

# Status of Shared NWT/Nunavut Barren-ground Caribou Herds

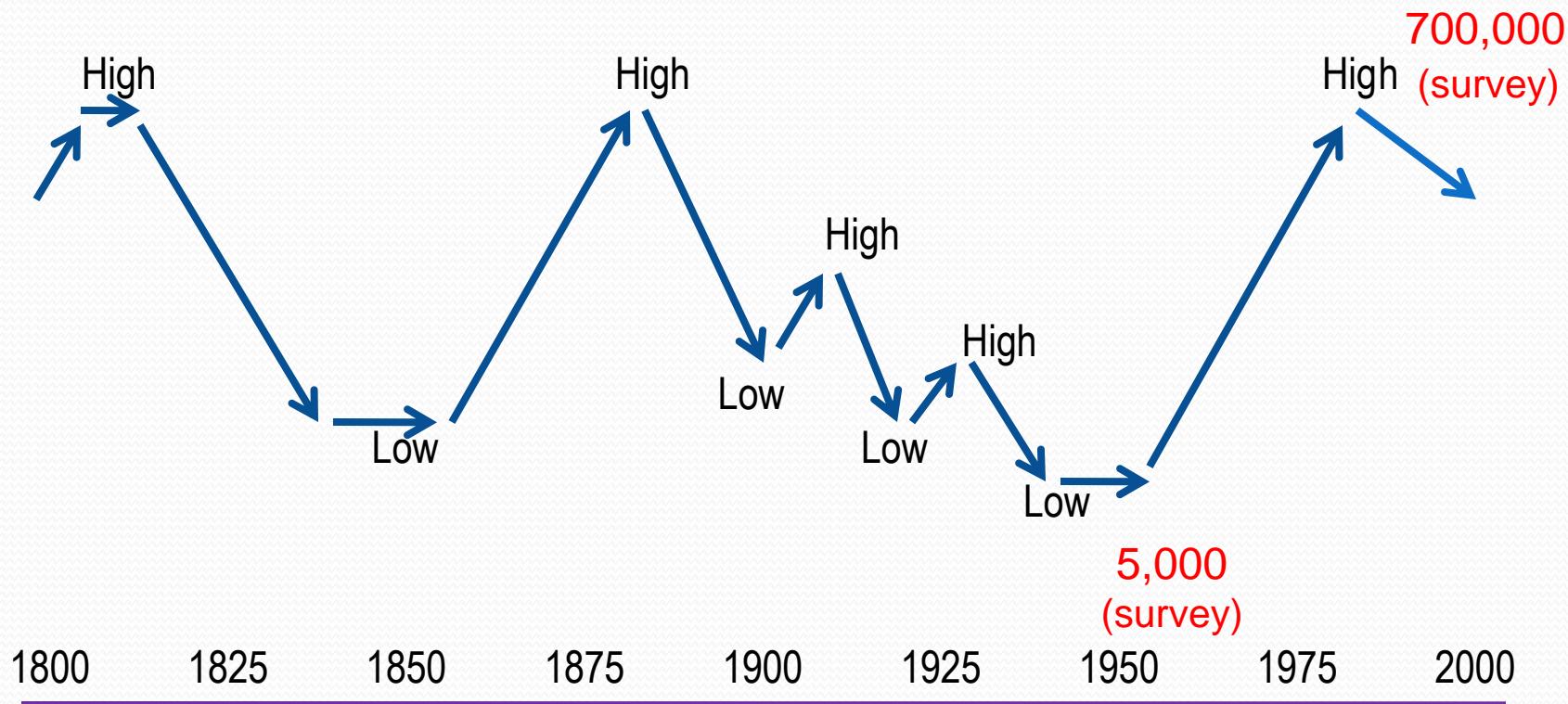
## Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
December 3, 2009

# George River Herd, Quebec/Labrador – Changes in Numbers

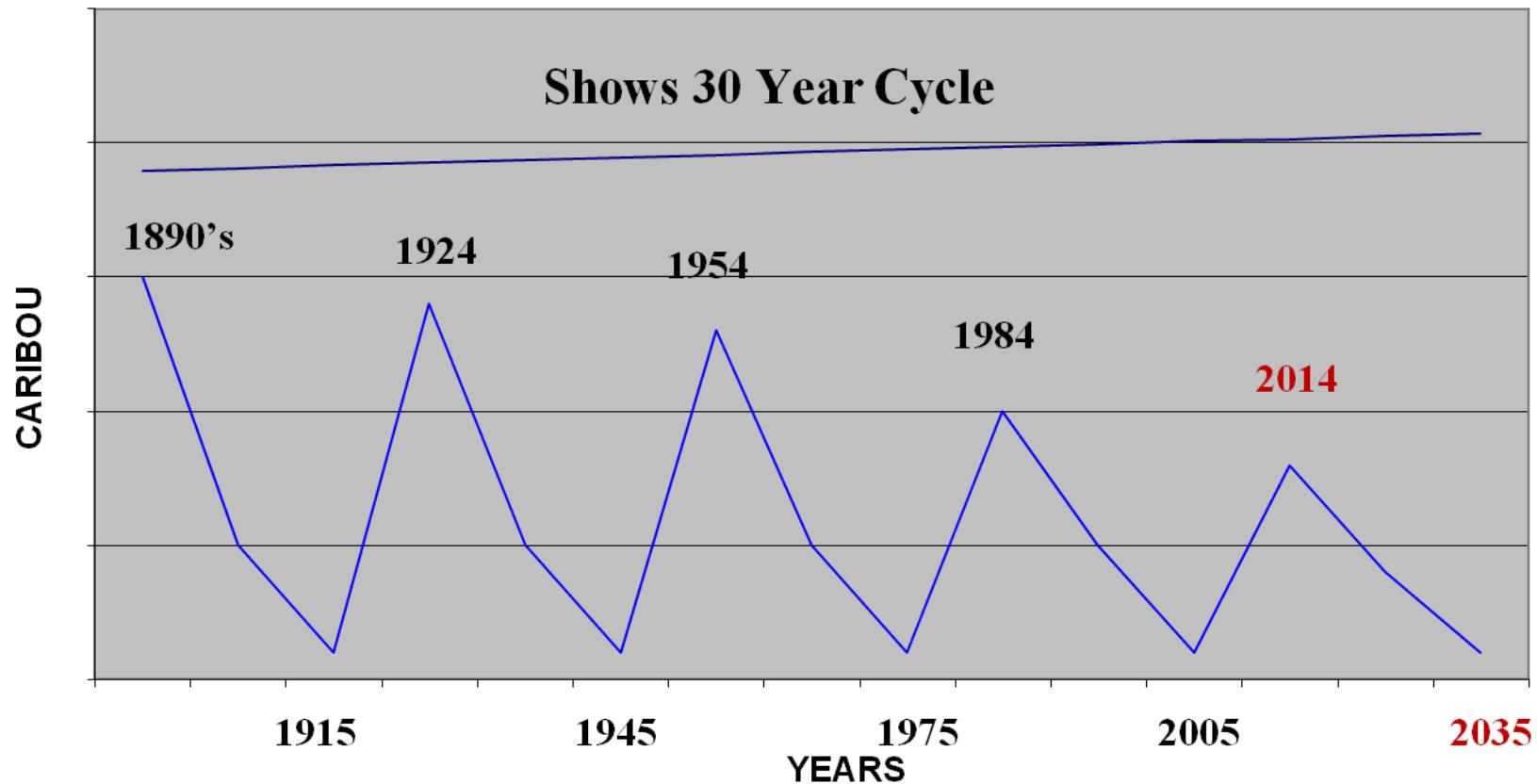
(based on spruce root scars & other information)



(adapted from Bergerud et al. 2008, The return of caribou to Ungava)



## Caribou Cycles from Chipewyan Traditional Knowledge (Danny Beaulieu)



Map 1. 2007 Barren-ground Caribou Calving Ground Surveys (Western Herds)



Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula Herd

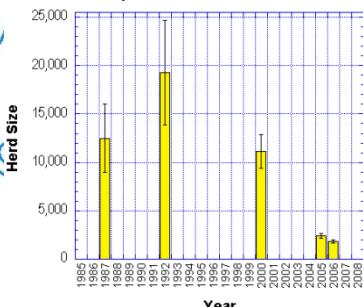
Cape Bathurst Herd

Holman

Tuktoyaktuk

Inuvik  
Sitidi Lake

Cape Bathurst Herd, 1985-2008



Bluenose West Herd

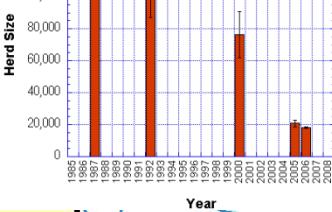
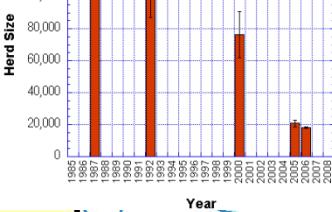
Paulatuk

Tuktut Nogait  
National Park

Bluenose East Herd

Bluenose East Herd, 1985-2008

Bluenose West Herd, 1985-2008



### Legend

2007 Survey Flight Lines

★ Towns and Cities

### Density of Caribou (Breeding Groups Only)

low (less than  $1/\text{km}^2$ )

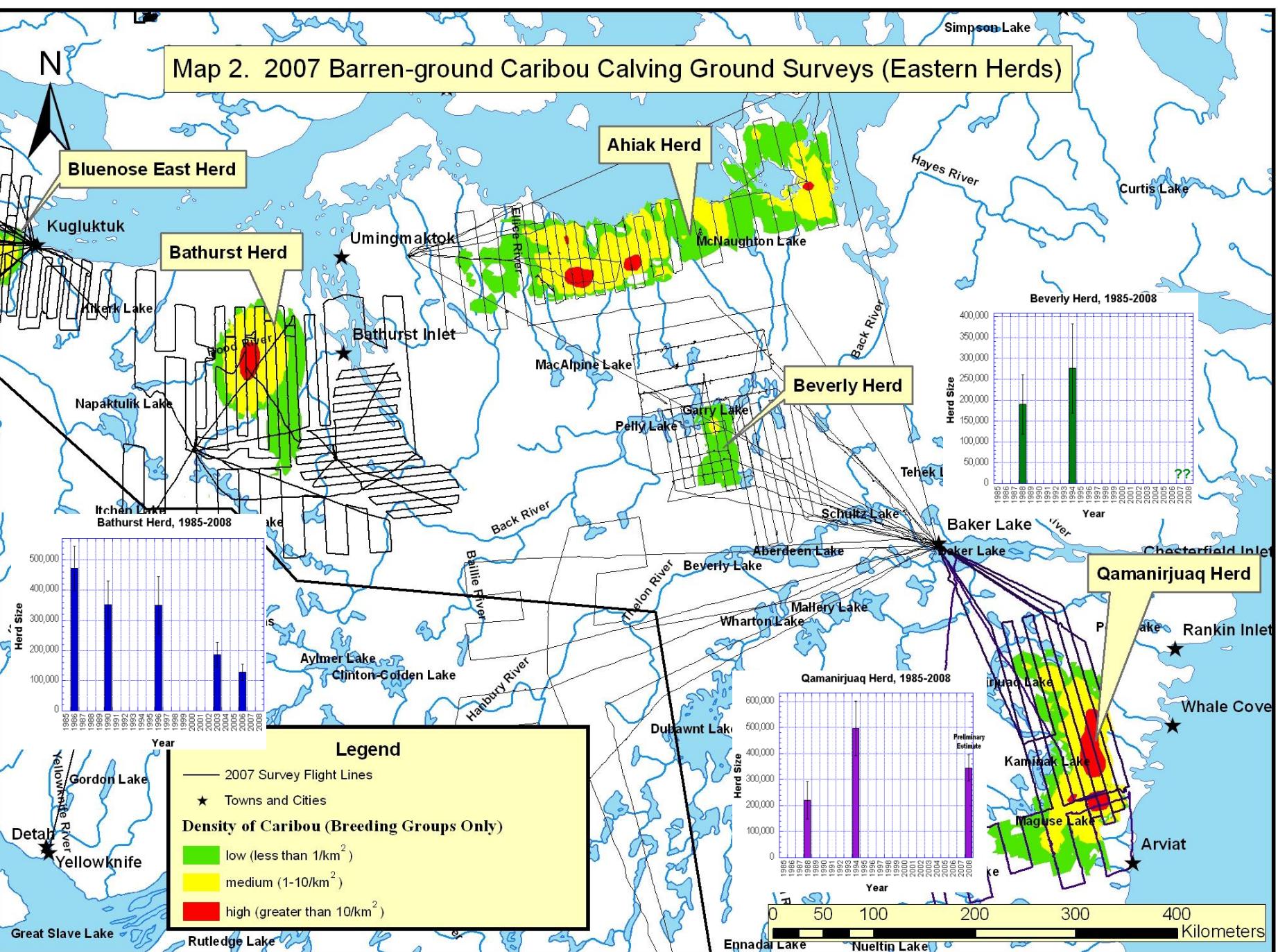
medium ( $1-10/\text{km}^2$ )

high (greater than  $10/\text{km}^2$ )

