

Dolphin and Union Collaring Program

Objectives:

- Study the movement patterns of DU caribou over a multi-year program
- Support the deriving of population estimates and trends for the herd
- Identify priority and sensitive habitat
- Investigate non-migratory Dolphin and Union caribou that remain on Victoria Island year-round

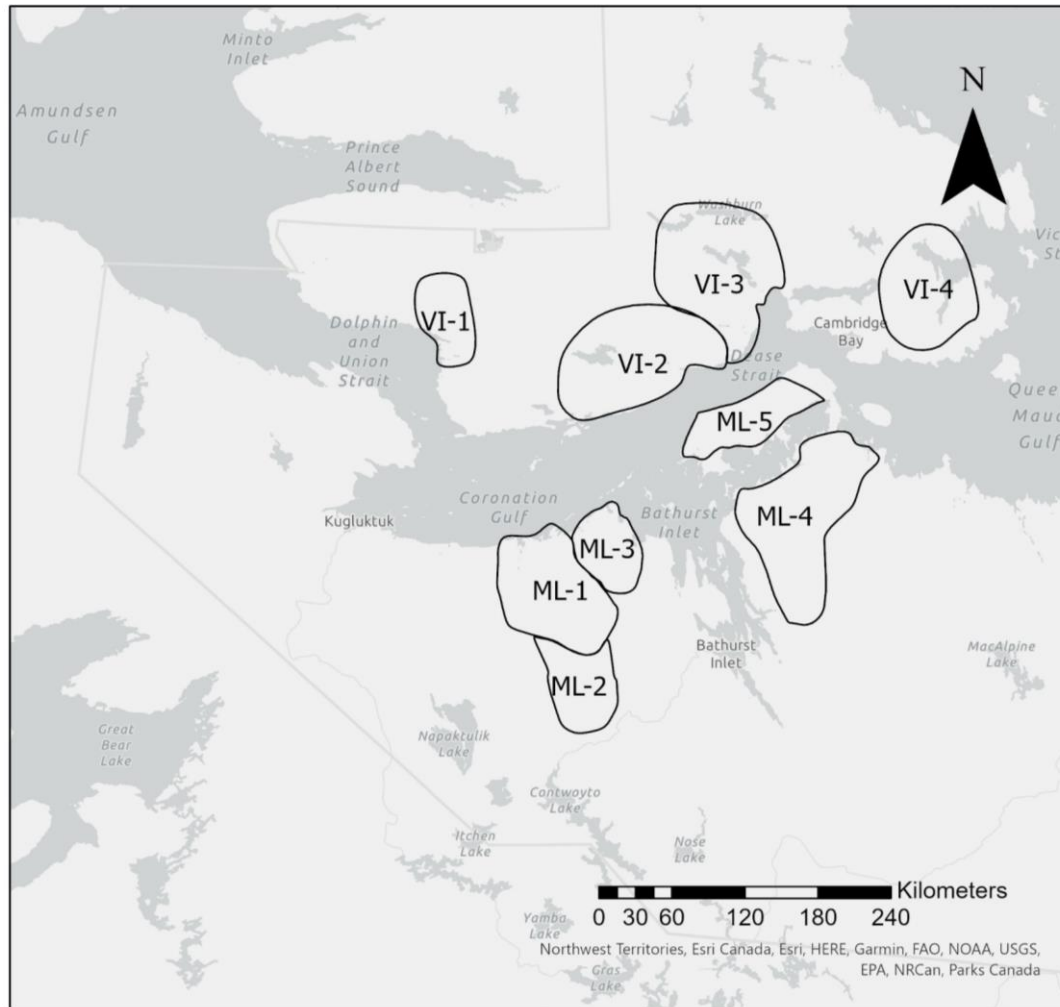


Proposed Activities

- April 1st to April 14th, 2021
- Collar 50 female DU caribou on mainland and Victoria Island performed by experienced capture and collaring crew
- Incorporate HTO/HTC input into collaring locations
- Take samples (blood, feces and hair), assess body condition and take photos (full body, antlers, eyes, incisors)

