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ABSTRACT

We conducted a systematic strip transect survey in June 1986 to determine the extent to which muskoxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) had spread east and north on Adelaide Peninsula. The estimate in June 1986 was 213 ± 146 (S.E.) based on 44 muskoxen (excluding calves) counted on transect. The survey was repeated in June 1992 and the estimated population was 1165 ± 380 (S. E.) based on 233 muskoxen (excluding calves) counted on transect. Both surveys were imprecise with Coefficients of Variation of 59% and 33% in 1986 and 1992, respectively. The significant increase documents the continued return of muskoxen to their historic ranges. This "colonizing edge" should continue to be lightly harvested to encourage expansion of the muskoxen east of Chantrey Inlet.