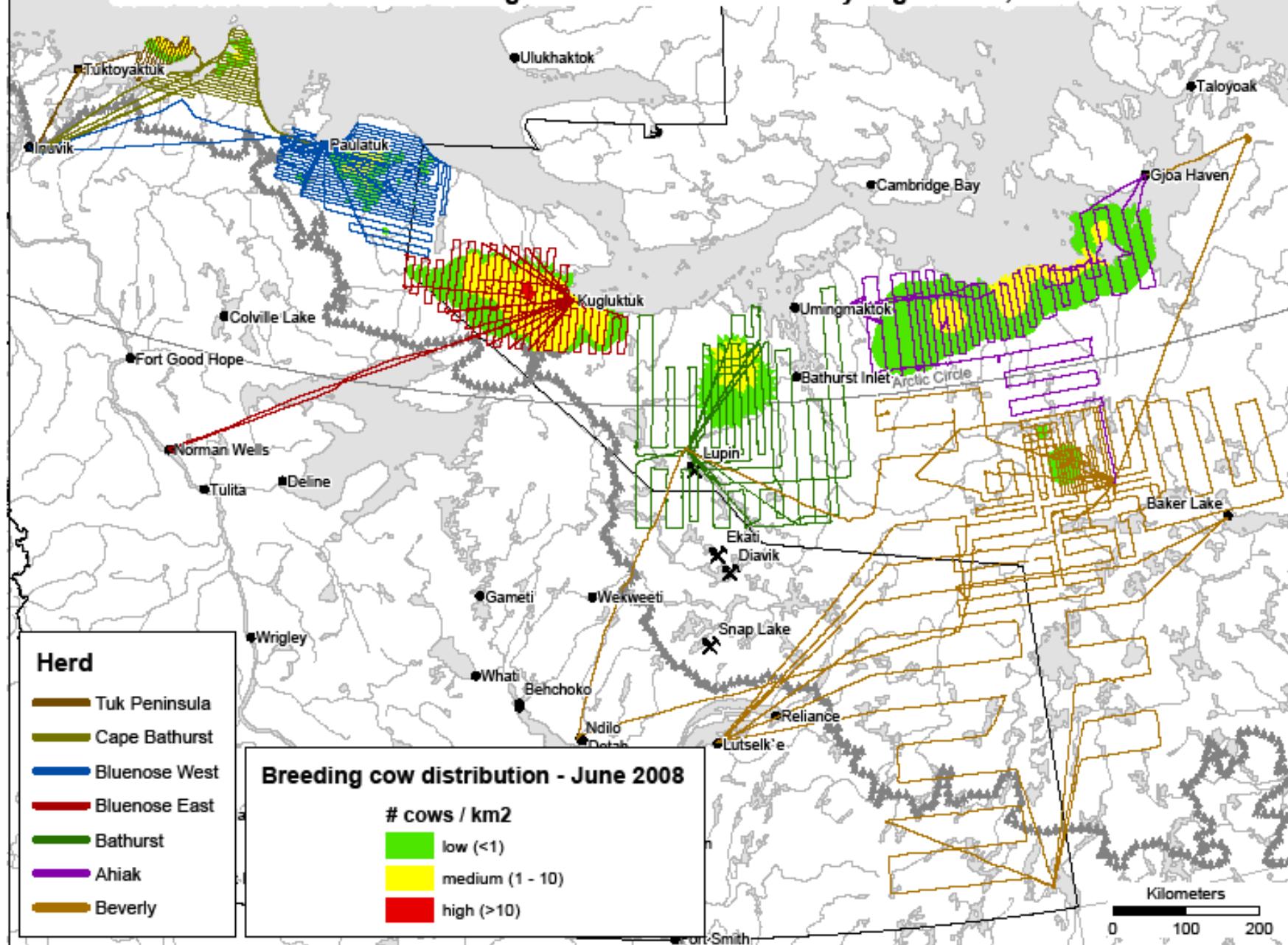
0 50 100 200 300 400 Kilometers

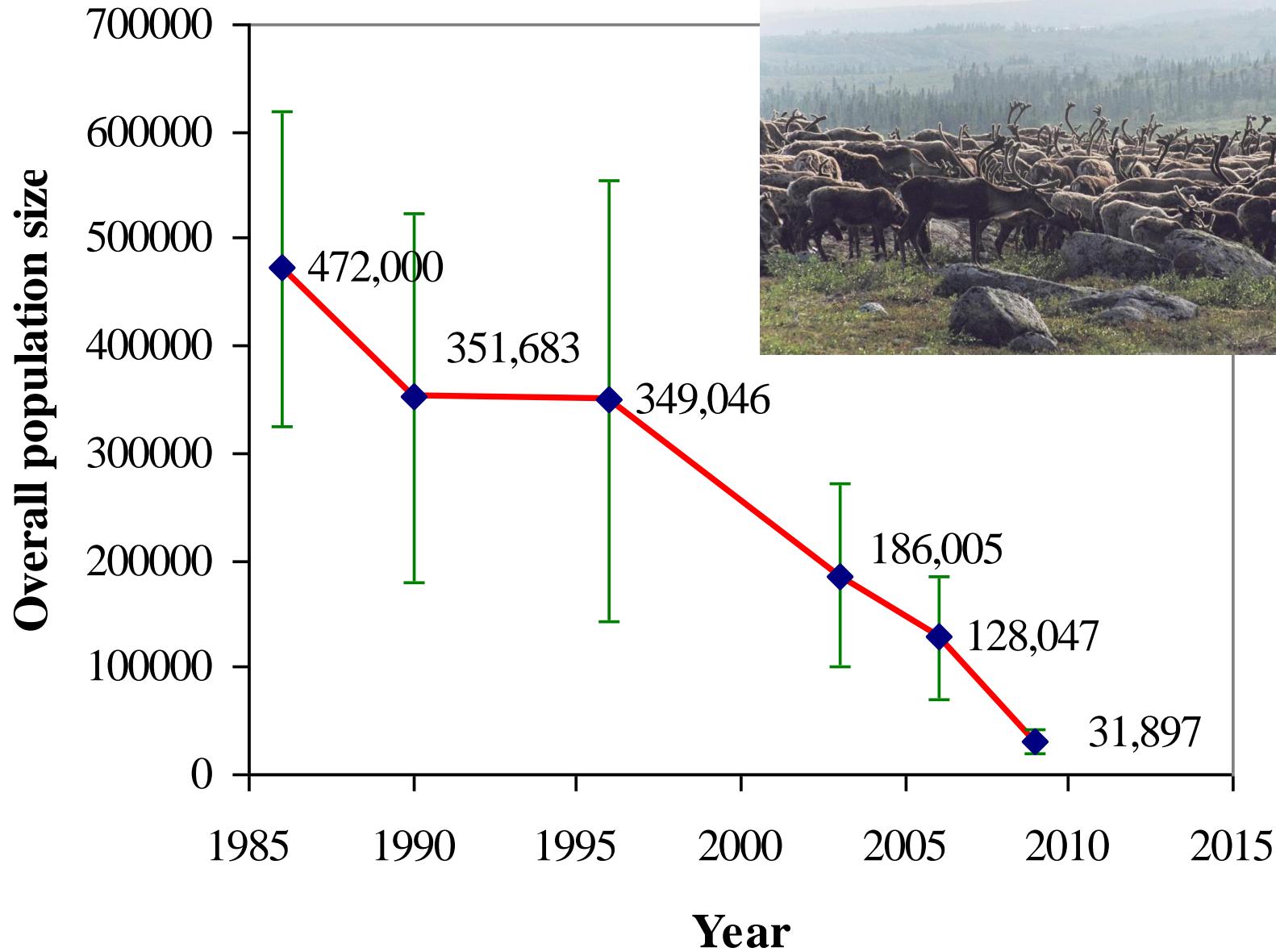
## Map 2. 2007 Barren-ground Caribou Calving Ground Surveys (Eastern Herds)

