is poaching or damaging the land in some way. As caretakers of the land and wildlife, harvesters can help protect wildlife for future generations by reporting their concerns to the appropriate enforcement agency.



Photo credit: Adam Hickey

The map on the back page shows who can enforce what activities and laws on the Yukon North Slope.

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES



Cameron Eckert

WILDLIFE RESEARCH FUNDED THROUGH THE INUVALUIT 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. 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:

- 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 2007-2009.



Aklavik Harvest Data Collection

Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

Partner Organization – Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

The objective of this multi-year 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, 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. All identifying information is confidential however summary information on total harvest is made public. Interviews are conducted once a year in December.

Harvest data is a critical piece of wildlife management but is often very challenging to collect. This dataset may one day be critical to demonstrate the importance of harvested species to Inuvialuit hunters.

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, Government of Northwest Territories, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Inuvik, Fort McPherson, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, and North Yukon Renewable Resource Councils, University of Alaska Fairbanks, NWT Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program, Canadian Heritage, 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 2008-2009 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's 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.

Throughout the term Borderlands has dedicated itself to producing analyses of results from its ten year dataset as well as reviewing its organizational structure and program mandate. In October 2008 Borderlands hosted a one-day meeting where partners and select community monitors gathered to discuss the future of the program and recently produced synthesis products.



Government of Yukon



Government of Yukon

Black Guillemot Population Monitoring and Nesting at Herschel Island

Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

The Black Guillemot is a seabird which nests in a breeding colony on Herschel Island off the Yukon's North Coast. This is the Yukon's only nesting colony and is one of just a few in the western Arctic. At Herschel Island, its main nesting site is the historic mission house where it occupies nest boxes and crevices. The Herschel Island colony has been monitored for population and nesting productivity since about 1986. The Herschel Island Management Plan (Yukon Department of Environment, September 2006) prioritizes long-term studies of the Black Guillemot nesting colony. Concerns about the species and ecosystem health have arisen due to population declines and rapid climate change in the Beaufort region.

Herschel Island rangers have played a key role in Black Guillemot monitoring and establishing long-term data. Researchers continue to rely on the dedication and expertise of the rangers, and work with them in planning any additional work to ensure that the required capacity and training are in place. Collaboration with George Divoky (Institute of Arctic Biology University of Alaska) who is studying Black Guillemots at Point Barrow, Alaska, ensures that work at Herschel is connected to research in the Beaufort Sea region. This cooperative approach produces the best understanding of the impacts of climate change.

This project contributes to understanding the relationship between ecological productivity and changes in the physical environment associated with climate change. Potential changes in the physical environment associated with climate change and the resulting impact on animal populations are of great concern to the Inuvialuit. The Black Guillemot colony at Herschel Island provides a window to monitoring, measuring and understanding those changes.

Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring

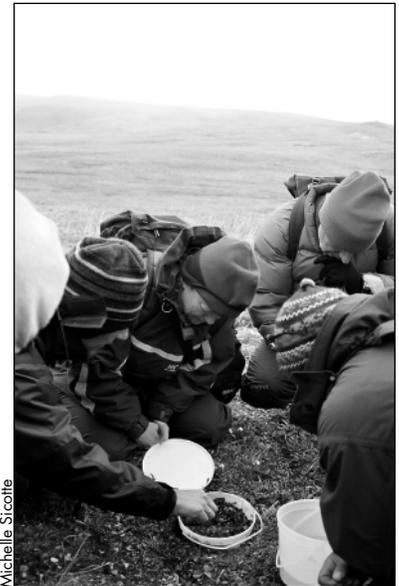
Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

The ecological monitoring program on Herschel Island is now in its 20th year. Since 1999, researchers have standardized data collection to secure data management, and to expand the program to include projects related to ecological change and wildlife use of the Park. The program now consists of 11 related projects ranging from thaw slump monitoring to breeding bird surveys to documenting vegetation phenology.

Information from the program has fed into graduate student degrees and has been shared with CANTTEX (Canadian Tundra and Taiga Experiment). Herschel Island and Old Crow are currently the only sites in northern Yukon in this network.

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.

In 2008/2009 work began on the compilation of a summary of all data collected to date.



