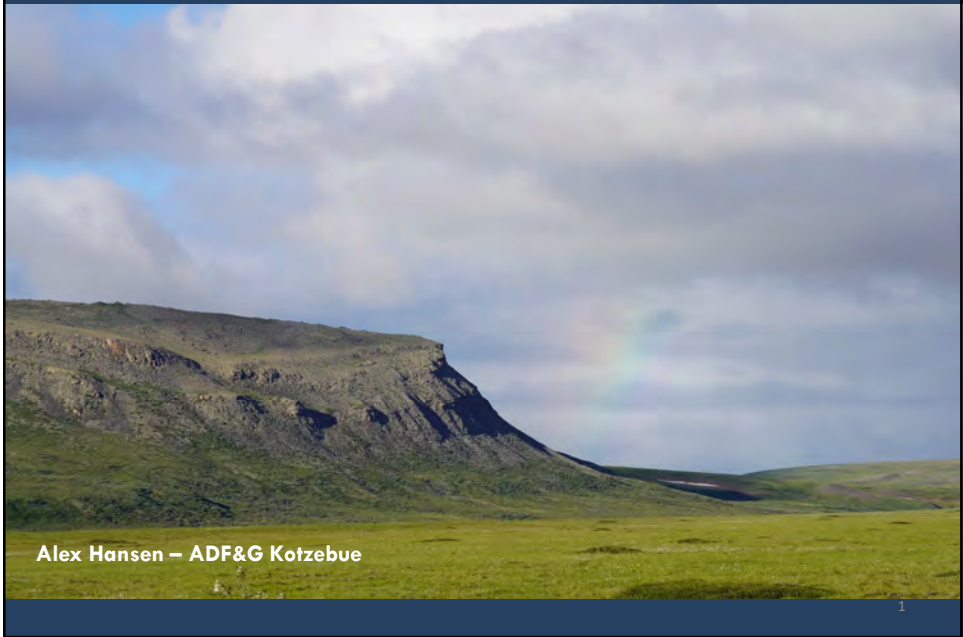
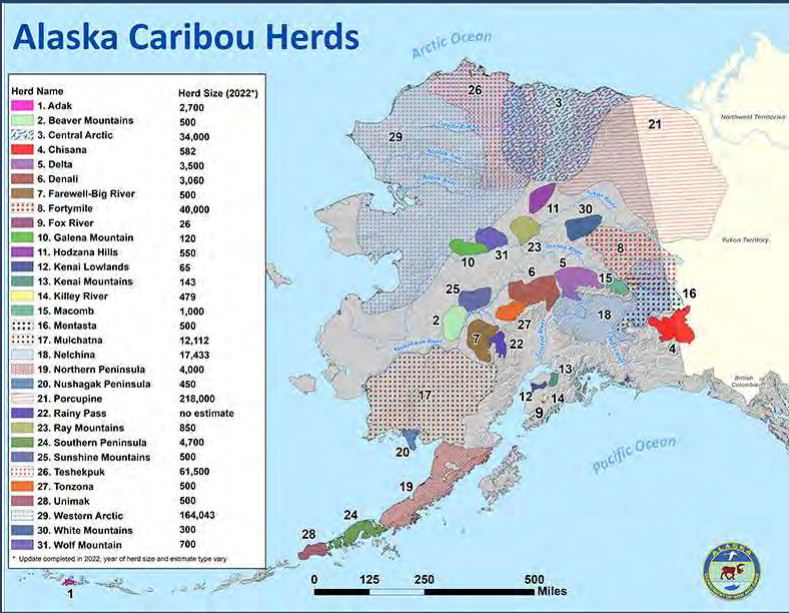


