

Census Results for Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, and Cape Bathurst Barren-ground Caribou Herds, July 2006

Sahtu Renewable Resources Board

Tulita

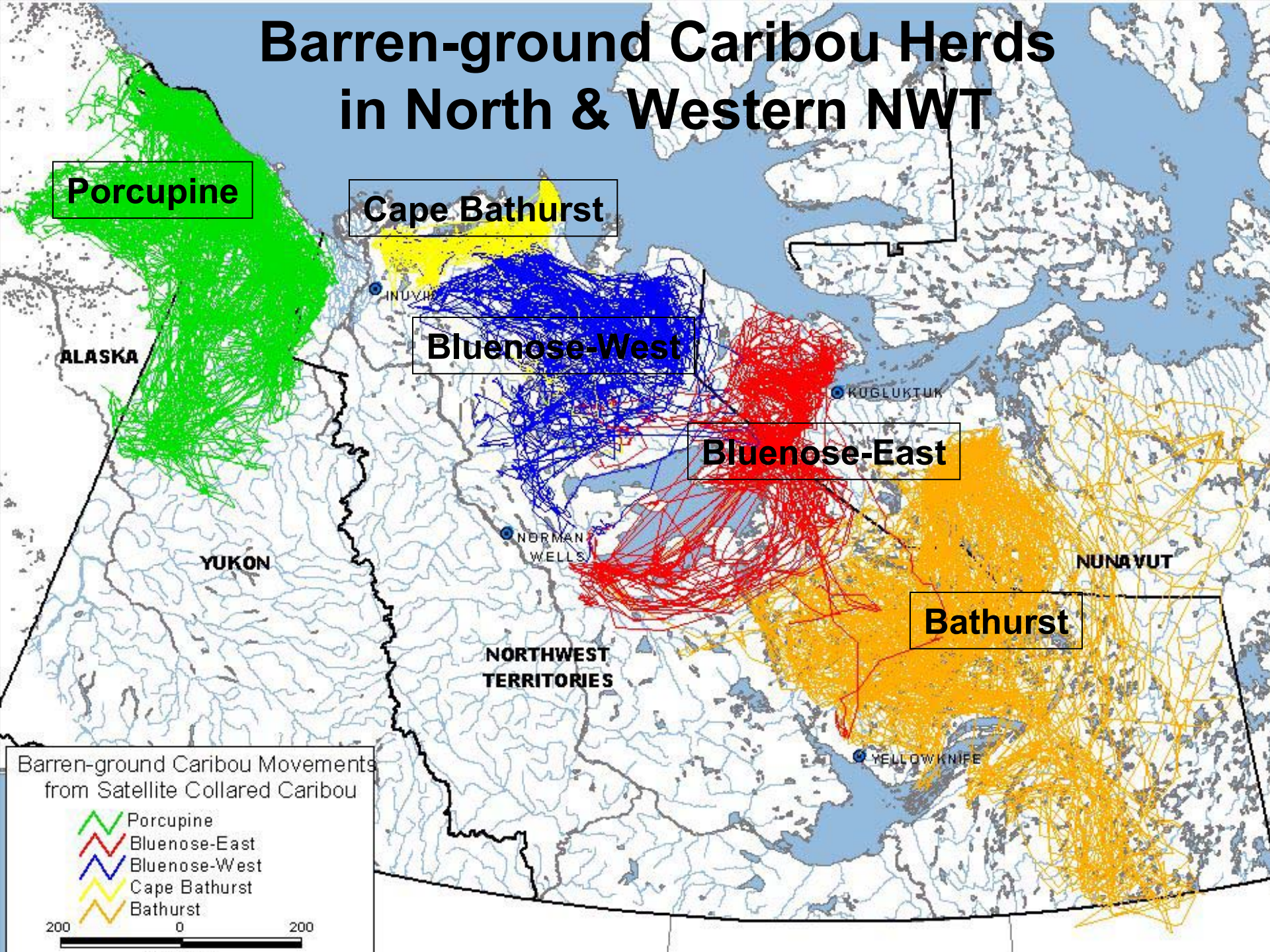
20 Sep 2006

John Nagy, Alasdair Veitch, &
Boyan Tracz, ENR, GNWT

Mathieu Dumond, Dept. of Environment
Gov't of Nunavut



Barren-ground Caribou Herds in North & Western NWT



Population Trends: 1987-2005

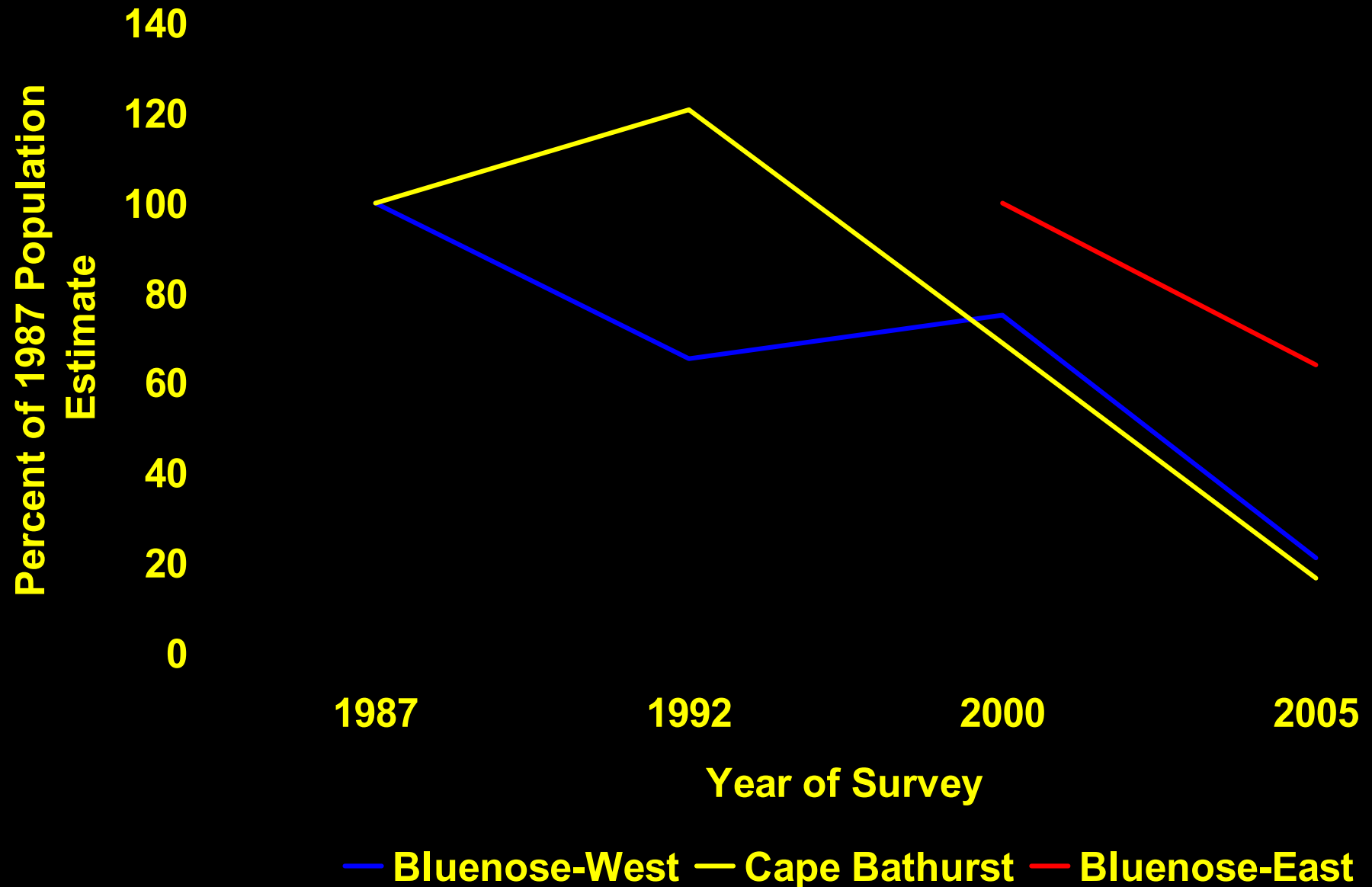