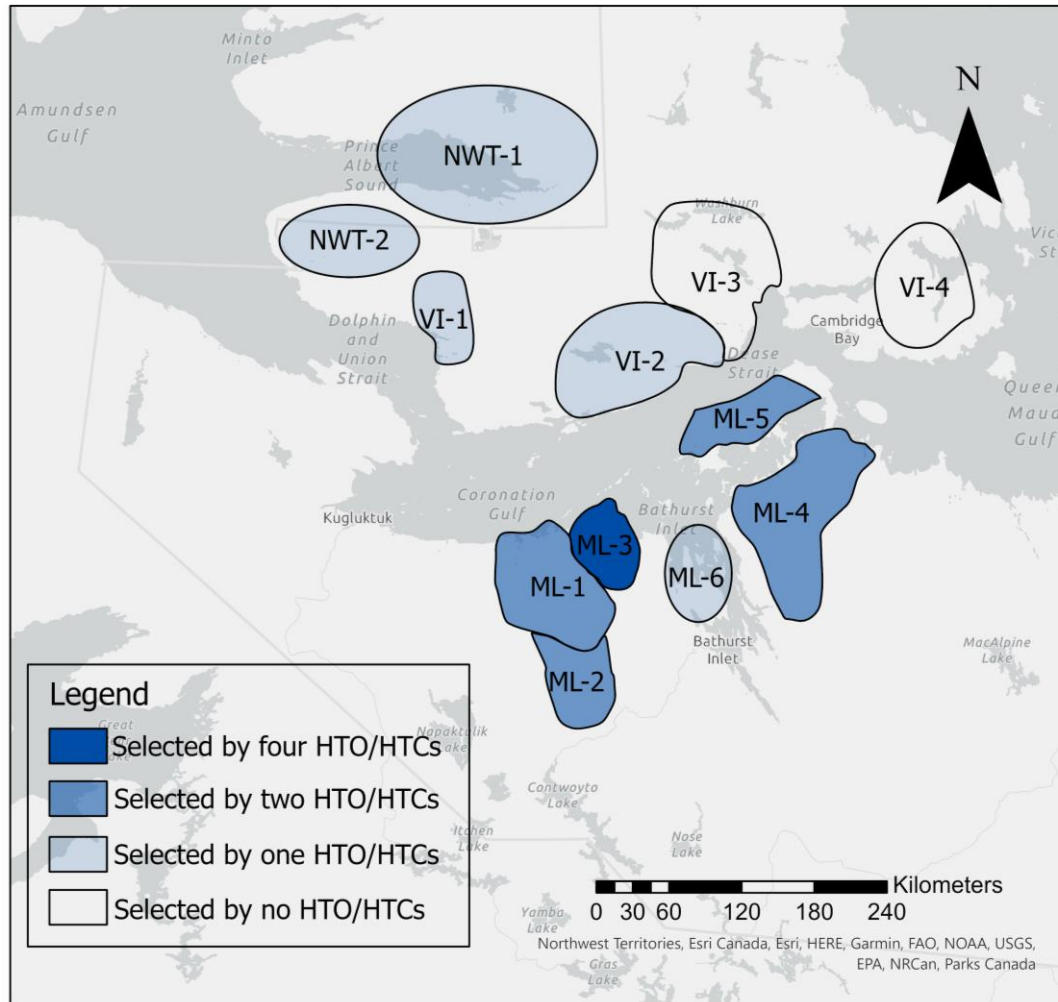


Proposed Collaring Areas



Map with possible collaring locations distributed to affected HTOs/HTCs, and to NTI for input.

