



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY



MUSKOX HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC

University of Calgary members of the Kutz lab, Government of Nunavut (Lisa-Marie Leclerc, Terry Milton, Kevin Methuen & Russell Akeegok), Government of the NWT, Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association, Olokhaktomiut Hunters and Trappers Committee, Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers Organization

Community Presentation – October 10, 2023

By Juliette Di Francesco (former PhD student of the Kutz lab)

Contact information: Juliette Di Francesco – juliettedifi@gmail.com ; Susan Kutz – skutz@ucalgary.ca



WHAT DO THE SAMPLE KITS INCLUDE?

Information form

Additional information on the sampled animal and the whole herd



Spleen



For diseases, in particular viruses

Left kidney + Fat

For fatness and contaminants



Back fat thickness

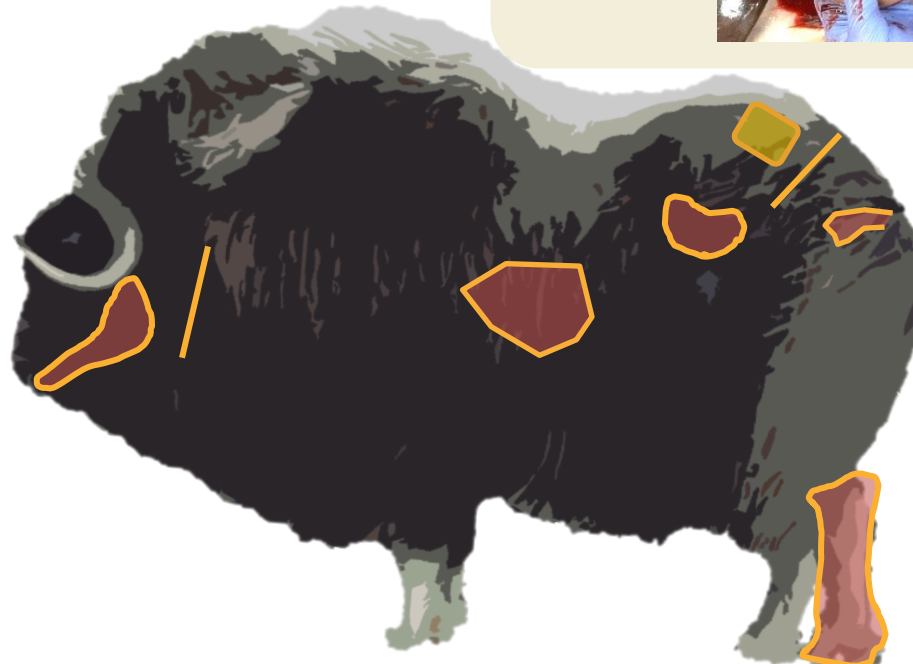


For fatness

Blood on filter paper



For diseases and pregnancy



Skin and hair

10 cm/4 inch

10 cm
4 inch



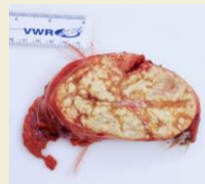
For stress levels, contaminants, and food deficiency

Lower jaw

For teeth problems and age determination



Anything abnormal



To be examined and figure out what it is

Lower left hind leg



For hoof problems, parasites, bone marrow fat, size

Feces

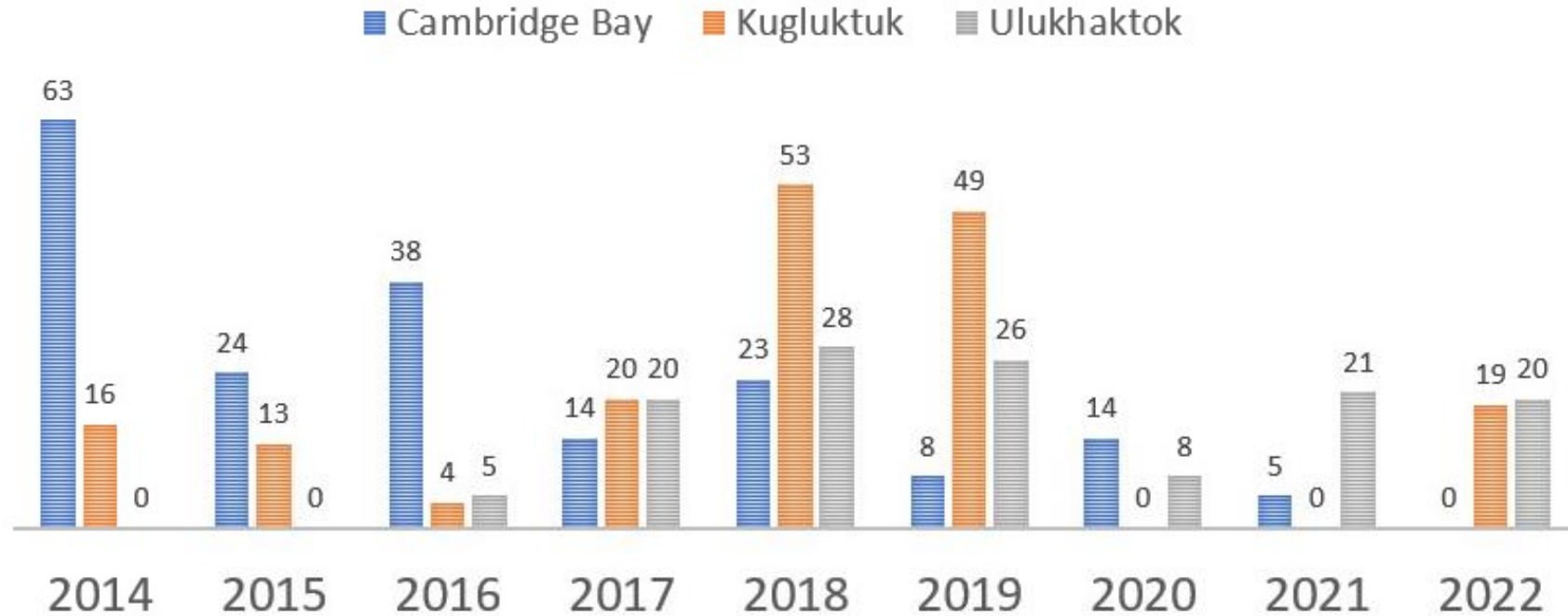


For parasites, stress levels, pregnancy, genetics, and contaminants

MUSKOX SAMPLE KITS COLLECTED 2014-2022



Number of sample kits collected



WHY STUDY STRESS IN MUSKOXEN?



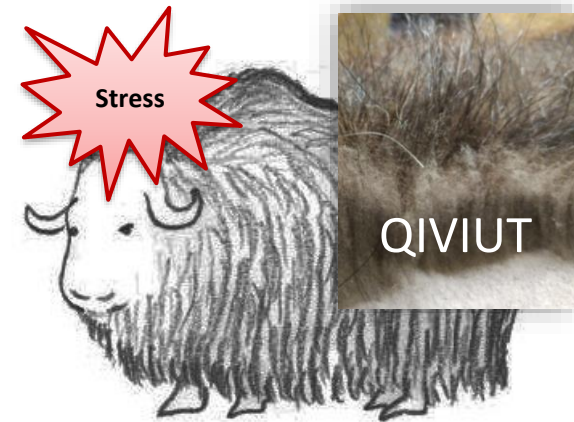
- Muskoxen **increasingly exposed to things that may stress them** in the rapidly changing Arctic
- Increased stress over **long periods of time** may cause **negative effects**
 - Reduced health
 - Increased diseases
 - Reduced reproduction
 - Reduced survival



HOW CAN WE MEASURE STRESS?

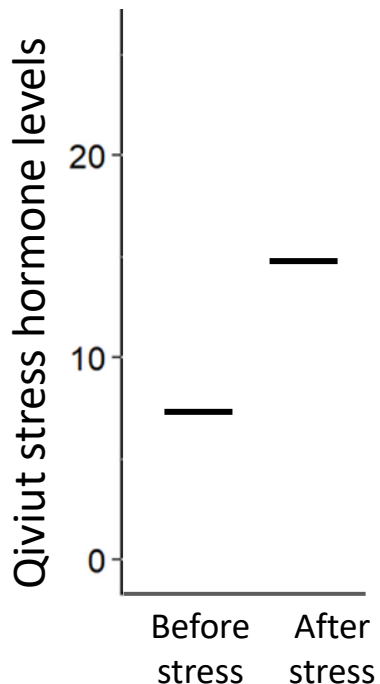


- When a muskox is stressed, it produces a hormone (cortisol) that is incorporated into hair (**qiviut** & guard hairs) during its growth



How do we know that we're measuring stress in qiviut?

- **Experimental study on captive muskoxen**
- Injection to ↑ stress
- Qiviut stress levels = measure of stress experienced by muskox during qiviut growth



MUSKOX SAMPLING KITS



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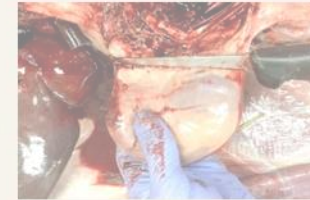
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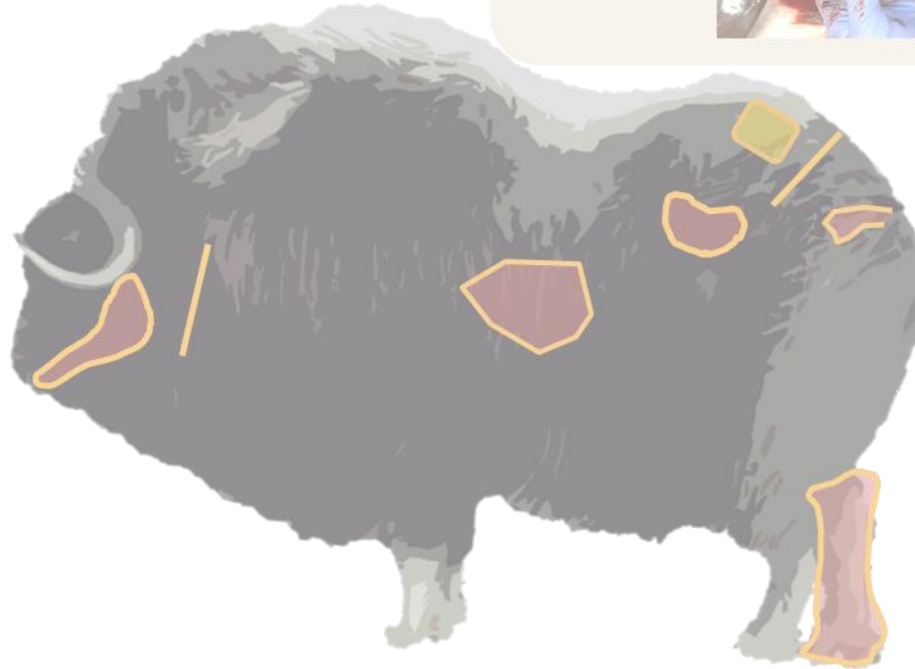


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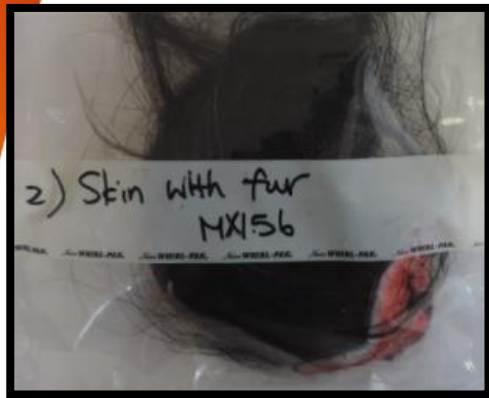


Feces

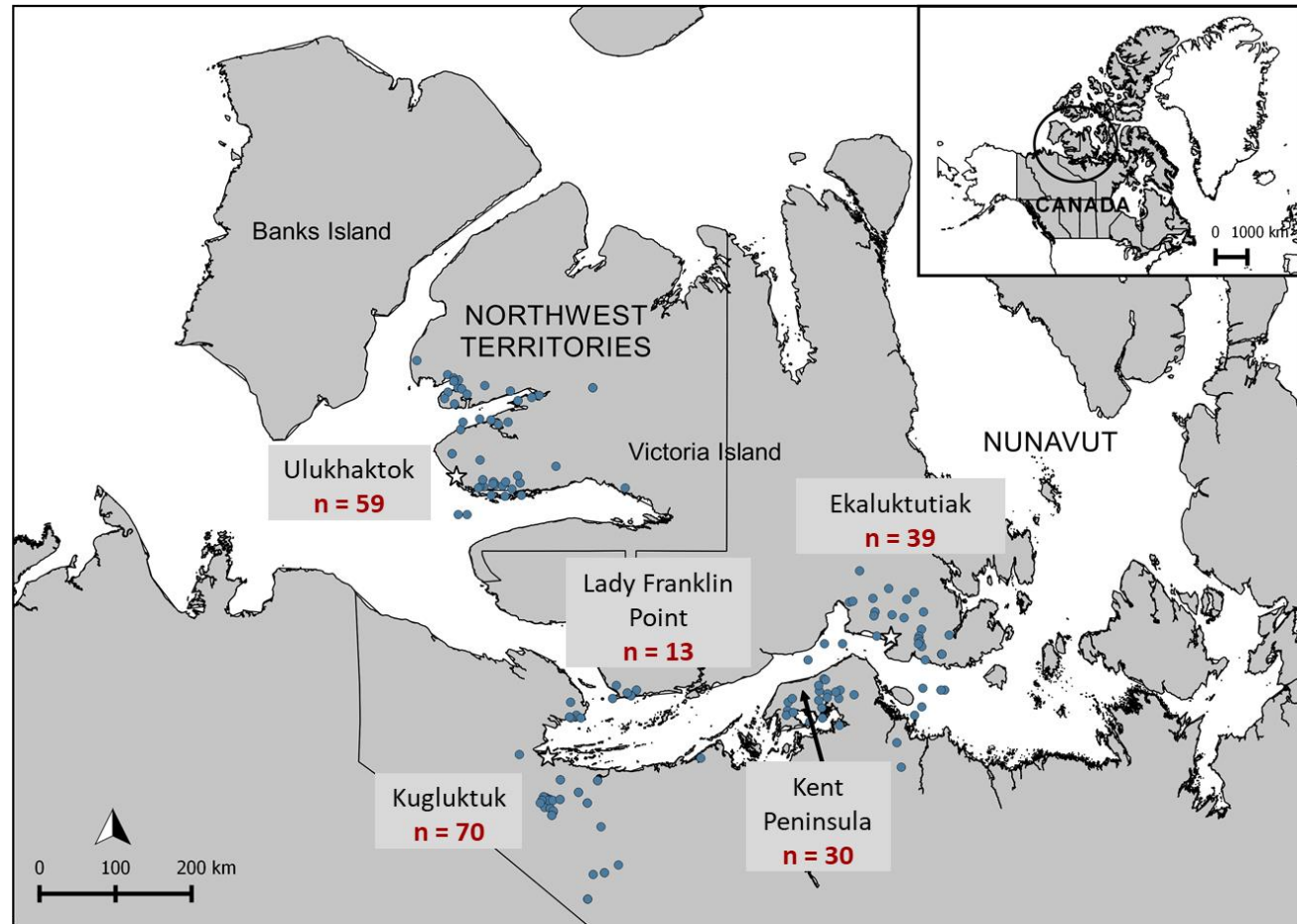
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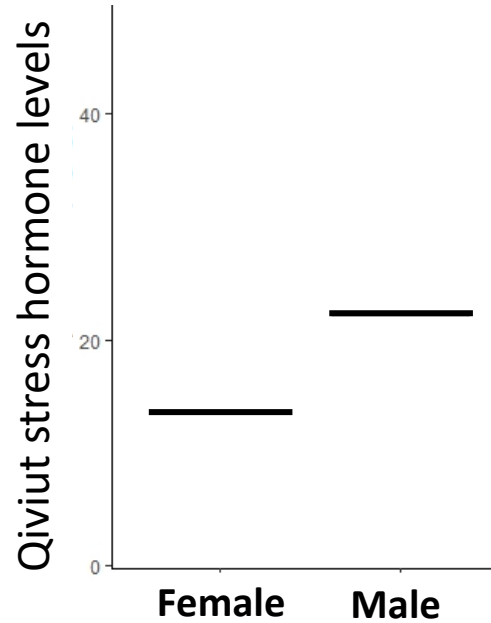
Are muskoxen in poor health or in declining populations more stressed?



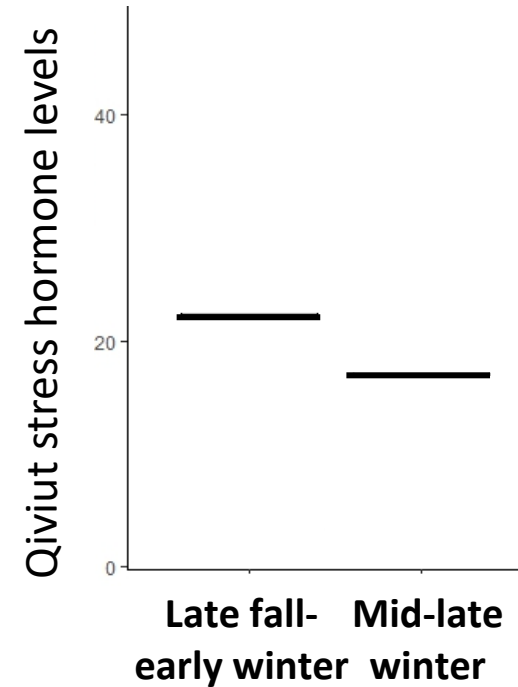
- Qiviut samples collected from **211** harvested muskoxen **between 2015 and 2019**

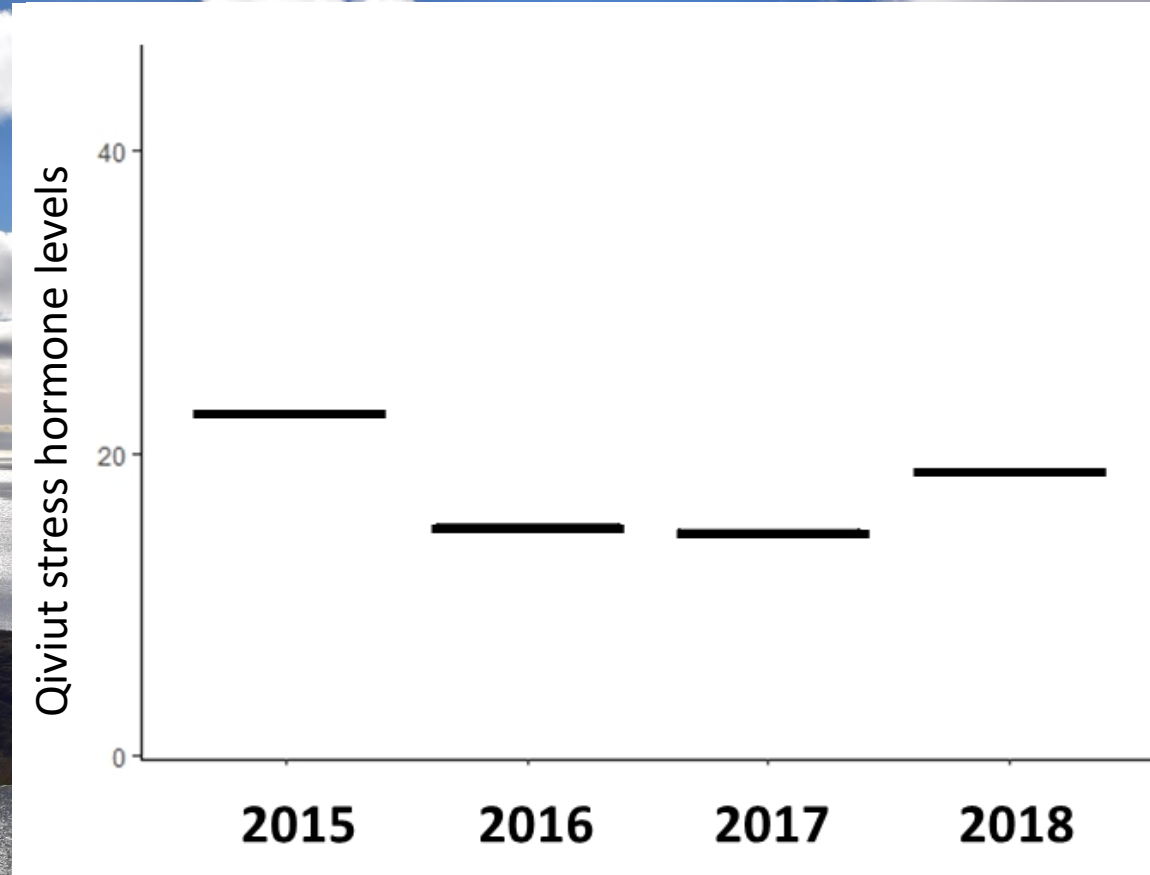


Sex Differences



Seasonal Differences – Males





2016 & 2017 < 2018 & 2015

Kent Peninsula > Victoria Island > Kugluktuk

↓ population

↑ population

NUNAVUT

- **Fat muskoxen less stressed than skinny muskoxen**



- **Muskoxen with broken teeth not more stressed**



=



ARE MUSKOXEN WITH WORMS MORE STRESSED?



➤ Muskoxen with lots of
lungworms not more stressed

➤ Muskoxen with lots of worms in
stomach and intestines not
more stressed



Document **traditional Inuit knowledge** to **understand what stresses muskoxen**

- **What affects muskoxen in a positive/negative way?**
- **Discuss results from study on muskox stress (sex, seasonal & yearly differences)**

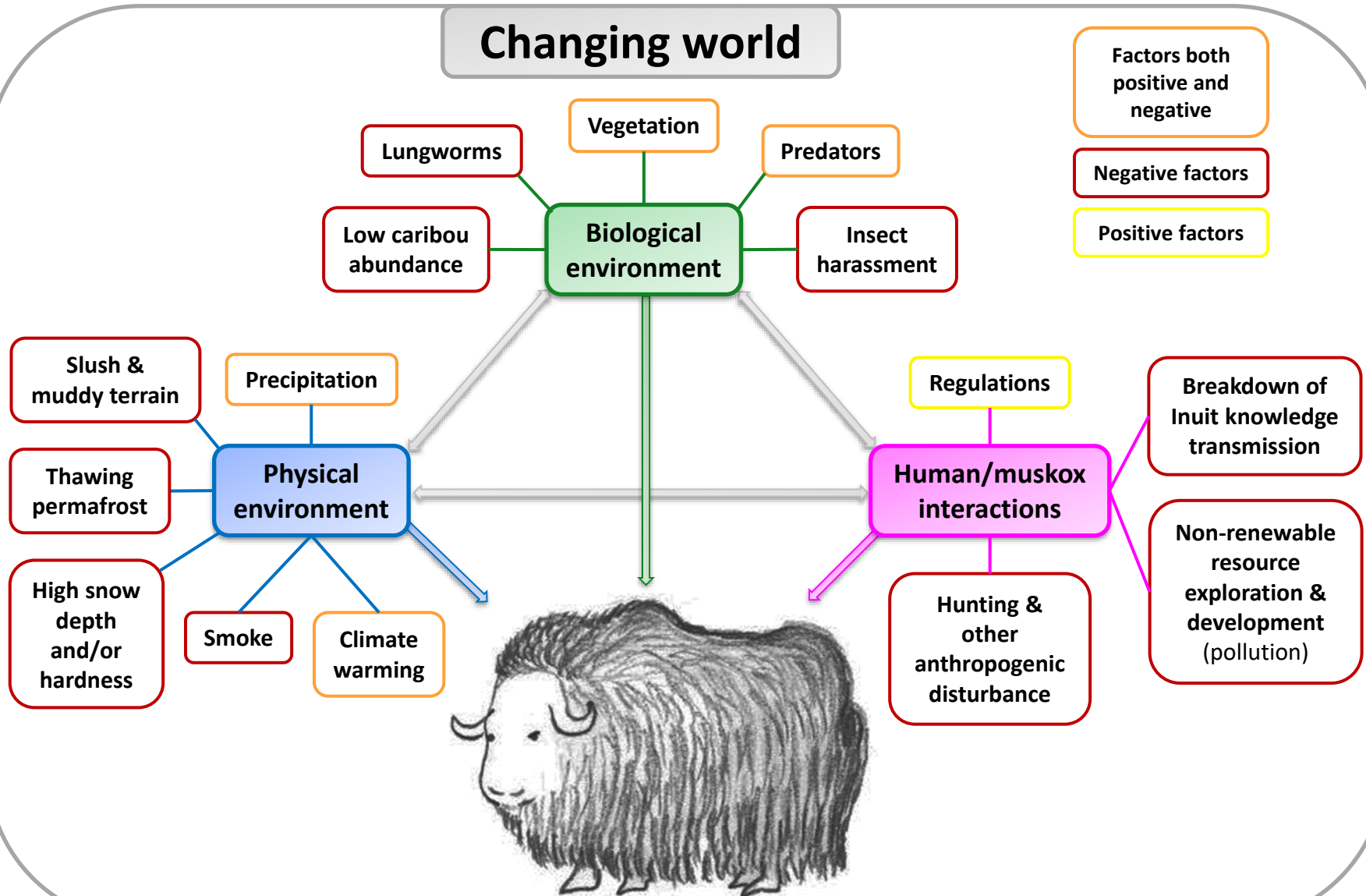
- **Seven small group interviews with muskox harvesters (2019)**
- **Transcription and determination of themes**
- **Clarification and confirmation of results through **validation sessions** (2020)**



WHAT AFFECTS MUSKOXEN?

