

TAKING CARE OF CARIBOU

THE CAPE BATHURST, BLUENOSE-WEST and BLUENOSE-EAST BARREN GROUND CARIBOU HERDS MANAGEMENT PLAN



A MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPED BY THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATION OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT



ACCWM



Members:

- Wildlife Management Advisory Council – NWT
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
- Tukturn Nogait National Park Management Board
- Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
- Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
- Dehcho First Nation (working group only)

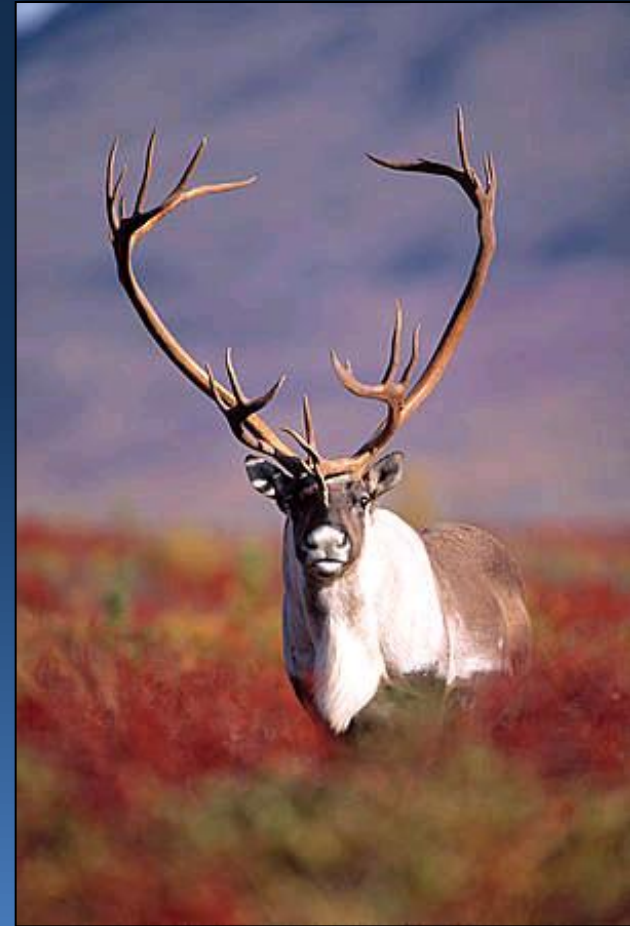


WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)



Overview

- Purpose and principles
- Status of the herds
- Factors affecting the herds
- Monitoring activities
- Management actions
- Communications
- Input received by NWMB staff during consultations in Kugluktuk



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN?

The goal of this plan is to ensure there are caribou for today and for future generations.

The three herds will be managed to:



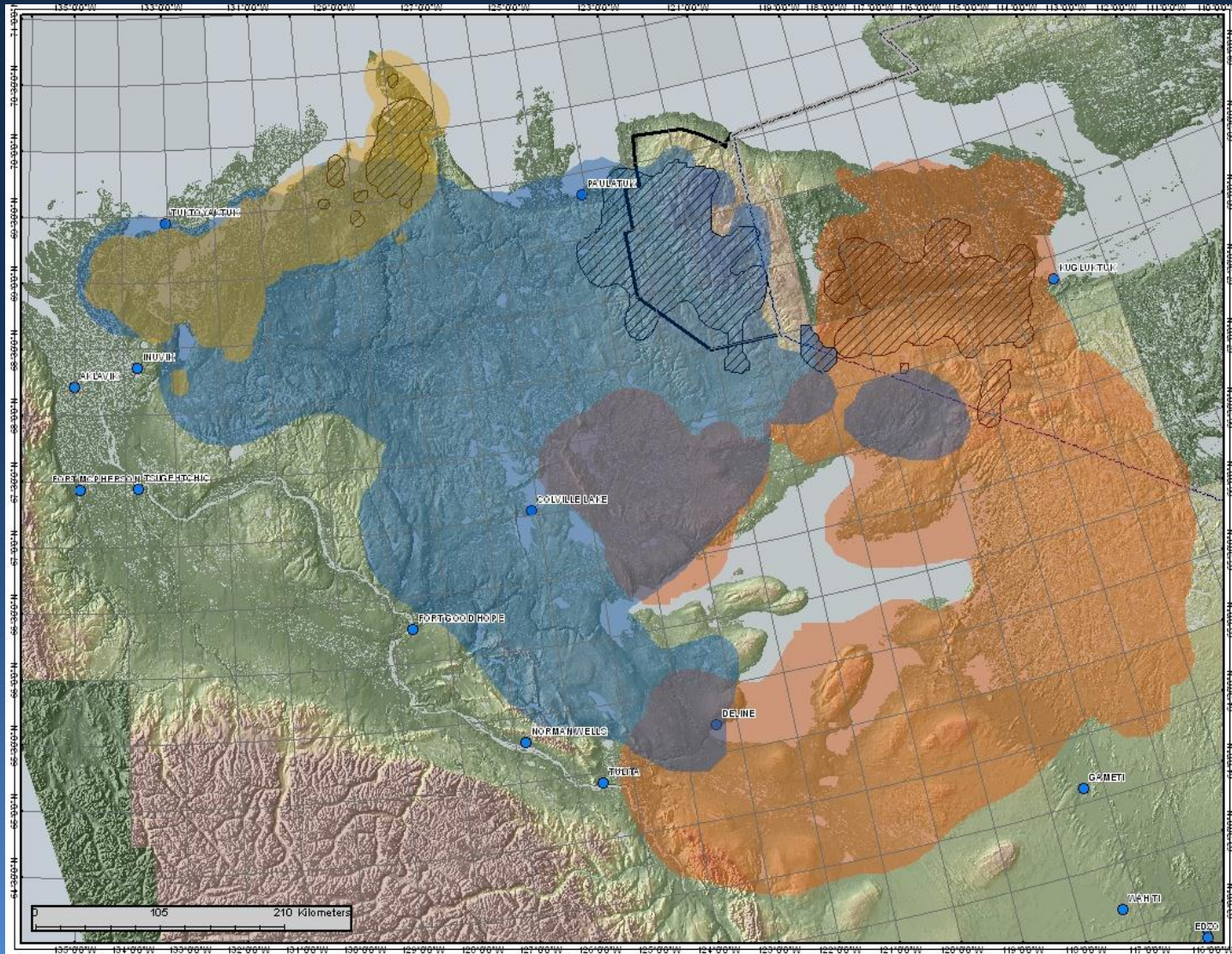
- Conserve healthy caribou herds and habitat;
- Keep the overall harvest of each herd within sustainable limits; and
- Have a clear way to fairly allocate the harvest from each herd.