N

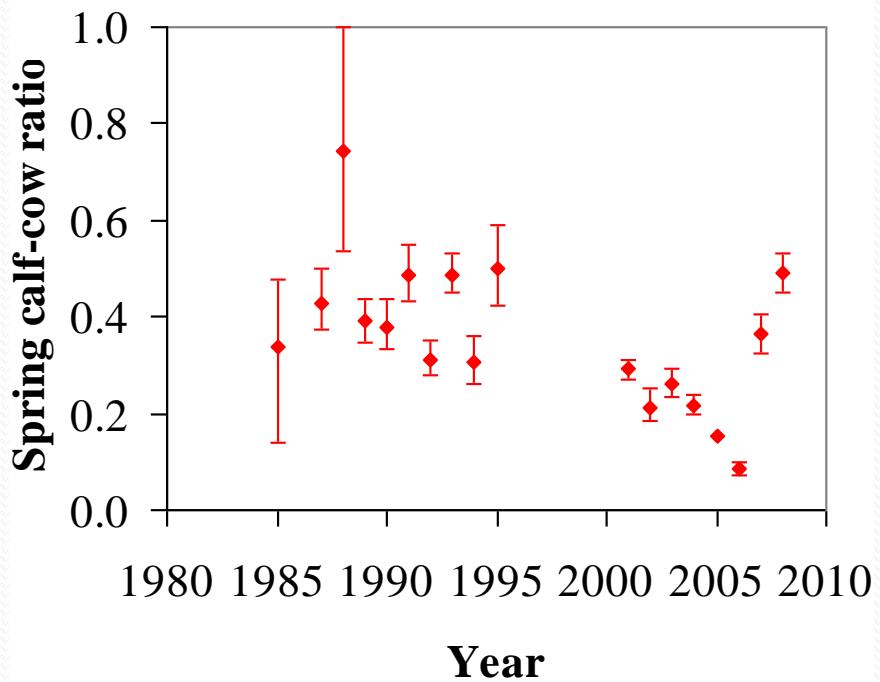


## June 2008 Barren-Ground Calving Ground Distribution Survey Flight-Lines, NWT & Nunavut

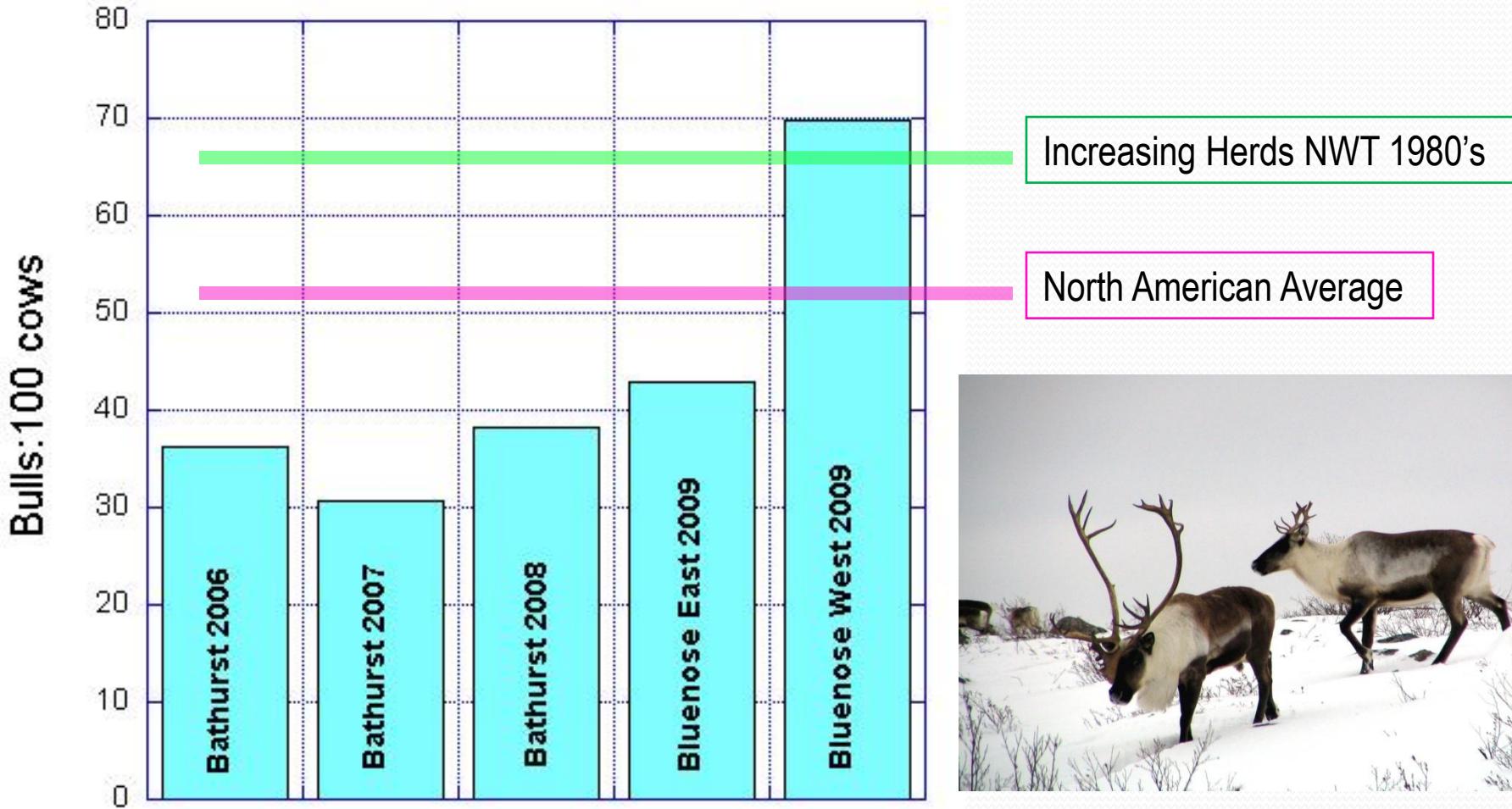




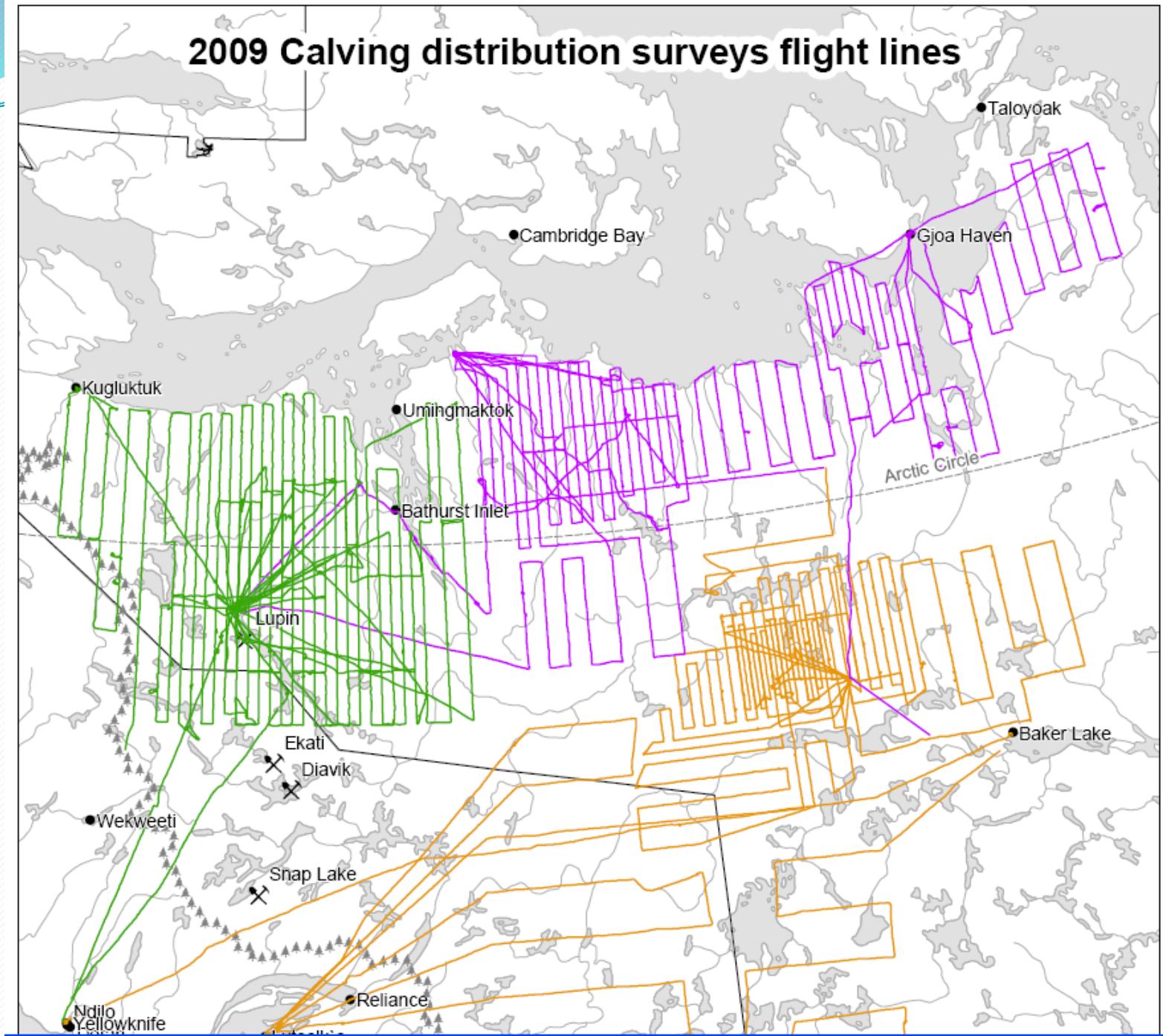
## Bathurst Spring Calf:Cow Ratios 1985-2008