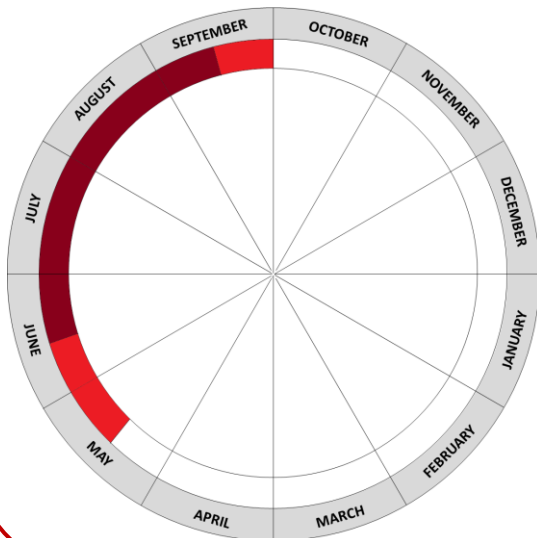


Changing world





Timing of insect activity



Changes over time

- Climate warming & air/sea traffic → **increase in diversity of species** since 1980s-1990s
- **Abundance** – strong annual variations, increase?
- **Longer period of activity**



Effects on muskoxen – only one study in 1982

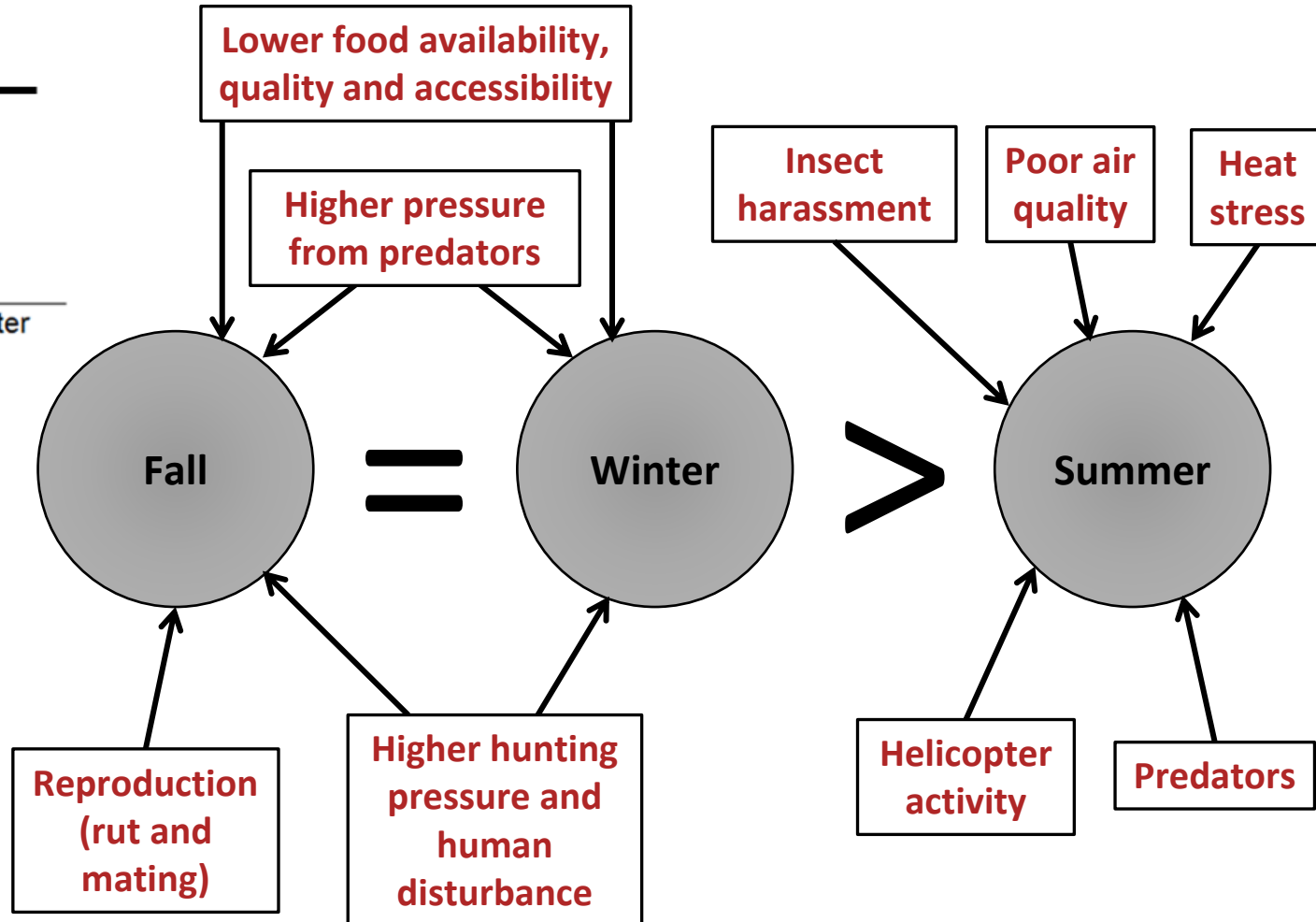
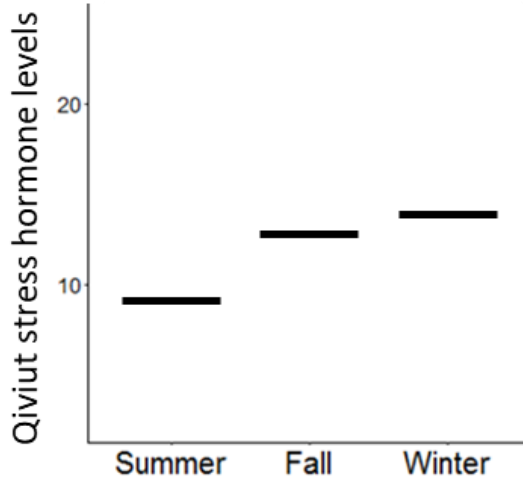


Negative Impact

- Thick skin & long hair → **less harassed & sensitive** than caribou
- Avoid harassment → water sources
- **Affected on legs & face** → moderate restlessness, ↑ movements, ↓ eating

➔ **Limited but non-negligible effect**

Seasonal Differences



MUSKOX SAMPLING KITS



Information form

Additional information on the sampled animal and the whole herd



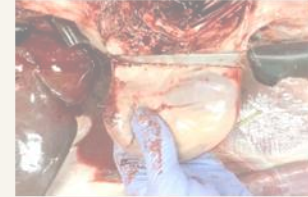
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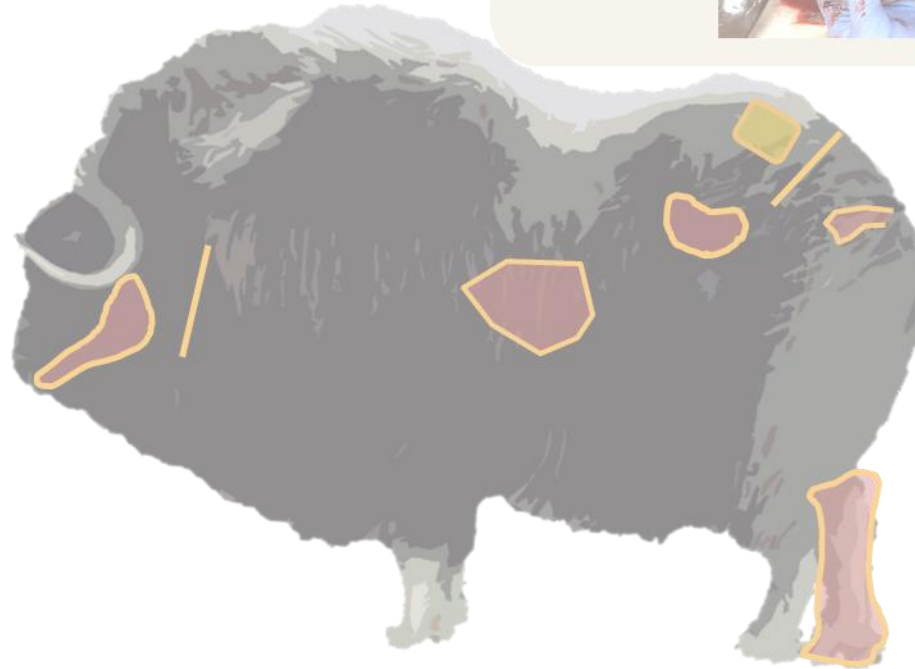


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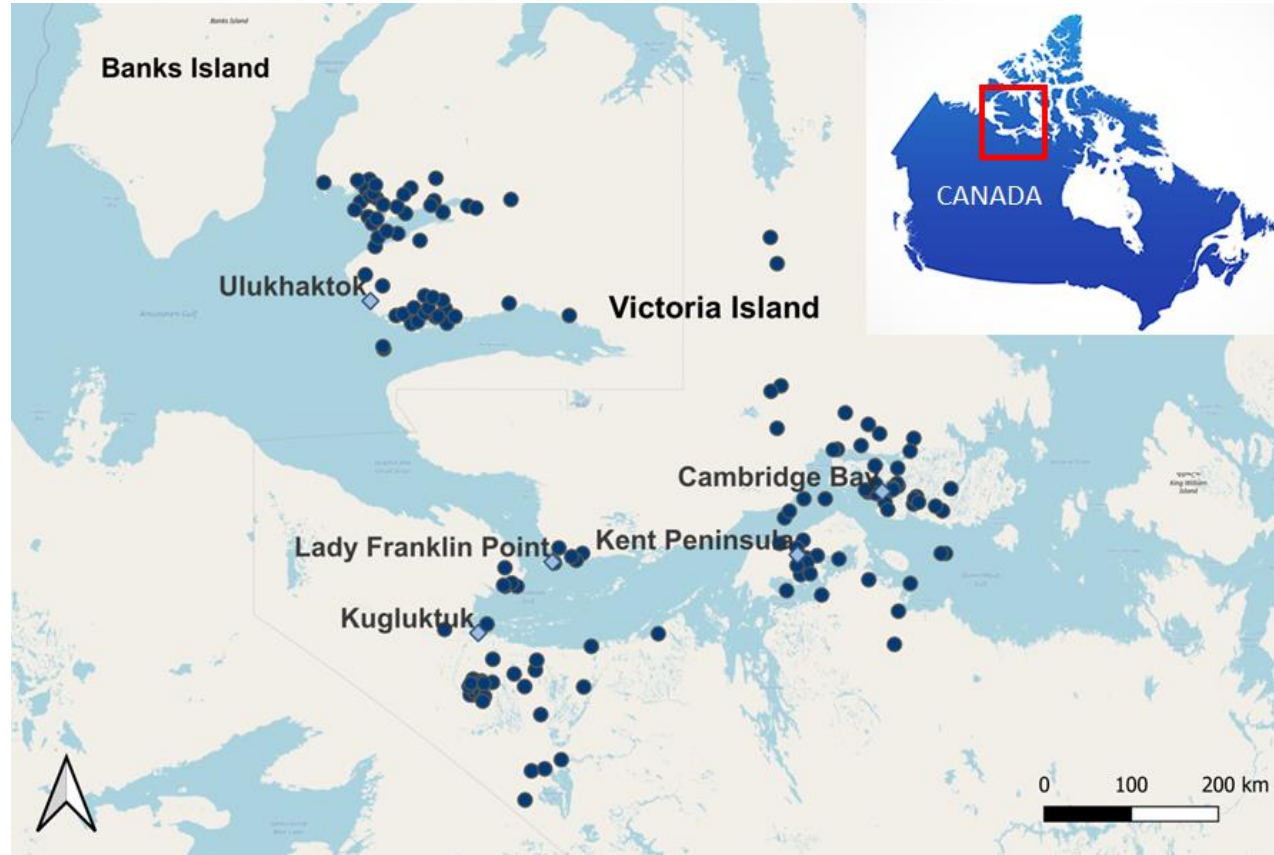


For parasites, stress levels, pregnancy, genetics, and contaminants

TEETH ABNORMALITIES IN MUSKOXEN



Erica Suitor
PhD Student



Age	Island	Mainland	Total
Under 4 yo	53	28	81
4 yo & older	83	98	181
Total Jaws	136	126	262



Fractured



Horizontal
Cracking

Cracks



Rotation and Crowding



Teeth
displaced

Displacement



Anterior Wear



No right
incisor,
uneven
rotation

Asymmetry

DIFFERENCES IN TEETH ABNORMALITIES BETWEEN REGIONS



Broken teeth



Rotated teeth

Victoria Island



Anterior wear

Mainland

NUNAVUT

MUSKOX SAMPLING KITS



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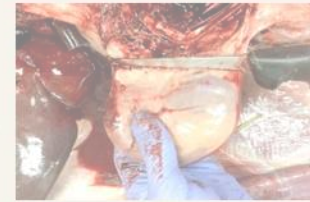
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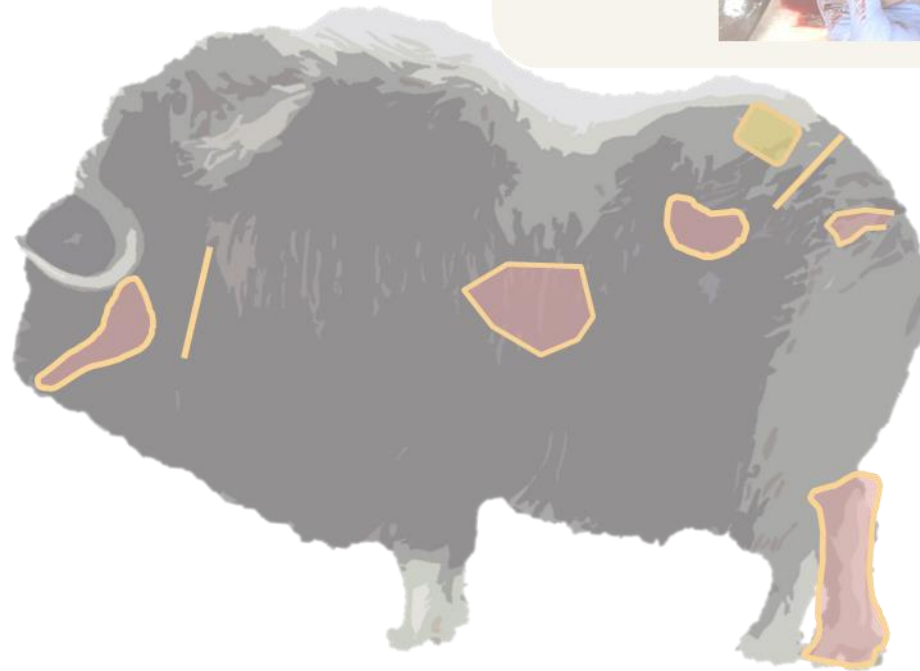


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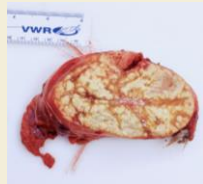
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- Disease caused by bacteria from the genus *Brucella* sp.
- **In Northern Canada** – *Brucella suis* biovar 4 in caribou and muskoxen
- **Can infect people and cause disease**
- **Blood on filter paper to test for previous exposure to the disease**



CURRENT STATUS OF BRUCELLOSIS IN MUSKOXEN



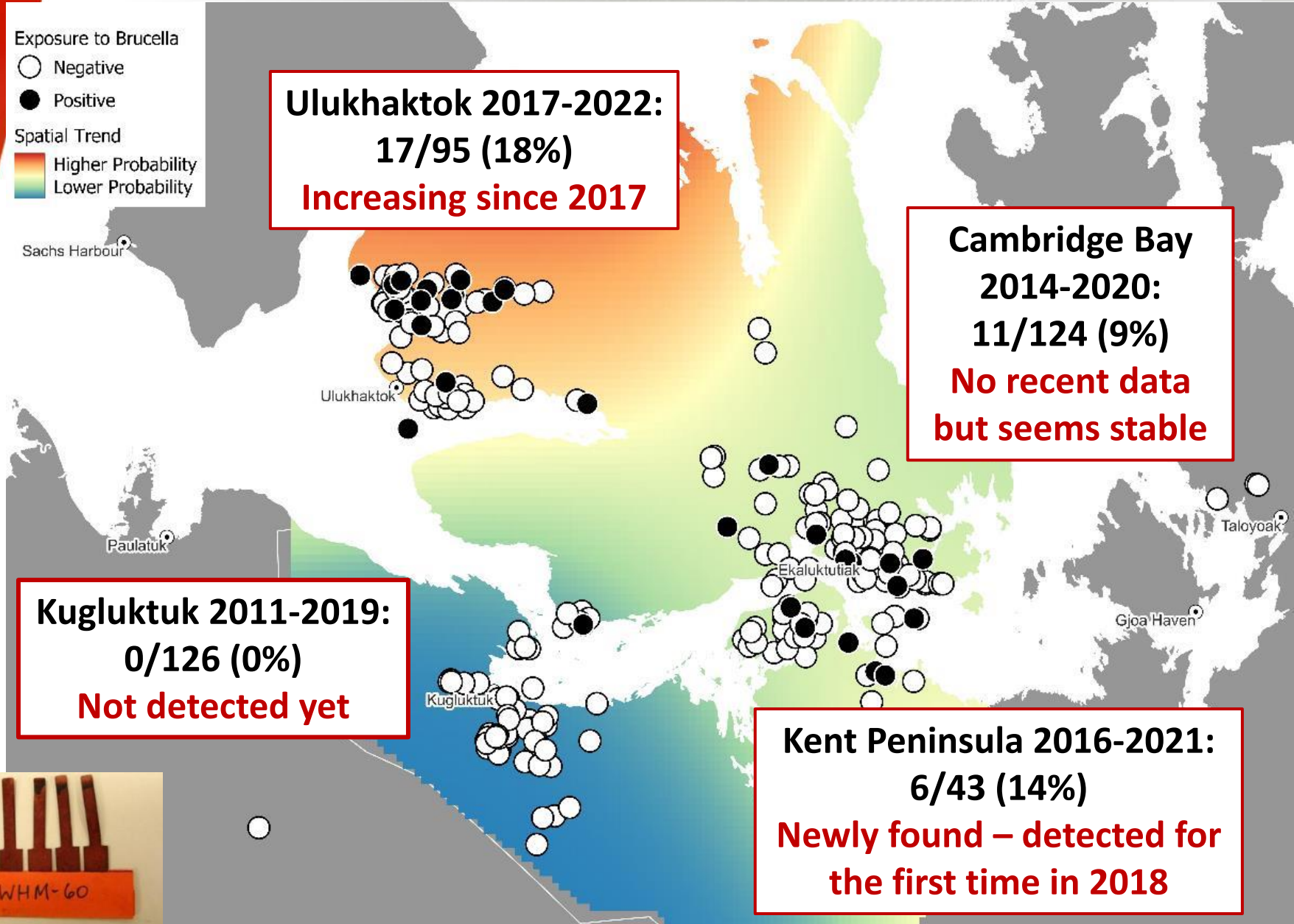
Exposure to Brucella

○ Negative

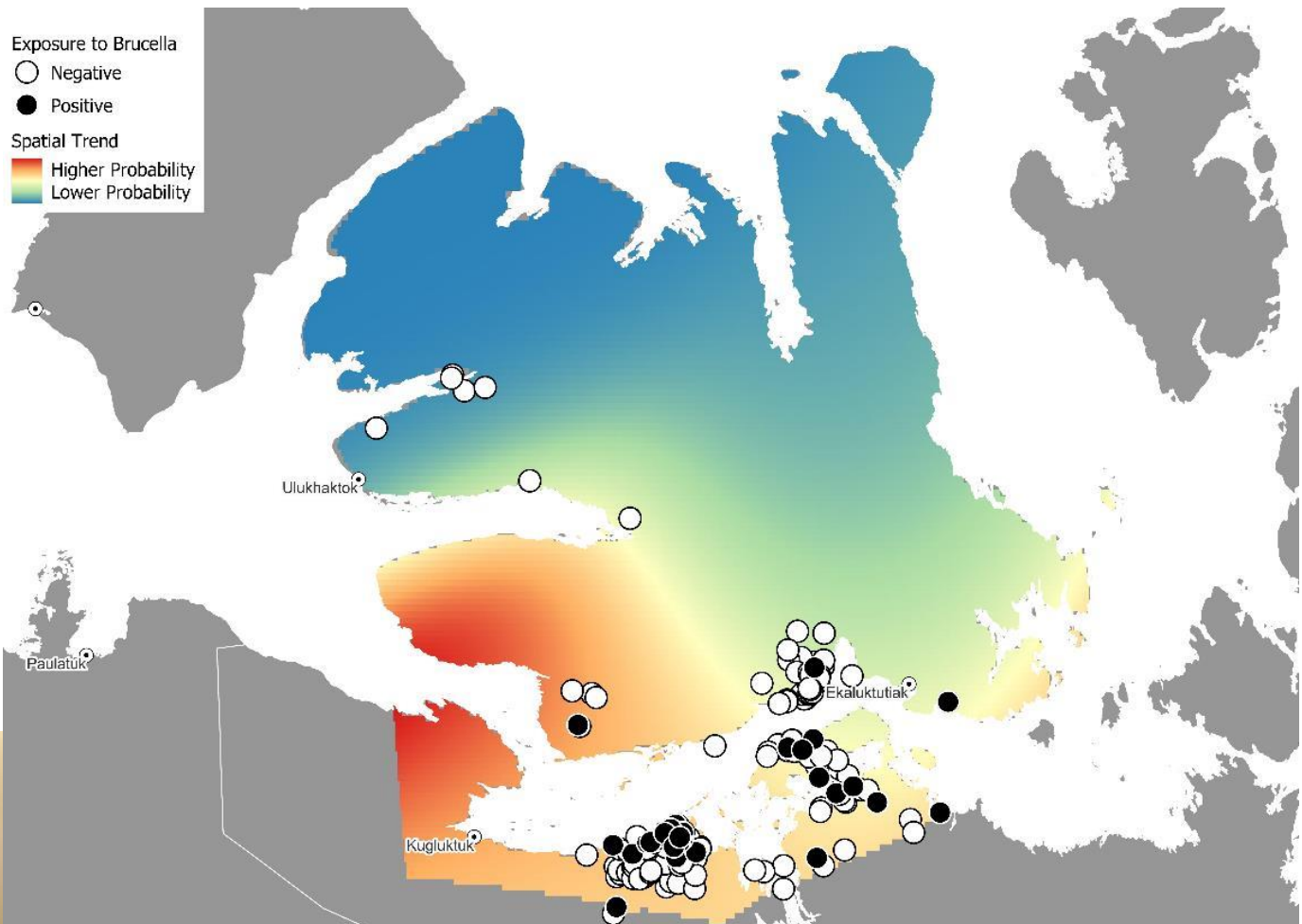
● Positive

Spatial Trend

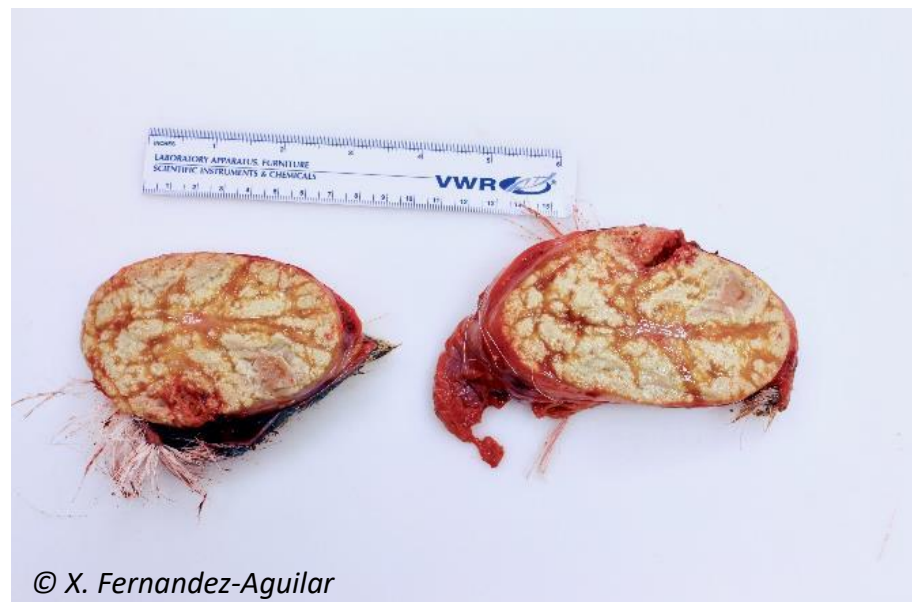
Higher Probability
Lower Probability



- 46/298 (15%) caribou tested between 2015 and 2022 positive
- No clear trend over time



- **Typical signs of brucellosis**
 - Swollen joints filled with liquid
 - Swollen testicles
 - Swollen udders



- **Typical signs** of brucellosis
 - Swollen joints filled with liquid
 - Swollen testicles
 - Swollen udders

- **Other signs** are also possible
 - **White spots filled with pus** in organs (kidney)
 - White spots filled with pus in muscle (meat) or even bones



Kidney from a Bluenose East caribou harvested near **Kugluktuk**

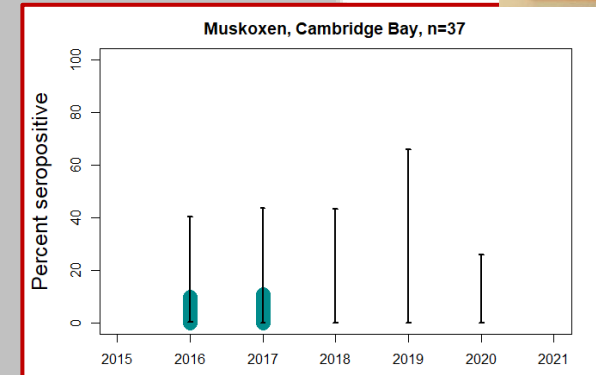
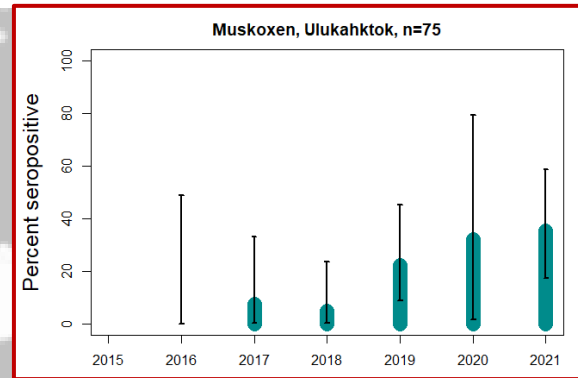


CURRENT STATUS OF BRUCELLOSIS IN MUSKOXEN AND CARIBOU

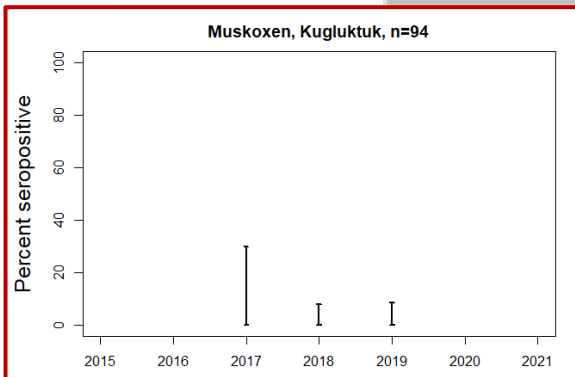


- **Muskox:** Increasing on NW Victoria Island; Expanding on Kent Peninsula; Not yet detected around Kugluktuk
- **DU caribou:** Constantly in around **10-20%** of tested animals

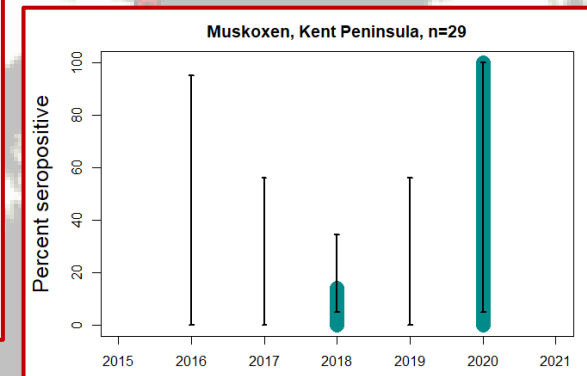
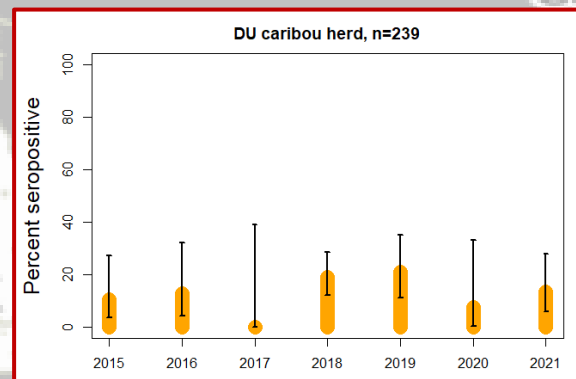
Ulukhaktok



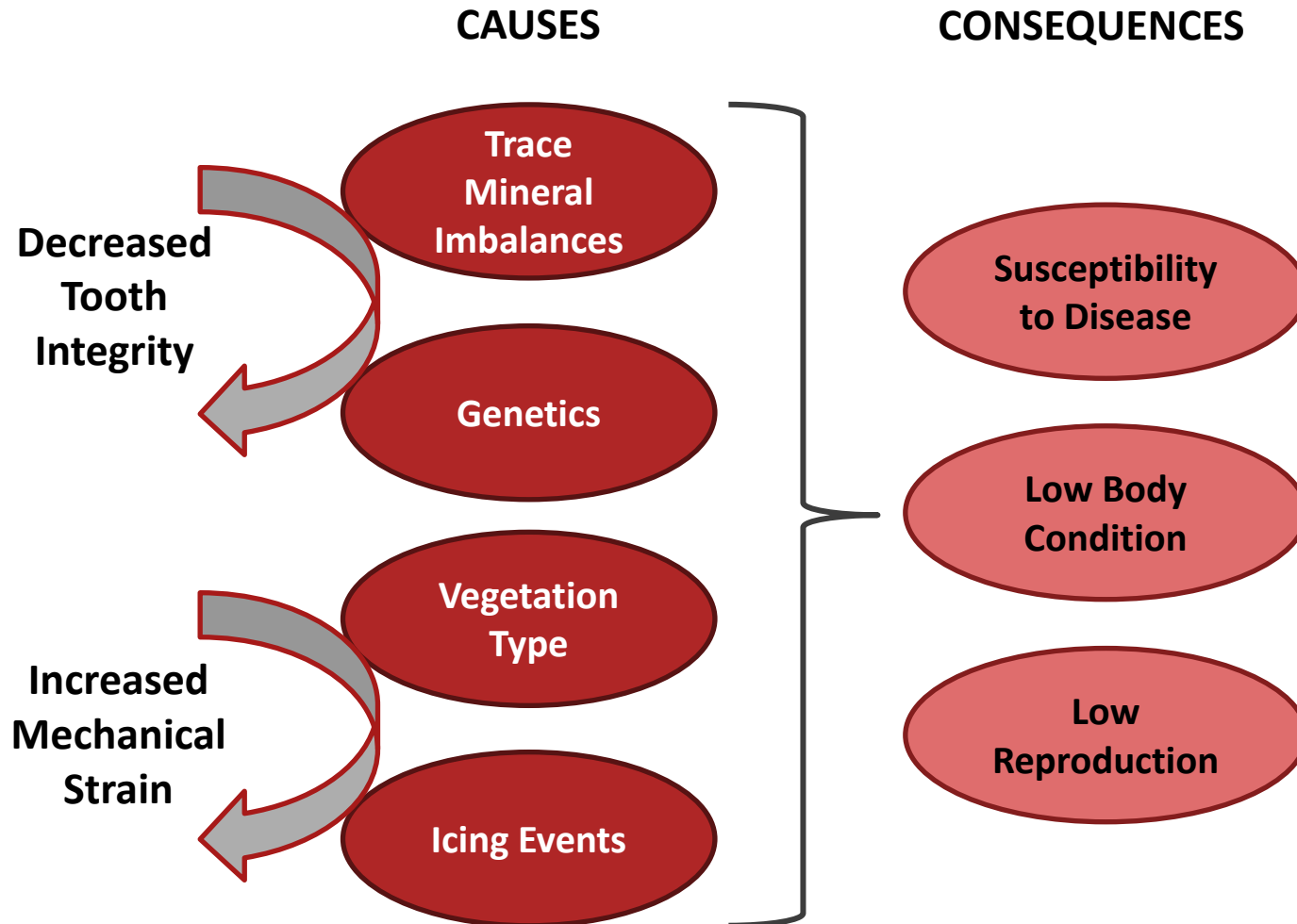
Cambridge Bay



Kugluktuk



CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF INCISOR ABNORMALITIES



MUSKOX SAMPLING KITS



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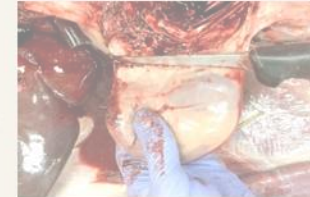
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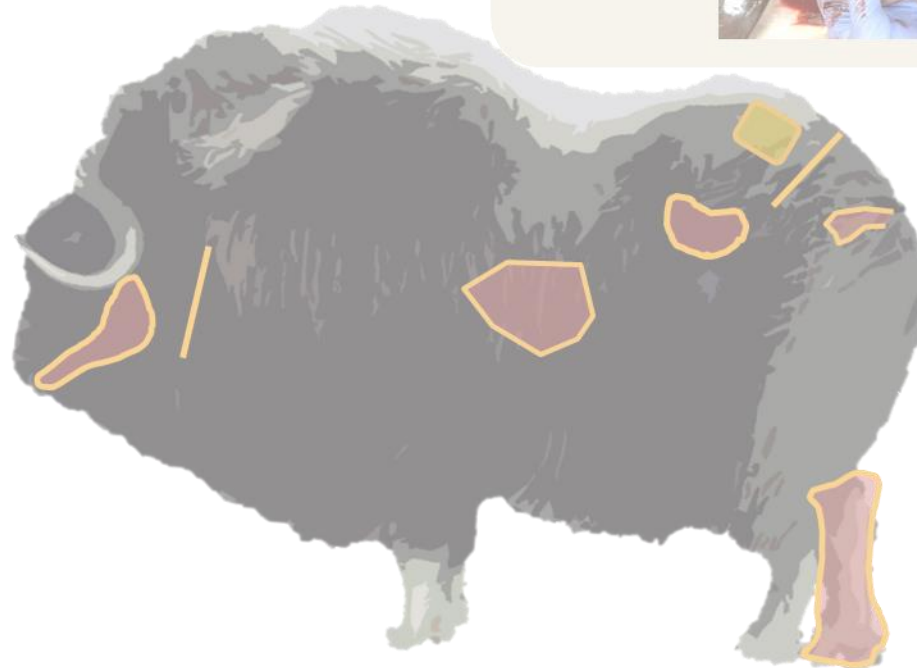