PRINCIPLES

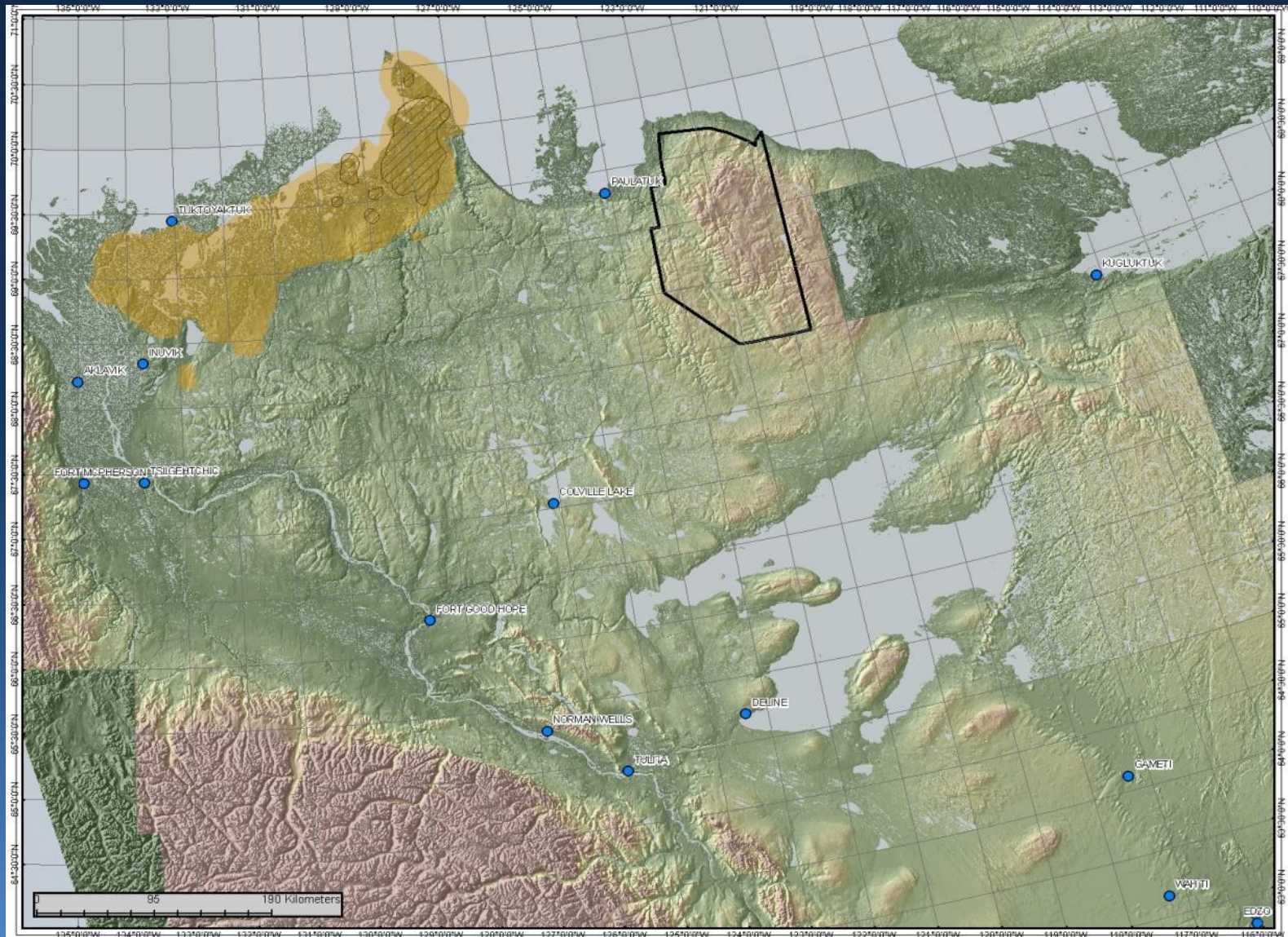
- Respect for the animals
- Protection of important habitat
- Harvest only what is needed
- Use all parts of the caribou
- Pass on harvesting traditions to the next generations
- Management decisions that respect treaties, land claim agreements, and harvesting rights
- Management decisions based on the best available information, both science and traditional knowledge
- We must work together to anticipate and minimize impacts to caribou and their habitat



