



# Annual Report



**April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024**

Box 31539, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 6K8 (867) 633-5476

[wmacns@wmacns.ca](mailto:wmacns@wmacns.ca) [www.wmacns.ca](http://www.wmacns.ca)

## Table of Contents

<b>YEAR AT A GLANCE</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>WHO WE ARE</b> .....	<b>1</b>
THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE).....	1
<b>THE YUKON NORTH SLOPE</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>THE INUVIALUIT FINAL AGREEMENT</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>THE INUVIALUIT</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>THE YUKON NORTH SLOPE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>PRIORITY ISSUES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<i>Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area on the Yukon North Slope</i> .....	3
<i>Communication and Community Engagement</i> .....	4
<i>Yukon North Slope Conference 2025</i> .....	5
<i>Polar Bear Research and Co-Management</i> .....	5
<i>Canadian Mountain Network Porcupine Caribou Knowledge Hub</i> .....	6
<b>IFA-FUNDED WILDLIFE RESEARCH</b> .....	<b>6</b>
WILDLIFE MONITORING AND INUVIALUIT STUDENT INTERNSHIP ON HERSCHEL ISLAND - QIKIQTARUK TERRITORIAL PARK.....	6
IVVAVIK FOREST BIODIVERSITY STUDY .....	7
PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD RESEARCH.....	8
<i>Porcupine Caribou Use of the Yukon North Slope</i> .....	8
<i>Assessing the effects of climate-induced variability on the behavior, distribution and demography of the Porcupine caribou herd</i> .....	9
<i>Ecology of the Porcupine Caribou Summer Range</i> .....	9
<b>OTHER COUNCIL ACTIVITIES</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>WORKING TOGETHER</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<i>Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee</i> .....	10
<i>Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)</i> .....	10
<i>Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park</i> .....	11
<i>Parks Canada and Ivvavik National Park</i> .....	11
<b>SHARING INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>MEETINGS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<i>Council Meetings</i> .....	11
<i>Other Meetings</i> .....	11
<b>COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## Year at a Glance

This report highlights the activities of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) over the period of April 2023 – March 2024. With the help of our Community Engagement Coordinator and our northern Council members, we have been able to substantially increase our connection with partners and community members in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). We also supported great strides in the establishment of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area. This work puts Inuvialuit culture and leadership at the forefront of stewarding this land. Finally, the completion of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan was a significant milestone in meeting our obligations under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). It will guide research, relationships, policy, and priorities in the region for years to come.



## Who We Are

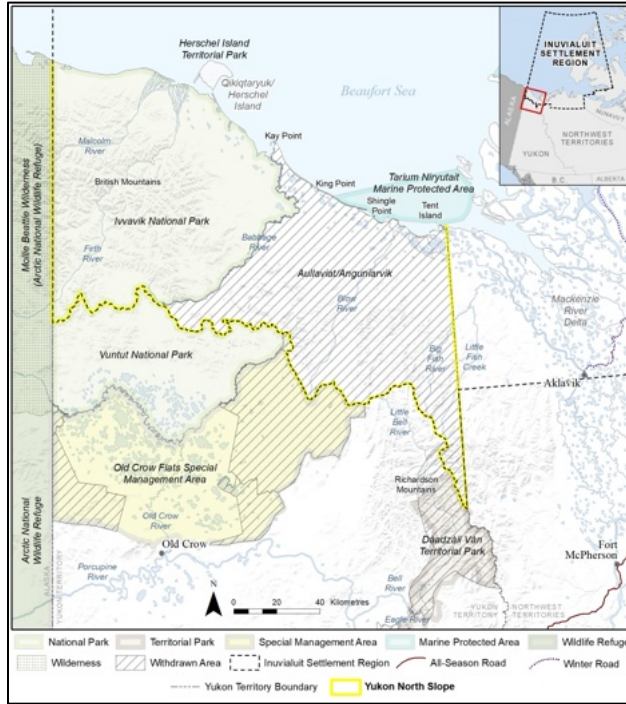
### ***The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)***

The management priorities for the Yukon North Slope are the conservation of land, wildlife, and Inuvialuit traditional use of the area. To ensure these goals are met, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement established the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), also known as WMAC (NS) or the Council. WMAC (NS) provides advice to governments and other agencies on all matters related to wildlife



management on the North Slope. The Council is responsible for conservation management planning for the Yukon North Slope and advises on planning and management for Ivvavik National Park and Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park. The Council also determines and recommends appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting of wildlife on the Yukon North Slope. To carry out these tasks, WMAC (NS) works closely with the Yukon, Northwest Territories (NWT), and federal governments, other co-management boards, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) and the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC).