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Blood on filter paper



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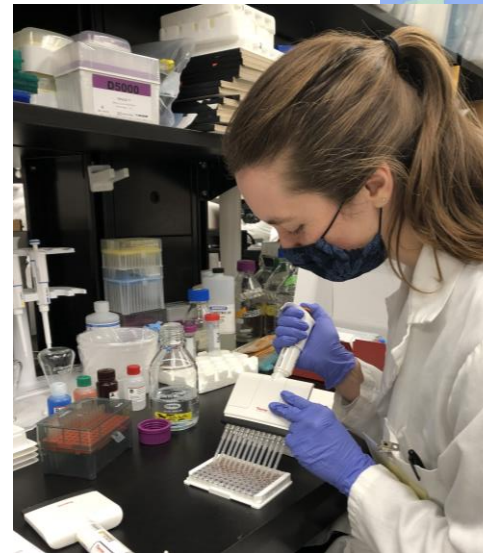
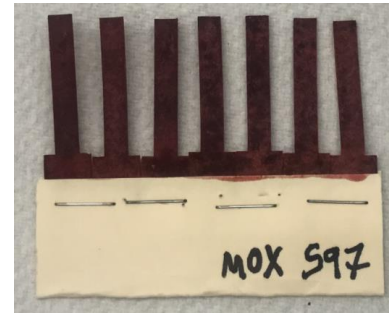
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EXPLORING METHODS FOR PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS



- Use of **fecal samples** – measurement of a hormone that \uparrow during pregnancy \rightarrow **works well in late pregnancy, but not in early months**
- **Objective:** Develop a test for **filter paper blood** to **improve pregnancy testing** in muskoxen
- **Method:** Use of captive muskoxen with known pregnancy status to compare blood and fecal tests



Olivia Hee
Master Student



FILTER PAPER BLOOD



- Worked well for diagnosing pregnancy **throughout the gestation**
- **More accurate**

FECES



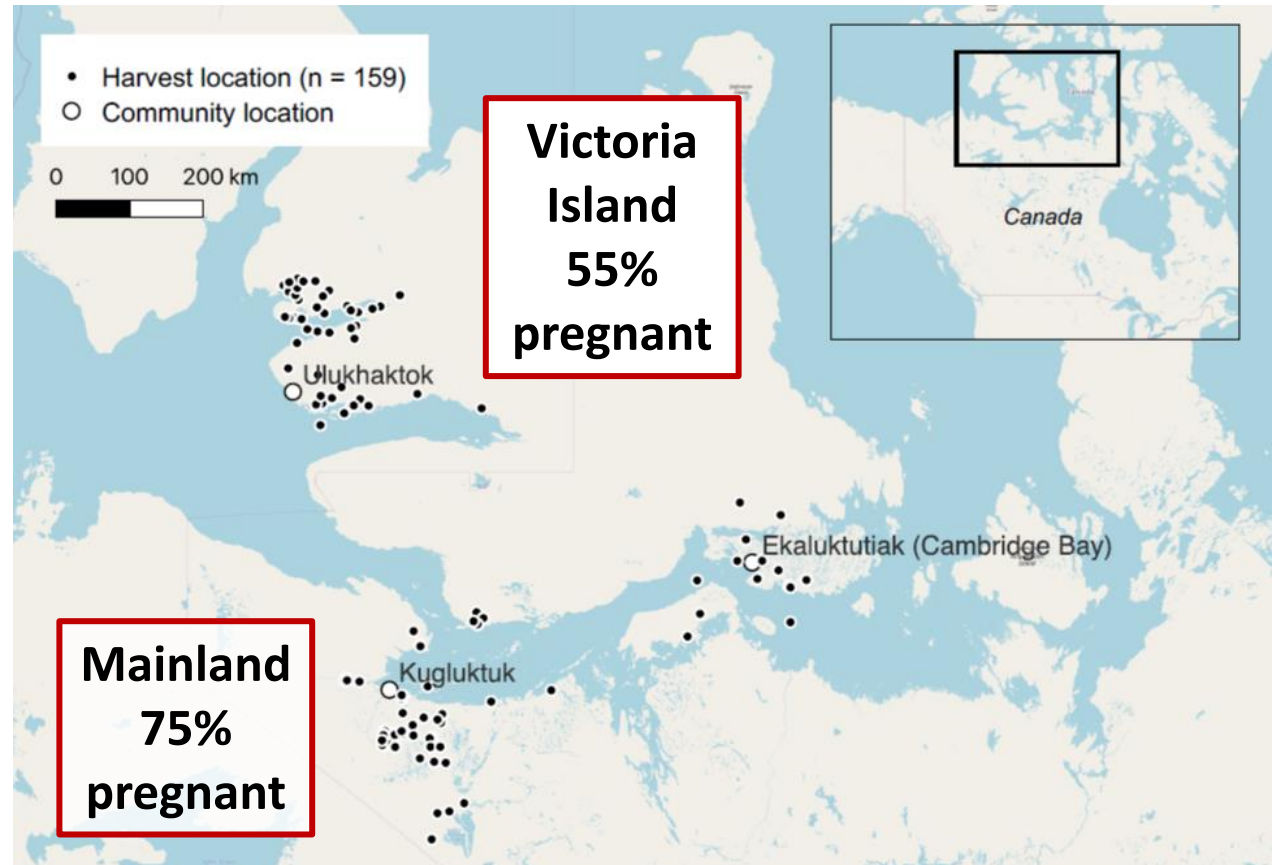
- **Less accurate**
- Works well for samples collected in **winter**

→ **Application to filter paper samples collected through the community-based monitoring program**

APPLICATION TO SAMPLES FROM HARVESTED MUSKOXEN



- Analysis of **159** filter paper blood samples from **female muskoxen aged 2 years or older**, collected from **2014 to 2022** between **November and April**



Percentage of pregnant muskoxen **higher on Victoria Island** than on Mainland

- Improved pregnancy diagnosis will allow **investigation of factors that may be affecting pregnancy**

Dolphin and Union Caribou

Trends in abundance and distribution



Andrea Hanke and Susan Kutz

University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Kugluktuk Community Meeting – Kugluktuk Nunavut

October 2023



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**

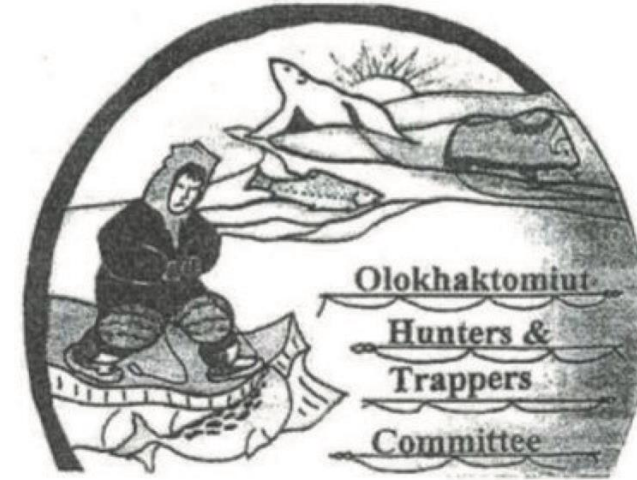
Kutz Research Group: Working together to understand caribou + muskoxen



Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association



Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization



Olokhaktomiut Hunters and Trappers Committee



Government of Northwest Territories / Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest



Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Canada



Kutz Research Group

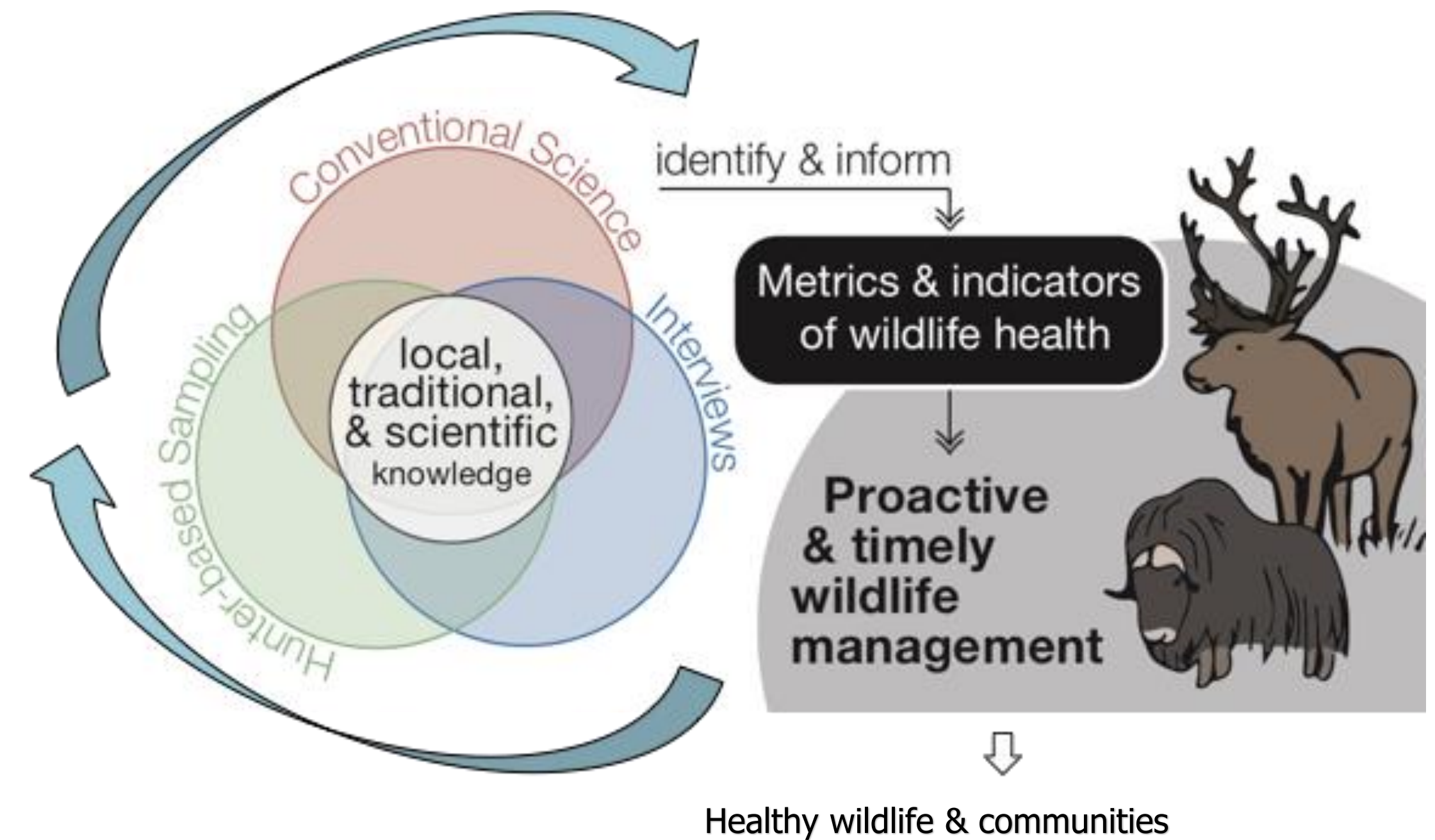


Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)



Government of Nunavut

Research approach



Traditional knowledge research on Dolphin and Union caribou

- Started as a Masters student in 2017
- Changed to a PhD student in 2019
- Wrapping the projects up by Apr 2024
- Interviewed with 43 people, youth to Elders
- Shared your TK at 12 co-management, 5 community, and 13 academic meetings



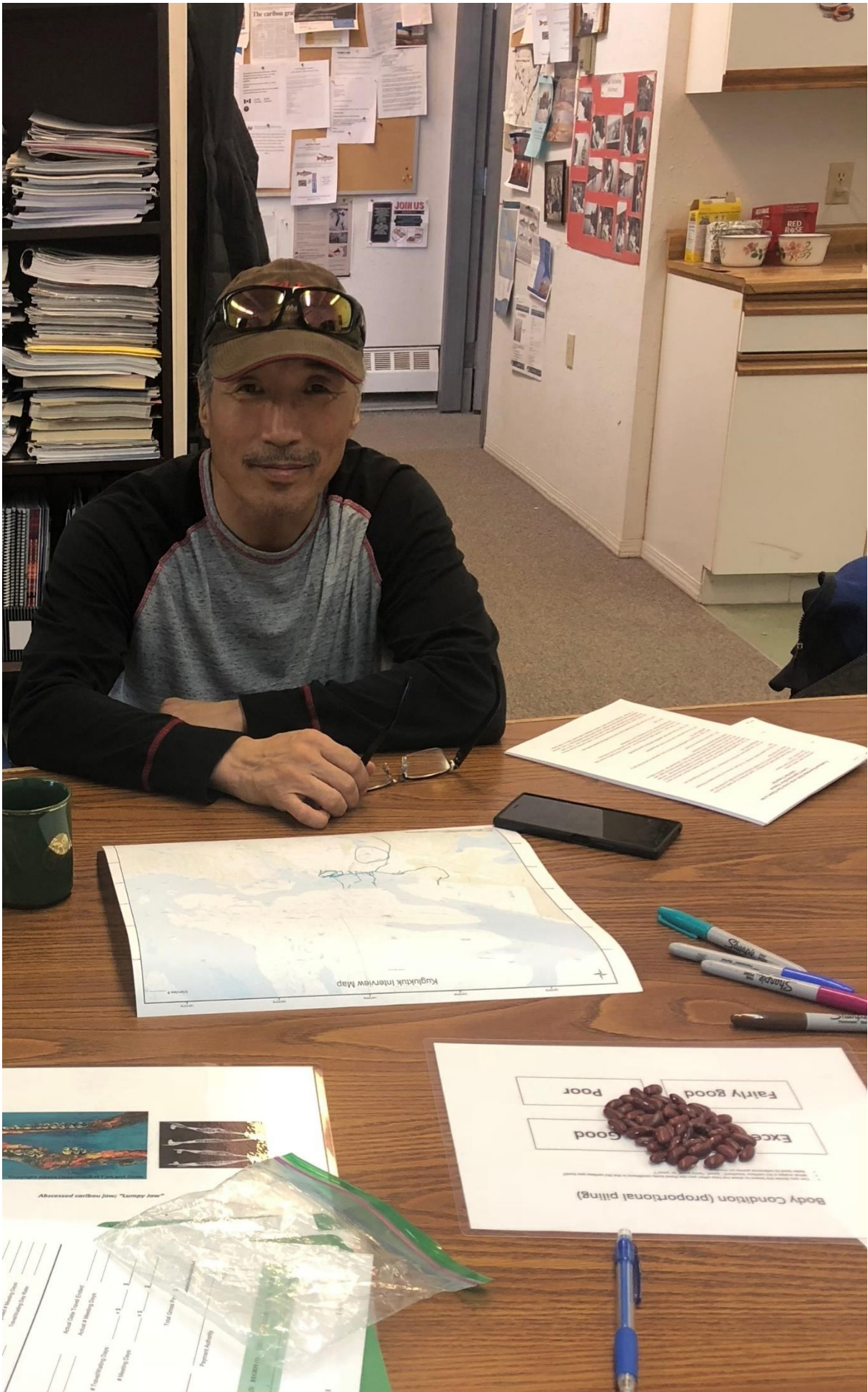
Research phases

1. Complete analysis and reporting for unfinished studies
 - a. GN study from 2003 in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay
 - b. GNWT (now WMAC) study from 2011-2014 in Ulukhaktok

2. Document, analyze, and report new data
 - a. Interviews from 2018-2020 in Kugluktuk
 - b. Elder interviews from 2021-2023 in Ulukhaktok, Kugluktuk, and Cambridge Bay

3. Bring together information to support co-management

Photos



Photos



Photos



Photos



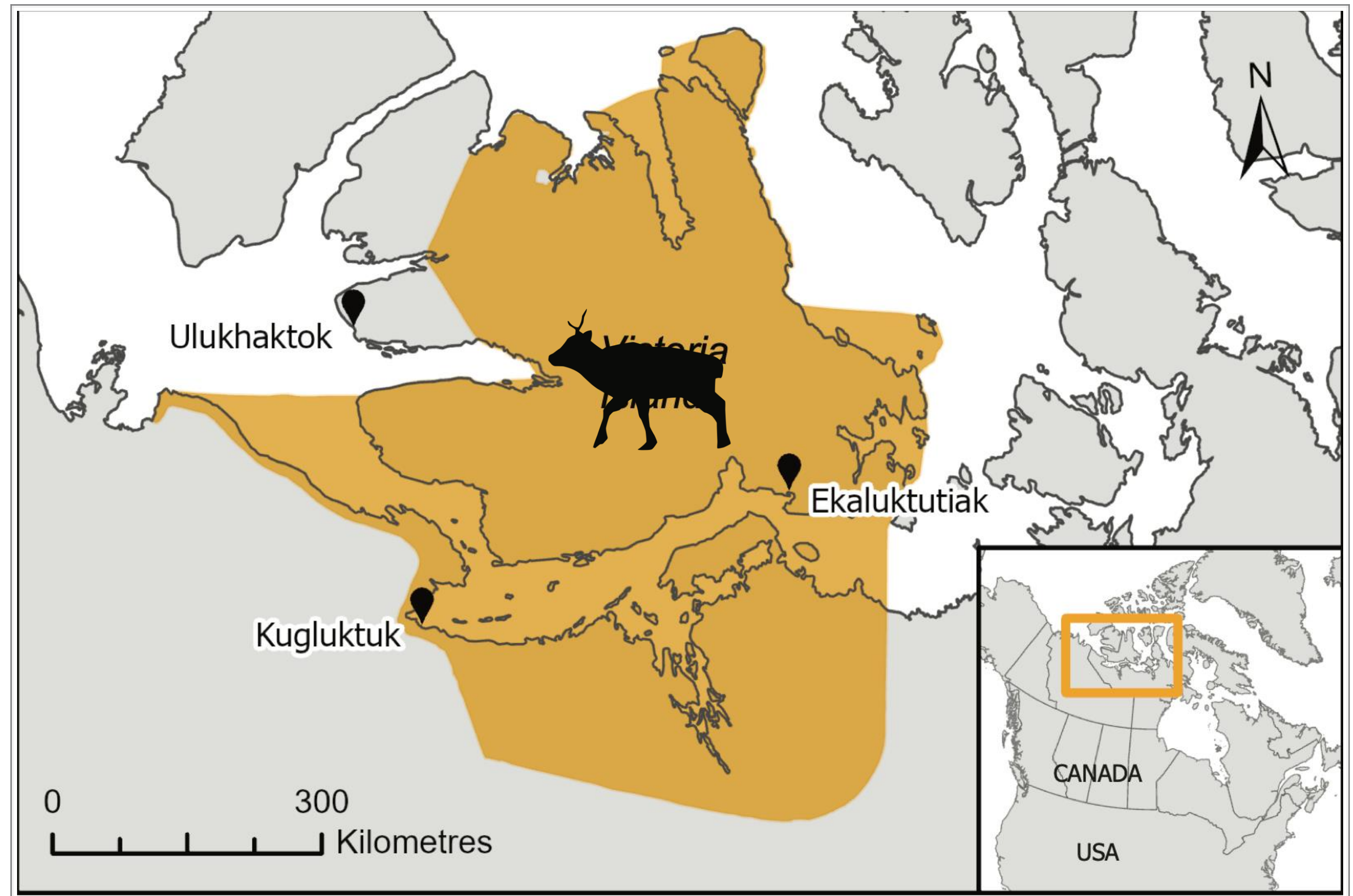
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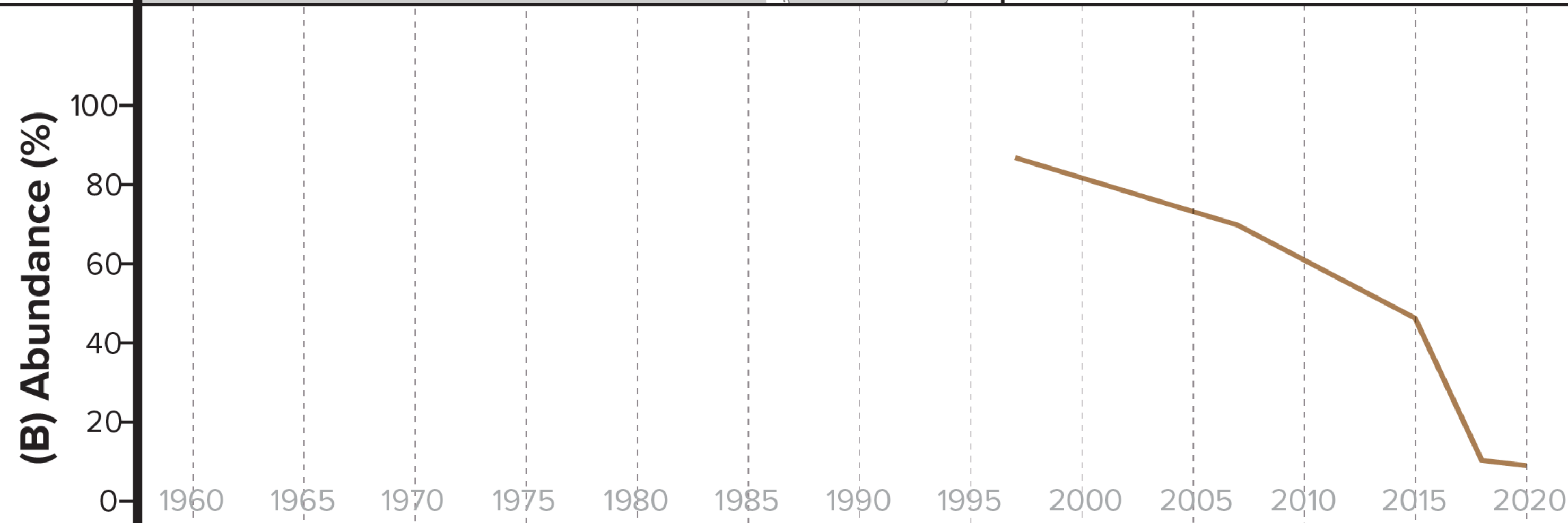
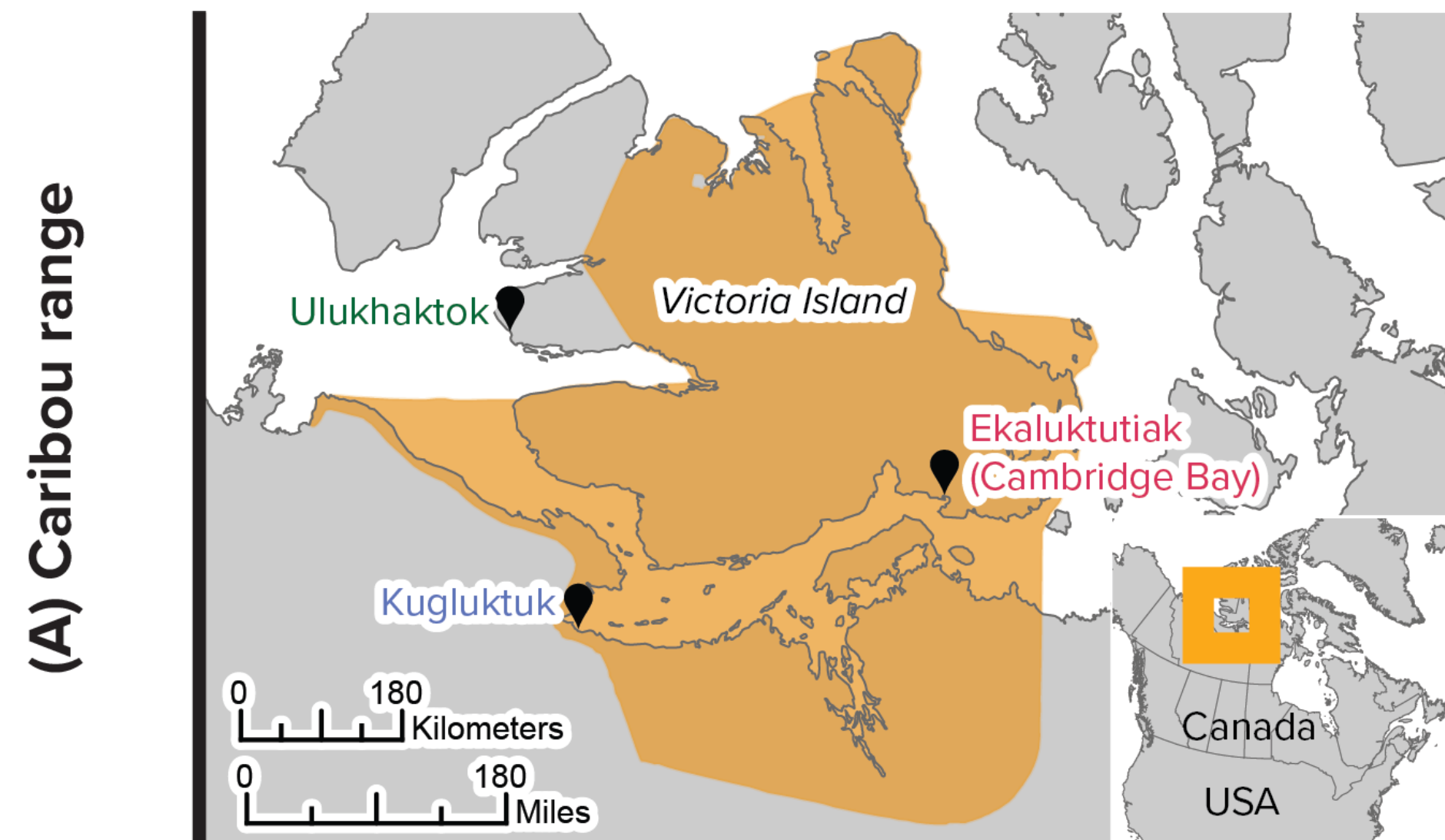
3. **Bring together information to support co-management**