WAH Caribou Overview



1

Caribou Herds of Alaska




2

WAH Abundance

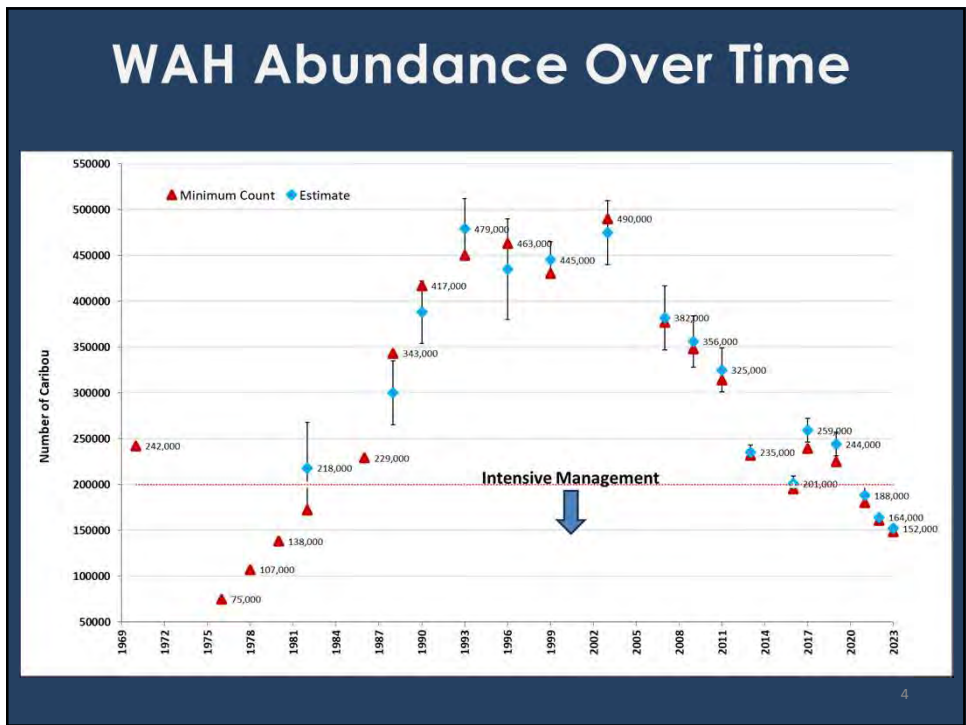
2023 Photocensus Results

- Rivest Estimate: **152,296**
- +/- 6,852 (95% CI)
 - Minimum Count: 148,552

- 2022 – 164,000
- 2021 – 188,000
- 2020 – no census
- 2019 – 244,000
- 2018 – no census
- 2017 – 259,000