## The Yukon North Slope

The Yukon North Slope is an area of land that stretches from Alaska to the Northwest Territories. It includes all of the land in the north Yukon that is drained by rivers and streams flowing into the Beaufort Sea, as well as islands, such as Qikiqtaruk, and both the nearshore and offshore waters.

Inuvialuit have relied on the region's wildlife and land 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, fish, and connect with family.

The Yukon North Slope region has no roads and there are few signs of industrial development. However, there are many Inuvialuit seasonal camps and cabins.

## The Inuvialuit Final Agreement

The area of land covered by the IFA - the ISR - includes a large area in the NWT, parts of the Beaufort Sea, and the Yukon North Slope. The Yukon North Slope receives particular attention in the IFA. Chapter 12 of the agreement establishes a special conservation management regime for the region. The IFA defines the Inuvialuit rights to harvest wildlife on the North Slope. These rights may only be restricted for conservation or public safety. If development occurs, the IFA has a wildlife compensation system that helps to restore wildlife populations and habitat and to assist Inuvialuit when their harvesting activities are adversely affected.

The ***Inuvialuit Final Agreement*** (IFA) was signed in 1984.

It ensures Inuvialuit participation in economic and social development and decisions throughout their homeland.

The agreement also protects and conserves Arctic wildlife and its environment.

## The Inuvialuit

Inuvialuit are Inuit of the Western Arctic. The land, ice, and water of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region make up the western portion of Inuit Nunangat (or homeland) in Canada. The Yukon North Slope has been part of the Inuvialuit homeland for generations. This long history is well documented in historical accounts and artifacts, but also across the living landscape. It continues to be a place of cultural connection and expression: filling freezers, inspiring songs and dances, and bringing generations together.

## The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan



Along with the signing of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement came certain requirements and responsibilities, delegated to the Council. The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan (WCMP) was one such requirement, and considerable collaborative work went into the first edition of the Plan (2003). The Plan provides direction for the conservation of wildlife, habitat, and traditional Inuvialuit use on the Yukon North Slope.

The Plan is a keystone for our Council. It offers guidance and information to our Council members, government, co-management organizations, environmental assessment bodies, Inuvialuit and other Indigenous organizations, and the general public. It also helps to inform research priorities and projects.

After several years of research, community and partner engagement, and public consultation, the Council recommended a new Plan in 2021. In 2023, the recommended Plan was accepted by the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Government of Yukon, and the Government of Canada. The Council created a number of supporting resources to enable different groups to engage with the Plan. These include 14 species and issue-focused Companion Reports, a digital map atlas, as well as an illustrated story booklet.

### **Plan Goal:**

To value and conserve the health of wildlife populations, diversity and productivity, wildlife habitat, and Inuvialuit traditional uses of the Yukon North Slope.

## Priority Issues and Special Projects

A portion of the WMAC (NS) budget is allocated to priority issues and special projects, including wildlife management, community participation, traditional knowledge, outreach, and education. Below are the highlights of these special projects for 2023-24.

### **Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area on the Yukon North Slope**

The Council participated in ongoing meetings throughout the year to finalize the *Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area Agreement*. The governments of Yukon and Canada, the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, along with representatives from the Aklavik Community Corporation (ACC), Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC), and Aklavik Elders Committee have all participated in the development of the draft agreement. This agreement recognizes the importance of Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik to Inuvialuit, as well as to the wildlife, like the Porcupine Caribou Herd, that call it home. Once completed, it will provide support for enhanced Inuvialuit-led conservation and stewardship of the eastern Yukon North Slope.



The purposes of the conservation area are to:

- Promote, support and maintain the continuity of Inuvialuit traditional use in order to preserve Inuvialuit culture, identity and values;
- Protect and conserve the wildlife, habitat and biological productivity and contribute to the implementation of the goals of the IFA, the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement and the WCMP;
- Advance the biodiversity goals and objectives of the governments of Canada and Yukon and the Inuvialuit Parties by including Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik among the areas counted toward Canada's biodiversity targets;
- Establish, facilitate and support Inuvialuit access, programming, monitoring, research and stewardship of wildlife, habitats and environment in response to a rapidly changing climate;
- Provide resources to Inuvialuit and the Aklavik HTC and ACC to play a primary role in the conservation, use, management and monitoring of the area including the development of infrastructure to support these activities; and
- Contribute to reconciliation amongst the parties to the agreement.