'Dolphin and Union' caribou



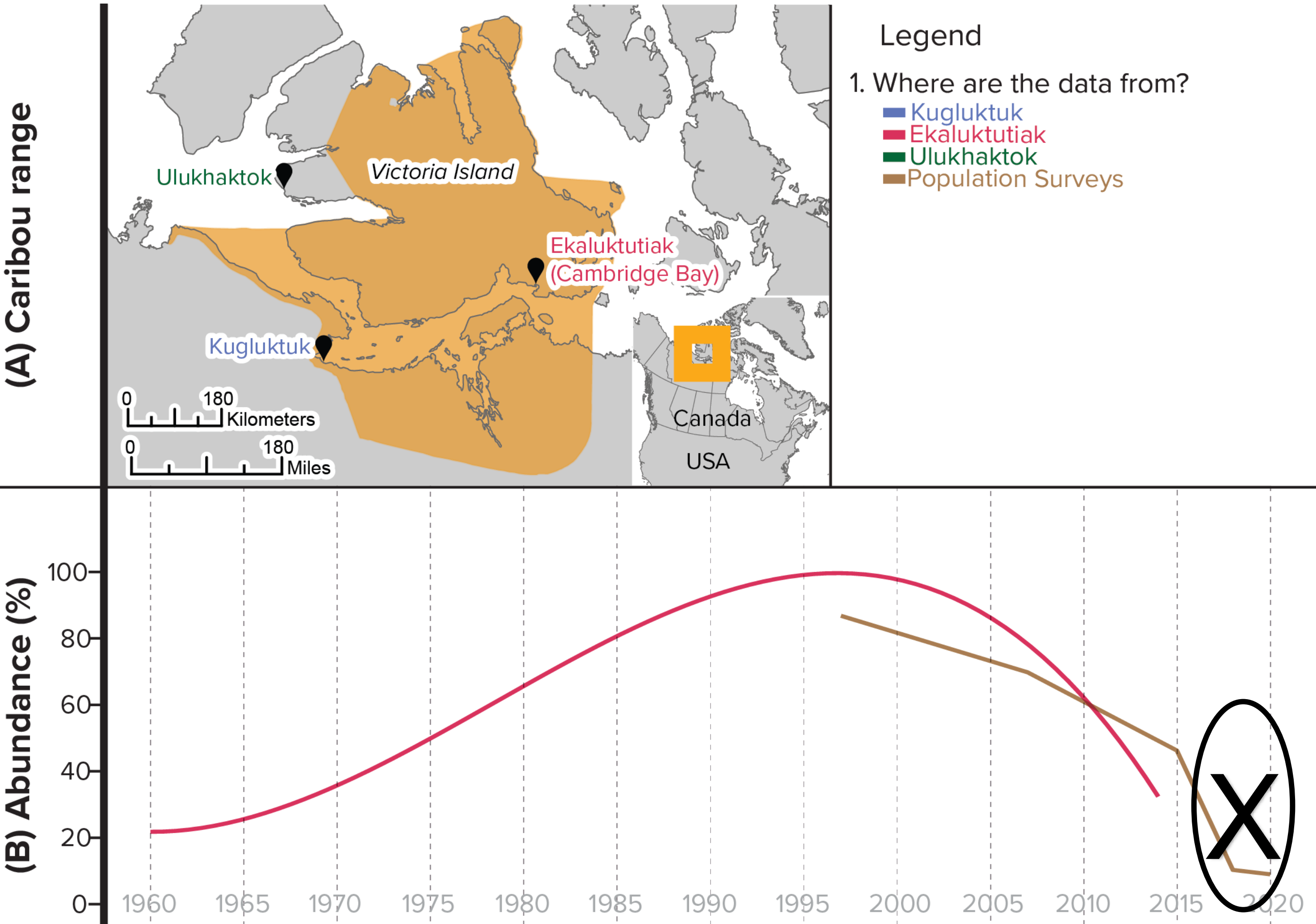
Dolphin and Union caribou management plan (2018)

Caribou range + surveys



*Nishi et al. 2003; Dumond et al. 2013;
Leclerc et al. 2018; Leclerc et al. 2020;
Campbell et al. 2021*

Caribou range + surveys + TK from 2014

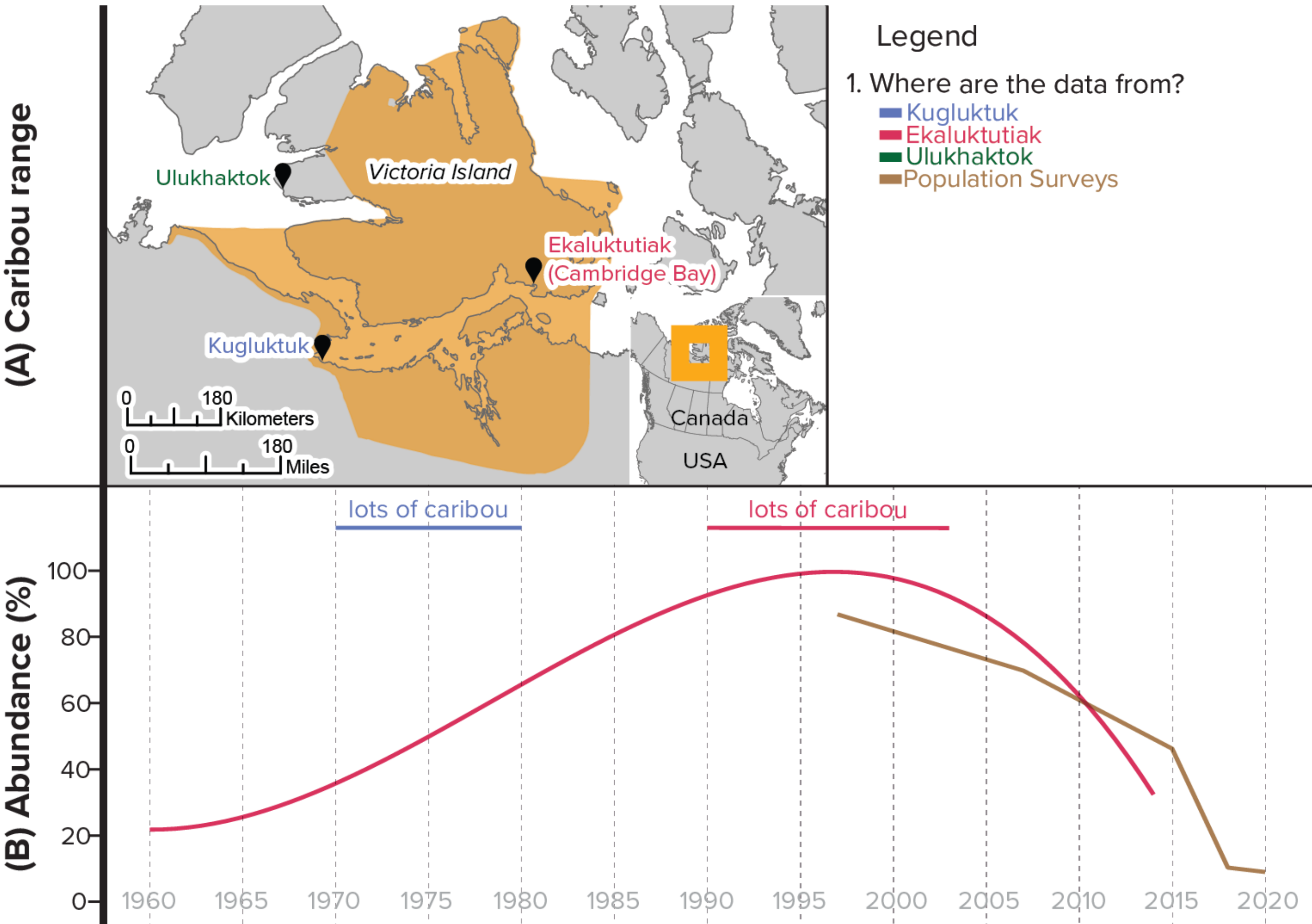


**COSEWIC
Assessment and Status Report**
on the
Caribou
Rangifer tarandus
Dolphin and Union population
in Canada

**ENDANGERED
2017**

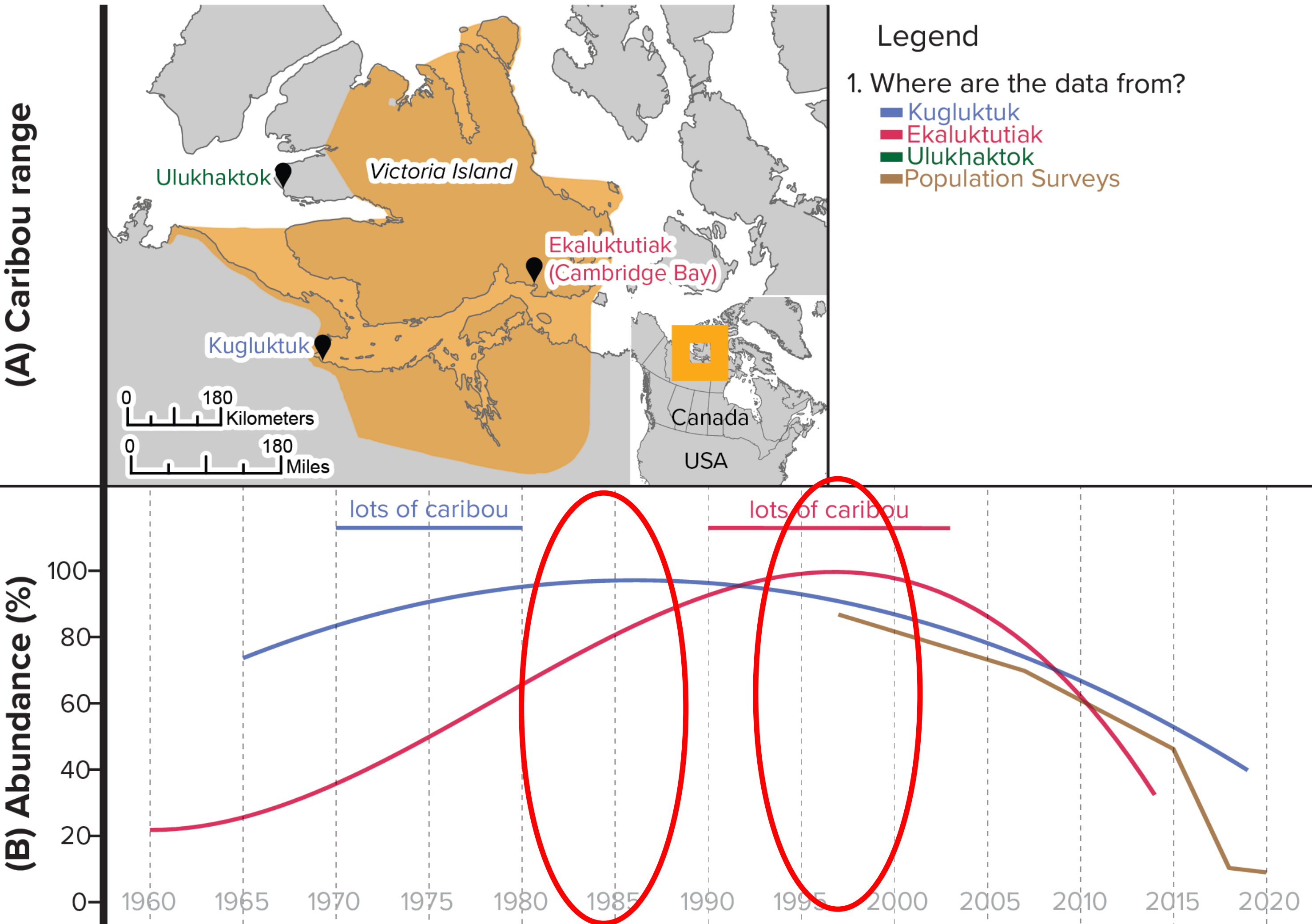
Nishi et al. 2003; Dumond et al. 2013; Leclerc et al. 2018; Tomaselli et al. 2018; Leclerc et al. 2020; Campbell et al. 2021

Caribou range + surveys + TK from 2003 + 2014



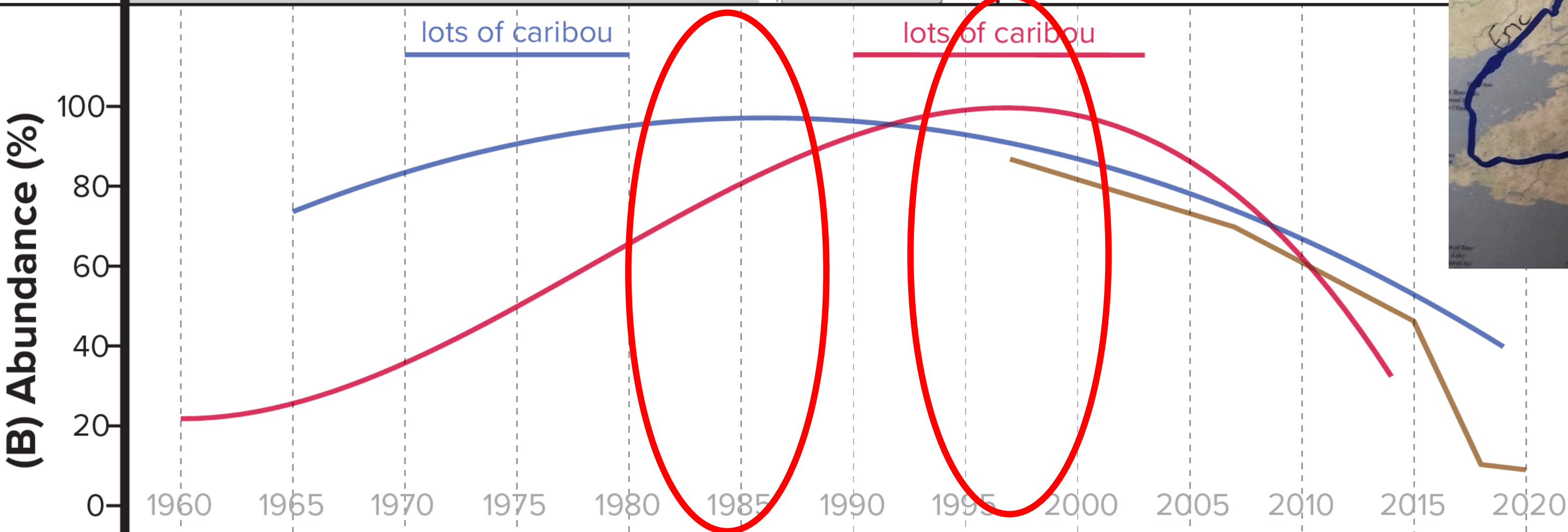
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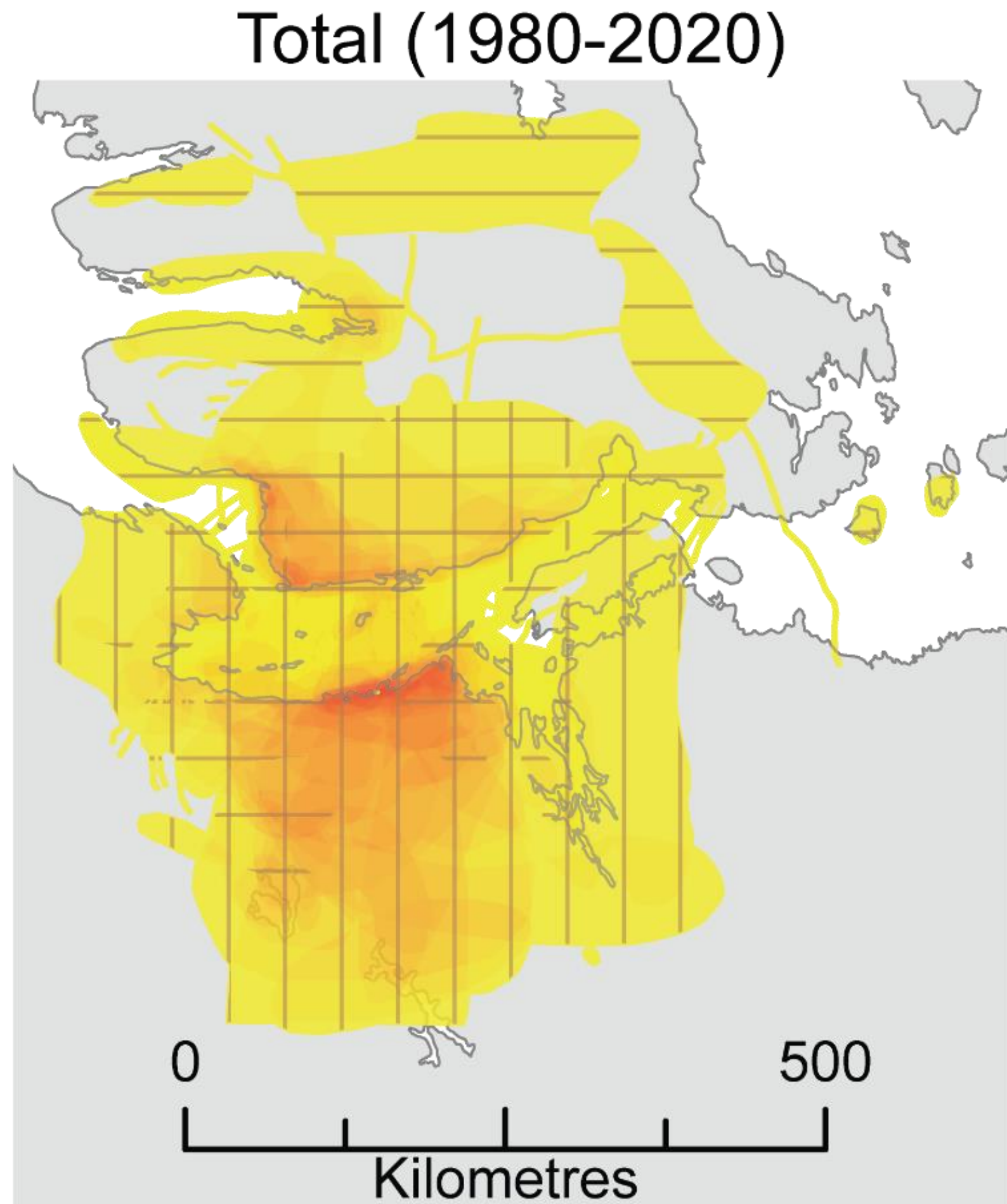
Caribou range + surveys + TK from 2003 + 2014 + 2018 + spatial data



*Nishi et al. 2003; Dumond et al. 2013;
Leclerc et al. 2018; Tomaselli et al. 2018;
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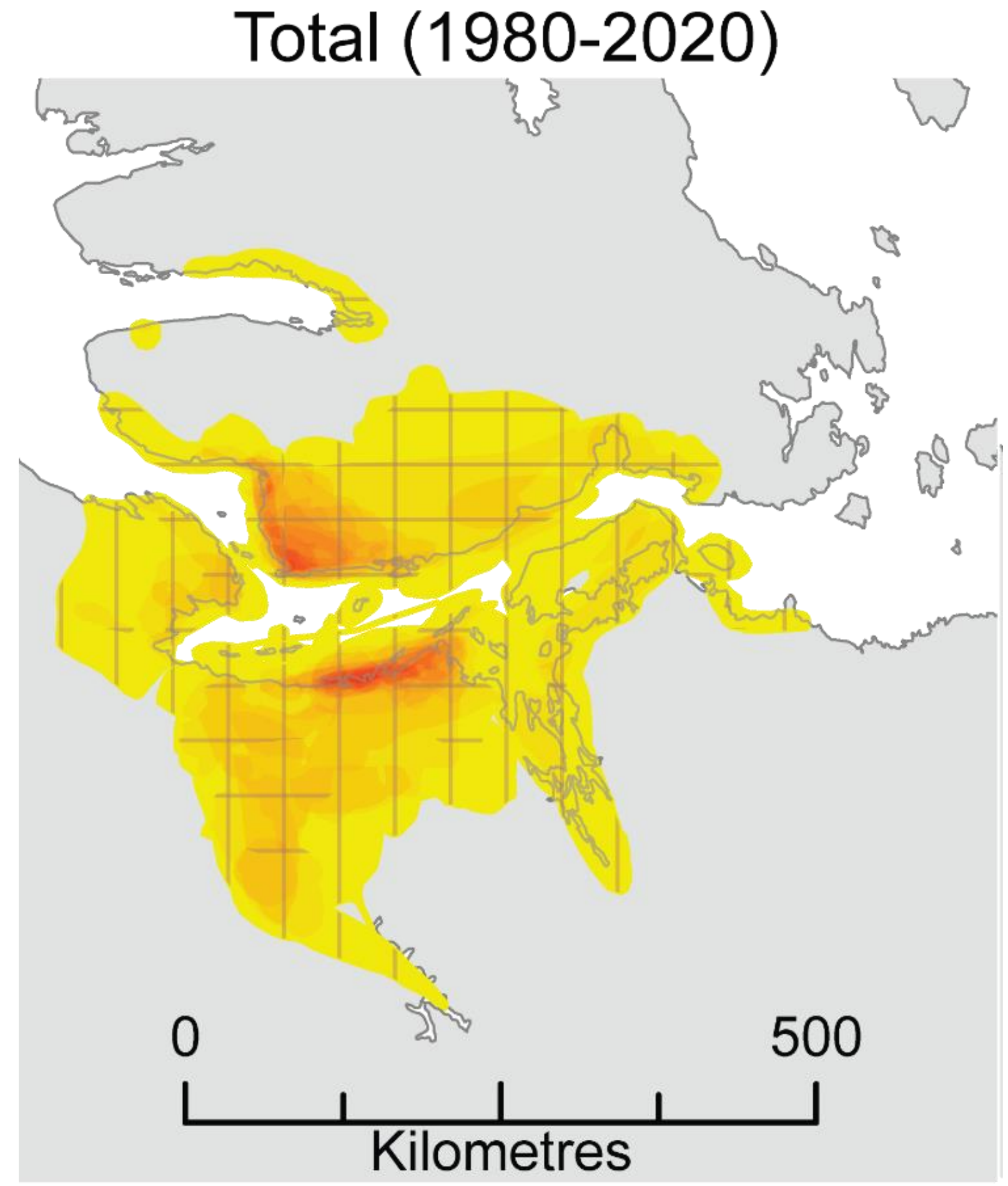
Kugluktuk interview map summaries