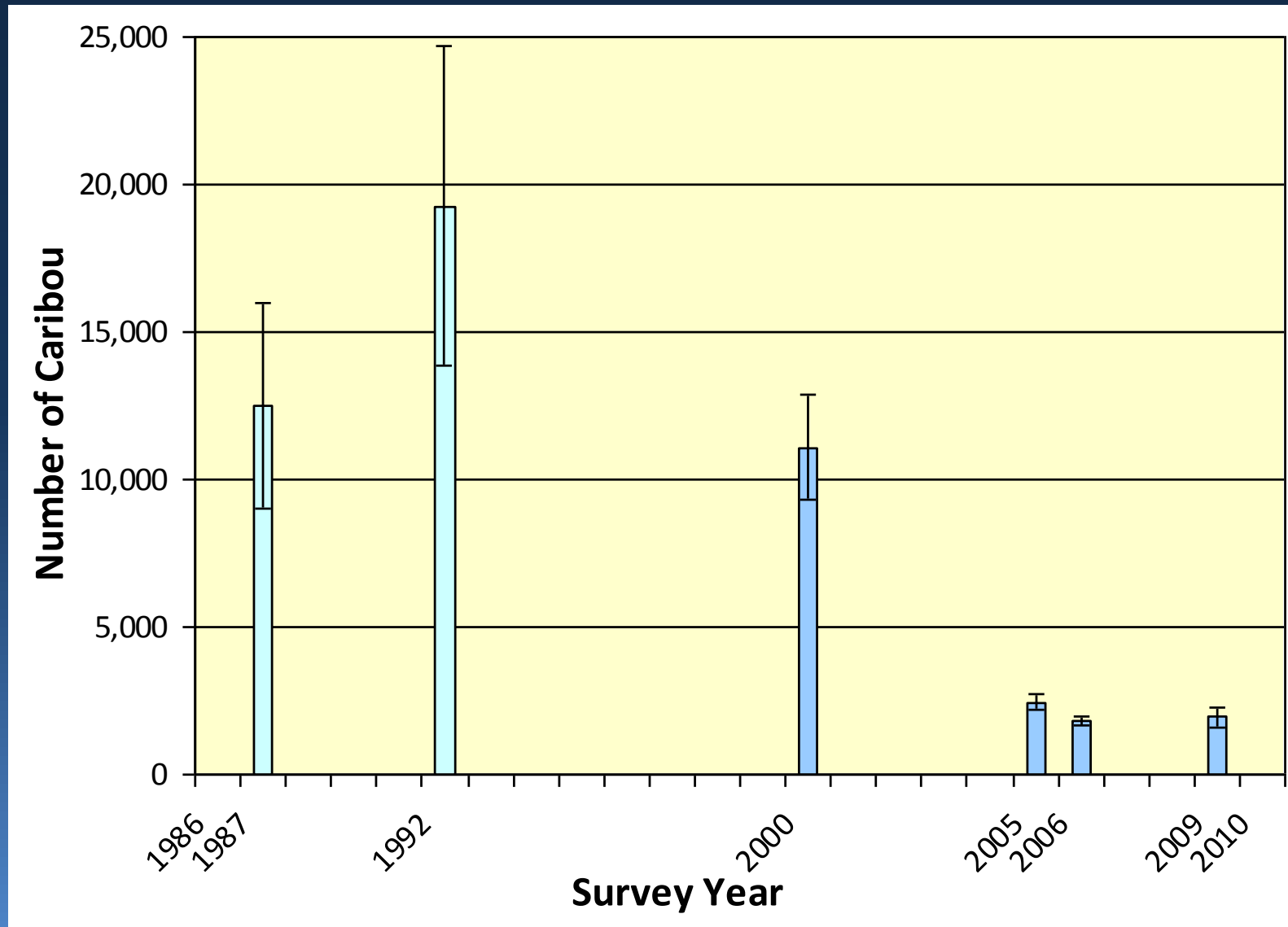
CAPE BATHURST, BLUENOSE-WEST, AND BLUENOSE-EAST HERD RANGES



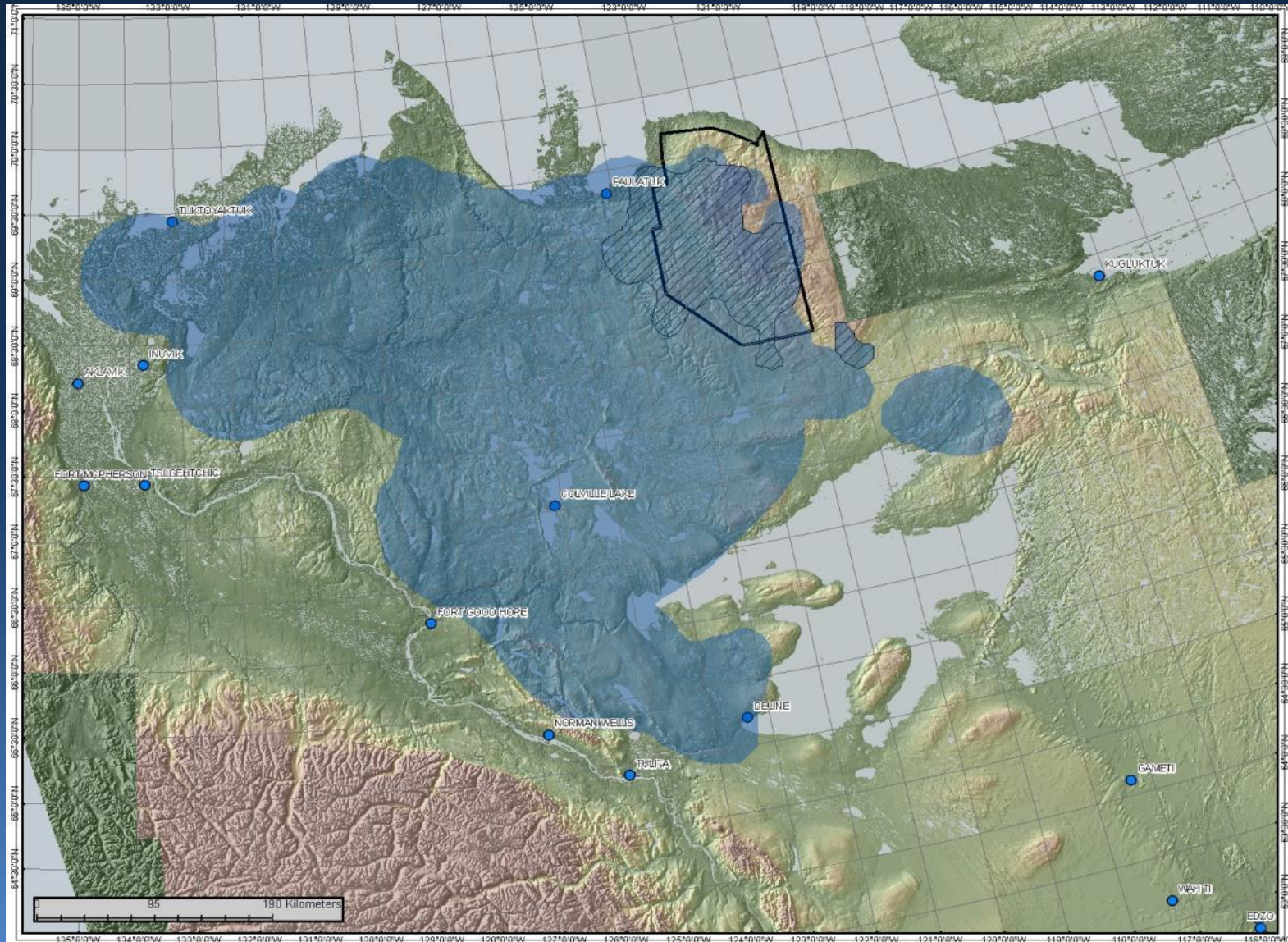
CAPE BATHURST HERD RANGE



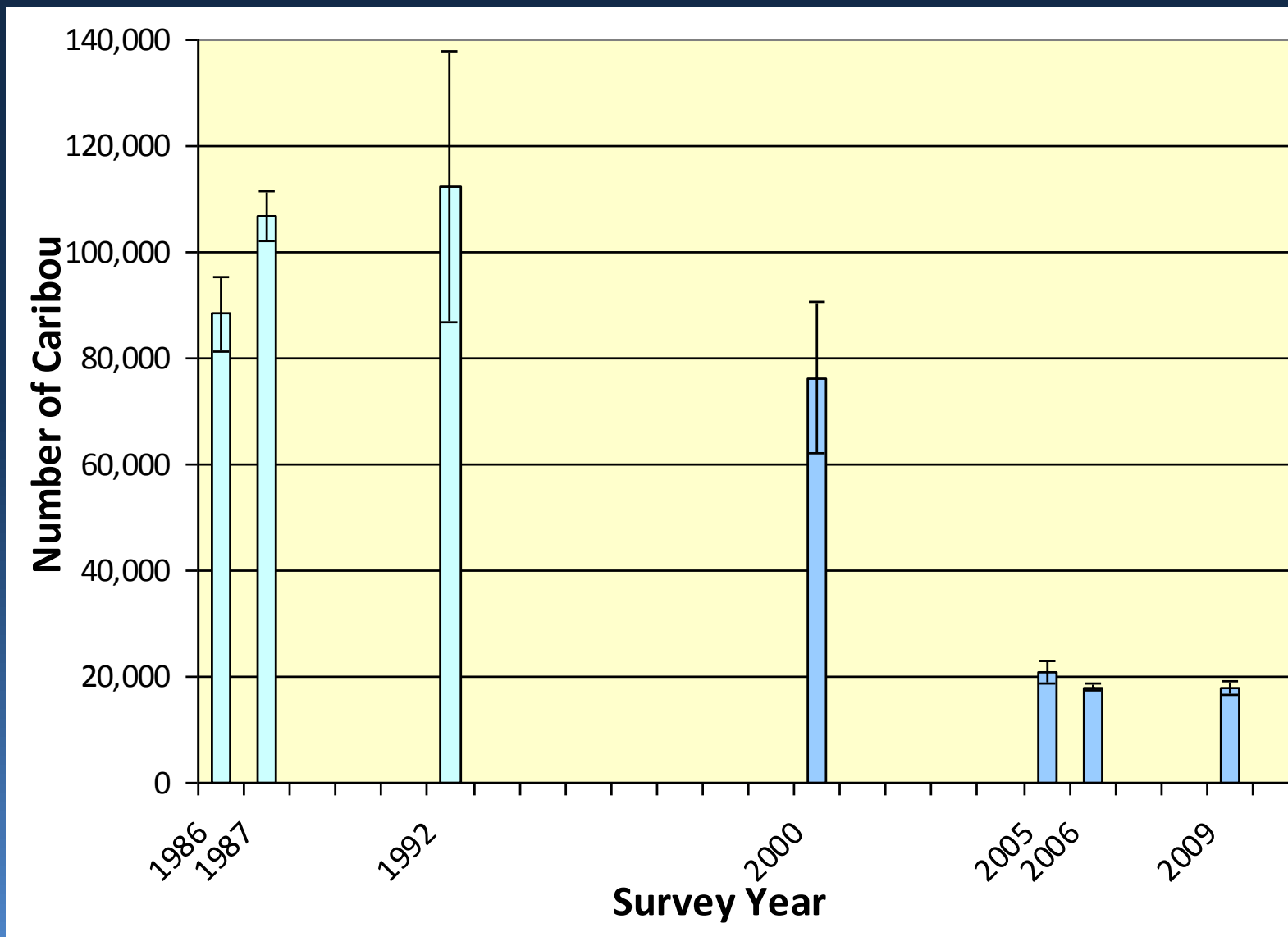
CAPE BATHURST POPULATION ESTIMATES



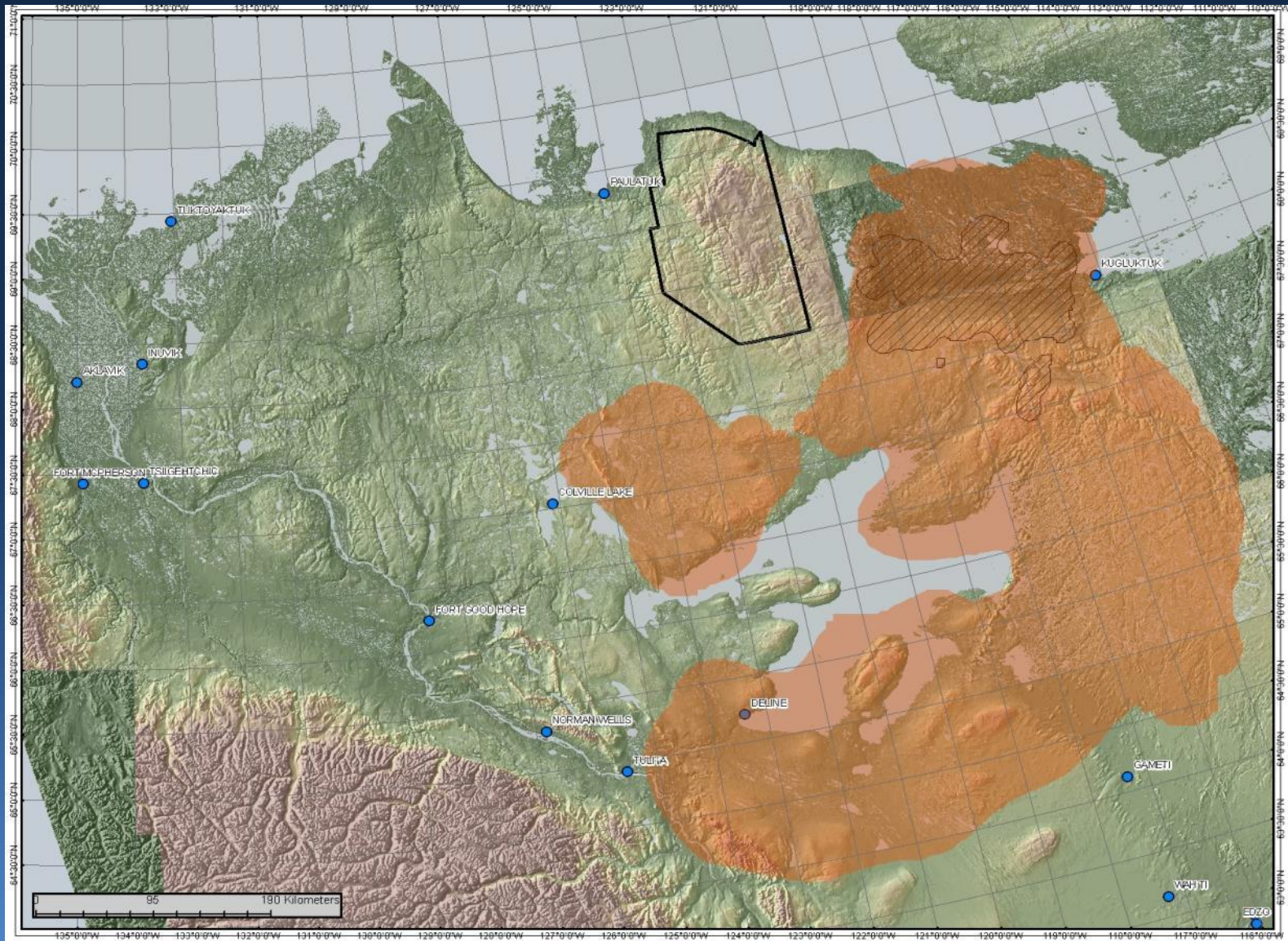
BLUENOSE—WEST HERD RANGE



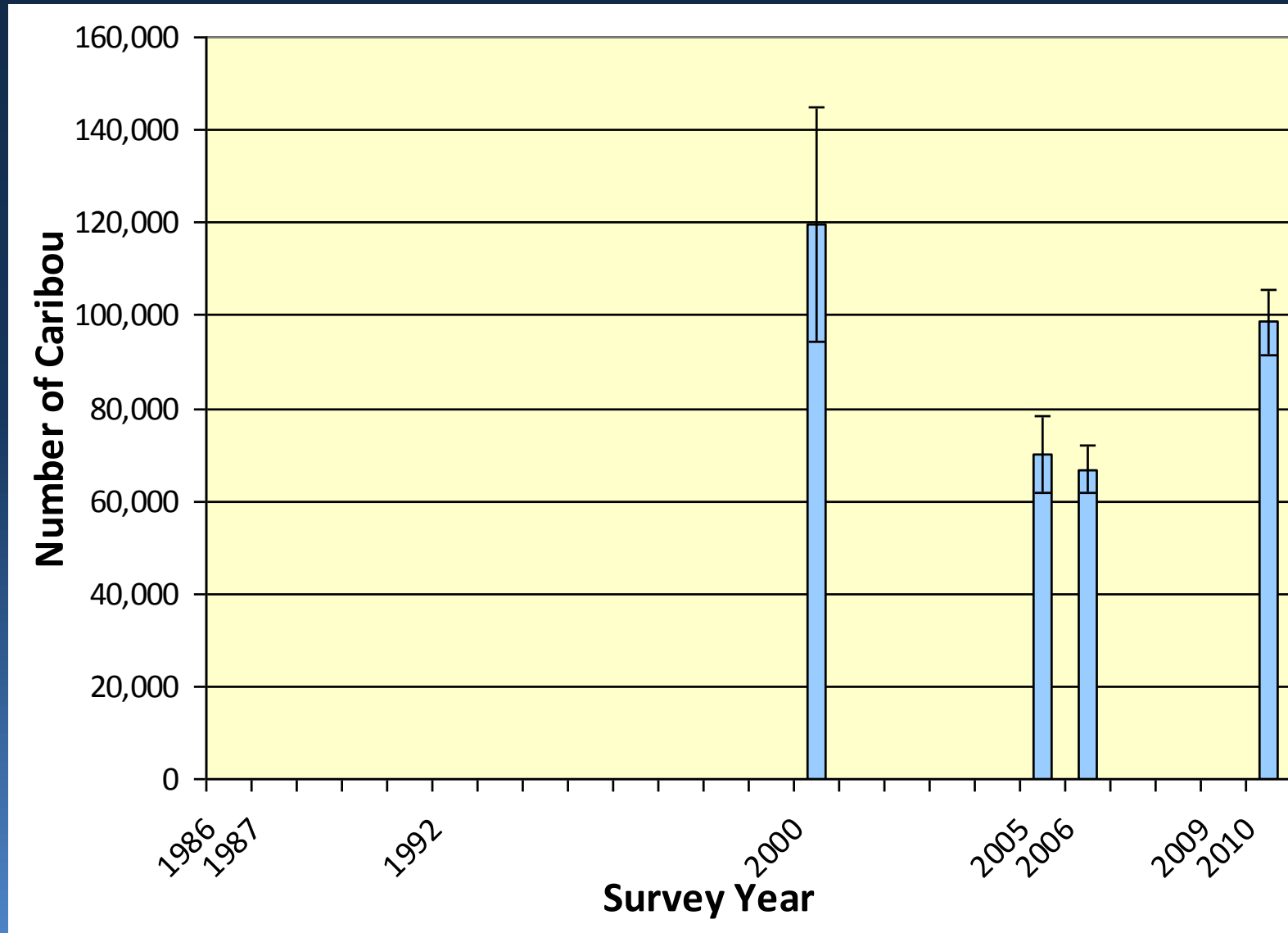
BLUENOSE-WEST POPULATION ESTIMATES ¹⁰



BLUENOSE—EAST HERD RANGE



BLUENOSE-EAST POPULATION ESTIMATES



THE MANAGEMENT PLAN - DRAFT

- What is affecting the herds?
- Monitoring
- The population cycle
