

## **OVERVIEW: DEVON ISLAND PEARY CARIBOU AND MUSKOX POPULATION SURVEY**

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We propose an aerial survey to estimate the population size and distribution for Peary caribou and muskox Devon Island. The last formal aerial survey was conducted in 2008, when only 17 caribou were seen and 302-864 muskoxen were estimated on the island. There may have been changes in the populations of caribou and muskoxen on the island in the last 8 years, since Grise Fiord harvesters finding caribou on Devon Island and caribou are known to move between Bathurst Island and the Grinnell Peninsula. The survey is expected to take about 6 days in mid/late March 2016 and include 3 observers from Resolute and 3 from Grise for the survey. Aerial surveys are still the most reliable way to get abundance estimates for such large areas and when counting mobile animals like caribou. We will use a Twin Otter, which does not require fuel caches and may not be as disruptive as a helicopter, and avoid circling wildlife repeatedly.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Determine distribution and abundance of Peary caribou and muskoxen on Devon Island.
2. Determine population characteristics like calf recruitment.