# Sex Ratio in Bathurst & Other Caribou Herds



# 2009 Calving distribution surveys flight lines



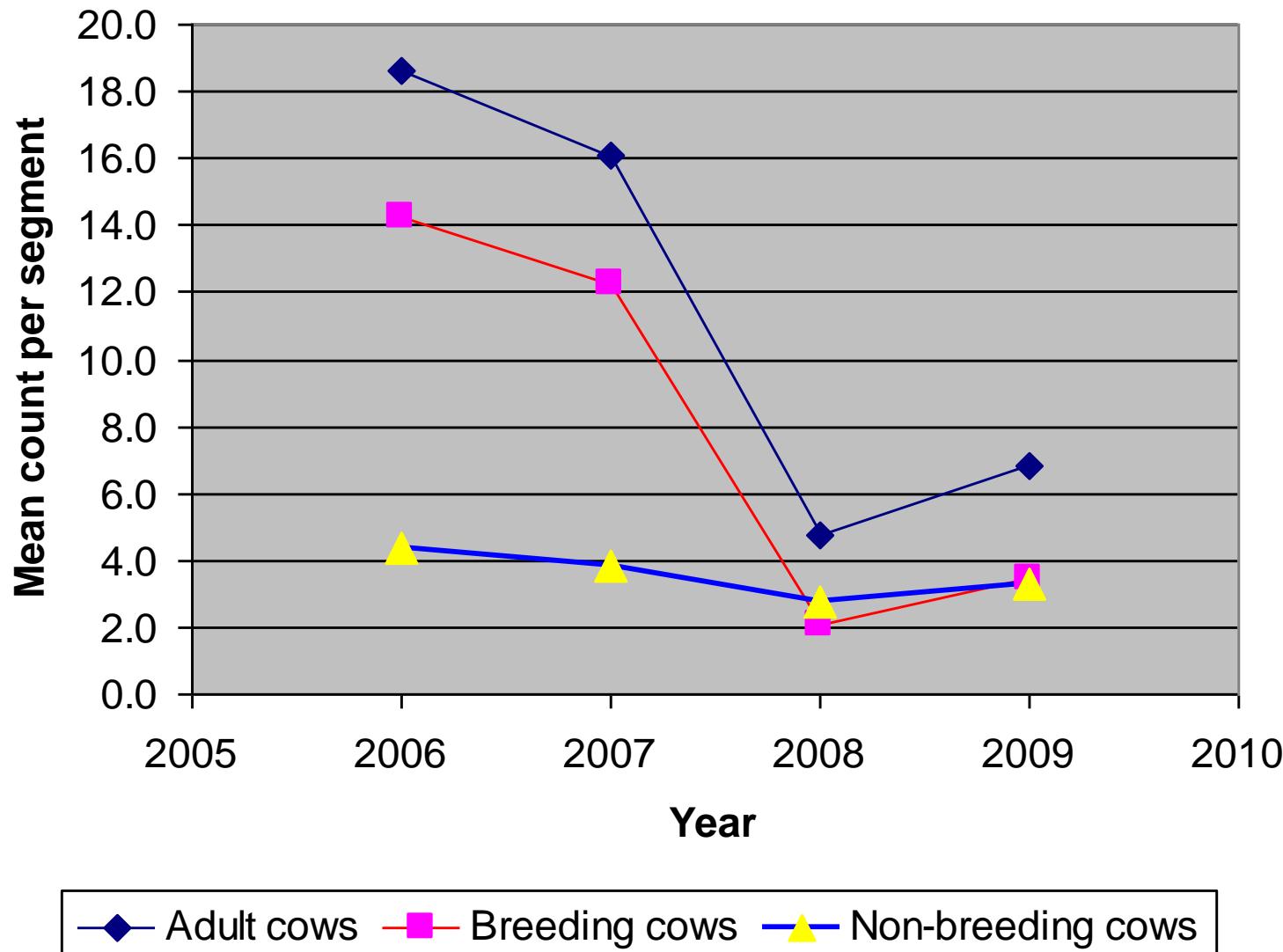
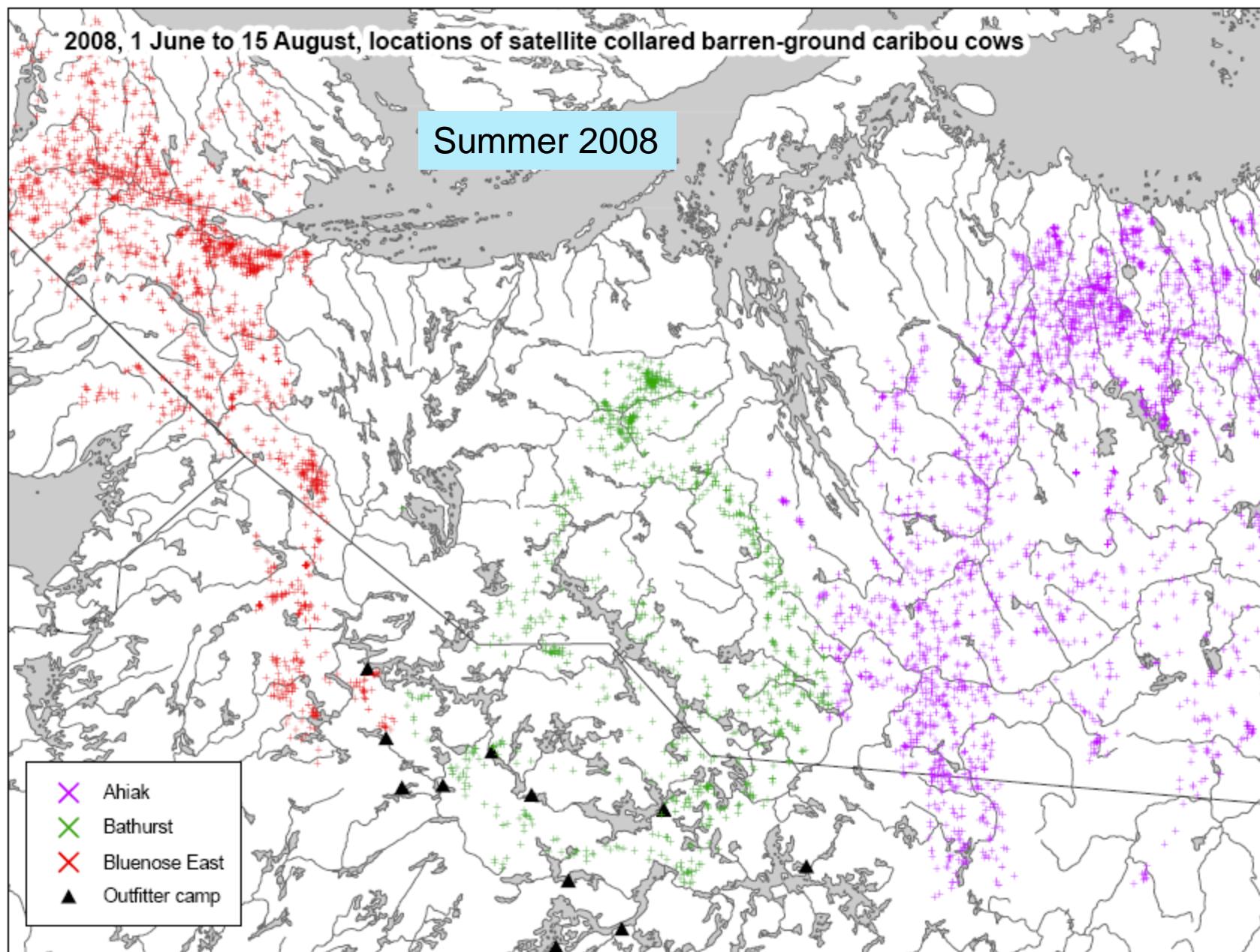
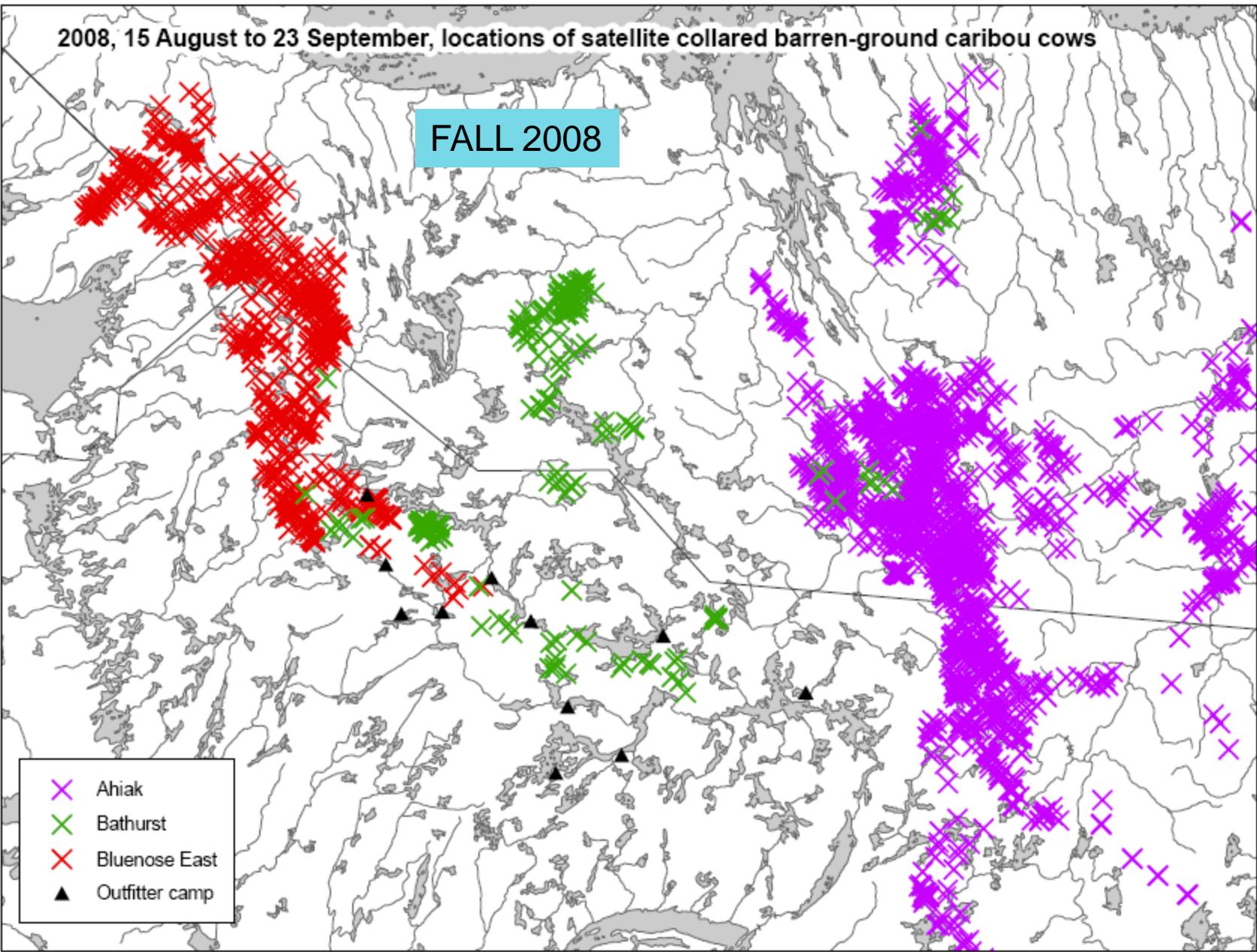


Figure . Average number of breeding cows, non-breeding cows, and adult cows (sum of breeding and non-breeding cows) observed per 10-km flight line segment on transect during calving reconnaissance surveys in June 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 on the Ahiak calving ground.



2008, 15 August to 23 September, locations of satellite collared barren-ground caribou cows

FALL 2008



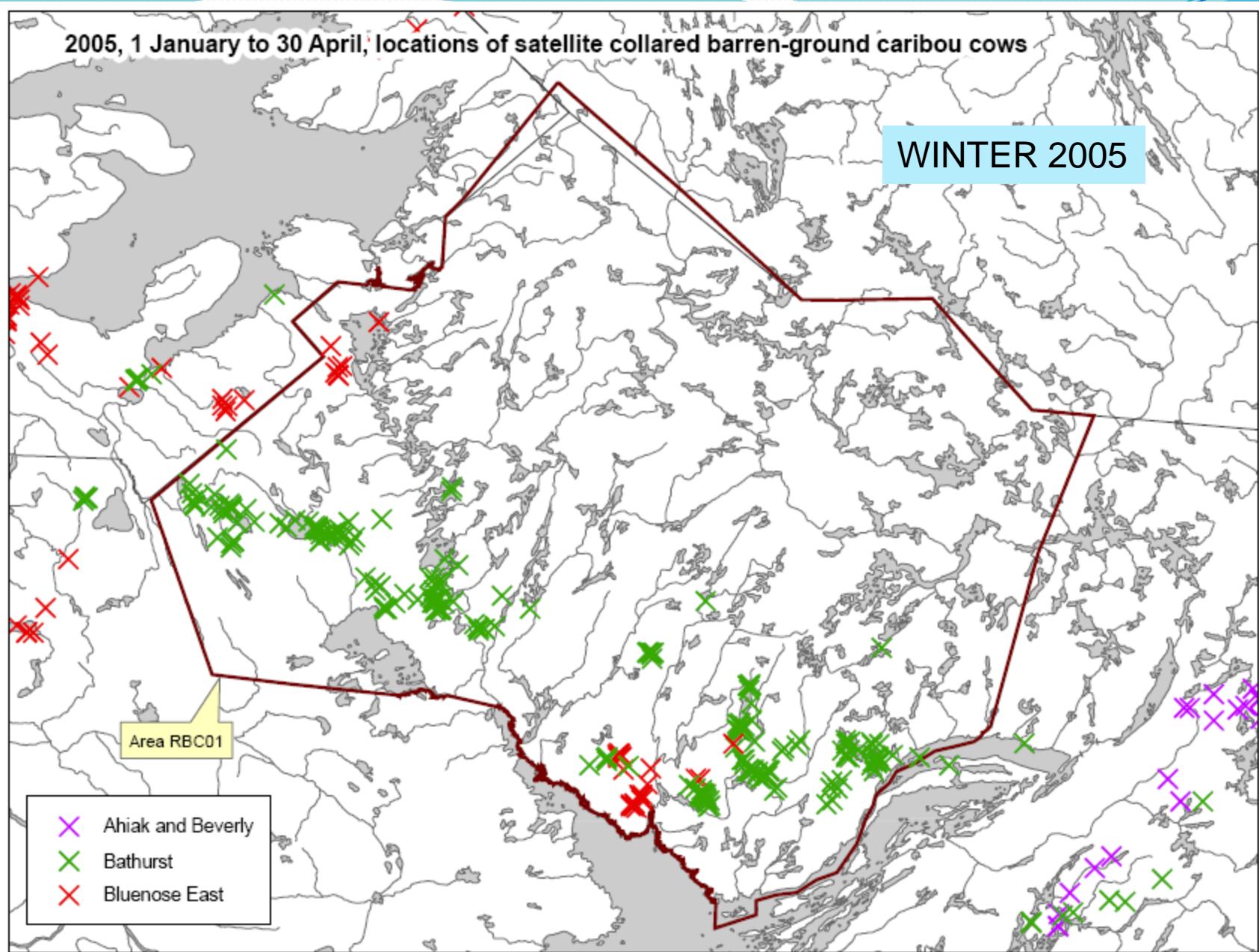
2009, 15 August to 23 September, locations of satellite collared barren-ground caribou cows