Selected Collaring Areas



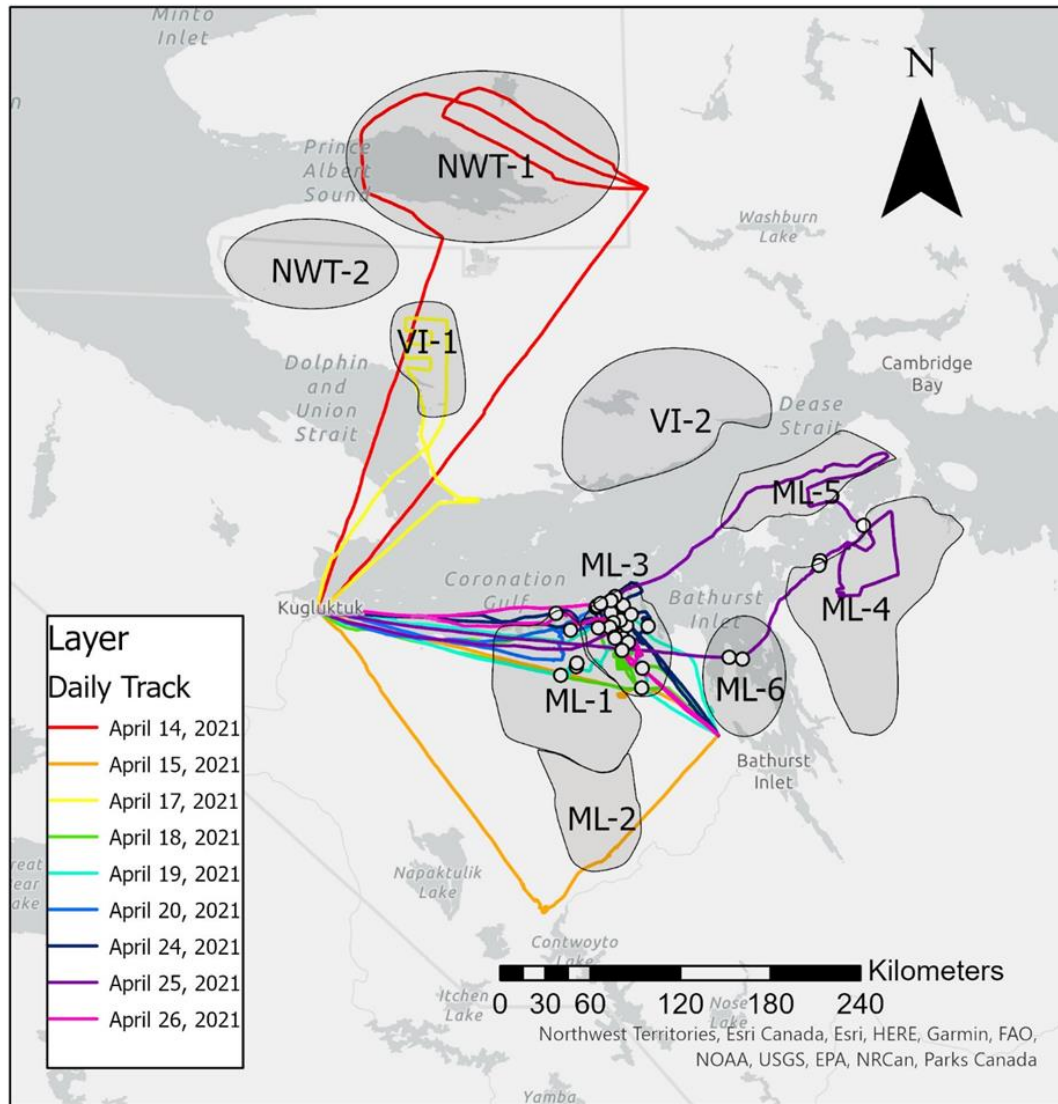
Input received from Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association, Ekaluktutialik Hunter & Trappers, Omingmaktok Hunters & Trappers, Burnside Hunters & Trappers, and Olokhaktomiut Hunters & Trappers.

2021 Collaring

- Start date was delayed due to weather
- Collaring took place April 14th to April 26th 2021
- 8 areas selected by HTOs/HTCs were visited during the program
- 36 animals were collared, 42 were captured
- Samples were taken (blood, feces and hair), body condition determined and photos taken
- HTOs/HTCs were emailed daily to provide project updates
- An HTO observer was present for every capture