- Proposed management actions
- Includes input from the first round of community engagements:



WHAT IS AFFECTING THE HERDS?

1. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Weather patterns, temperature, rain
- Increase in parasites and disease
- Access to food



WHAT IS AFFECTING THE HERDS?

2. PREDATORS

- Wolves
- Grizzly bears
- Eagles
- Wolverine



WHAT IS AFFECTING THE HERDS?

3. HUMAN ACTIVITIES

- Land Use Activities
- Harvesting



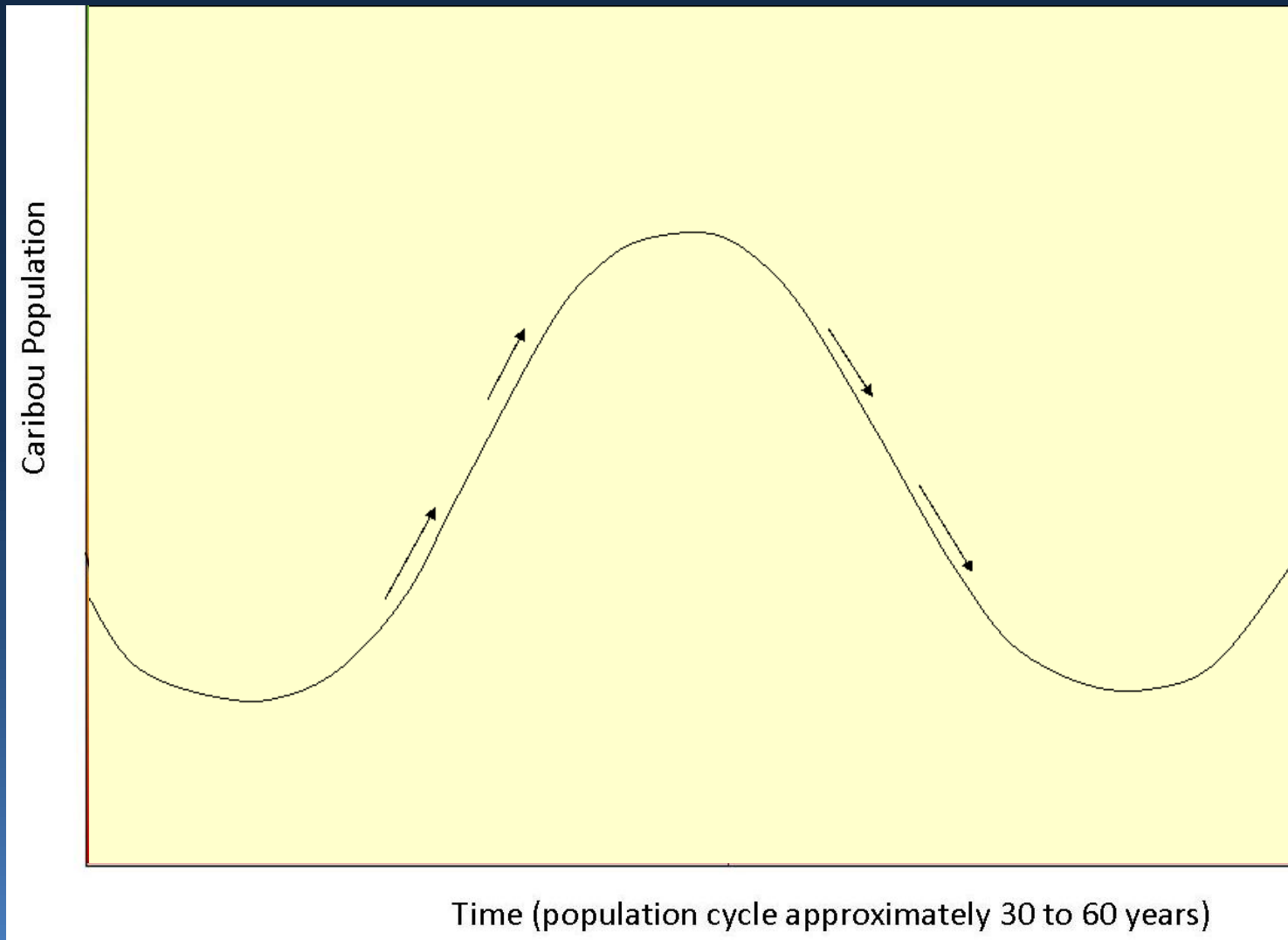
WATCHING AND MONITORING THE HERDS

Information	How often	Local Knowledge	Scientific Knowledge
Estimate herd population size	Every three years	High, medium, low, critically low	High, medium, low, critical
Assess population trend	Annually	Increasing, stable, decreasing	Increasing, stable, decreasing
Estimate recruitment	Annually	Many or few calves	Number of calves per 100 cows
Body condition/health	Annually	Good, fair, poor, abnormally poor	Fat indexes, pregnancy rate, parasite and disease level
Comprehensive harvest data	Annually	Information given by harvest interviews	Total and sex ratio of the harvest