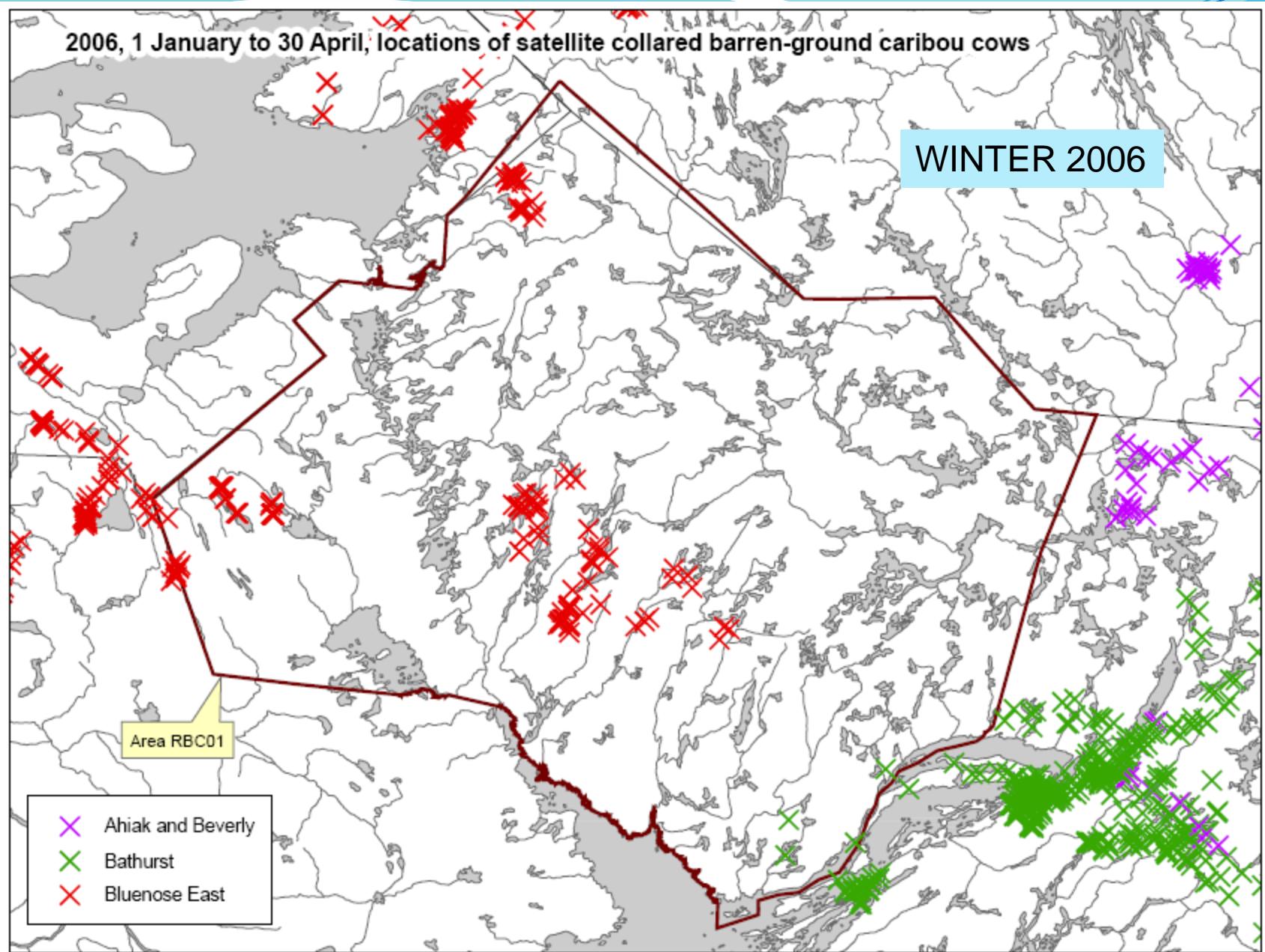
FALL 2009

- ▲ Outfitter camp
- ✗ Ahiak
- ✗ Bathurst
- ✗ Bluenose East

Label	Outfitter
a	Peterson's Point Lake Lodge
b	Bathurst Inlet Dev - Whitewolf Lake
c	Camp Ekwo
d	Adventure Northwest - Little Marten Lake
e	Arctic Safaris - Obstruction Rapids Camp
f	Aurora Caribou Camp
g	Qalvik - Courageous Lake Camp
h	True North Safaris - Warburton Bay Lodge
i	Mackay Lake Lodge
j	Qalvik - Lac De Gras East Camp
k	Aylmer Lake Lodge

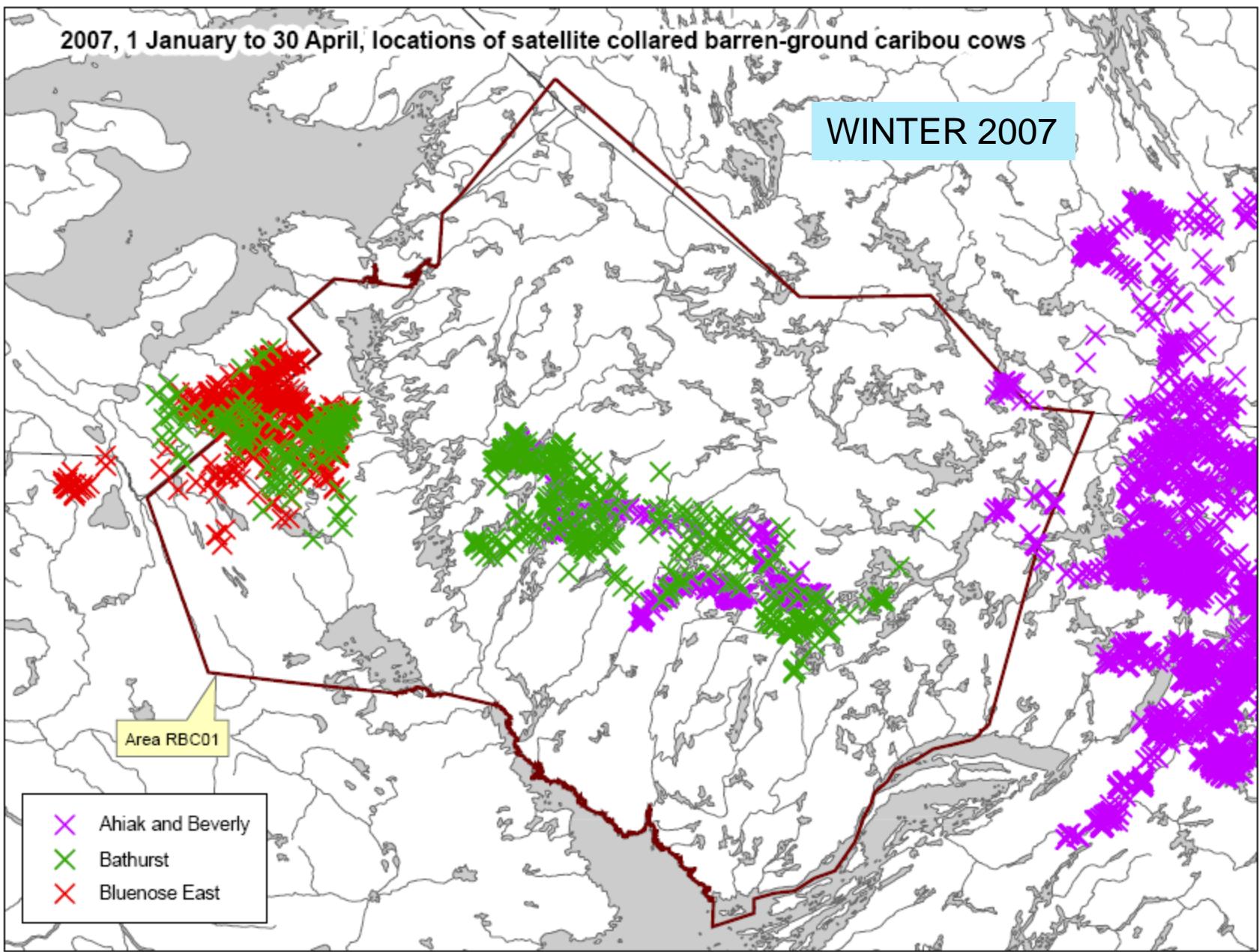
R/BC/01





2007, 1 January to 30 April, locations of satellite collared barren-ground caribou cows

WINTER 2007

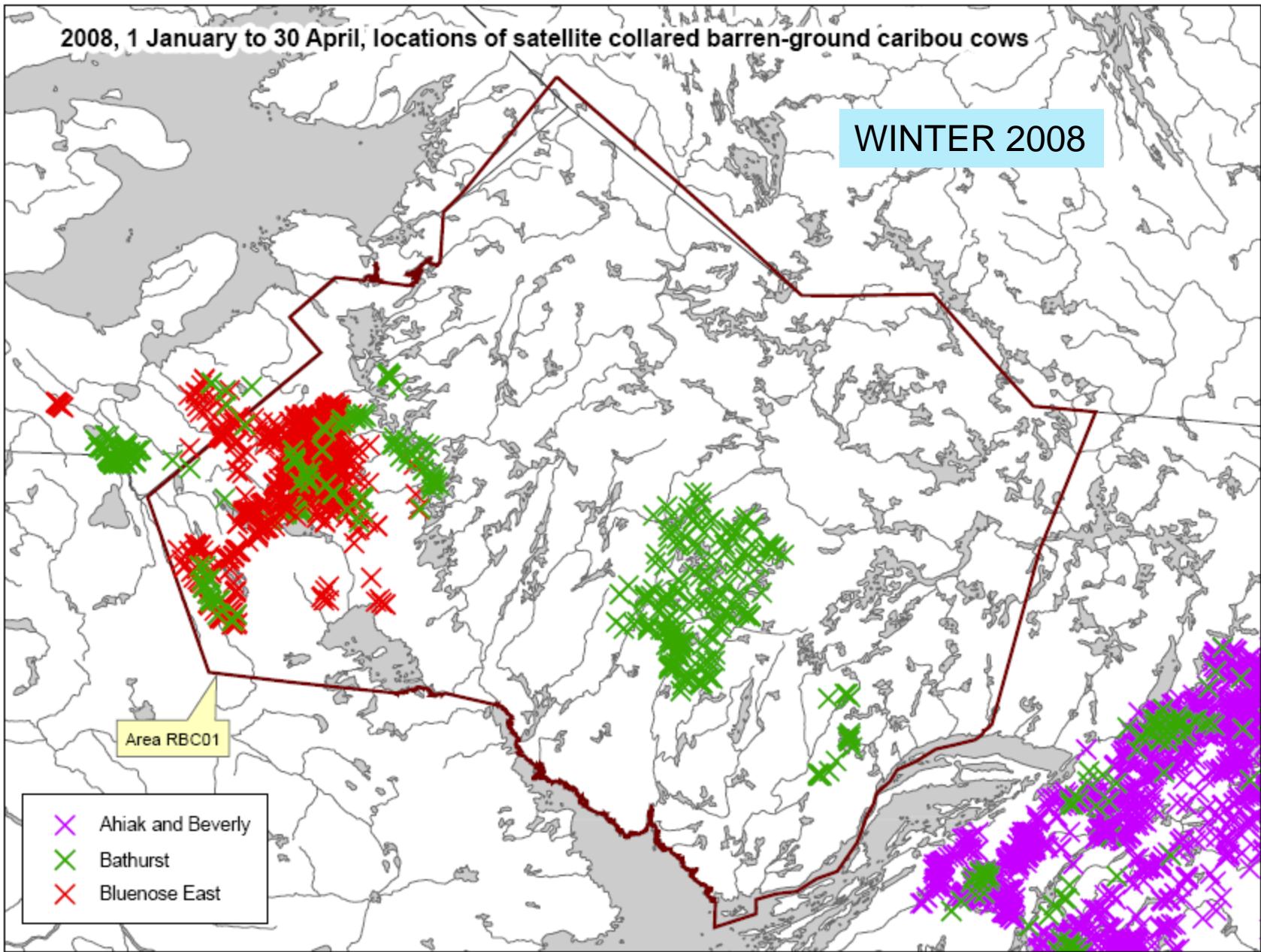


2008, 1 January to 30 April, locations of satellite collared barren-ground caribou cows

