

September 8, 2017

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**Re: Fish, Wildlife & Tłìchò Knowledge Questions – EA1617-01: Tłìchò All-Season Road**

Simon:

As a follow-up to the Tłìchò All-Season Road (TASR) technical sessions, held August 15-17, 2017 in Behchokò, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) has some outstanding questions related to fish, wildlife and Tłìchò knowledge for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). As per their letter, dated September 6, 2017, the GNWT is aware of the additional questions to be submitted by the WRRB, and have committed to responding to the questions in a similar fashion to the North Slave Métis Alliance questions that were submitted on July 14, 2017. Also, the GNWT and the Board are scheduled to meet on September 11, 2017 to discuss the Board's questions, and items related to scheduling.

In addition to the questions submitted, the WRRB would like to provide three documents for posting to the MVEIRB Public Registry for EA1617-01: Tłìchò All-Season Road. The first two documents include Tłìchò knowledge about tòdzì (boreal caribou) and their habitat, while the third document includes Tłìchò knowledge about ækwò (barren-ground caribou) and their habitat:

- 1) *Boreal Caribou Habitat and Habitat Use in Wek'èezhì* (2012);
- 2) *Boreal Caribou Habitat and Disturbance in Wek'èezhì* (2013); and,
- 3) *Caribou Migration and the State of Their Habitat* (2001).

The WRRB looks forward to continued opportunities to provide meaningful input for the TASR. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or [jpellissey@wrrb.ca](mailto:jpellissey@wrrb.ca).

Sincerely,



J. Grant Pryznyk  
Chair

Cc Michael Conway, Superintendent, Infrastructure, GNWT  
Jessica, A/Manager, Culture and Lands Protection, Tłìchò Government

## WRRB Questions for GNWT

### Topic: Fisheries Yield & Harvest Pressure

- 1) In the Adequacy Statement<sup>1</sup>, walleye is identified as a species present in Lac La Martre. Is there a yield model estimate available for walleye that could be applied to Lac La Martre?
- 2) Is the population (or yield) of walleye in Lac La Martre likely to be lower than the yield of lake trout currently estimated by Golder as ranging between 23,108 - 63,000 kg?
- 3) Could difference in population size (or yield) between lake trout and walleye mean one species might be more sensitive to fishing pressure?
- 4) In the technical sessions of 16 August, 2017<sup>2</sup>, Golder provided an estimate that an additional 14,000 recreational anglers could be supported on Lac La Martre. This was estimated, the WRRB assumes, using the Payne et al (1990)<sup>3</sup> model for lake trout of 63,000 kg. Is there an estimate of additional recreational anglers that could be supported on Lac La Martre using a walleye yield model?
- 5) Should the Evans et al (1991)<sup>4</sup> model yield estimate for lake trout be used instead, how many additional lake trout recreational anglers are estimated that could be supported on Lac La Martre?
- 6) Golder has estimated yield of lake trout in Lac La Martre using two models, namely that of Evans et al (1991) - 23,108 kg, and Payne et al (1990) - 63,000 kg. Golder has further estimated that harvest of lake trout on Lac La Martre, could sustain an additional 14,000 fishers. Do you believe that uncertainty around yield, recreational fishing harvest pressure, and reaction of fish stocks to increased fishing may require monitoring fish yield, fish harvest, or fishing effort in Lac La Martre after construction of TASR?

### Topic: Fish & Fish Habitat Monitoring

- 1) TG's traditional knowledge (TK) report "*K'àgòdò t̃l̃h̃ Deè Traditional Knowledge Study*

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<sup>1</sup> Section 3.1.6.2 - Fish Community [http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project\\_document/EA-1617-01\\_Developer\\_s\\_Adequacy\\_Statement\\_Response.PDF](http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA-1617-01_Developer_s_Adequacy_Statement_Response.PDF)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project\\_document/MVEIRB%20re%20TLICHO%20ALL%20SEASON%20RD%20%2008-16-2017.pdf](http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/MVEIRB%20re%20TLICHO%20ALL%20SEASON%20RD%20%2008-16-2017.pdf), page 133 of day 2 transcript.

<sup>3</sup> Payne, N.R., Korver, R.M., MacLennan, D.S., Nepszy, S.J., Shuter, B.J., Stewart, T.J., and Thomas, E.R. (1990) The harvest potential and dynamics of lake trout populations in Ontario. Lake Trout Synthesis Population Dynamics Working Group Report. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto, Ont.

