



Bluenose-East Caribou (Sahtì Ekwò): Status & Proposed Management 2019-2021

WRRB Public Hearing

April 9-11, 2019

Northwest Territories

Environment and
Natural Resources



Presentation Outline

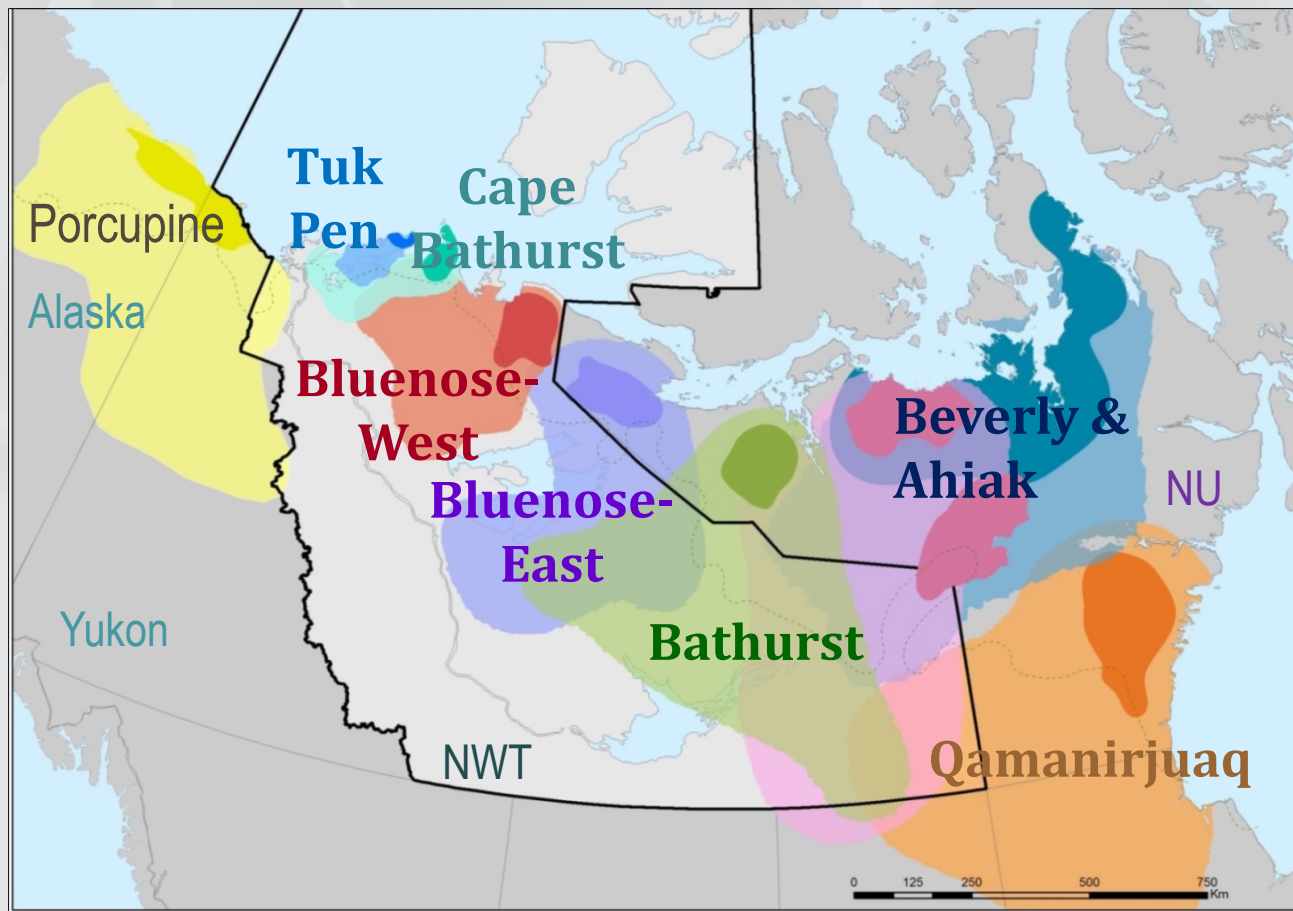
- Status of NWT Barren-Ground Caribou
- Bluenose-East Caribou Management Context
- Bluenose-East Caribou Status 2018
- Joint Management Proposal TG & ENR
 1. Harvest
 2. Predators
 3. Habitat & Land Use
 4. Education
 5. Monitoring & Research
- Working with Sahtú & Nunavut



Photo J. Adamczewski



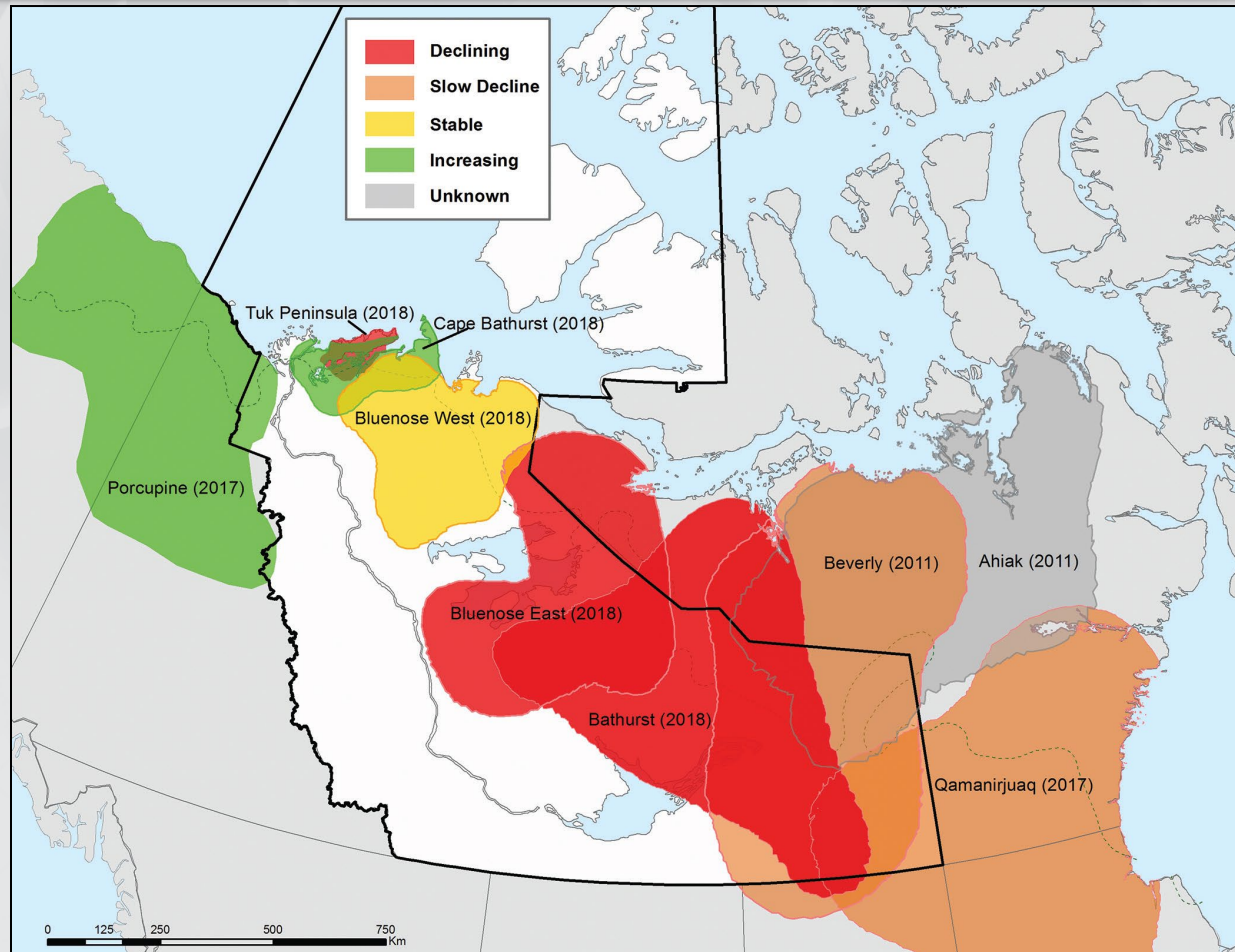
NWT Barren-Ground Caribou (Ekwò) Herd Ranges & Calving Grounds



Map B. Fournier, ENR



NWT Barren-Ground Caribou (Ekwò) Herd Status



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Barren-Ground Caribou (Ekwò) Status: Canada & NWT



Map B. Fournier,
ENR

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Canada COSEWIC: | Threatened (2016) |
| Canada SARA: | Pending (In Review) |
| NWT SARC: | Threatened (2017) |
| NWT SARA: | Threatened (2018) |

COSEWIC = Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada

Canada SARA = Species at Risk Act (Federal)