### Communication and Community Engagement



The arrival of our Community Engagement Coordinator, Jessi Pascal, has made a notable difference in the Council's ability to hear from community members and share relevant updates in the region. The year kicked off with a co-hosted booth at the Mad Trapper Rendezvous, with Parks Canada. Staff were on hand to provide information, maps, and WMAC (NS) gear.

Jessi has been exploring new ways for the Council to connect with community members who rely on the Yukon North Slope. In January 2024, she hosted the first of several radio shows on the Aklavik FM. The feedback on these casual conversations has been very

positive. Jessi has also been doing outreach for the Council at the schools in Aklavik, with local organizations such as the HTC and Renewable Resource Council. Jessi has been supporting the implementation of the Inuvialuit Harvest Study in Aklavik, which provides important information on harvest of Porcupine caribou and muskox that feeds into the Council's management recommendations.

Staff attended the International Arctic Ungulate Conference in May 2023, held in Anchorage. This was an important occasion to learn from caribou and muskox experts from across the circumpolar north. Jessi and Council-supported graduate student, Kate Curtis, also co-presented their work *Aklavik Community Perspectives and Knowledge of Muskox on the Yukon North Slope*. Communicating community perspectives and Yukon North Slope findings to an international audience was a notable opportunity to raise the profile of this type of work and our region.



The Council also makes every effort to connect with community members when meeting in the north. In December 2023, a community lunch was hosted to provide updates on files and projects of interest. Council members had the benefit of learning from the community, too, about evolving priorities and interests.

### **Yukon North Slope Conference 2025**

The Yukon North Slope conference is an IFA requirement for WMAC (NS). Since 1989, the Council has hosted ten iterations of the Conference, bringing together experts and knowledge holders on various themes related to the North Slope. These have included cross-border co-management, climate change, environmental monitoring, and traditional knowledge. Planning for the Yukon North Slope Conference was well underway in 2023-24. The conference date was set for January 28-30, 2025 and the theme will be *“Indigenous Conservation Economies: Rooted in tradition and adapting for the future.”* The conference will explore the leading edge of topics like:



- Creating economic opportunities related to Conservation Areas
- Connecting to the land and monitoring change through Stewardship, Guardians, and on-the land programs
- Exploring models of Indigenous-led tourism, artistry, and entrepreneurship rooted in conservation
- Linking Indigenous conservation economies with research programs and co-management frameworks
- Financing and supporting Indigenous conservation economies

The Council looks forward to hosting this exciting event in 2025!

### **Polar Bear Research and Co-Management**

Polar bear continued to be a significant focus for the Council and staff in 2023-24. Engagement with a number of national and international tables was an important part of this work. Polar bears are wide-ranging, management is shared across numerous jurisdictions, and they are a high-profile species; participating in various management and technical forums enables regional values and priorities to be shared with partners and more broadly. One such group is the Polar Bear Technical Committee. At the February 2024 meetings, the members discussed the research and handling of polar bears and how this work might be more strongly connected to communities. The outcome was a proposed national polar bear forum on this topic.

Another major polar bear effort over the past several years has been the multi-party development of a new abundance estimate for the Southern and Northern Beaufort subpopulations. This project brings together Indigenous knowledge and science-derived knowledge in a novel way, building on previous efforts, and stemming from recommendations made by the Inuvialuit-Inupiat Joint Commission. Through this project, both Indigenous knowledge and science will inform the development of a new model to estimate polar bear abundance. In 2023-24, the summary report from the Indigenous knowledge workshops with ISR knowledge holders was finalized. A working group was struck, which includes representation from WMAC (NS), to support the integration of various knowledge sources. Research partners were also invited to present this work to national and international colleagues at the Polar Bear Range States meeting, held in Iqaluit in late 2023.



## Canadian Mountain Network Porcupine Caribou Knowledge Hub

The Porcupine Caribou Knowledge Hub held a gathering in February 2024, in Inuvik. Along with WMAC (NS), partners include Yukon Government, Porcupine Caribou Management Board, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Vuntut Gwitchin Government, Parks Canada, Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, US Geological Survey, University of Edinburgh, University of Victoria, and McGill University.



The Hub is made up of three steering groups that provide input on research priorities and methods. The groups span three themes: wildlife, vegetation, and Indigenous knowledge. WMAC (NS) has staff representatives on each of these groups.