<sup>4</sup> Evans, D.O, Casselman, J.M., Wilcox C.C. (1991) Effects of Exploitation, Loss of Nursery Habitat, and Stocking on the Dynamics and Productivity of Lake Trout Populations in Ontario Lakes. Lake Trout Synthesis. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto.

for the Proposed All-Season Road to Whatì”<sup>5</sup> was completed in 2014, the year of the large intense wildfires around Whatì. The report identifies the importance of fish to the people of Whatì – both in rivers and in lakes along the route of TASR. Given the possibility and proposed plans to increase tourism in the area, how will TK information about fish and low water levels since the fires be updated?

- 2) How will monitoring be conducted using Tłıchq harvesters’ traditional methods to monitor the health of fish and the state of their habitat during and after the completion of the TASR?

**Topic: Fisheries Management Responsibilities**

- 1) In response to MVERIB IR#8<sup>6</sup>, the GNWT highlights that it will continue to enforce the sport fishing regulations in the Northwest Territories, and that GNWT is cross-appointed to enforce sport fishing regulations. GNWT describes that “*The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is the management authority for fish in the NWT*”. Also, GNWT indicates that “*It is also anticipated that the Tłıchq Government (TG) will further manage the fisheries on Tłıchq lands*”. Should DFO and TG wish to change the management of fisheries in the waterscapes near TASR (i.e. special management areas, catch limits, size slots, seasons, closures, etc.), would the GNWT wish to be party to fisheries management discussions with DFO and TG, or would GNWT simply wish to be informed of resulting regulation changes in order to adjust GNWT licenses, fees, and enforcement criteria as prescribed by DFO and TG?

**Topic: Wildlife – Tòdzı (Boreal Caribou) & ʔekwò (Barren-ground Caribou)**

- 1) As reported in the WRRB’s “*Boreal Caribou Habitat and Habitat Use in Wek’èezhì*” (2012)<sup>7</sup>, and “*Boreal Caribou Habitat and Disturbance in Wek’èezhì*” (2013)<sup>8</sup>, the Tłıchq elders’ main concern in relation to tòdzı is protection of their range, as there are a variety of habitat types tòdzı use daily and seasonally. These habitat types are associated with topography as well as vegetation. Since the mid-nineties, Tłıchq elders and harvesters have focused their concerns on the loss of habitat from forest fire, noting tòdzı move to find appropriate forage and the habitat types they use for calving, rutting, avoiding predators and insects, etc. Similarly, indigenous people in southern Canada have emphasized the movement of boreal caribou to areas with continuous thick bush following forest fires, and industrial and infrastructure developments.<sup>9</sup> How will monitoring be conducted using Tłıchq harvesters’ traditional methods to monitor the health of tòdzı and the state of their habitat during and after the completion of the TASR?

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project\\_document/EA-1617-01 Traditional Knowledge Study Report - May 16 16.PDF](http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA-1617-01%20Traditional%20Knowledge%20Study%20Report%20-%20May%2016%2016.PDF)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project\\_document/EA-1617-01 The developer s response to Review Board IRs 8 and 14.PDF](http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA-1617-01%20The%20developer%20s%20response%20to%20Review%20Board%20IRs%208%20and%2014.PDF)

<sup>7</sup> [http://wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/Boreal%20Caribou%20in%20Wekeezhii%20FINAL%20REPORT%2015may2012\\_0.pdf](http://wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/Boreal%20Caribou%20in%20Wekeezhii%20FINAL%20REPORT%2015may2012_0.pdf) (to be added to TASR Public Registry)

<sup>8</sup> [http://wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/Boreal%20Caribou%20in%20Wekeezhii%20FINAL%20REPORT%2003may13\\_0\\_0.pdf](http://wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/Boreal%20Caribou%20in%20Wekeezhii%20FINAL%20REPORT%2003may13_0_0.pdf) (to be added to TASR Public Registry)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

- 2) As reported in “*Caribou Migration and the State of Their Habitat*” (2001)<sup>10</sup>, between 1925 and 1998, ʔekwò harvest was reported in the vicinity of the TASR during the winters of 1946, 1948, 1949, 1965, 1967, 1970, and 1971, with more than 40 years of ʔekwò harvest being reported in the vicinity of Fortune Mineral’s proposed NICO mine site. As such, Tłıchq̓ harvesters and elders are concerned for the winter range of ʔekwò. Given the importance of long term monitoring of ʔekwò winter habitat, how will monitoring be conducted using Tłıchq̓ harvesters’ traditional methods to monitor the state of ʔekwò winter habitat?

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<sup>10</sup> [http://wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/Caribou%20Migration%20and%20State%20of%20their%20Habitat!%202001\\_1.pdf](http://wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/Caribou%20Migration%20and%20State%20of%20their%20Habitat!%202001_1.pdf) (to be added to the TASR Public Registry)