

## **FileReport 105**

McLean, B. and P. Fraser. 1992. **Calving ground fidelity of the Bluenose caribou herd, 1986-1988.** 22 pp.

### **ABSTRACT**

The traditional calving ground of the Bluenose caribou herd is northwest of Bluenose Lake in an area encompassed by the Roscoe Brock and Hornaday rivers. To assess fidelity to traditional calving grounds, 46 radio-collared female caribou were relocated, during the calving period in three successive years, 1986 to 1988. Annual locations of individual caribou were plotted on a 1:250,000 topographical map and distances between locations in successive years were measured. Over the 3 year sampling period, the majority of collared females were located in the central part of the calving ground. Thirty percent were located between the Horton and Hornaday rivers, 39% were between the Hornaday and Brock rivers, and 20% between the Brock and Roscoe rivers. The remaining 11% were located to the west on the Bathurst peninsula or to the south. Two females were never found on the calving ground while 9 females were not relocated in 1 of 3 years. The average distance moved between annual locations was  $43.6 \pm 30.8$  km. Locations of 4 females differed by 90 km or more from their locations during previous calving ground surveys and they were considered to be unfaithful to their previous locations. Annual variation exists in specific locality and concentrations within the calving grounds and are thought to be the result of various factors (i.e., snow cover, the presence or absence of predators).