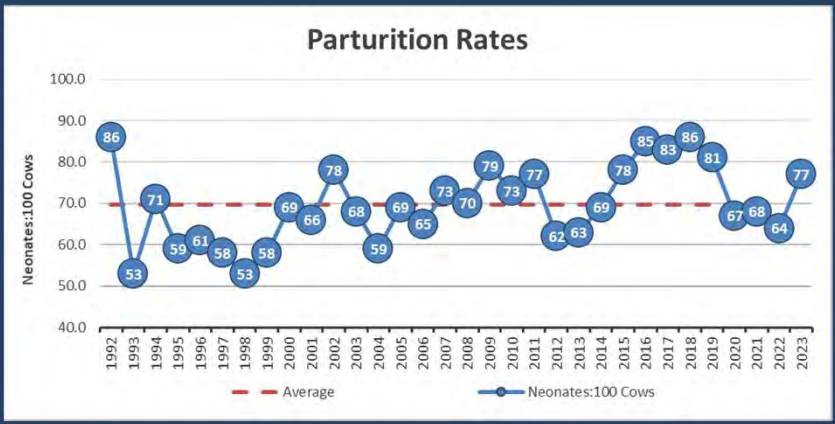
3



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Calving

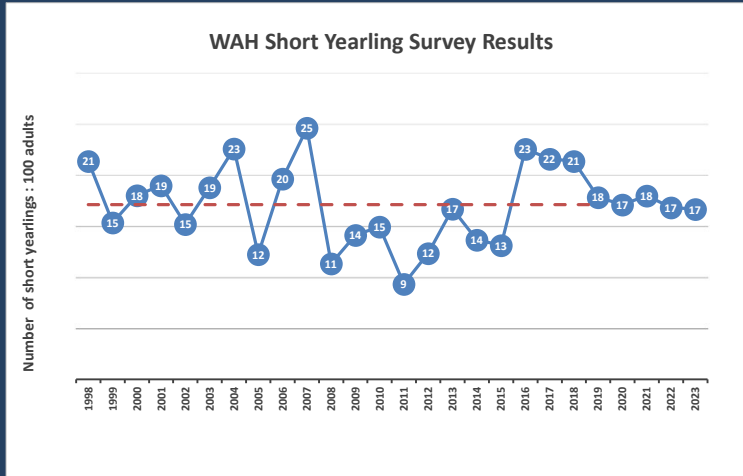
- Parturition - 77% (2023)
- Long-term average (70%)