Michelle Sicotte

Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program

Organizations Responsible – Yukon Government, Parks Canada

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 Unit), 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 multi-year program uses satellite radio collars to document seasonal range use and migration routes of the herd. There are 11 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.

At the request of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, current maps and data are no longer being posted but field work updates and summaries are posted occasionally. For the past five years partnerships with educational programs have been in place which allow students to access select satellite data over the internet.

All Porcupine Caribou projects, including this one, continue to monitor species of importance to the Inuvialuit, particularly those sensitive to industrial disturbance. The herd's use of the Yukon North Slope as calving grounds and potential negative effects of development in the calving grounds is well researched. The Inuvialuit also recognize that the Yukon North Slope is critical to the herd as well; Ivvavik National Park was created under the IFA to protect the herd's calving grounds in Yukon.



Government of Yukon

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 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 is important to wildlife managers, boards, and community organizations, for use in making management decisions. Population information is especially important for setting harvest quotas.

The Yukon North Slope Research and Monitoring Plan and the Co-management Plan for Grizzly Bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Yukon and Northwest Territories also indicated a need to update population estimates for grizzly bears, and to review harvest rates using population-specific information.

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 component of the project began in 2005. Interviews were conducted in Aklavik, Inuvik, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife.

A midterm project report was completed in spring 2008 and a traditional knowledge report was completed at the end of March 2009, both of which present findings from the grizzly bear study. These are available through the Council's website and at the Secretariat office.



Government of Yukon

Beaufort Sea Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Survey

Organization Responsible – Yukon Government and Government of Northwest Territories.

Partner Organizations – Parks Canada (Western Arctic Field Unit), WMACs (NWT and NS), Canadian Wildlife Service.

This multi-year project proposes to gather local and traditional knowledge related to climate change and the potential influence that climate change may have on polar bears and their habitat in the Southern Beaufort adjacent to the Yukon North Slope. Traditional knowledge studies in the region have not focused on this species, yet there is a rich history of using this species for subsistence and; therefore, there is strong oral history related to ice conditions and habitat use.

However, it has been six years since hunters have successfully harvested a polar bear in this region. Hunter use of the Yukon North Slope is decreasing and elders that harvested bears on the North Slope are passing away. The knowledge of polar bear ecology in the region may disappear if efforts are not made to document it soon.

This project compliments existing and proposed efforts (coastal bear survey, population survey, and denning survey) to understand how climate change may be affecting polar bear habitat and population status. National committees are interested in acquiring more local and traditional knowledge on this species, so that the information can be incorporated into reports and used to assist management decisions.

Background research and database searches took place over 2008/2009. Primary interviews are scheduled to take place in 2009/2010 and follow-up interviews and reporting would take place in 2010/2011.

South Beaufort Sea Polar Bear Survey

Organization Responsible – Yukon Government

Partner Organizations – Alaska Fish and Wildlife Service, Government of Northwest Territories, Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada (Western Arctic Field Unit)

Two separate projects were conducted.

The first project was part of a monitoring program, headed by (and primarily conducted by) Alaska Fish and Wildlife Service, to monitor the impacts of climate change on polar bear habitat use on the Alaska, Yukon and N.W.T. coastline. This was the second year of the survey of coastal habitat use by polar bears for the Yukon north shore.

The purpose of conducting aerial coastal surveys was to determine the frequency, timing, and location of polar bear use of coastal habitats and barrier islands during the open water period. The information provides the basis for developing specific mitigation measures that help conserve polar bears and their habitat, and also provides for safety and protection of North Slope workers by minimizing bear-human interactions. Information can also be used in oil spill response plans.

The second project was led by the Canadian Wildlife Service on behalf of the territories, and focused more specifically on mapping denning habitat. This study used helicopters to determine where bears were denning: denning habitat was then mapped. Each river bank, lake shore and major creek in the area was investigated for signs of den emergence multiple times throughout the den emergence period (February through March).



R.Knight/NWT Archives/N-1993-002-0335

*Bank Island, 17 March, 1959.
Tim Lennie and Wallace skinning
a polar bear*

Where to Roost in the Arctic Food Web – focus on Tundra Breeding Short-eared Owl (Arctic Wildlife Observatories Linking Vulnerable Ecosystems).