NWT SARC = Northwest Territories Species at Risk Committee

NWT SARA = Northwest Territories Species at Risk Act



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Bluenose-East Caribou (Sahtì Ekwò) Management Context

Government of
Northwest
Territories
(GNWT)
Tłıcho
Government (TG)
WRRB
SRRB



Government of
Nunavut (GN)
NWMB

WRRB = Wek'èezhì Renewable
Resources Board
SRRB = Sahtú Renewable
Resources Board
NWMB = Nunavut Wildlife
Management Board



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Natural Resources

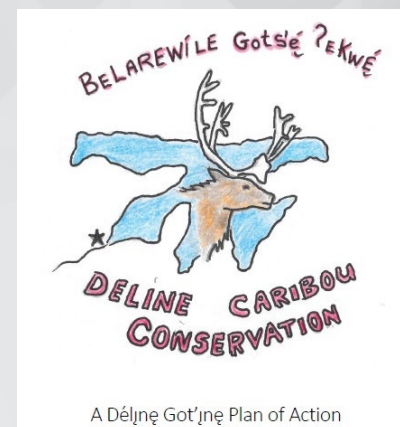
Bluenose-East Caribou (Sahtì Ekwò) Management Plans

Overall Management Plan (Boards)



Kugluktuk Caribou Plan

Déliné Caribou Plan



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Map B. Fournier, GNWT ENR



Bluenose-East & Bathurst Ekwò June 2018 Surveys

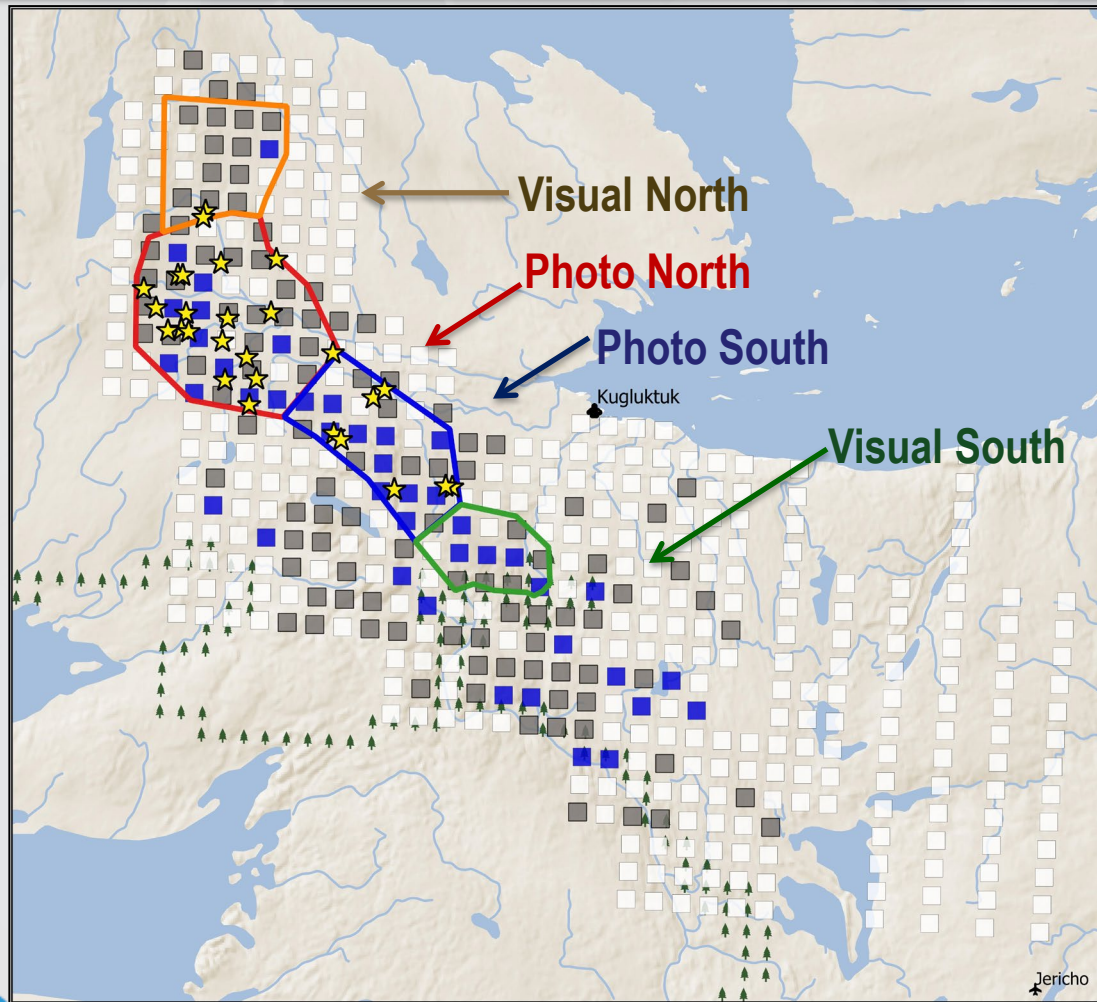
- Both Herds Same Time – June 2-16, 2018
- Main Base Kugluktuk, One Plane Ekati
- Aerial Photos June 8 (Both Herds)
- 13 Community Observers (4 NU, 9 NWT)
- (*R. Judas & C. Wetrade TG, A. Guile & L. Meinert WRRB*)



Photos J. Adamczewski



Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) June 2018: Survey Blocks



- No Caribou Observed
- Low Caribou Numbers (<1/km²)
- Medium Caribou Numbers (1-10/km²)
- ★ Collared Cow





Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) June 2018 Survey: Photo North Block



Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò): June 2018 Aerial Photo



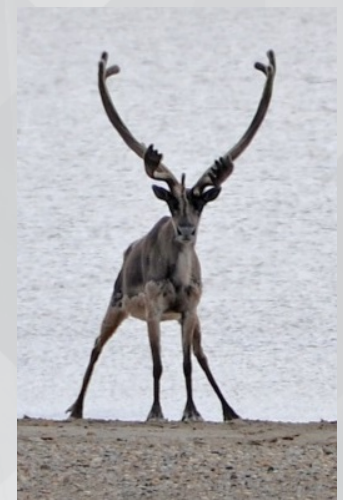
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Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) Herd Estimate: Cows & Bulls

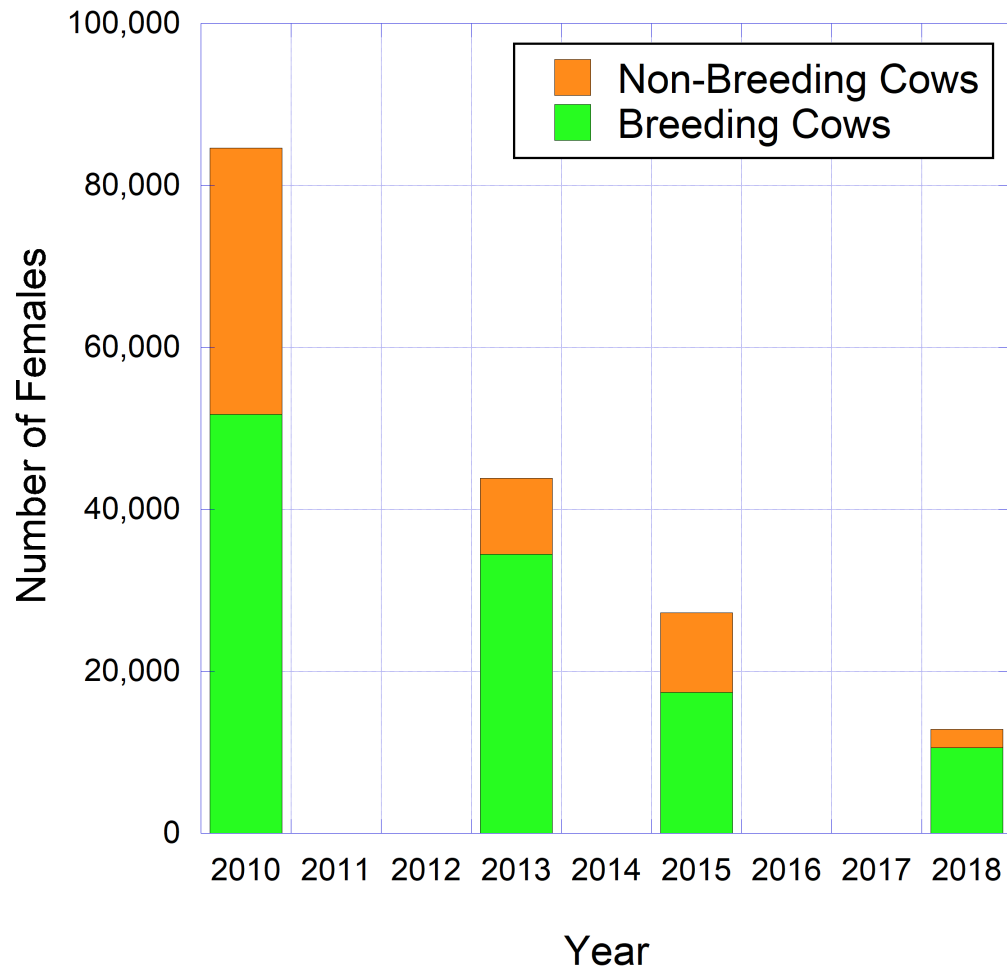
- Calving Ground Survey: Number of Cows
Bulls not on Calving Ground
- Fall Survey (October): Bull:Cow Ratio
Add Bulls to Cows: Herd Estimate