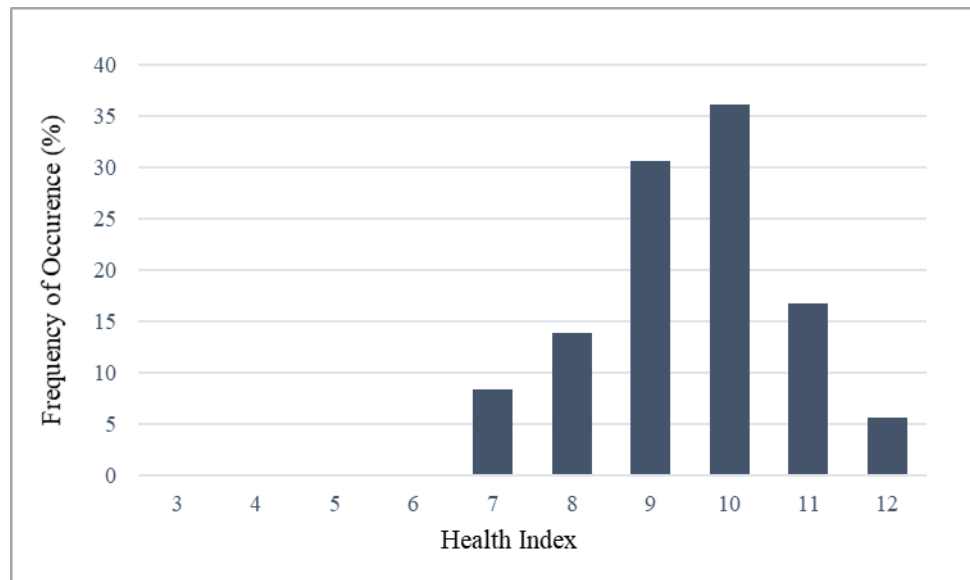
Collar Deployment Locations





Body Condition

- Followed CARMA's Rangifer Health and Body Condition Monitoring Protocol
- Health index on a scale of 3 to 12
- Ribs, shoulders and hip/spine scored and summed
- Mean health index of 9.5 for 2021



Pregnancy

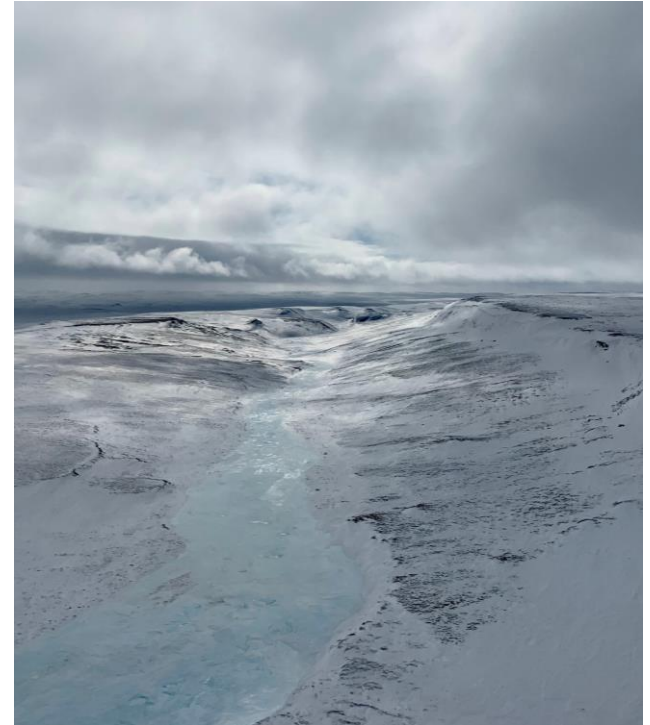
- Fecal samples were analyzed for progesterone levels to determine pregnancy rate
- Progesterone >600 ng/g in feces indicated pregnancy
- In 2021, 87.2% were pregnant