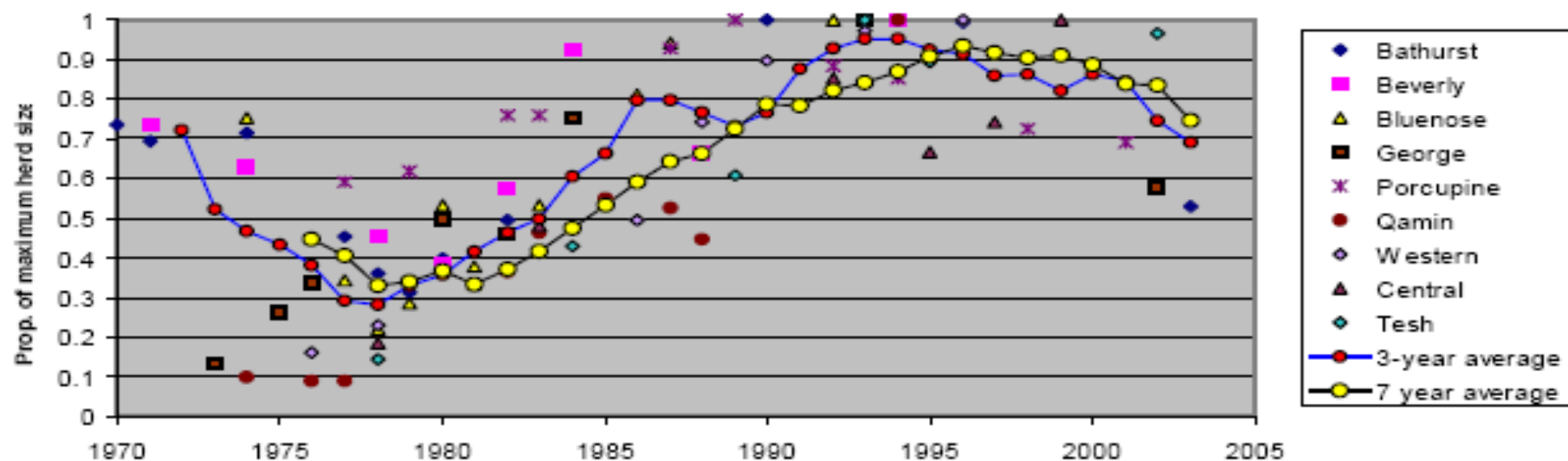
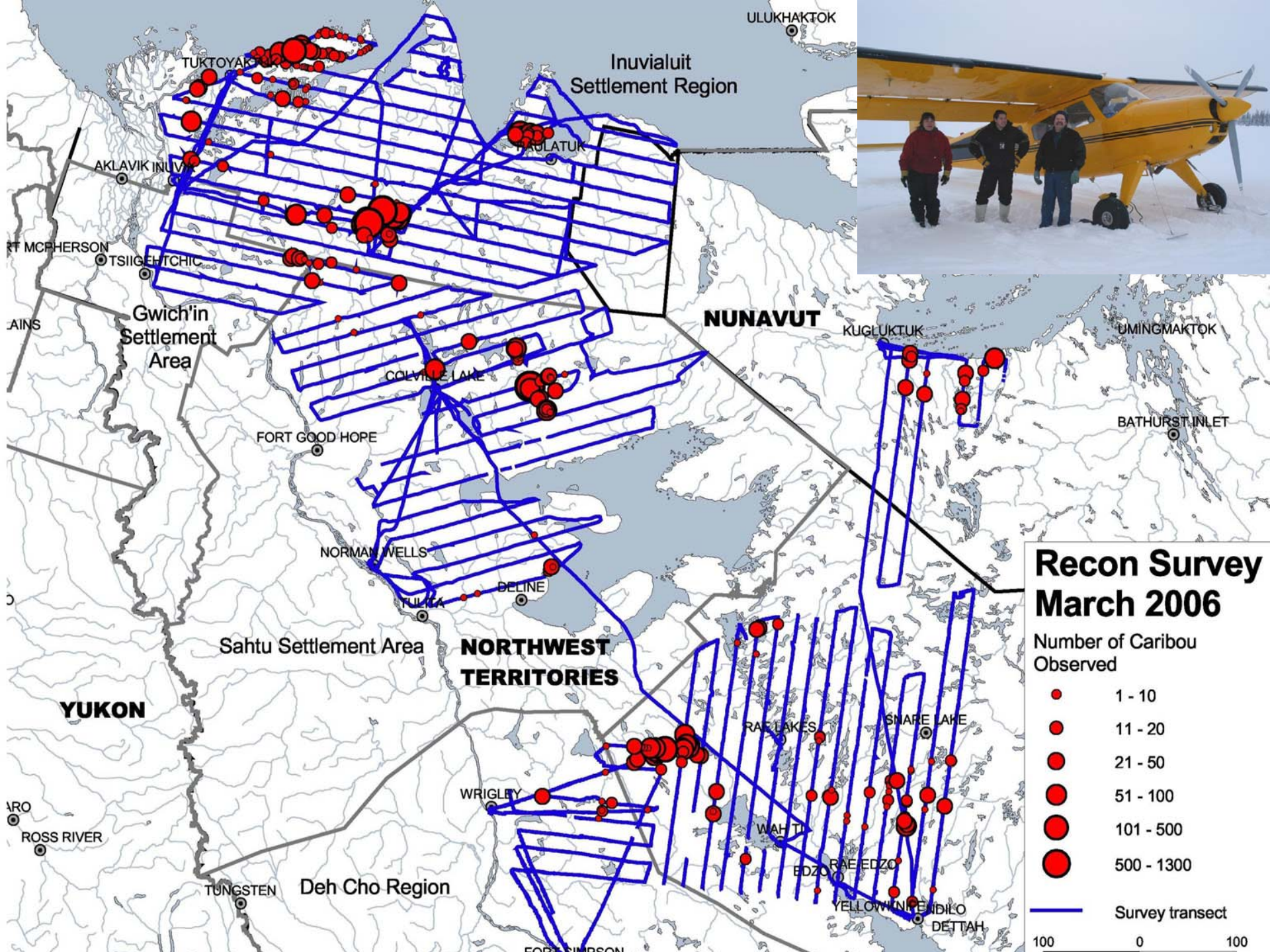


Figure 2.1. Relative sizes of North American migratory caribou, 1970 – 2003.



Pre-Collaring Aerial Surveys March 2006





Radiocollar Deployment and Response of Caribou to Capture





**Capture and collaring
18 Mar - 1 Apr 2006**

Capture Crews – Inuvik and Sahtu



Number of Caribou Captured

Total = 85
(43 F and 42 M)



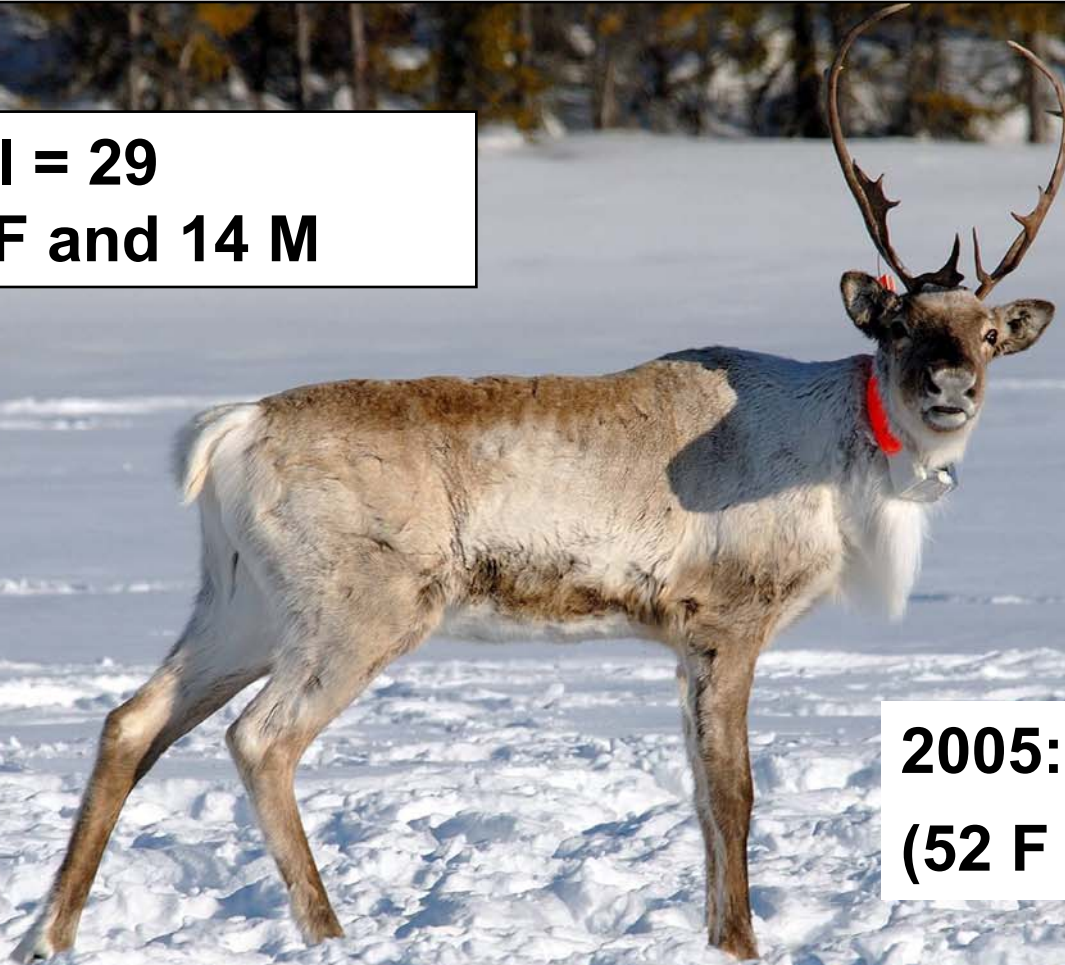
Cape Bathurst

Total = 30
(15 F and 15 M)