WATCHING AND MONITORING THE HERDS

Information	How often	Local Knowledge	Scientific Knowledge
Measure bull-to-cow ratio	Every 3 years	Observations: Lots/few bulls (and Bull health)	Number of bulls per 100 cows
Predator populations	Local: annually Scientific: variable	Observations: high, medium, low	Carcass collection (reproduction, health, etc.) and during aerial surveys
Habitat conditions and disturbance	Annually then periodically	Observations of food availability, changes in habitat quality, disturbance, etc.	Monitor land uses, fires, plant productivity and habitat type

THE POPULATION CYCLE



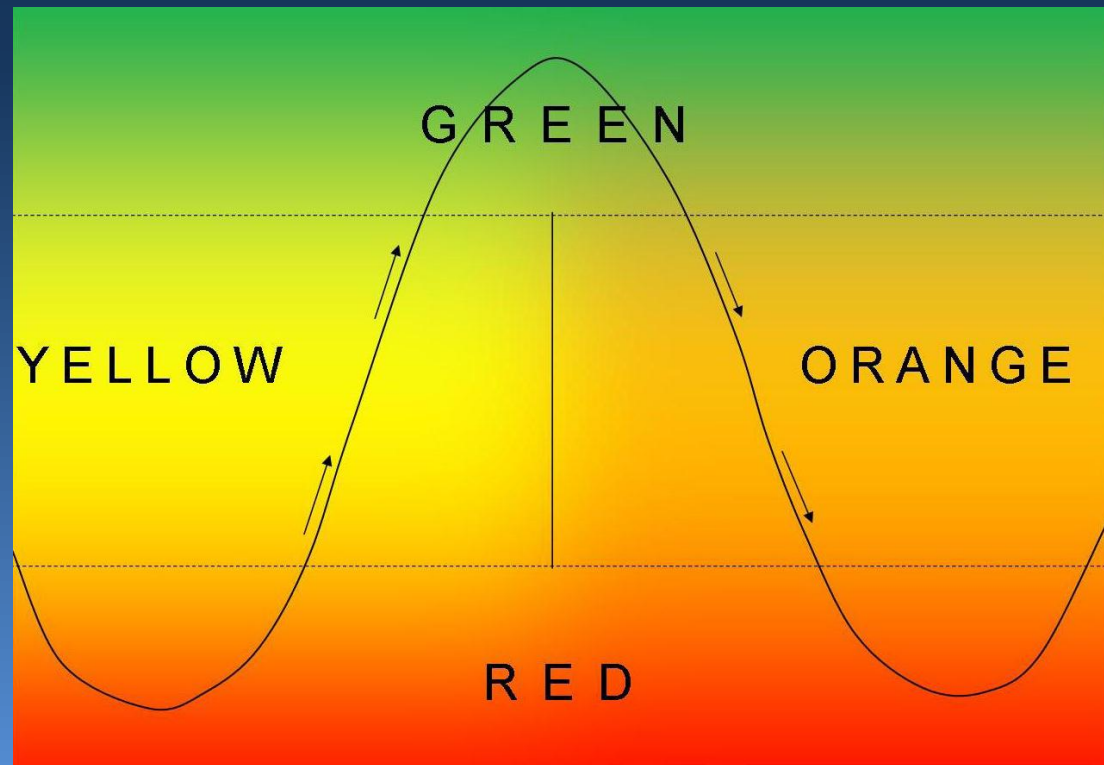
HERD STATUS

Green: the population is high

Yellow: the population is increasing

Orange: the population is decreasing

Red: the population is low

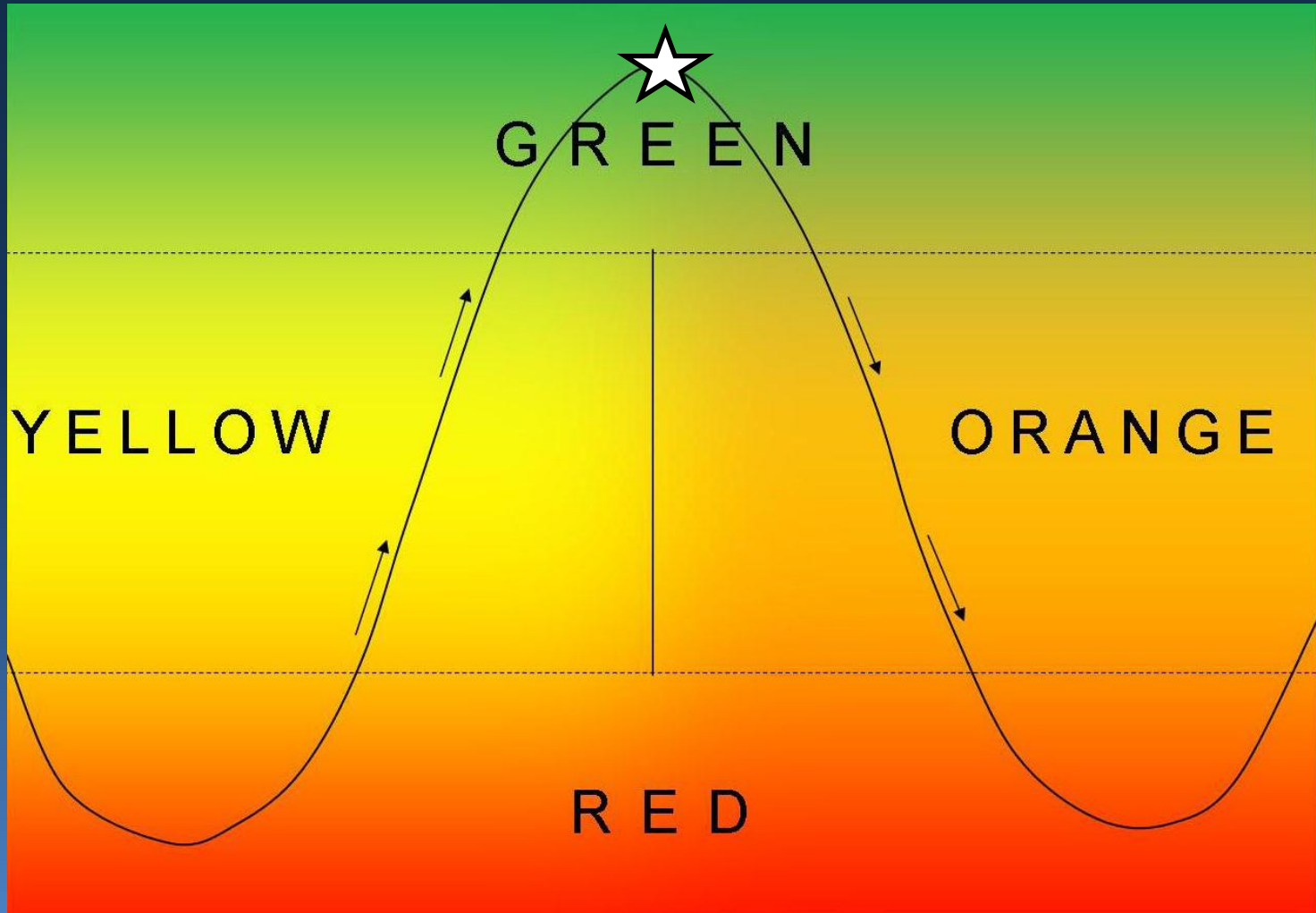


THRESHOLDS

	Bathurst	Bluenose West	Bluenose East
Historic High	19,000	112,000	120,000
Green	More than 12,000 +	More than 60,000+	More than 60,000+
Yellow (Increasing)	4,000 to 12,000	15,000 to 60,000	20,000 to 60,000
Orange (Decreasing)	4,000 to 12,000	15,000 to 60,000	20,000 to 60,000
Red	Less than 4,000	Less than 15,000+	Less than 20,000+