Photos J. Adamczewski



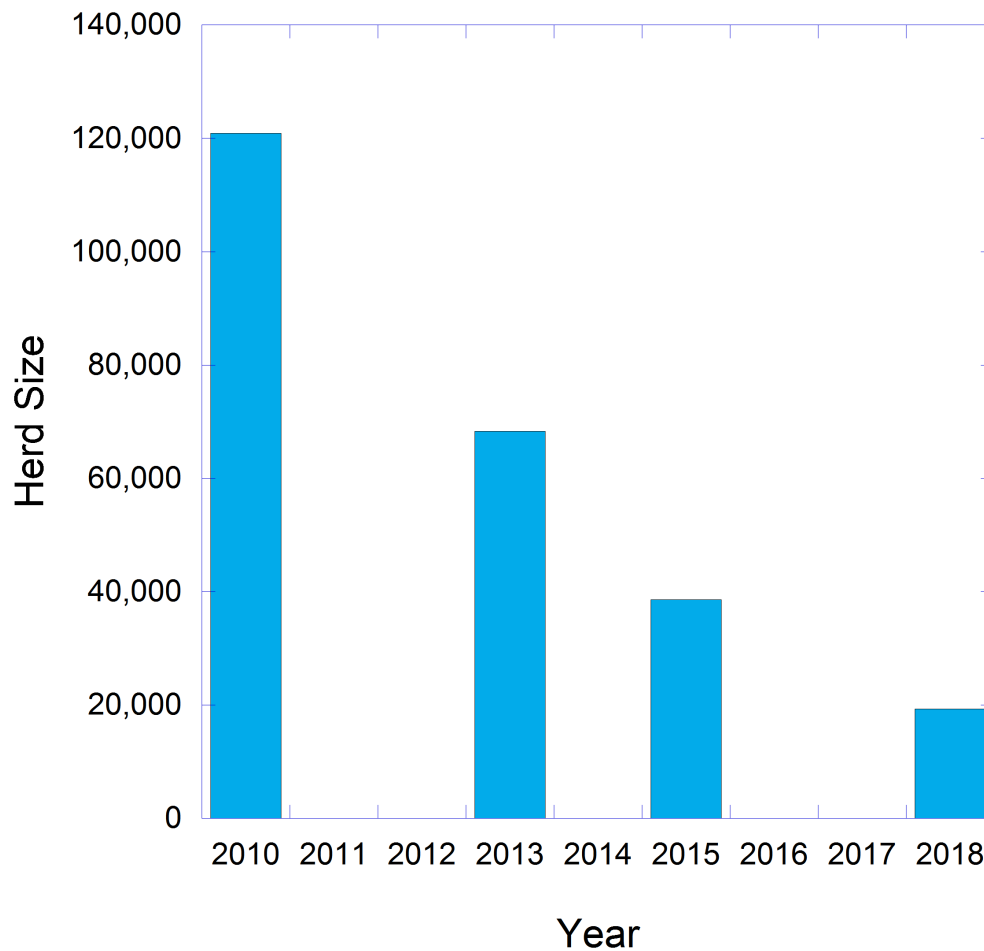
Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) Female Estimates 2010-2018



Breeding Cows
2010: 51,800
2015: 17,400
2018: 11,700



Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò): Herd Estimates 2010-2018



Herd Size
2010: 120,000
2015: 38,600
2018: 19,300





Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò): Vital Rates 2018

- Pregnancy at least 80% in healthy herds
 - *Bluenose-East 2018: 83% (Good)*
- Fall Calf Survival 35-45:100 for Stable Herd
 - *Bluenose-East Fall 2018: 25:100 (Low)*
- Adult Cow Survival 83-87% for Stable Herd
 - *Bluenose-East 2018: 72-78% (Low)*



Photo J. Adamczewski



Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) Collars:

An Important Tool

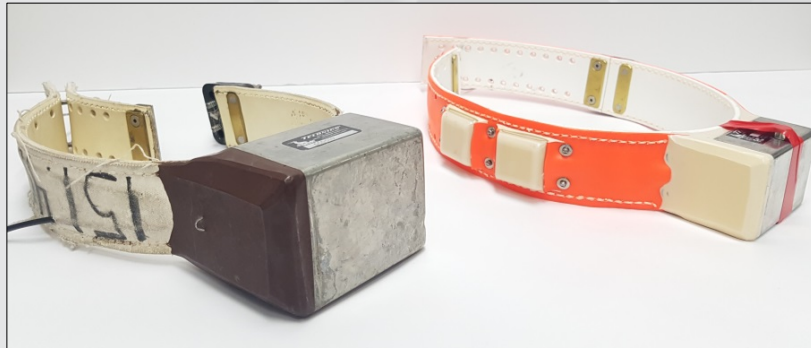


Photo J. Oosenbrug

Collars Used For:

- Monitoring movement & range
- Planning surveys
- Measuring adult survival
- Monitoring & managing harvest



Photo J.
Adamczewski

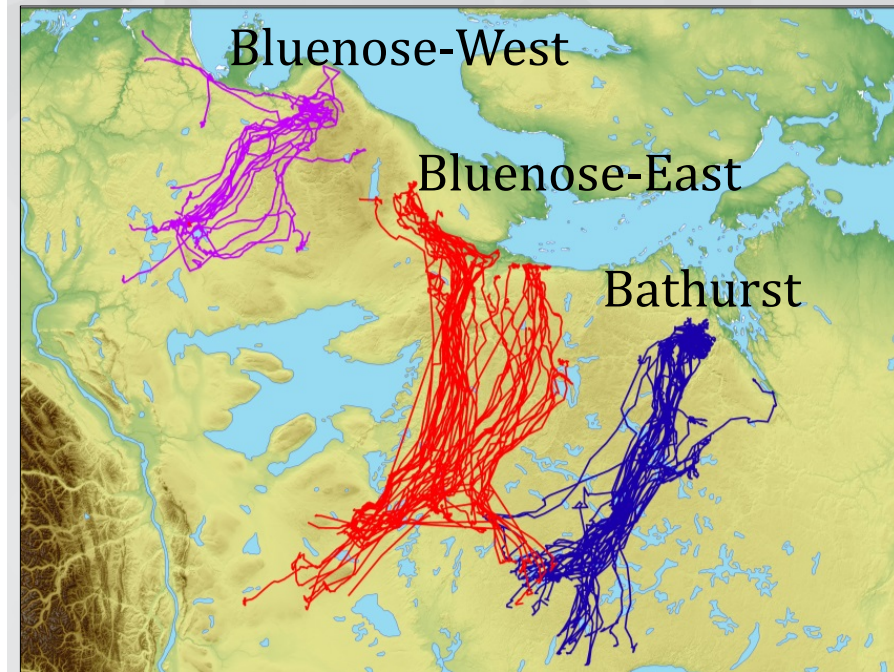
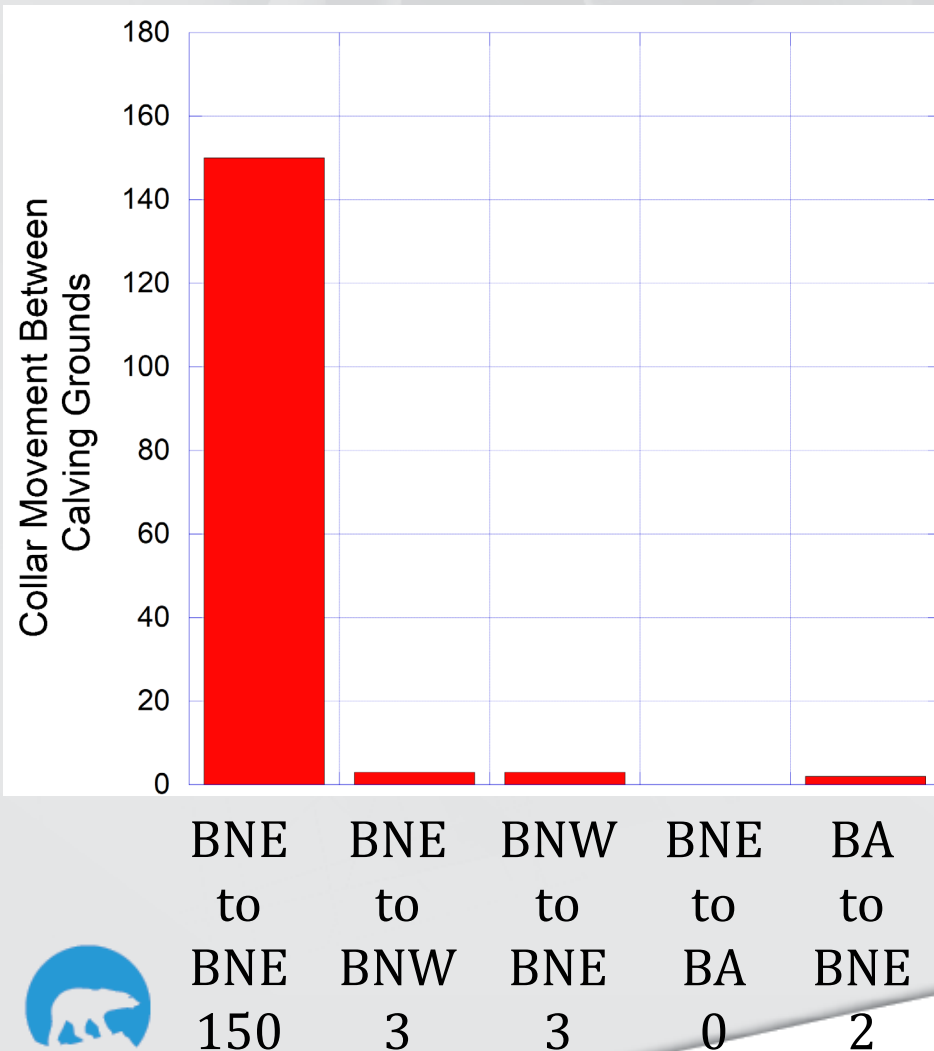
Collars on Caribou:

- Timed drop-off
- Captures 10-15 minutes
- Specialists do captures
- Animal care standards





Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò): Loyalty to Calving Grounds 2010-2018



BNE = Bluenose-East
BNW = Bluenose-West
BA = Bathurst





Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò): TG & ENR Joint Management Proposal January 2019

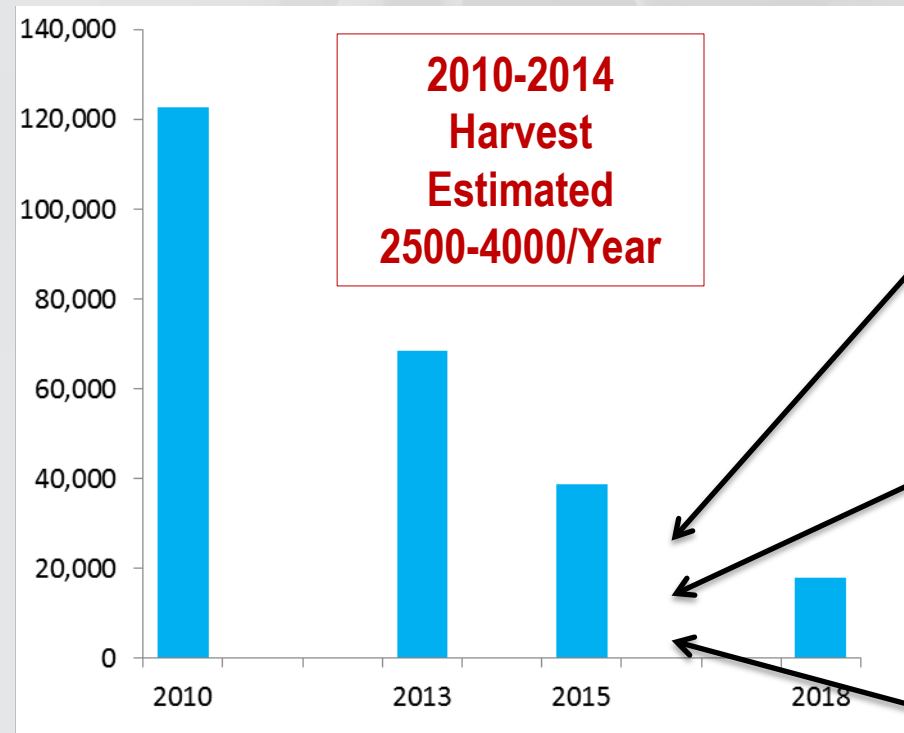
- Previous Ekwò Joint Proposals: 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015
- Last Bluenose-East Joint Proposal December 2015
- Proposal January 2019 (2 Years)
 - Main Sections:
 1. Harvest
 2. Predators
 3. Habitat & Land Use
 4. Education
 5. Monitoring & Research



Photo J. Adamczewski



1. Harvest: Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) Caribou Management 2016



NWMB/Kugluktuk:

- 340 caribou

SRRB/Déline:

- 150 caribou (80% Bulls)

WRRB:

- 750 Bulls (Entire Herd)



Photo J. Adamczewski





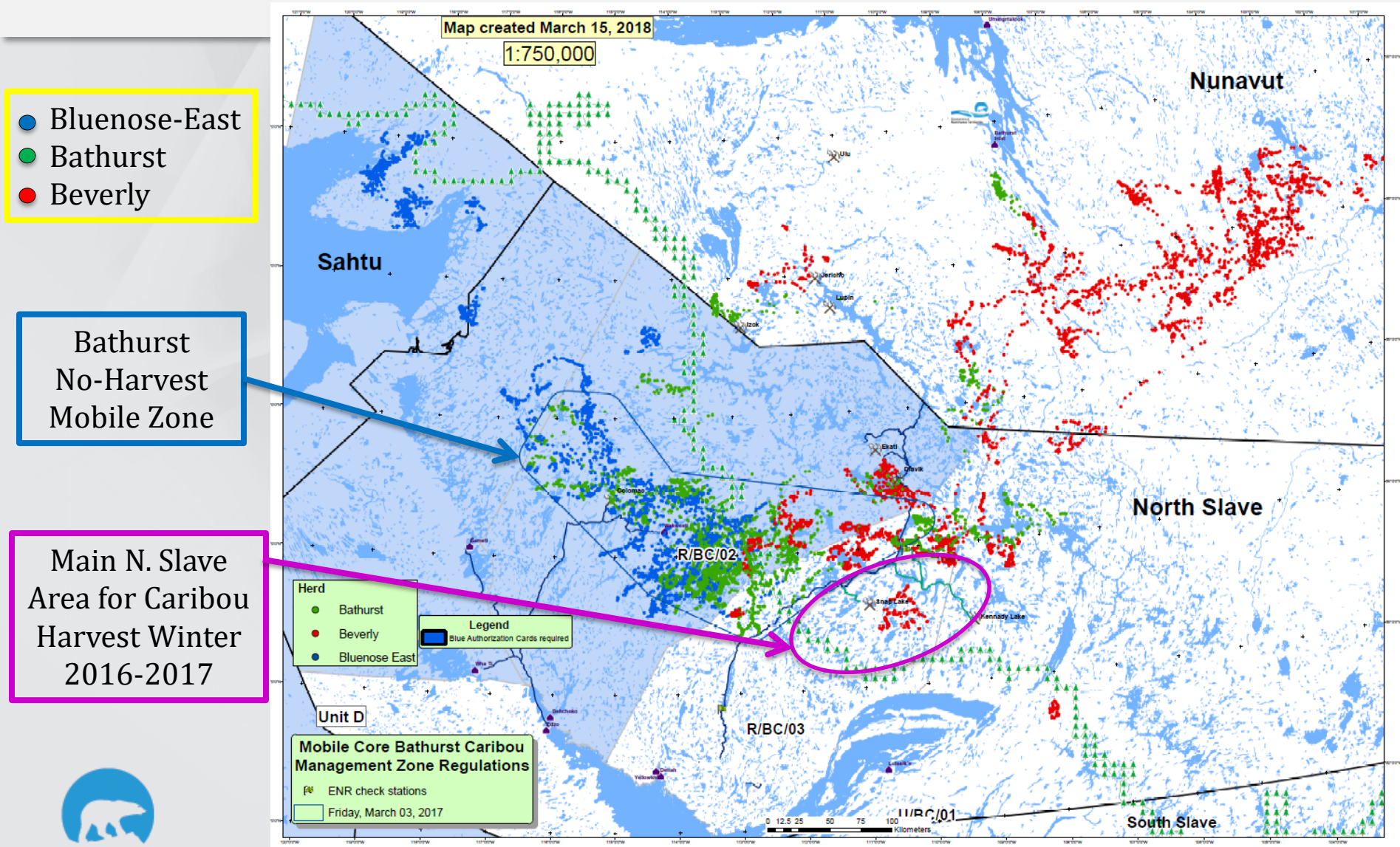
1. Harvest: Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) Caribou: Reported/Estimated Harvest 2016-2018

| Harvest Season | N. Slave Region NWT* | Déline, NWT | Kugluktuk, NU | Total Harvest |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <i>Harvest Limit</i> | <i>750 Bulls</i> | <i>150 caribou, 80% bulls</i> | <i>340 caribou</i> | |
| 2016-2017 | 15 bulls | 93 bulls, 33 cows | 232 caribou | 373 caribou |
| 2017-2018 | 142 bulls | 7 caribou | 174 caribou | 323 caribou |

