



# Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

## FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH

Porcupine Caribou Management Board – Annual Harvest Meeting

February 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

# TH Fish and Wildlife Act

Our Act provides TH with full authority to manage and administer subsistence harvest in TH Traditional Territory, along with managing licensed hunting on TH Category A Settlement Lands



# Harvest Management

## Communication:

- ✓ TH Fish and Wildlife branch receives direction from Chief and Council, Elder's Council, Natural Resources Advisory Council on F&W management issues
- ✓ Fish and Wildlife branch informs TH citizens of harvest management strategies for certain species
- ✓ We communicate current population estimates for species
- ✓ We share communication materials developed by our First Nation government and by others
- ✓ We are involved with education programs (i.e. First Fish, Fall Harvest Camp, First Hunt, First Trapper, etc.)
- ✓ We communicate and consult with citizens (Chief and Council, TH Elders Council, citizens, General Assembly) to discuss any harvest management changes that may be needed to be considered



# Harvest Management

## Harvest data collection:

TH F&W actively requests harvest data information to citizens by a variety of methods:

- ✓ Mail-out surveys (Prize draw)
- ✓ Phone calls
- ✓ Word of mouth and follow-up
- ✓ Këntraq Tay
- ✓ Citizen meetings
- ✓ Monthly calendar
- ✓ TH website
- ✓ Facebook

# TH Harvest Survey 2017/ 2018



## HARVEST DATA SURVEY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTER THE F&W DRAW FOR YOUR  
 CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!**

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – 10x12x4 Fort MacPherson canvas WALL TENT**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – ProMax "Pillar Lock" hard gun case**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Field dressing butcher set**
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize – Field survival backpack and supplies**
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> prize - \$50 Gas coupons at MacKenzie Petroleum**

**All entries have a chance to win!**

Did you go out hunting or fishing this year? Was your harvest successful or unsuccessful? All you have to do is fill out the short survey provided, return it to the TH F&W office and your name will be entered into the draw which will be held in the Main Lobby of TH Admin Building

**4pm on Thursday February 28, 2019**

### The importance of TH Harvest Data Reporting

Harvest data reporting and observations collected from (and reported by) citizens while out on the land is essential information that helps TH F&W maintain records of:

- what species of fish and wildlife are being harvested;
- how many animals are being harvested and how many are needed to fulfill subsistence needs;
- the health and condition of fish and/ or wildlife;
- the general areas animals are being harvested;
- any changes noticed on the land (i.e. of licensed harvesters, new roads or development, water quality, impacts to habitat, etc.)

This type of information guides and directs wildlife management decisions and TH F&W rely on you and your harvest data to provide us with indicators of what is happening on the land. We know that those out on the land are aware of "red flags" and can help us identify issues before they get out of control. Please share your information with us and help us do a better job of protecting your rights for continued sustainable harvest of healthy and intact wildlife populations.

ALL TH citizens are encouraged to fill out this harvest data survey whether you hunt or not! The information collected informs F&W of harvesting practices, harvesting needs, and harvesting effort.



Did you harvest any of the following fish species? Please check all that apply and provide numbers:

Type of Fish	# of Fish
King Salmon (Chinook)	
Chum Salmon	
Grayling	
Arctic Char	
Whitefish	
Burbot(Lingcod)	
Other	

Did you hunt any of the following animals? Was your hunt a success? Provide the number of animals you harvested or put a zero in the box if you hunted for that species but were unsuccessful.

Caribou	Moose	Sheep
40 Mile		
Porcupine Caribou		
Hart River		
Clear Creek		
Grouse	Ptarmigan	Rabbits

Did you harvest berries and/ or other medicinal plants? What plants are important to you and provide your family with foods and/ or medicines?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following space to provide information regarding your successful or unsuccessful harvest: where you went, what you saw, did you notice many other hunters, changes to wildlife patterns or behaviour, changes out on the land, changing seasons or weather patterns, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approximately how many hours did you spend out on the land to fulfill your harvesting needs?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Any and all information is appreciated and important to the F&W department. Mähsi Cho**

# Harvest Management cont'd

## Harvest Data Collection

- Annually, TH collects fish and wildlife harvest
- Harvest data is divided by the various species: caribou, moose, sheep, etc.
- Harvest data is for TH management purposes only, but may be shared with other agencies or governments if required to help with harvest management plans or management strategies
- In addition, TH collects Chinook and Chum salmon harvest
  - TH shares salmon harvest with DFO → numbers crossing the border (counted by the sonar) are critical indicators to be considered when addressing harvest management for salmon, as well actions included under Chapter 16

# Past & Present Trends

## TH Porcupine Caribou Harvest by TH citizens

REPORTING DATE: June 1 – May 31	REPORTED #'s:
2012/ 2013	1
2013/ 2014	2
2014/ 2015	6
2015/ 2016	12
2016/ 2017	0 (no access)
2017/ 2018	1 (reported from citizen in living in VGG TT)