Organization Responsible – Canadian Wildlife Service

Partner Organizations – Yukon Government, Yukon College, Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Staff, Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, University of British Columbia – Zoology, Wildlife Dynamics Consulting

Arctic tundra areas are particularly vulnerable to human activities and climatic variation, yet little is known about how these ecological systems work. For this International Polar Year project, Hershel Island is one of six terrestrial wildlife observation stations across the Canadian arctic to complement an international effort involving more than 40 researchers from nine countries. The central purpose was to analyze the dynamics of arctic food webs and their sensitivity to disturbance with the ultimate goal of modeling the food webs of these terrestrial communities quantitatively.

The project involved quantitative assessments of plant community and topographic characteristics of Short-eared Owl nest sites, and the spatial relationship of these nests to those of other raptors. It also addressed food habits of Short-eared Owls in order to assess the degree of competition for prey with other predators.

This work has implications at several different scales on the North Slope. For the Qikiqtaruk (Herschel Island) Territorial Park staff, it identifies if there are any areas of critical habitat used by the owls for nesting and/or foraging, which need to be protected from disturbance by tourists to prevent the possibility of nest failure.

Along the North Slope as a whole, this work provides critical base line information on this owl's nest site requirements and prey. This information is required by both the Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan, and the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, if they are to identify and develop long-term conservation management strategies for this species at risk, in response to any predicted loss of habitat and/or prey as a result of climate change or land use changes.



Don Reid

SPECIAL PROJECTS

A portion of the WMAC (NS) budget is allocated to special projects including wildlife management, community participation, traditional knowledge, outreach and education.

WMAC (NS) Communication Review and Assessment

The Council completed a communication review and assessment as a means of examining existing practices and identifying measures to change, improve or enhance the way information is provided, received and exchanged.

The review addressed both the internal and external communication needs of the Council. It presented a description of the Council's audiences, a summary of the Council's current commitment to communications, its current communication tools, and an overview of the internal and external communication environment and practices. It also identified next steps and provides suggestions for improvements or enhancements based on the Council's own observations and on the assessment of mechanisms currently in place. It was developed as a tool to guide the Council and frame ongoing efforts for efficient and reliable communications in the future.

Ecological Monitoring

WMAC (NS) has been a regular contributor to the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op (ABEKC) monitoring program in the past. The program has been collecting community data for over ten years within the range of the Porcupine caribou herd to monitor and record changes on the land.

In 2007/08 WMAC (NS) engaged a contractor to assess the utility of the database, the effectiveness and ease of extracting information from it, and the quality of the information that could be extracted. The results of the review were written up in a report entitled *A Review and Discussion of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op's Community Monitoring Program Database* by Wayne Wsocki of Symbion Consultants of Winnipeg.

In response to this report, the Council made a number of recommendations and decisions which affect its own participation in the ABEKC community monitoring program and its plans for the use of data relevant to ecological monitoring on the Yukon North Slope.

Special Event Celebrating Aklavik Elders

To show appreciation for contributions of Elders over the years, WMAC (NS) hosted an Aklavik Elders special event in December 2007. The event honoured Aklavik Elders that have worked with the Council over the years toward achieving common conservation goals. The event included a dinner, speeches, and special award presentations.

Elders recognized included: Nellie Arey, Barbara Allen, Annie B. Gordon, Jacob Archie, Danny C. and Annie C. Gordon, Sheba Selamio, Moses Kayotuk, Donald Aviugana, and Sara Meeyok. The late Andy and Sophie Kayotuk, Tom Arey, George Allen, Danny A. Gordon, Titus Allen, Harry Gordon, Amos Paul, Kathleen Hansen, Gus and Jean Tardiff, and Thomas Selamio were also recognized.

Organizations recognized included both the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Aklavik Elders Committee.

WMAC (NS) Summer Student

During the summer of 2007, Kelsey Russell worked for the Council as an intern. Kelsey assisted the Council with administrative support and was involved in various Council activities.



Government of Yukon



Jennifer Smith

Annie B. Gordon with her engraved teapot

**MEETINGS,
WORKSHOPS, AND
CONFERENCES**

Co-Management IFA Research Day

The Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Inuvialuit Game Council, and the Wildlife Management Advisory Councils (North Slope and Northwest Territories) hosted IFA Research Day in Whitehorse in September, 2008.