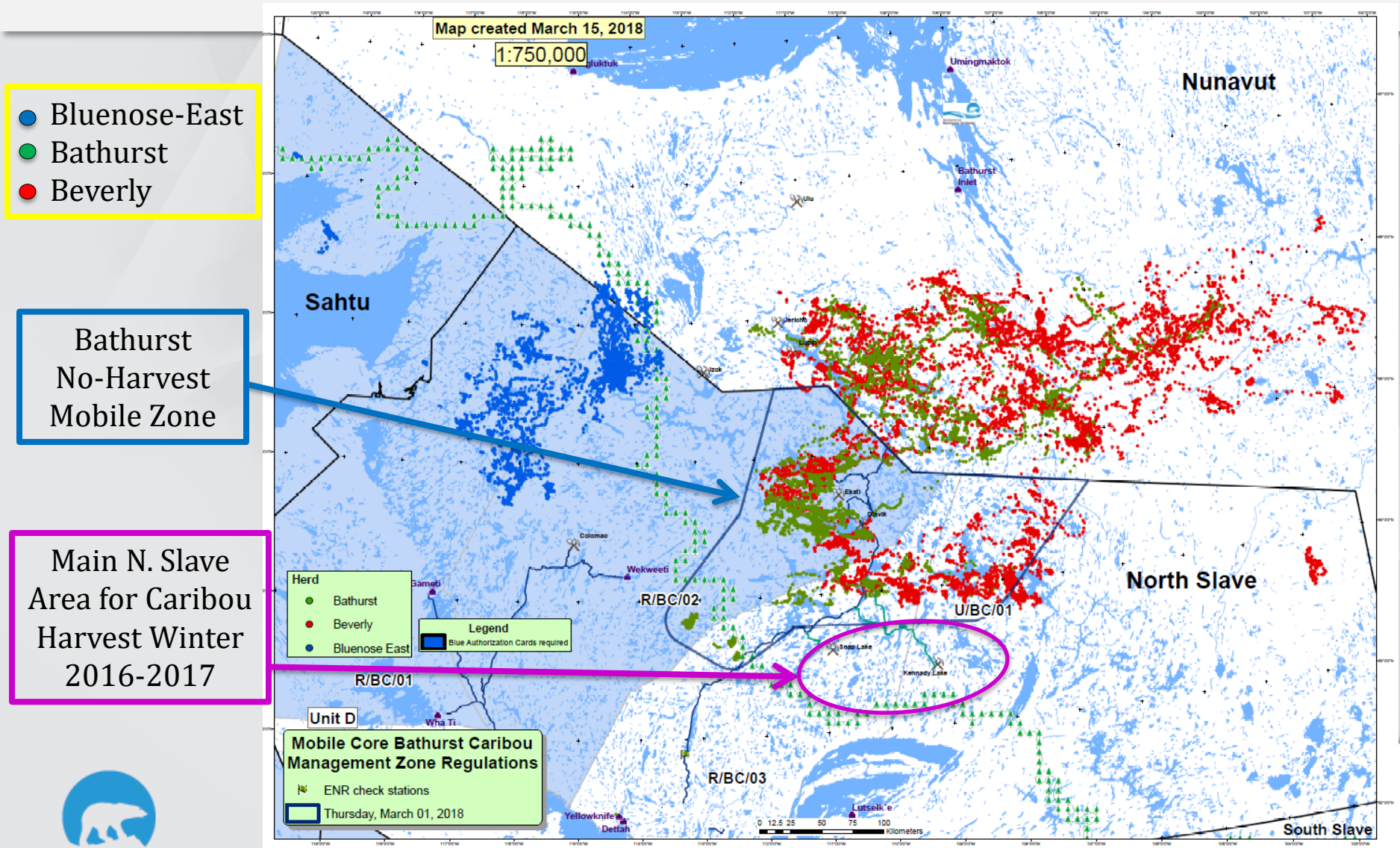


*Includes Wek'èezhì

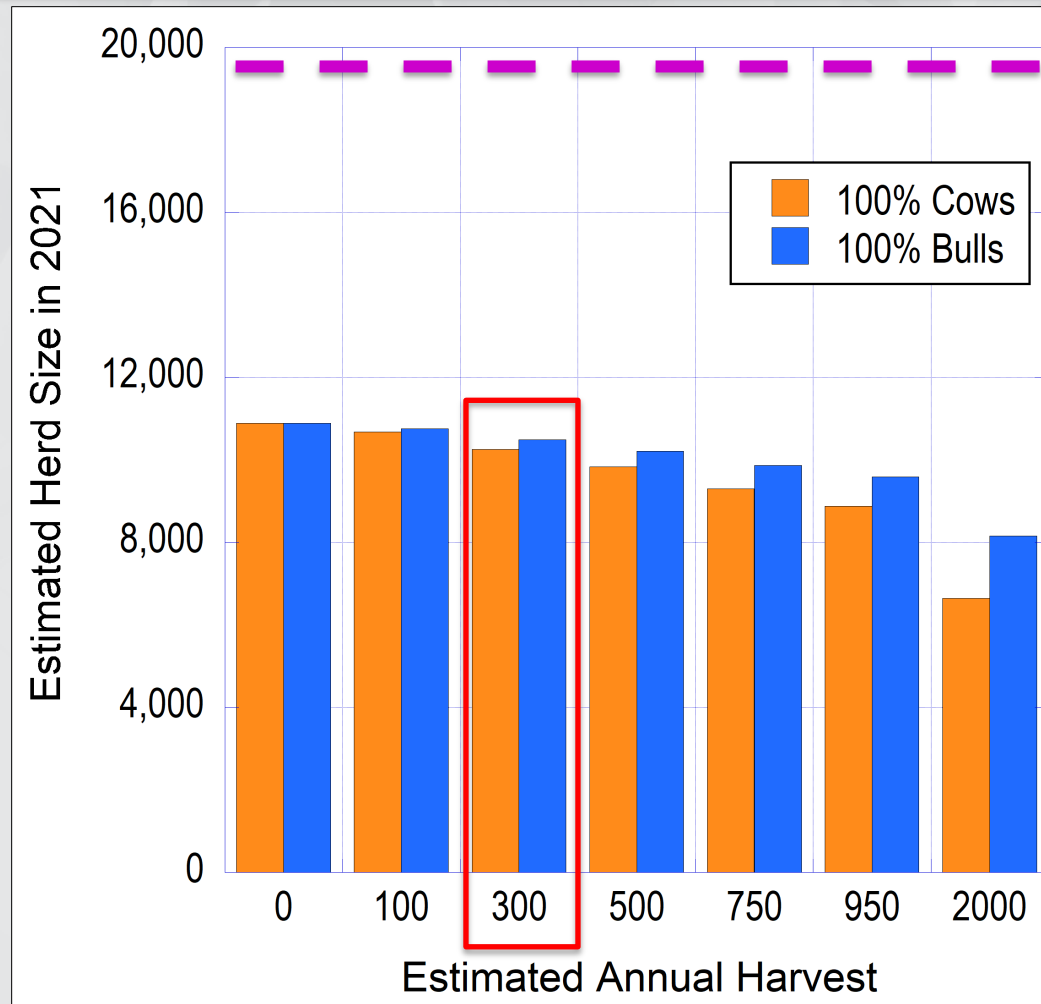
1. Harvest: Bluenose-East, Bathurst & Beverly Ekwò Collared Caribou Jan. 1–April 1, 2017



