

Proposal 20: Unit 26A Moose

This proposal extends the moose hunting season in Unit 26A. The season would be Aug. 1 – Sept. 30 in two hunt areas: the Colville River drainage above and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage, and in Unit 26A Remainder.

This is a North Slope AC proposal.

Department Recommendation:

- **Neutral** on season extension
- **Neutral** on allocations associated with access defined in the Unit 26A Controlled Use Area.

- Continued -

Recommendations - continued

Department Recommendation (continued):

- If the longer season causes overharvest, the department would use emergency order procedures to conserve the population and propose revised regulations at the next Arctic/Western Region meeting.

Advisory Committee Recommendation:

North Slope AC **Support**

Unit 26A Moose Regulations

Unit 26A, West of 156° 00' W. Longitude, excluding the Colville River drainage.

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- July 1 - Sept 14: 1 moose; no calf or cow accompanied by a calf

Unit 26A, Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River Drainage.

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- Aug 1 – Sept 14; 1 bull
- Feb 15 – Apr 15; 1 moose; no calf or cow accompanied by a calf

- Drawing permit: Residents and Nonresidents
- Sept 1 – Sept 14; 1 bull
- DM980, DM981 permit conditions:
 - allows use of aircraft within Unit 26A CUA, excluding the Anaktuvuk Pass CUA;
 - up to 40 permits;
 - up to 20% of permits may be nonresidents

Unit 26A Remainder (includes the rest of the Colville River, and the Ikpikpuk River)

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- Aug 1 – Sept 14: 1 bull

Proposed Regulation

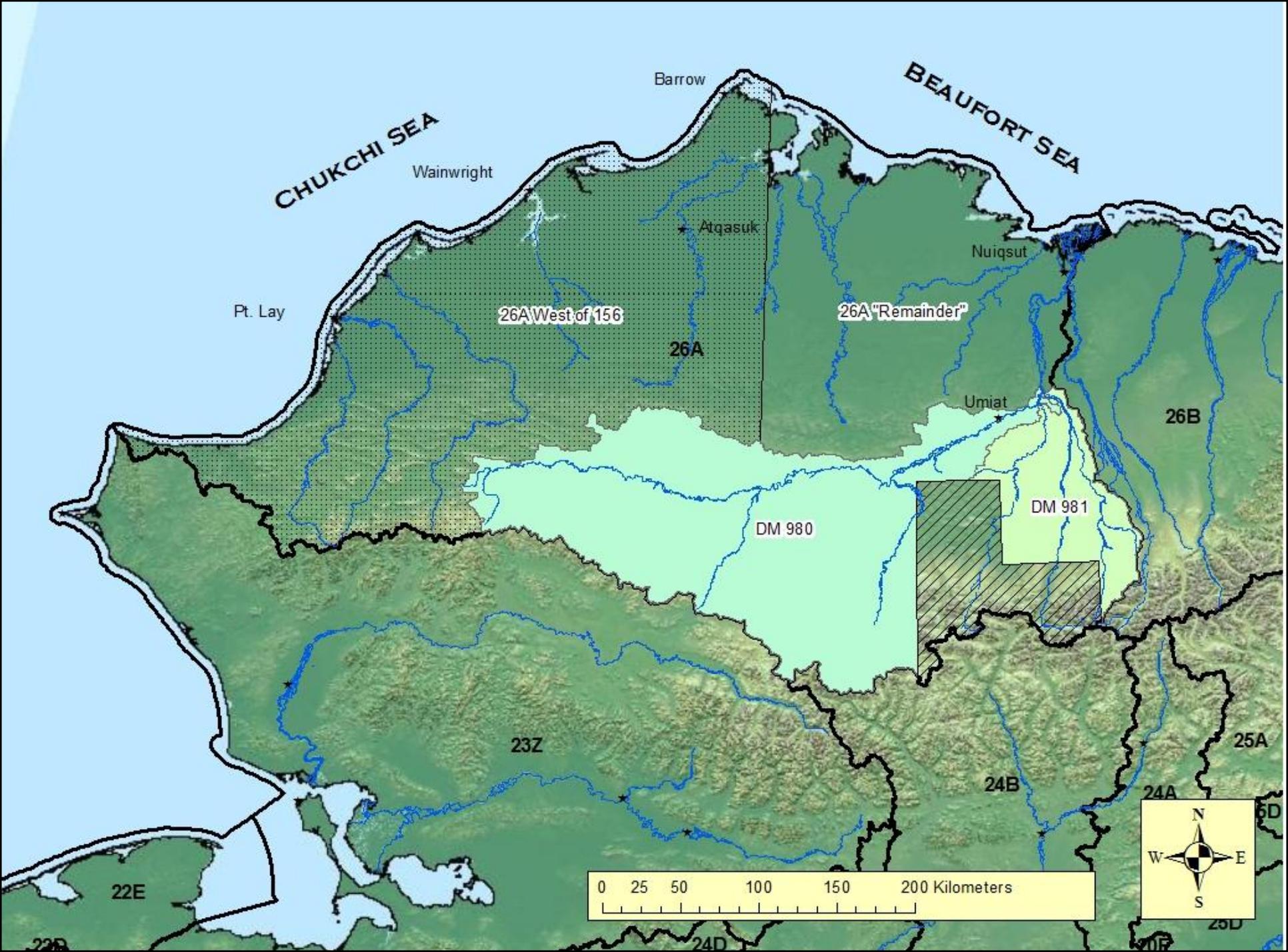
Unit 26A, Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River Drainage.

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- Aug. 1 – **Sept. 30**; 1 bull
- Feb. 15 – Apr. 15; 1 moose; no calf or cow accompanied by a calf

- Drawing permit: Residents and Nonresidents
- Sept. 1 – Sept. 14; 1 bull
- DM980, DM981 permit conditions:
 - allows use of aircraft within Unit 26A CUA, excluding the Anaktuvuk Pass CUA;
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Unit 26A Remainder (includes the rest of the Colville River, and the Ikpikpuk River)

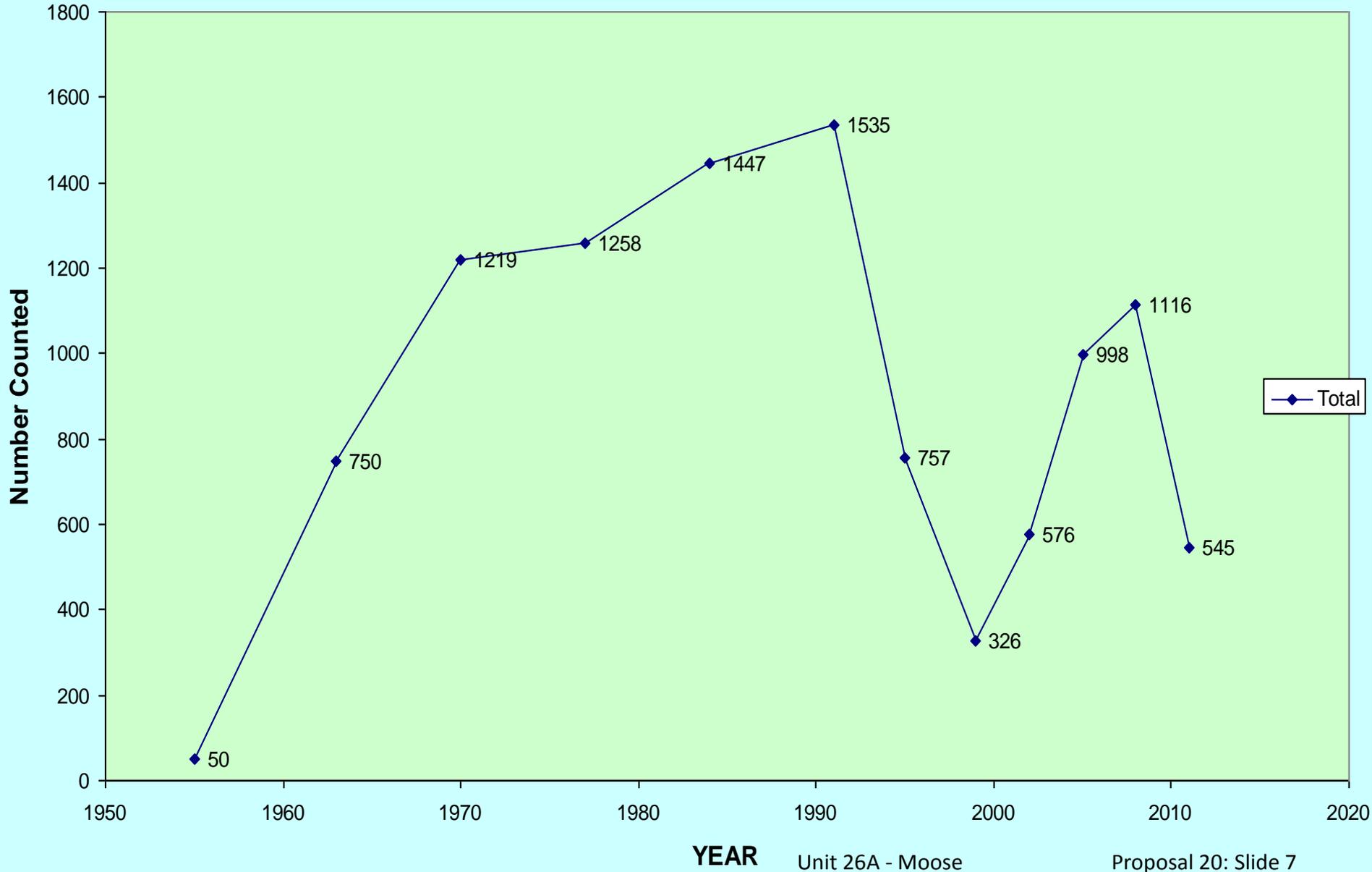
- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- Aug. 1 – **Sept. 30**: 1 bull



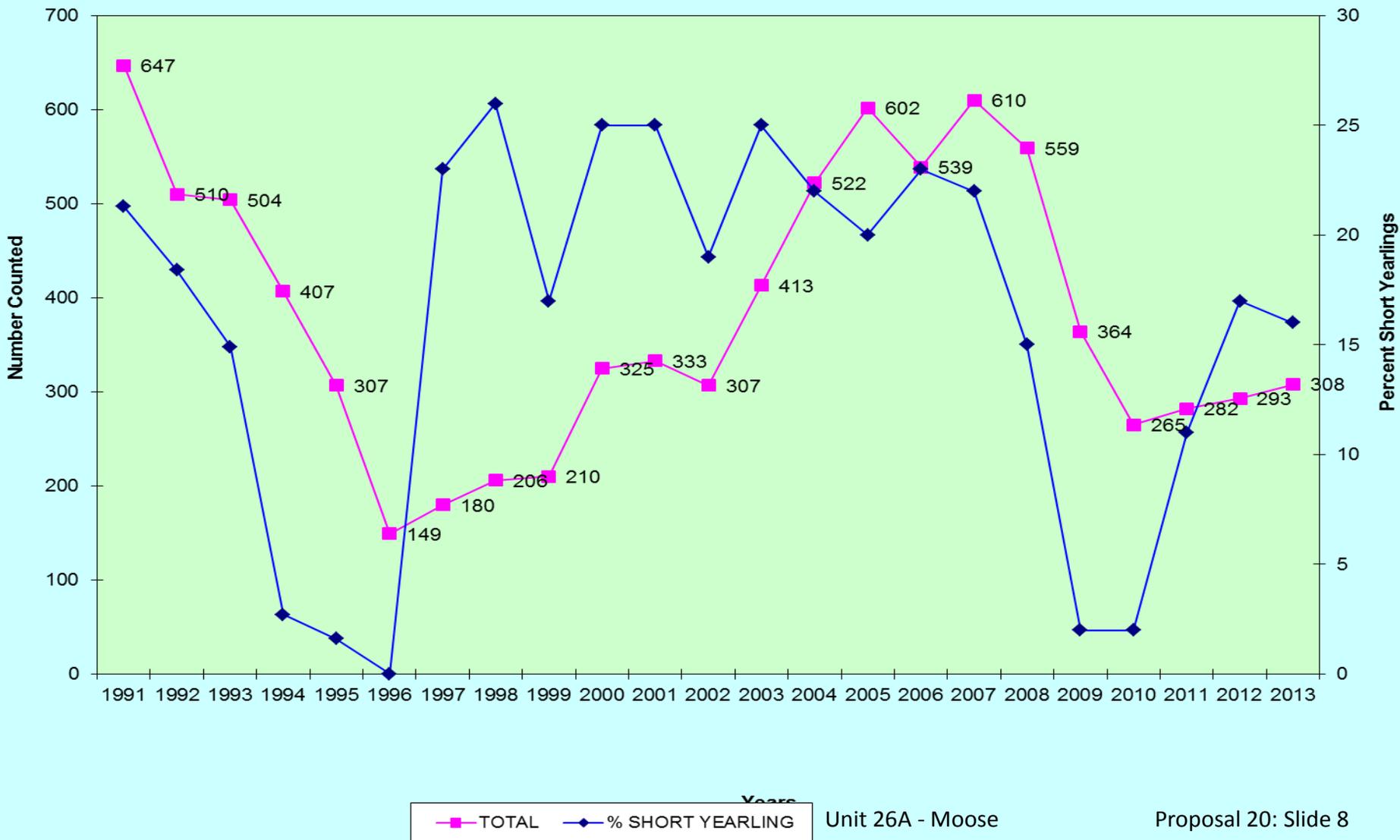
Reasons for the Proposal

- Later season allows hunting when cooler temperature favors better preservation of meat.
- Warmer fall temperatures have changed moose movements: hunters feel movement from the hills to the river bottoms now occurs later in September.
- Hunting success improves later in the year.
- Hunters report that air traffic from research and exploration activities has pushed moose away from the Colville River through early September, making them harder to hunt.