WMAC (NS) staff members Ryan Durack and Jessi Pascal attended the February 2024 Porcupine Caribou Knowledge Hub meeting. Jessi facilitated the Indigenous Knowledge steering group discussions and Ryan participated in wildlife steering group discussions. The workshop emphasized eight priorities for herd management: climate change impacts, communication, youth empowerment, harvest management, capacity building, Indigenous knowledge-science co-application, community centred approaches, and adaptation strategies.

## IFA-Funded Wildlife Research

Each year, WMAC (NS) reviews proposals from the Governments of Canada and the Yukon for research projects related to wildlife management and ecological monitoring on the Yukon North Slope. Projects that are prioritized support the goals of the IFA, the WCMP, and the interests and rights of the Inuvialuit. Research priorities are identified by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, residents of Aklavik, the Inuvialuit Game Council, Environment Yukon, Parks Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service. The Council makes recommendations to Parks Canada, the Yukon Government, and the Canadian Wildlife Service for the support of projects on the North Slope through IFA research funds. WMAC (NS) assists, as required, in the implementation of recommended projects and monitors their progress through presentations and final reports.

The Council recommended IFA funding for the following research projects to be implemented in 2023-24. Importantly, many of these are multiyear, highly collaborative projects – a sign of a healthy research program and strong inter-organizational relationships.

### ***Wildlife Monitoring and Inuvialuit Student Internship on Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park***



The Qikiqtaruk ecological monitoring program builds capacity for Inuvialuit youth through a field-based internship. It makes a significant contribution to the goals of the new Qikiqtaruk park management plan by improving wildlife conservation and management on the island while providing field-based career experience for Inuvialuit students. Mentorship is provided by Yukon Parks researchers, Park Rangers, and visiting scientists (particularly Team Shrub).



In the summer of 2023, two Inuvialuit youth joined the Yukon Parks team on the island: Gabrielle McLeod and Sydney McLeod. Both participants felt the internship was a great way to learn about research while simultaneously connecting with their culture and land. A Parks Canada youth intern was also able to participate. Activities included:

- Monitoring active permafrost active layer and slumps, including drone flights
- Cultural interpretation support for cruise ship guests
- Wildlife camera maintenance
- Marine wildlife observation
- Insect biodiversity surveys
- Supporting vegetation sampling and analysis
- Traditional harvest and processing of fish
- Traditional harvest of berries and plants
- Practice with logistics management (gear, food, supplies)
- Heritage Resource Maintenance
- Supporting the development of a Qikiqtaruk Virtual Reality Environment product

### ***Ivvavik Forest Biodiversity Study***

Ivvavik National Park has never been glaciated, and as such, is known to be home to plants and animals not found elsewhere in Canada. The goal of this research project was to collect and identify as many lichens and plants within the Firth River forests and neighboring alpine tundra habitat as possible, on a one-time basis (a “bio-blitz”). The findings from this work will also be a benchmark for rapidly changing ecosystems due to climate change. It is expected that the forest communities will expand; however, there have been few studies targeting the biodiversity of this ecosystem. The inventory will help to promote the ecological integrity of Ivvavik by identifying species that may not be found anywhere else in Canada. Results are forthcoming following analysis. A camp cook, camp assistant and research assistant were hired from Aklavik to support this project during summer 2023.



### ***Polar Bear Population Estimate***

A new population estimate for polar bears in the Southern Beaufort Sea has been recommended by the Inuvialuit-Inūpiat Polar Bear Joint Commission. This estimate is needed to inform harvest decisions at annual user-to-user meetings, as well as inform reporting on the status of the species in various forums (e.g., Polar Bear Administrative Committee, Polar Bear Technical Committee, Polar Bear Specialist Group, Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Species in Canada). Along with subpopulations in Hudson Bay, the Southern and Northern Beaufort Sea subpopulations are of considerable interest at the international level. While Indigenous knowledge (IK) indicates that these subpopulations have likely remained stable, estimates of abundance that can be compared with previous estimates will enhance our understanding of the population dynamics of polar bears in the Beaufort Sea.



This was the final year of data collection (using biopsy darting) for the population estimate. A total of 157 flight hours were recorded this past season, with 187 polar bears sighted and 149 biopsy samples collected. Field crews included Inuvialuit from Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok, and Sachs Harbour. Going forward, these data and the Inuvialuit Knowledge that has contributed to this project will be brought together to estimate the subpopulation sizes.