	Year
Status	2021
Pregnant	35
Not Pregnant	5
Pregnancy Rate	87.2%



Program Challenges

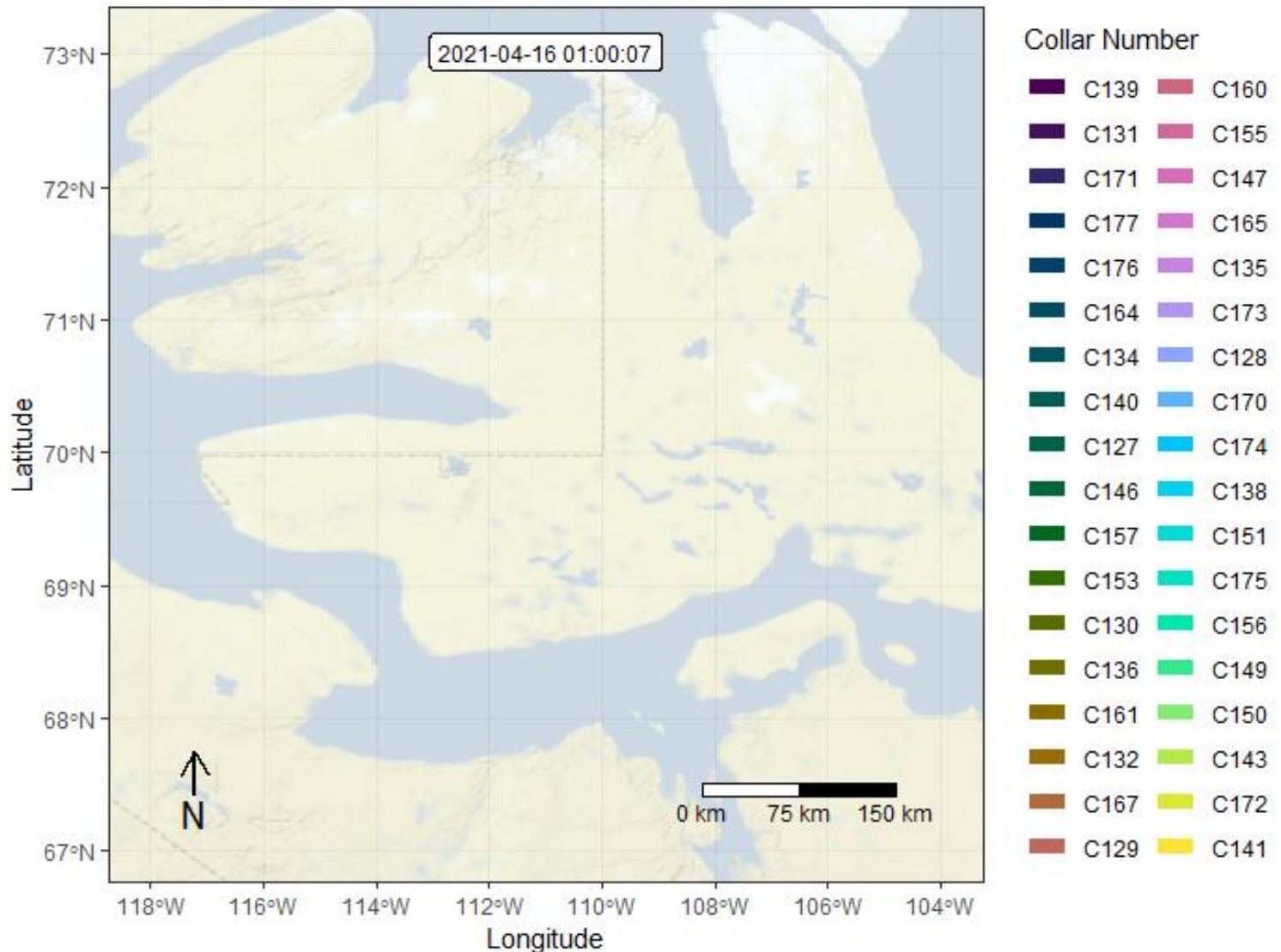
- Adverse weather
 - Delayed start
 - 1/3 days during program unflyable
- Caribou only collared on mainland
- 36/50 collars deployed
- Unable to relocate
- Mortalities during collaring