Unit 26A Moose Minimum Population Estimate 1955 - 2011



Colville River Moose Trend Area Counts 1991 - 2013



Population Status and Harvest Records

- Population counts have declined 50%
 - 1,116 moose in 2008
 - 548 moose in 2011
 - Trend area counts show a slow increase since 2010
- Recent increase in short yearling percentage
 - 2% recruitment in 2010
 - 16% recruitment in 2013
- Low reported moose harvest
 - 13 moose in 2010
 - 5 moose in 2011
 - 9 moose in 2012
- Likely reasons for the population decline
 - Nutrition
 - Predation
 - Not from hunting

Fall Moose Composition Counts

<u>Year</u>	<u>Bulls:100</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves:100</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>moose</u>
2004	60	37	19	255	313
2005	66	37	18	188	230
2006	59	40	20	252	316
2007	63	37	18	239	293
2008	69	12	7	231	247
2009	71	13	7	204	219
2010	67	25	11	136	153
2011	67	38	18	107	131
2012	69	34	17	140	168
2013	61	0	0	53	53

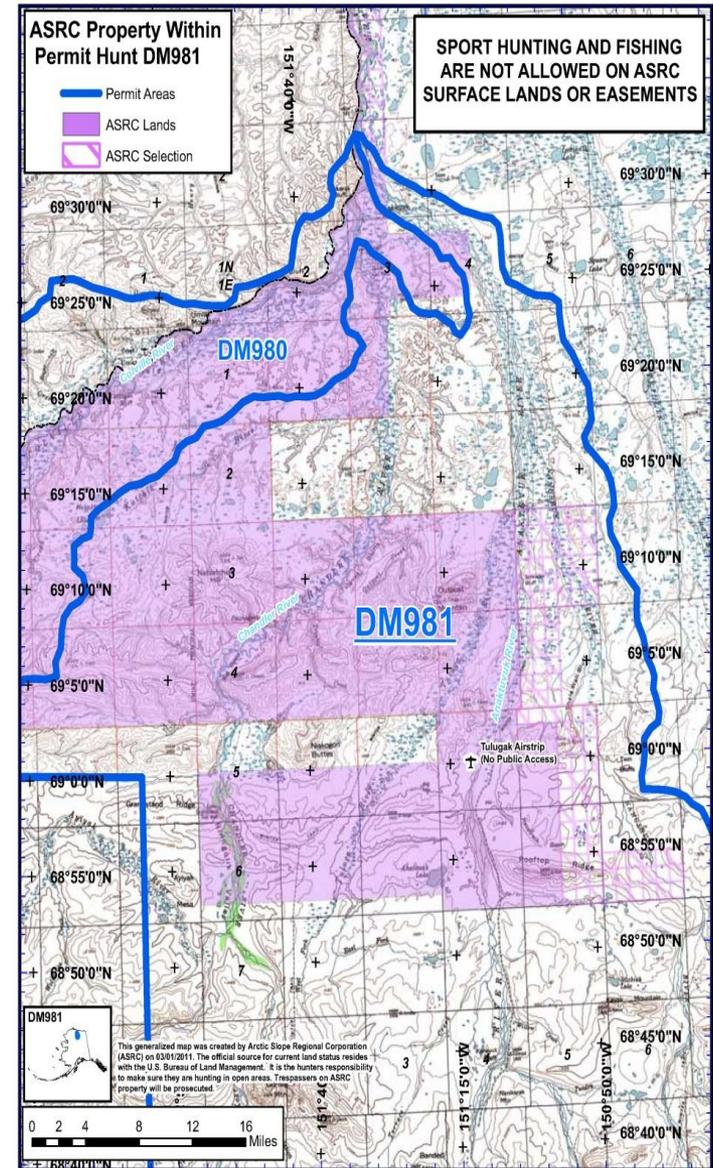
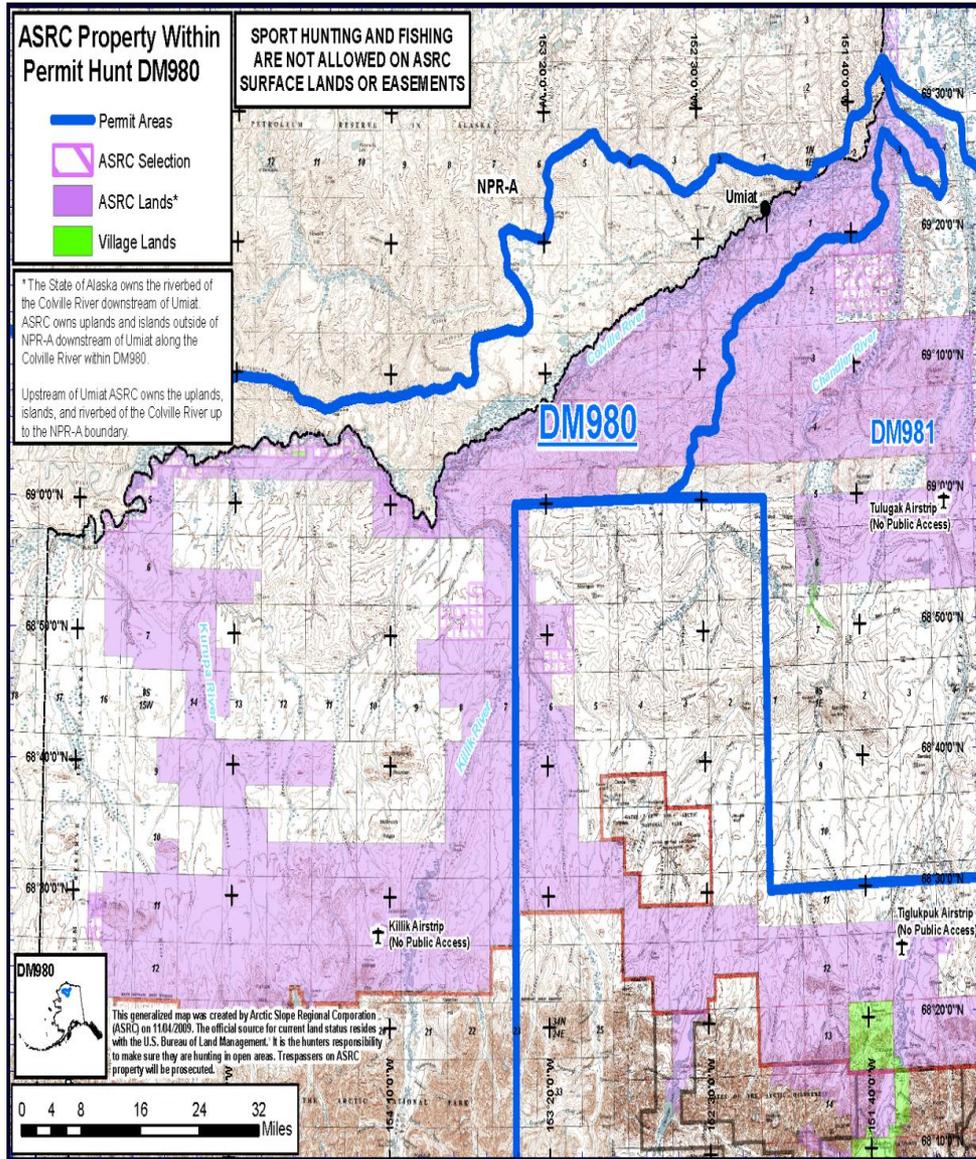
2013 Fall Survey

- Relatively few moose had moved to the river bottoms
- Survey sample was too small for composition counts
- None of the 32 cows that we observed had calves.
- Radiotracking results:
 - 14 of 19 collared cows were located
 - 7 cows were dead
 - 7 cows had no surviving calves
- Small sample ... population metrics do not look good.

Harvest Limitations in Unit 26A

- 1) The Unit 26A CUA, which includes all of Unit 26A, is closed to the use of aircraft for moose hunting, except under terms of a drawing permit hunt; the closure includes transporting moose hunters, gear, and moose parts;
- 2) The department has reduced the number of available drawing permits from 25 to 10 in recent years;
- 3) The Arctic Slope Regional Corporation owns most of the land where moose are hunted on the Colville River system and they only allow residents of North Slope villages to hunt on their lands.

ASRC Property within Colville River Drainage



Issue with the Dates of the Unit 26A CUA

- Aircraft closure dates for the Unit 26A CUA are:
July 1 through September 14
January 1 through March 31
- When Proposal 20 was written, the aircraft restricted dates in the CUA were inadvertently not taken into consideration.
- If the dates excluding aircraft in the Unit 26A CUA are not adjusted to September 30, the period of Sept. 15 – Sept. 30 would not be closed to the use of aircraft for moose hunting.
- Unrestricted aircraft access to hunt moose would probably lead to overharvest.

- End -

Questions?



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Proposal 21: Unit 26A Moose

This proposal allows moose hunting by drawing permit in the Anaktuvuk Pass CUA, modifies the bull bag limit with an antler restriction, and changes the nonresident drawing permit allocation in hunts DM980 and DM981.

This is a public proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Neutral** on:

- Changing the hunt area
- Changing the bag limit with antler size restrictions
- CUA requirements (aircraft use)
- Allocation of drawing permits to nonresidents

The department will continue to adjust the number of drawing permits based on the available harvest determined by the status of the moose population.

Advisory Committee Recommendation:

North Slope AC **Oppose**

Unit 26A Moose Regulations

Unit 26A, West of 156° 00' W. Longitude, excluding the Colville River drainage.

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- July 1 - Sept 14: 1 moose; no calf or cow accompanied by a calf

Unit 26A, Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River Drainage.

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- Aug 1 – Sept 14; 1 bull
- Feb 15 – Apr 15; 1 moose; no calf or cow accompanied by a calf

- Drawing permit: Residents and Nonresidents
- Sept 1 – Sept 14; 1 bull
- DM980, DM981 permit conditions:
 - allows use of aircraft within Unit 26A CUA, excluding the Anaktuvuk Pass CUA;
 - up to 40 permits;
 - up to 20% of permits may be nonresidents

Unit 26A Remainder (includes the rest of the Colville River, and the Ikpikpuk River)

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- Aug 1 – Sept 14: 1 bull

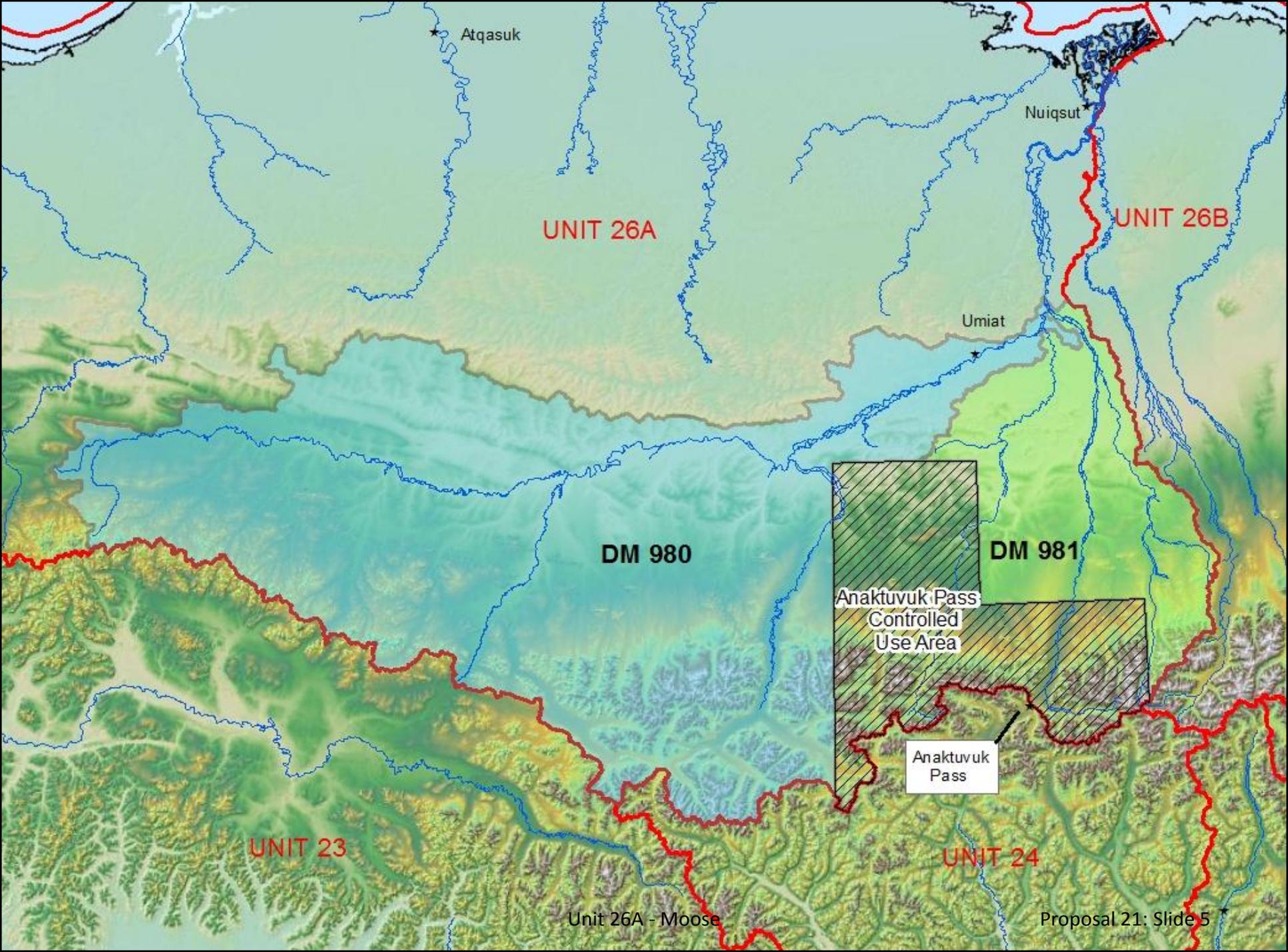
Proposed Regulation

Unit 26A, Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River Drainage.

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- Aug 1 – Sept 14; 1 bull
- Feb 15 – Apr 15; 1 moose; no calf or cow accompanied by a calf

- Drawing permit: Residents and Nonresidents
- Sept 1 – Sept 14; 1 bull; **50-inch or larger or 3 brow tines**
- DM980, DM981 permit conditions:
 - allows use of aircraft within Unit 26A CUA, **including** [EXCLUDING] the Anaktuvuk Pass CUA;
 - up to 40 permits;
 - **2 Nonresident permits DM980**
 - **2 Nonresident permits DM981**
 - [UP TO 20% OF PERMITS MAY BE NONRESIDENTS]





Unit 26A CUA – Moose Hunt Aircraft Closure

- The Unit 26A CUA, which includes all of Unit 26A, is closed to the use of aircraft for moose hunting including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose, *except under terms of a drawing permit hunt.*
- The Unit 26A drawing permit hunt allows the use of aircraft in moose drawing permit hunts DM980 and DM981, *which does not include the Anaktuvuk Pass CUA.*
- Moose hunting aircraft closure for Unit 26A CUA applies during the periods:
 - July 1 – Sept. 14
 - Jan. 1 – Mar. 31
- Establishing a moose hunt for drawing permits and aircraft use within the proposed area Anaktuvuk Pass CUA would require changes to the Unit 26A CUA.