- TH monitors and patrols harvesting activities on the Dempster Highway
- F&W Stewards go door-to-door to request harvest data information

# Harvest Management cont'd



## Education:

- For the past 20 years, TH has been educating our youth on the respectful harvesting practices at TH's successful program, "First Hunt";
- When this camp first started, TH Citizens knew that teaching the Youth about the caribou was the basis to developing hunters with the understanding of respectful, traditional, modern and safe hunting methods for harvesting of food;
- Since 1994, TH has held a camp every year up the Dempster Highway;
- Today, our youth and citizens go out onto the land and harvest food by using the practices they've learned from the First Hunt camp;
- TH Leaders, Elders, citizens and other members of the Dawson Community strongly support this program to ensure that respectful practices of taking food from the land will continue for generations to come;

*Education is a key responsibility for managing subsistence harvesting in TH Traditional Territory*

# HARVEST

## Historically:

Harvest of PCH occurred within the TH Traditional Territory

## Currently:

TH recognizes the importance of continued efforts of management and respect for the herd in order to maintain healthy populations for the future

## Future:

PCH will continue to be and will become increasingly important as a food source within TH Traditional Territory

Current increasing pressure on moose and declining salmon populations will increase demand for other sources of wild meat such as PCH



# TH PRIORITIES

## Harvest reporting and Traditional Knowledge collection

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




# TH PRIORITIES

- TH community and Councils expressed concern in the past about the allegations of wasted meat
- TH supports continued communications and education on Best Practices
- TH supports education initiatives carried out by the PCMB

*Respect your harvest  
Take only what you need, and use all that you take.*


**Harvest for tomorrow:**

✓ **Shoot a bull.**




Not as many bulls are needed in a healthy population.

✓ **Let cows live.**



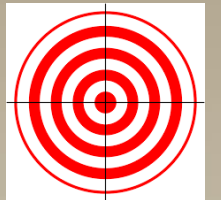
Cows produce calves. Their calves grow into adults and produce more calves.

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

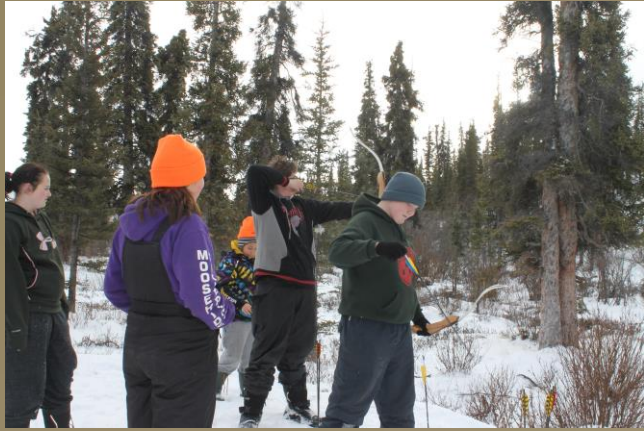
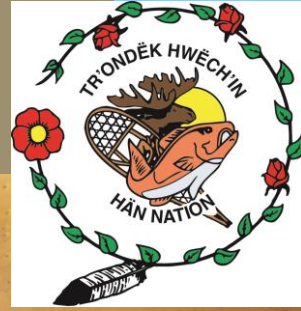


*Shoot to kill*

TH supports hunting camps that educate hunters on safe and respectful hunting practices



# FIRST HUNT 2017





# Acknowledgements



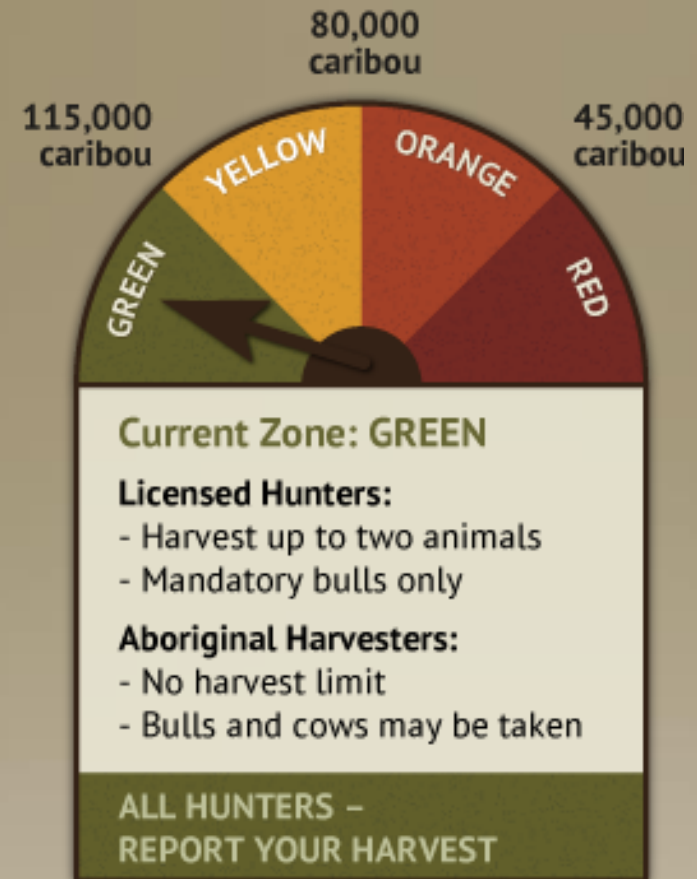
TH would like to acknowledge the management conducted by each respective Party and their community for continuing to work towards the success of the PC Harvest Management Plan



