

on the population. Each caribou killed reduces the number of caribou that are available to breed, diminishing the ability of the population to recover.

Apart from the natural cycle, Baffin Island caribou are facing additional pressures with more sophisticated hunting techniques and equipment. In addition increased human populations, infrastructure and other human activity may be having a negative effect.

The Interim Moratorium

Q: What does this interim moratorium mean?

A: It means as of January 1, 2015, there will be no hunting of Baffin Island caribou until further notice.

Q: How will this be enforced?

A: Conservation officers in Nunavut are working closely with community HTOs to monitor the situation. Protecting and preserving the Baffin Island caribou is a shared responsibility of all communities. As of January 1, 2015, hunting caribou on Baffin Island may result in an investigation that could lead to fines and/or charges.

Q: How long will this be in place? What are the next steps?

A: The purpose of the interim moratorium is to protect the existing herd and enable them to repopulate over time. There is no immediate solution to this situation. It is unknown how long it will take to reach a sustainable Baffin Island caribou population. The next step is for the NWMB to have a public hearing in the spring of 2015 to determine recommendations to make to the Minister of Environment about harvesting limitations.

Q: Why wasn't this implemented sooner?

A: The co-management process is a long, complex process with many stakeholders. Reliable data through a number of aerial surveys was necessary for all partners to move forward. There were lengthy consultations and endorsement was required by all co-managers. In November 2014, all of the co-management partners, including HTO representatives from all 10 Baffin Island communities, came together to discuss the results and determine options for long-term management.

Social Impact

Q: What does this interim moratorium mean for Inuit culture?

A: This is short-term pain for long-term gain. This interim moratorium allows us to preserve Baffin Island caribou for future generations.

The interim moratorium will probably impact the transfer of traditional knowledge about caribou on Baffin Island.

If we do not stop hunting now, the effects will be permanent. There will be no more caribou on Baffin Island, and Inuit culture will be even more impacted.

Q: I earn a living from hunting. Will the GN compensate this loss of income?

A: There is no monetary compensation for loss of income due to the interim moratorium. The reality is, Baffin Island communities have already experienced low caribou numbers in recent years and access to caribou has been extremely challenging.

There are programs already in place to support accessibility to country food. Northern airlines also apply subsidies to ship country food between regions.

Q: How does the interim moratorium affect access to country food?

A: There have been very few caribou in recent years to provide meaningful sustenance for more than a handful of people on Baffin Island. Access to country food is important to Nunavummiut and that is why communities must share the responsibility in protecting the Baffin Island caribou and allowing them to repopulate. A comprehensive long-term management plan will be developed so access Baffin Island caribou is available in a sustainable way.

Food security is a much broader issue than the interim moratorium, and the GN is committed to viable long-term solutions through the Nunavut Food Security Coalition.