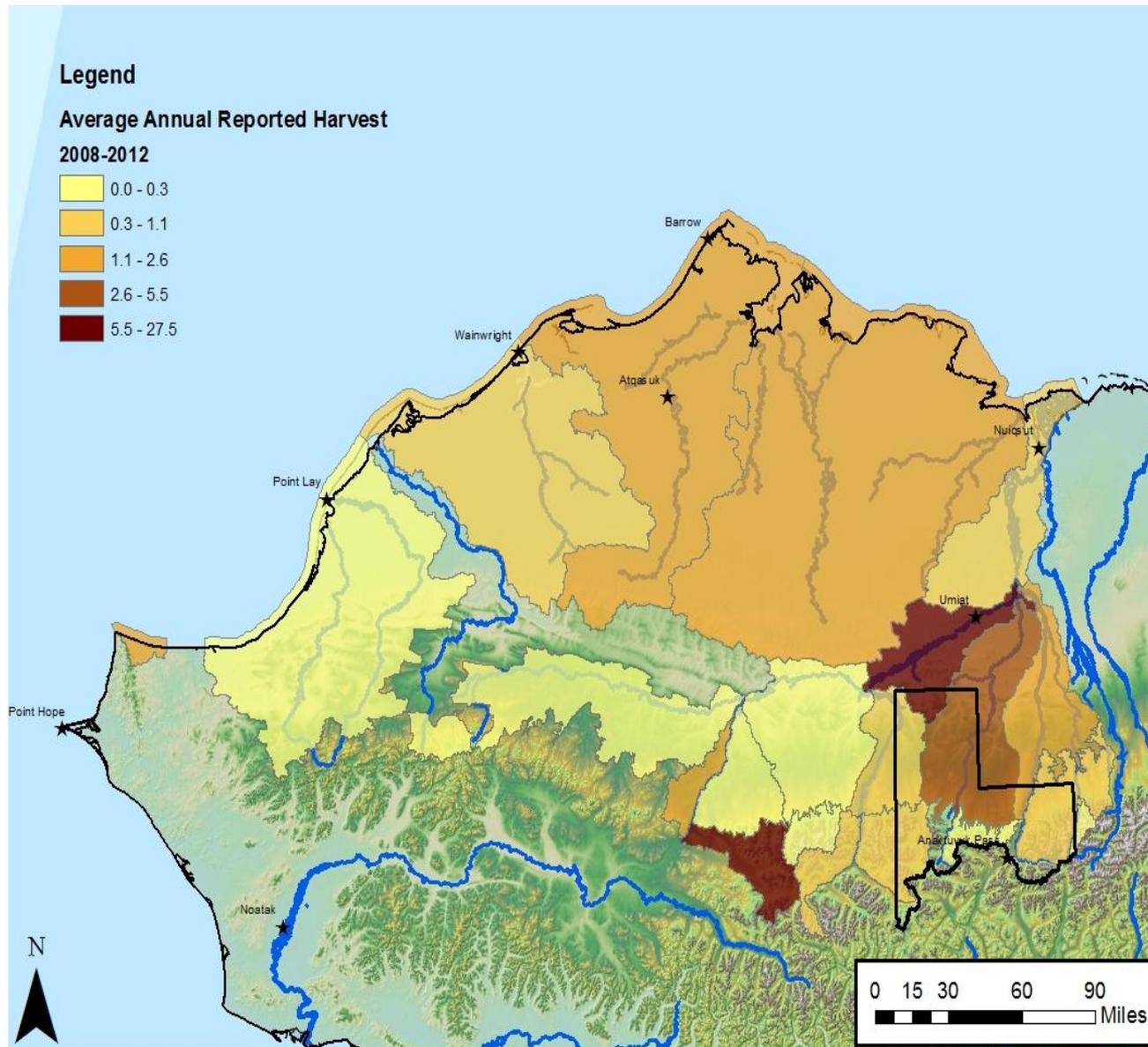
Anaktuvuk Pass CUA

- The AKP CUA was created to reduce air traffic north of the village because residents felt that air traffic affected caribou movements through Anaktuvuk Pass.
- From Aug. 15 – Oct. 15, the AKP CUA is closed to the use of aircraft for caribou hunting.
- The initial closure was for the Anaktuvuk River drainage beginning in RY2006.
- The current AKP CUA was implemented in RY2008.
- If hunters were allowed to use aircraft to hunt moose in the AKP CUA, air traffic would probably increase to access areas of good moose habitat.

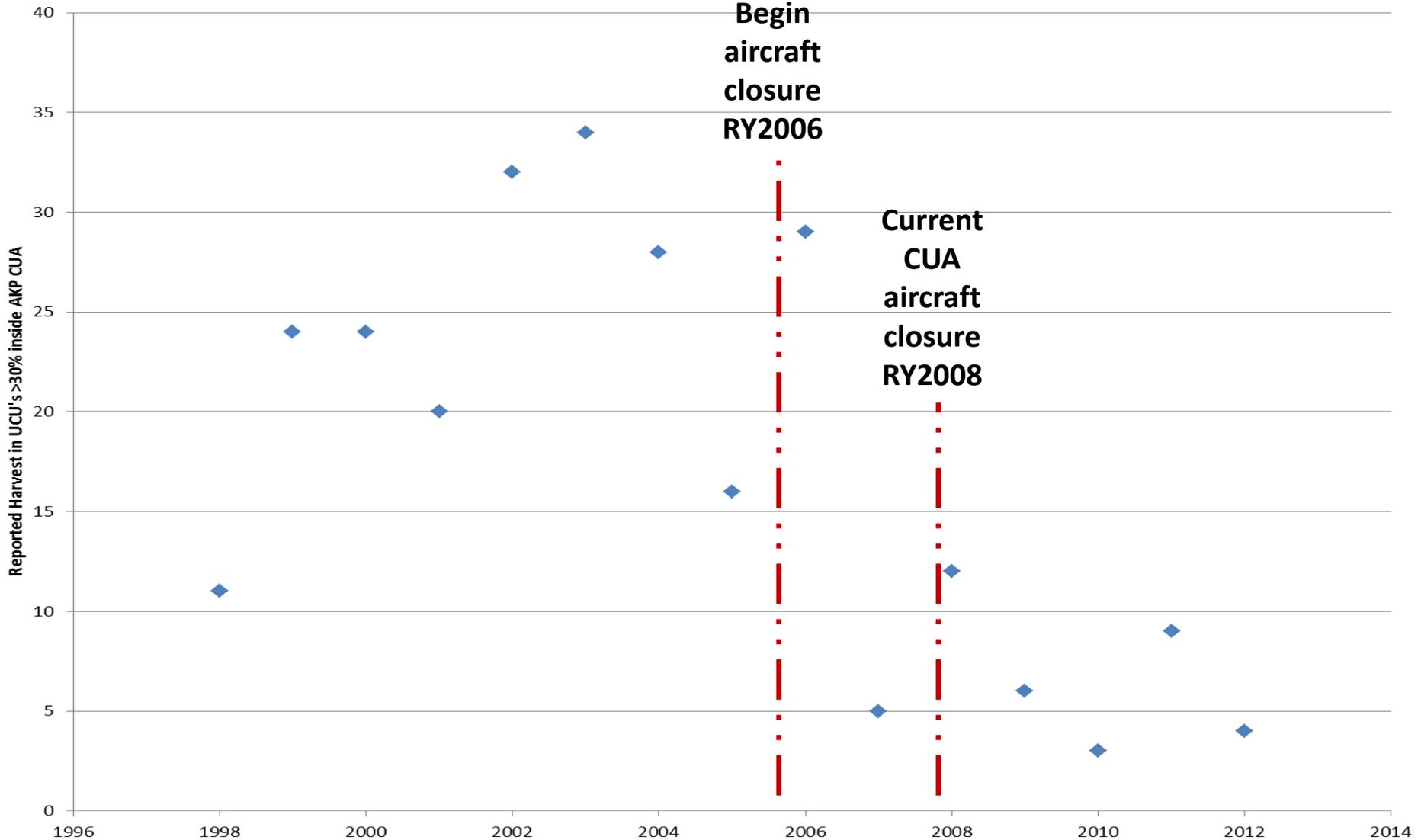
Anaktuvuk Pass CUA - Summary

- Since RY2007, the CUA has been effective in reducing caribou hunting activity north of Anaktuvuk Pass (e. g. doing what it was intended to do).
- Analysis of statewide harvest tickets shows that the number of caribou harvested has been substantially reduced after implementation of aircraft closures.
- Low level caribou harvest continues through hunts that do not use aircraft access within the AKP CUA.
- Adding moose hunting with aircraft access could potentially reduce the effectiveness of the CUA.

Caribou Harvest Ticket Reports – UCU Summary



Caribou Harvest Ticket Reports UCUs with >30% inside AKP CUA



Moose Bag Limit with Antler Restriction

- Changing the bag limit for the drawing permit hunt to 1 bull with antlers 50-inches or greater or having three brow tines would probably have little impact on the population or harvest from the population.
- Nonresident hunters typically attempt to find large bulls.
- The bag limit change might cause a few unsuccessful hunts if a large bull was not found by the hunter.

Allocation of Nonresident Drawing Permits

- The Unit 26A drawing hunt permit regulation allows up to 40 permits, of which up to 20% may go to nonresidents.
- The drawing permit area is divided into 2 areas:
 - DM980 (Colville River)
 - DM981 (Chandler and Anaktuvuk rivers)
- From 2007 – 2010 the Department issued 25 permits
 - Total permits = 25 (both areas DM980, DM981)
 - Residents = 20 permits
 - Nonresidents 20% = 5 permits (for both areas)

Reduced Number of Drawing Permits

- Minimum population counts indicated a 49% population decline
- From RY2011 – RY2013, the department reduced the total number of permits to 10:
 - 5 permits for DM980 (Colville River)
 - 5 permits for DM981 (Chandler/Anaktuvuk)
- Residents and nonresidents are in a common pool for the drawing
- Based on the random process from the pool of applicants, residents could receive all the permits if they were drawn before a nonresident was drawn.
- Based on allowing 20% *may be* nonresidents, 1 permit *could* be awarded to a nonresident in each hunt area.

Proposed Allocation to Nonresidents

- While the moose population is at low numbers, a combined total of 10 permits will continue to be available to residents and nonresidents for hunts DM980 and DM981.
- Dedicating 4 permits to nonresidents would require changes to the part of the regulation that says “up to 20% of the permits may be issued to nonresident hunters”.
- Allocating 4 permits to nonresidents would reduce the number of permits available to residents.
- Allocating 4 permits to nonresidents would represent 40% of the currently available permits

- End -

Questions?

Proposal 22: Unit 26A Antlerless Moose

This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in two portions of Unit 26A:

- Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage, and
- Unit 26A west of 156° W longitude excluding the Colville River drainage.

This is a Department proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Support**

Advisory Committee Recommendation:

North Slope AC **Support**

Unit 26A Moose Regulations

Unit 26A, West of 156° 00' W. Longitude, excluding the Colville River drainage.

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- July 1 - Sept 14: 1 moose; no calf or cow accompanied by a calf

Unit 26A, Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River Drainage.

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
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- Drawing permit: Residents and Nonresidents
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- DM980, DM981 permit conditions:
 - allows use of aircraft within Unit 26A CUA, excluding the Anaktuvuk Pass CUA;
 - up to 40 permits;
 - up to 20% of permits may be nonresidents

Unit 26A Remainder (includes the rest of the Colville River, and the Ikpikpuk River)

- Harvest ticket: Residents only
- Aug 1 – Sept 14: 1 bull

Reauthorized Antlerless Hunts

Unit 26A, West of 156° 00' W. Longitude, excluding the Colville River drainage.

➤ Harvest ticket: Residents only

➤ July 1 - Sept 14: 1 moose; no calf or cow accompanied by a calf

Unit 26A, Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River Drainage.

➤ Harvest ticket: Residents only

➤ Aug 1 – Sept 14; 1 bull

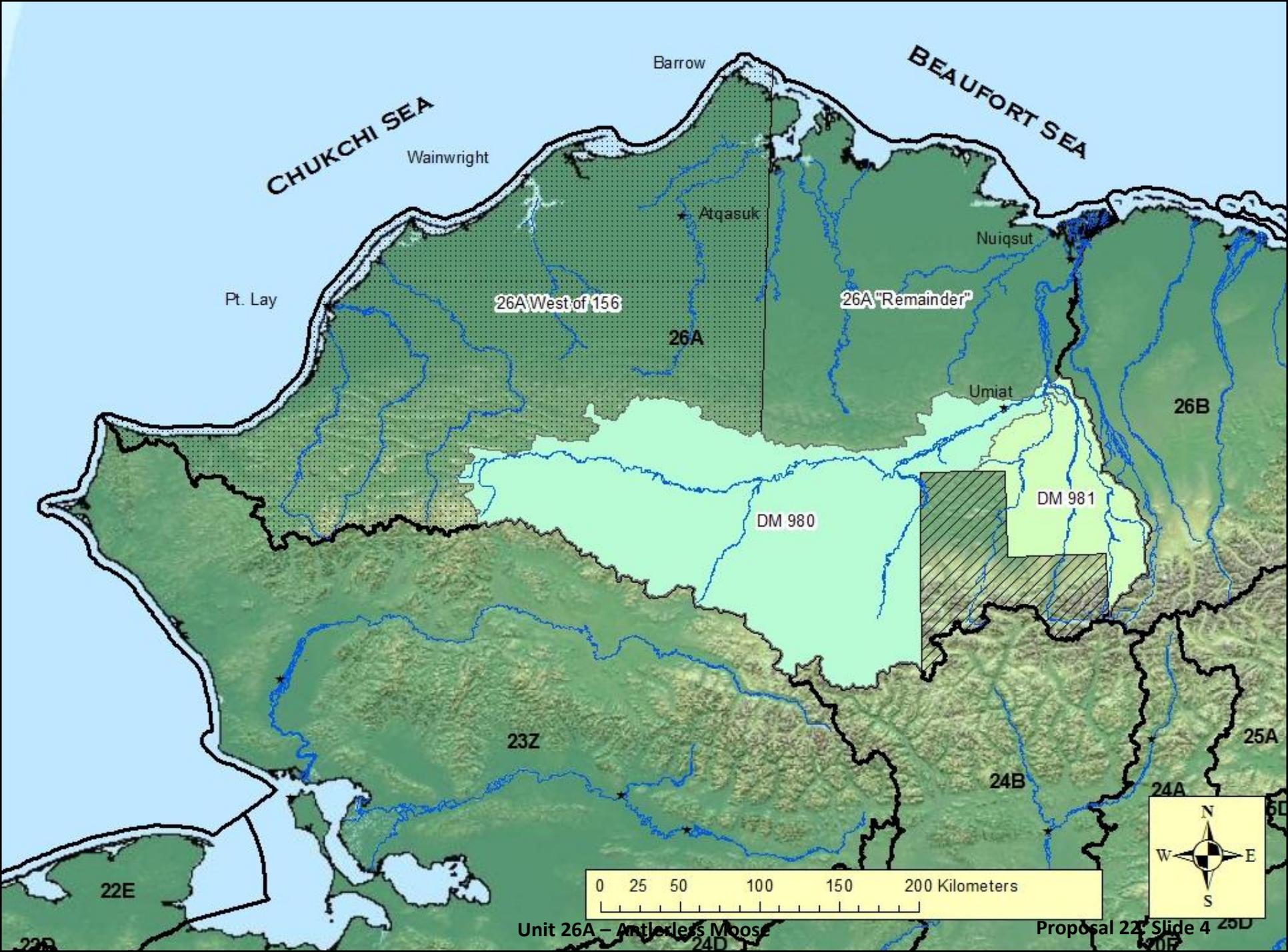
➤ Feb 15 – Apr 15; 1 moose; no calf or cow accompanied by a calf

➤ Drawing permit: Residents and Nonresidents

➤ Sept 1 – Sept 14; 1 bull

➤ DM980, DM981 permit conditions:

- allows use of aircraft within Unit 26A CUA, excluding the Anaktuvuk Pass CUA;
- up to 40 permits;
- up to 20% of permits may be nonresidents



CHUKCHI SEA

BEAUFORT SEA

Barrow

Wainwright

Pt. Lay

Atkasuk

Nuiqsut

Umiat

26A West of 156

26A "Remainder"

26A

26B

DM 980

DM 981

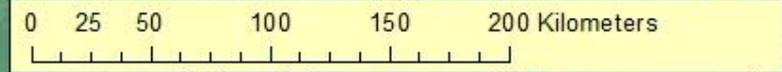
23Z

24B

24A

25A

22E



Unit 26A - Antlerless Moose

Proposal 22, Slide 4

Population Status and Harvest Records

- Populations in Unit 26A declined 49% from 1116 moose in 2008 to 548 in 2011.
- Trend Area counts in the Colville River drainage indicate a slow increase in population since 2010.
- The percentage of short yearlings has increased from 2% in 2010 to 16% in 2013.
- The reasons for the decline appeared to be nutrition and predation rather than hunting.
- Winter antlerless harvest, particularly for cows, has been very low: 3 in RY2006, 2 in RY2012, and 0 in RY2009 – RY2011.
- The summer hunt in the western area has ranged from 0 to 1 moose since 2006 (the area West of 156° 00' W. Longitude)

