

**Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers Association**

**Reindeer Ground Survey Report 2024**

to

**Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**



Photo credit Pre-Survey Drone

## Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers Association

### Reindeer Ground Survey for NWMB April 2, 2024 – April 9, 2024

Sanikiluaq HTA conducted, our 9<sup>th</sup> reindeer ground survey when 2 surveys were aerial surveys since 1982 after 50 male and 10 females were implanted in year 1978, when DC3 and DC4 landed on ice in front of the community and whole community when to meet them. All 60 were in boxes with holes, one by one, as they were dismantled one by one, surely they did not know where to go.

Sanikiluaq HTA greatly appreciate the NWMB for the granting ground survey this year as always, also thanks NWMB for extending the survey when we could not complete the survey by end of March 31, due to weather and other matters. This year for first time we used drone with assistance from Arctic Eider Society, we were aiming with 2 drones but had only one drone, therefore only 2 pictures were taken drone of larger herds the rest were counted at the site.

Since 2003 survey when we lost half of the herd, when they went across to the mainland to Quebec, the board have tried different ways to manage them, one being community hunts only, harvest males only.

After survey in year 2012, board tired one animal for 3 household and harvest to be reported to the board, that did not work out. Also, for campers only summer one animal can be harvested, but sometimes our hunters do not listen which is hard to deal by the board.

Aerial survey 2021 numbers went down by 281, the Sanikiluaq HTA board stop the harvest to-date.

#### Reindeer Ground Survey:

Appendix of tracks during survey post by SIKU

Day one:

Set out to survey Uivak (Kukong Island) all 4 surveyors at beginning split into 2 groups, 2 snowmobiles tracking west side, and 2 tracking east side of Uivak, old tracks spend all day at Uivak but no reindeer were sighted in Uivak,

Day Two

Travel towards Upingavialuk, again two groups, other group sighted **30** animals site #9 in the track map, site count at north of Moore Islands, other group carry on southwest of Moore Island, sighted **127** animals took snap shot by drone located #1 on track map, another **76** animals sight count track map #2 after snap shot still traveling south, sighted **191** animals drone count at #4 at track map, cover most of the island down to Upingavialuk area

Day Three

Travel towards south camp sighted **1** animal at #5 in track map just north of south camp, still traveling southward and saw **1** animal at track map #6.

Day Four

Check out Johanson Islands all day, there was no reindeer to be found at Johnson Islands.

Day Five

Travel down along Kipaluk southward one group travel westside and other through eastside of Kipaluk Islands, other group travel down to Uviluluk south east on their way back the travel towards north on east side of Tukarak Islands and saw 2 reindeer on track map #8.