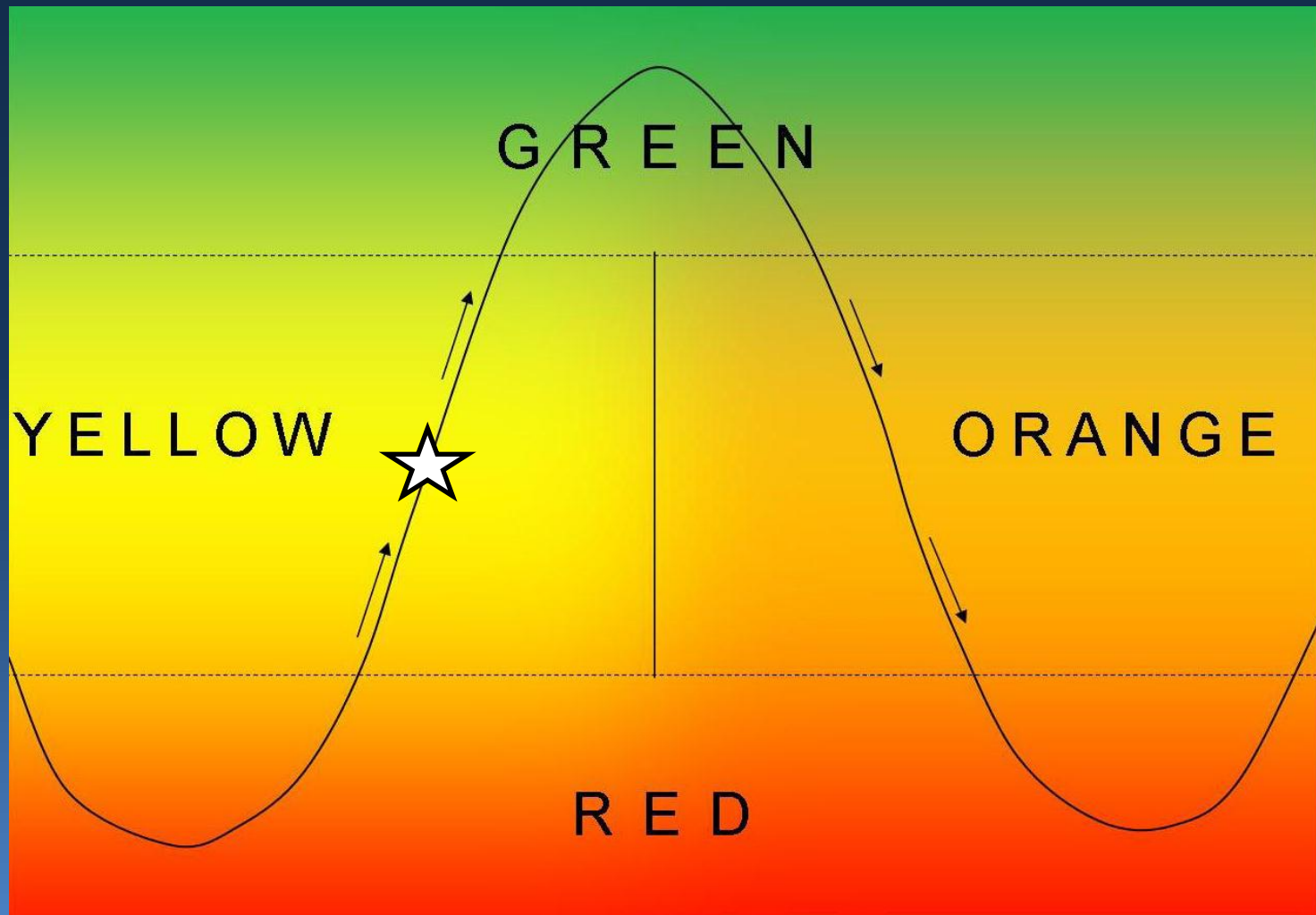
GREEN

Population is high: more than 60,000



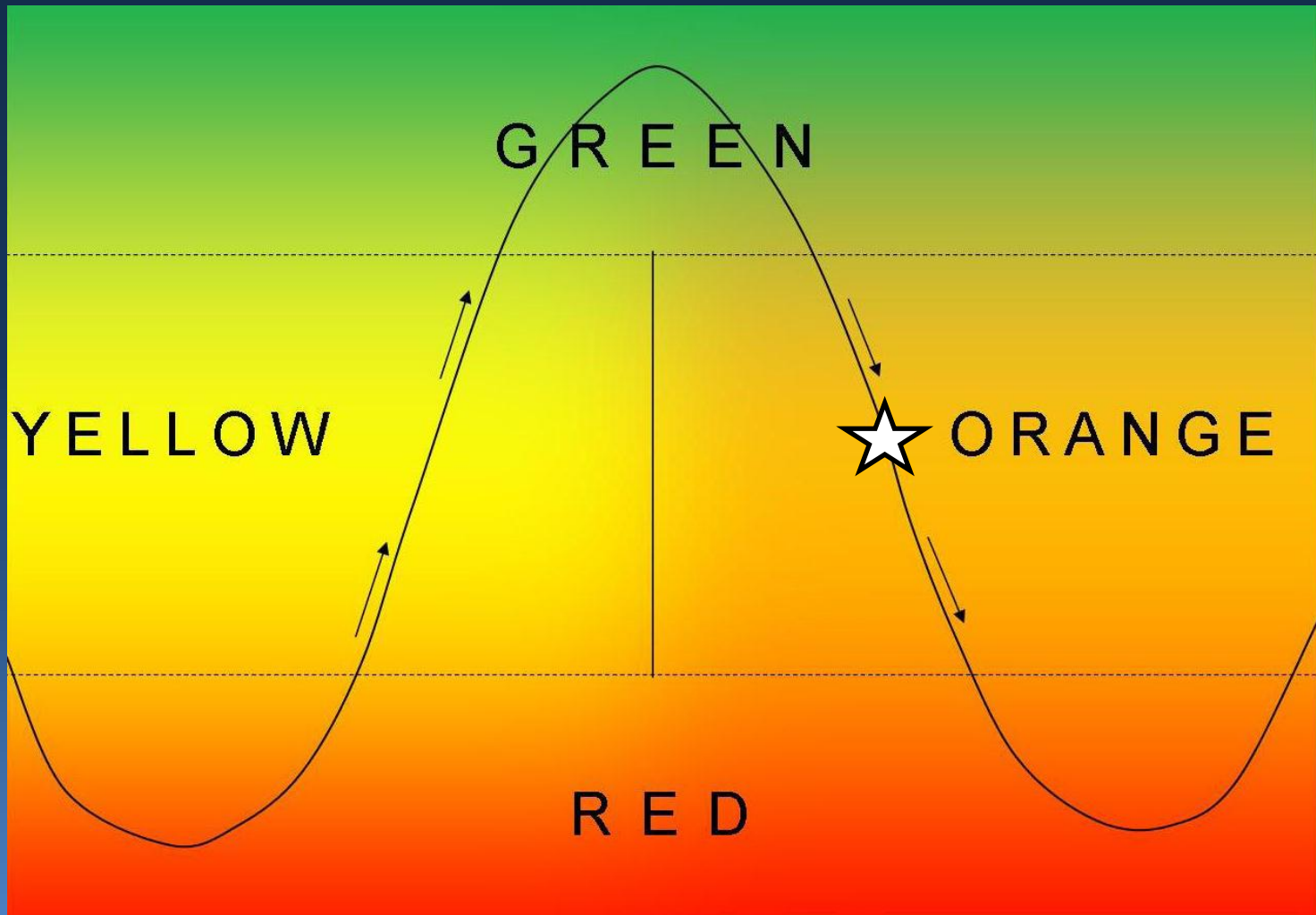
YELLOW

Population is increasing: 20,000 – 60,000



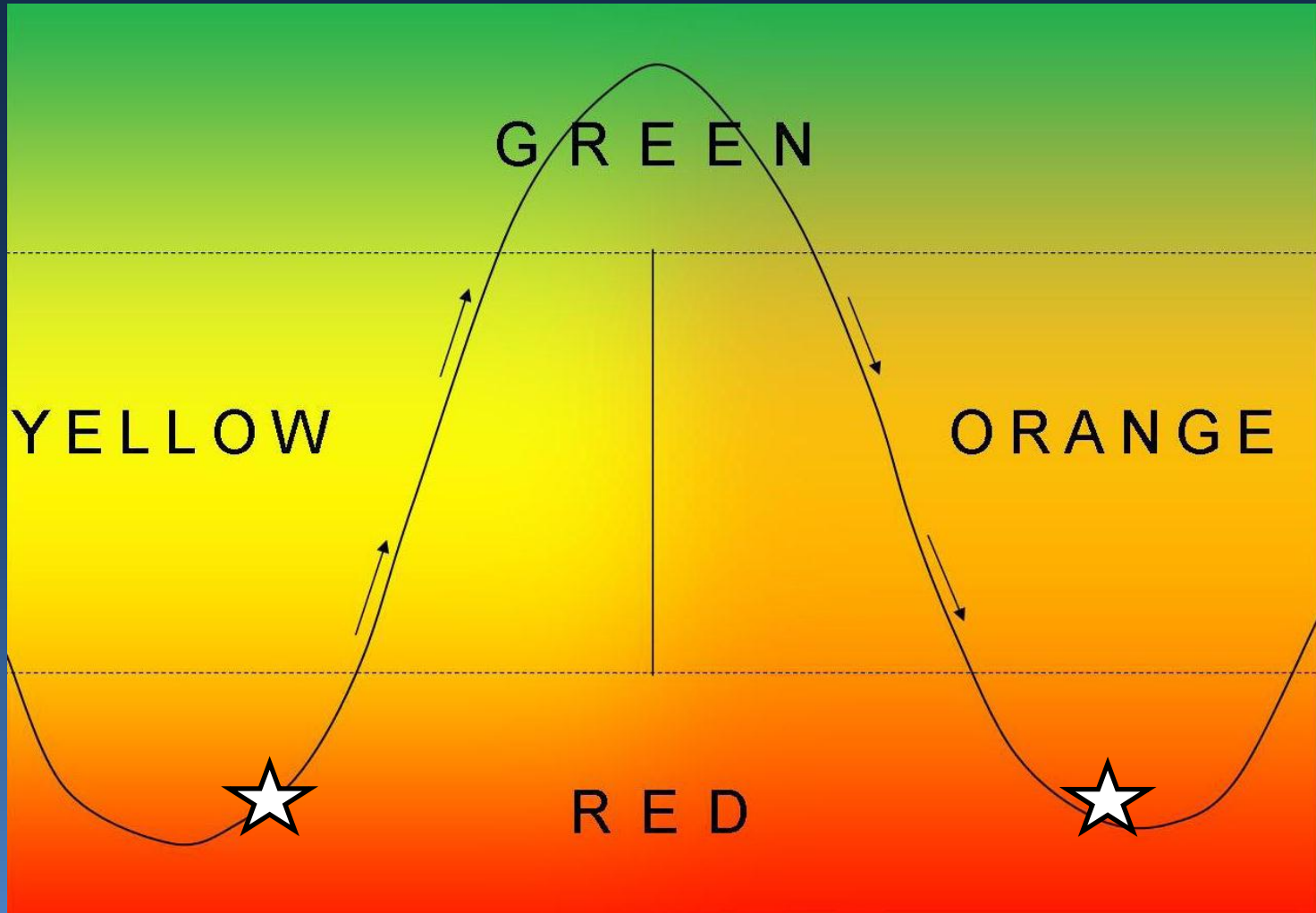
ORANGE

Population is decreasing: 20,000 – 60,000



RED

Population is low: fewer than 20,000



COMMUNICATION

- Local radio, school visits, and on-the-land gatherings
- The Management Plan will be reviewed in five years (in 2016) and at ten-year intervals (at least) thereafter.
- The Action Plan which will be implemented and reviewed annually.
- The Action Plan may be revised based on the annual monitoring information.

Nakurmik