Unit 26A Reported Moose Harvest

<u>Regulatory year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
RY2003	5	0	5
RY2004	4	1	5
RY2005	9	2	11
RY2006	8	3	11
RY2007	11	1	12
RY2008	11	0	11
RY2009	9	1	10
RY2010	13	0	13
RY2011	5	0	5
RY2012	7	2	9



Proposal 23: Teshekpuk Caribou Herd

Customary & Traditional Use

and

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence

- This proposal reviews C&T worksheets for the TCH to allow the board to make a C&T determination and establish an ANS, as required by C&T finding.
- In 1992, the board made a C&T finding for the WAH; TCH harvest may have been included in that finding
- Proposal 23 is the same as Proposal 50 for the Interior Region meeting in February 2014

This is a Department proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**

Proposal 23: Teshekpuk Caribou Herd

Customary & Traditional Use

and

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence

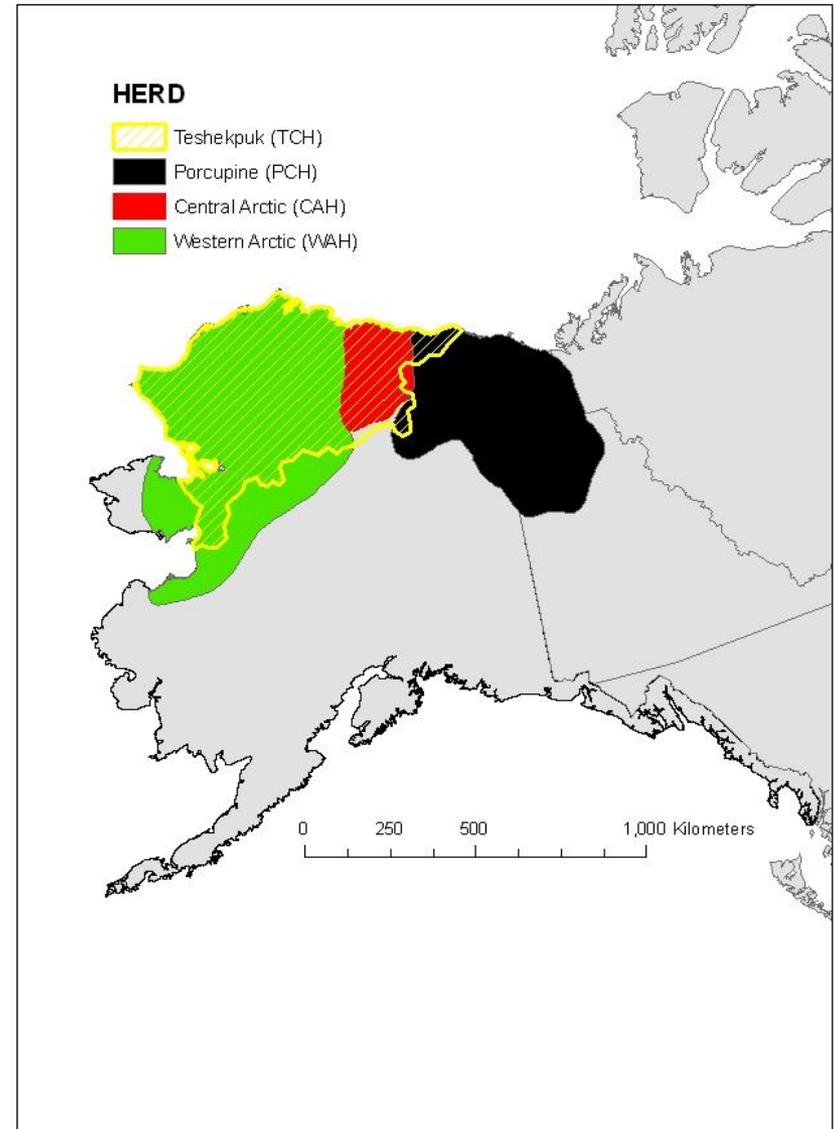
Arctic Region Advisory Committee Recommendations:

North Slope AC **Oppose** (See RC1 Comments)

Units 22 and 23 AC No Action

Relevant Issues

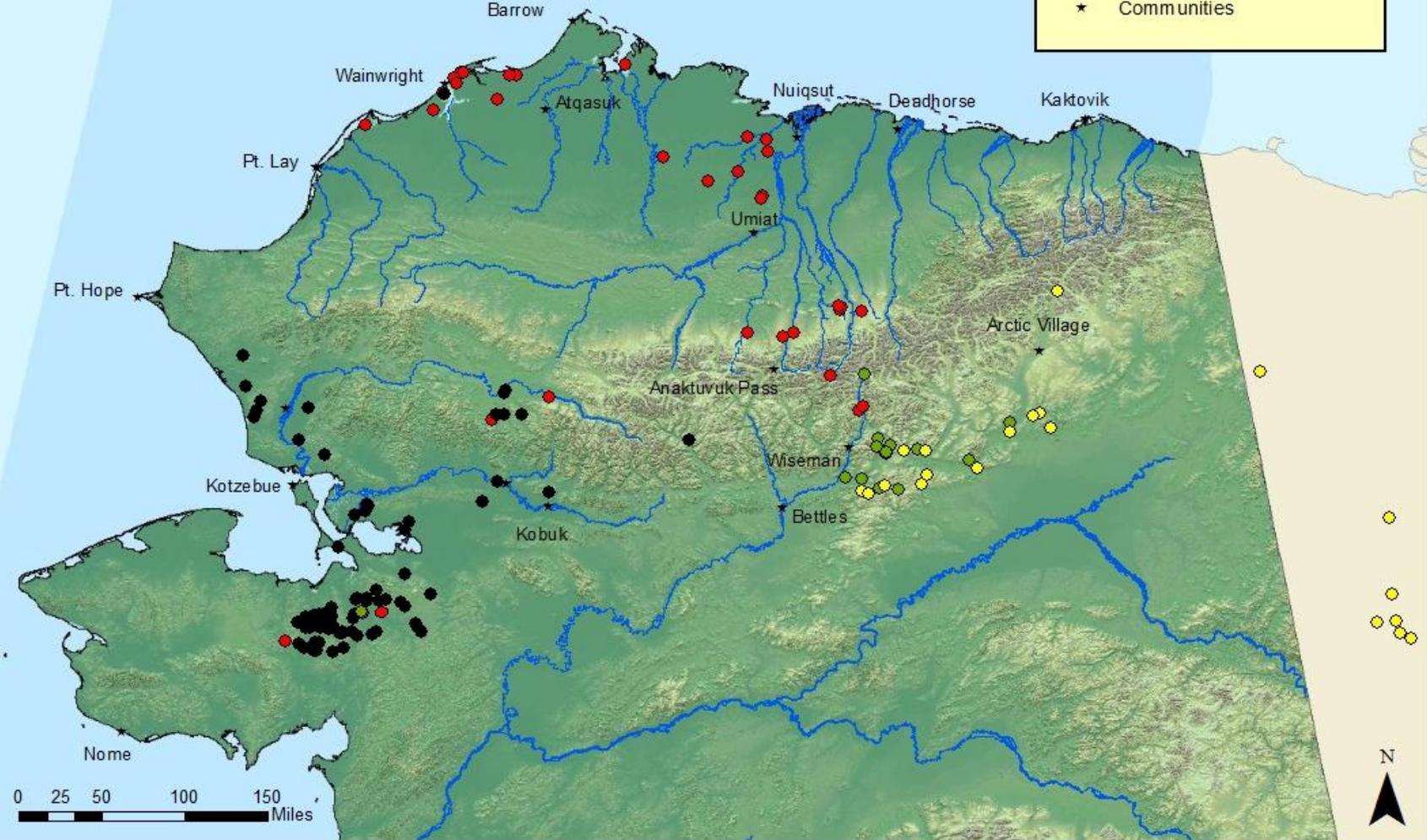
- Seasonal overlap of herd ranges
- Distinguishing between herds in harvest data
- Management without herd-specific ANS
- Seasonal allocation of harvest
- Geographically based regulations



Satellite Collar Locations by Herd October 2013

Legend

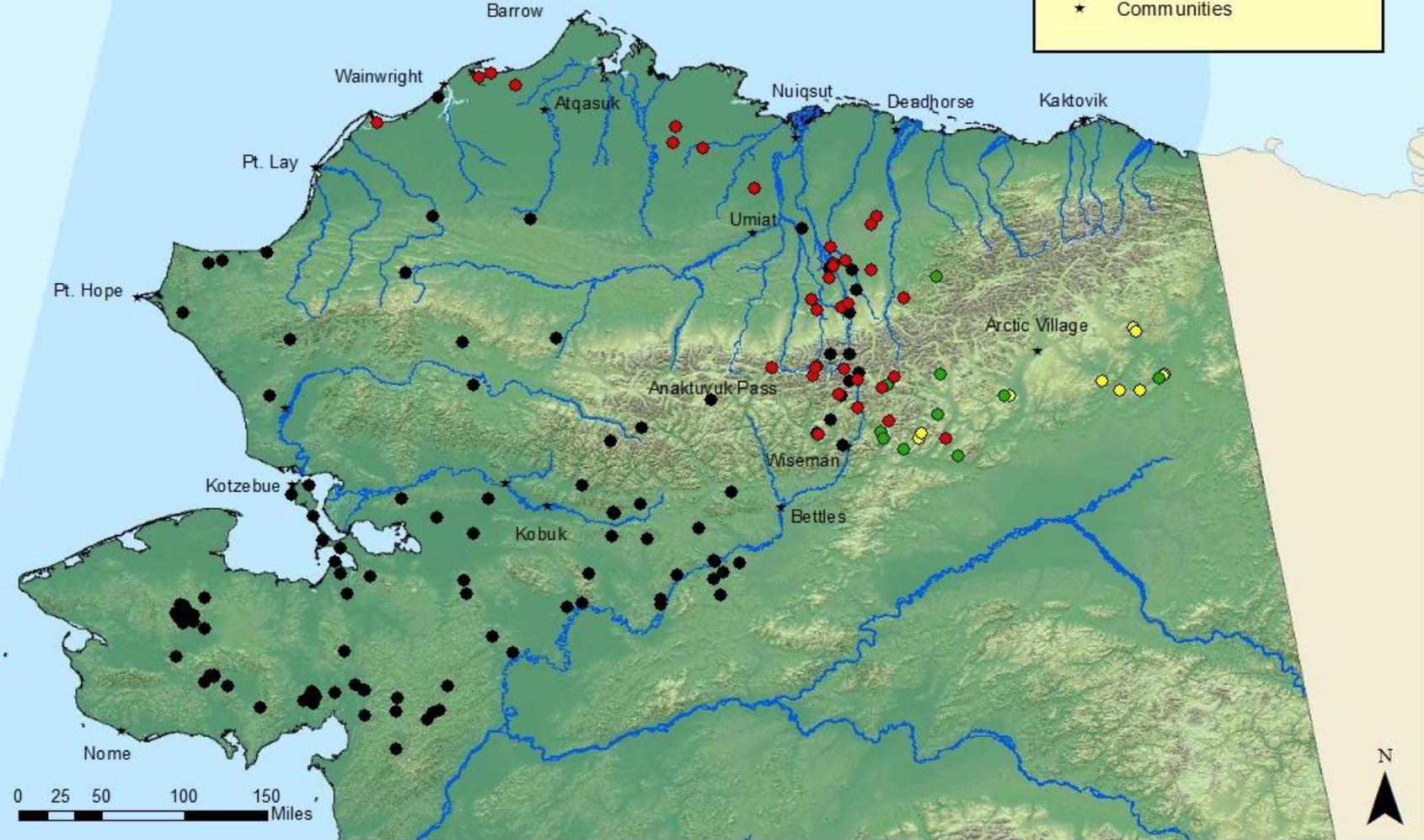
- WAH Satellite Collars
- TCH Satellite Collars
- CAH Satellite Collars
- PCH Satellite Collars
- ★ Communities



Satellite Collar Locations by Herd November 2011

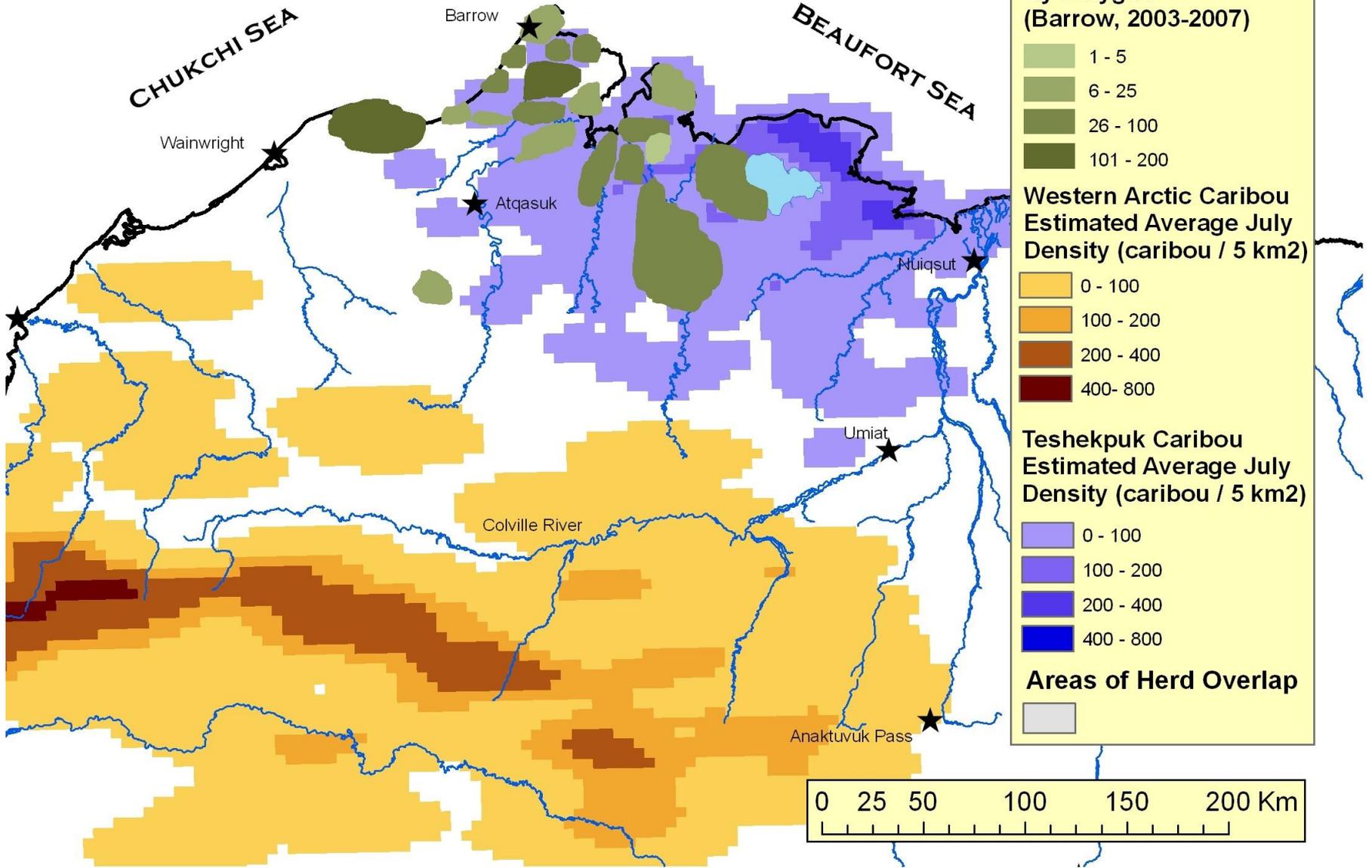
Legend

- WAH Satellite Collars
- TCH Satellite Collars
- CAH Satellite Collars
- PCH Satellite Collars
- ★ Communities