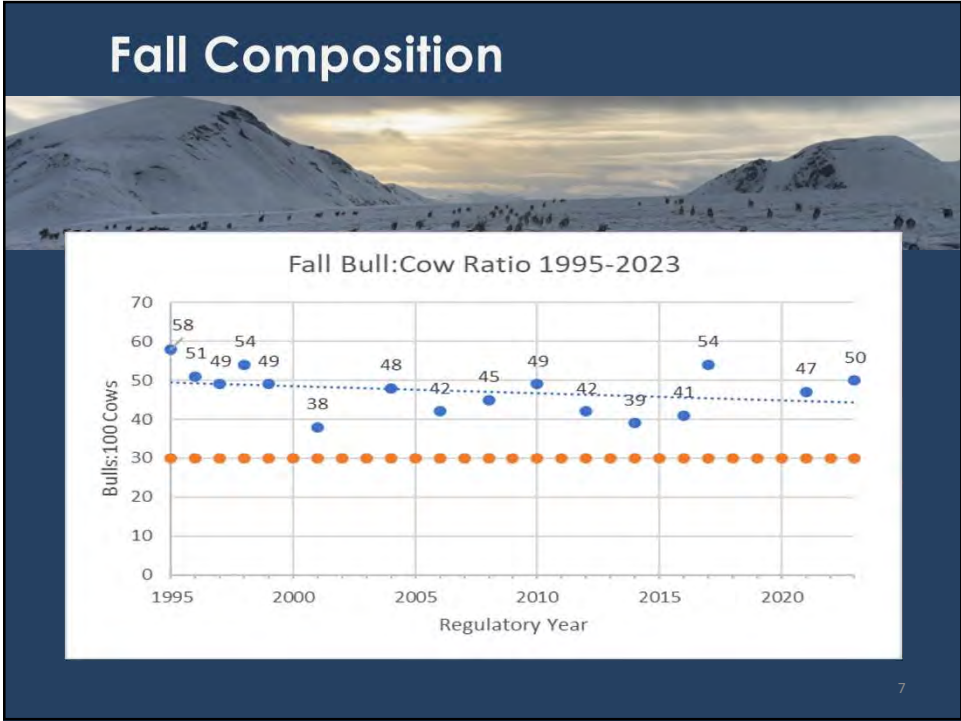
5

Recruitment

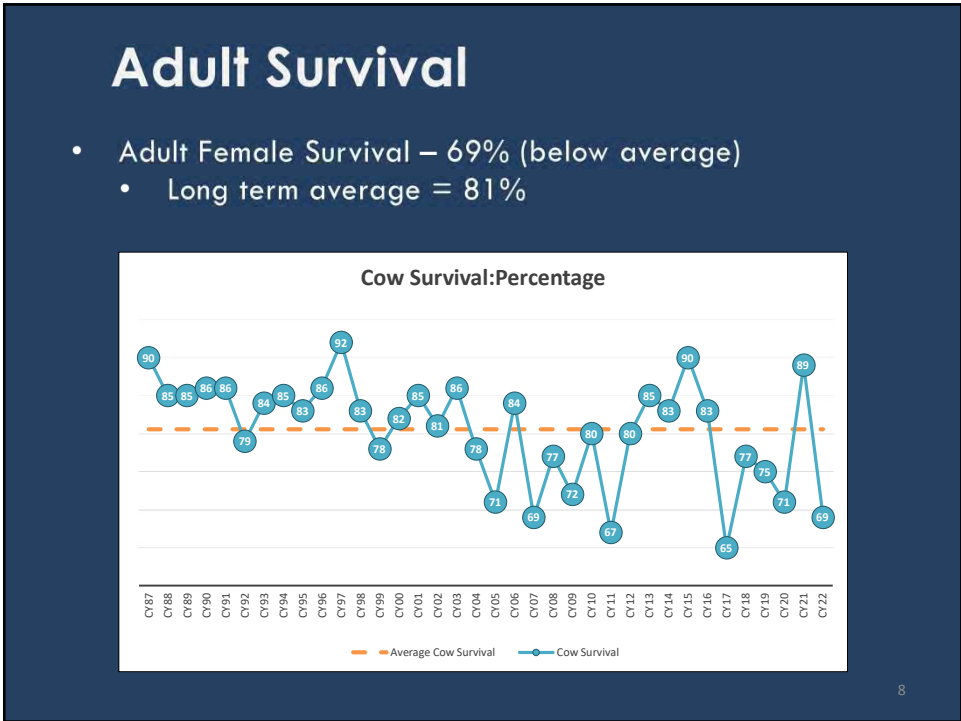
- Short Yearling Recruitment = 17:100 adults (average)
- Long term average = 17



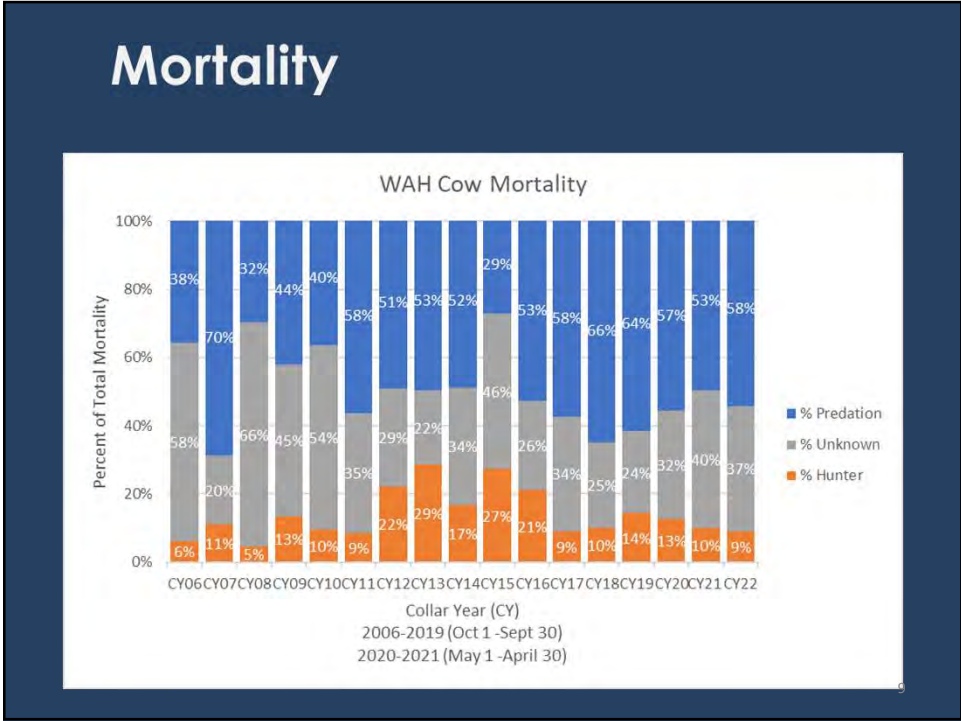
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Mortality