WINTER 2008

Area RBC01

- ✗ Ahiak and Beverly
- ✗ Bathurst
- ✗ Bluenose East

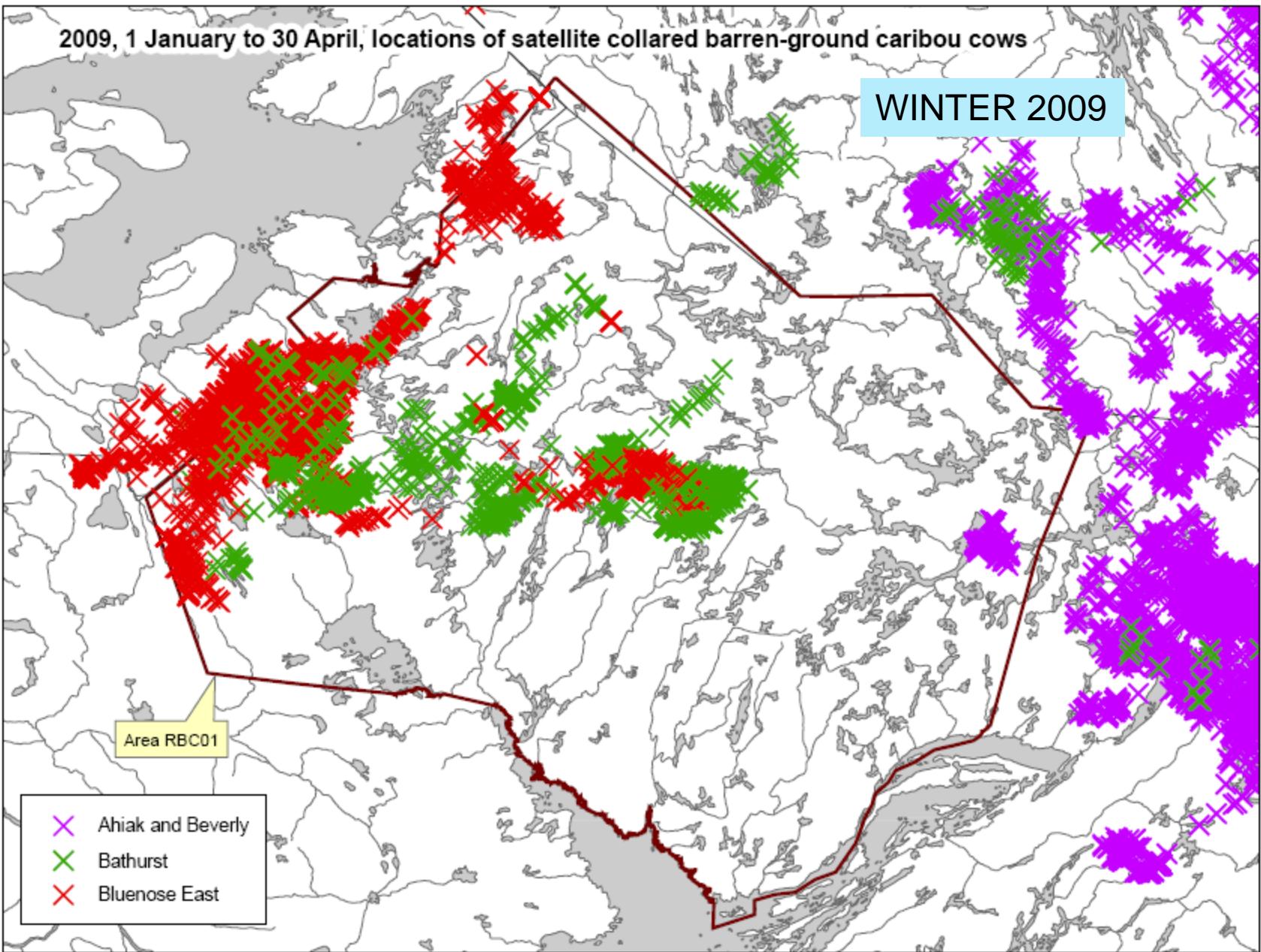


2009, 1 January to 30 April, locations of satellite collared barren-ground caribou cows

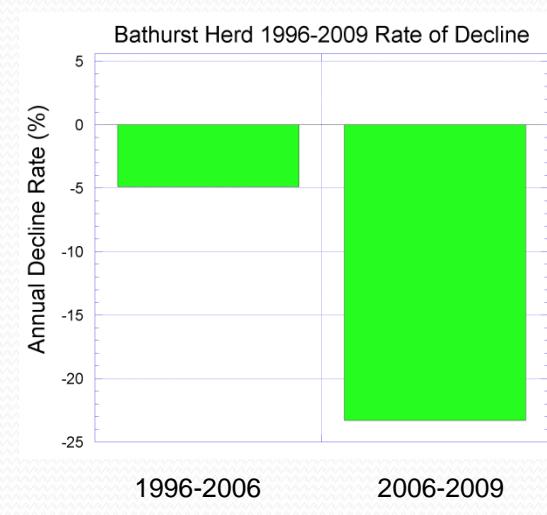
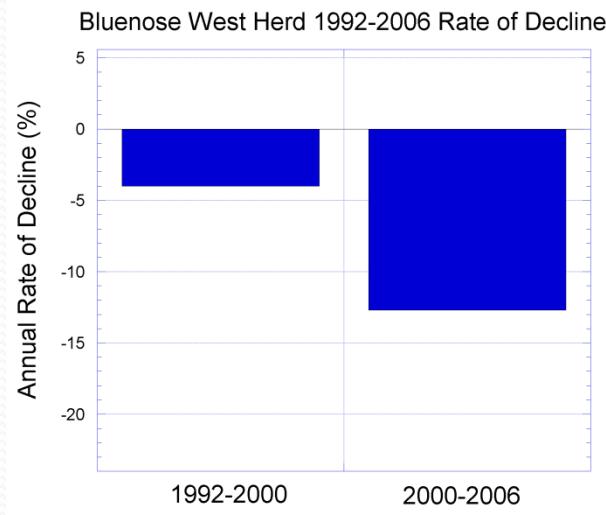
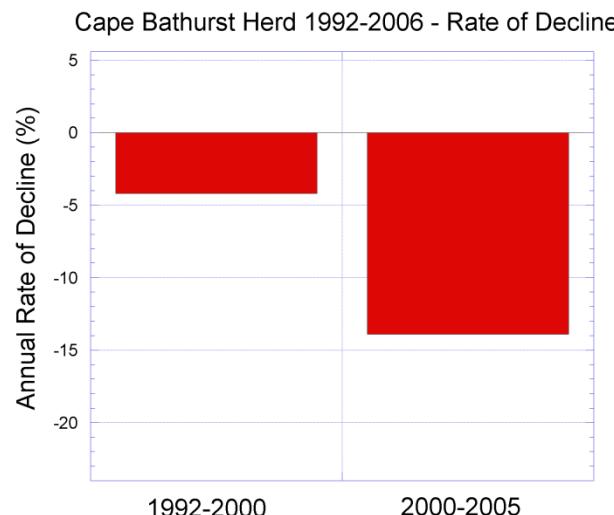
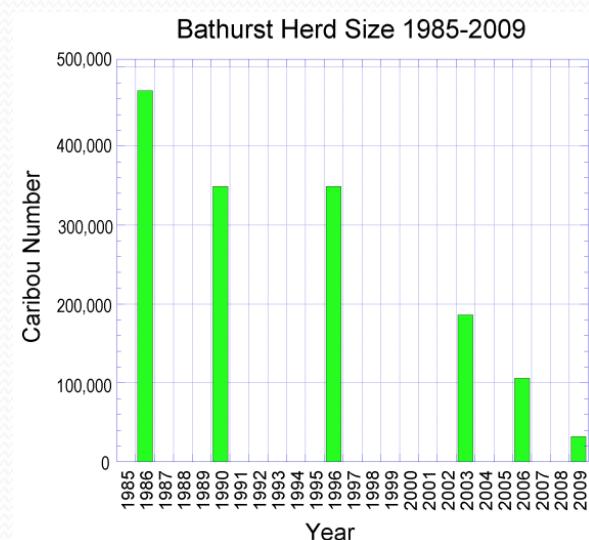
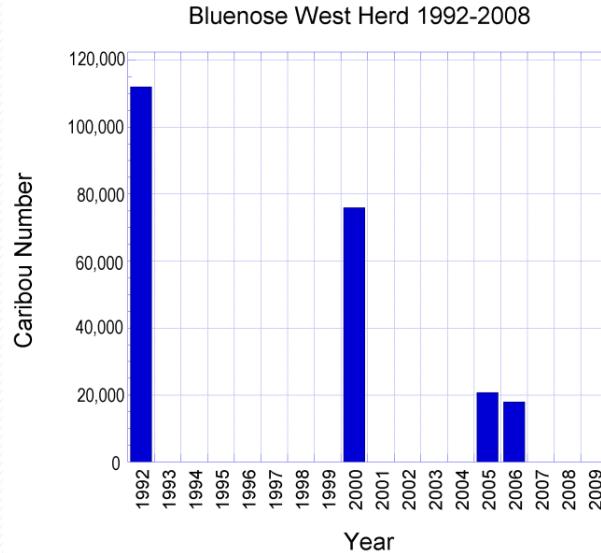
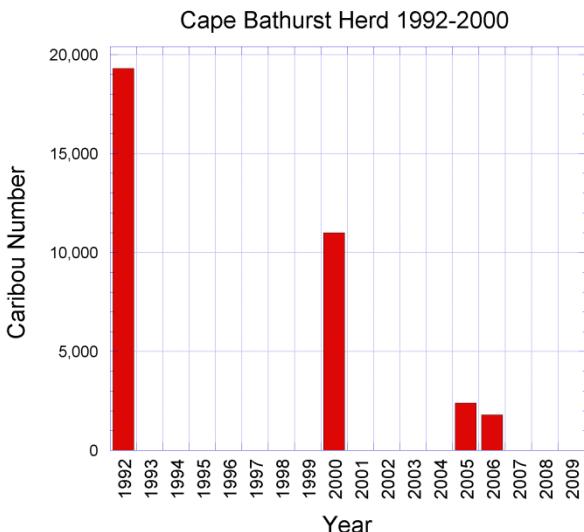
WINTER 2009

Area RBC01

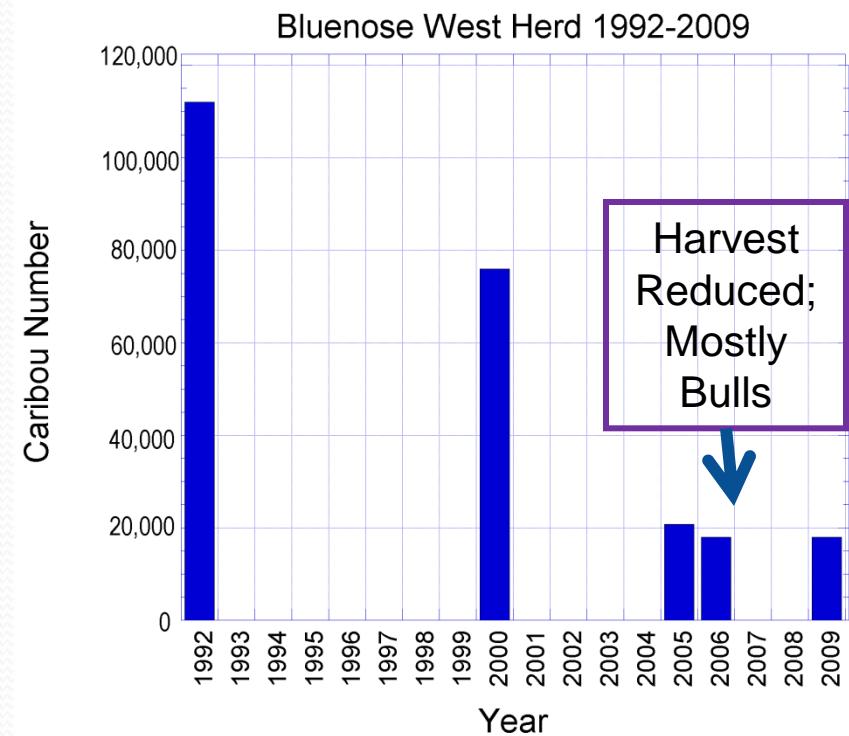
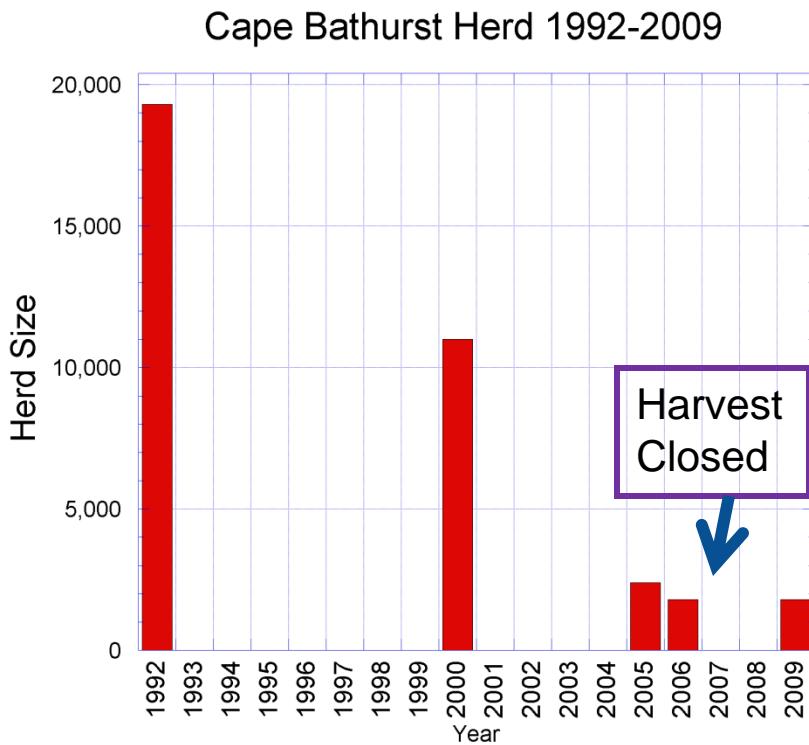
- ✗ Ahiak and Beverly
- ✗ Bathurst
- ✗ Bluenose East