DU Range



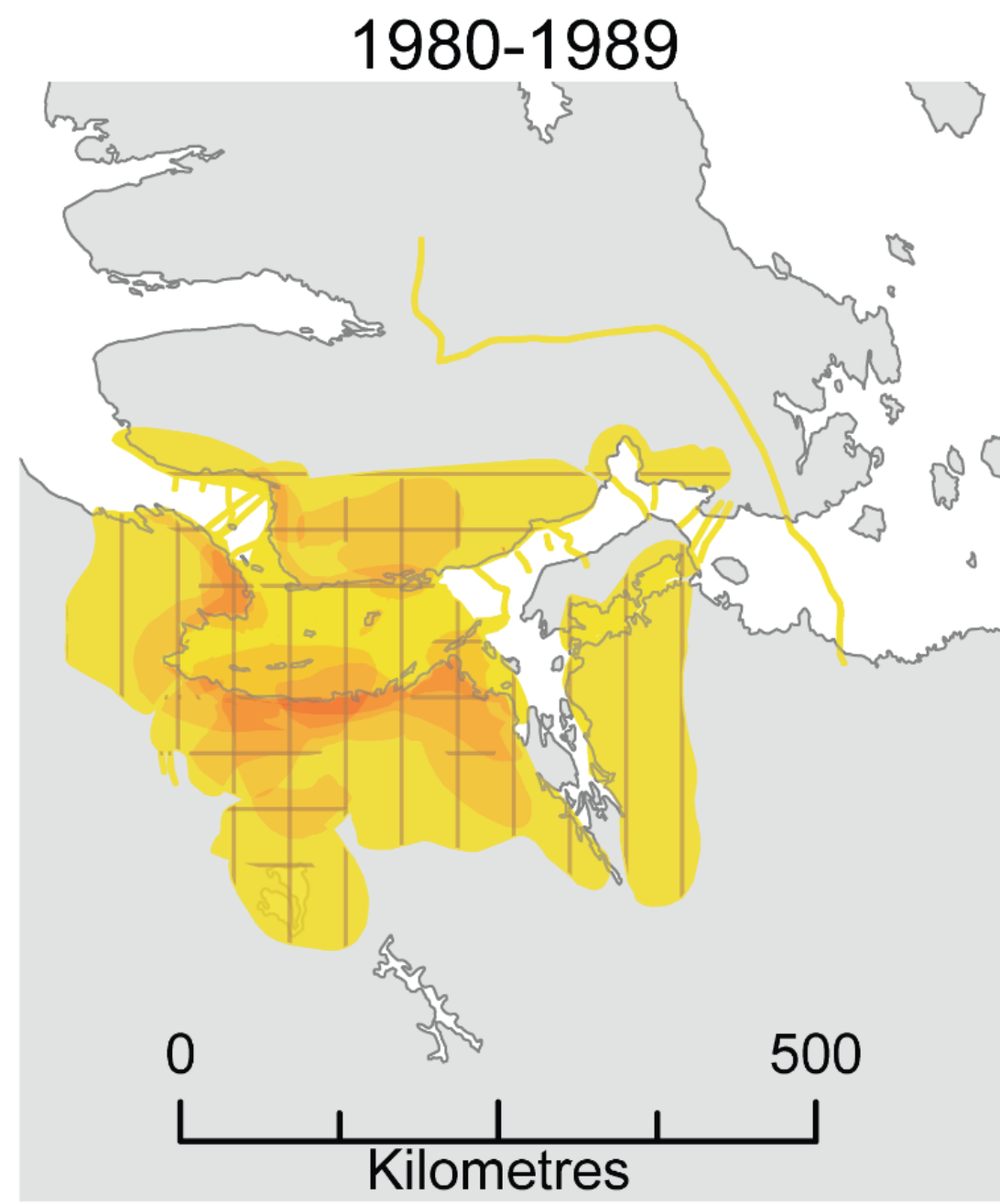
Maximum overlapping maps were 22/24

Harvesting

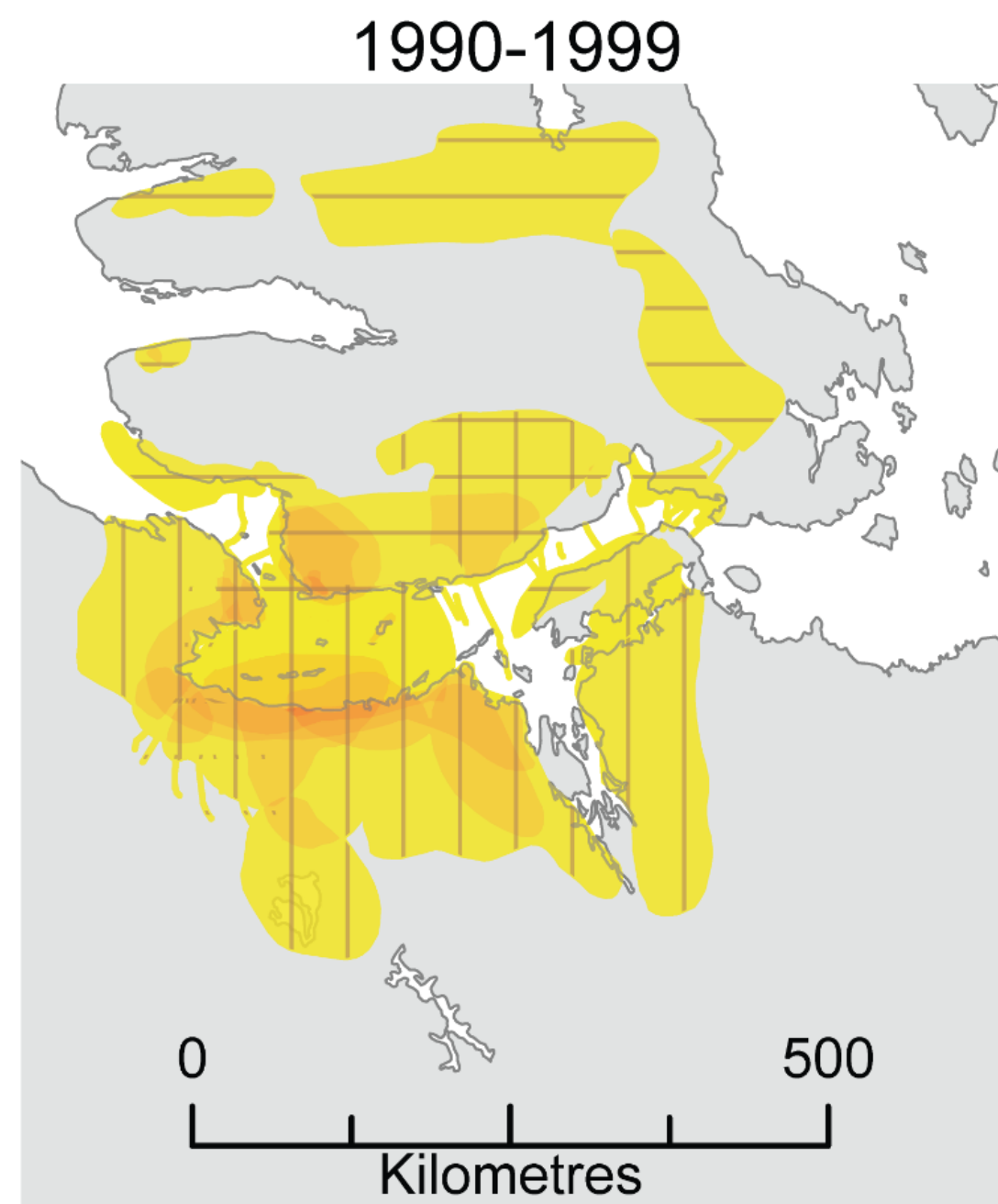


Maximum overlapping maps were 17/18

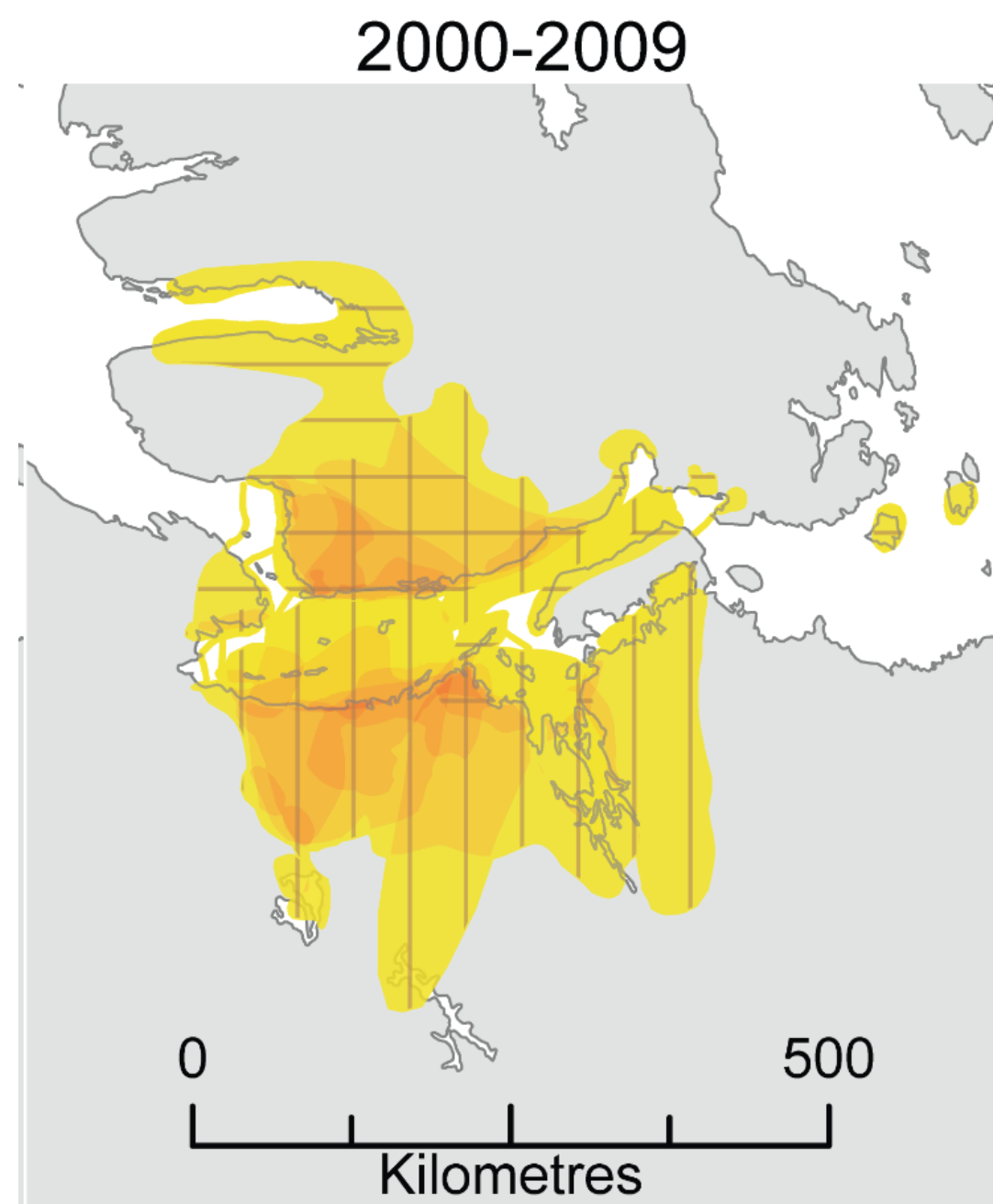
DU Range



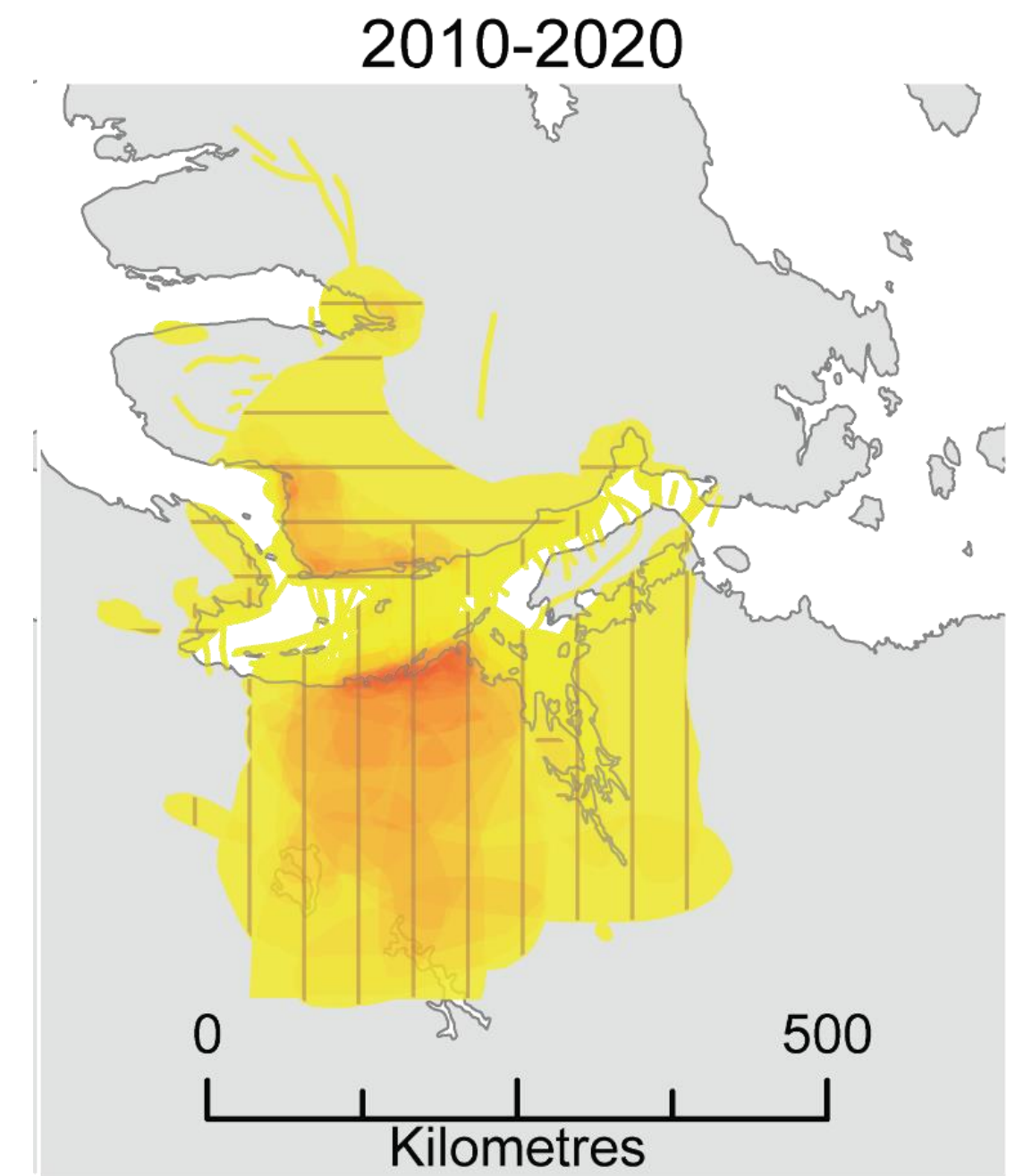
Maximum overlapping maps were 7/9



Maximum overlapping maps were 8/12

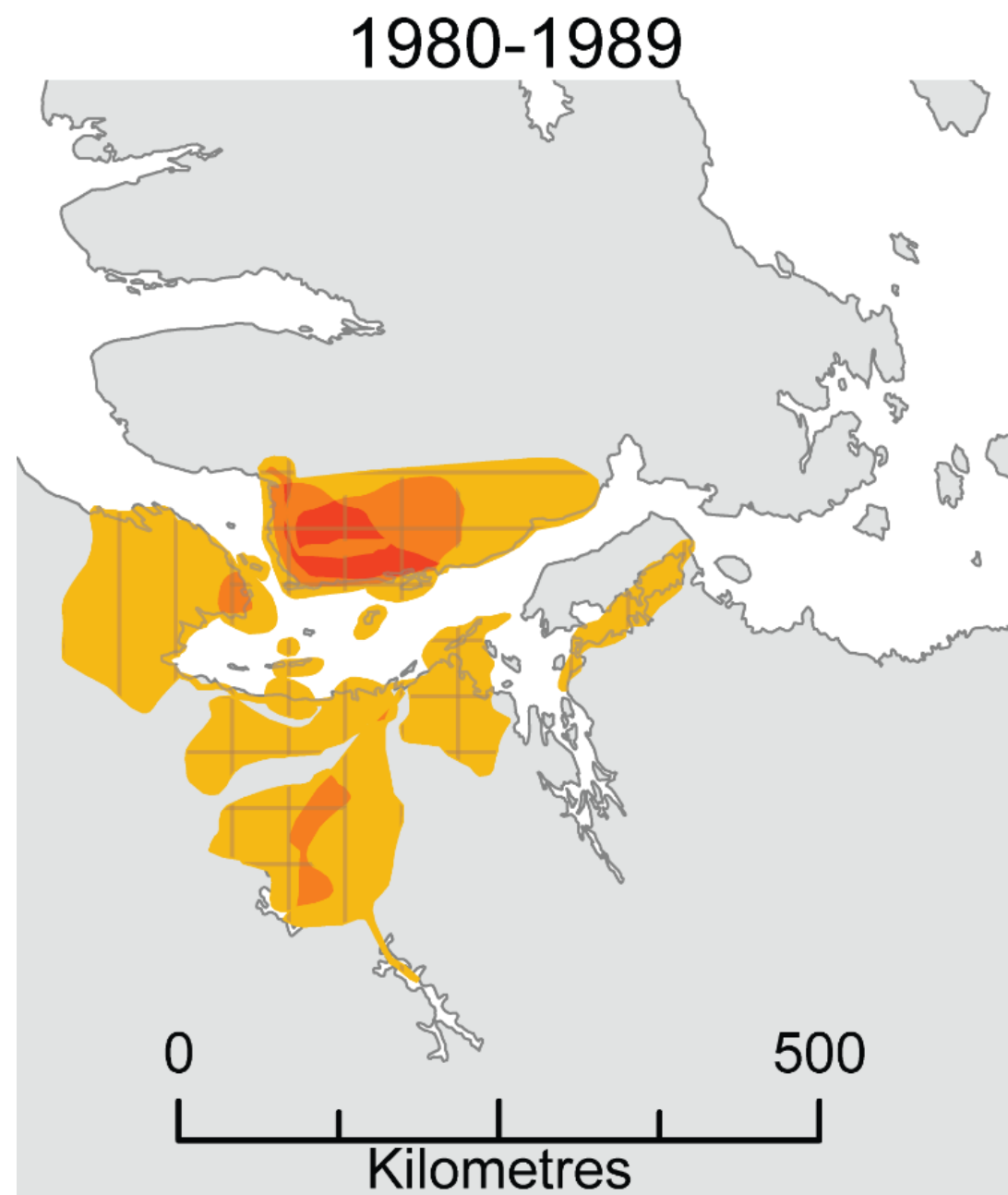


Maximum overlapping maps were 7/11

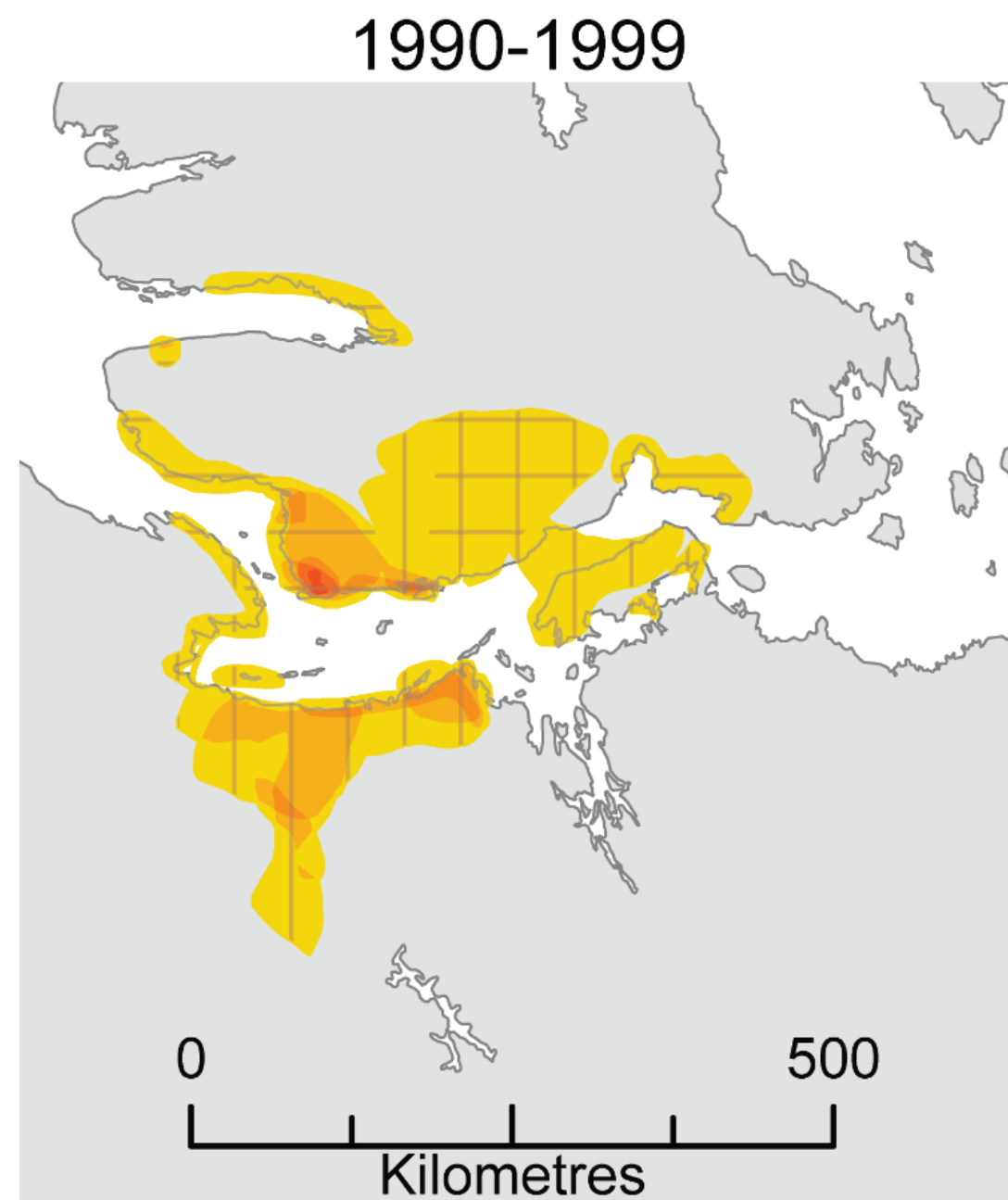


Maximum overlapping maps were 21/24

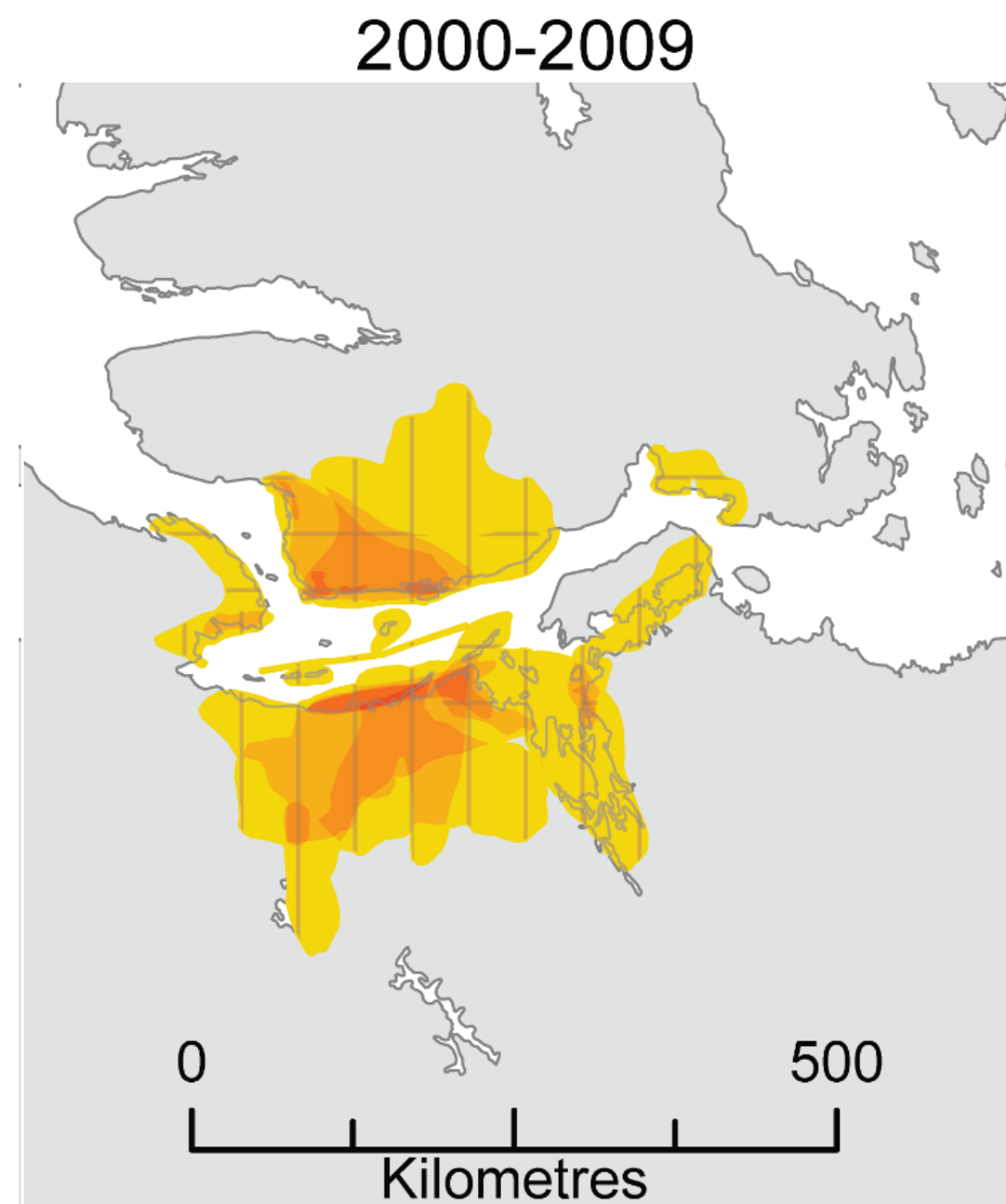
Harvesting



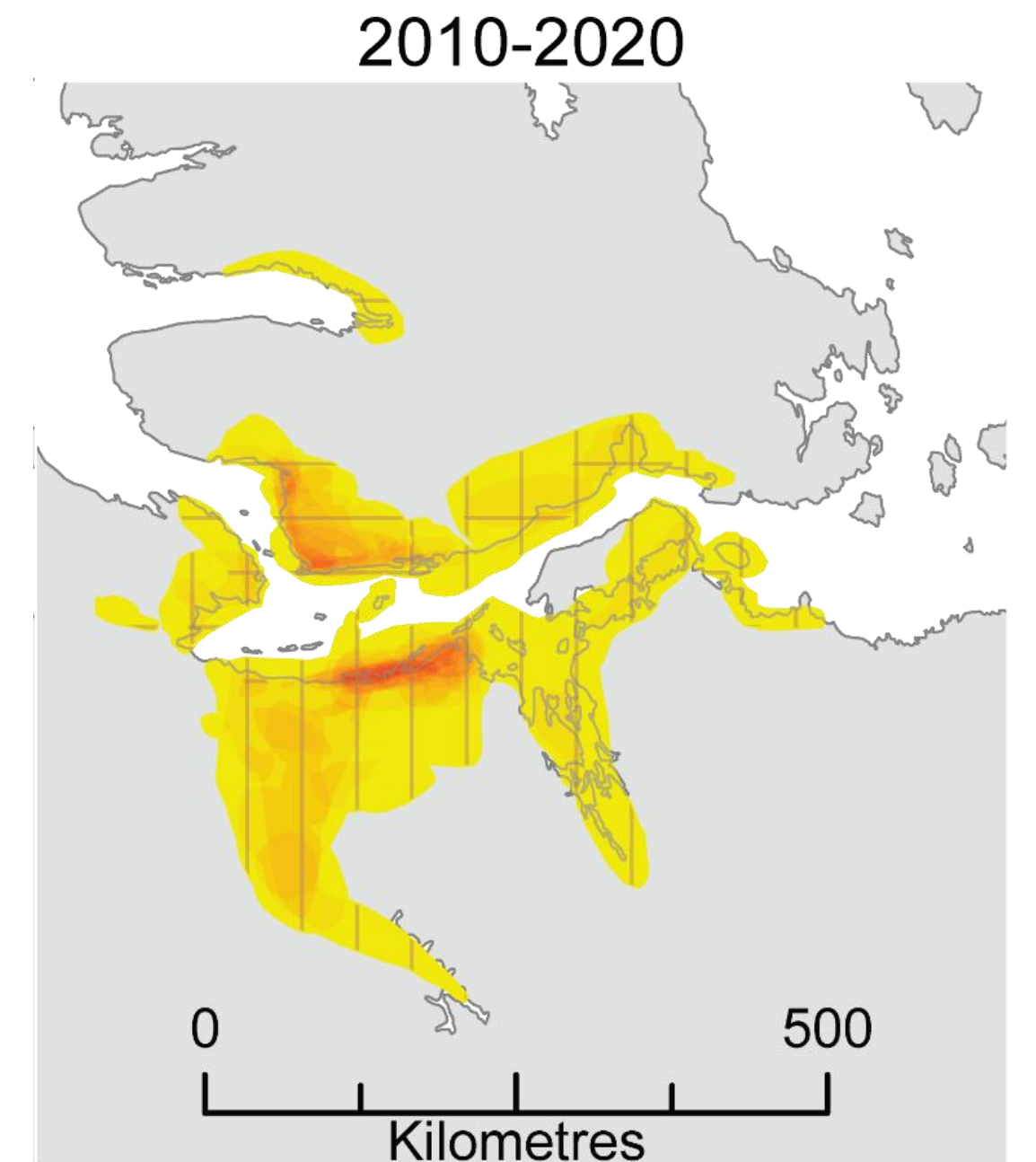
Maximum overlapping maps were 3/4



Maximum overlapping maps were 5/7

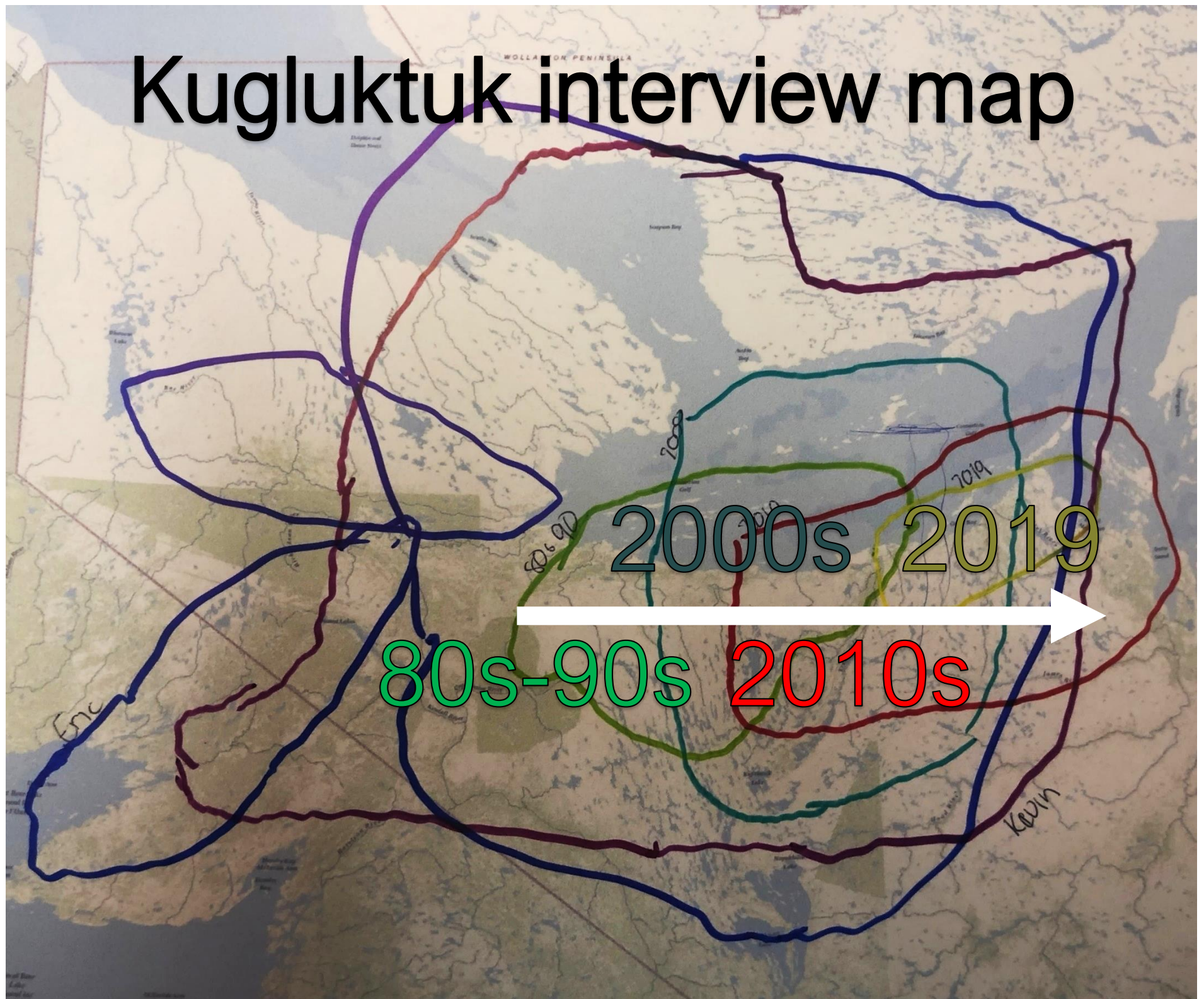
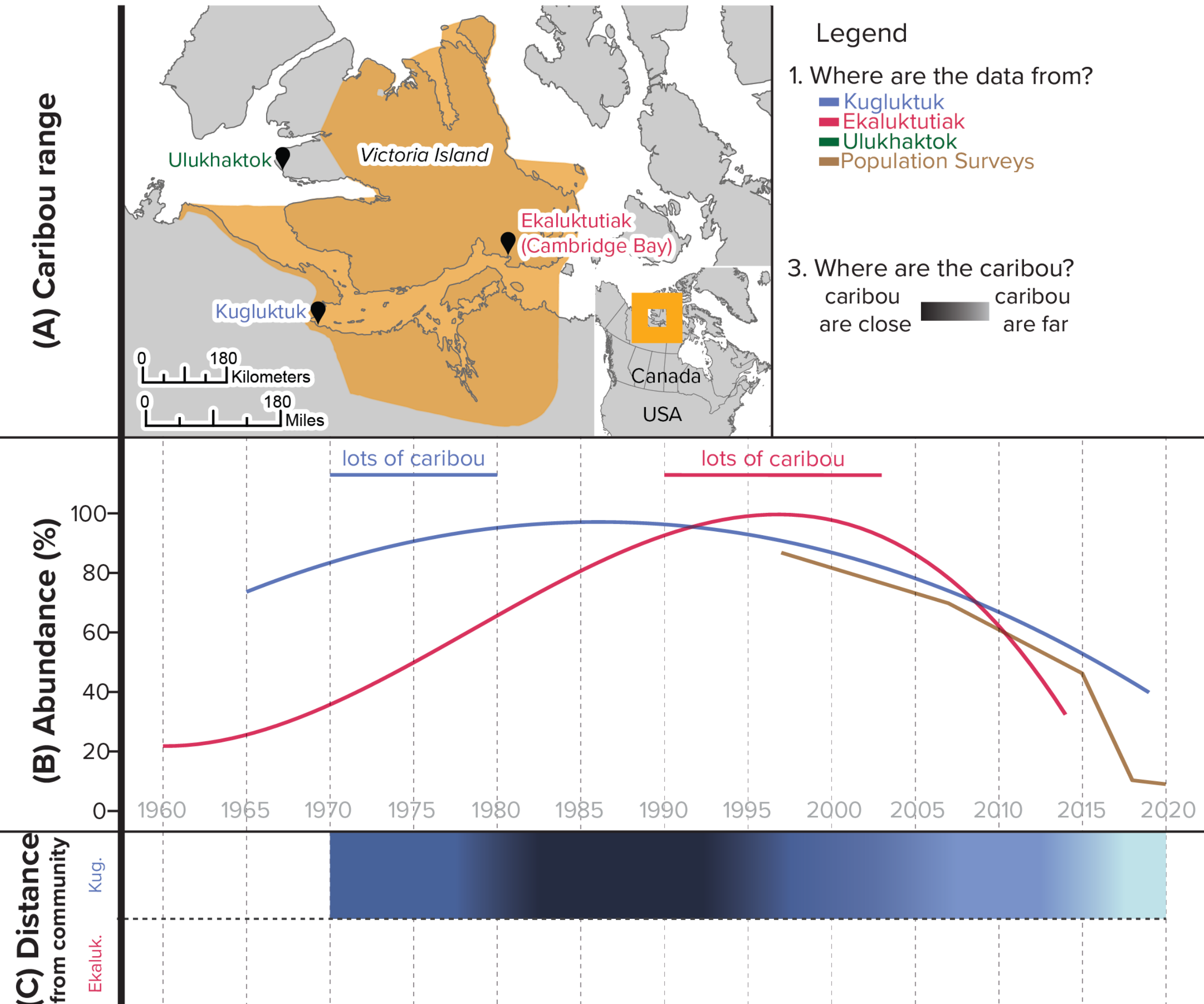


