

Oh Canada . . .

The declining conservation status of Canada's caribou

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Assigning status

- In 2011, caribou divided into 12 recognizable units belonging to sub-species level (Designatable Units; DU) based on evolutionary attributes.
- Status assignment based on rate of decline over three generations; distribution, etc.
- If COSEWIC designation leads to listing under 2003 *Species At Risk Act*, then recovery planning is required for Threatened and Extinct species.

Summary

- By 2017, COSEWIC had assigned all 12 of Canada's caribou DUs.
- Currently, only 6 caribou DUs listed under *Species At Risk Act*; listing often takes time as involves socio-economic assessment and extensive consultation.
- Since being listed under the *Species At Risk Act*, only Peary caribou have been re-assessed as improved status, three re-assessments did not change, and two were up-listed to Endangered were assessed for the first time.

Figure 1. Map showing declining status from 2002 to 2017

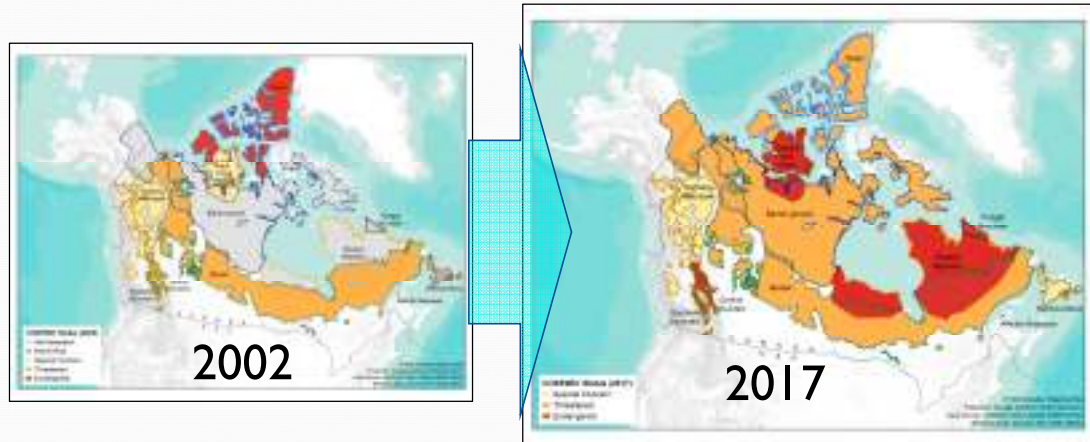


Table 1. Changes in status assigned during periodic reviews (www.cosewic.gc.ca)

	Current	1979	1984	1991	2000	2002	2004	2014	2015	2016	2017
1. Peary	Not At Risk										
2. Dolphin & Union	Special Concern										
3. Barren-ground	Threatened										
4. Eastern Migratory	Threatened										
5. Newfoundland	Special Concern										
6. Boreal	Threatened										
7. Northern Mountain	Special Concern										
8. Central Mountain	Threatened										
9. Southern Mountain	Threatened										
10. Torngat Mountains	Threatened										
11. Atlantic-Gaspésie	Threatened										
12. Dawson's Caribou	Extinct										



Northern Mountain caribou photo Dayn Craig



Barren-Ground caribou photo A. Gunn



Peary caribou photo Paul Nicklen