

PROPOSAL REVIEW

Project Number: 2-15-06

Applicant: Troy Pretzlaw

Title: South Baffin Island Caribou Fall Composition/Demographic Surveys

Funding Requested: Single year funding \$75,000

Rank: 12 / 18

Total Score 72.60 /100
(no deductions)

Scoring Breakdown: NWMB Priority: 17.50 / 17.50

Regional Priority: 7.50/ 7.50

Quality: 28.00 / 35.00

Consultation: 10.5 / 15

Funding: 9.10 / 25

Project Summary:

The primary objectives of this project are to: 1) determine what portion of the population are young bulls, old bulls, cows, and calves; 2) determine whether the population is increasing or decreasing based on calf recruitment; 3) estimate the current population size through demographic modeling; and 4) estimate the sustainable harvest level through demographic modeling.

Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	\$ 75,000	45%
Other Contributions	<u>\$79,500</u>	<u>55%</u>
Total	\$144,500	100%

NWMB Staff Evaluation:

NWMB Priority: #1 - Contributes to the establishment, modification or removal of levels of Total Allowable Harvest (S 5.6.16 to S 5.6.18) for stocks or populations where there is believed to be a conservation concern or that are priority species for harvest by Inuit.

Regional Priority: #1 Qikiqtaaluk- Baffin Island caribou: updated population assessment

Project design:

Fall composition surveys will be conducted in two study areas, one on Meta Incognita Peninsula and one on Hall peninsula. The surveys will be conducted from aircraft and consist of areas where caribou are known to occur. Based on existing collar data and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Survey flight paths and specific survey areas will be determined by local knowledge holders who will be wildlife observers in the aircraft. . Overall, the vital rates collected during the survey will be used to determine whether the population is increasing, stable or decreasing.

In addition fecal samples will be collected opportunistically and genetic analysis will be performed.

Application of results:

Projects results will be documented in a Government of Nunavut report file and will be used directly in any management decisions for Baffin Island caribou. Project data will be used to monitor this population between aerial survey estimates.

Community involvement / consultation:

Consultations with affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations were conducted in 2013 and 2014. As well workshops were held in July 2013 and November 2014. In community consultations on a draft management for Baffin Island caribou are planned for March 2015.

As per the NWRT policy, if the project is funded by the NWRT the project is required to: (1) provide a letter of support from all affected communities by June 30th, 2015; **OR** (2) provide a letter of support from a majority of the affected communities by June 30th, 2015 and provide evidence that the research has done a “conscientious” job of consulting; **OR** (3) provide the required information to demonstrate that “conscientious” consultation has been conducted by June 30th, 2015.

Recommendations: If this project is funded, the following conditions should apply:

1. Funding should be conditional on other funding, as identified in the proposal, being approved. This should be confirmed in writing; and
2. Funding should be conditional on meeting the consultation requirements identified as per the NWRT policy.

Consultations:

Prepared By: Sarah Spencer, Wildlife Management Biologist

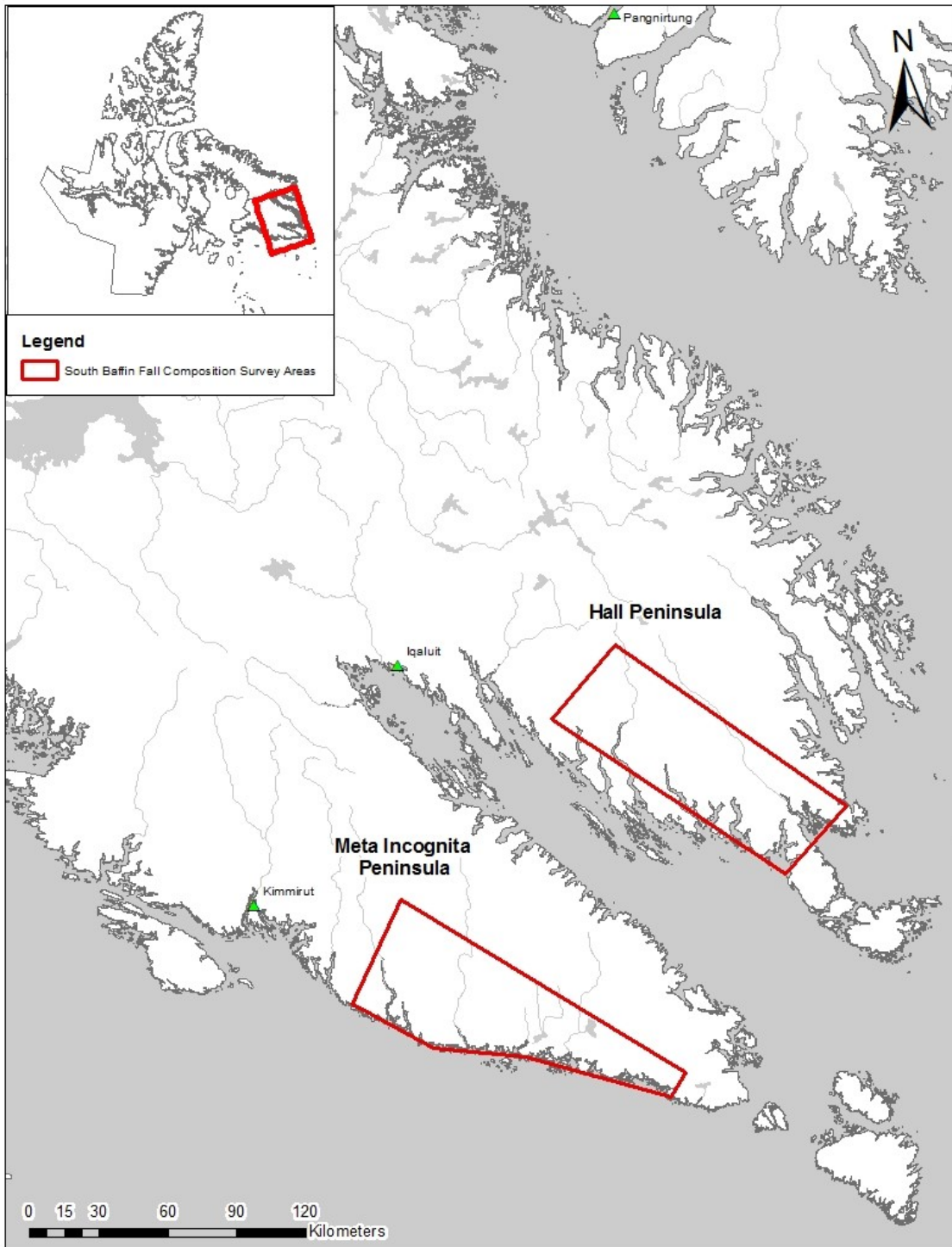


Figure 1. Proposed study areas for fall 2015 composition and demographic surveys on the Meta Incognita Peninsula and the Hall Peninsula