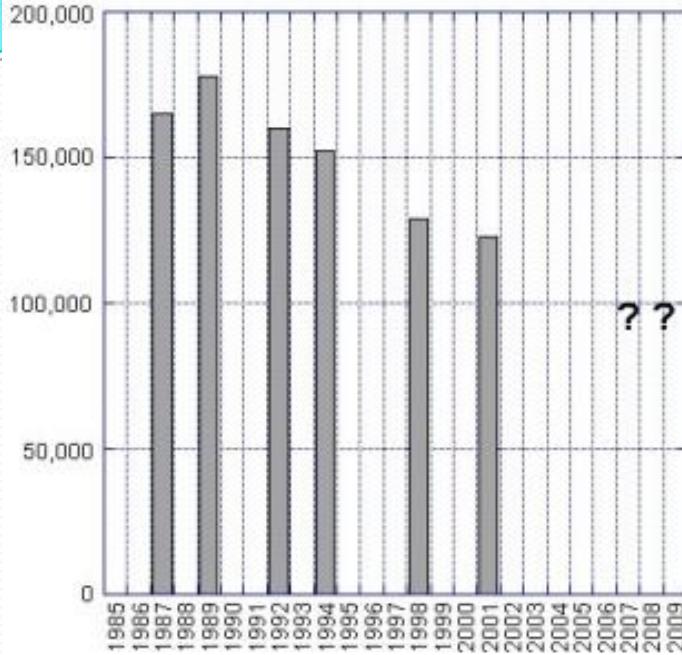
# Declines in the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West & Bathurst herds



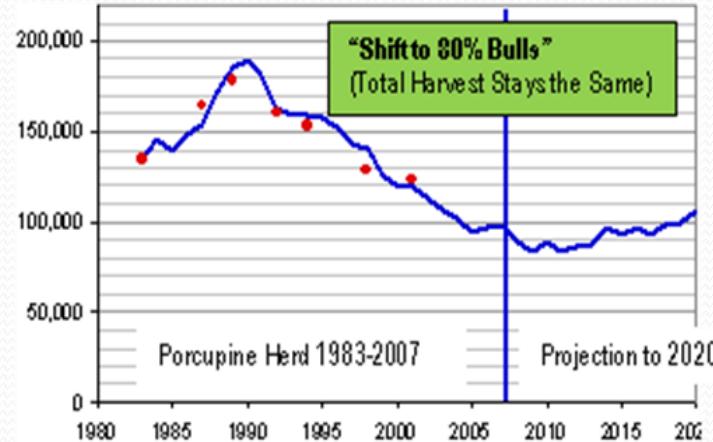
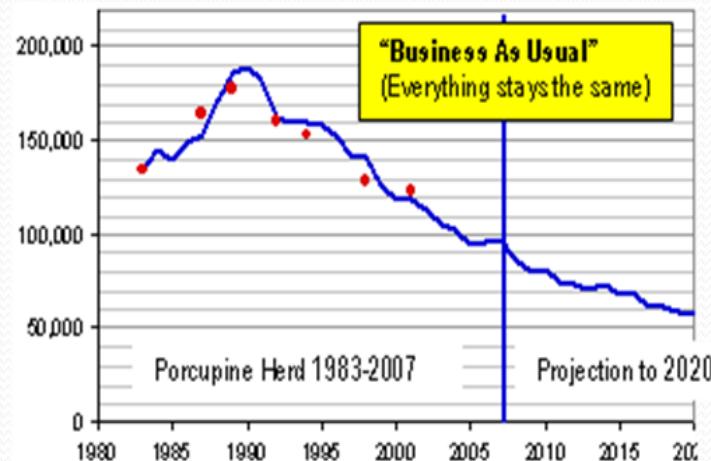
# Cape Bathurst & Bluenose West Herds: *Harvest Management*

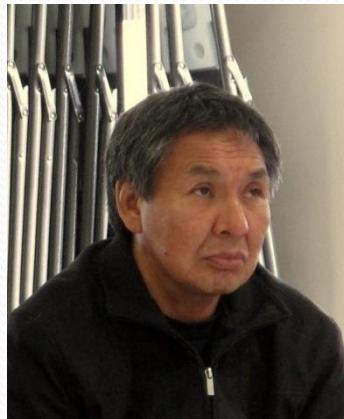
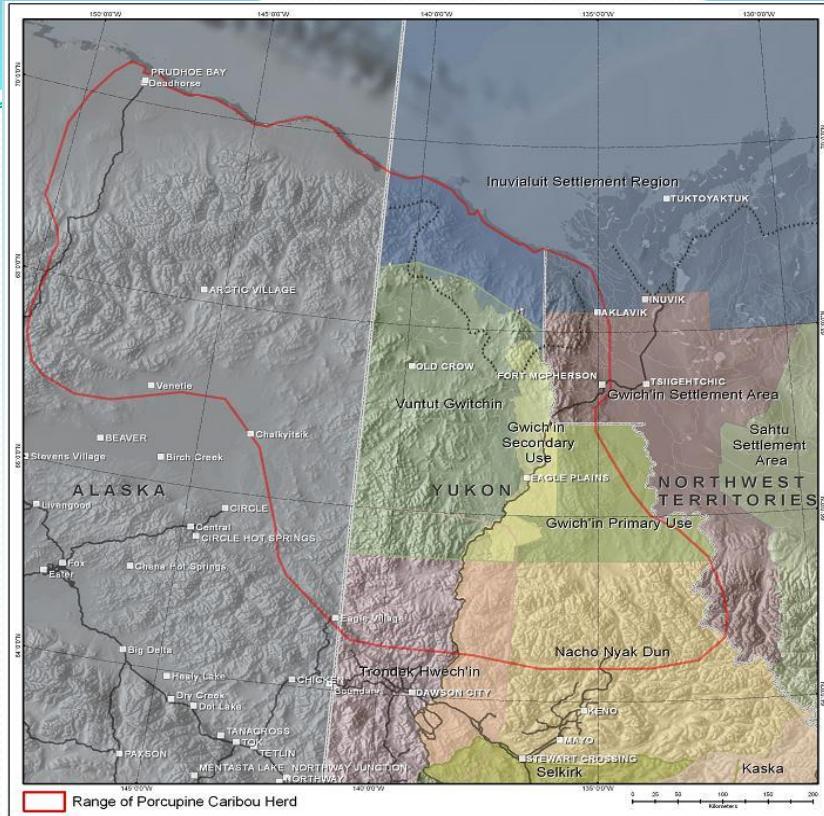


