

Gwich'in Harvest Survey

PCMB Annual Harvest Meeting
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Survey Overview

The Gwich'in Harvest Survey began in 2008 and collects information on vadzaih (caribou), dinjik (moose), aak'ii (muskox), and divii (Dall's sheep) in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. This presentation looks at Porcupine Caribou harvests during the June 2020 – May 2021 survey period.

FREQUENCY

Surveys are run twice a year and cover the periods of June-Oct and Nov-May.

POPULATION

Results reflect harvesting by Gwich'in participants living within the GSA.

ORGANIZATIONS

RRCs maintain harvester lists and run the local surveys. The GRRB analyzes the data.

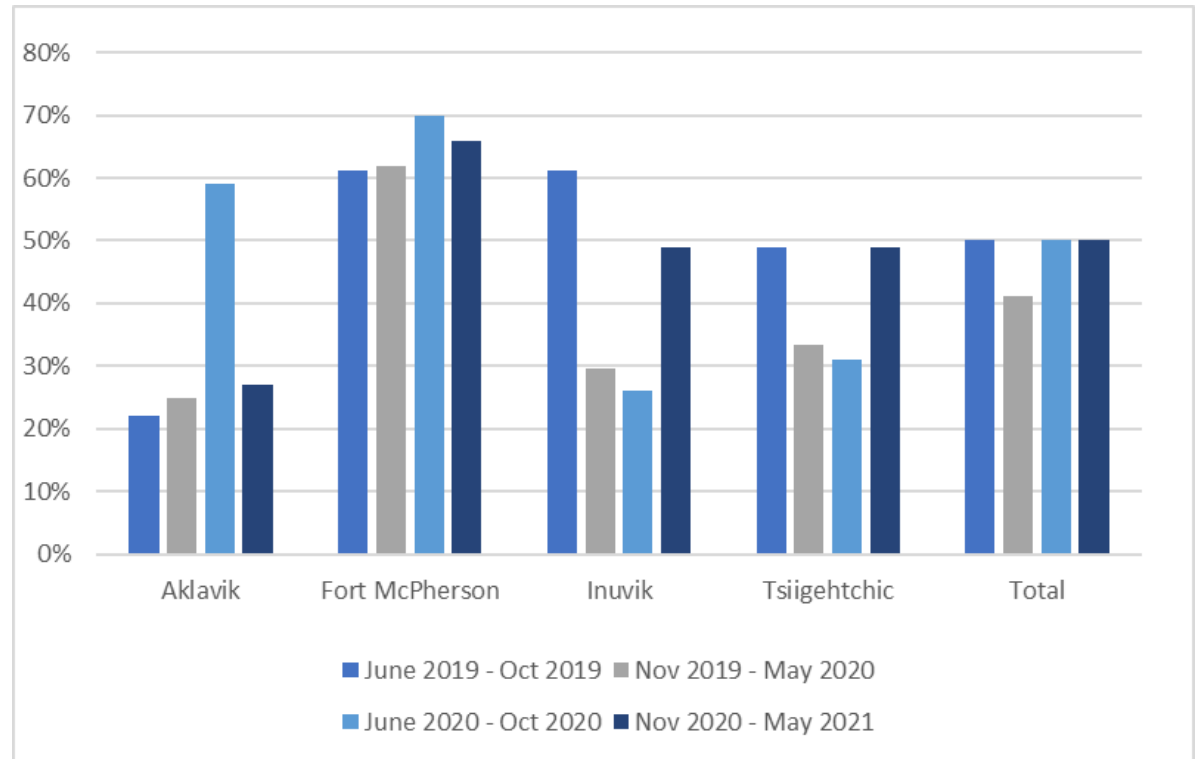
COVID-19

COVID has required a shift from in-person to telephone surveys.

Participation

Over the past four surveys, community participation rates have ranged from 22% - 70%. Total participation has been between 41% - 50% and total average of 82%.

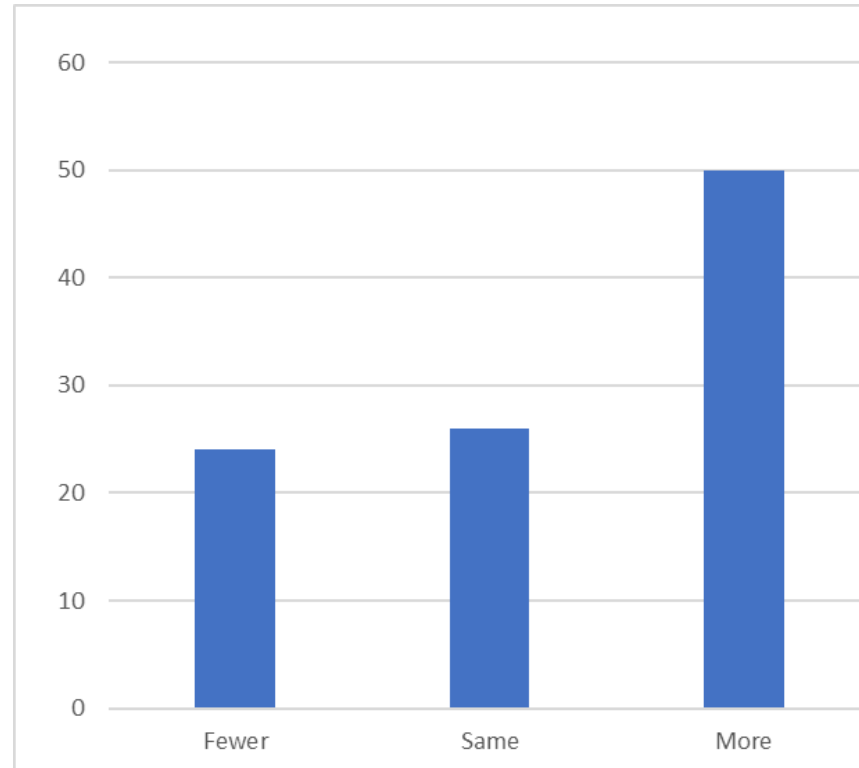
Aklavik has struggled with low participation but preliminary results for the November 2020 survey show their response rate doubling.