This workshop provided an opportunity for agencies and individual researchers receiving IFA funding for wildlife and fisheries projects to communicate their progress and findings back to members of Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Boards, Committees, Councils, and the wider research community. The lead scientists for each research project presented a summary of the research activity, the timeframe, results to date, partners and potential management implications.

WMAC (NS) Council Meetings

The Council held the following meetings this term:

May 1, 2007	Teleconference
June 11 – 13, 2007	Whitehorse, YT
October 23 – 25, 2007	Whitehorse, YT
December 10 – 11, 2007	Aklavik, NWT
March 4 – 6, 2008	Whitehorse, YT
April 18, 2008	Teleconference
June 23, 2008	Teleconference
July 18 – 25, 2008	Shingle Point, YT
September 20 – 22, 2008	Whitehorse, YT
October 28, 2008	Teleconference
December 9 – 10, 2008	Aklavik, NWT
January 27, 2009	Teleconference
February 26, 2009	Teleconference
March 7 – 8, 2009	Whitehorse, YT



Michelle Sicotte

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 3 – 4, 2007	Northern Network Planning Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario
April 18 – 19, 2007	Beaufort Sea Partnership Meeting, Inuvik, NWT
May 24, 2007	GXT Project Information Update, Whitehorse, YT
May 24 – 25, 2007	Scoping the Government of Yukon, Climate Change Action Plan Meeting, Whitehorse, YT
September 24 – 26, 2007	American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference, Anchorage, Alaska
October 18 – 21, 2007	Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy Workshop, Inuvik, NWT
November 27 – 29, 2007	Circumarctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment Network Meeting, Vancouver, BC
December 5 – 6, 2007	Imperial Oil Meeting – Seismic Program, Inuvik, NWT
December 6, 2007	North Yukon Land Use Plan Meeting, Whitehorse, YT
December 11, 2007	Aklavik Elders Event, Aklavik, NWT
December 11, 2007	Joint Meeting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Aklavik, NWT
December 11, 2007	Inuvialuit Game Council Meeting, Inuvik, NWT
February 21 – 22, 2008	Barren-Ground Caribou – Cumulative Effects Workshop, Yellowknife, NWT
February 26 – 27, 2008	Introduction to Species at Risk Workshop, Whitehorse, YT
March 11 – 13, 2008	Beaufort Sea Partnership Meeting, Inuvik, NWT
May 22, 2008	Yukon Environment Forum, Whitehorse, YT
March 26, 2008	Arctic Climate Science Workshop, Whitehorse, YT
March 29-30, 2008	Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op Annual Gathering, Inuvik, NWT
April 8-9, 2008	Yukon Government – Advanced Interview Design Workshop, Dawson City, YT
May 28-29, 2008	Coastal Zone Canada Meeting, Vancouver, BC
September 15 – 17, 2008	Arctic Science Conference, Fairbanks, AK
October 30, 2008	Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op – Monitoring Program and Synthesis Review Meeting, Whitehorse, YT
November 20, 2008	Ivvavik National Park Visitor Experience Review, Inuvik, NWT
November 30, 2008	Circumarctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment Network Meeting, Vancouver, BC
December 8, 2008	Joint WMAC NWT and NS Meeting, Inuvik, NWT
December 8, 2008	Joint WMAC NS and Aklavik HTC Meeting, Aklavik, NWT
January 14 – 15, 2009	Minister’s Round Table Meeting on Polar Bears, Winnipeg, MB
January 30 – February 1, 2009	Aboriginal Peoples, Polar Bears, and Human Dignity: A Workshop on Problem-Solving Methods, Whitehorse, YT
February 3 – 5, 2009	Polar Bear Technical Committee Meeting, Whitehorse, YT
March 21 – 22, 2009	Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op Annual Gathering, Aklavik, NWT

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 2008 the Council participated in the review of the proposed new regulations under the Yukon Parks and Lands Certainty Act by providing recommendations to Yukon Parks on the draft regulations to ensure consistency with the Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk – Territorial Park Management Plan. The Council also made recommendations with regard to firearm regulations within the Park.

In March 2008 the Council provided recommendations to Yukon Government on the Herschel Island airstrip with respect to use, maintenance, and impact on nesting birds.

