

Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers Association

Belcher Islands Reindeer Aerial Survey March 2021

Report



Lucassie Arragutainaq

Reindeer Ground Survey on Belcher Islands

March 2021

Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers Association of Sanikiluaq Nunavut conducted the reindeer aerial survey with the funding granted from Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

While initial plans involved bringing in Air Inuit from Quebec, the ongoing pandemic including cases in Kuujuarapik and information that pilots were occasionally visiting areas of Quebec including La Grande meant this needed to be reconsidered. Kenn Borek was hired from Iqaluit, where pilots remained within the Nunavut bubble, and to offset the increased cost of positioning, the Arctic Eider Society partnered with the HTA to share the positioning costs and conduct winter eider surveys for an additional day when the charter was in Sanikiluaq.

The survey team included Johnny Kavik, Puasi Ippak, Charlie Takatak and Moses Appaqaq as observers, Joel Heath as photographer, and Mick Appaqaq as a note taker.

The objective was to find out how many animals there were since the last ground survey in 2015. Our hunters were concern about the population of reindeer since a lot of them have been harvester since 2015. Additionally, hunters have seen wolf tracks, causing concern. In the past we have done ground surveys however the HTA wanted to do an aerial survey this time to provide better coverage in a shorter period of time. We hoped to do this survey earlier in March 2020 following reports from hunters, but it was not possible given COVID19 restrictions and a lack of funding. This delay was unfortunate as a lot of hunting likely happened in 2020 when there was not adequate information to inform the community and obtain their support for an earlier closure of the reindeer hunt.

Background:

In 1978, 60 animals were transplanted to Belcher Islands from the Mackenzie Delta herd by Department of Renewable Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories

The first aerial and ground survey were conducted in 1982, aerial and ground survey 1989 again in 1990, ground survey 2003 and 2009, 2012, 2015 and aerial survey 2021 the results are noted at the end of the report.

Since 2000, the Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers has been conducting community hunts, for community feast, Christmas, Easter, Hamlet Day or any other special occasions, yet some hunters hunt the animals throughout the year. From 2003 ground survey the Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers did not make any decision how they wanted to handle the herd, except to do community hunts only and only males will be harvest during the community hunt. Since the population of the herd was the lowest in 2003 survey since first survey in 1982.

Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers Association board of Directors made a motion in January 2012 that one household will be able to harvest one animal for the month of January and February and the hunters will have to report to the Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers office how many they harvest and to which household they harvest to.

For the summer months the harvest will also be 1 animal for each household and do the same reporting to SHTA office for the month of July and August.

But this idea did not work out, where the hunters did not report their harvest.

The method of the survey was a bit different from the aerial survey from 1982 and 1989 flight routes west to east due to time constraint. Where the route was north and south route in 2021

Note: The following six pages are Appendix One to Six.

Appendix 1 Flight Route

We started off the flight from Sanikiluaq down Kugong Island traveling north and south, a brief detour was taken to check polynyas for eiders at west of Kugong Islands, same goes at west side of Upingavialuk, south Belchers and east of Tukarak Islands, the remaining tracks covered the islands for the reindeer survey. Flight level were 2100ft most of the time, but when cloud area drops down to 1500ft. Speed was consistent at 140 knots, and as there was little wind, ground speed did not vary much.

Appendix 2 – Herd Location Map

Appendix 3 – Herd One, Picture Included

Herd One were the bit north of Kugong Island location: 56° 53' 34.8" N 79° 35' 43.0" W count was 222 animals possible 225

But we used 222 animals.

Appendix 4 – Herd Two, Picture Included

Herd Two were just a bit south east of south camp location: 55° 53' 38.9" N – 79° 37' 19.8" W counted 25 animals.

From there we had to back to Sanikiluaq for fuel.