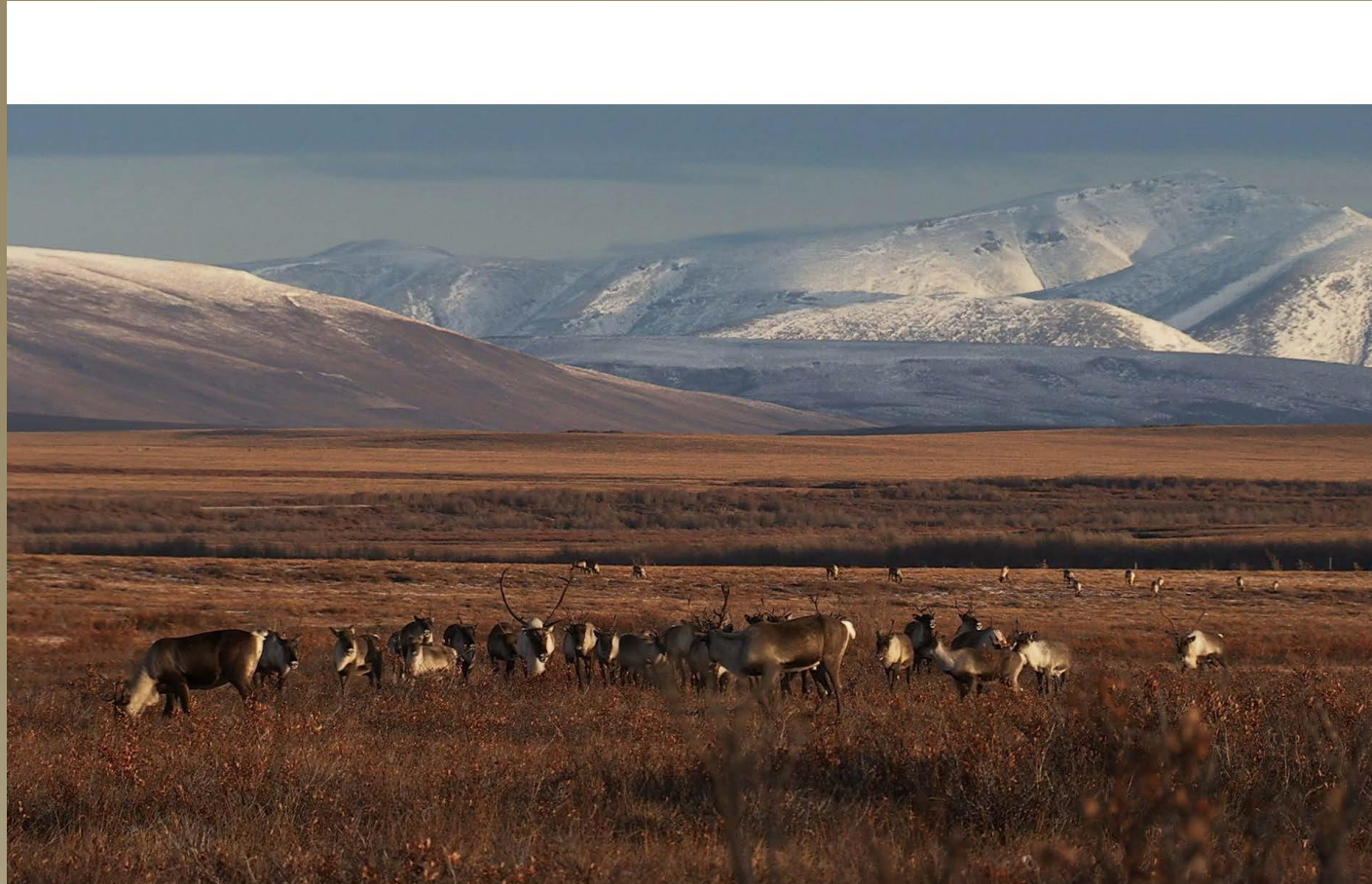
# Recommendations

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in continues to recommend:

Management remains in the **Green Zone** based on the past year's indicators



# QUESTIONS?



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