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 on the season's visitors, research and monitoring programs, heritage site maintenance and other activities. The WMAC (NS) has continued to support the research and monitoring projects being conducted on Herschel Island, including the Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring Project and Black Guillemot Population Monitoring.



Cameron Eckert

Ivvavik National Park

The 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 & 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 November 2008 Inuvialuit and Yukon Government WMAC (NS) representatives attended a Visitor Experience Review workshop. Members provided feedback on how visitor experience within Ivvavik could be improved.

In the summer of 2008 the Council commented on Parks' draft Sheep Creek Backcountry Station Site Plan. The purpose of the plan is to set out a program of goals and actions that will help determine and guide the future of the Station in the park.

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.



Michelle Sicotte

PARTNERSHIPS



Cameron Eckert

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

Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC)

The 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 joint meetings.

The WMAC (NS) worked with the Aklavik HTC on a number of issues this term, including the draft Canadian Muskox Management Plan, the North Slope Grizzly Bear Project, and the Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge Project.

Inuvialuit Game Council

The Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) 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. The IGC appoints two Inuvialuit members to the WMAC (NS).

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

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. A finalized strategy is expected early in the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

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, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), as well as a number of other councils, boards and committees throughout the Yukon and Canada.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, MARCH 31, 2008

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT
REPORT

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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, 2008, 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 14, 2008

Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2008 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

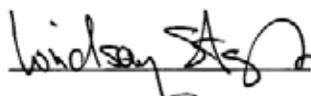
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2008

(unaudited)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 131,712	\$ 152,551
Accounts receivable	51,962	64,327
Prepaid expenses	11,193	-
GST receivable	<u>5,349</u>	<u>3,637</u>
	<u>200,216</u>	<u>220,515</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS (notes 2, 3)		
Cost	39,142	34,493
Less accumulated amortization	<u>30,631</u>	<u>27,498</u>
	<u>8,511</u>	<u>6,995</u>
	<u>\$ 208,727</u>	<u>\$ 227,510</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 62,564	\$ 35,883
Wages and employee benefits payable	2,782	1,854
Due to Government of Yukon	252	252
Deferred revenue (notes 2, 4)	<u>136,018</u>	<u>183,984</u>
	<u>201,616</u>	<u>221,973</u>
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)	(1,400)	(1,458)
INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS (note 2)	<u>8,511</u>	<u>6,995</u>
	<u>7,111</u>	<u>5,537</u>
	<u>\$ 208,727</u>	<u>\$ 227,510</u>

APPROVED BY:

 Councillor

 Councillor

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year Ended March 31, 2008 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008
(unaudited)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
REVENUES		
Government of Yukon - contribution	\$ 263,692	\$ 209,547
Parks Canada - Grizzly Bear Research	51,274	-
Environment Canada - Habitat Stewardship Program	-	21,600
Interest income and other	60	6
	<u>315,026</u>	<u>231,153</u>
EXPENDITURES		
ADMINISTRATION		
Bookkeeping	4,713	2,805
Honoraria - chair	35,259	21,834
Honoraria - council members	900	-
Interest and bank charges	20	30
Library	-	1,255
Newsletter	4,449	638
Office and telephone	15,756	11,963
Professional fees	3,401	2,500
Rent	5,235	5,117
Subcontracts	10,069	-
Term report	5,848	196
Travel and meetings	26,063	11,653
Wages and employee benefits	77,956	58,365
	<u>189,669</u>	<u>116,356</u>

...continued

Statement of Changes in Net assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2008 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)		
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES CONTINUED		
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008		
(unaudited)		
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
EXPENDITURES CONTINUED		
PROJECT COSTS		
Bylaws, regulations, legislation	-	750
Climate change	-	1,000
Communications Plan	4,254	850
Contact database	-	2,971
Arctic Borderlands Co-op	1,800	-
Elders' Event	2,502	-
Grizzly Bear Research 2004	1,274	-
Grizzly Bear Research 2008	50,000	-
Grizzly Bear Traditional Knowledge	8,565	-
Habitat Stewardship Program	3,210	40,078
IFA Research Review	-	2,241
IFA Communications	3,503	567
Longterm Research and Planning	-	1,000
Muskox Management	-	12,086
North Slope Conference	-	20,552
Photo Project	-	539
Species Status Reports	4,782	6,015
Ten Year Data Review	22,120	-
Website	8,068	14,699
Wildlife Conservation Management Plan	5,400	4,161
Workshops, conferences and studies	5,172	3,947
	<u>120,650</u>	<u>111,456</u>
	<u>310,319</u>	<u>227,812</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ 4,707</u>	<u>\$ 3,341</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2008 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008
(unaudited)

