Amendment of Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for Baffin Island Caribou



Michael Ferguson and James Qillaq Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Nunavut, Canada

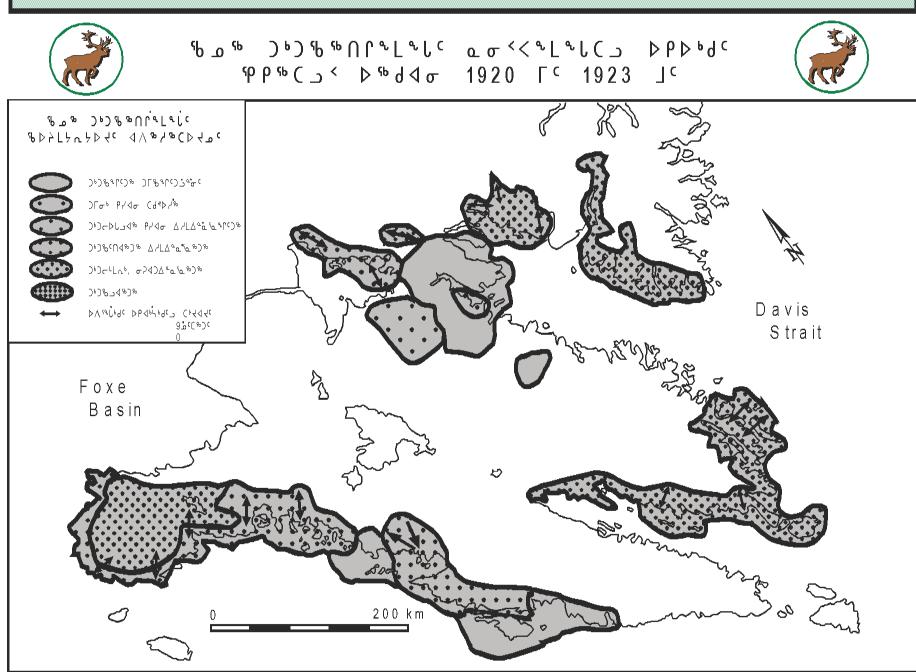


Presentation Overview

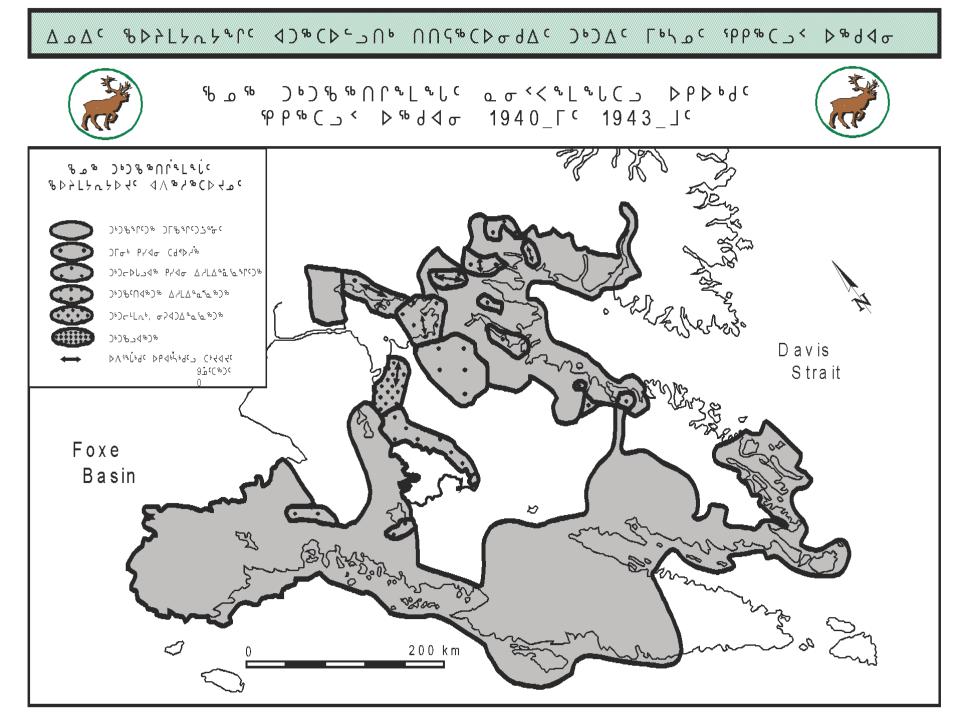
- Value of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
- Historical Caribou Population
- Rates of Change and Past Harvests
- Risks, Rates of Increase and Harvesting
- Recent IQ and Scientific Information
- Proposed TAH Change and Recent Harvest