1. Harvest: Bluenose-East, Bathurst & Beverly Ekwò Collared Caribou Jan. 1 – April 1, 2018



1. Harvest: Projected Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) Herd Size in 2021 with Variable Harvest



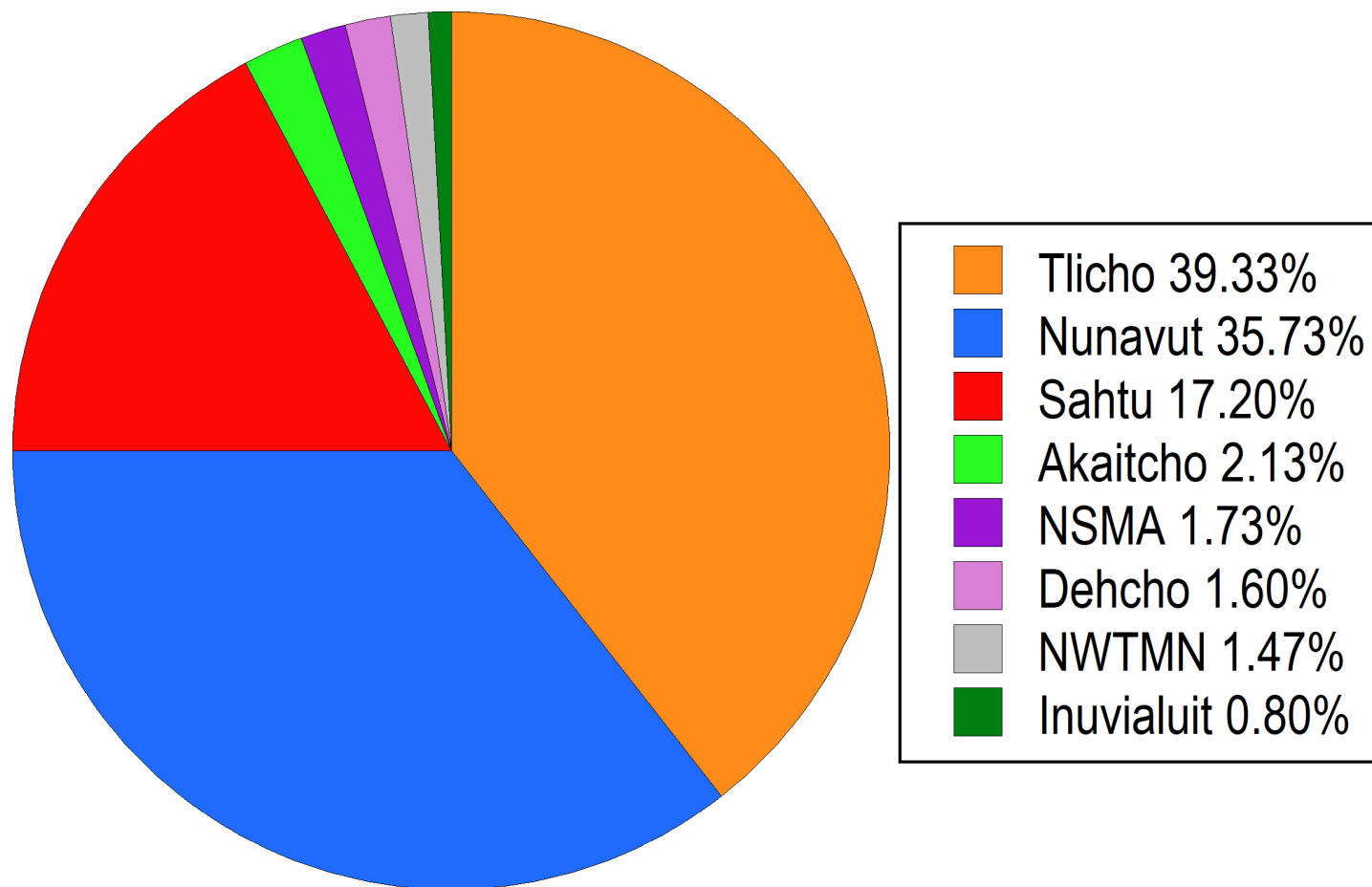
Herd in 2018:
19,300

Key Assumptions:

- Cow Survival 71%
- Average Calf Survival



1. Harvest Allocation Bluenose-East Caribou (Sahtì Ekwò) Sept. 2016



1. Harvest: Bluenose-East Sahtì Ekwò

Proposed Harvest 2019



WRRB Herd Harvest 2016: **750 Bulls**
TG & ENR *Proposed* Harvest 2019: **300 Bulls**



| Group | % of Harvest | Harvest 750 Bulls | Harvest 300 Bulls |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tłchq | 39.33 | 295 | 118 |
| Kugluktuk (NU) | 35.73 | 268 | 107 |
| Sahtú | 17.20 | 129 | 52 |
| Akaitcho | 2.13 | 16 | 6 |
| NSMA | 1.73 | 13 | 5 |
| Dehcho | 1.60 | 12 | 5 |
| NWTMN | 1.47 | 11 | 5 |
| Inuvialuit | 0.80 | 6 | 2 |
| Total | 99.99 | 750 | 300 |





2. Predators: Bluenose-East & Bathurst Ekwò Wolf Management

2010-2018:

- GNWT Wolf Harvest Incentives 2010-2018
- Tłıchǫ Wolf Harvester Training 2016
- Wolf Technical Feasibility Assessment (Bathurst) 2017

2019:

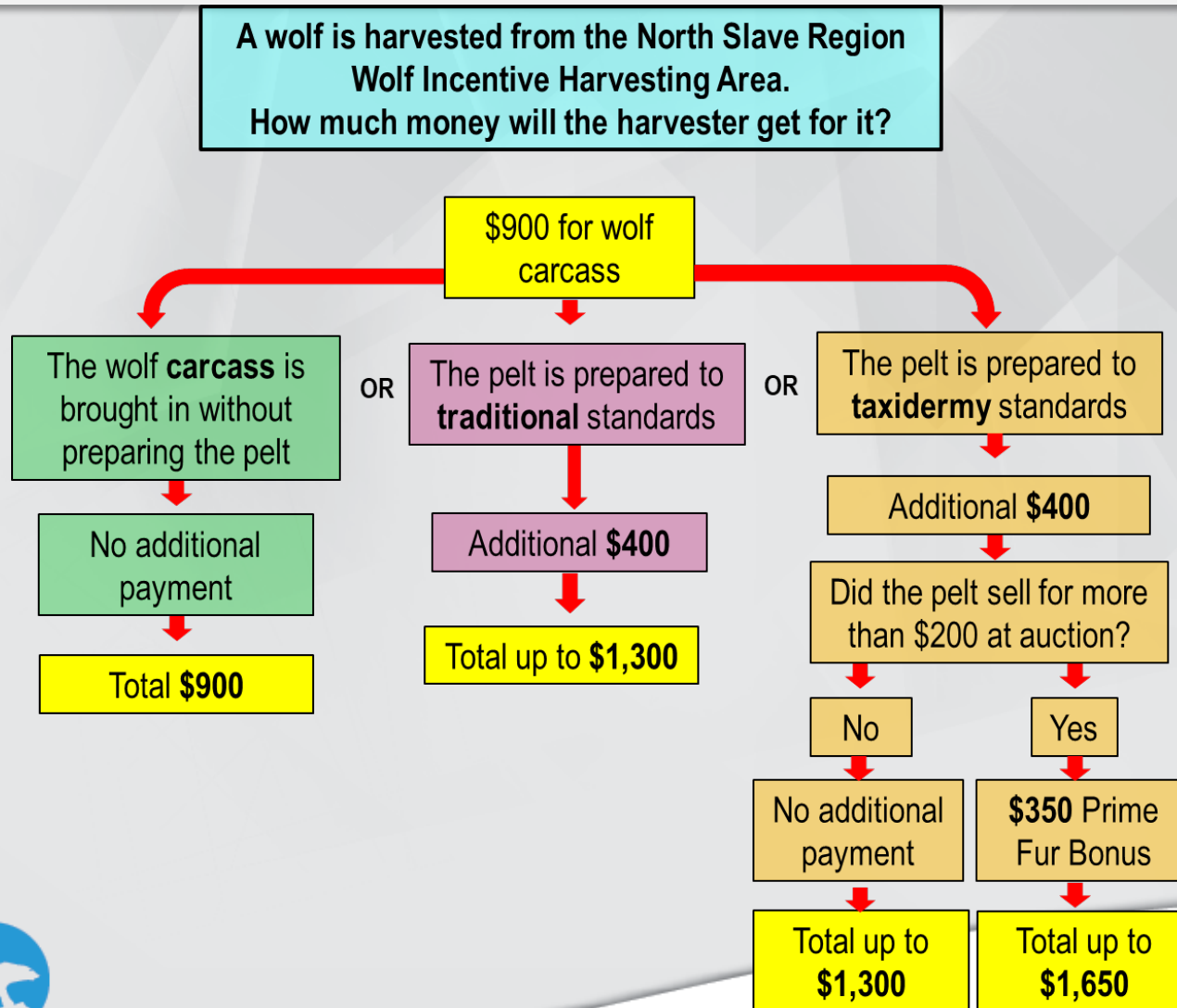
- Tłıchǫ Wolf Harvester Training
(Wekweètì, Whatì, Behchokò)
- Enhanced North Slave Wolf Harvest
Incentive Program
- Joint Proposal on Wolves (Bluenose-East & Bathurst)
- Discussion with Nunavut on predators