### **Richardson Mountains and North Slope Moose Survey**

The Yukon Government moose survey was completed in early 2024. A total of 960 moose were counted. Forty-six of these were on the Yukon North Slope, while 661 were in the Bell River area and 253 were in the Rat River area. The last time this survey was completed was in 2013 (they are updated on a ten-year cycle) and a comparison of the results across years indicates an increase in the number of moose in the region. The late winter survey supports other moose research happening concurrently, including ground-based monitoring with remote cameras and community-based field teams and population trend surveys that track calf recruitment success.



### **Porcupine Caribou Herd Research**



IFA research funds supported several initiatives related to the Porcupine Caribou Herd. WMAC (NS) recognizes the collaborative nature of the research, monitoring, and harvest management efforts for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and thanks all partners for their ongoing commitment to caribou health and sustainability.

The Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Collar program is a multi-year program administered by Yukon Government in close association with partner organizations: Parks Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Porcupine

Caribou Management Board, WMAC (NS), the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The program uses radio and satellite collars to locate the herd for different surveys (calf birth and survival, over-winter calf survival, and full composition counts) and to identify particular individuals in the herd to act as a sampling focus.

### **Porcupine Caribou Use of the Yukon North Slope**

As part of the long-standing Government of Yukon collaring program, new collars were deployed on the herd to replace those that had been damaged or reached the end of their life. Annual collaring work is important to maintain the sample size within the herd. This year, previously deployed camera collars were also retrieved. The image data are now being analyzed.

Collar data are used to alert managers to specific movements, to map distribution, and to develop predictive models that may help explain shifts in distribution when combined with ancillary data (e.g., vegetation, temperature, or interactions with other species). Collar data also support and inform harvesters

from Aklavik and from across this population range. It informs critical work in herd protection (e.g. assessing impacts from oil and gas development in the Alaskan 1002 lands) and provides a better understanding of interactions with other species, like muskox.

### **Assessing the effects of climate-induced variability on the behavior, distribution and demography of the Porcupine caribou herd**

Parks Canada partnered with Yukon Government and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a 5-year project led by the U.S. Geological Survey. This study aims to quantify the climate-driven influences of forage conditions and insect harassment on habitat selection and demographics of the Porcupine caribou herd, and projected shifts in



distribution in response to changes in these environmental conditions. This study builds on past and current work to understand forage conditions across the herd's calving, post-calving and summer range, including Ivvavik and Vuntut National Parks, Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, and the Yukon North Slope.

The overall objective is to assess the effects of climate-induced variability on the behavior, distribution and demography of the herd. The project uses a combination of video camera GPS collars, ground surveys, and remote sensing products. In 2023-24 (year 3), data were collected on summer vegetation (biomass, composition, forage quality) consumed by caribou at multiple sites throughout the calving, post-calving and summer range in Ivvavik National Park. Sampling prioritized six plant species found to be dominant in caribou diets from fecal sampling conducted in summer 2021 (year 1). Vegetation sampling was conducted 5 times (early June, mid-June, late June, mid-July and late July) to enable project partners to model spatiotemporal variation in forage conditions across the summer range. An Aklavik community member joined the June sampling trip.

### **Ecology of the Porcupine Caribou Summer Range**

This Government of Yukon project is a multi-year initiative that aims to understand predator-prey dynamics within the Porcupine Caribou summer range. The current focus has been on the role of wolves in the system, their pack size, diet, and other characteristics. It also ties into some of the moose research occurring in the region, as caribou and moose both form part of the diet for wolves. Data collection included collar deployment to monitor wolf pack movements, remote camera set up at den and rendezvous sites, and fecal and whisker sampling to study diet.





### **Autonomous Recording Unit Retrieval**

In 2022, a suite of autonomous recording units (ARUs) was deployed by Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service, with Inuvialuit field support. These units record all bird and other wildlife sounds during a pre-determined period; recordings are then scanned and analysed to detect target species.

In 2023, the ARUs were collected. Data are now being analysed, with a particular focus on a few species that are at the edge of their range or are otherwise elusive.