Bluenose-West

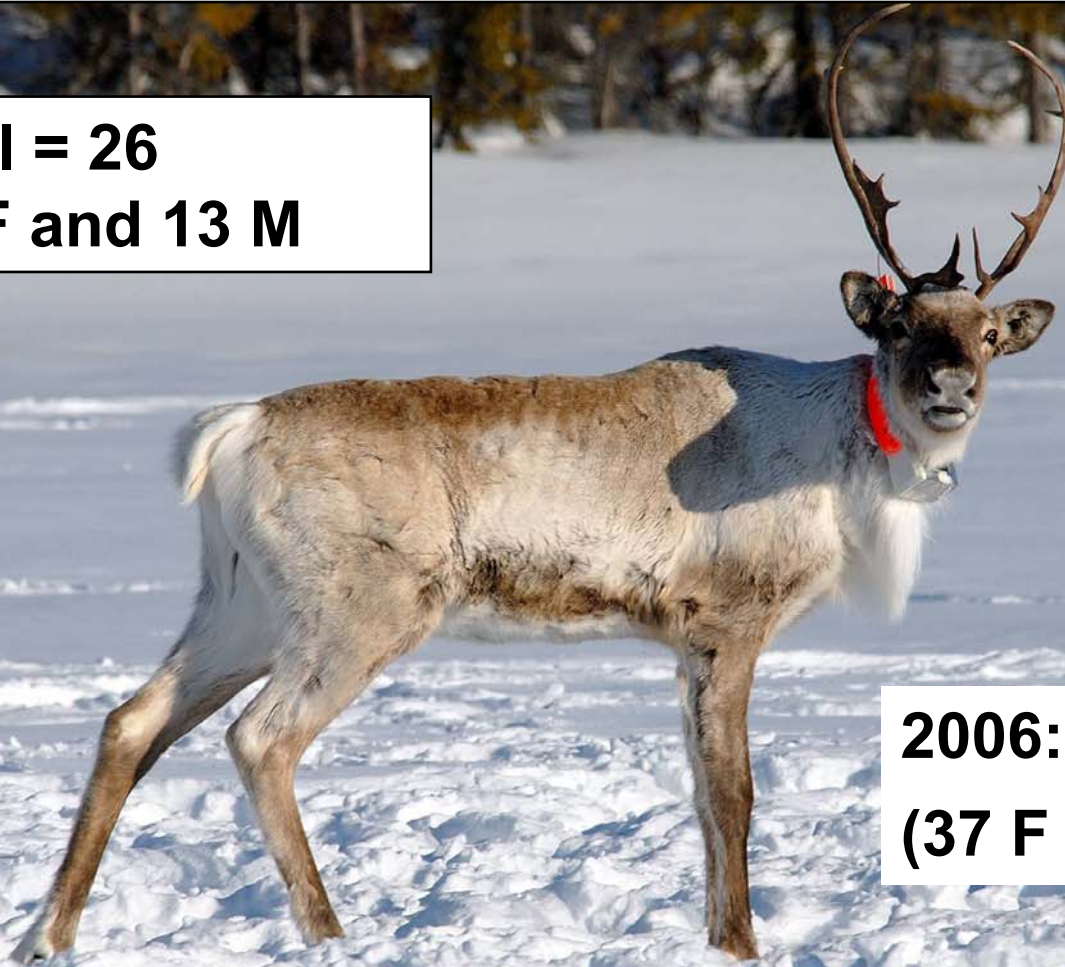
**Total = 29
(15 F and 14 M**



**2005: 70 collared
(52 F and 18 M)**

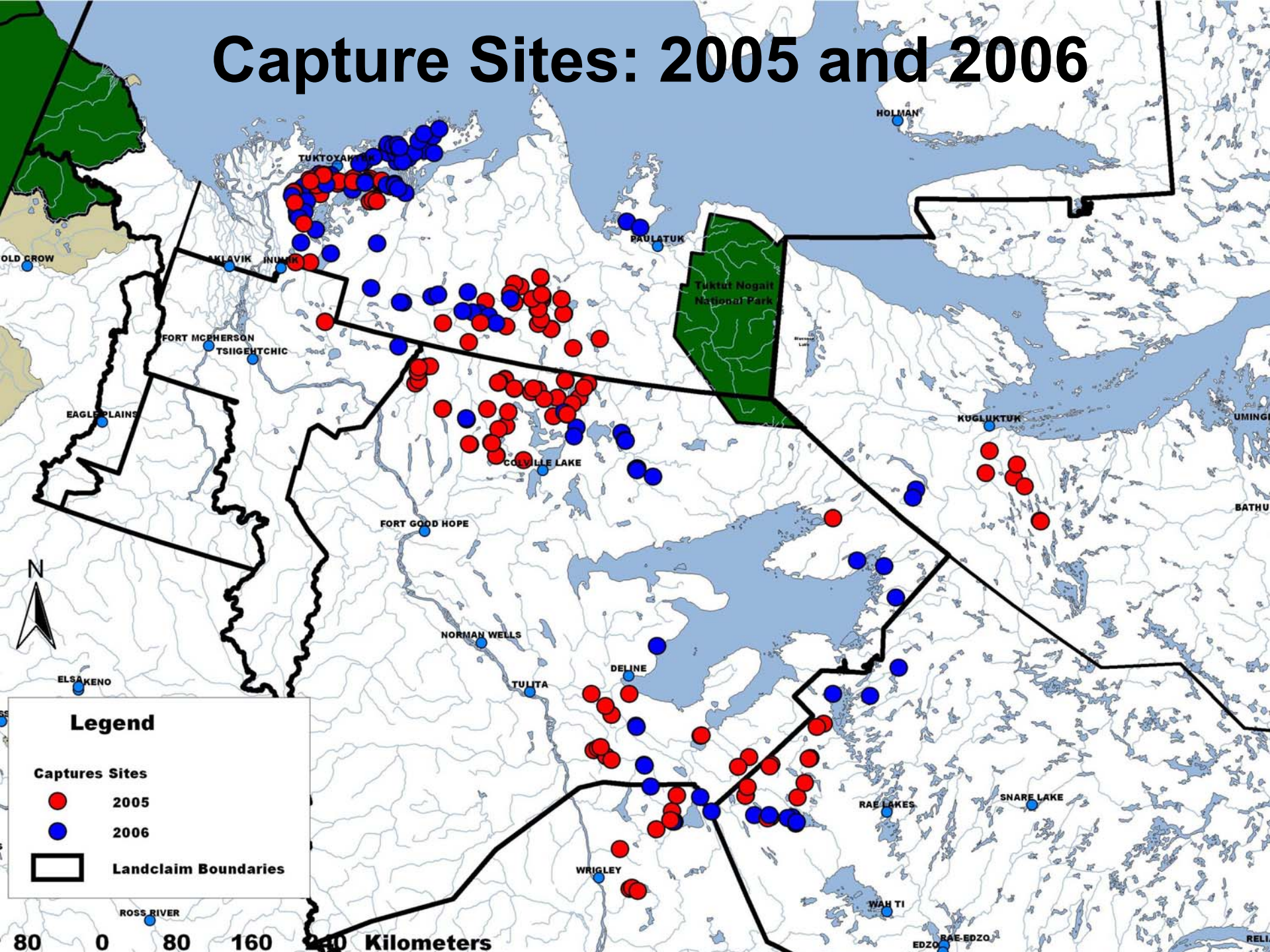
Bluenose-East

**Total = 26
(13 F and 13 M)**



**2006: 50 collared
(37 F and 13 M)**

Capture Sites: 2005 and 2006



Response to Capture









How did we track the radiocollared caribou?



We flew surveys in late June:

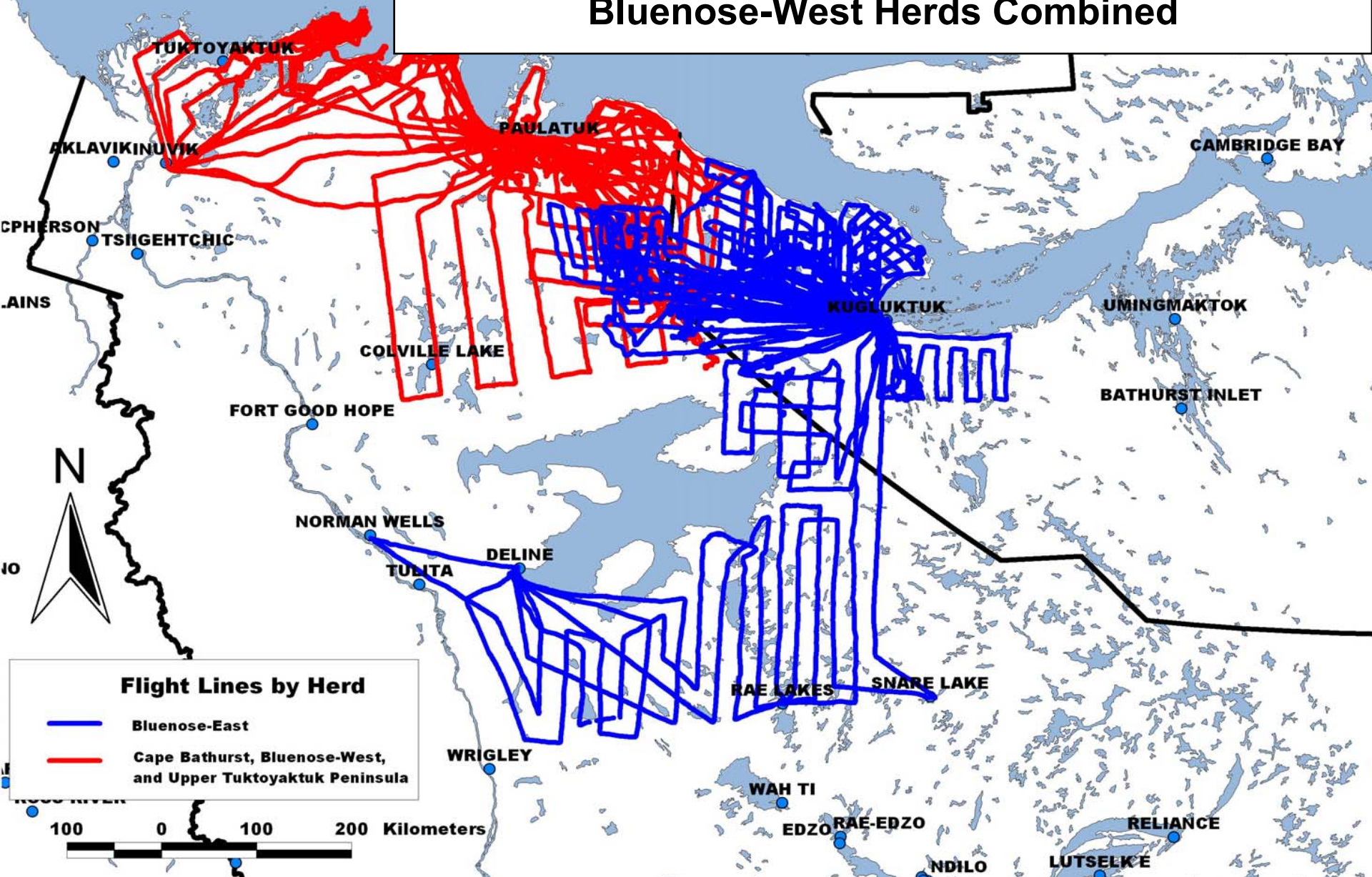


- **to locate and verify the status of all collared caribou.
these are the collars available for the photocensus**
- **to monitor movements of caribou with VHF collars**
- **to find out when we had good groups for photography**

**Movements of satellite collared caribou by email
to crews in Paulatuk & Kugluktuk**

Flight Lines: 2006

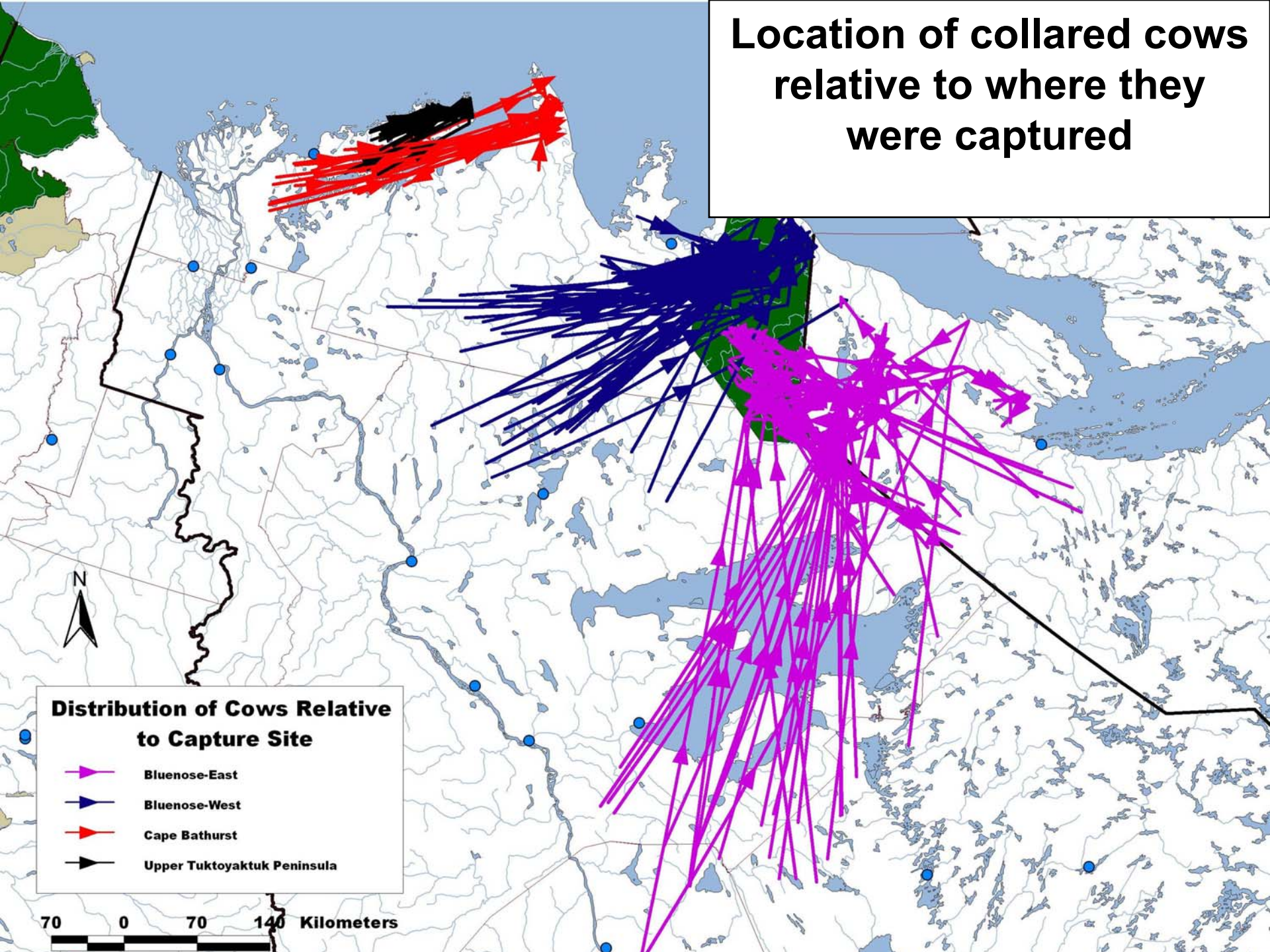
Cape Bathurst, Tuk Peninsula, Bluenose-East, & Bluenose-West Herds Combined



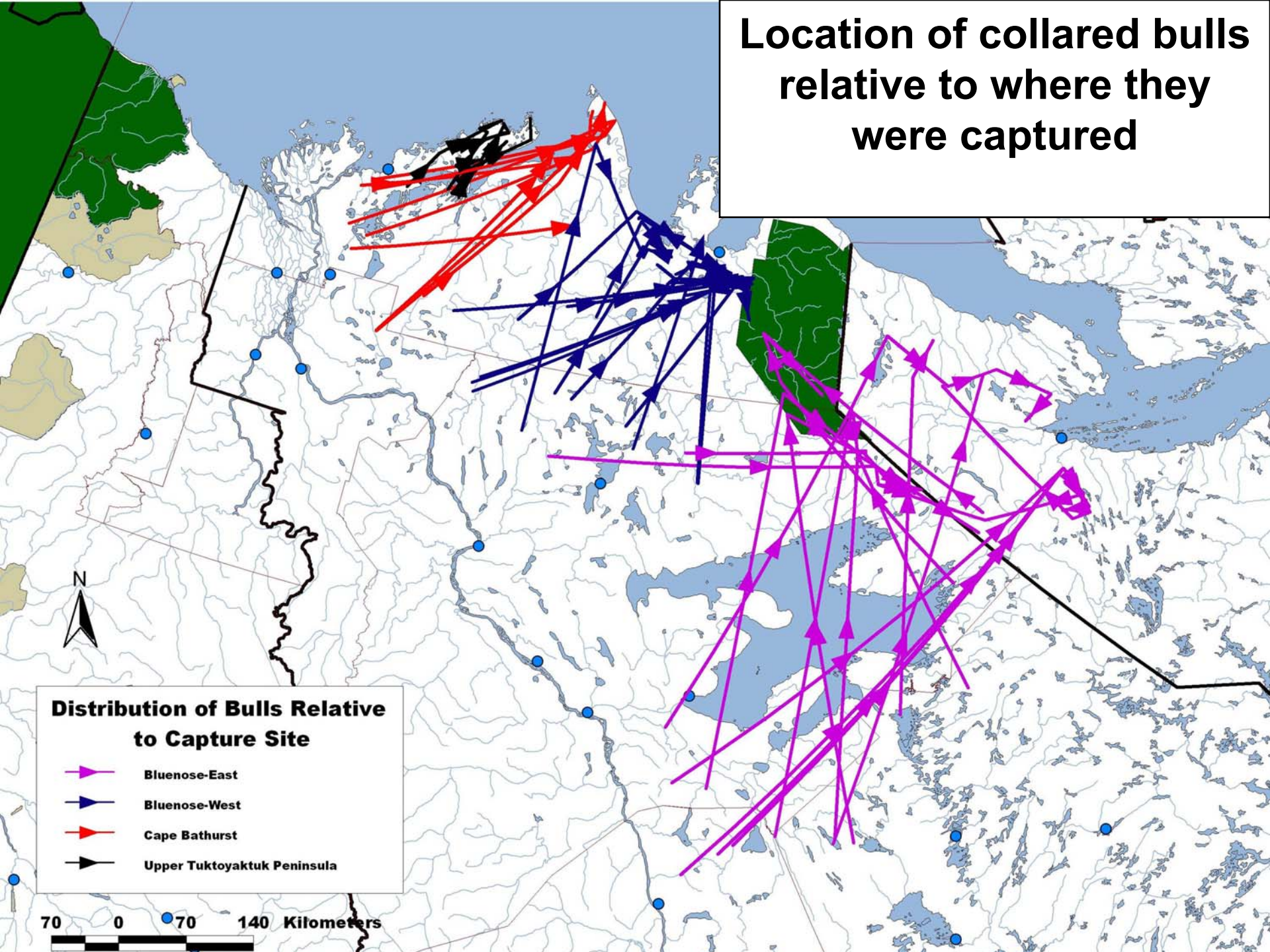
**Where did we find the
collared caribou?**



