



File Report 90

Gunn, A. and J. Ashevak. 1990. **Distribution, abundance and history of caribou and muskoxen north and south of the Boothia Isthmus, NWT, May-June 1985.** 34 pp.

ABSTRACT

We conducted a systematic strip transect survey for caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) over Boothia Peninsula and south of Spence Bay between Pelly Bay and Rae Strait, Northwest Territories. The estimate of $8,900 \pm 1,400$ (S.E.) was based on 1,353 caribou counted on transect between 31 May and 9 June, 1985. Boothia Peninsula had almost three times as many caribou as estimated in 1975. Caribou are reoccupying areas not used since possibly the 1940s. Caribou, most likely Peary caribou (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*), calved in the Wrottesley River valley and barren-ground caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*) calved on the lowlands east of Arrowsmith Bay. Any evaluation of the effects of the harvesting of caribou in the survey area is confounded because we cannot relate the hunted to the surveyed populations until seasonal movements of the caribou are known.