Population Trends



Of 205 responses during the June 2020 – May 2021 survey period, 50% of harvesters said they had seen more Porcupine Caribou than during the previous year.





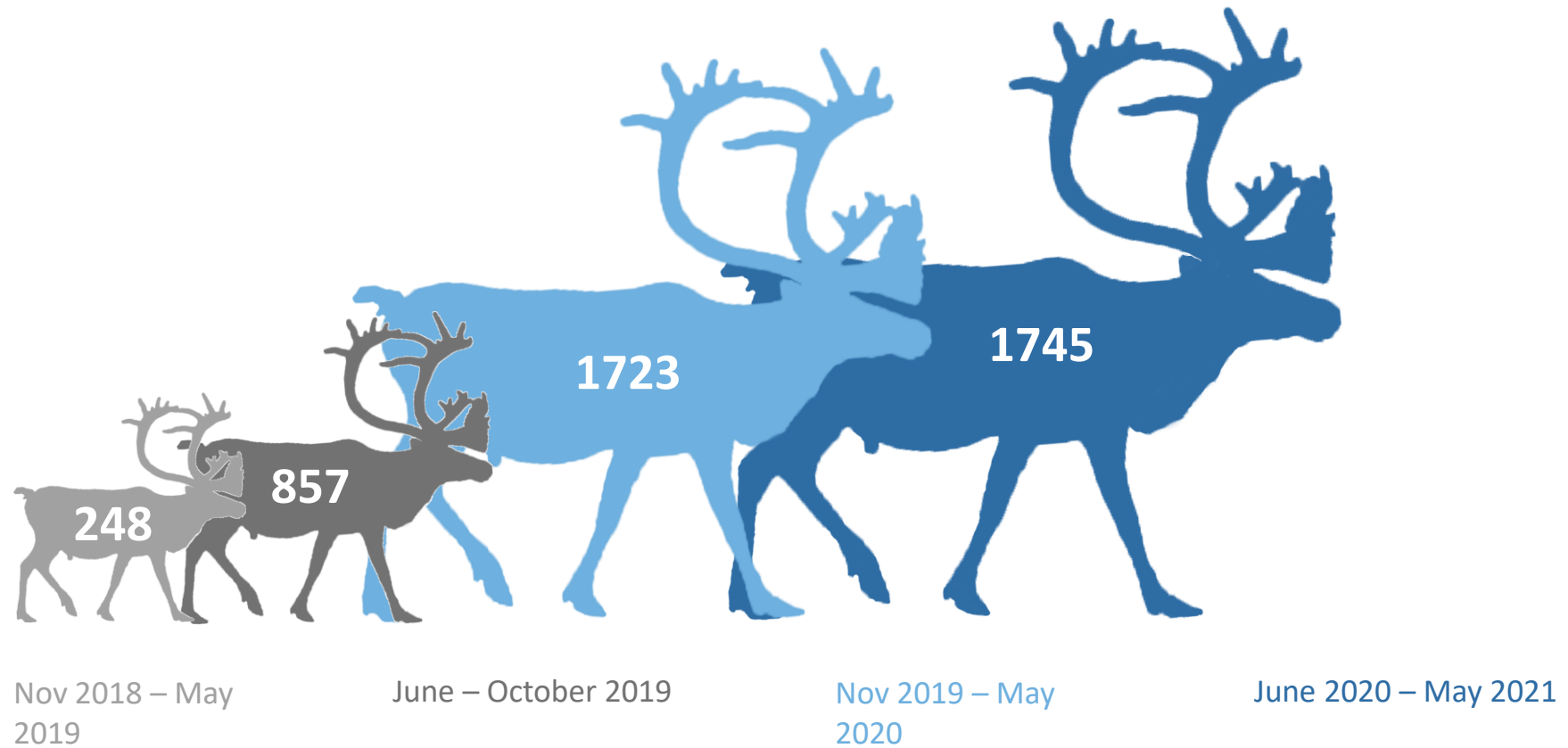
Estimated Total Harvest

June 2020 - May 2021

	Male	Female	Total
Total Reported Harvest	436	312	748
Estimated Total Harvest	763	982	1745
Margin of Error (90% CL)	163	708	726

Gwich'in participants harvested an estimated 1745 ± 726 animals, with a male:female ratio of 1.4. This includes Porcupine Caribou, plus any caribou whose herd could not be determined. Animals whose sex was unknown were assumed to be female.