Appendix 5 – Herd Three – Picture Included

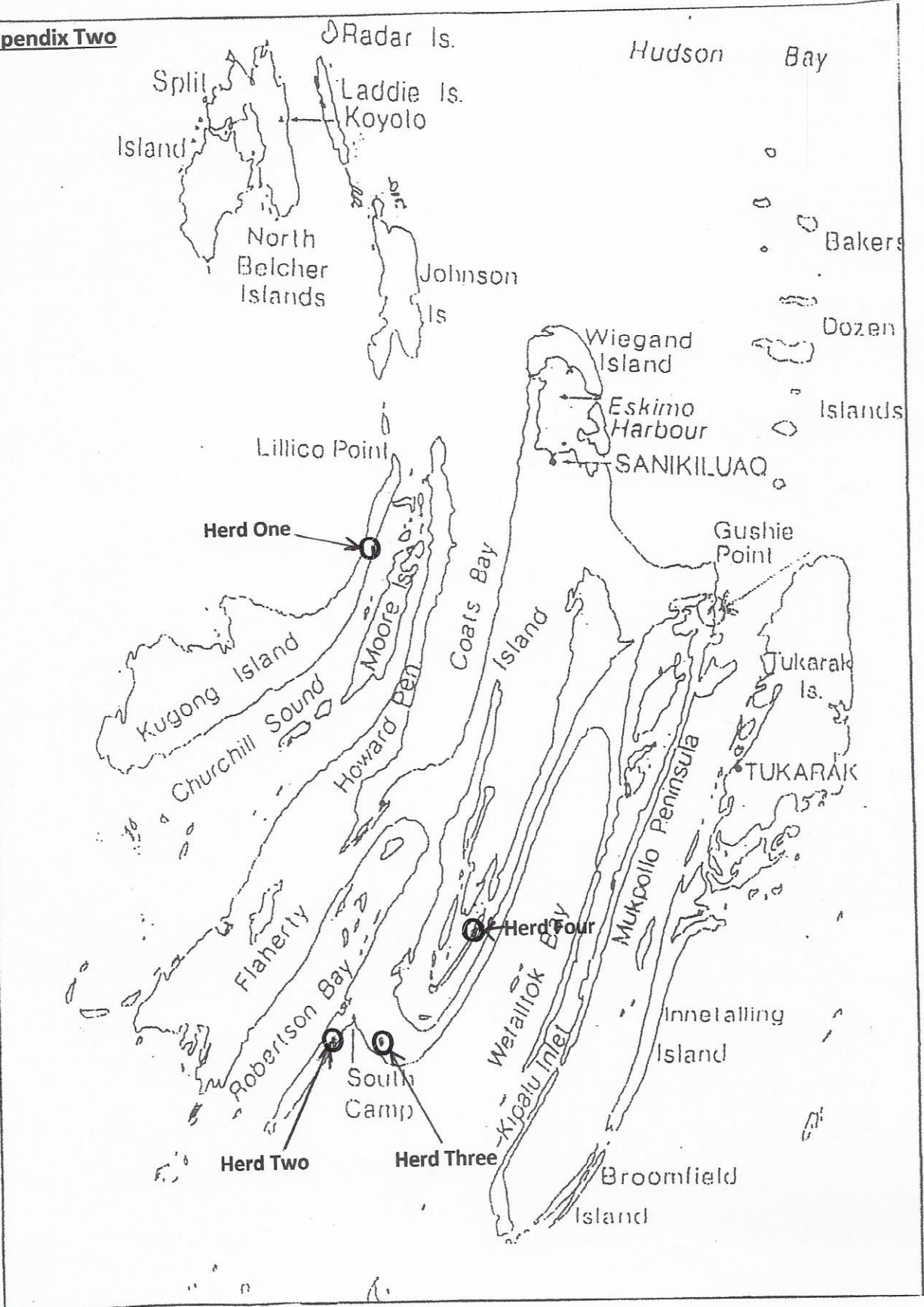
Herd Three, after returning from Sanikiluaq start again where we left off. At 55° 52' 6.1" N 79° 34' 21" W counted 22-25 animals; they are likely to be the same herd in Appendix 2

Therefore, we did not used Herd Three numbers as part of survey numbers.

Appendix One



Appendix Two



Appendix Three



Appendix Four



Appendix Five



Appendix Six



Appendix 6 – Herd Four – Pictures Included

Herd Three were north east of south camp located: 55; 58 25.2" W 79' 22 58.5" W counted **34** animals.

Total count were **281** animals, not including Herd 3

AERIAL AND GROUND SURVEY RESULTS WITHIN 8 YEARS

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Total</u>
1982	222
1989	462
1990	539
2003	250
2009	665
2012	1179
2015	1003
2021	281

Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers Association board of Directors made a motion on March 3, 2021, to discontinue the reindeer harvest until further notice and plan to meet with hunters on March 24.