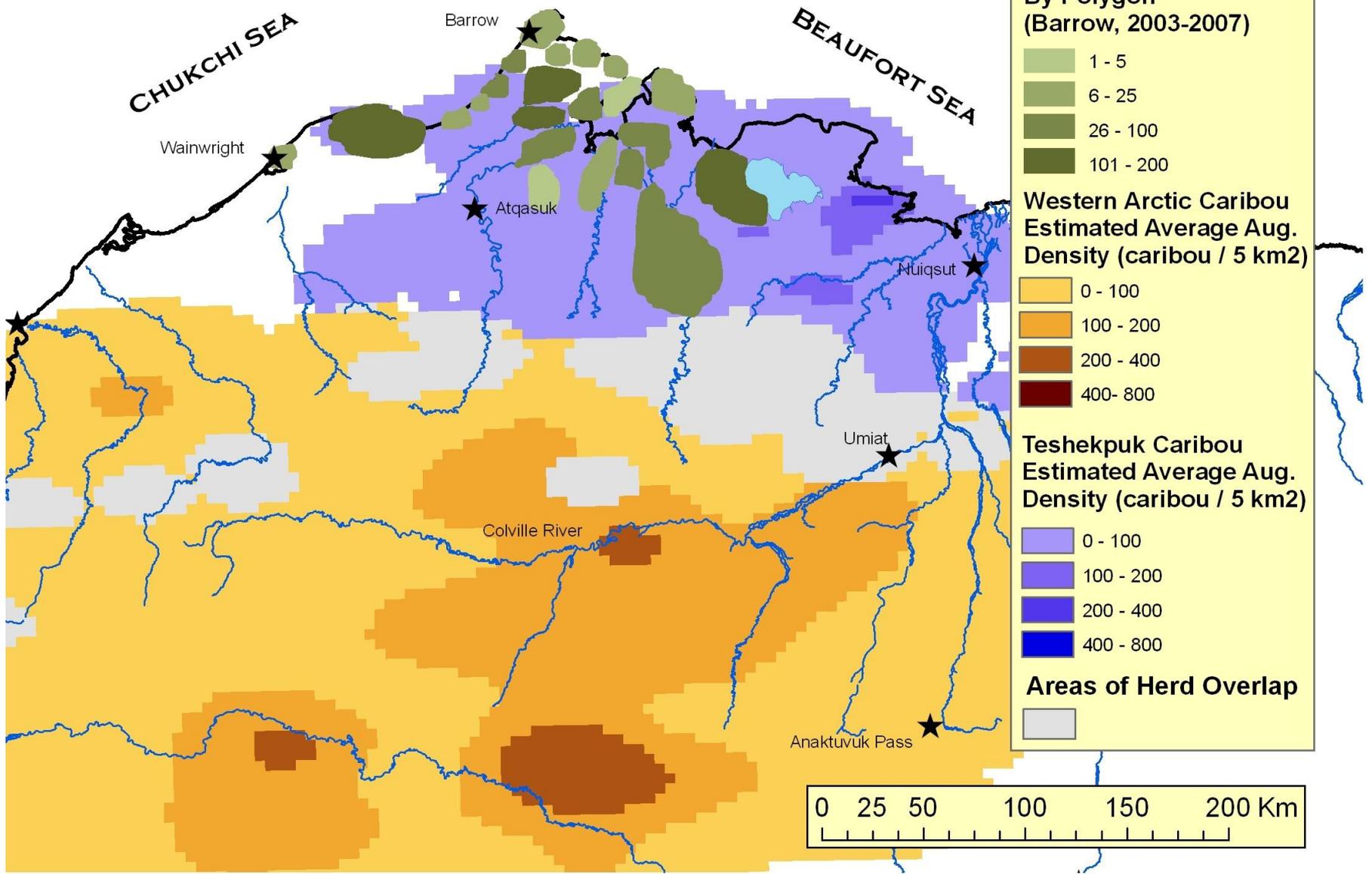


BARROW - July Harvest and Caribou Distribution





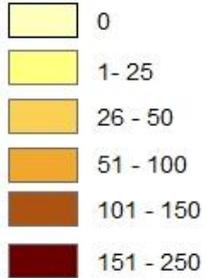
BARROW - August Harvest and Caribou Distribution



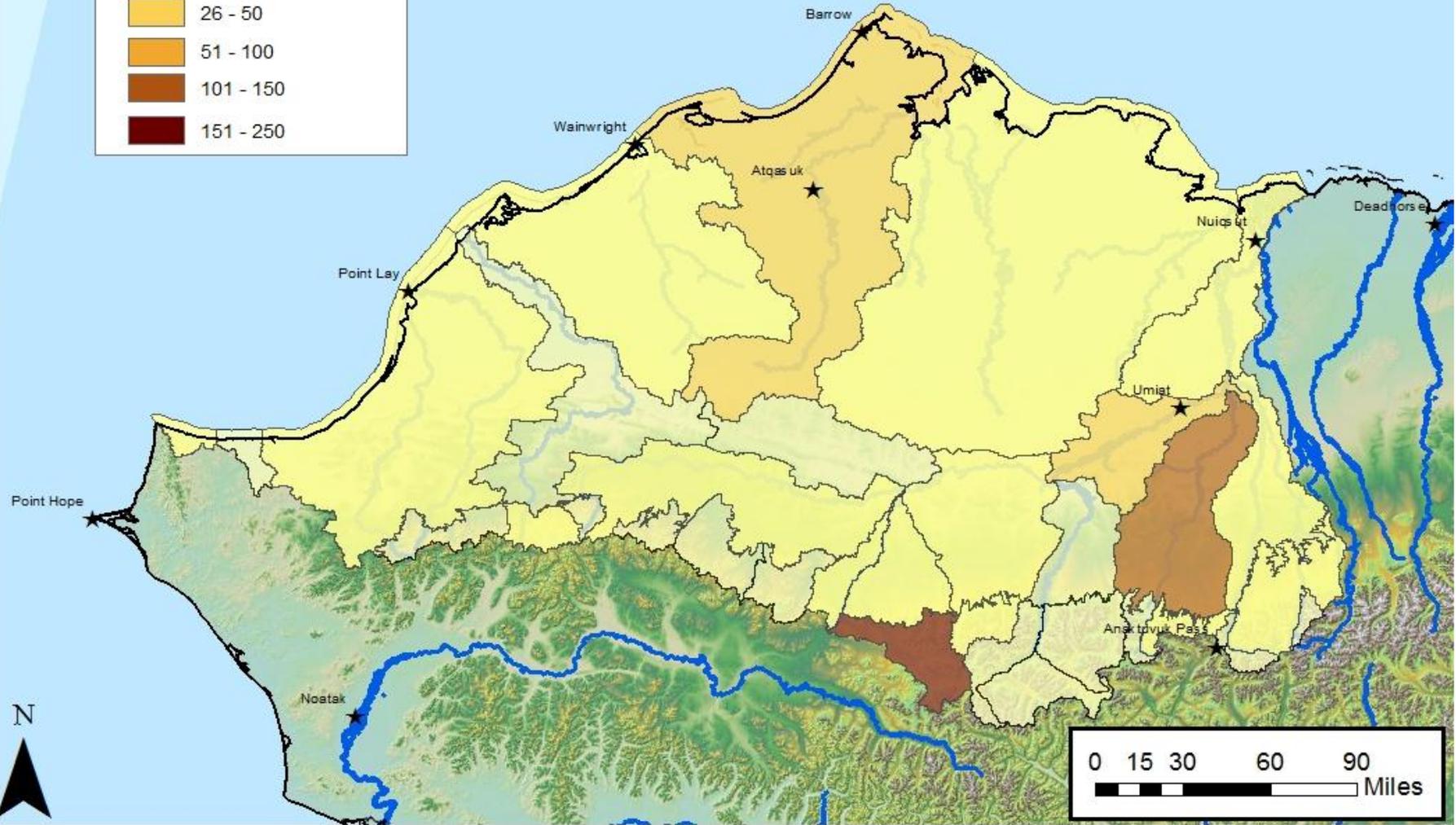
Legend

★ Communities

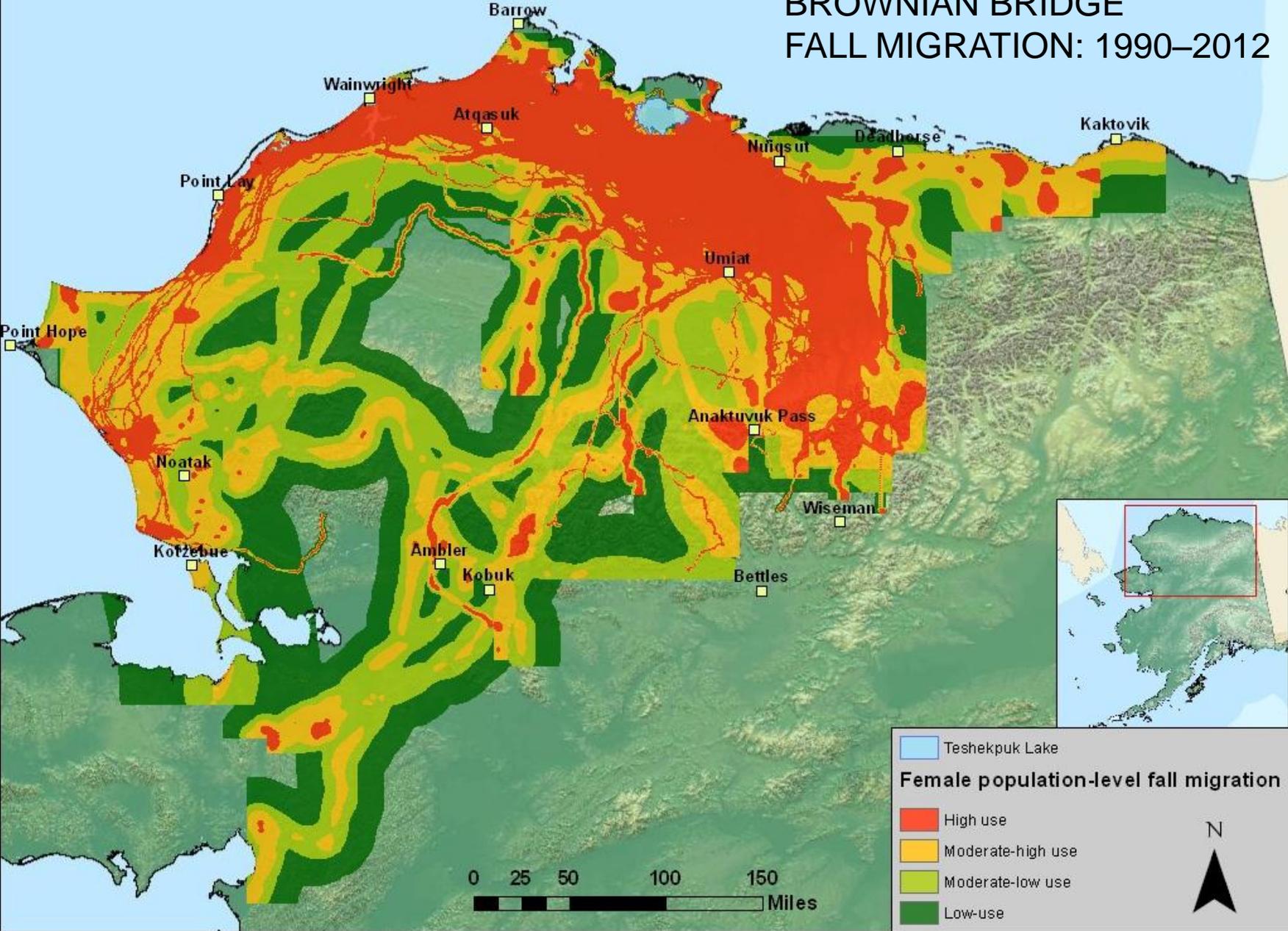
Total Reported Harvest 2002-2007



Harvest Ticket Reporting, 2002–2007

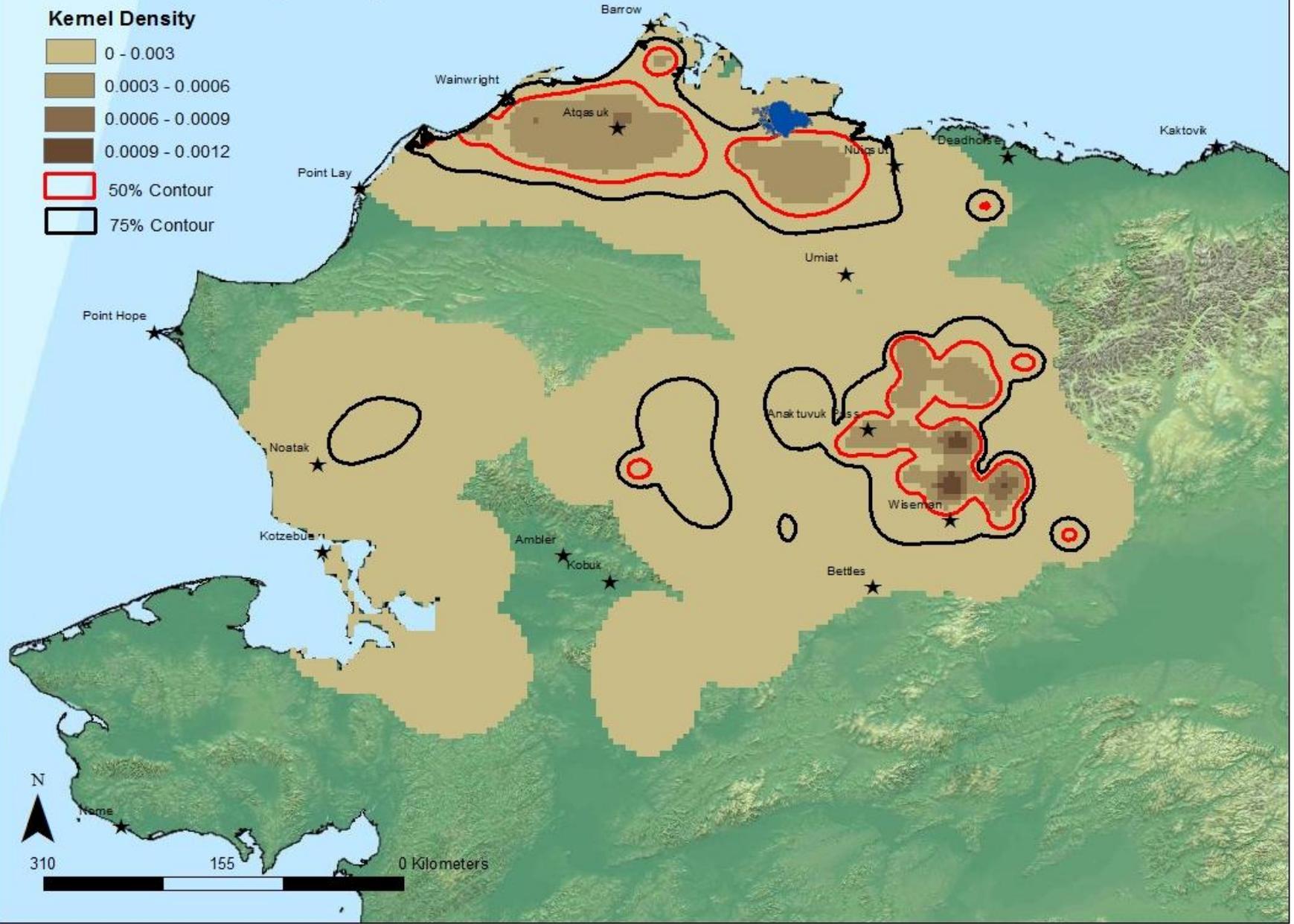
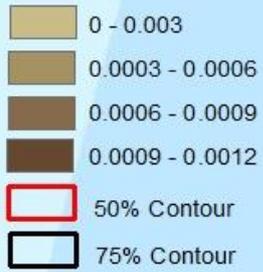