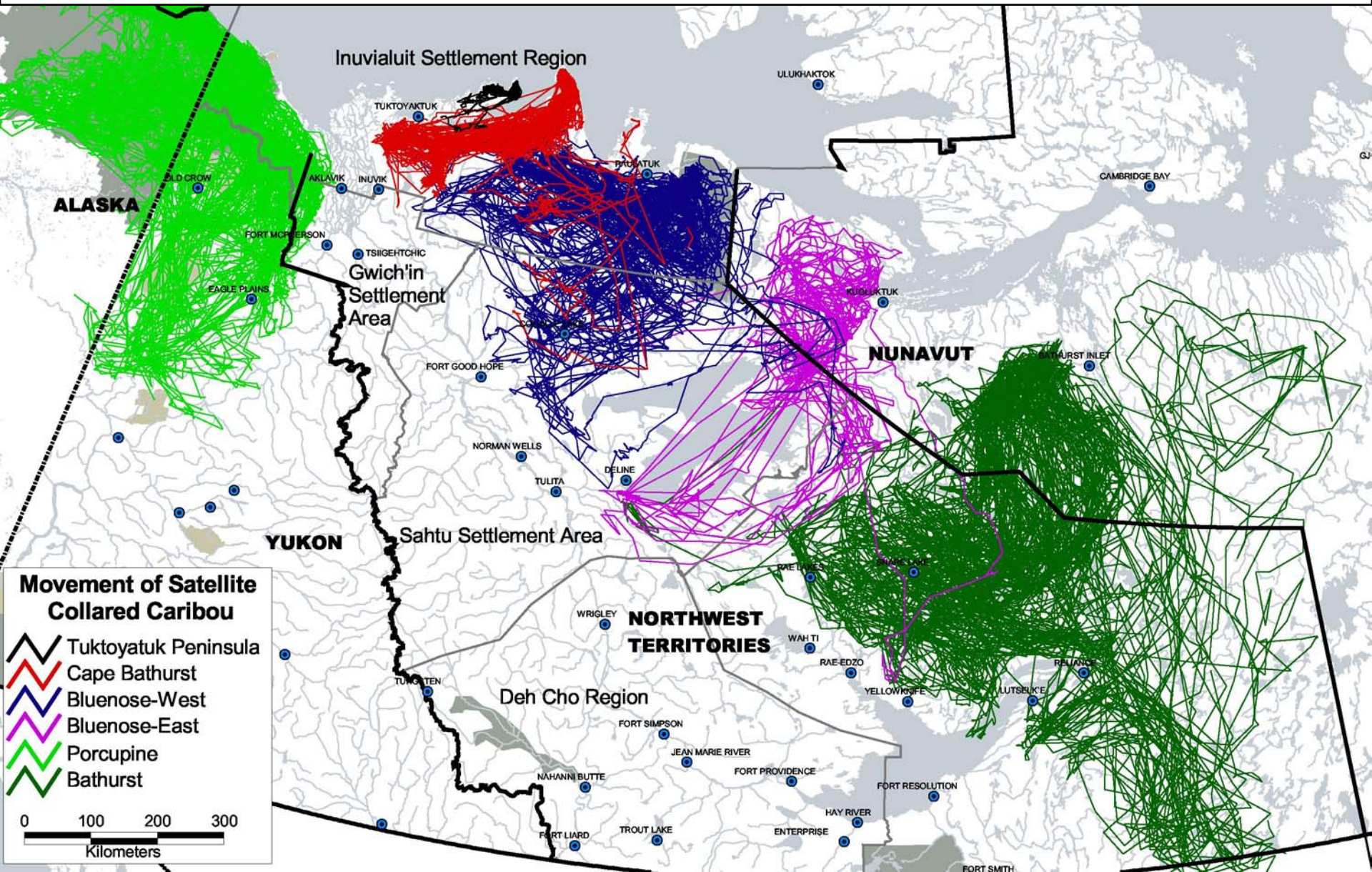
Location of collared cows relative to where they were captured



Location of collared bulls relative to where they were captured



Distribution of Satellite Collared Cows by Herd (Alaska, NWT, Nunavut)