- Mortality by cause (field visits of collars 2006-2022)
 - Predation **51%**
 - Other **32%**
 - Hunter harvest **17%**




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Recommended Harvest

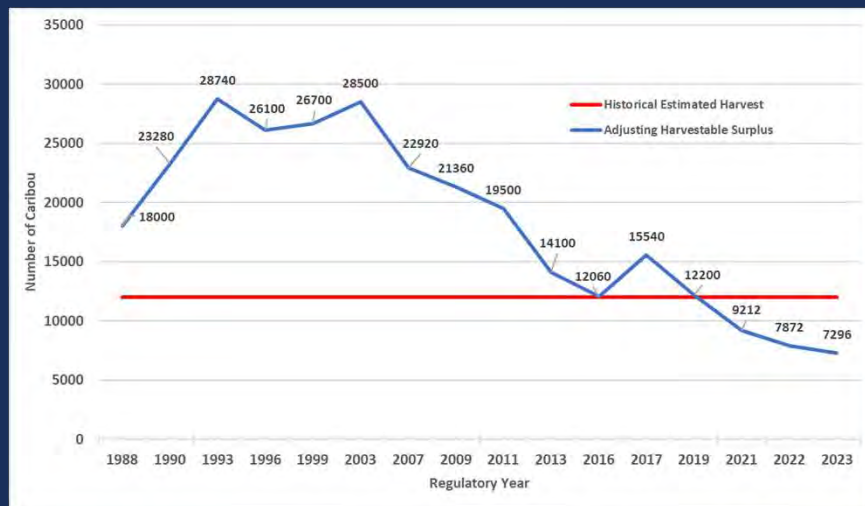
Management Level	Population Trend		
	Declining Adult Cow Survival <80% Calf Recruitment <15:100	Stable Adult Cow Survival 80%-88% Calf Recruitment 15-22:100	Increasing Adult Cow Survival >88% Calf Recruitment >22:100
Liberal	Pop: 265,000+ Harvest: 14,000+	Pop: 230,000+ Harvest: 14,000+	Pop: 200,000+ Harvest: 14,000+
Conservative	Pop: 200,000-265,000 Harvest: 10,000-14,000	Pop: 170,000-230,000 Harvest: 10,000-14,000	Pop: 150,000-200,000 Harvest: 10,000-14,000
Preservative	Pop: 130,000-200,000 Harvest: 6,000-10,000	Pop: 115,000-170,000 Harvest: 6,000-10,000	Pop: 100,000-150,000 Harvest: 6,000-10,000
Critical	Pop: <130,000 Harvest: <6,000	Pop: <115,000 Harvest: <6,000	Pop: <100,000 Harvest: <6,000

- Recommended harvest rate at the preservative declining level
 - ~ 4.6% at 130,000
 - ~ 5% at 200,000
- 4.8% harvest of 152,000 combination of bulls/cows/calves
- At 152,000 treating calves as adults, the plan recommends a harvest of up to... 7,296 total caribou
- What about harvest ratios?
 - Historically GMU 23 harvest has been approximately 70% bulls and 30% cows