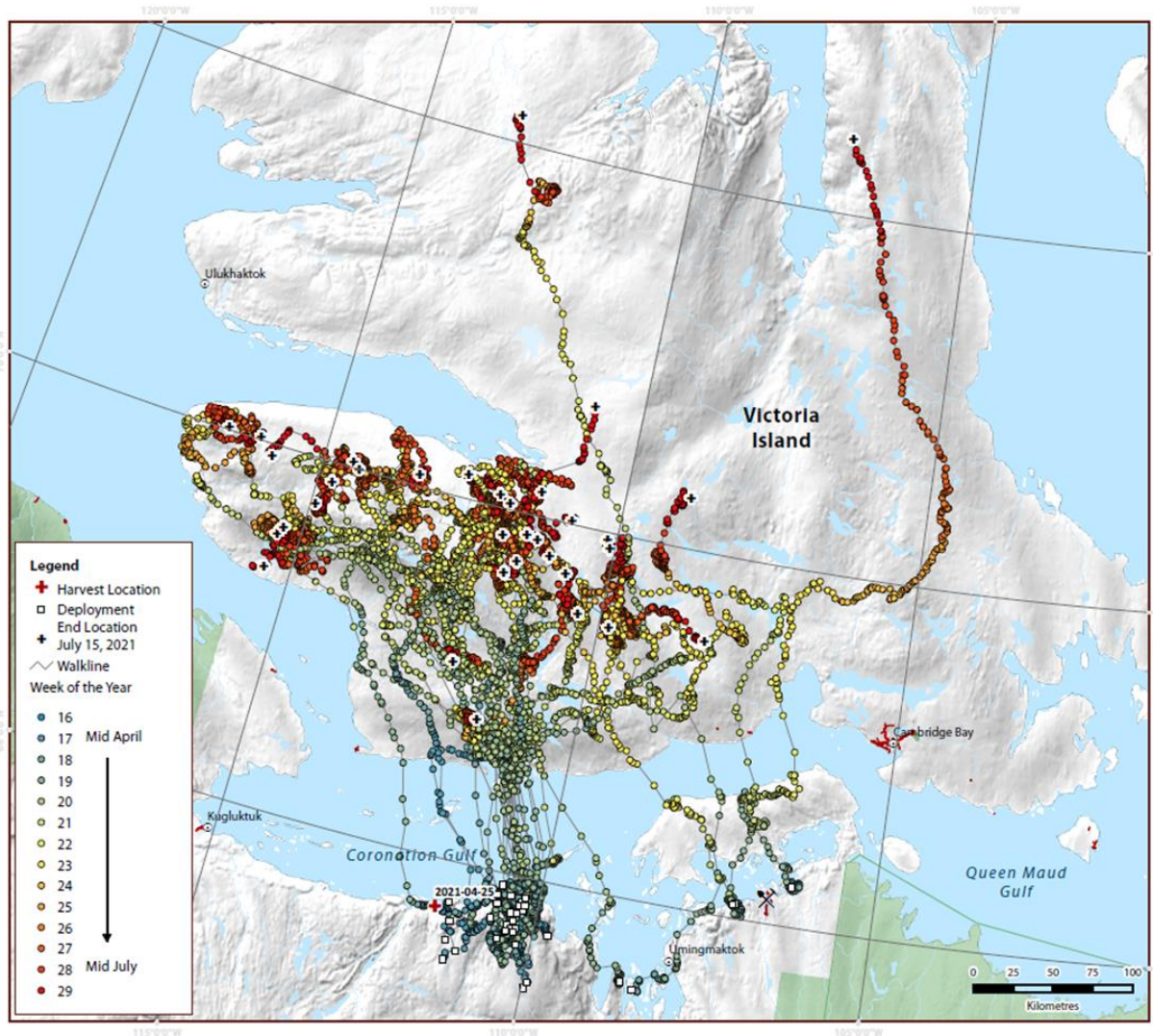
Identification Number	Mortality Date	Mortality Type	Cause
DU-M1-21	April 19, 2021	During Pursuit	Euthanized, broken leg
DU-M2-21	April 20, 2021	During Capture	Euthanized, injured hip
DU-M3-21	April 24, 2021	During Capture	Heart attack
DU-M4-21	April 24, 2021	During Capture	Euthanized, broken neck
DU-206-21	April 25, 2021	Harvested	Harvested
DU-218-21	August 13, 2021	Natural	Unknown

Dolphin and Union Caribou Movement

Dolphin and Union Caribou Collaring Data 2021



Dolphin and Union Caribou Movement



Movements from 2021 collared caribou from mid-April to mid-July

Future Recommendations

- Collaring on Victoria Island should remain a focus
- On the ground surveys recommended prior to collaring program to increase efficiency
- Continued close collaboration with other stakeholders, specifically HTOs/HTCs



Thank you!



Thank you to the Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Bay Chimo, Bathurst Inlet and Ulukhaktok HTOs/HTCs.

Thank you specifically to Amanda Dumond, Larry Adjun, Beverly Maksagak, Bobby Greenley, Connie Kapolak, Peter Kapolak, Tracy Davison, Bessie Inuktalik, Terry Milton and Lena Davies.

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Questions?