Maximum overlapping maps were 5/7



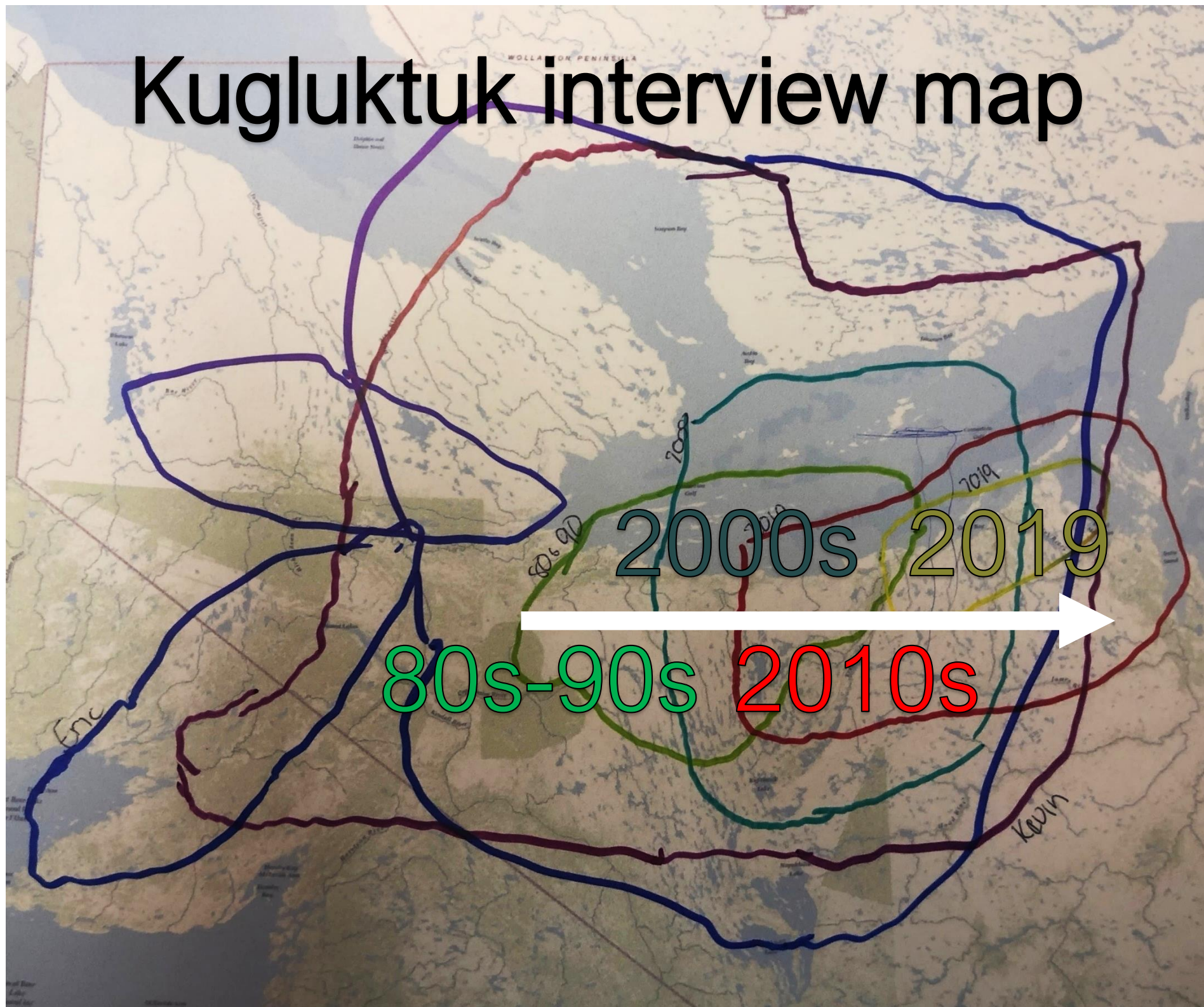
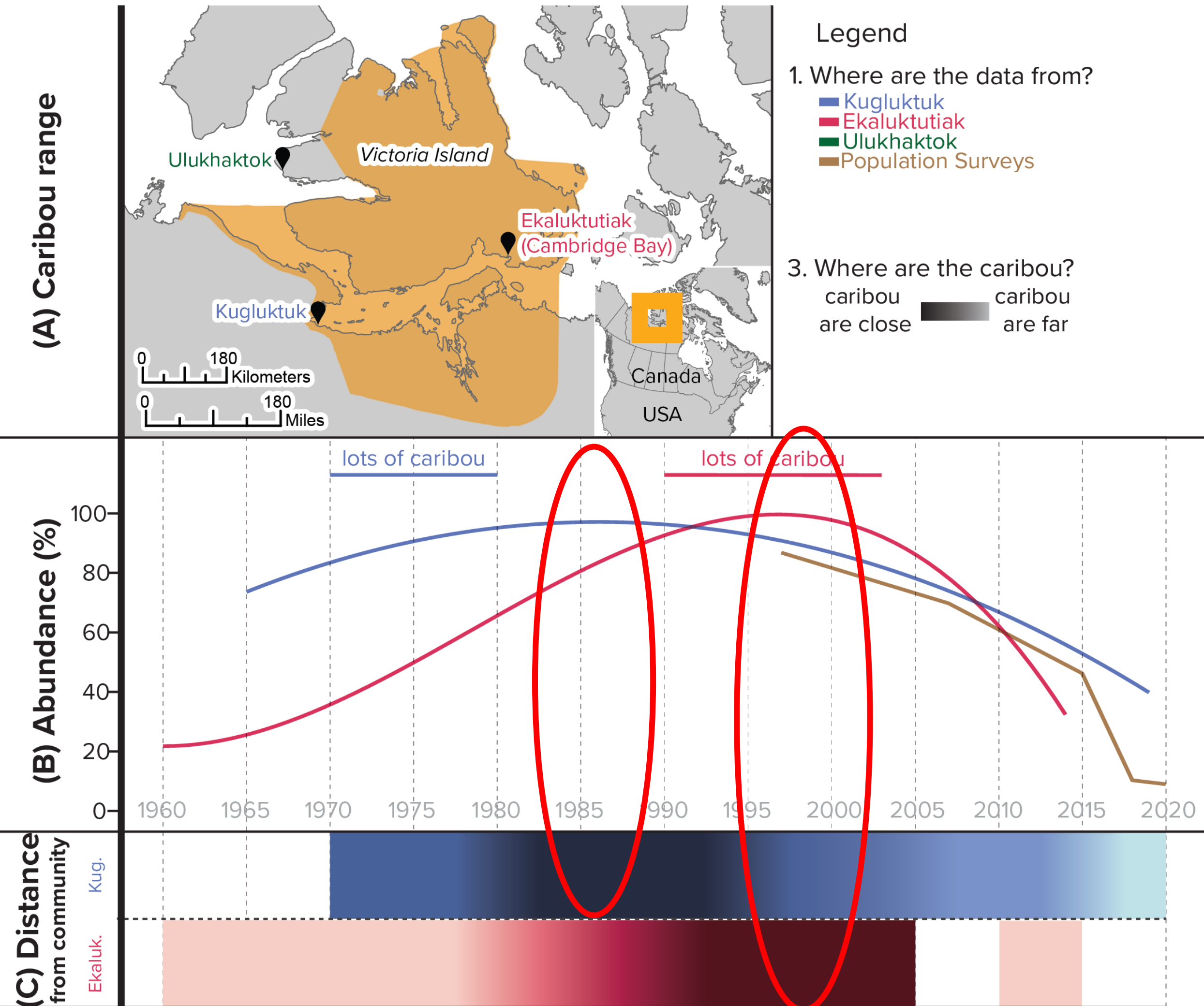
Maximum overlapping maps were 17/18

Caribou range + surveys + TK from 2003 + 2014 + 2018 + spatial data



Nishi et al. 2003; Dumond et al. 2013; Leclerc et al. 2018; Tomaselli et al. 2018; Leclerc et al. 2020; Campbell et al. 2021; Hanke et al. 2021, Hanke et al. In prep

Caribou range + surveys + TK from 2003 + 2014 + 2018 + spatial data



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Outcomes

1. Communities and researchers interact with caribou at different times of the year in different parts of their range

→ Can result in apparently contrasting information

→ Must interpret information within community context and study design

→ Detailed contribution sections can help with this

2. Synthesized abundance data suggested the general DU caribou abundance increased since ~1990s and decreased after ~2000s alongside a range contraction

→ Learning about the population status requires info from across the range

→ Can put this info into the management plan

Lesson learned: Need detailed contributor sections

Kitikmeot Traditional Knowledge Studies on Dolphin and Union Caribou, 2003 and 2018-2020

(*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus* x *pearvi* island tuktu)

Research update



Report prepared by Andrea Hanke (andrea.hanke1@skutz@ucalgary.ca), Department of Ecosystem and Public Health, University of Calgary

In collaboration with Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association, I Organization, Government of Nunavut, Depar

Submitted to Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association, Ekaluktutiaq Olokhaktomiut Hunters' and Trappers' Committee, Kitikme Management Advisory Council (NWT), Government of Nu Government of Northwest Territories, Environment and Natu Environment and Climate Change Canada, Nunav

September 2020



Roles of Researchers and Other Contributors:

2003 Ekaluktutiakmiut and Kugluktukmiut Traditional Knowledge Study on Dolphin and Union Caribou

Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association: Amanda Dumond and the board of directors reviewed project deliverables. Results were presented at the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association's annual general meeting in January 2019.

Ekaluktutiak Hunters' and Trappers' Organization: Beverly Maksagak and the board of directors reviewed project deliverables. Results were presented at the Ekaluktutiak Hunters' and Trappers' Organization annual general meeting in January 2019.

Government of Nunavut: Monica Angohiatok was lead interviewer and project designer in 2003. Ida Kapakatoak was the interview assistant, translator, and transcriptionist in 2003. Lisa-Marie Leclerc and Ashley Newman supported the digitization of the participatory maps in 2018. Kate England, and Lisa-Marie Leclerc, and Caryn Smith reviewed project deliverables.

University of Calgary: Andrea Hanke led the interview analysis and reporting with input from all partners, including co-supervisors Susan Kutz and Cindy Adams, in 2018-2020.

2018-2020 Kugluktukmiut Traditional Knowledge Study on Dolphin and Union Caribou

Kugluktukmiut Knowledge Keepers: Individual interview contributors: Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, Larry Adjun, Bobby Anavilok, Gerry Atatahak, Stanley Carpenter, Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Randy Hinanik, Eric Hitkolok, Roger Hitkolok, John Kapakatoak, Kevin Klengenber, and Sheldon Klengenber. Focus group contributors: Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, Larry Adjun, Bobby Anavilok, OJ Bernhardt, Charlie Bolt, Stanley Carpenter, Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Eric Hitkolok, Roger Hitkolok, John Kapakatoak, Kevin Klengenber, Sheldon Klengenber, Wendy Klengenber, and Tommy Noberg. Feedback session contributors: Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, Bobby Anavilok, Gerry Atatahak, Ida Ayalik McWilliam, OJ Bernhardt, Charlie Bolt, Stanley Carpenter, Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mike Hala, George Haniliak, Roger Hitkolok, Randy Hinanik, Detrick Hokanak, Ida Kapakatoak, John Kapakatoak, Kevin Klengenber, Perry Klengenber, Sheldon Klengenber, Wendy Klengenber, Allen Kudlak, Billy McWilliam, Tommy Noberg, Agnes Panioyak.

Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association: Amanda Dumond and the board of directors co-directed the project design, identified Kugluktukmiut knowledge keepers, and took part in the interview analysis. Provided in-kind office space and technical expertise. Results were presented at the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association's annual general meeting in January 2020. Amanda Dumond and the board of directors reviewed project deliverables.

Government of Nunavut: Lisa-Marie Leclerc provided input on the project design and took part in the interview analysis. Terry Milton contacted Kugluktukmiut knowledge keepers to schedule interviews and reviewed transcripts. Provided honoraria costs, in-kind office space, and technical expertise. Kate England, Lisa-Marie Leclerc, and Caryn Smith reviewed project deliverables.

University of Calgary: Andrea Hanke led the project design, implementation, interview analysis, and reporting with input from all partners, including co-supervisors Susan Kutz and Cindy Adams, in 2018-2020. Juliette Di Francesco assisted during the focus groups and feedback sessions.



A Three-Stage Caribou Conserv

Ulukhaktokmiut accounts of 'Dolph Union' and Peary caribou in 2011-20 suggested conservation efforts in 20

Final report on the 2011-2014 Traditional Know on Caribou in Ulukhaktok

Report prepared by Andrea Hanke for the Wildl Management Advisory Council (NWT)

April 2023

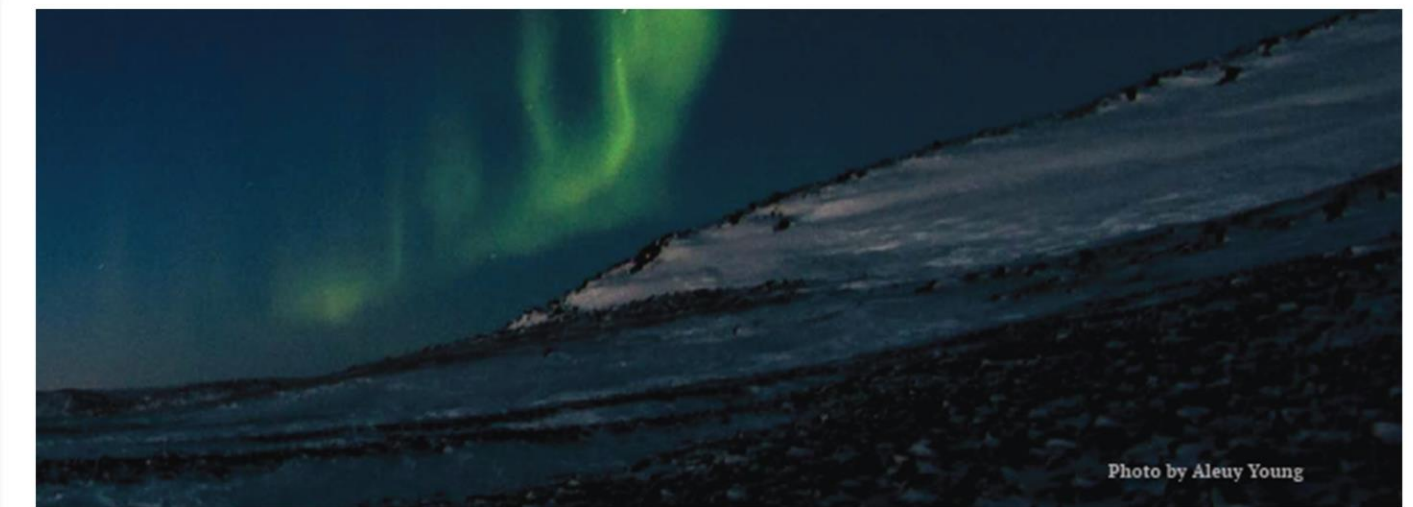


Photo by Aleuy Young

Report Contributors

Ulukhaktok knowledge holders in 2011-2012: John Alikamik, Pat Ekpakohak, Jean Kagyut, Elsie Klengenber, Joseph Haluksit, Allen Joss, David Kuptana, Louis Nigiyoq, Morris Nigiyoq, Rene Oliktoak, and Allen Pogotak.

Ulukhaktok knowledge holders in 2022: John Alikamik, Jean Ekpakohak, Pat Ekpakohak, Sandra Goose, Janine Harvey, Annie Inuktalik, Kate Inuktalik, Allen Joss, Lillian Kanagok, Ross Klengenber, Gibson Kudlak, Mary Kudlak, Chad Memogana, Louise Nigiyoq, Mary Okheena, and Joshua Oliktoak

Government of Northwest Territories, Environment and Natural Resources: Tracy Davison was the original study lead. Tracy facilitated the interviews and first verification workshop and completed the original interview analysis and interim summary slides.

Olokhaktomiut Hunters and Trappers Committee: They selected the knowledge holders and facilitated the transcript review with the knowledge holders. The OHTC helped with all stages of coordinating the project, from the original interviews to the verification workshops.

Thorpe Consulting Services: Natasha Thorpe (PI) contributed and supervised the PhD student for the 2019 report titled: "Review of the Peary and Dolphin

and Union Caribou Traditional Knowledge Project from 2011-2013".

The University of Calgary, Veterinary Medicine: Susan Kutz (professor) provided feedback on the 2019 report and the final report. Andrea Hanke (PhD candidate) was the student supervised by Thorpe Consulting Services and contributed to the 2019 report.

Joint Secretariat: Cassandra Elliott (Traditional and local knowledge coordinator) completed the recoding and prepared a draft report.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT): The WMAC (NWT) coordinated the advancement of the study and provided feedback on the reports. Andrea Hanke (contractor) completed the analysis, writing, and facilitated the final verification workshop. Karan Su (sub-contractor, GIS student) assisted with cleaning the spatial data. Susie Memogana (contractor) organized the final verification workshop logistics and assisted the facilitation.

Report designed by Roxann Corpuz

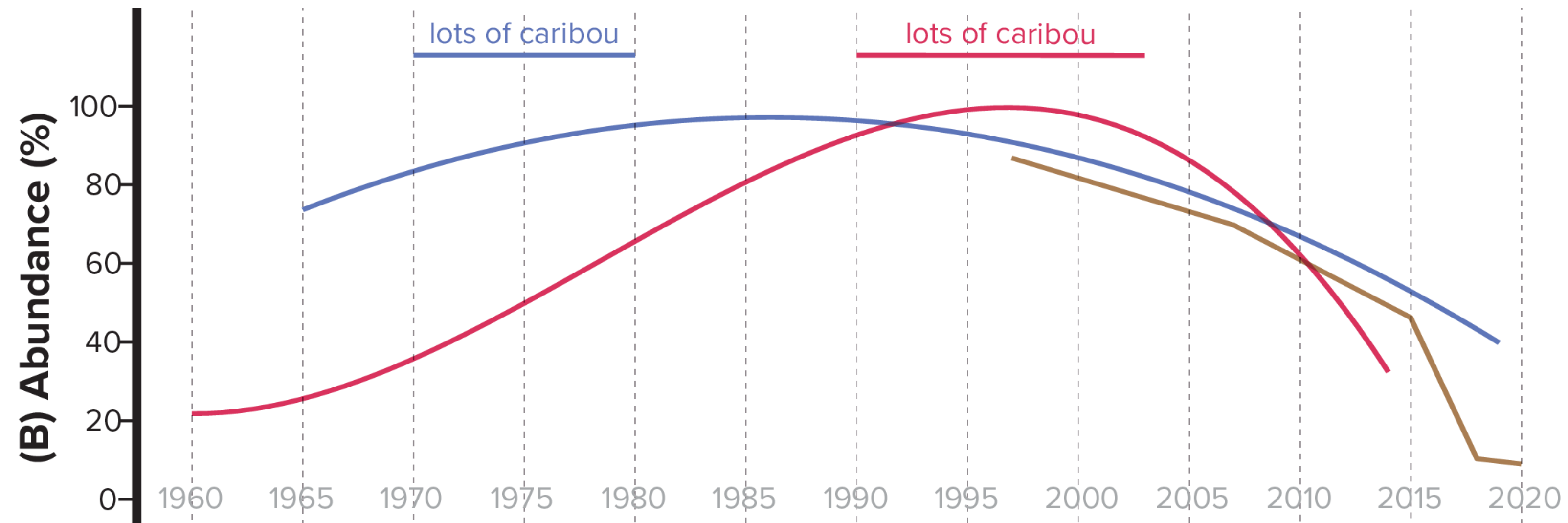
This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de:



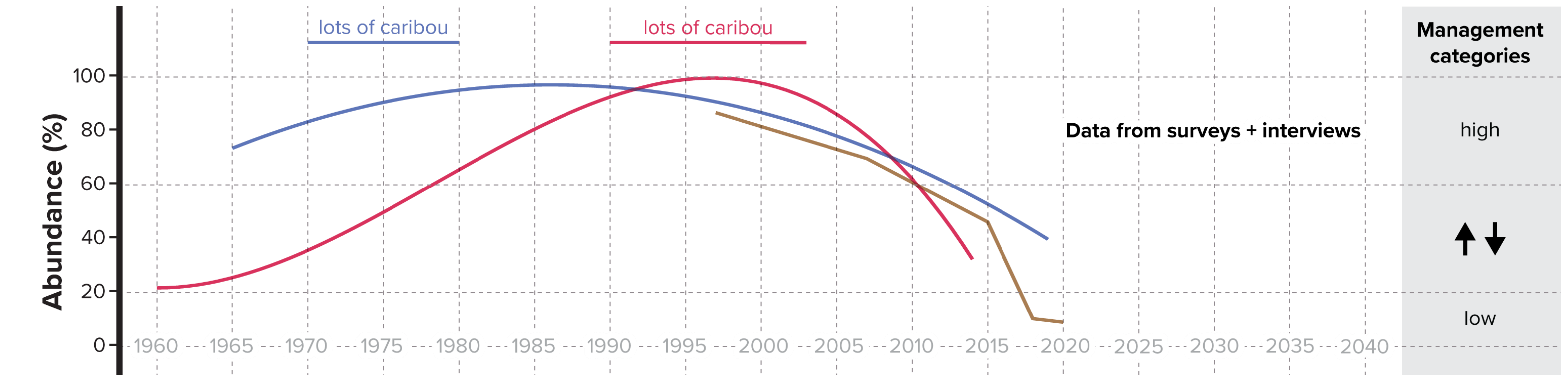
Outcomes

1. Communities and researchers interact with caribou at different times of the year in different parts of their range
 - Can result in apparently contrasting information
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Section 6.6. Managing Based on Population Level



Section 6.6. Managing Based on Population Level

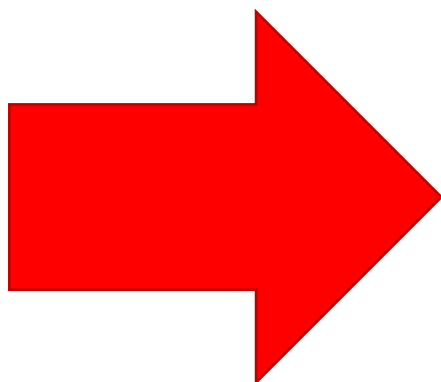


Using data to support appropriate management strategies

Update caribou range



e.g. support habitat protection



Dolphin and Union caribou management plan (2018); Hanke et al. 2021, Hanke and WMAC 2023; Hanke et al. In prep

What's next?

Research phases

1. Complete analysis and reporting for unfinished studies
 - a. Government of Nunavut study from 2003 in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay
 - b. GNWT study from 2011-2014 in Ulukhaktok**

2. Document, analyze, and report new data
 - a. Interviews from 2018-2020 in Kugluktuk
 - b. Elder interviews from 2021-2023 in Ulukhaktok, Kugluktuk, and Cambridge Bay**

3. Bring together information to support co-management

What's next?



A Three-Stage Story Towards Caribou Conservation

Ulukhaktokmiut accounts of 'Dolphin and Union' and Peary caribou in 2011-2014 and suggested conservation efforts in 2022

Final report on the 2011-2014 Traditional Knowledge Study on Caribou in Ulukhaktok

Report prepared by Andrea Hanke for the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

April 2023



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

project, with the original interviews to the verification workshops.

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Photo by Aleuy Young

and Union Caribou Traditional Knowledge Project from 2011-2013".

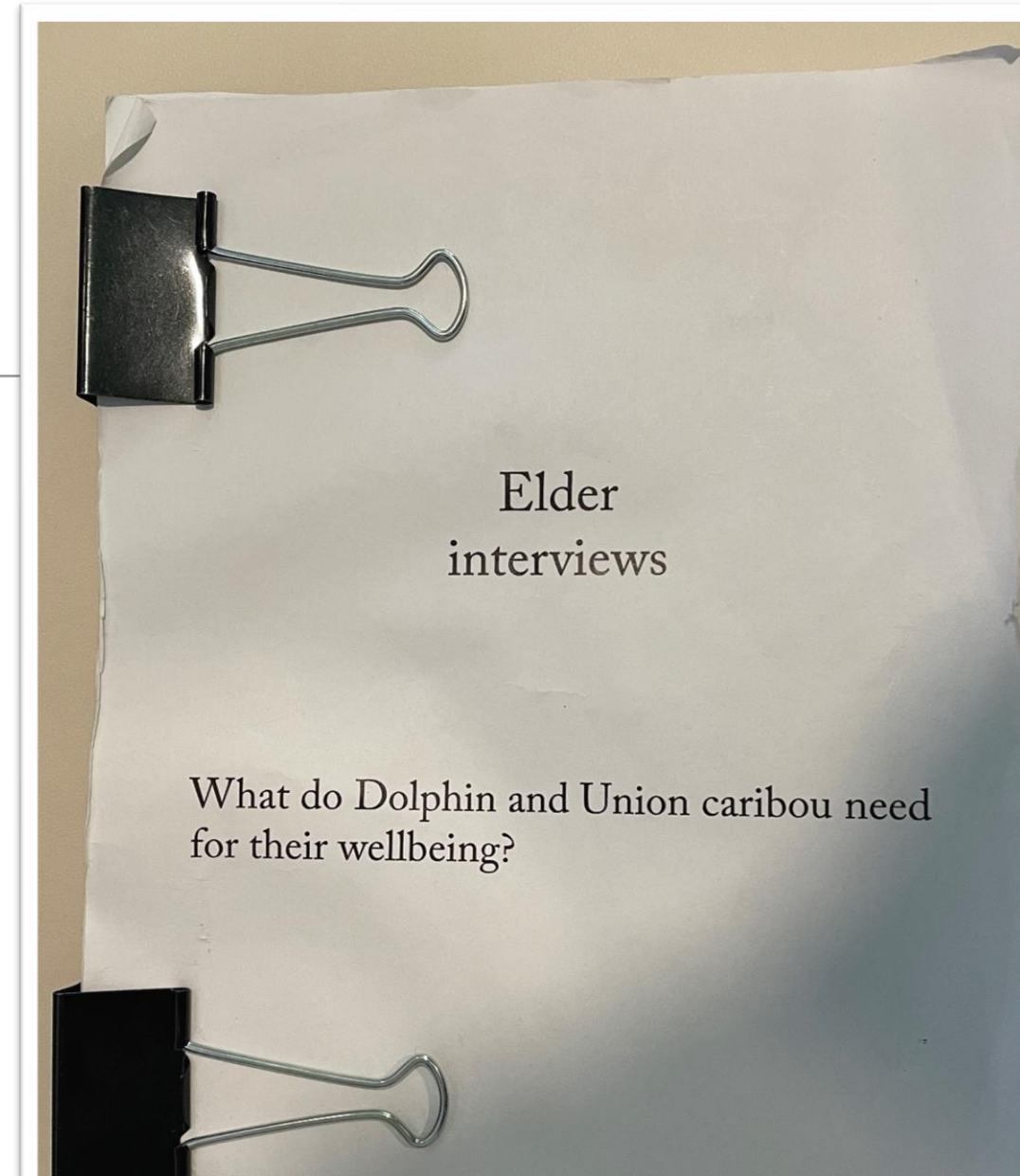
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Report designed by Roxann Corpuz

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de:
Environment and Climate Change Canada / Environnement et Changement climatique Canada



Elder interview book



Koana. Thank you.