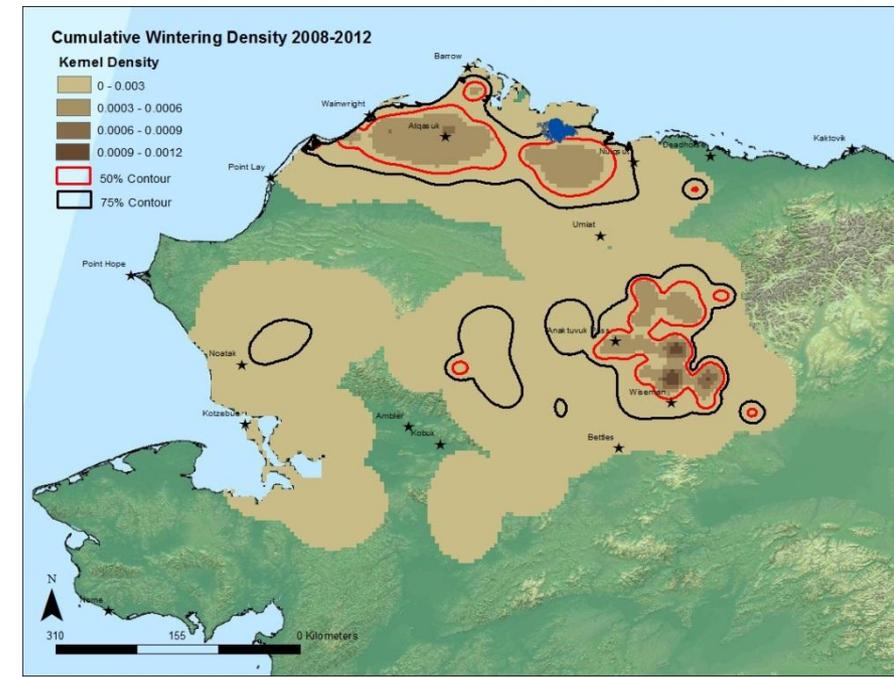
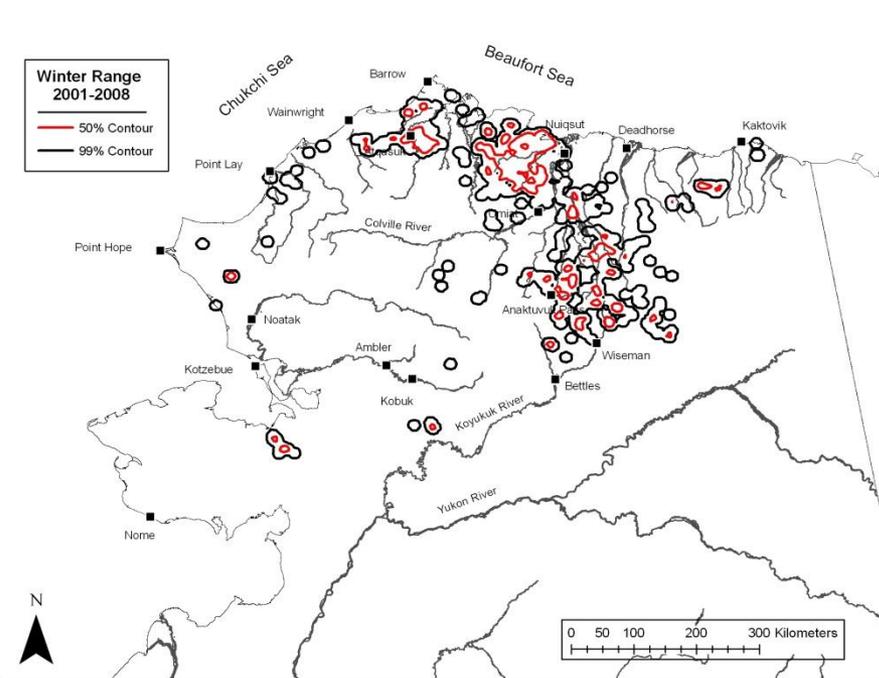
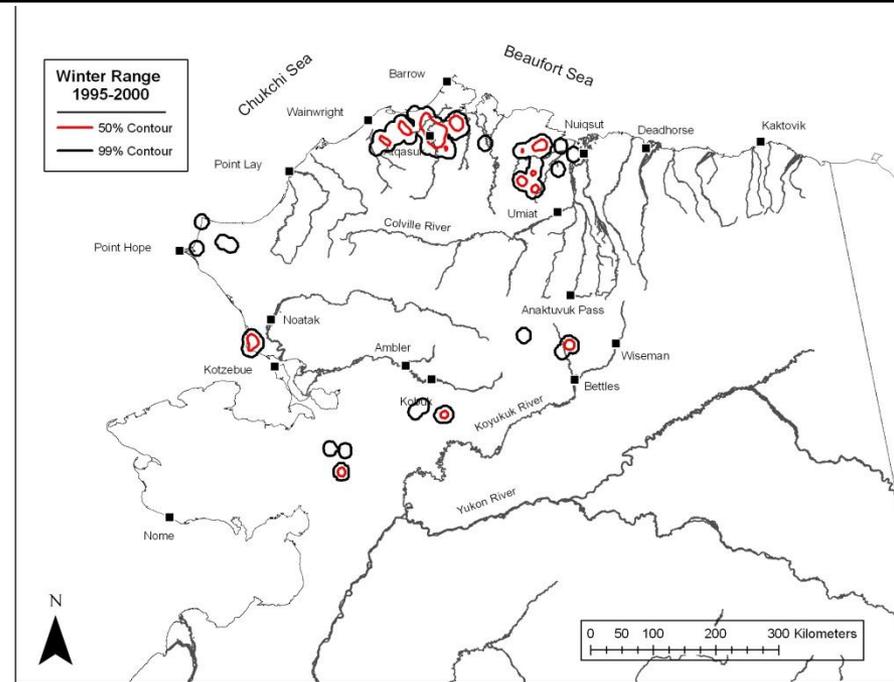
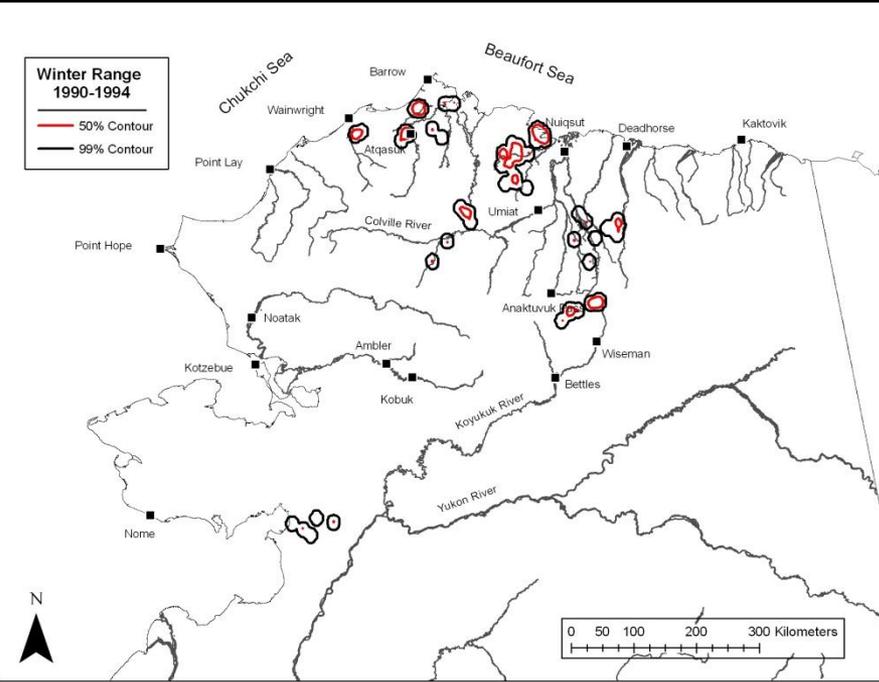
BROWNIAN BRIDGE FALL MIGRATION: 1990–2012



Cumulative Wintering Density 2008-2012

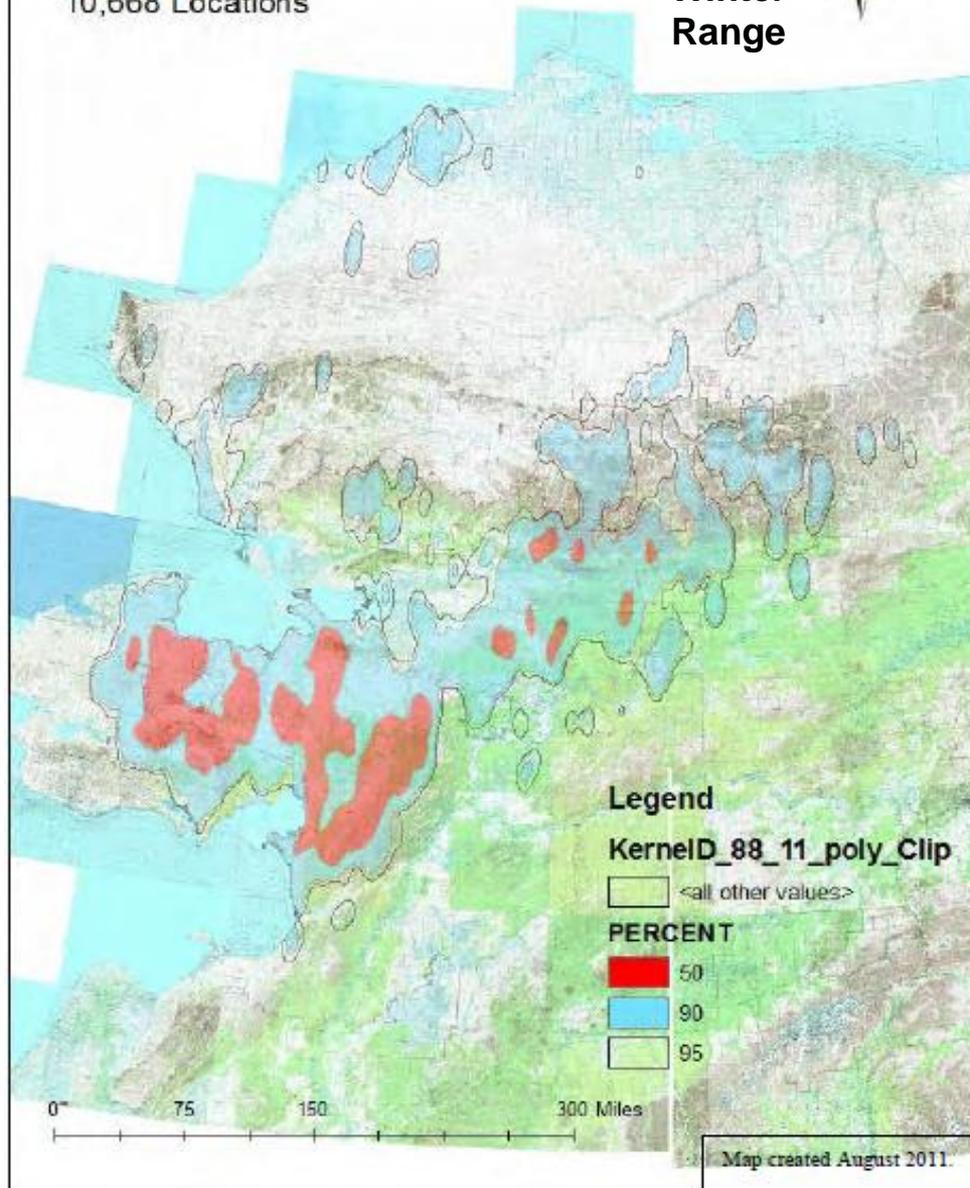
Kemel Density





250 Satellite-collared caribou
764 'caribou-years'
10,668 Locations

WAH
Winter
Range



Estimated proportion of caribou from 3 different herds, March 2002-2007

Subunit	WAH	TCH	CAH
21D	1.00	0.00	0.00
21E	0.00	0.00	0.00
22A	1.00	0.00	0.00
22B	1.00	0.00	0.00
22C	0.00	0.00	0.00
22D	1.00	0.00	0.00
22E	0.00	0.00	0.00
23Z	0.99	0.01	0.00
24A	0.55	0.45	0.00
24B	0.91	0.05	0.04
24C	0.99	0.01	0.00
24D	0.94	0.06	0.00
25A	0.13	0.11	0.76
25B	0.00	0.00	0.00
25C	0.00	0.00	0.00
25D	0.00	0.00	0.00
26A	0.45	0.54	0.01
26B	0.00	0.39	0.61
26C	0.00	0.19	0.81

