

FileReport 107

Ferguson, M.A.D. and D.S. Vincent. 1992. **Status of caribou on northern Melville Peninsula in June 1982.** 19 pp.

ABSTRACT

We conducted an aerial survey to determine the number and distribution of caribou on northern Melville Peninsula (north of 680° N), NWT during 6-15 June 1982. In two survey strata, 561 caribou (excluding calves) were counted within 1.2-km-wide strip-transects, with 154 counted outside the transects. The aerial survey sampled 19.5% of the strata where caribou were observed; and 8.5% of a stratum where no caribou were found. The population was estimated at 2871 caribou (excluding calves) with a 95% confidence interval of 1993 to 3749. Caribou were distributed principally along the western coast of the peninsula, and in the south-eastern quarter of the study area. Calves were observed south of Sarcpa Lake in the south central portion of the survey area; and south of Garry Bay, north along the west coast of Melville Peninsula.

Calving apparently started during or just before the survey period. Only 25 calves were counted with the 561 older caribou observed within the transect strips.