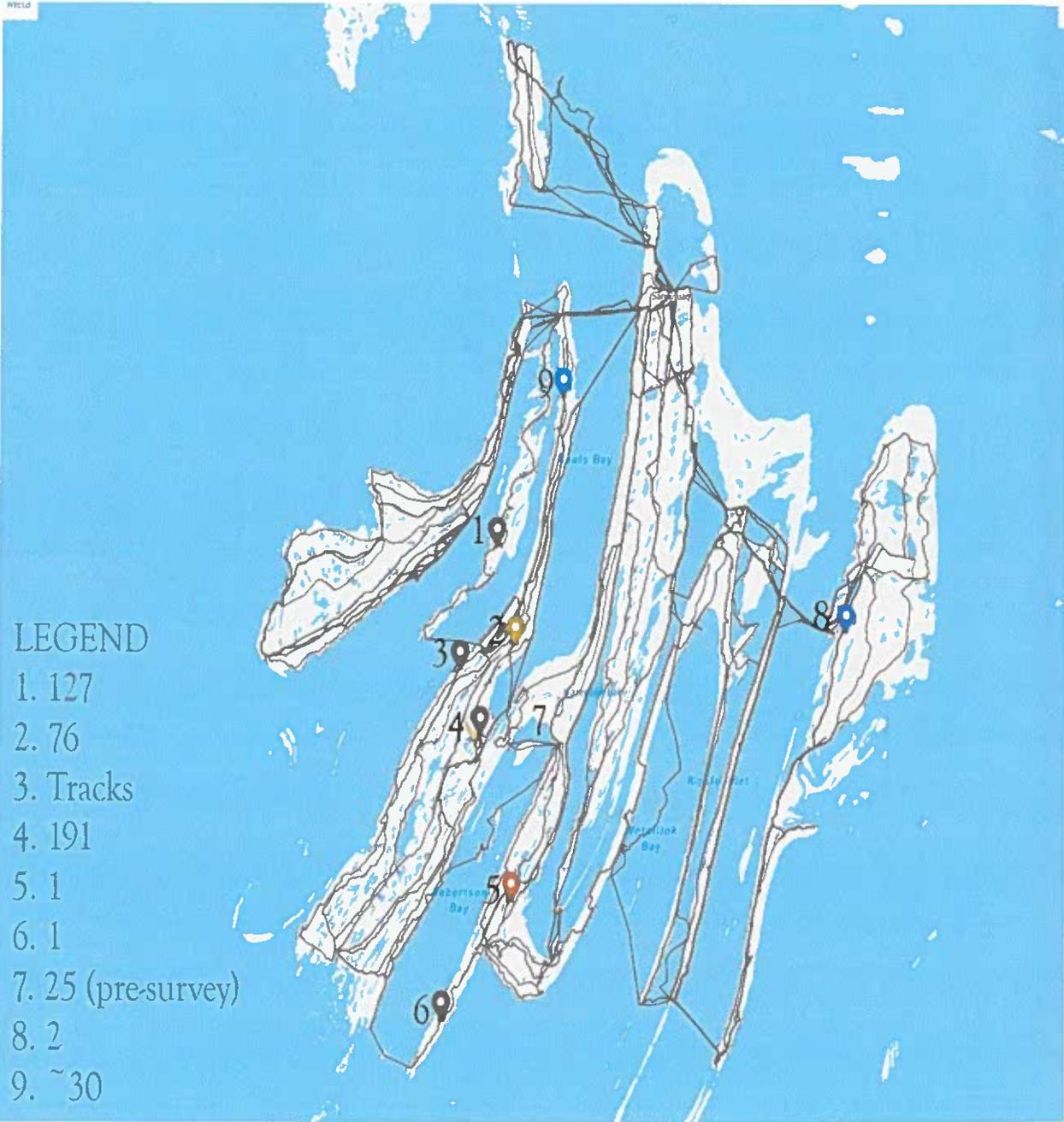
Day Six

Just to be sure we surveyed north of Tukarak Island but no reindeer were found.

Include appendix is a pre survey snapshot of drone, but did not count with the survey, they are same animals.

**AERIAL AND GROUND SURVEY RESULTS WITHIN 9 YEARS SURVEY**

1982.....	222
1989.....	462
1990.....	539
2003.....	250
2009.....	665
2012.....	1,179
2015.....	1,003
2021.....	281
2024.....	428



Appendix

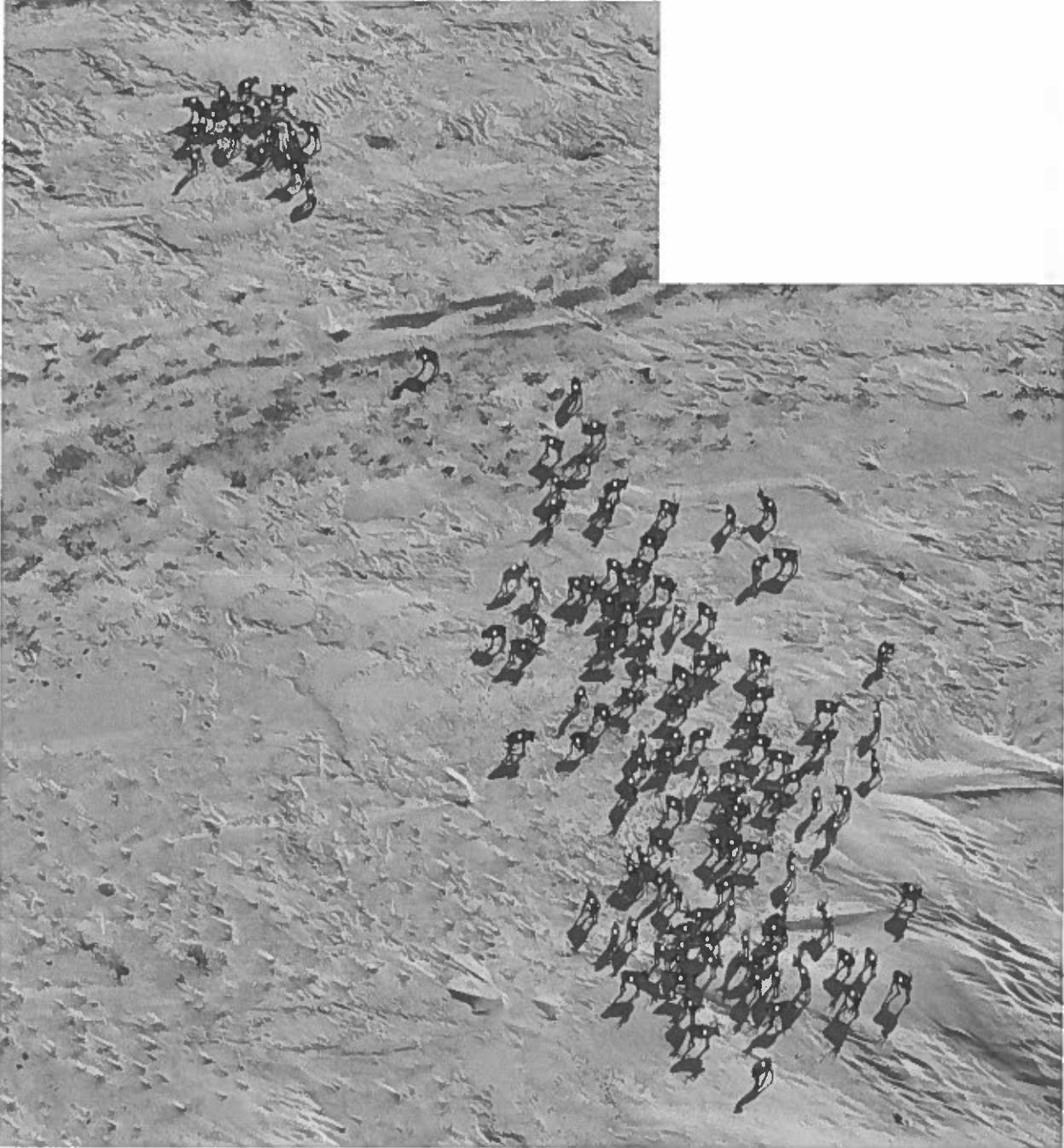
Tarvel tracks during reindeer ground survey, location of reindeer sited.



**Appendix 1 – 72 Animals**



**Appendix 2 - 191 Animals**



**Pre-survey drone picture**