When and Where we Photographed the Herds



- **Bluenose-East**

- June 22; 5, 8-13 July

- **Bluenose-West:**

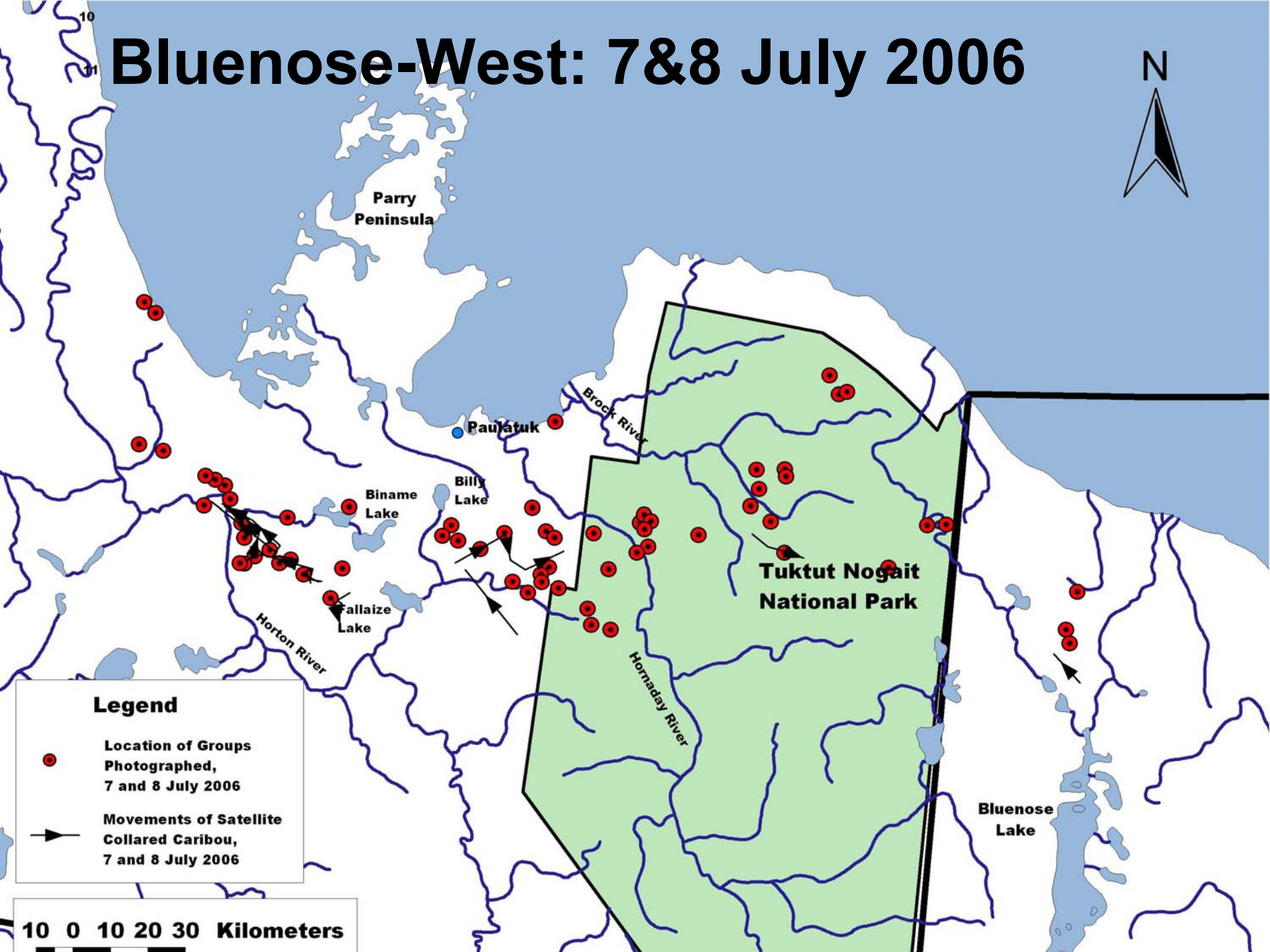
- 4, 7, & 8 July

- **Cape Bathurst:**

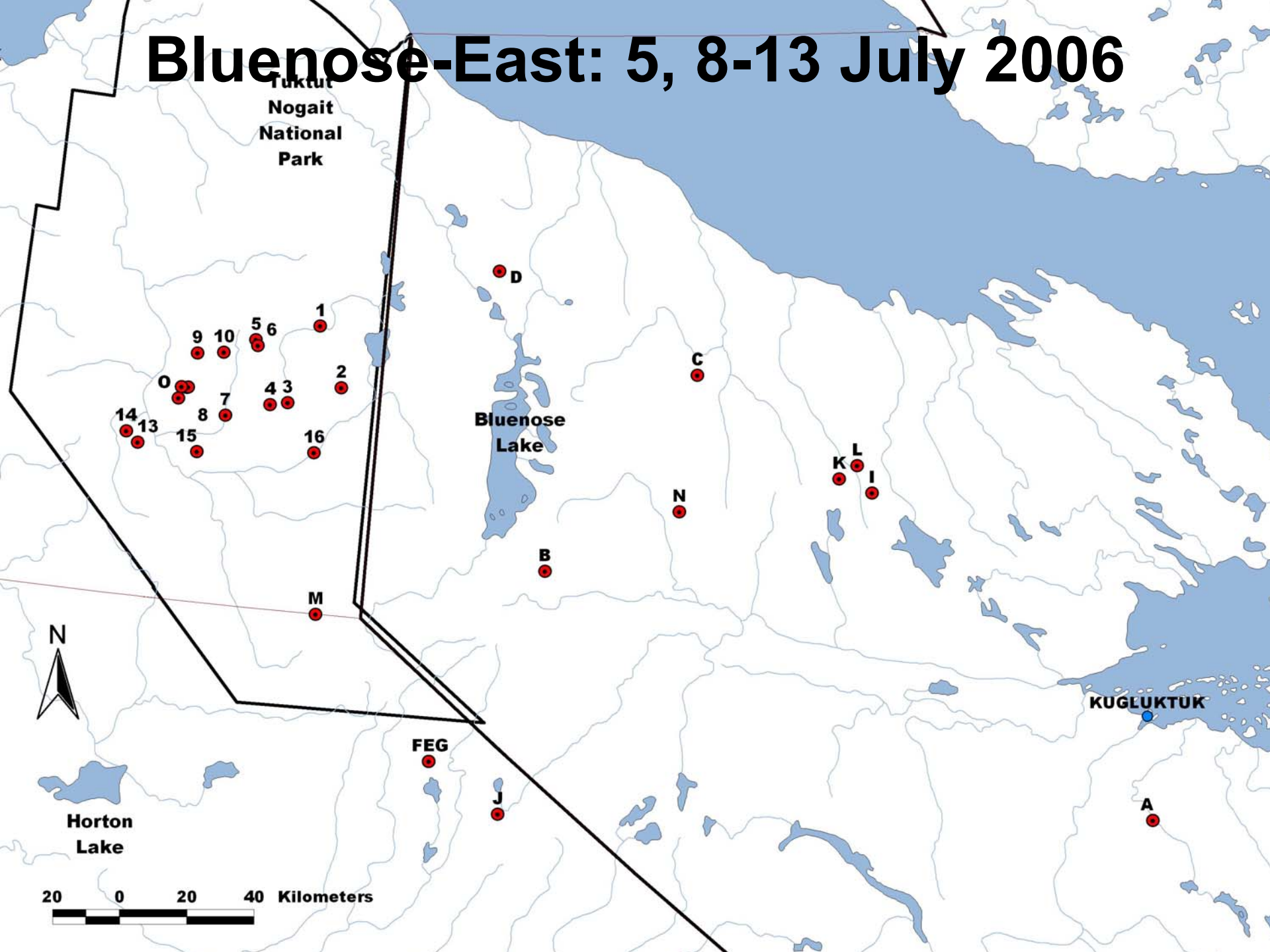
- 6, 9, & 13 July



Bluenose-West: 7&8 July 2006



Bluenose-East: 5, 8-13 July 2006



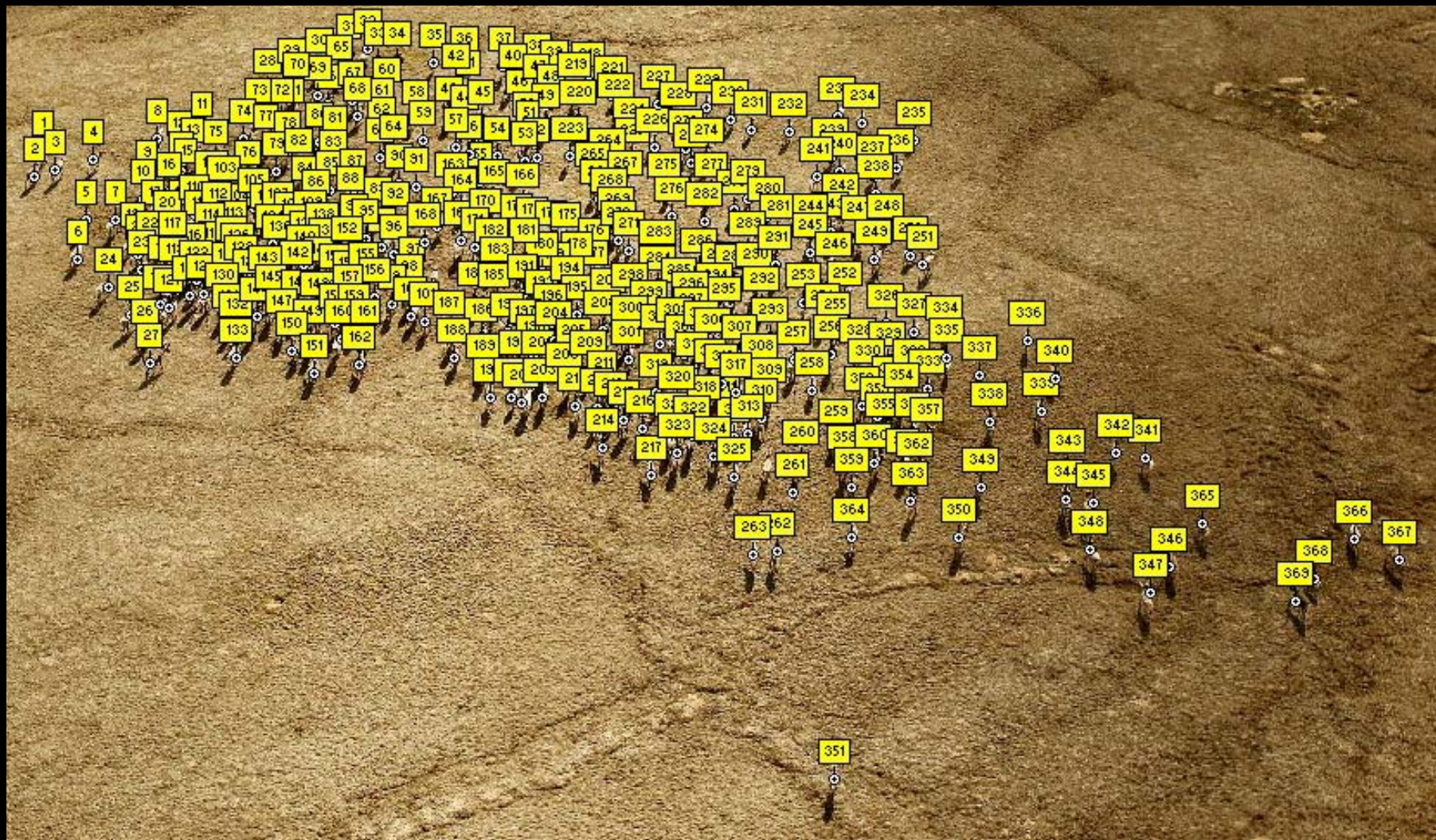
How Caribou Were Counted on the Photographs