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Harvestable Surplus

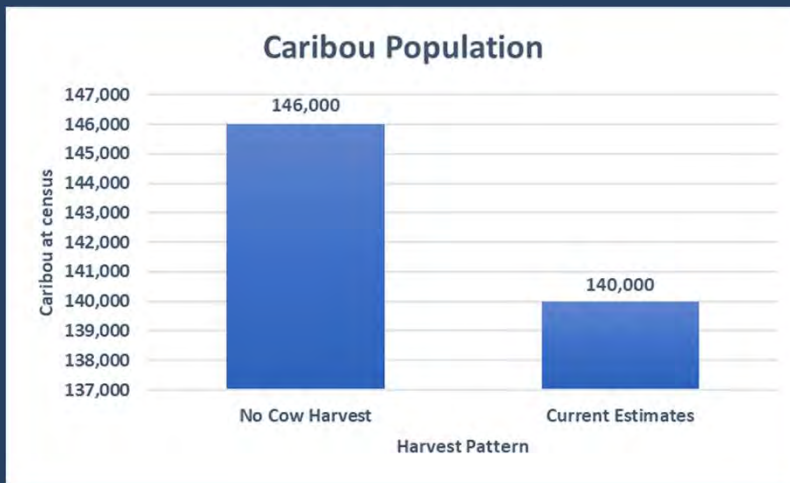


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Harvest Strategies

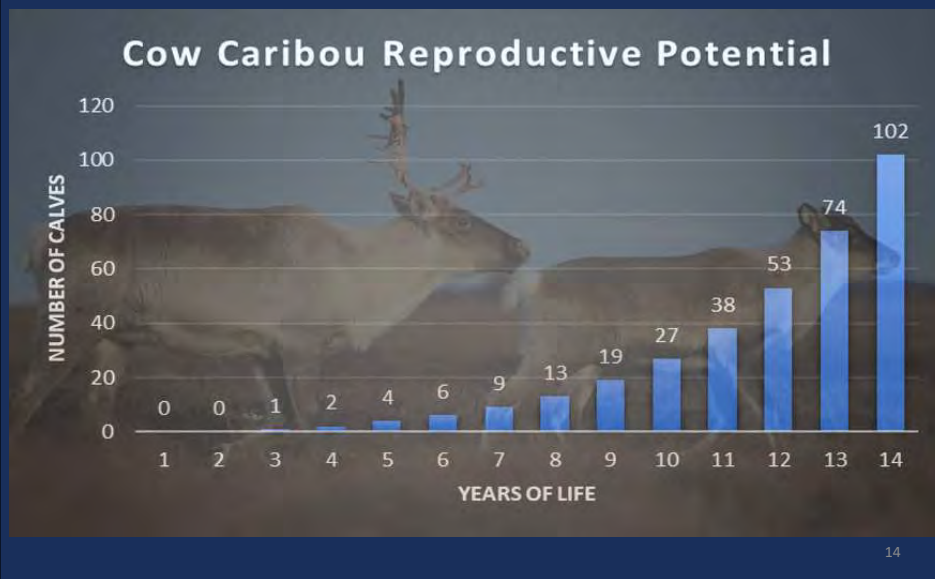
- Harvest rates are likely closer to...60% bulls and 40% cows.
- What are the implications of cow harvest at this level?
- Suggests harvestable surplus for cows is 1% or less.



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Why cows matter

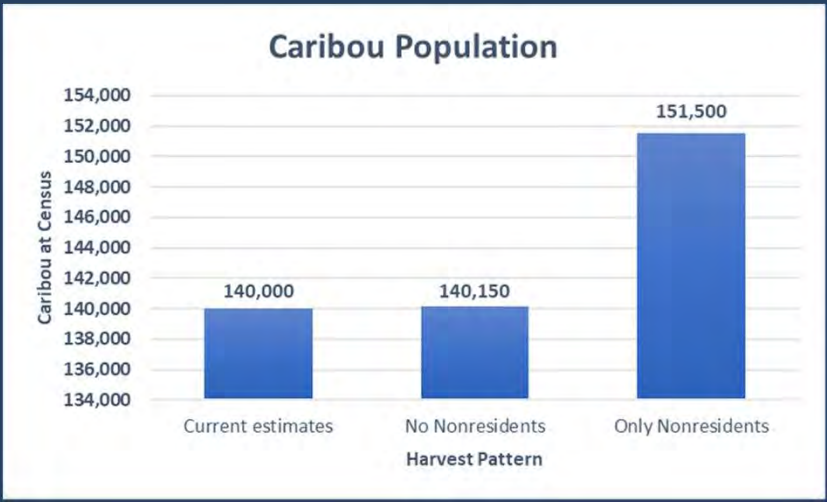


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Harvest Strategies

- What about harvest nonresident harvest?