Estimated proportion of caribou from 3 different herds, 2002-2007

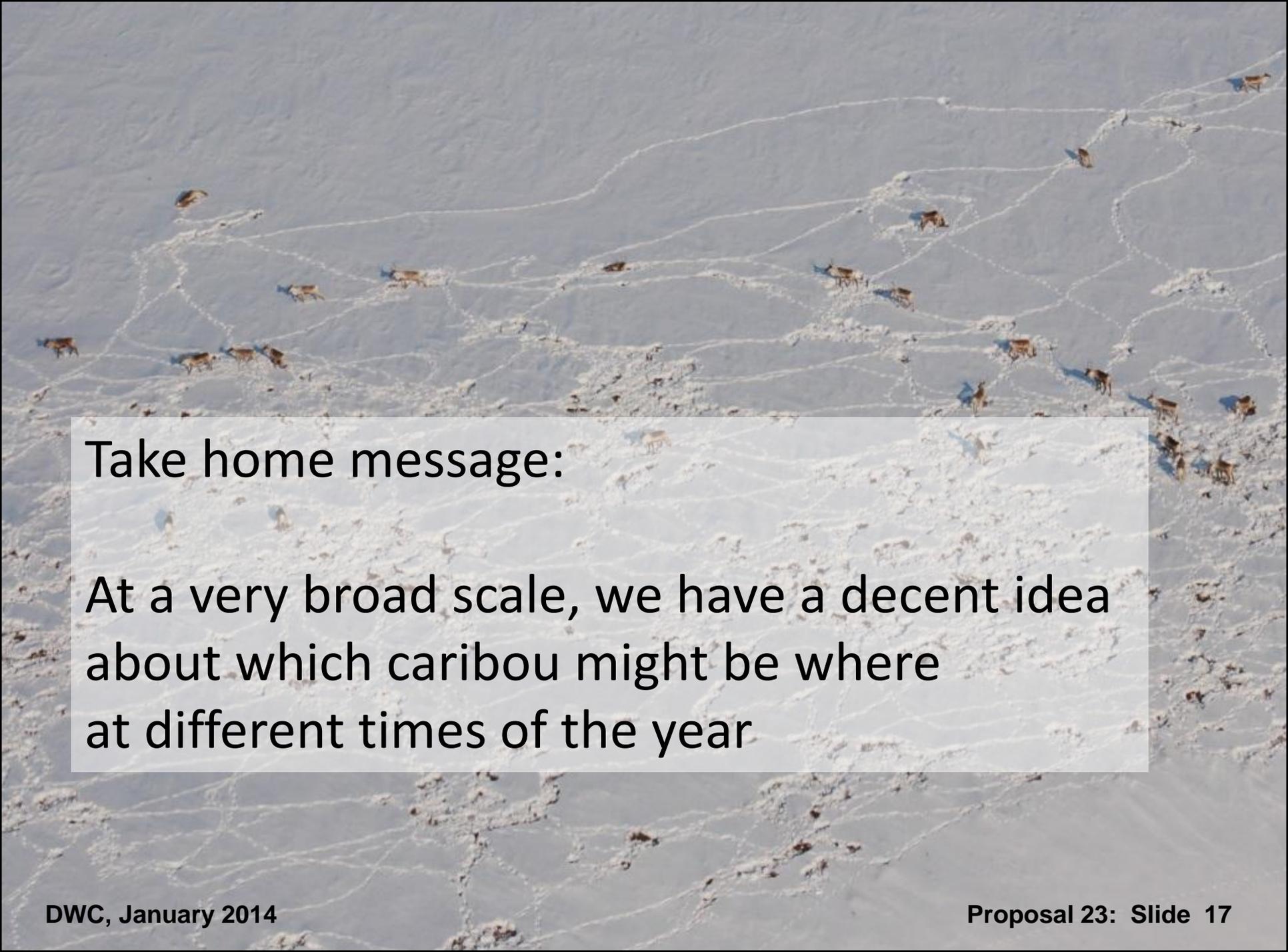
Subunit	WAH	TCH	CAH
21D	1.00	0.00	0.00
21E	0.00	0.00	0.00
22A	1.00	0.00	0.00
22B	1.00	0.00	0.00
22C	0.00	0.00	0.00
22D	1.00	0.00	0.00
22E	0.00	0.00	0.00
23Z	0.99	0.01	0.00
24A	0.55	0.45	0.00
24B	0.91	0.05	0.04
24C	0.99	0.01	0.00
24D	0.94	0.06	0.00
25A	0.13	0.11	0.76
25B	0.00	0.00	0.00
25C	0.00	0.00	0.00
25D	0.00	0.00	0.00
26A	0.45	0.54	0.01
26B	0.00	0.39	0.61
26C	0.00	0.19	0.81

Estimated proportion of caribou from 3 different herds in March, 2002-2007

Subunit	WAH	TCH	CAH
21D	1.00	0.00	0.00
21E	0.00	0.00	0.00
22A	1.00	0.00	0.00
22B	1.00	0.00	0.00
22C	0.00	0.00	0.00
22D	1.00	0.00	0.00
22E	0.00	0.00	0.00
23Z	0.99	0.01	0.00
24A	0.55	0.45	0.00
24B	0.91	0.05	0.04
24C	0.99	0.01	0.00
24D	0.94	0.06	0.00
25A	0.13	0.11	0.76
25B	0.00	0.00	0.00
25C	0.00	0.00	0.00
25D	0.00	0.00	0.00
26A	0.45	0.54	0.01
26B	0.00	0.39	0.61
26C	0.00	0.19	0.81

Estimated proportion of caribou from 3 different herds, 2002-2007

Subunit	WAH	TCH	CAH
21D	1.00	0.00	0.00
21E	0.00	0.00	0.00
22A	1.00	0.00	0.00
22B	1.00	0.00	0.00
22C	0.00	0.00	0.00
22D	1.00	0.00	0.00
22E	0.00	0.00	0.00
23Z	0.99	0.01	0.00
24A	0.55	0.45	0.00
24B	0.91	0.05	0.04
24C	0.99	0.01	0.00
24D	0.94	0.06	0.00
25A	0.13	0.11	0.76
25B	0.00	0.00	0.00
25C	0.00	0.00	0.00
25D	0.00	0.00	0.00
26A	0.45	0.54	0.01
26B	0.00	0.39	0.61
26C	0.00	0.19	0.81

An aerial photograph showing a herd of caribou in a vast, snow-covered landscape. The animals are scattered across the terrain, with numerous tracks visible in the snow, indicating their movement patterns. The scene is captured from a high angle, providing a clear view of the herd's distribution and the tracks they have left behind.

Take home message:

At a very broad scale, we have a decent idea about which caribou might be where at different times of the year

Variation in Time : Anaktuvuk Pass Harvest

1999						2000						
July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	Unknown
7.5	34.9	27.4	5.3	0	0	1.9	1.5	8.5	7.7	3.9	0	1.4
Source Bacon et al. 2009												
2000						2001						
July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	Unknown
1.6	5.7	6.8	4.8	1.8	1.2	0	0.9	25.4	33.6	9.1	9.1	0
Source Bacon et al. 2009												



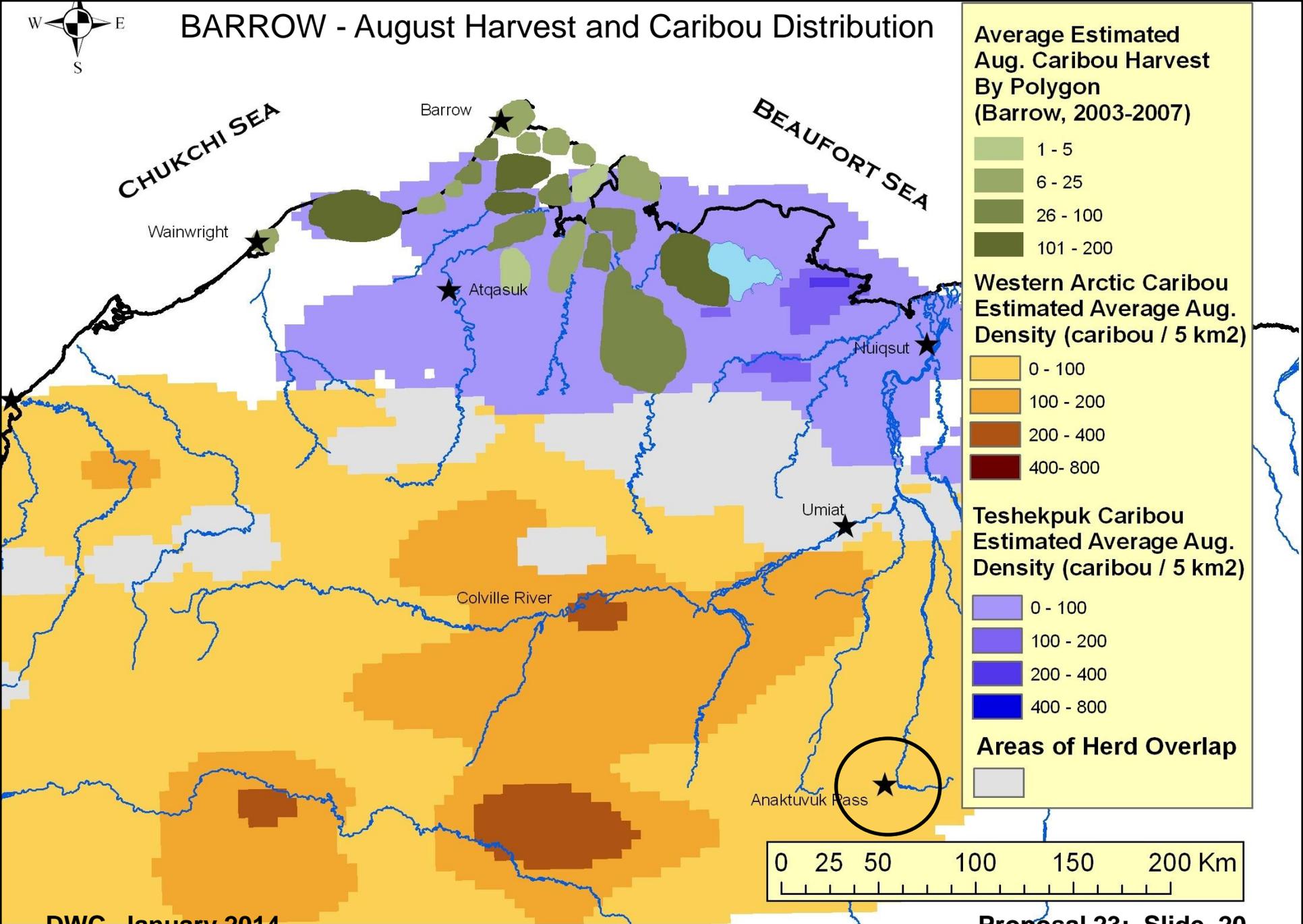
Variation in Time : Anaktuvuk Pass Harvest

1999						2000						
July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	Unknown
7.5	34.9	27.4	5.3	0	0	1.9	1.5	8.5	7.7	3.9	0	1.4
Source Bacon et al. 2009												
2000						2001						
July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	Unknown
1.6	5.7	6.8	4.8	1.8	1.2	0	0.9	25.4	33.6	9.1	9.1	0
Source Bacon et al. 2009												

In 1999 – 2000, most of the harvest was in the fall.
 In 2000 – 2001, it was largely in the spring.