## **Other Council Activities**

The Council dedicates much of its time to reviewing and providing advice on research, management plans, policies, and legislation affecting conservation and development on the Yukon North Slope. The Council has been involved in the following initiatives over the past year:

- Participation in annual meetings for the management of polar bear, including a meeting of commissioners under the Inuvialuit-İñupiat Polar Bear Agreement, the Polar Bear Technical Committee, and the Polar Bear Administrative Committee.
- Participation in Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting.
- Addressing matters related to screening of developments on the North Slope by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee.
- Supporting review and development of a refreshed ISR-wide harvest study.
- Participation in federal *Species at Risk Act* by reviewing status reports and draft recovery documents, including engagement in the development of a federal wolverine management plan.
- WMAC (NS) led a joint submission with ISR partners on the Bureau of Land Management’s Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for oil and gas drilling in the 1002 lands of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

## **Working Together**

WMAC (NS) continues to work with its partners toward the conservation of wildlife, habitat, and traditional Inuvialuit use on the Yukon North Slope. Co-management demands a high degree of collaboration and our Council works hard every year to nurture partnerships in the region.

### **Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee**

WMAC (NS) works closely with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) to ensure the harvesting needs and wildlife concerns of the Aklavik Inuvialuit are addressed in the Council’s decisions. Through meetings with the Aklavik HTC, WMAC (NS) has provided information and shared ideas on wildlife management on the Yukon North Slope.

### **Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)**

Like WMAC (NS), the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories) was established under the IFA. It has a mandate to “to conserve and protect wildlife, habitat and traditional Inuvialuit use” in the NWT portion of the ISR. The two councils work together on matters related to the management of

transboundary species such as polar bear, grizzly bear, and caribou. Maintaining a close relationship helps to create strong, informed, and integrated management decisions across territorial boundaries.

### **Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park**

WMAC (NS) works with Yukon Government, Parks Branch on wildlife research, management, and ecological monitoring in Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park.



### **Parks Canada and Ivvavik National Park**

WMAC (NS) works with the Parks Canada Western Arctic Field Unit on wildlife research, management and ecological monitoring in Ivvavik National Park.

## **Sharing Information**

The WMAC (NS) website includes information about the North Slope, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and the Council. WMAC (NS) continually updates the site with all of its publications, meeting minutes, and other relevant information. Visit the website at [www.wmacns.ca](http://www.wmacns.ca). Our Facebook page and Instagram (@wmacns) are also great ways to connect with us.

## **Meetings**

### **Council Meetings**

- Summer Meeting (Inuvik) – July 6-9, 2023
- Fall Meeting (Whitehorse) – September 12-14, 2023
- Winter Meeting (Aklavik) – December 12-14, 2023
- Spring Meeting (Whitehorse) – March 25-27, 2024

### **Other Meetings**

- April 8, 2023 – Community Meet and Greet in Aklavik
- May 8-12, 2023 – Arctic Ungulate Conference (Alaska)
- June 14-15, 2023 – IGC Meeting (Paulatuk)
- July 12-13, 2023 – Joint Secretariat Board Meeting (Inuvik)
- August 15-16, 2023 – Inuvialuit-Inupiat Joint Commission for Polar Bear
- September 27-28, 2023 – IGC Meeting (Whitehorse)
- October 17-18, 2023 – Joint Secretariat Board Meeting (Inuvik)
- October 30 to November 2, 2023 – Polar Bear Range States
- November 29-30, 2023 – IGC Meeting (Inuvik)
- December 13, 2023 – HTC and WMAC Joint Meeting
- December 14, 2023 – Aklavik Community Lunch
- February 4-7, 2024 – Polar Bear Technical Committee
- February 11-12, 2024 – Porcupine Caribou Knowledge Hub Gathering
- February 13, 2024 – Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting
- March 4-5, 2024 – IGC Meeting (Aklavik)

## **Council Membership**

### **Members**

**Billy Storr**

Inuvialuit Game Council

**Dean Arey/Carol Oyagak**

Inuvialuit Game Council

**Marc Cattet**

Yukon Government

**Colleen Arnison/Dan Rafla**

Government of Canada

### **Alternates**

**Evelyn Storr**

Inuvialuit Game Council

**Michelle Gruben**

Inuvialuit Game Council

**Catherine Pinard**

Yukon Government

**Craig Machtans**

Government of Canada

### **Council Chair and Staff**

**Jennifer Smith**

Chair

**Staff**

Allison Thompson, Jessi Pascal, Ryan Durack, Stephanie Muckenheim, Kaitlin Wilson

### **Supporting Technical Associates**

**Mike Suitor**

North Slope and Migratory Caribou Biologist - Yukon Government

**Jaylene Goorts**

North Slope Project Biologist - Yukon Government