A computer was used to count caribou on photos



Until all the caribou were counted





2056 non-calf; 857 calf = 2913



3028 non-calf; 947 calf = 3975



173 non-calf; 88 calf = 261



384 non-calf; 4 calf = 388



Photocensus Results



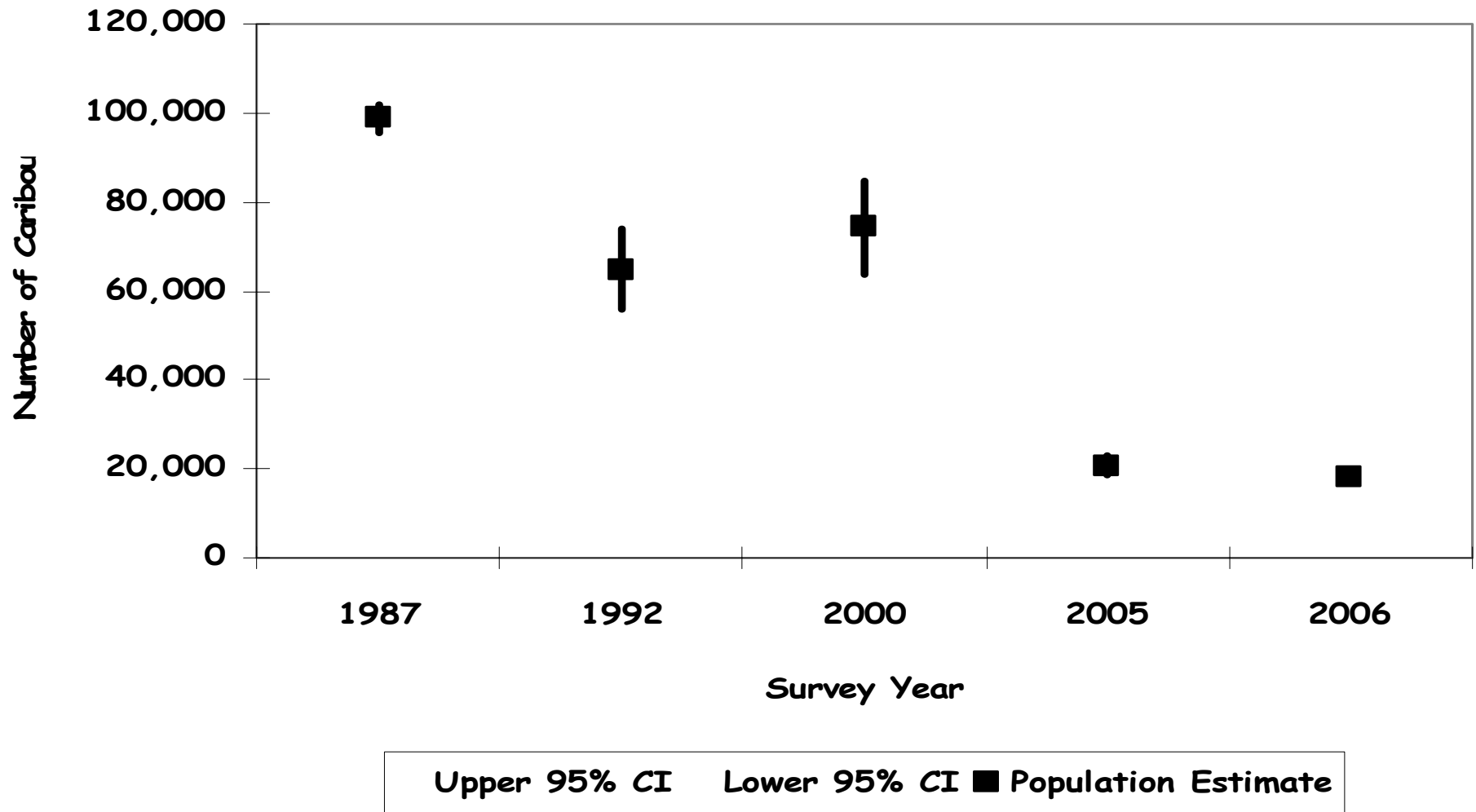
Best estimate for the Bluenose-West herd in July 2006 (not including calves)

18,050 (range 17,523 to 18,577)

65 of 66 radiocollars
used to generate
estimate



Population Trend for the Bluenose-West Herd (Non-Calf): 1987-2006



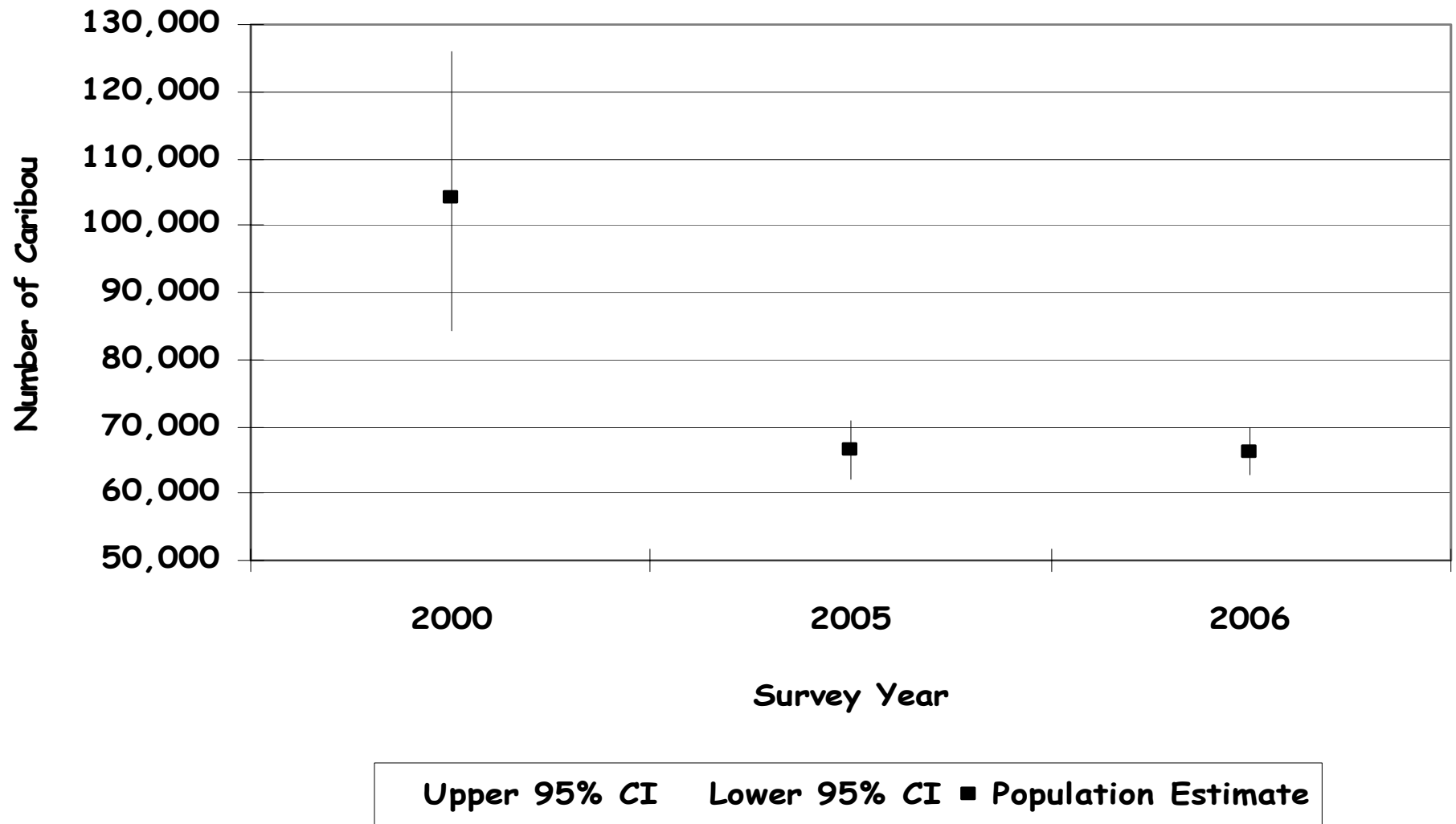
Best estimate for the Bluenose East herd in July 2006 (not including calves)

66,186 (range 62,625 to 69,747)

49 of 51 radiocollars
used to generate
estimate



Population Trend for the Bluenose-East Herd: 2000-2006



Best estimate for the Cape Bathurst herd in July 2006 (not including calves)

1,821 (range 1,672 to 1,970)

31 of 33 radiocollars
used to generate
estimate



Population Trend for the Cape Bathurst Herd (Non-Calf): 1987-2006





Summary

- **The Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds were significantly lower in 2006 than in 2005**
- **The Bluenose-East herd was not significantly lower this year**
- **A further decline of the Cape Bathurst herd is expected due to the small number of calves observed in July 2006**
- **Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East herds appear to be in better shape; however, recruitment needs to be maximized during the next few years to recover numbers**

**55,600 breeding females on
Bathurst calving ground
in June 2006**

**Down from 203,800 breeding females
in June 1986 = 5% decline per year**

**2006 total herd
estimate of 128,000**



Estimated Size of Barren-ground Caribou Herds in the NWT, July 2006

105,000
(July 2001)