	2008			2007
	INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)	TOTAL	TOTAL
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ <u>6,995</u>	\$ <u>(1,458)</u>	\$ <u>5,537</u>	\$ <u>4,813</u>
Excess (shortage) of revenues over expenditures	-	4,707	4,707	3,341
Purchase of capital assets	4,649	(4,649)	-	-
Disposal of capital assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	4,649	58	4,707	3,341
Amortization of capital assets	<u>(3,133)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,133)</u>	<u>(2,617)</u>
	<u>1,516</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>1,574</u>	<u>724</u>
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	\$ <u>8,511</u>	\$ <u>(1,400)</u>	\$ <u>7,111</u>	\$ <u>5,537</u>

Statement of Changes in Net assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2008 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008
(unaudited)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts from Government of Yukon	\$ 279,167	\$ 164,334
Cash received from Government of Canada	-	-
Cash received from other sources	60	21,606
Cash paid for administration costs	(173,382)	(127,287)
Cash paid for IFA implementation project costs	<u>(122,035)</u>	<u>(62,176)</u>
	<u>(16,190)</u>	<u>(3,523)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital assets	<u>(4,649)</u>	<u>(3,335)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FOR THE YEAR	(20,839)	(6,858)
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>152,551</u>	<u>159,409</u>
CASH AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 131,712</u>	<u>\$ 152,551</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2008 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008
(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

	Rate	Cost	2008		2007
			Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Computer equipment	30%	\$ 21,703	\$ 20,330	\$ 1,373	\$ 1,961
Computer Class 45	45%	3,574	1,548	2,026	1,653
Software	100%	1,202	1,202	-	601
Office equipment	20%	<u>12,663</u>	<u>7,551</u>	<u>5,112</u>	<u>2,780</u>
		<u>\$ 39,142</u>	<u>\$ 30,631</u>	<u>\$ 8,511</u>	<u>\$ 6,995</u>

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year Ended March 31, 2008 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

(unaudited)

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Government of Yukon	\$ 36,571	\$ 83,263
Parks Canada	<u>99,447</u>	<u>100,722</u>
	<u>\$ 136,018</u>	<u>\$ 183,984</u>

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, 2009

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT
REPORT

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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, 2009, 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 14, 2009

Statement of Changes in Net assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2009 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2009

(unaudited)

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 28,336	\$ 131,712
Accounts receivable	19,191	51,962
Prepaid expenses	-	11,193
GST receivable	<u>5,878</u>	<u>5,349</u>
	<u>53,405</u>	<u>200,216</u>
EQUIPMENT (notes 2, 3)		
Cost	39,142	39,142
Less accumulated amortization	<u>32,977</u>	<u>30,631</u>
	<u>6,165</u>	<u>8,511</u>
	<u>\$ 59,570</u>	<u>\$ 208,727</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 22,578	\$ 62,584
Wages and employee benefits payable	1,836	2,782
Due to Government of Yukon	-	252
Deferred revenue (notes 2, 4)	<u>28,524</u>	<u>136,018</u>
	<u>52,938</u>	<u>201,616</u>
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)	467	(1,400)
INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT (note 2)	<u>6,165</u>	<u>8,511</u>
	<u>6,632</u>	<u>7,111</u>
	<u>\$ 59,570</u>	<u>\$ 208,727</u>

APPROVED BY:

_____ Councillor

_____ Councillor

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2009 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009
(unaudited)

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
REVENUES		
Government of Yukon - contribution	\$ 230,298	\$ 263,692
Parks Canada - Grizzly Bear Research	99,447	51,274
Environment Canada - Database improvement	15,000	-
Interest income and other	1,867	60
	<u>346,612</u>	<u>315,026</u>
EXPENDITURES		
ADMINISTRATION		
Bookkeeping	6,082	4,713
Honoraria - chair	43,932	35,259
Honoraria - council members	450	900
Interest and bank charges	119	20
Newsletter	-	4,449
Office and telephone	13,081	15,756
Professional fees	3,000	3,401
Rent	5,289	5,235
Subcontracts	-	10,069
Term report	584	5,848
Travel and meetings	25,141	26,063
Wages and employee benefits	92,806	77,956
	<u>190,484</u>	<u>189,669</u>