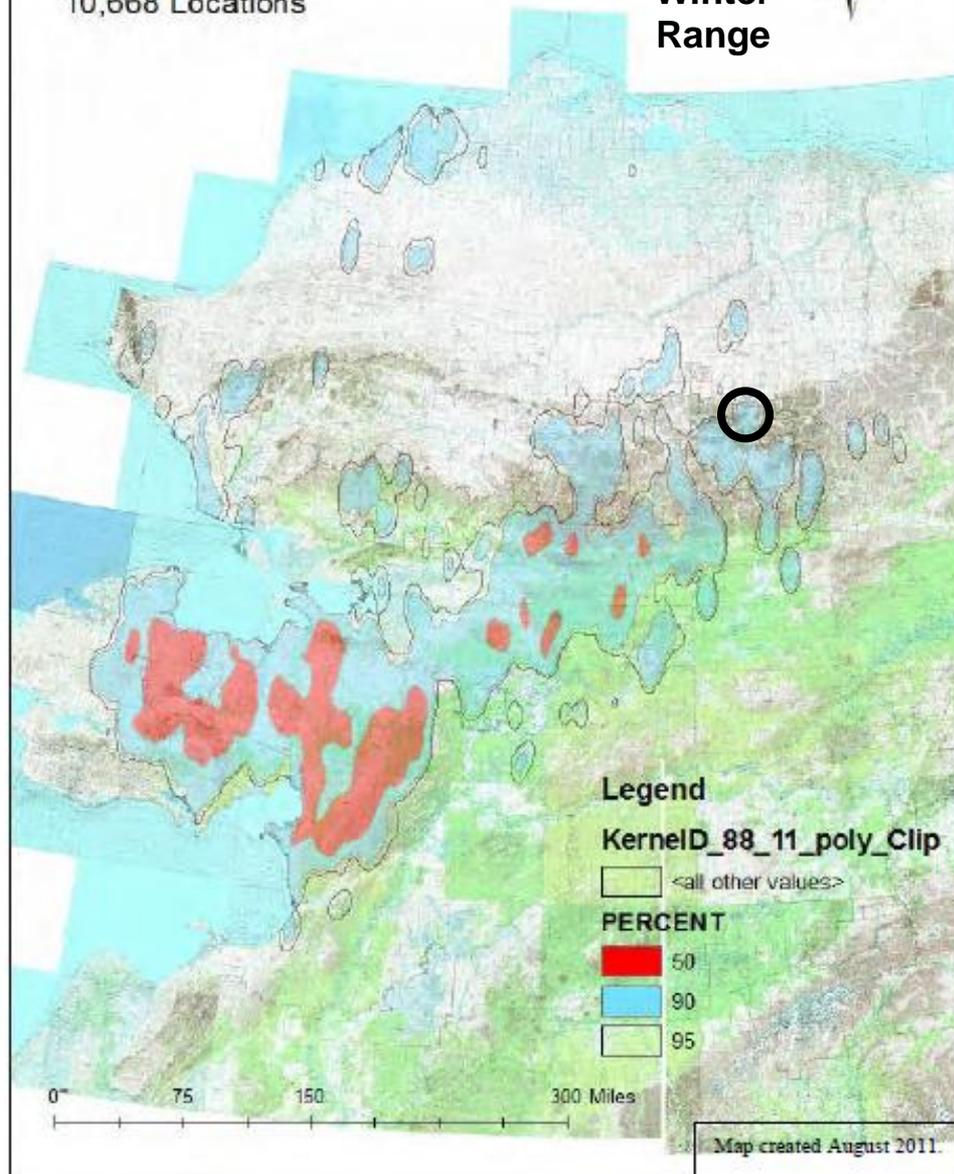


BARROW - August Harvest and Caribou Distribution



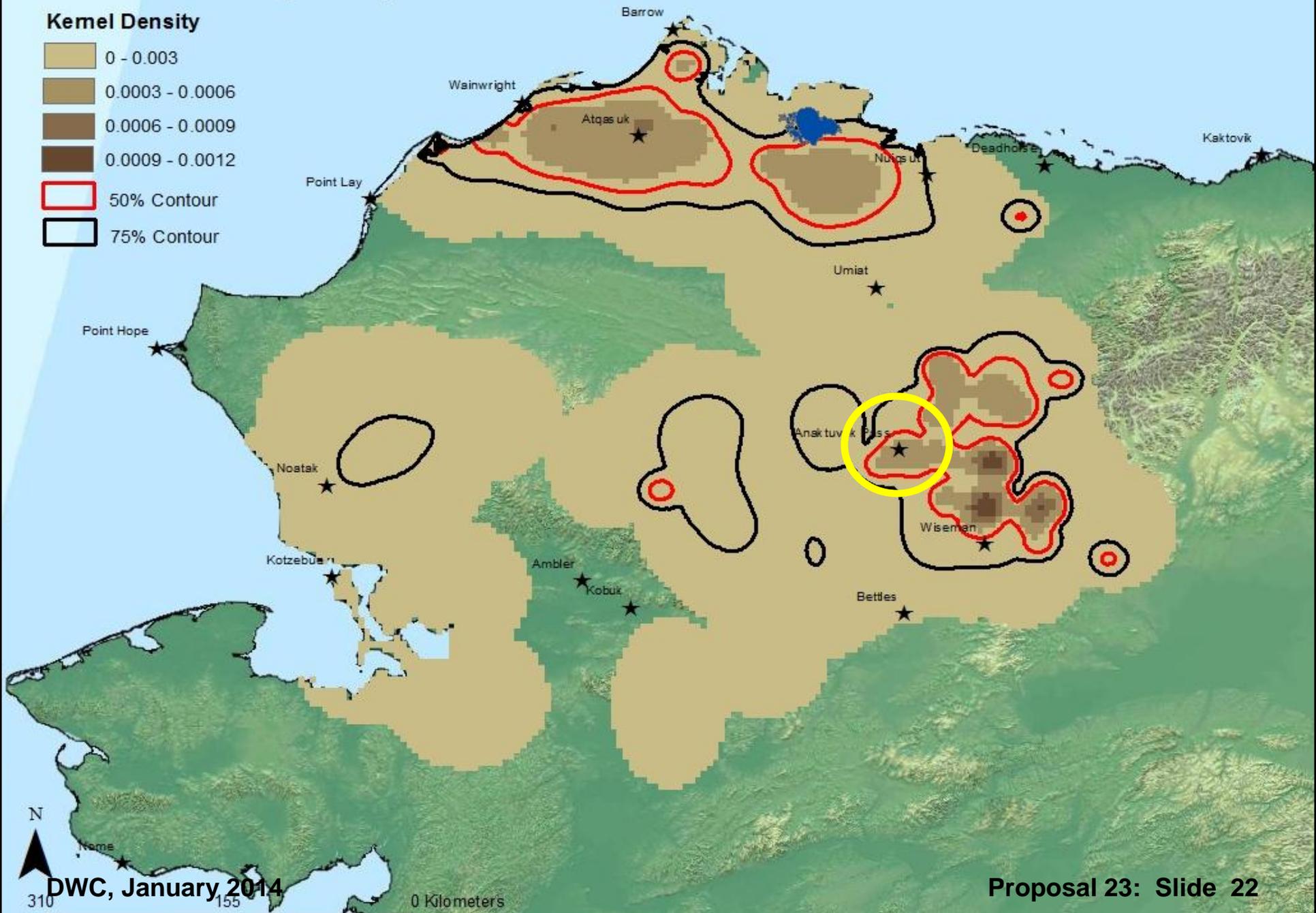
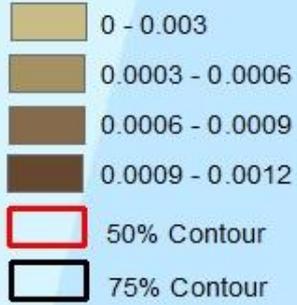
250 Satellite-collared caribou
764 'caribou-years'
10,668 Locations

WAH
Winter
Range



Cumulative Wintering Density 2008-2012

Kemel Density



Temporal Example: Anaktuvuk Pass Harvest

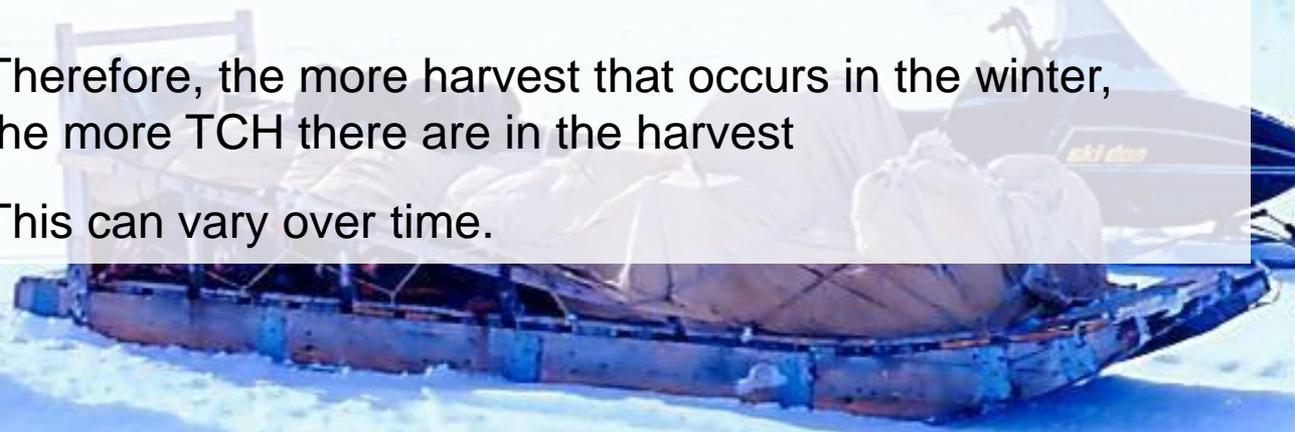
1999						2000						
July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	Unknown
7.5	34.9	27.4	5.3	0	0	1.9	1.5	8.5	7.7	3.9	0	1.4
Source Bacon et al. 2009												
2000						2001						
July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	Unknown
1.6	5.7	6.8	4.8	1.8	1.2	0	0.9	25.4	33.6	9.1	9.1	0
Source Bacon et al. 2009												

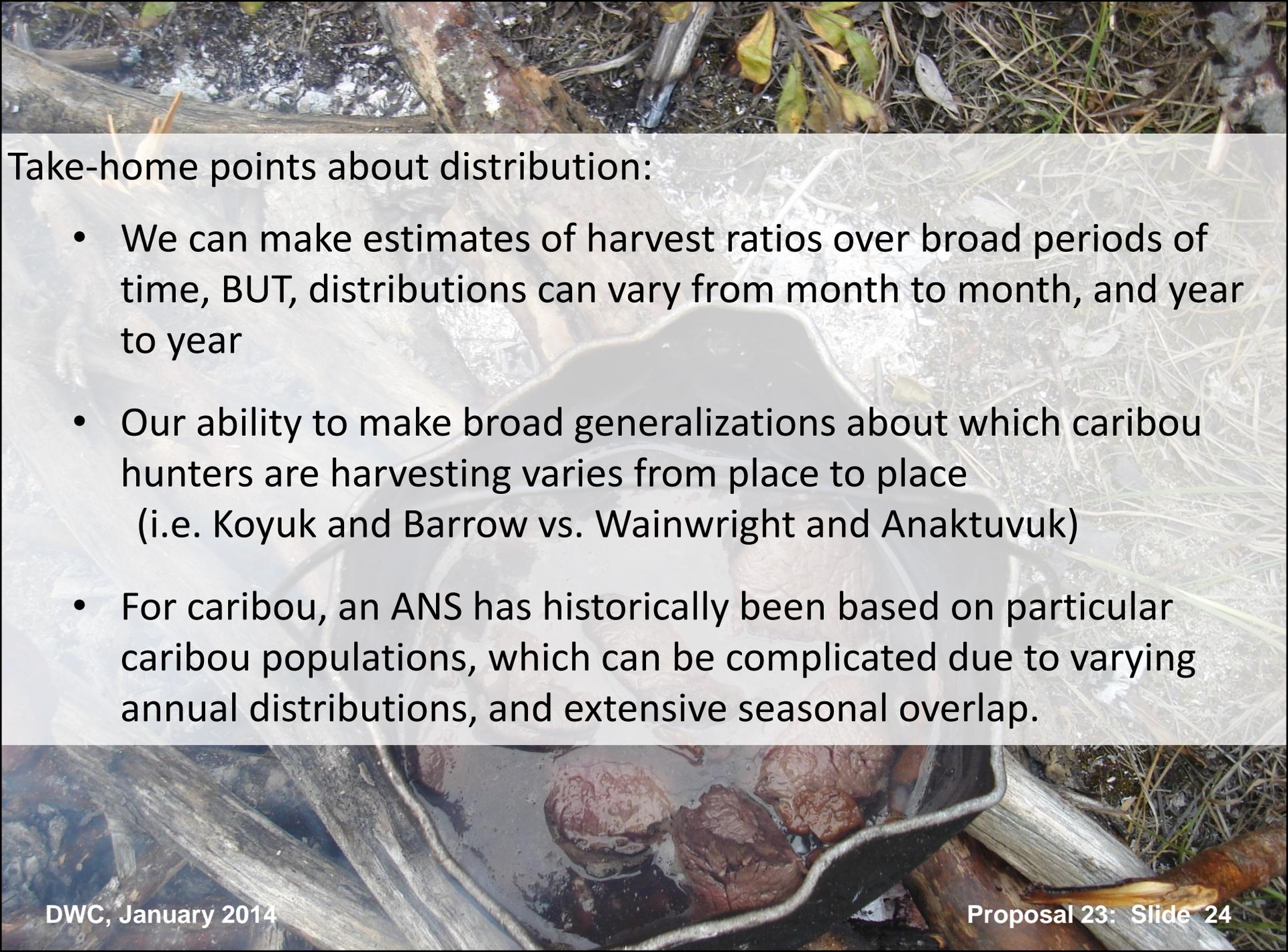
In 1999-2000, most of the harvest was in the fall.
In 2000-2001, it was largely in the spring.

When we look at average caribou distribution:
it looks like the fall harvest is from the WAH,
winter harvest is split between TCH and WAH.

Therefore, the more harvest that occurs in the winter,
the more TCH there are in the harvest

This can vary over time.





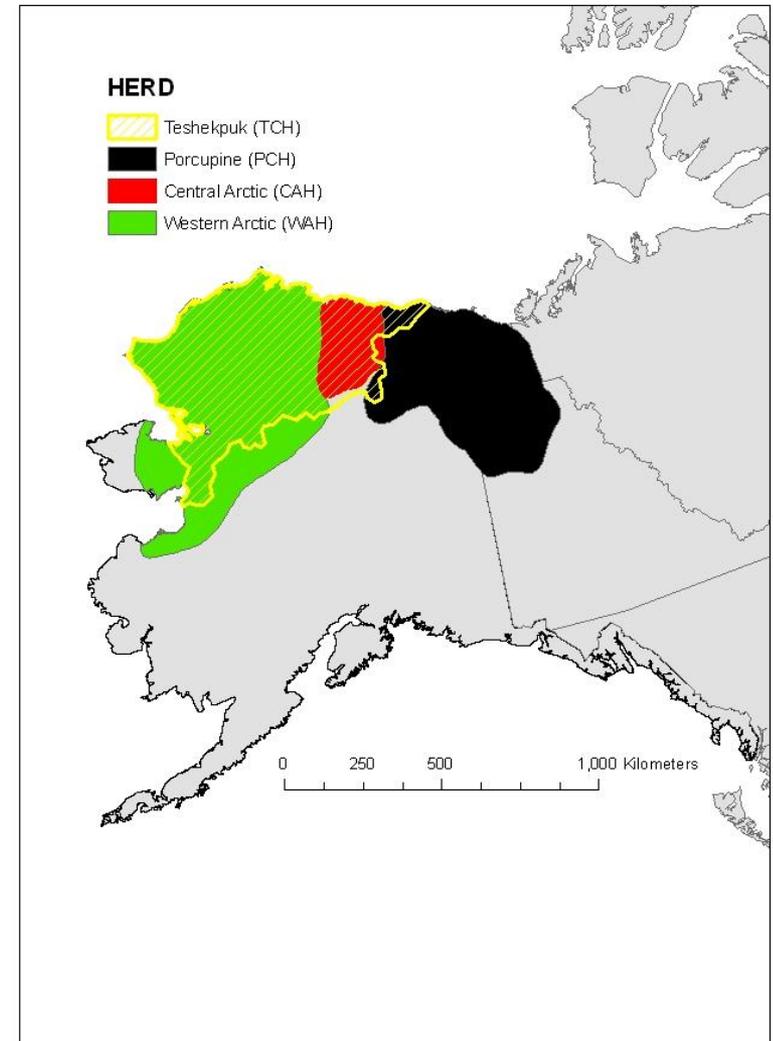
Take-home points about distribution:

- We can make estimates of harvest ratios over broad periods of time, BUT, distributions can vary from month to month, and year to year
- Our ability to make broad generalizations about which caribou hunters are harvesting varies from place to place (i.e. Koyuk and Barrow vs. Wainwright and Anaktuvuk)
- For caribou, an ANS has historically been based on particular caribou populations, which can be complicated due to varying annual distributions, and extensive seasonal overlap.

Proposal 23: Teshekpuk Caribou Herd ANS

Relevant Issues

- ~~Seasonal overlap of herd ranges~~
- ~~Distinguishing between herds in harvest data~~
- Management without herd-specific ANS
- Seasonal allocation of harvest
- Geographically based regulations



Scenarios: Management without herd-specific ANS

Low TCH harvestable surplus, but combined harvestable surplus $>$ ANS

- Conservative hunt management would be harder to implement
- Harvestable surplus not allocated specifically to subsistence users

Low WAH harvestable surplus, but combined harvestable surplus $<$ ANS

- Entire range subject to restrictive regulations
- Core TCH users potentially restricted despite sufficient harvestable surplus

It could be difficult to tailor regulations to reflect each herd's separate ecology and subsistence use patterns in the absence of a herd-specific ANS.

Current Intensive Management objectives for these herds are also distinguished on the basis of separate populations.

Scenarios: Seasonal Allocation of Harvest

Availability of caribou can be highly seasonal

- How will harvestable surplus be allocated among separate areas?
- Hunters in Unit 26A have first access in the regulatory year.
- What if hunters in Unit 26A:
 - took 100% of the harvestable surplus of the TCH?
 - took 50% of the harvestable surplus of the WAH?

Some guidance regarding geographic allocation of opportunity would be helpful for managers.

This could take the form of geographic sub-sets of ANS values, or through some type of harvest management plan.

Regardless of the mechanism, there is clear precedent for similar actions (separate fall and winter seasons), to achieve reasonable opportunity for diverse user groups.

Geographically Based Regulations

Regardless of herd-based ANS, regulations are always based on geography

- Conservative regulations will need to be based on geography, while quotas could be based on a combination of separate harvestable surplus values.
- There is precedent for this situation (e.g. White Mtns. and Fortymile; Fortymile and Nelchina); hunt areas do not explicitly match seasonal ranges in all cases.
- The key is understanding seasonal and/or geographic allocation goals
 - Herd distributions may not allow achievement of ANS goals, but reasonable opportunities could be facilitated through area-specific guidelines;
 - Hunt zones in the Fortymile are a similar precedent.
 - An important difference is that the roadless ranges of the WAH and TCH do not allow similarly unfettered access.
- Regulations requiring hunters to distinguish between herds are not necessary.

Potential Options for Dealing with Herd Overlap

- 1) Combined: WAH + TCH (x-x)
- 2) Separate: WAH (x-x) and TCH (x-x)
- 3) Area Specific (nested):
[GMU 26A (x-x) + GMU 23 (x-x) + GMU 22 (x-x), etc.]
- 4) Herd and Area Specific (nested):
GMU 26A [WAH (x-x) + TCH (x-x)], GMU 23 [WAH (x-x) + TCH (x-x)], etc.]



Questions?

Proposal 24: Unit 26A Coyote

This proposal changes the hunting season and bag limit for coyote in Unit 26A to no closed season and no limit.

This is a public proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Support**

Advisory Committee Recommendation:

North Slope AC **Support**

Unit 26A Coyote Regulations

Current regulation

- Season: Sept.1 – Apr. 30
- Bag Limit: 2 coyotes

Proposed regulation

- Season: **No closed season**
- Bag Limit: **No limit**

Coyote Information

- The species is expanding its range into northern Alaska.
- Coyotes are rarely seen or harvested in Unit 26A.
- A liberal season and bag limit would provide useful hunting opportunity as coyotes expand their range.
- Adopting the proposal would align Unit 26A with the current regulations in Units 26B and 26C.

- End-