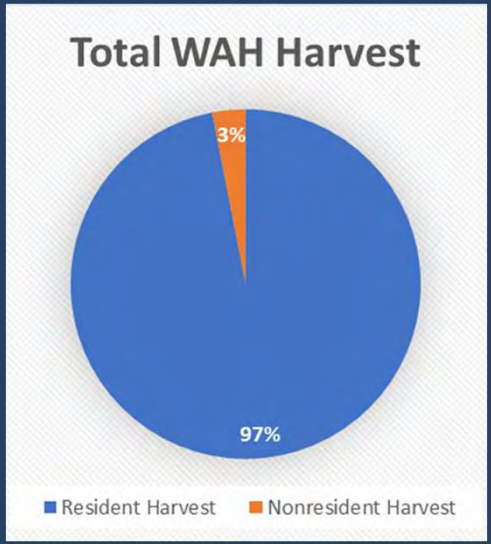


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Harvest Strategies

- What about harvest nonresident harvest?



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Management Actions

Net reduction of harvest is necessary

- Cow harvest – highest priority (little to no surplus)
- Bull harvest – maintain healthy bull:cow

Get accurate harvest data

- Through permits
- Other tools as needed

Increase understanding of mortality causes

- Predation
- Disease

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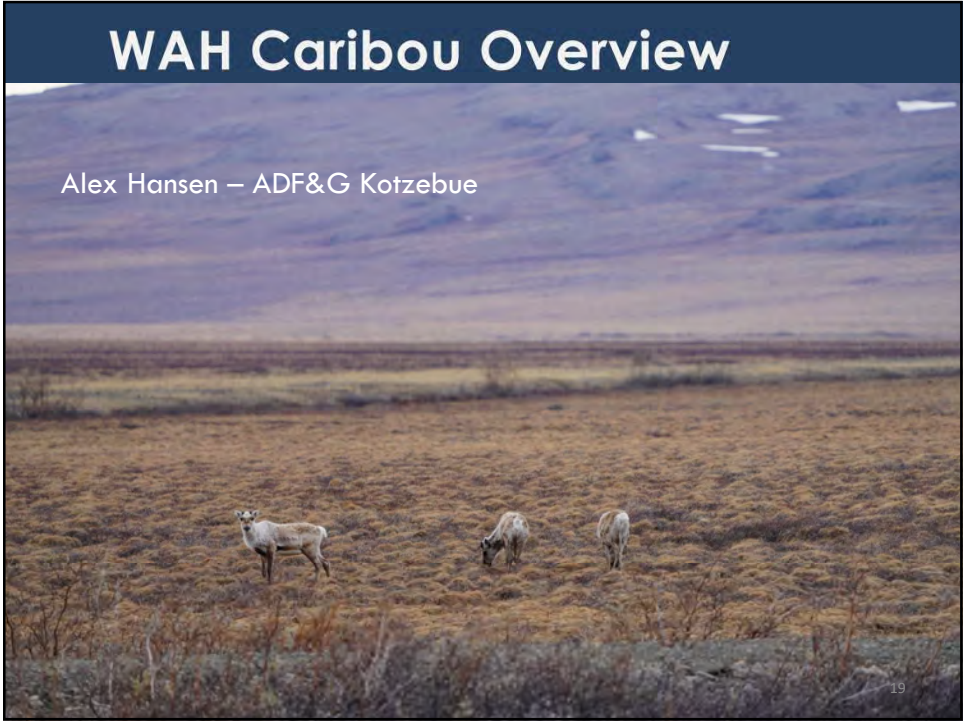
Summary

Biological Concerns:

- Adult cow survival – below average
- Harvestable Surplus – below long-term average harvest
- Non-local/Nonresident harvest is a very small part of total harvest
- Better understanding of resident harvest is necessary
- Reduction in cow harvest is necessary now and one of the few things we can change

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