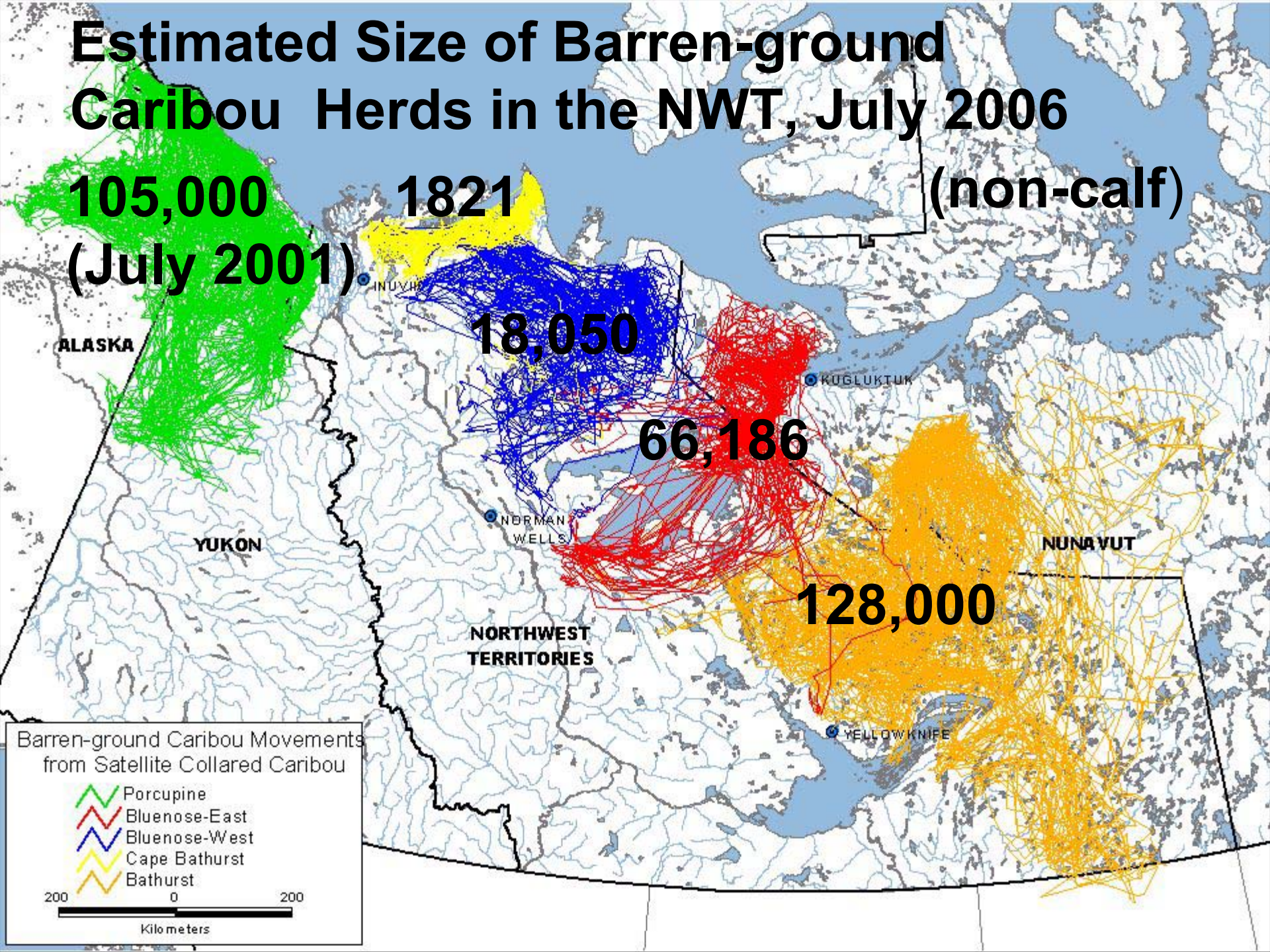
1821

(non-calf)

18,050

66,186

128,000



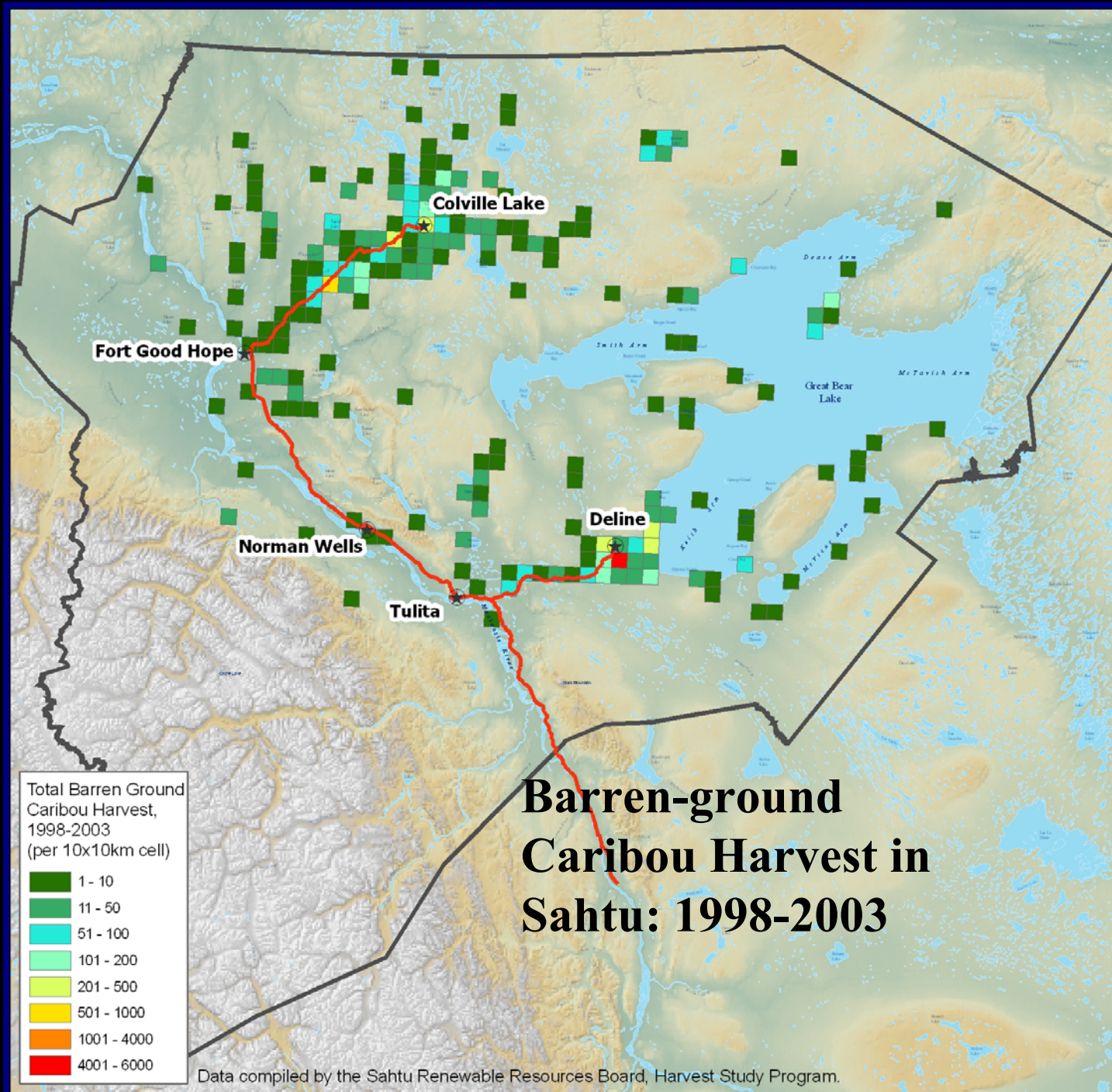
Barren-ground Caribou Movements
from Satellite Collared Caribou

- Porcupine
- Bluenose-East
- Bluenose-West
- Cape Bathurst
- Bathurst

200 0 200
Kilometers

Harvest





Harvest of Barren-ground Caribou By Sahtu Dene & Metis – Sahtu Settlement Harvest Study

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>% Bluenose-East</u>
1999	3098	68.7
2000	2793	66.3
2001	2561	77.7
2002	1895	81.8
2004	1999 *	66.3
2005	1418 *	77.7

Estimated numbers from quarterly interviews and not all harvesters interviewed

Average – 72.7% Bluenose-East



Year	Harvest	Year	Harvest
1946-47	254	1984-85	214
1951-52	218	1985-86	649
1952-53	99	1986-87	317
1953-54	802	1988-89	268
1954-55	1237	1989-90	445
1956-57	46	1990-91	389
1957-58	341	1991-92	256
1958-59	22	1992-93	68
1960-61	9	1993-94	170
1961-62	34	1994-95	253
1962-63	41	1999	1772
1976-77	407	2000	1470
1977-78	890	2001	1602
1981-82	223	2002	1377
1982-83	589	2003	947
1983-84	905	2004	1006
		2005	645



Year	% Cows
1998*	42.3
1999	47.2
2000	54.0
2001	64.8
2002	67.9
2003	71.4
2004	66.6
2005	65.4

*** only Apr-Dec; does not include Deline**

**What could be the impact of less
barren-ground caribou for harvest in
the Sahtu be on other species?**

**Boreal woodland caribou
Mountain woodland caribou
Moose
Muskoxen
Dall's sheep
Fish
Birds**



Now what to do??!



Thank You!