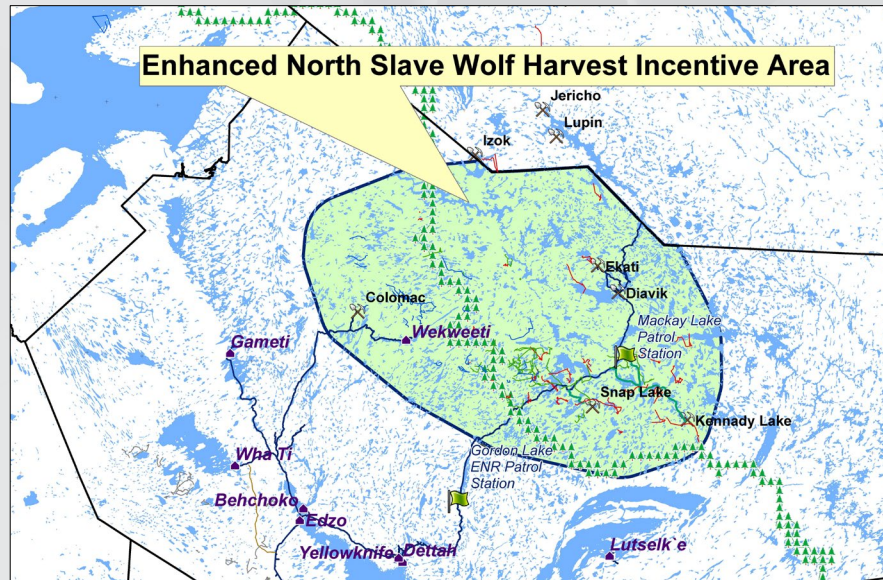
Internet
Photo



2. Predators: Enhanced North Slave Wolf Harvest Incentive Program (GNWT)



2. Predators: Enhanced North Slave Wolf Harvest Incentive Program (GNWT)



Internet Photo

- Increased incentives in this area only
- Area built around Bathurst & Bluenose-East caribou locations
- Hunters check in and out at ENR stations
- Hunters get receipt for wolf carcass or pelt
- Each wolf identified (tattoo)



3. Habitat & Land Use: Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò)



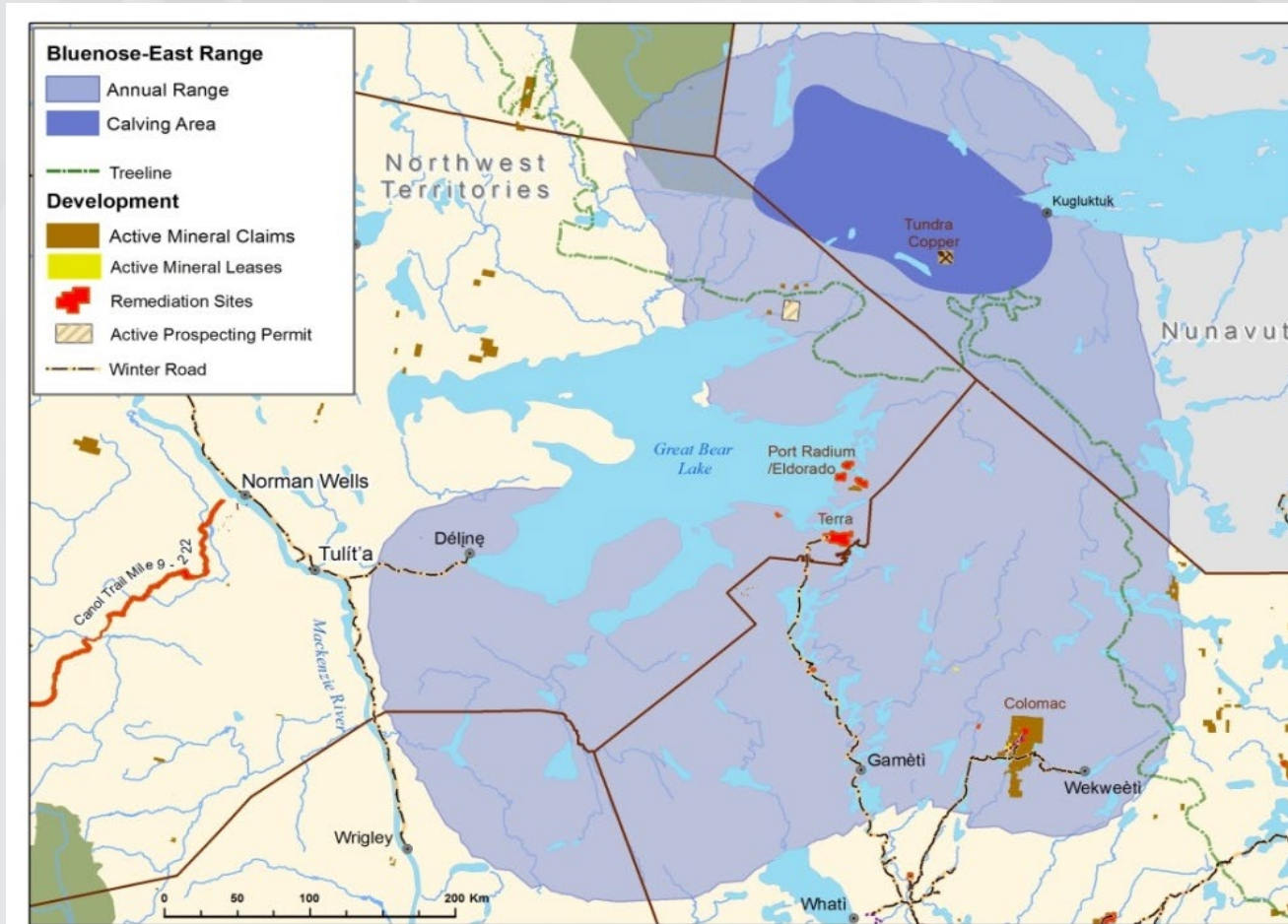
- Taking Care of Caribou Plan: Main Guide
- Promote Calving Ground Conservation
- Identify & Protect Ekwò no'oke (water crossings), Tataa (land crossings) & Core Ranges
- Environmental Assessment & Land Use Planning
- Identify & Protect Unburned Winter Ranges



Photo J. Adamczewski



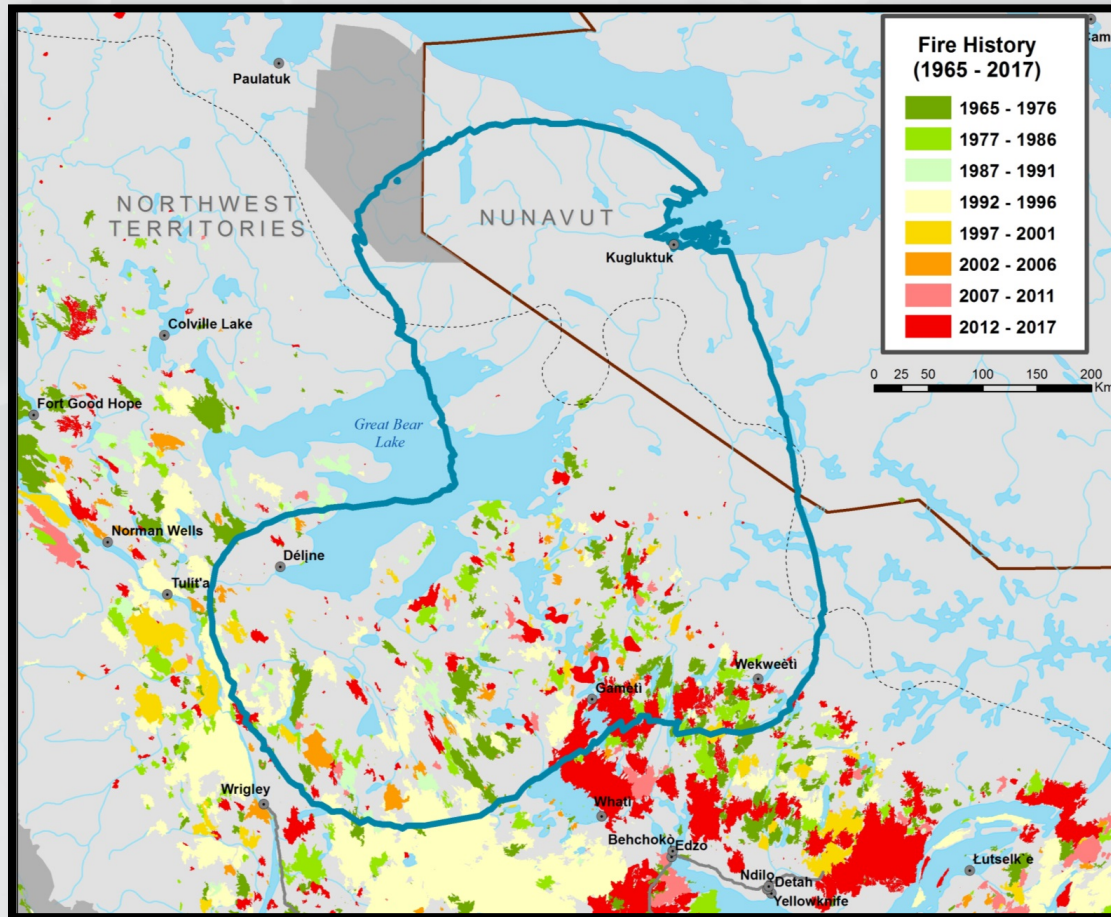
3. Habitat & Land Use: Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) Herd Range & Disturbance