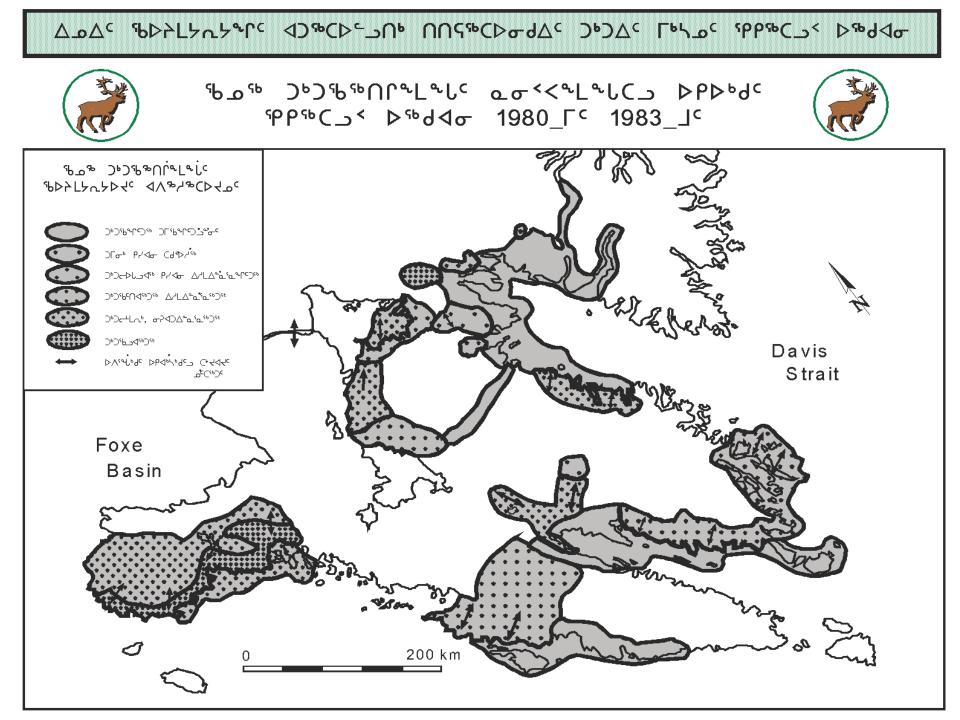
Value of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