Public Meeting Motion March 25, 2021

The community of Sanikiluaq will discontinue harvesting reindeer effective March 25, 2021 for 3 to 5 years after aerial survey of 281 animals, during these times the hunters will keep monitoring the population of the reindeer and report to Sanikiluaq HTA their finding, and if the reindeer seems be healthy during those times, the Sanikiluaq HTA will meet with hunters again, find out what they want to do.

During these times Sanikiluaq HTA will consider on special occasions like Christmas, Easter the Sanikiluaq HTA will harvest or explore on how to order from near by communities, Nunavik or Nunavut for a caribou meat for community feast.

For the year 2023 – 24 the Sanikiluaq HTA will apply for funding from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to do either aerial or ground survey.

The Sanikiluaq HTA will keep the reminding the hunters of discontinuation of the harvest time and time again to public and by public notices.

Moved By: Johnny Kudluarok

Seconded by: Isaac Takatak

All in favor

Source of Funds

NWMB Contribution **\$27,200.00**

Expenditures

Arctic Eider portion of Charter \$25,000.00

Observers 1,200.00

Report 1,000.00

Total Expenditures **\$27,200.00**

Net **.00**

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 joelheath@arcticeider.com
 www.arcticeider.com



INVOICE

BILL TO
 Sanikiluaq Hunters and
 Trappers Association
 House 408B No 174
 Sanikiluaq, NU
 X0A 0W0

INVOICE # 1794
DATE 15/03/2021
DUE DATE 14/04/2021
TERMS Net 30

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
04/03/2021	Services	Portion of Kenn Borek Twin Otter Charter for Reindeer survey March 2-4 and positioning from Iqaluit (full invoice attached, remainder paid by Arctic Eider Society)	1	25,000.00	25,000.00

For information on all registered charities in Canada under the Income Tax Act please visit: Canada Revenue Agency
www.cra.gc.ca/charities

SUBTOTAL	25,000.00
TOTAL	25,000.00
BALANCE DUE	\$25,000.00

Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers

Reindeer Aerial Survey

March 3, 2021

Full Day reindeer aerial survey

Total \$250.00



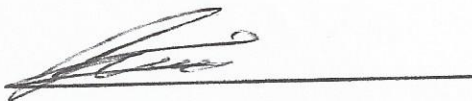
Charlie Takatak

**Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers
Reindeer Aerial Survey**

March 3, 2021

Full Day reindeer aerial survey

Total \$250.00



Puasi Ippak

U. Ippak

**Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers
Reindeer Aerial Survey**

March 3, 2021

Full Day reindeer aerial survey

Total \$250.00

JK 6A

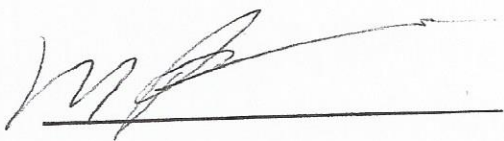
Johnny Kavik

**Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers
Reindeer Aerial Survey**

March 3, 2021

Full Day reindeer aerial survey

Total \$250.00

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Appaqaq', written over a horizontal line.

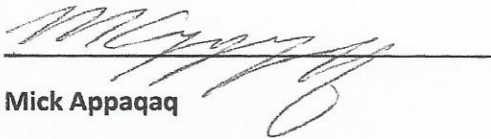
Moses Appaqaq

**Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers
Reindeer Aerial Survey**

Marc 3, 2021

Full Day reindeer aerial survey and note taker

Total \$200.00


Mick Appaqaq

Lucassie Arragutainaq

Sanikiluaq. Nunavut

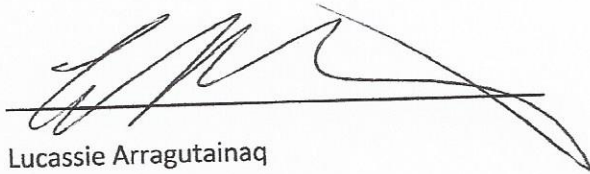
INVOICE – # 032103

March 25, 2021

Sanikiluaq Nunavut

Production of the reindeer Aerial survey report

Total: \$1,000.00



Lucassie Arragutainaq