...continued

Statement of Changes in Net assets for the Year Ended March 31, 2009 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES CONTINUED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

(unaudited)

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
EXPENDITURES CONTINUED		
PROJECT COSTS		
Communications Plan	1,179	4,254
Arctic Borderlands Co-op	-	1,800
Elders' Event	-	2,502
Environment Canada Database Improvement	13,500	-
Grizzly Bear Research 2004	99,447	1,274
Grizzly Bear Research 2008	-	50,000
Grizzly Bear Traditional Knowledge	905	8,565
Habitat Stewardship Program	-	3,210
IFA Communications	2,868	3,503
Porcupine Caribou TK Report	30,553	-
Research Day	2,250	-
Species Status Reports	-	4,782
Ten Year Data Review	-	22,120
Website	752	8,068
Wildlife Conservation Management Plan	-	5,400
Workshops, conferences and studies	2,807	5,172
	<u>154,261</u>	<u>120,650</u>
	<u>344,745</u>	<u>310,319</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ 1,867</u>	<u>\$ 4,707</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2009 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009
(unaudited)

	2009			2008
	INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)	TOTAL	TOTAL
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ <u>8,511</u>	\$ <u>(1,400)</u>	\$ <u>7,111</u>	\$ <u>5,537</u>
Excess (shortage) of revenues over expenditures	-	1,867	1,867	4,707
Purchase of equipment	-	-	-	-
Disposal of equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	1,867	1,867	4,707
Amortization of equipment	<u>(2,346)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,346)</u>	<u>(3,133)</u>
	<u>(2,346)</u>	<u>1,867</u>	<u>(479)</u>	<u>1,574</u>
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	\$ <u>6,165</u>	\$ <u>467</u>	\$ <u>6,632</u>	\$ <u>7,111</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2009 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

(unaudited)

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts from Government of Yukon	\$ 221,999	\$ 279,167
Cash received from Government of Canada	65,000	-
Cash received from other sources	1,867	60
Cash paid for administration costs	(212,460)	(173,382)
Cash paid for IFA implementation project costs	<u>(179,782)</u>	<u>(122,035)</u>
	<u>(103,376)</u>	<u>(16,190)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,649)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FOR THE YEAR	(103,376)	(20,839)
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>131,712</u>	<u>152,551</u>
CASH AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 28,336</u>	<u>\$ 131,712</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2009 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

(unaudited)

1. NATURE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) is a non-profit entity that 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) Equipment**

Equipment is 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 equipment. Equipment is amortized using the declining balance method at rates set out in note 3.

The investment in equipment reflects the total amortized cost of all capital equipment 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. EQUIPMENT

	2009				2008
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net	Net
Computer equipment	30%	\$ 21,703	\$ 20,742	\$ 961	\$ 1,373
Computer Class 45	45%	3,574	2,460	1,114	2,026
Software	100%	1,202	1,202	-	-
Office equipment	20%	<u>12,663</u>	<u>8,573</u>	<u>4,090</u>	<u>5,112</u>
		<u>\$ 39,142</u>	<u>\$ 32,977</u>	<u>\$ 6,165</u>	<u>\$ 8,511</u>

Notes to Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2009 (unaudited)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

(unaudited)

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Government of Yukon	\$ 28,524	\$ 36,571
Parks Canada	<u>-</u>	<u>99,447</u>
	<u>\$ 28,524</u>	<u>\$ 136,018</u>

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.

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);

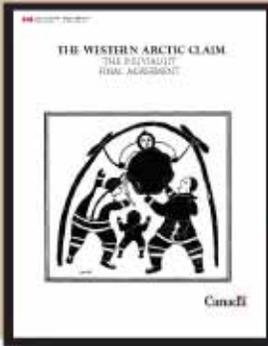
(c) determine and recommend appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting of game in the Yukon North Slope; and

(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.





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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