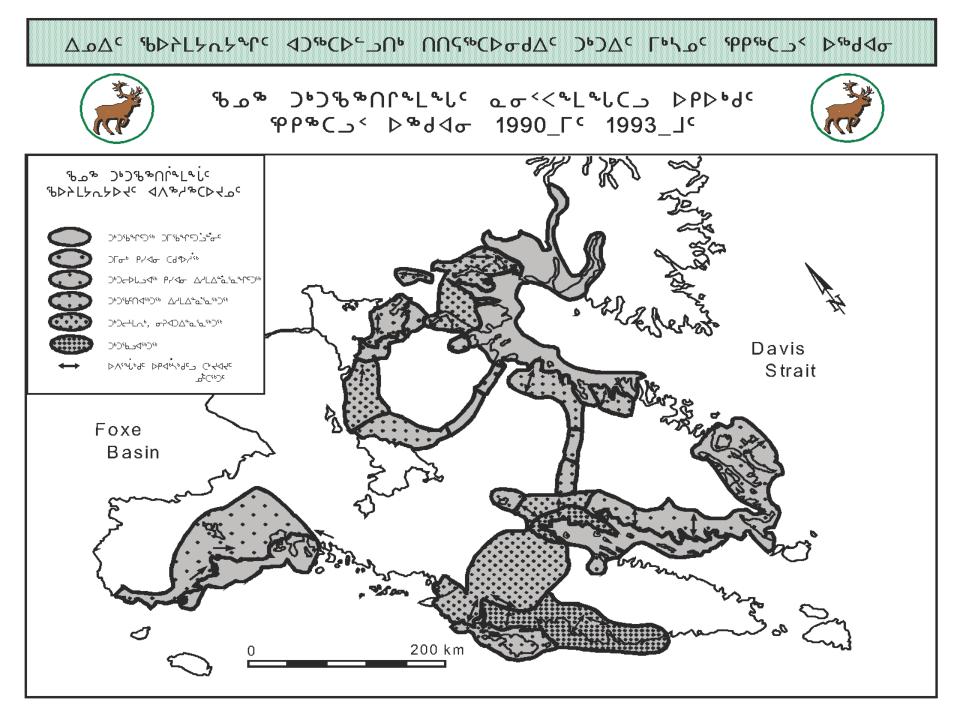
- IQ describes the 70-90-year cycles of Baffin Island caribou over the lifetime of an elder.
- In the 1980s, Cape Dorset elders predicted that caribou would stop wintering nearby.
- That change happened in winter of 1987-88, and it was caused by food depletion.
- In the late 1990s, Inuit predicted a major population decline, which has happened.
- Now 20-30 years later, Inuit are seeing signs of recovery, also as predicted by elders.
- Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is reliable and trustworthy!