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3. Habitat & Land Use : Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) Herd Range & Fire



3. Habitat & Land Use: Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò) Herd & Climate Change

Climate Change: Likely Multiple Effects on Caribou, All Seasons

Possible Effects (Various Studies):

1. Earlier Start to Plant Growing Season
2. Greater Plant Growth in Summer
3. Warmer Summers
4. More Summer Drought & More Severe Insect Seasons
5. More Big Fire Years like 2014
6. Tundra Vegetation Shift to More Shrubs, Less Lichen
7. Warmer Winters
8. More Snow in Winter, More Icing Events

Overall: Weather More Extreme, Less Predictable



Photo J. Adamczewski



Photo J. Adamczewski



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4. Education: Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò)

- Increase On-The-Land Activities
- Hunter Education
- Radio Updates, Interviews
- Posters for public education
- Community meetings
- Internet & Social Media



Photo J. Adamczewski


Government of
Northwest Territories




Caribou identification – if you're not sure, DON'T SHOOT

Always check the sex organs!


Why? In the fall, both males and females can have antlers. After the fall rut, most males lose their antlers. A caribou with antlers in the winter and spring is probably a female.



A female caribou has a dark patch under her tail. This is the vulva.



A mature male caribou has a penis sheath that can usually be seen from the side.



Young males can easily be mistaken for females. Check to make sure there is no dark patch under the tail or wait for a good side view of the penis sheath before shooting.

Conserve our wildlife resources. Hunt responsibly and safely.
For more information, talk to an experienced hunter, your local ENR office, or visit enr.gov.nt.ca



5. Monitoring & Research: Bluenose-East (Sahtì Ekwò)

- Increase Traditional Monitoring
- Population Surveys every 2 years (was 3)
- Monitor calf numbers in June, October & March
- Increase collars (cows from 30 to 50, bulls 20, total 70)
- Increase research (TK & science) on causes of decline



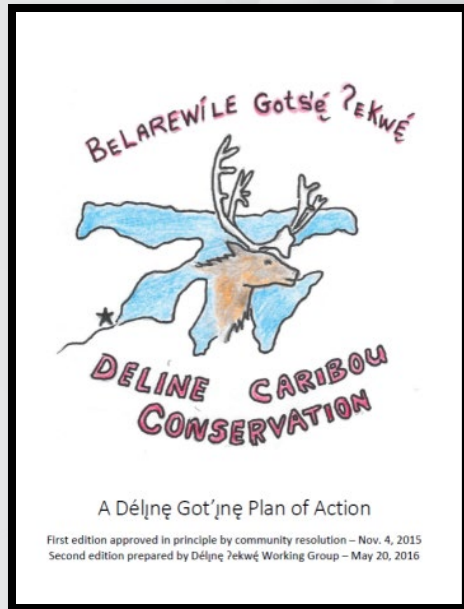
Photo J. Adamczewski



Photo J. Adamczewski



Working With the Sahtú & Nunavut: Management in Déline



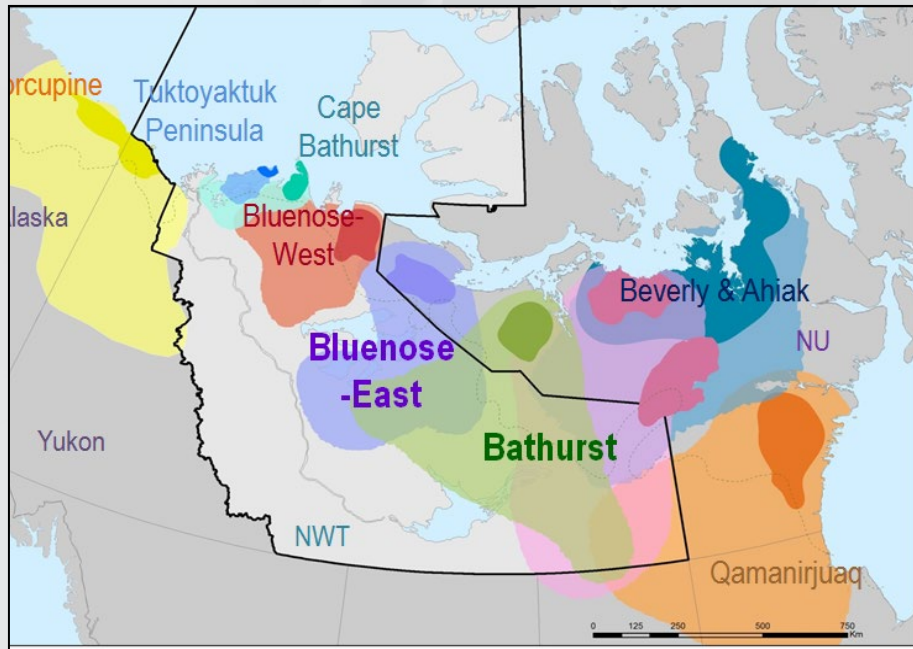
- Plan Accepted 2016 (SRRB & GNWT)
- New Survey Numbers: November 2018
- Déline RRC Meetings:
Dec. 2018, January 2019, February 2019



Photo J. Adamczewski



Working With the Sahtú & Nunavut: Management in Nunavut



Key Points

- Calving Grounds
- Environmental Assessment
- Land Use Planning
- Harvest
- Predators (Summer Range)
- Monitoring & Research
- Kugluktuk Caribou Plan



Photo J. Adamczewski



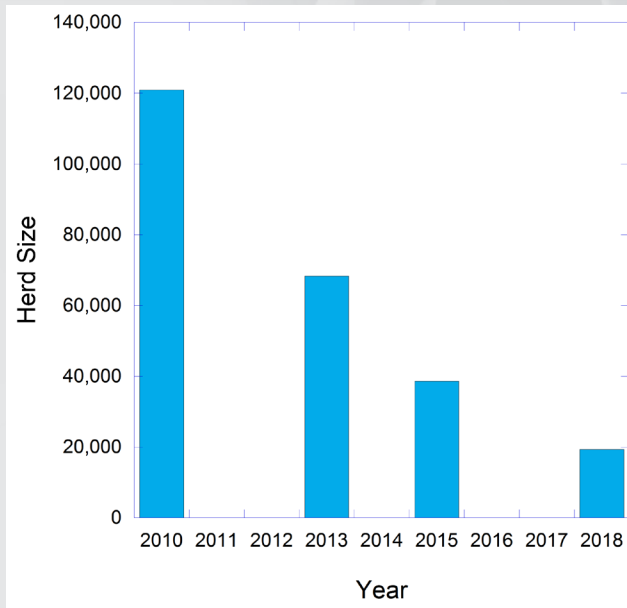


Bluenose-East Caribou (Sahtì Ekwò): Engagement & Consultation 2018-2019

- ACCWM (Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management) Co-Management Boards: Bluenose-East status Nov. 21, 2018
- Déliné Renewable Resources Council: Dec. 11 & 12, 2018
- Tłıchǫ Communities:
 - Wekweètì & Gamètì - Jan. 21, 2019
 - Whatì Jan. 22, 2019
 - Behchokò Jan. 23, 2019
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation: Chiefs & Elders Council Jan. 24, 2019
- Ft. Smith: Salt River First Nation, Ft Smith Métis Council, Smith's Landing First Nation; Jan. 29, 2019
- Tulita Renewable Resources Council & Sahtú Renewable Resources Board: Jan. 30, 2019
- Łútsël K'é Dene First Nation: Feb. 6, 2019
- North Slave Métis Alliance: Feb. 18, 2019
- Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization: Feb. 20, 2019



Bluenose-East Caribou (Sahtì Ekwò): Summary



- Bluenose-East Herd Declining Rapidly
- TG-ENR Joint Proposal to WRRB
 - Submitted January 2019
- Main Sections:
 1. Harvest
 2. Predators
 3. Habitat & Land Use
 4. Education
 5. Monitoring and Research
- Sahtú/Déliné Management
- Nunavut/Kugluktuk Management



Questions?



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