## Porcupine Herd 1985-2009

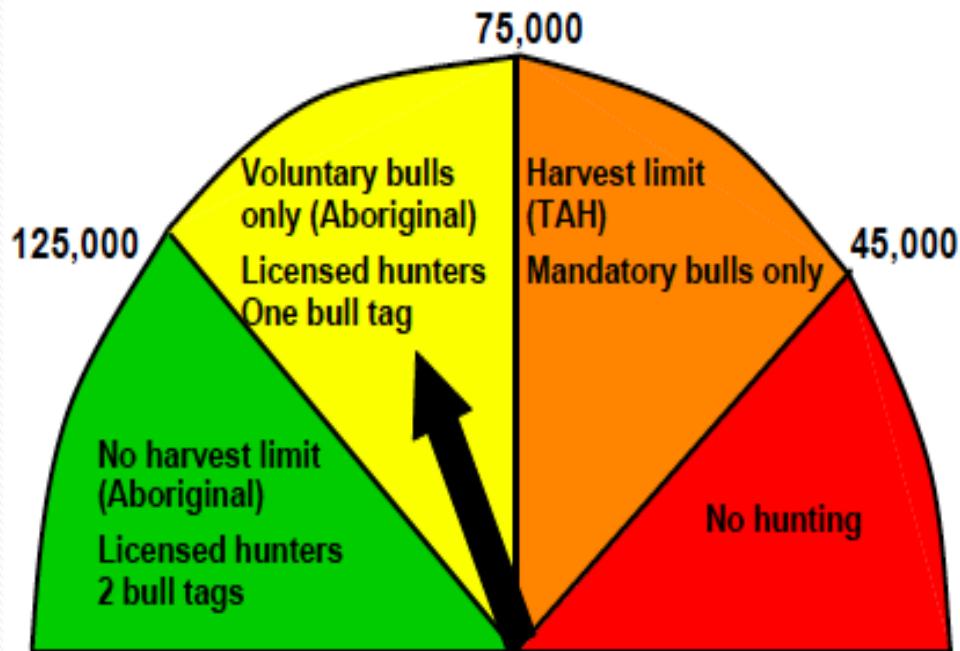


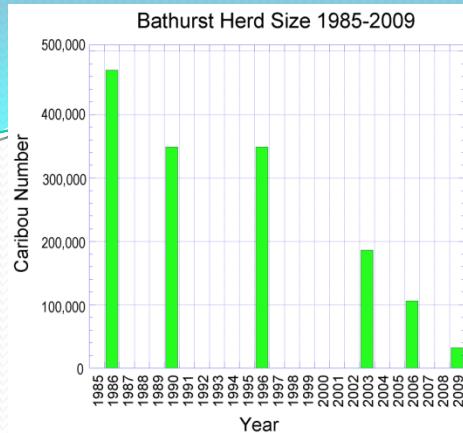
## Porcupine Caribou Calculator



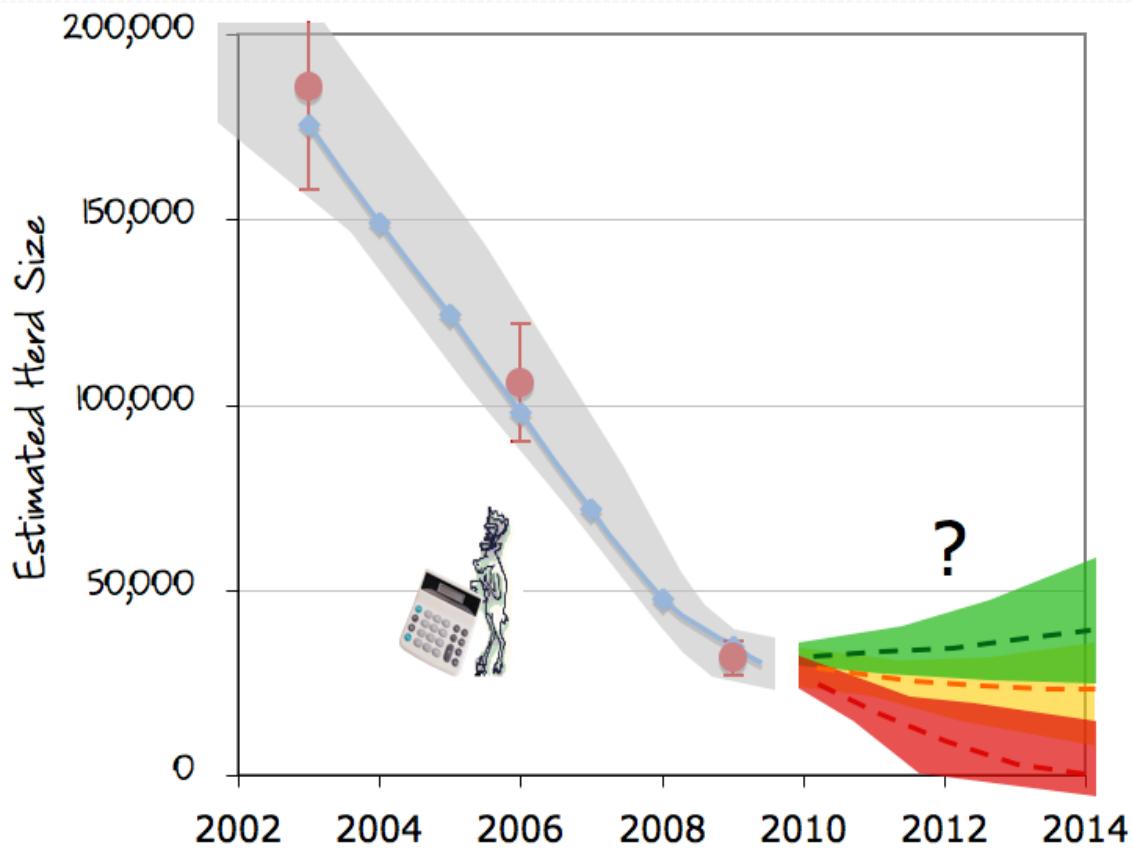
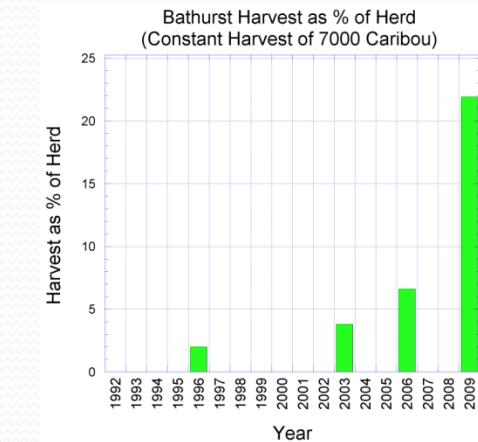
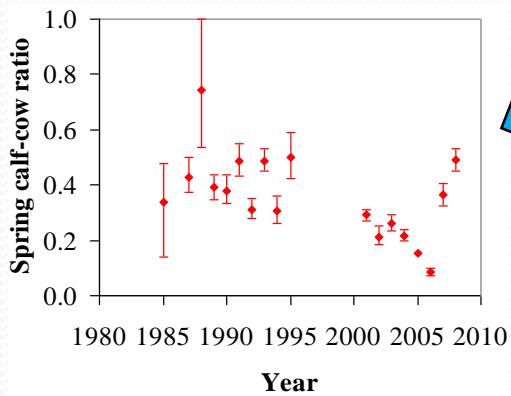


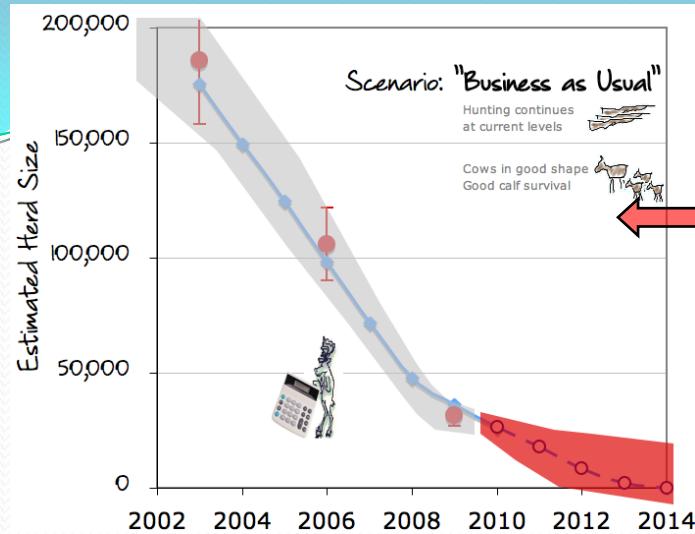
# Porcupine Caribou Management Board Harvest Management Plan (2009)





## Developing the Bathurst Caribou Calculator (2008-2009)





**Business as Usual**

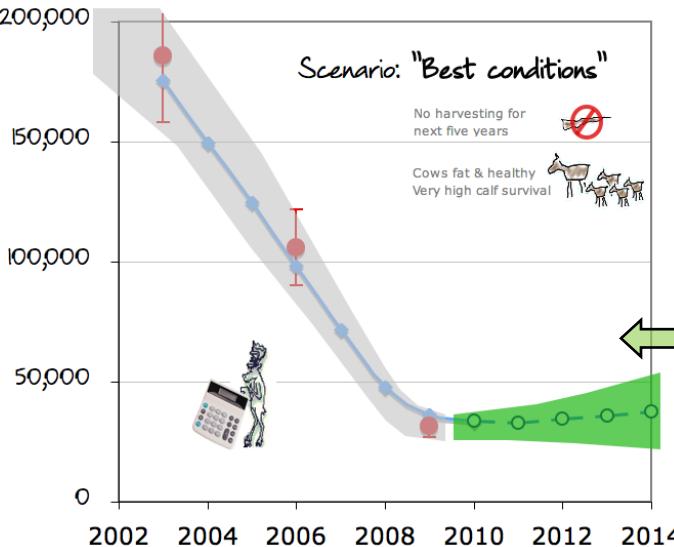
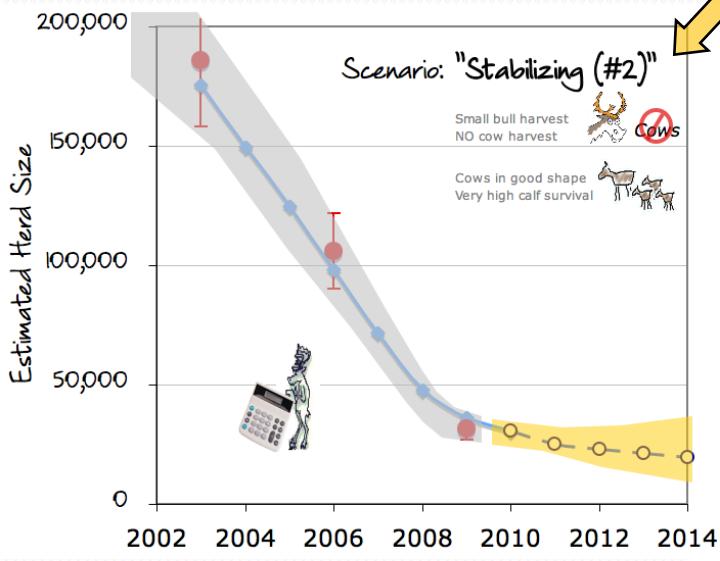
If the hunter harvest stays the same, cows stay in good shape, and recent good calf survival continues, the herd will most likely disappear in the next 4-5 years. There is no level of calf production or survival that can compensate for current high cow death rates.

## Bathurst Caribou Herd: 5-year Prospects



**Stabilizing Scenario #2**

If there is no cow harvest for the next 5 years and a limited small bull harvest, cows are in good shape, and calf survival is very good, the decline should slow down and the herd might begin to stabilize.



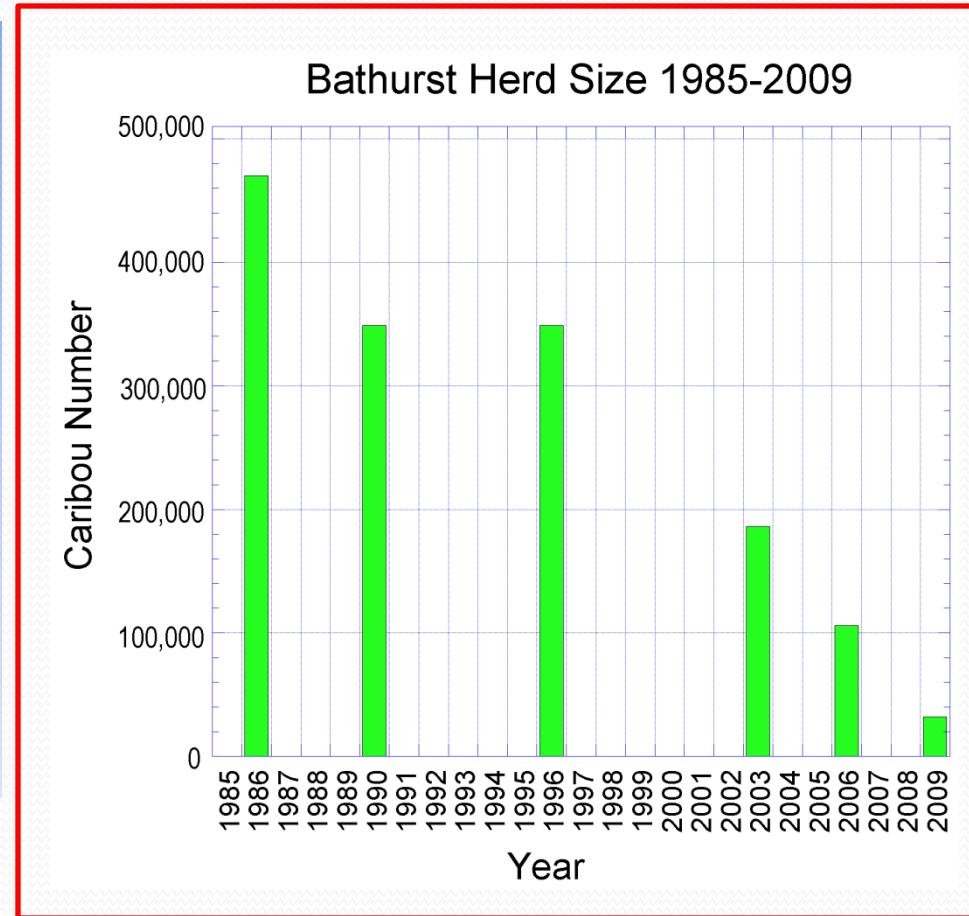
**Best Conditions**

If there is no harvest for 5 years, cows stay in very good shape, and calf survival is very good, the herd might stabilize and start to increase.

Currently the herd has a large proportion of young caribou that are not yet breeding. This is one reason why an increase in the herd can at best be slow under best conditions.

# Bathurst Caribou – Management

1. Bathurst June 2009 survey – rapid decline
2. Workshops, Meetings, Information Sharing: July – Dec. 2009 (on-going)
3. Joint Management Proposal (TliCho & GNWT) Oct. 30, 2009
4. (Likely) i Renewable Resources Board Hearings Dec. 2009
5. Consultation with all partners, aboriginal governments – November



# Joint ENR/Tlicho Proposal

## All herds in North & South Slave

Commercial meat sales

- Eliminate

Non-resident hunters (outfitted)

- Eliminate

Resident hunters (non-Aboriginal)

- Eliminate



## *General Hunting Licence Holders*

### **Bluenose-East**

- Tags only – primarily bulls
- reassess in fall 2010 when new herd estimate obtained

### **Bathurst**

- Limited bulls only - tags
- Mobile protection zones

### **Ahiak**

Tags only – primarily bulls  
Reassess in fall 2010 when new herd estimate obtained