Andrea Hanke andrea.hanke1@ucalgary.ca

Susan Kutz skutz@ucalgary.ca



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada



Polar Knowledge
Canada

Savoir polaire
Canada



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Climate Change Canada

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Changement climatique Canada



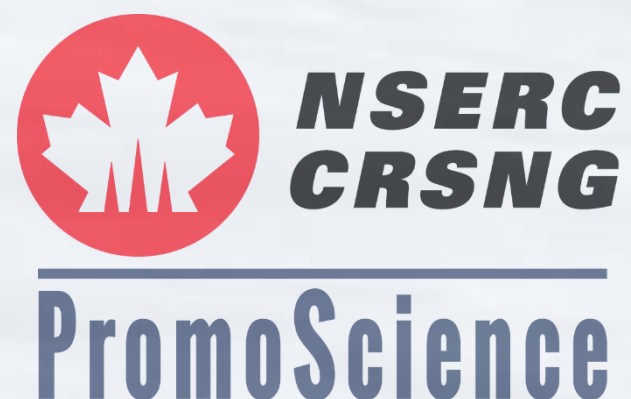
Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences
naturelles et en génie du Canada



Beverly and Qamanirjuaq
Caribou Management Board

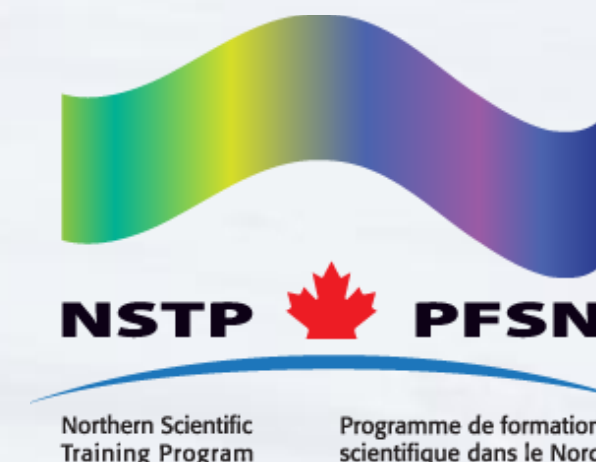
Safeguarding Caribou Since 1982



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWTC)



Irving Shipbuilding, Inc.



Association of Canadian
Universities for
Northern Studies

Arctic Emerging Infectious Diseases

Canada-Inuit Nunangat-United Kingdom (CINUK) Arctic Research Programme



Arctic Emerging Infectious Diseases

Canada-Inuit Nunangat-United Kingdom (CINUK) Arctic Research Programme

Use TK and Western knowledge to understand **brucellosis** and **erysipelas**:

- Effects on caribou
- Effects on muskoxen
- Effects on harvesters and food safety



October 2023

ArcticEID

Project Summary & 2023 Update

What is ArcticEID?

ArcticEID stands for "Arctic Emerging Infectious Diseases." It is a research project funded through the Canada-Inuit Nunangat-United Kingdom (CINUK) Arctic Research Programme.

We are studying two diseases that seem to be increasing in caribou and muskoxen: brucellosis and erysipelas (caused by *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* – the "E-word").

We want to bring together Inuit Qaujimatugangit and western science to better understand the effects of these diseases on caribou and muskoxen and how harvesters are, and can continue to, make sure the meat is safe to eat.

ArcticEID Team

The **ArcticEID** team at CHARS in Cambridge Bay, with representatives from Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization, Kugluktuk Angoniattit Association, Olokhattokmiut Hunters and Trappers Committee, University of Calgary, University of Glasgow, and Queen's University Belfast

Project Components

- Community-based and targeted sampling
- Guidelines for safe butchering and consumption
- Wildlife disease resources and information

What We've Been Doing:

- Sampling for both diseases with all 3 communities
- Investigating a new disease outbreak of *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* on Ellesmere Island
- Survey of researcher observations of unusual wildlife events on the land, to help understand other places these diseases might be
- Pocket guides for safe animal butchering and consumption
- Animation video about *Brucella*, *Erysipelothrix*, and the **ArcticEID** project
- Genetic studies to understand *Erysipelothrix* spread
- Community workshops and wildlife sampling

butchering and safe meat handling

usual wildlife events on the land

kits and other suspect species, and Ellesmere outbreaks

Scan to learn more about **ArcticEID**

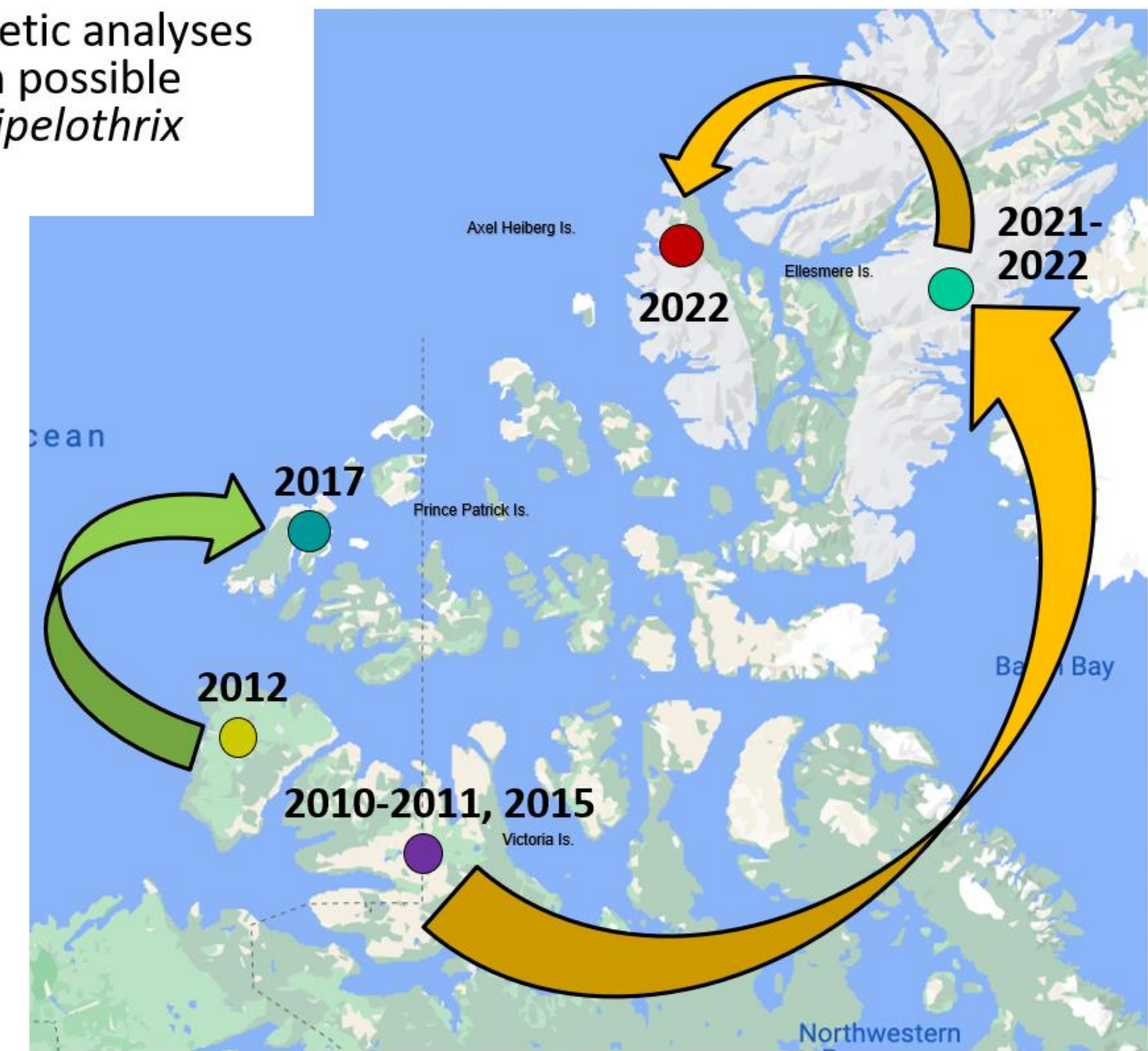
Thanks for a great first year!

Logos: UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, CINUK, POLAR POLAIRE, Government of Northwest Territories, Nunavut, NSERC CRSNG

What's done:

- Sampling for both diseases with all 3 communities
- Investigating a new disease outbreak of *Erysipelothrix* on Ellesmere Island
- Survey of researcher observations of unusual wildlife events on the land
- Pocket guides for safe butchering and consumption
- Genetic studies to understand *Erysipelothrix* spread
- Animation video about *Brucella*, *Erysipelothrix*, and the ArcticEID project
- Community workshops and wildlife sampling

Fine scale genetic analyses give insight on possible routes of *Erysipelothrix* movement



What's next?

- Document TK on butchering and safe meat handling
- Survey of community observations of unusual wildlife events on the land
- Testing samples from community sample kits and other suspect species, and Ellesmere outbreaks



Acknowledgements



Polar Knowledge
Canada

Savoir polaire
Canada



UK Research
and Innovation

Canada

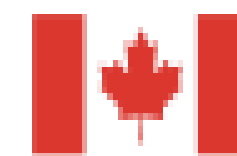
National Research
Council Canada
Conseil national de
recherches Canada



Van Sloun Foundation



The Arthur
French Family
Foundation



Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council of Canada



Updates on

1. Stress in Bluenose East and Dolphin Union caribou
2. New project for caribou health monitoring!
3. Observations on Sick Caribou



Misbah

PhD student, University of Calgary.



Background

- The caribou are very important for the communities
- We want to know how stressed the caribou are
- Stress can be an indicator of how well the animals are doing
- High stress can also cause health issues
- It is possible that climate change, bugs, and other changes in the environment are making caribou stressed

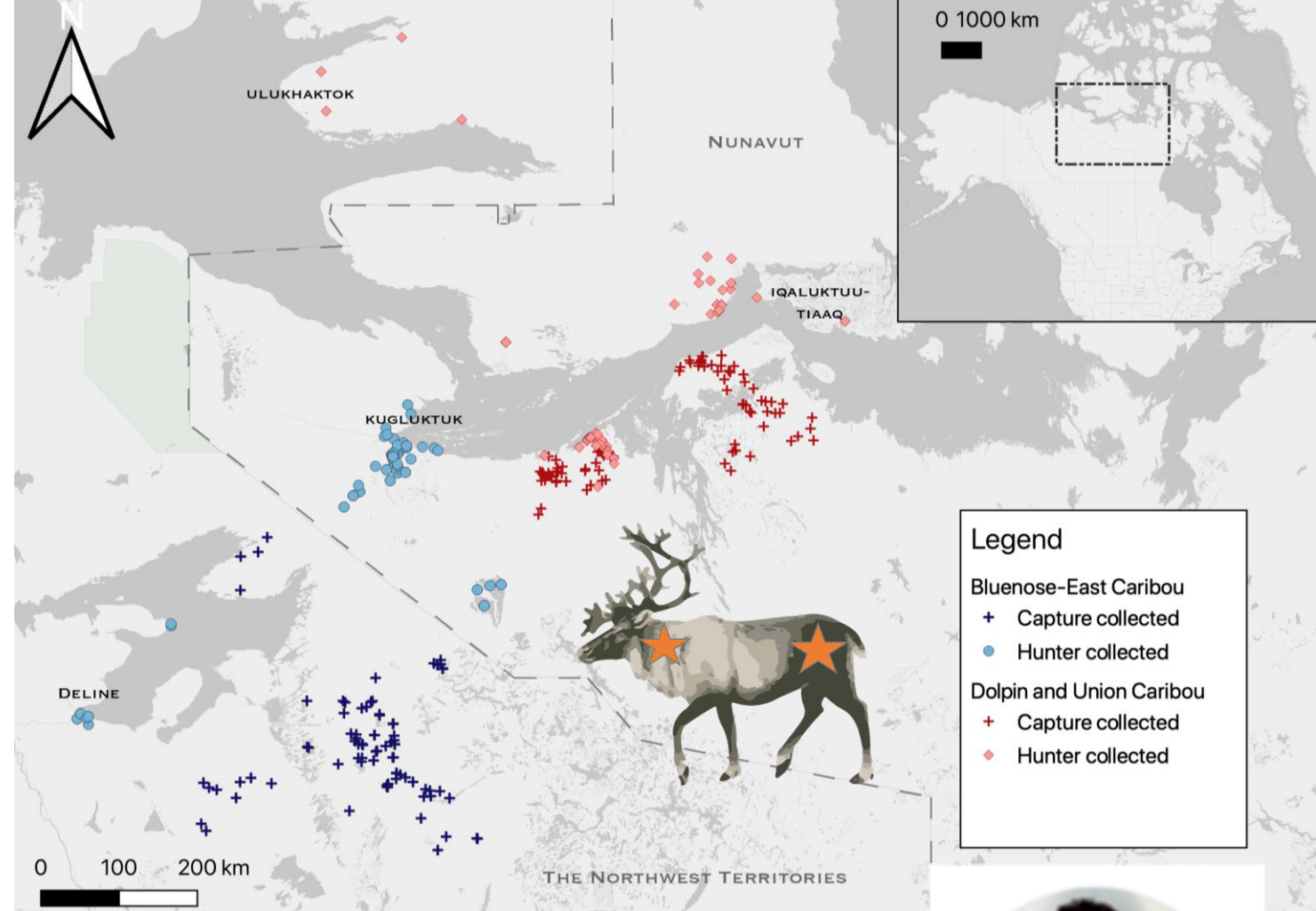


Are the Caribou stressed?

Filip has worked with **hair samples** to test if the caribou are stressed

He also tested –

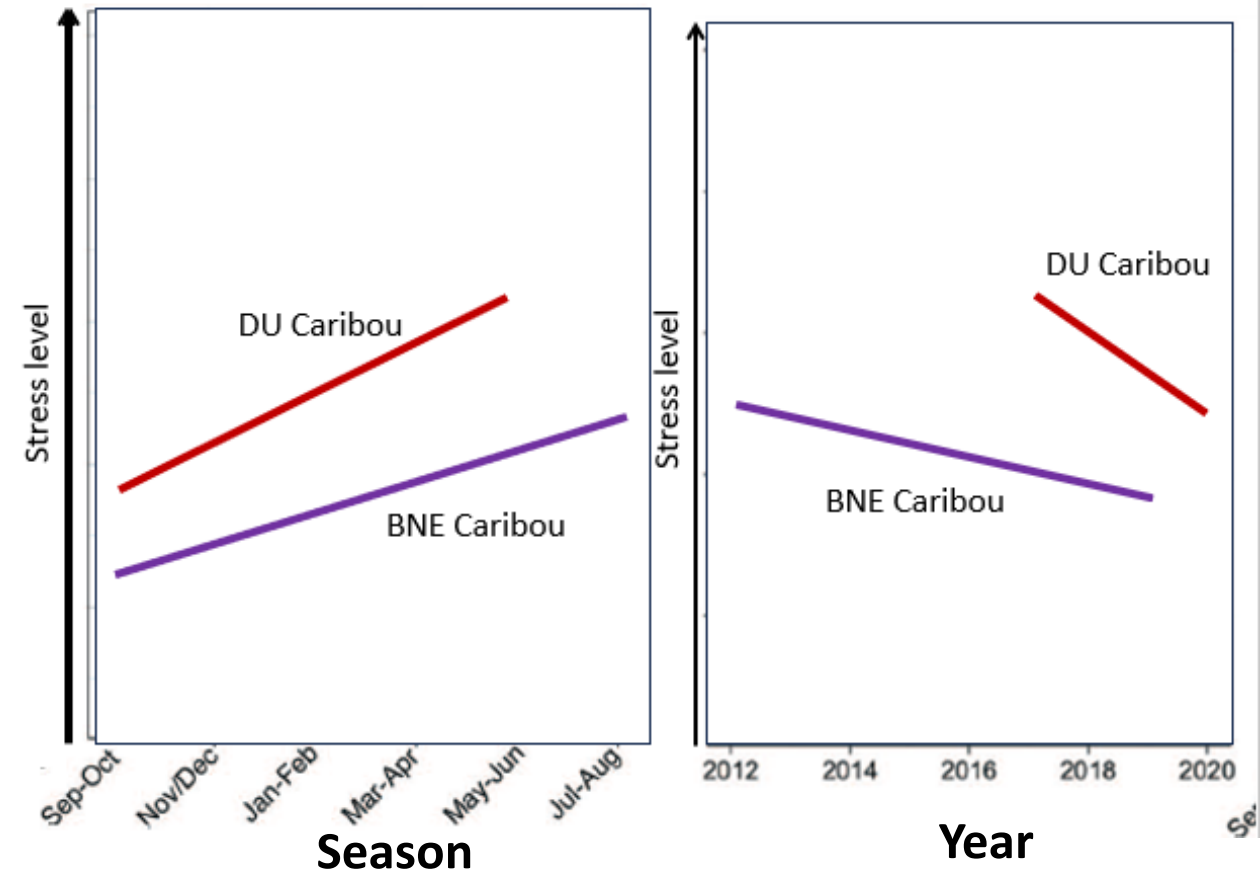
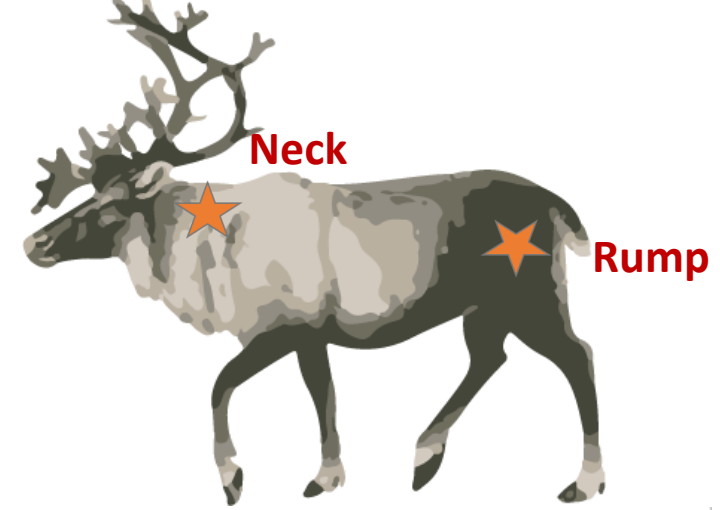
- Which hair samples are good (**neck/rump hair**) for testing the stress level?
- Any **season** when they are more stressed?
- How are stress conditions changing over the **years**?



Filip Rakic, MSc student

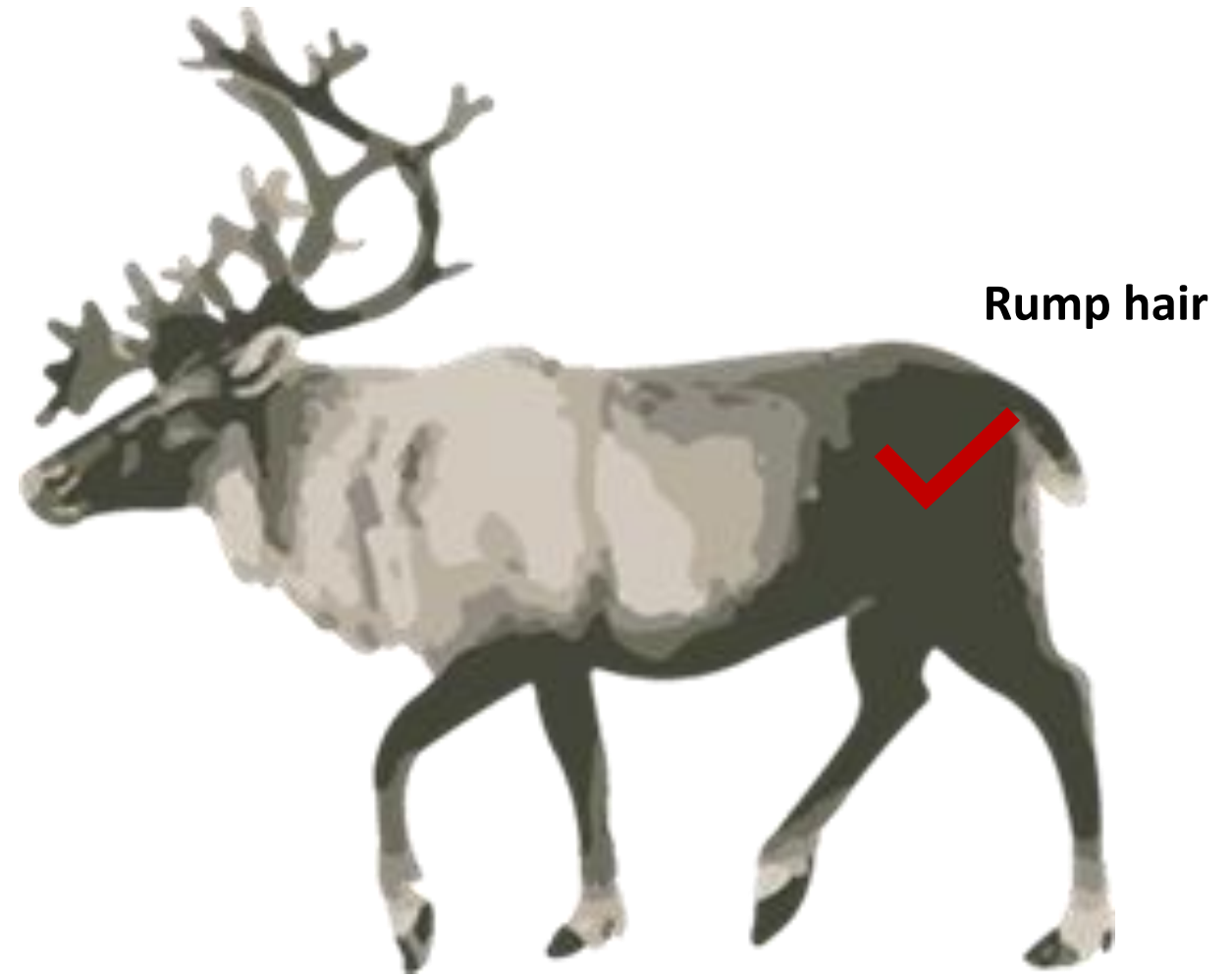
Research findings?

- Rump hair is **better** for identifying stress in caribou than neck hair
- Continue sampling rump hair
- **Male (higher)** \longleftrightarrow **Stress** \longleftrightarrow **female (lower)**
- More Stress in **Spring and summer** than in winter
- Stress in caribou has decreased over the years



Moving forward

- Using caribou hair is a simple way to monitor their health and stress levels
- **Long-term monitoring** tool to see how caribou are doing





New project

Community-defined and monitored indicators of recovery in Barren ground caribou.

Partners:



Components of the new project

- Communities have identified Bluenose East caribou as important to monitor to understand -
- **how are caribou doing?** What are their **health condition**, and **how they will be doing in the future?**

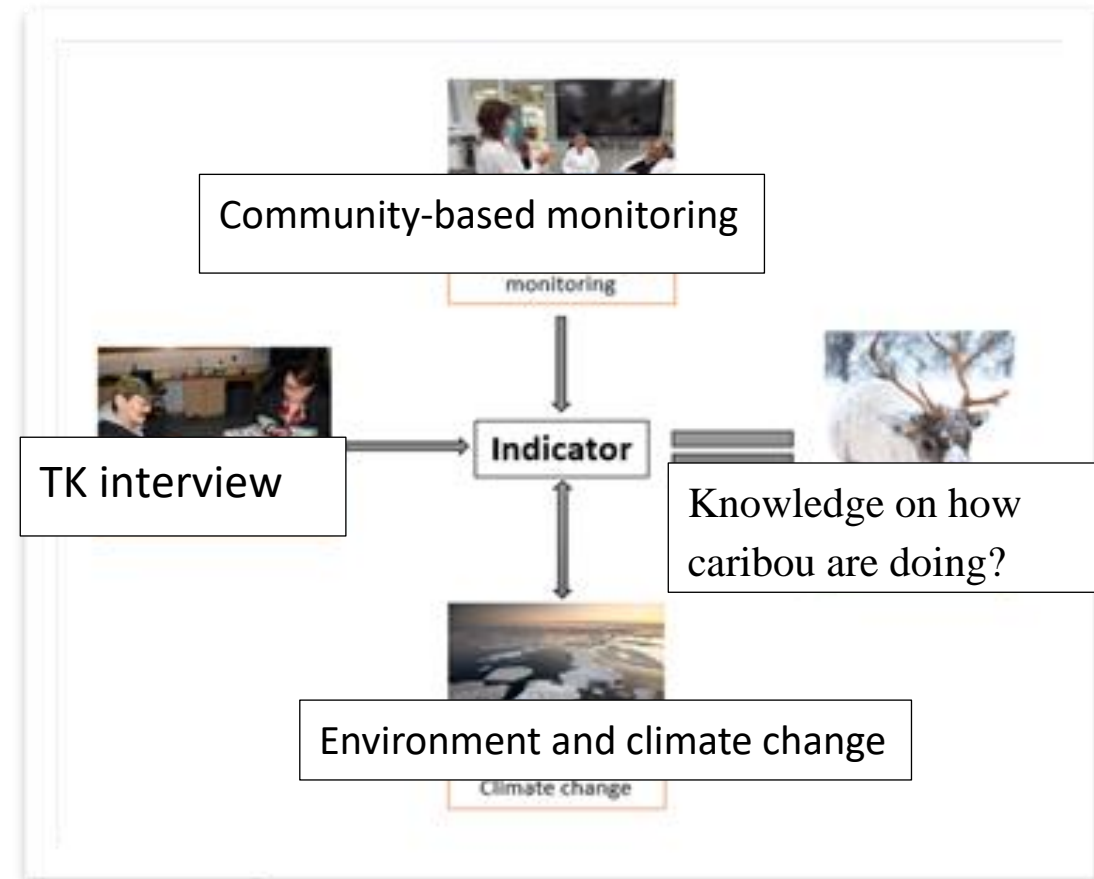
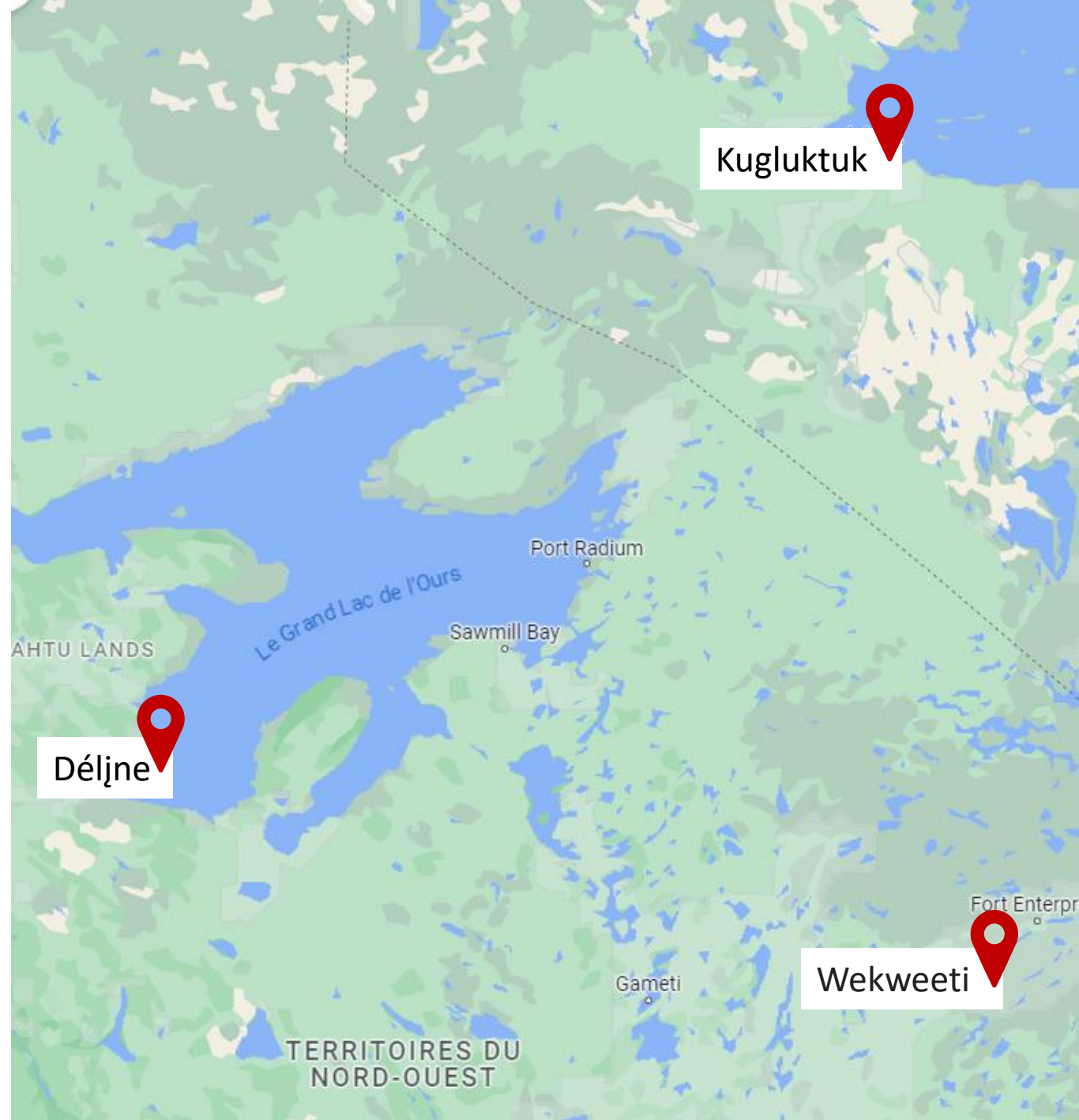


Figure: Components of the project

What is coming up?