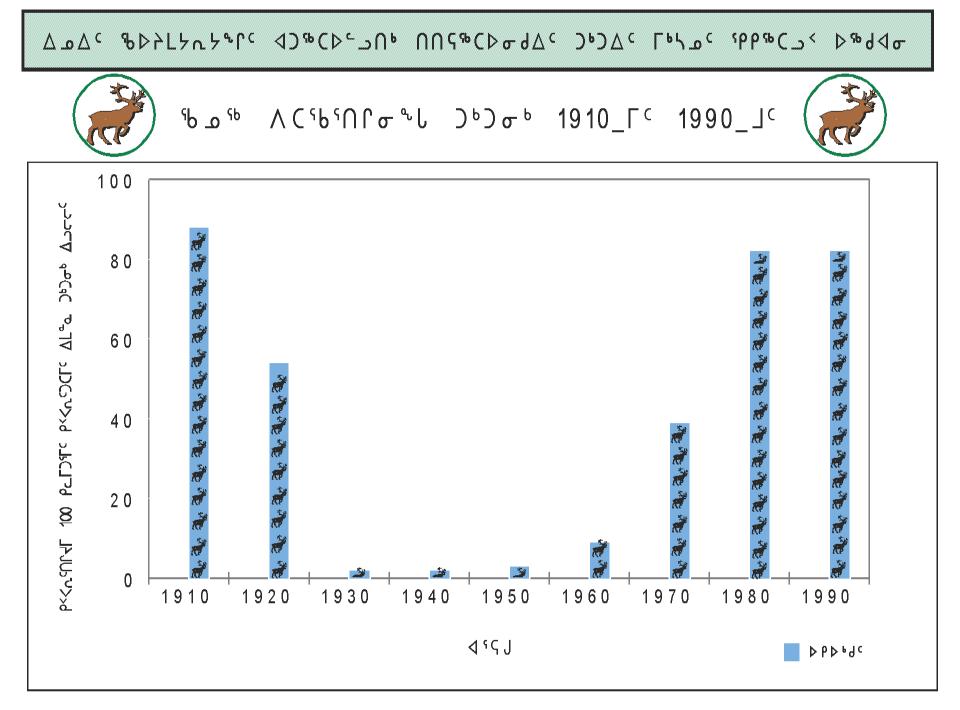


ΔͽΔς ͽϷϟͿϟϞϟͽϳϲ ϥϽͽϹϷ;ϿͿͽ ͶͶϥͽϹϷͼϥϽς ϽͽϽϘς Γργͽς ͽϧϧϥ γ

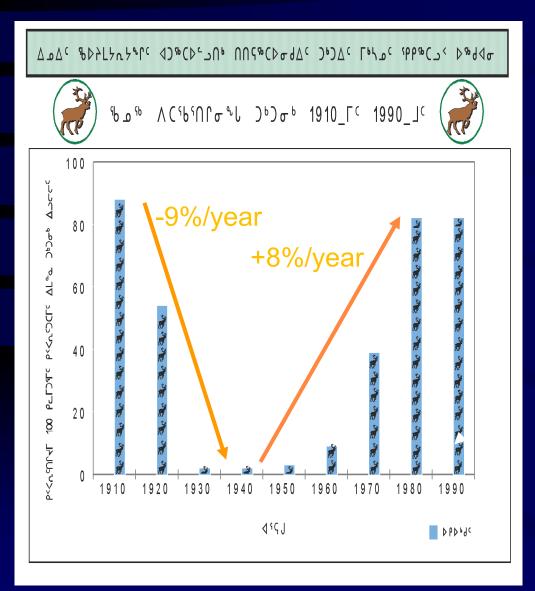








Past Rates of Change and Harvests

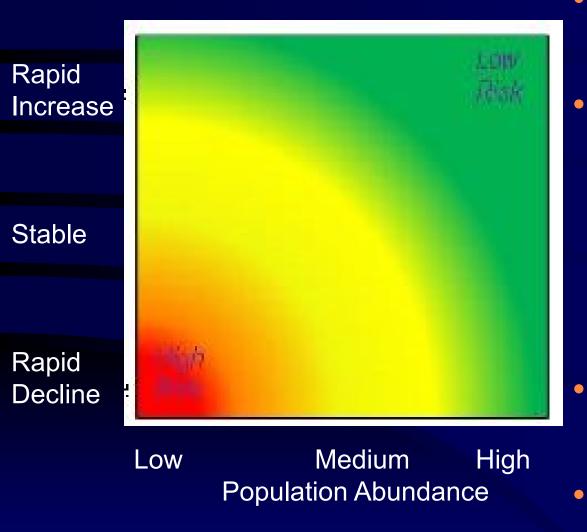


- The government limited harvesting during 1945 – 1955.
- Despite harvesting, wolf predation and other factors, Baffin caribou increased an average of 8% / year from 1940s to mid-1980s.
- In 1982 and '83, Inuit harvested about 14,000 / year.

Risks, Rates of Increase and Harvests

- Baffin caribou have an excellent potential to increase in number, and this is well known to Inuit.
- The GN has suggested that a suitable harvest rate for Baffin Island caribou is only 0-3%, based on western caribou populations where wolf predation may be substantial.
- Nevertheless, the GN did accept a harvest rate of 5.4% of the 2014 survey estimate.
- Is a 5-year-old population estimate is not only way to determine an appropriate harvest today?

Risks, Rates of Increase and Harvests



- Wolf populations are not high.
 - Caribou's winter food probably recovering for 10-20 years & for at least 30 years near Cape Dorset.
- Harvesting has been low.
- GNWT 2016 report suggests 3 >5%.

Recent IQ and Scientific Information

- GN biologists reported to Baffin communities that the number of calves with every 100 females is good, and this suggests that the population should be increasing.
- According to IQ, caribou are returning to the Cape Dorset area in winter, which was a major sign of recovery during the 1950s and '60s.
- Also, several communities indicate stable or increasing abundance of caribou in their areas.
- All reported evidence suggests that the population is increasing.

QWB's Proposed TAH Change and Recent Use

2015 TAH (5.4%) 250 males 0 females 2019 TAH (5.0%) 233 males 45 females or males



Qujannamiik! Thank you!