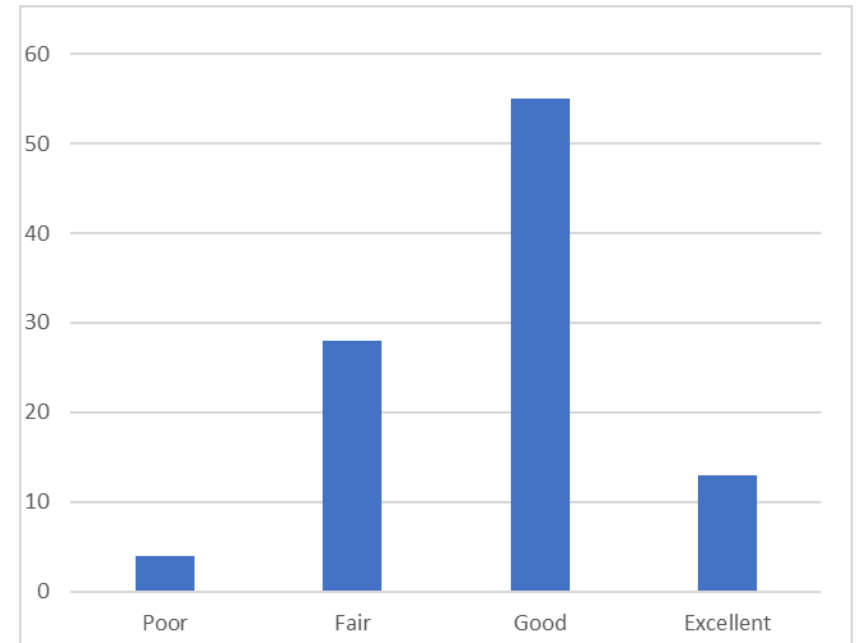
Estimated Total Harvest





Body Condition

Of 205 respondents, 54% said that the body condition of caribou they harvested had been good. Only 4% reported caribou in poor condition.



Observations

LANDSCAPE

There continue to be many comments about landslides and slumping.

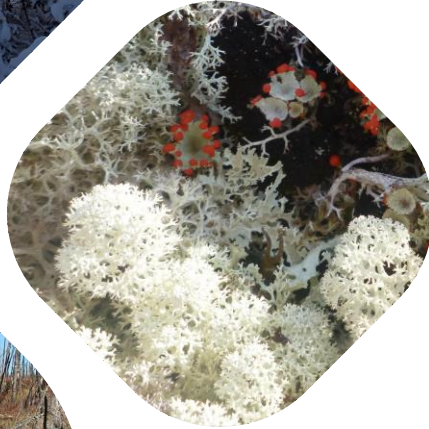
WEATHER

June 2020: Observations of abnormally warm weather and a lack of snow.

May 2021: Mixed reports (warm in winter, cold in spring). Several mentions of the weather being strange and difficult to predict.

PEOPLE

Some comments on conducting bear studies, studies on how meat is being used by harvesters and education on meat wastage.



Future Directions



DATA STORAGE

We currently store our survey data in Excel spreadsheets, which is very limiting. We will be building a database this year and to begin transferring over our historical data.



SURVEY UPDATES

We have begun working with the RRCs to update our survey questions. Currently, some data is not being used.



TRAINING

We plan to develop new training materials for our interviewers. They will be rolled out to coincide with the launch of the updated survey.



SHARING RESULTS

We have drafted a brief plain-language summary of the survey results to make them more accessible to the public. We plan to send it to harvesters and the RRCs the next few months.

Recommendations

01

EDUCATION

Ensure education in GSA communities.

02

MANAGEMENT

Promote traditional management practices.

03

CONSERVATION

Promote community conservation and education initiatives



Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who makes the harvest surveys possible:

- The many **harvesters** who take the time to share their knowledge with us
- Our **interviewers** who collect the data
- The **Renewable Resources Councils** for doing all the local coordination work
- **Environment and Natural Resources** for providing the funding
- The **PCMB** for bringing together stakeholders from all the communities across the herd's range



Acknowledgements

PHOTOS

- **Title Page:** Nathan Millar from GRRB.
- **Population Trends:** *unknown*
- **Estimated Total Harvest:** Bering Land Bridge National Preserve ([link](#))
- **Body Condition:** *unknown*
- **Observations:** Jan Adamczewski from ENR (Caribou); Steve Andersen from GRRB (Snowy Trees); Sarah Lord from GRRB (Lichen, Jason Blake McLeod with Riffle, and Autumn Wetland)

- **Recommendations:** Jan Adamczewski from ENR
- **Acknowledgements:** Jan Adamczewski from ENR
- **Hai Cho! Mahsi Cho!:** “Nicholson” probably from ENR

POWERPOINT TEMPLATE

Dublin Design



Hai Cho! Mahsi Cho!