- We will work together to monitor caribou health (both samples and traditional knowledge).
- **Workshop** - to introduce and train hunters on the redesigned kit.
- **Interviews** - about the historical trends for the Bluenose East caribou population.
- Harvester-based sampling.





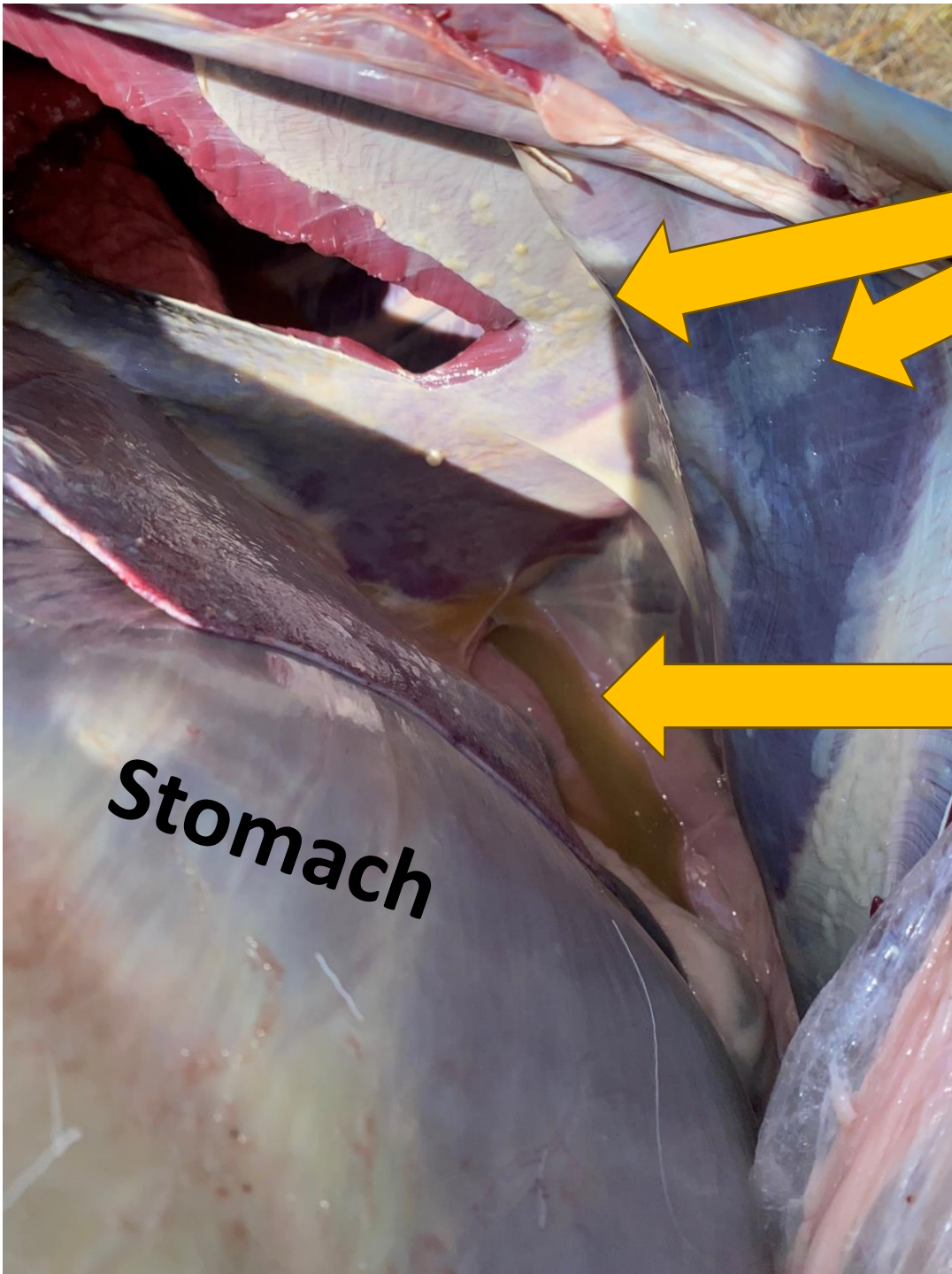
**Thank you so much for your
kind attention!**

Question and feedback?

Currently observed in Bluenose East caribou

- Several harvested caribou with abnormalities
- Healthy looking animals
- White-yellowish “stuff” sticking to ribcage, intestine, rumen, spleen etc...
- Liquid in chest or belly
- Also changes in muscle (bruising, yellow-green pussy stuff)

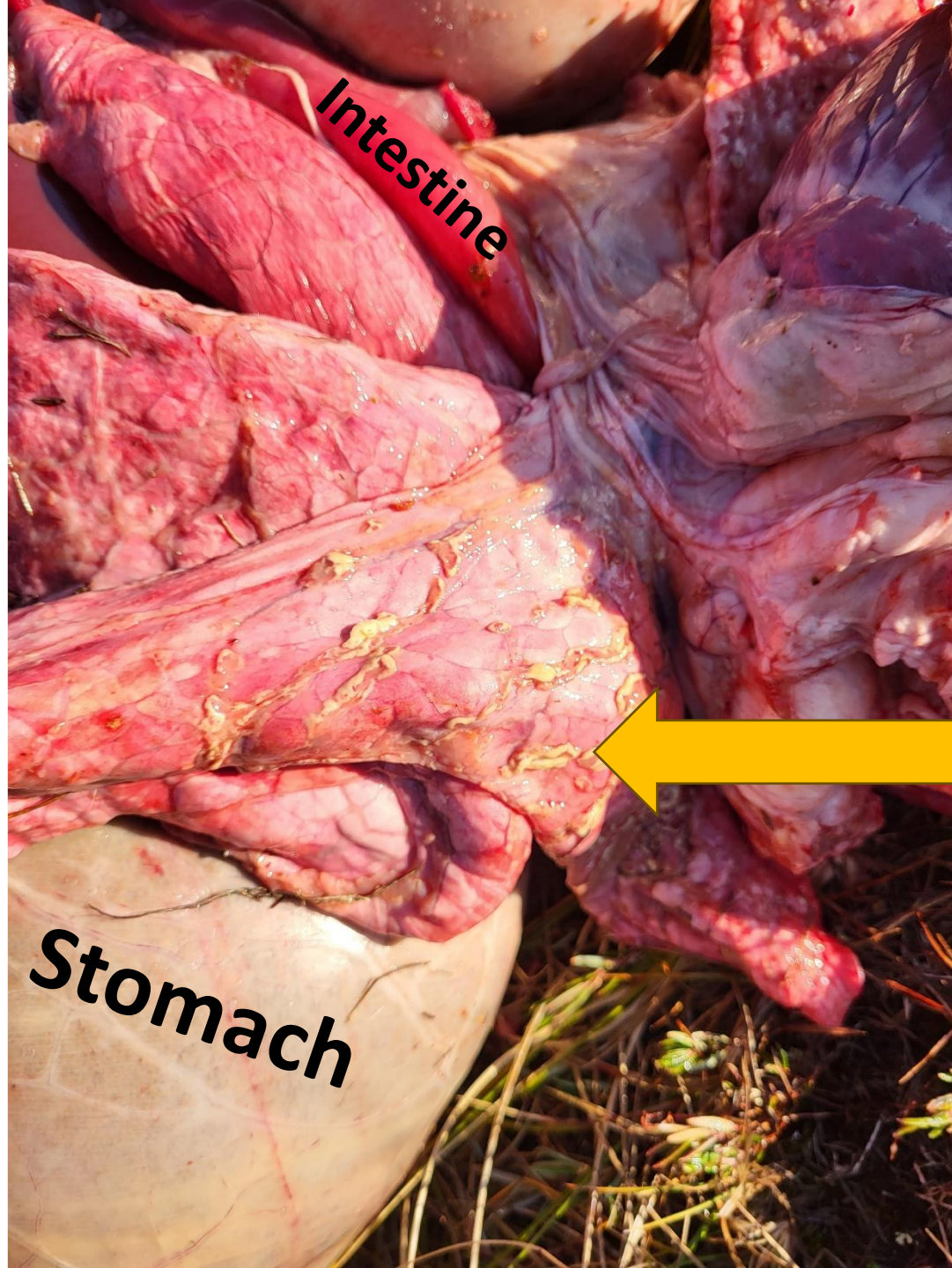




Stomach

White "stuff" sticking to diaphragm and walls of the abdomen

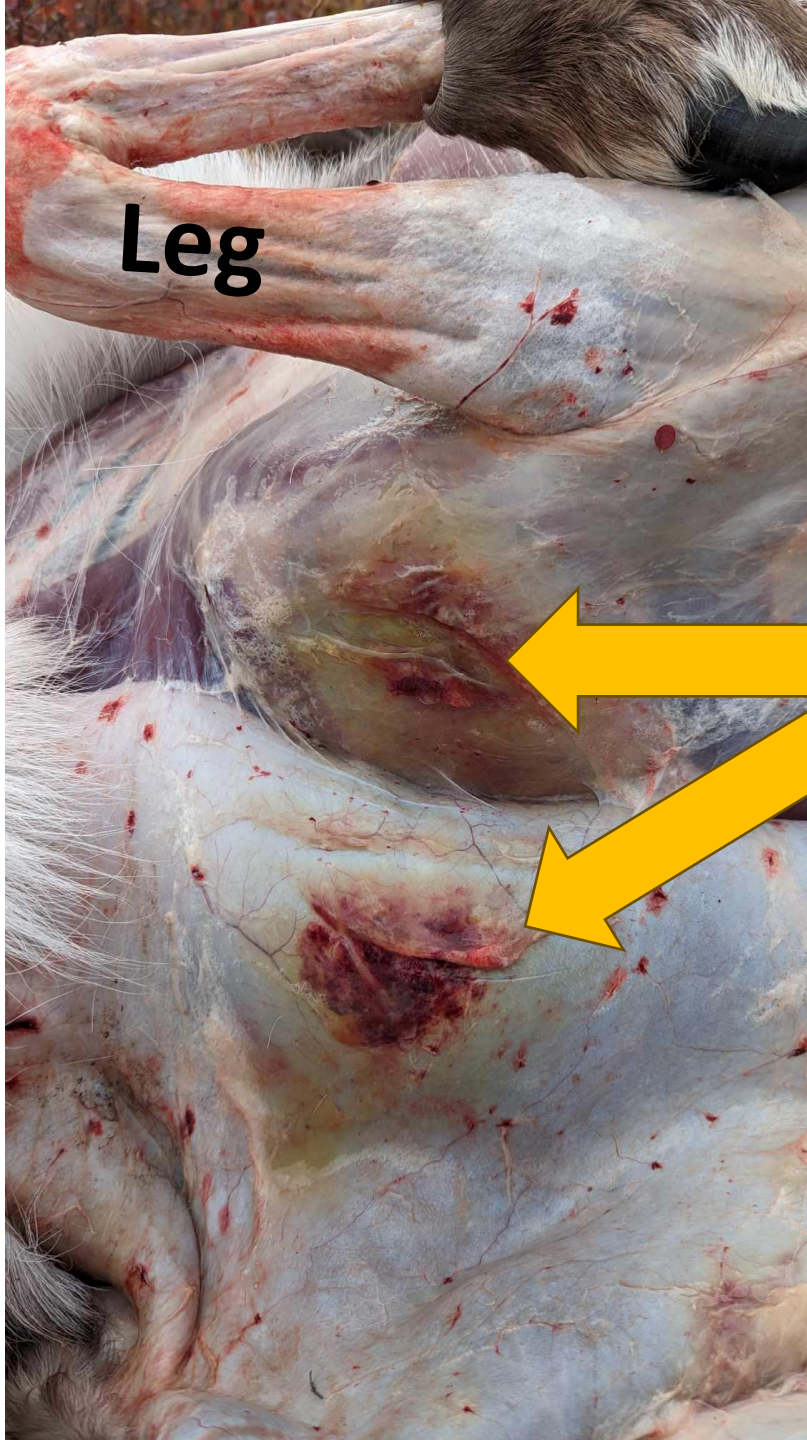
Liquid in Abdominal cavity



Intestine

Stomach

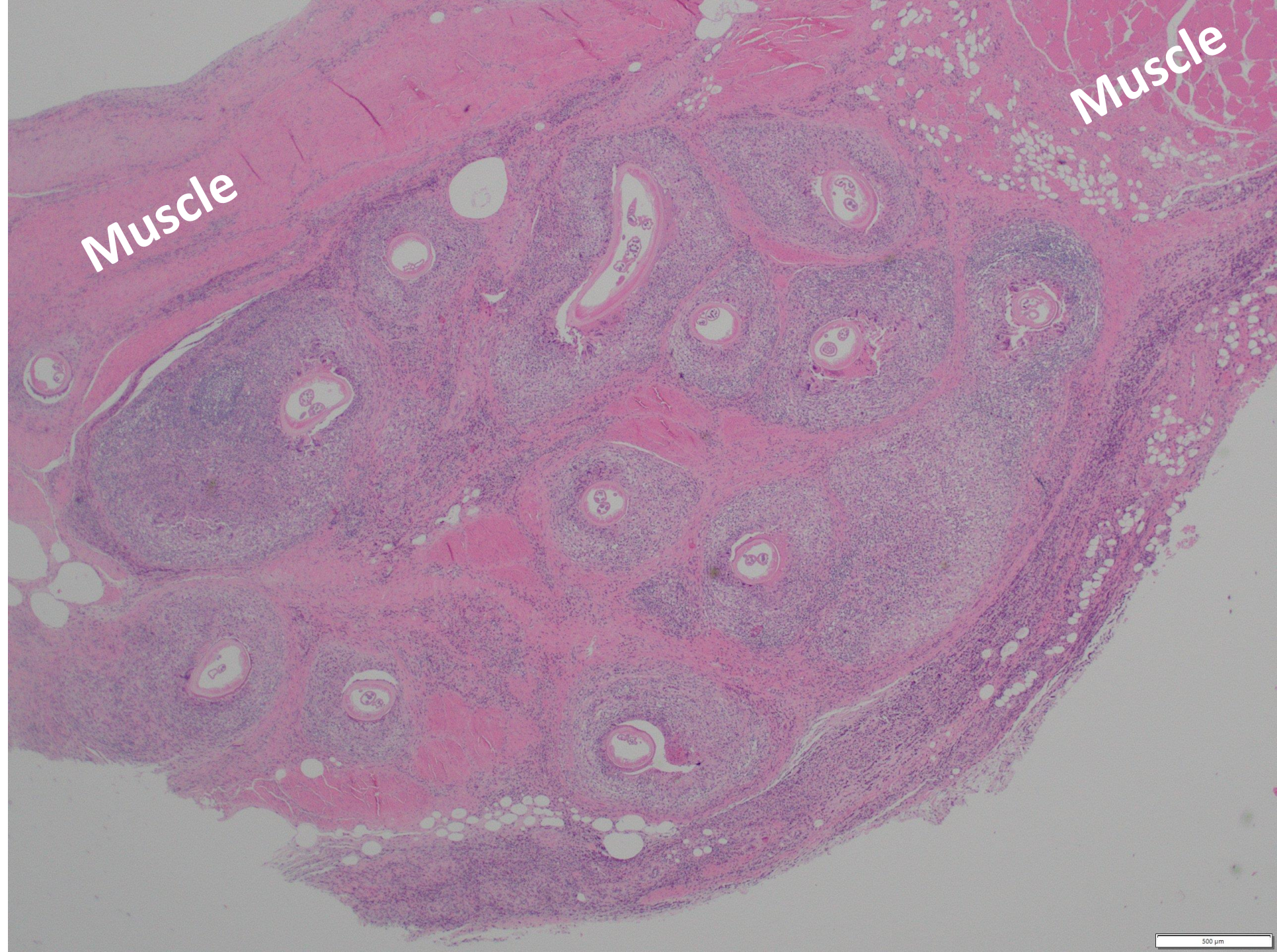
**Yellow "stuff"
sticking to the
membrane holding
the stomach and
intestines**



Leg

**Bruising and
yellowish
coloration of the
muscle and skin**

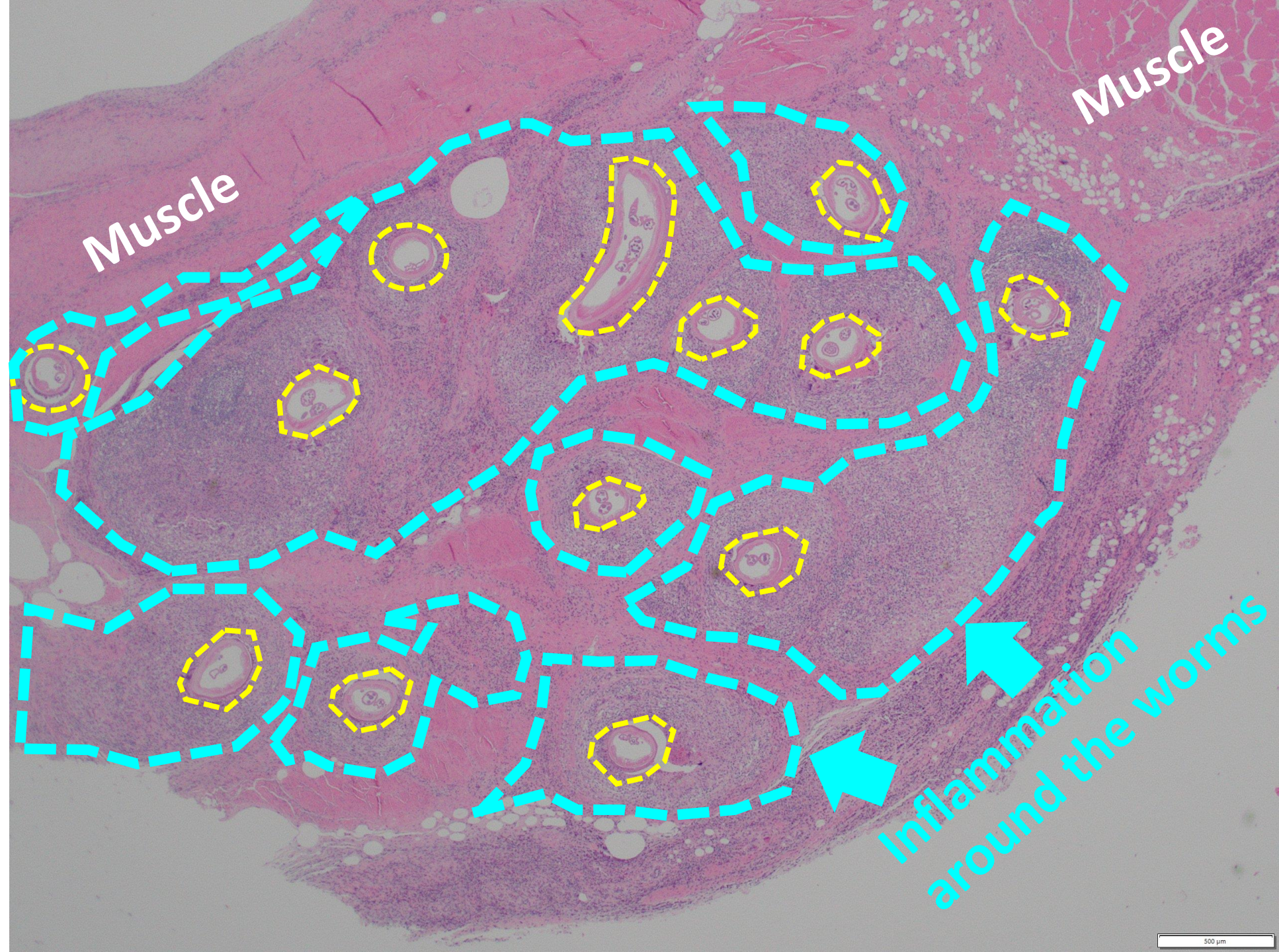
Muscle tissue
under the
microscope



Muscle
tissue
under the
microscope

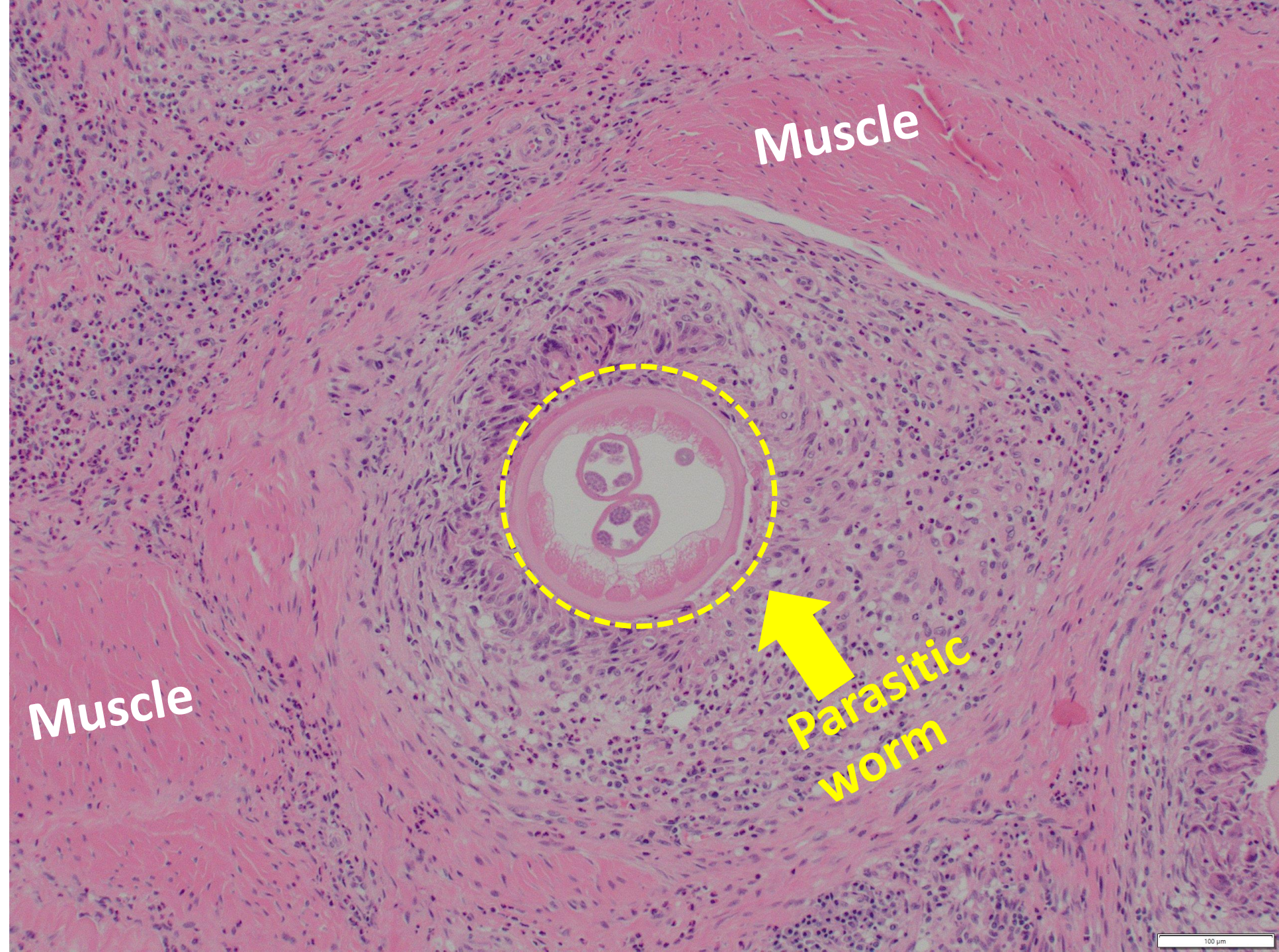


Muscle
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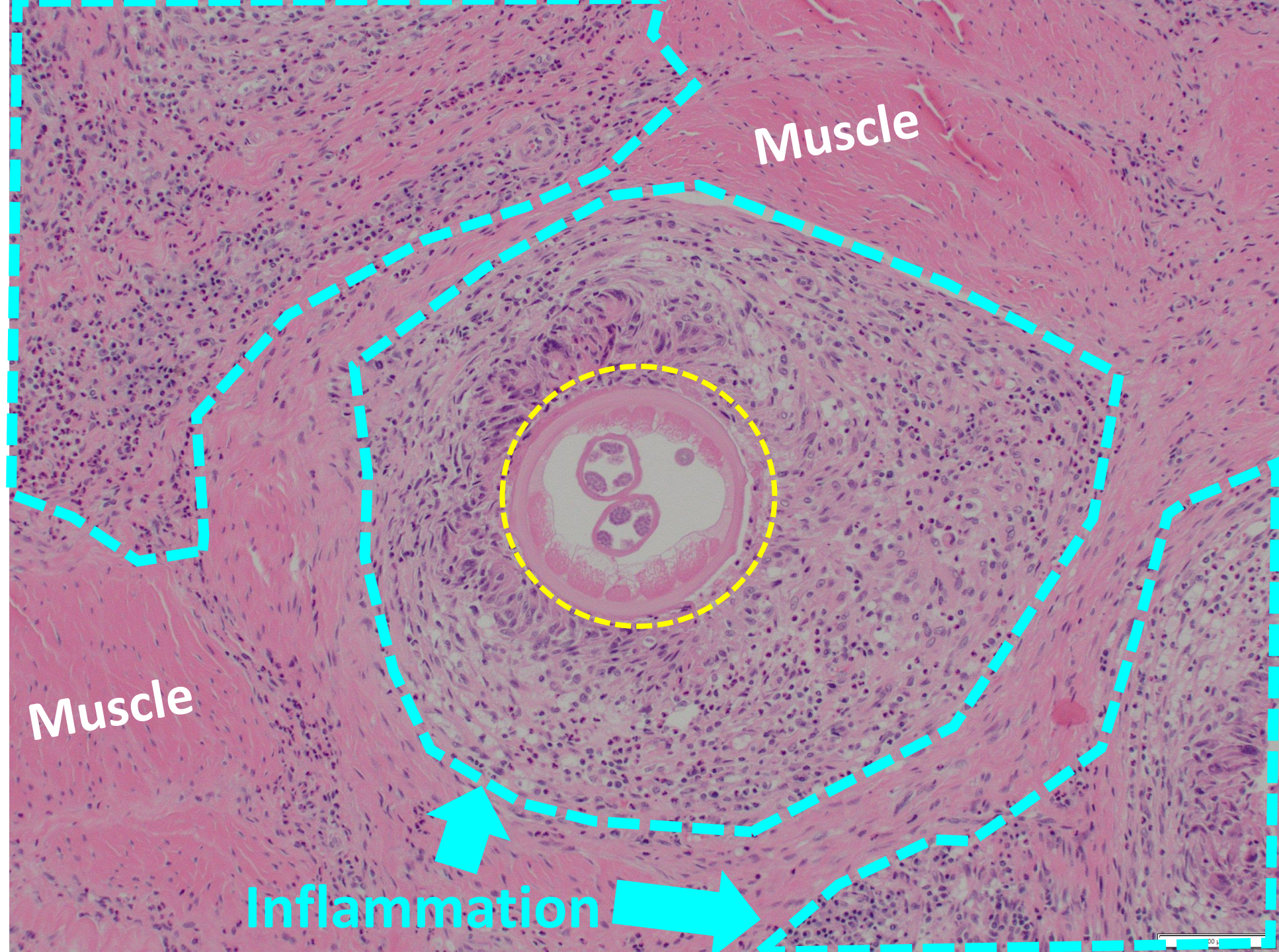
Muscle tissue
under the
microscope

Close-up of the
worm



Muscle tissue
under the
microscope

Close-up of the
worm





Some other Caribou cases

