

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
8<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 3-67**

**TABLED ON Jan. 19, 1979**

Tabled Document No. 3-67  
Tabled January 19, 1979.

CURRENT STATUS OF CARIBOU HERDS

### Current status of caribou herds

Caribou range throughout most of the Northwest Territories and provide some meat for virtually all the communities. There are three kinds of caribou: Peary's caribou of the arctic islands; woodland caribou which occupy the forests and mountains of the Mackenzie River basin, and the barren-ground caribou which range over most of the mainland and Baffin Island (Figure 1). Because barren-ground caribou are the most numerous and the type most important to Northwest Territories hunters, our management efforts are directed primarily towards that group.

There are eight major herds of barren-ground caribou (Figure 2). Five herds range entirely within the Northwest Territories; the Porcupine Herd is shared with the Yukon and Alaska, and the Beverly and Kaminuriak herds with Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Each herd is hunted by several communities in the Northwest Territories, sometimes by both Inuit and Indian hunters in widely separated areas (Table 1). For example, the Bathurst caribou are hunted by Inuit from Coppermine, Bay Chimo, and Cambridge Bay, and by Indians from Fort Franklin, Rae-Edzo, Snare Lakes, Rae Lakes, Detah and Yellowknife.

Of the eight herds, three are increasing, two are declining, and three are stable or possibly declining slightly. Hunting pressure is proportionally heaviest on the herds which are declining, and lightest on those herds which are increasing (Table 1).

### Caribou management

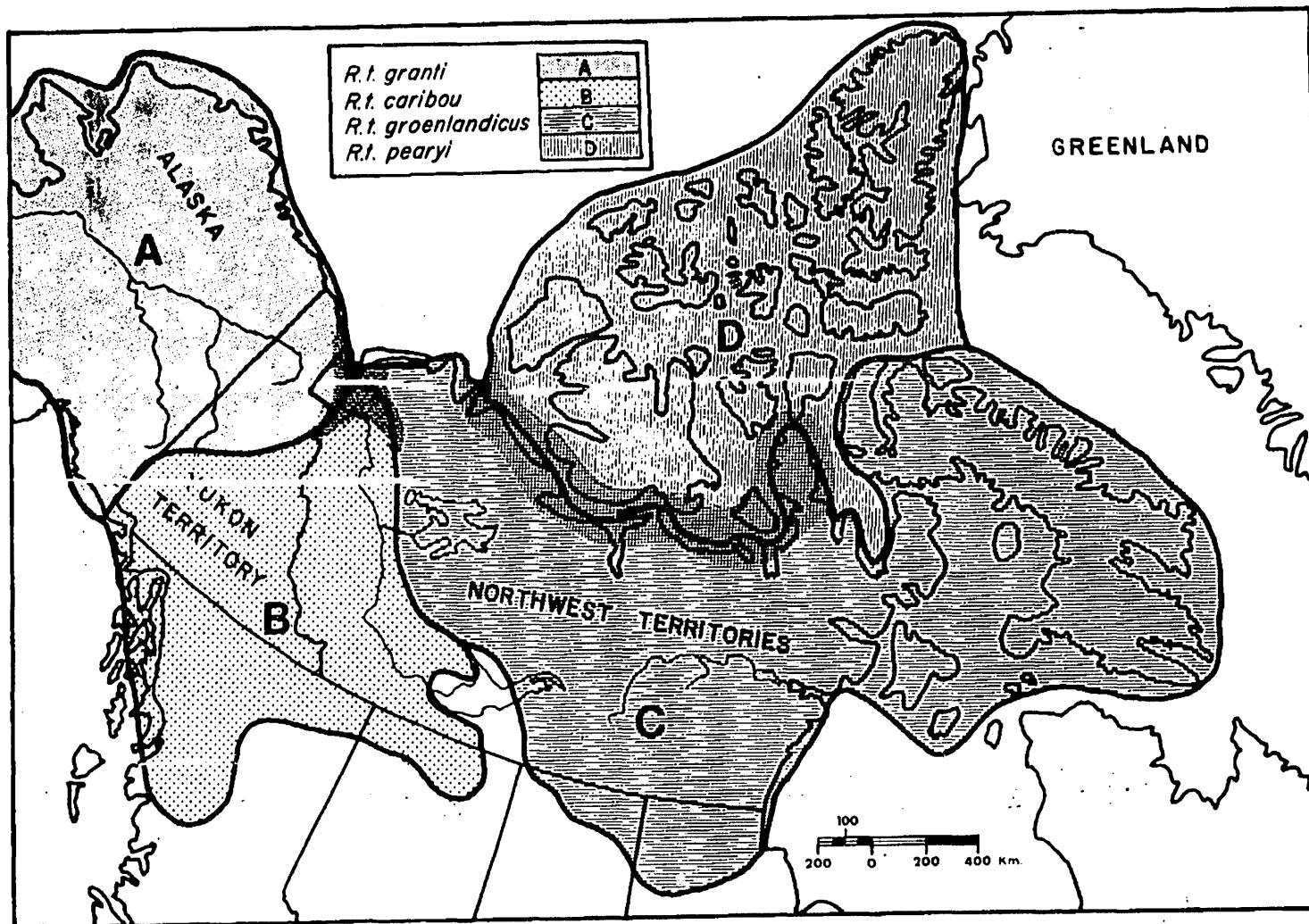
To manage caribou we need to know how many caribou there are, and how they are reproducing and surviving. In the past, caribou surveys were done at irregular intervals with varying procedures. This situation made detection of declines difficult. During the past year we have instituted a systematic program of monitoring the population changes in all eight herds. Two herds are assigned to each region (Table 2). Each herd is monitored on alternate years. Wildlife officers in each region have been trained to use standardized procedures to determine the numbers in each herd, the reproductive success, the proportion of yearlings in the herd (which measures the survival of calves during the first year), the sex ratio, and the hunter kill. We hope to include routine marking of caribou in this program soon.

The current survey techniques are adequate to detect declines in the herds such as has occurred in the Kaminuriak herd. When declines are detected, the only management procedures which we can now apply are reduction in hunting and control of predators.

Research is currently underway on the Bathurst herd to further improve our procedures for surveying caribou, and to better understand the effects of wolves on the caribou population.

**Figure 1: Types of caribou in Northwest Territories**

- A. Alaska-Yukon barren-ground caribou
- B. Woodland caribou
- C. Barren-ground caribou
- D. Peary's caribou



**Figure 2: Major barren-ground caribou herds in  
the Northwest Territories**

1. Porcupine herd
2. Bluenose herd
3. Bathurst herd
4. Beverly herd
5. Kaminuriak herd
6. Wager Bay herd
7. Melville Peninsula herds
8. Baffin Island herds

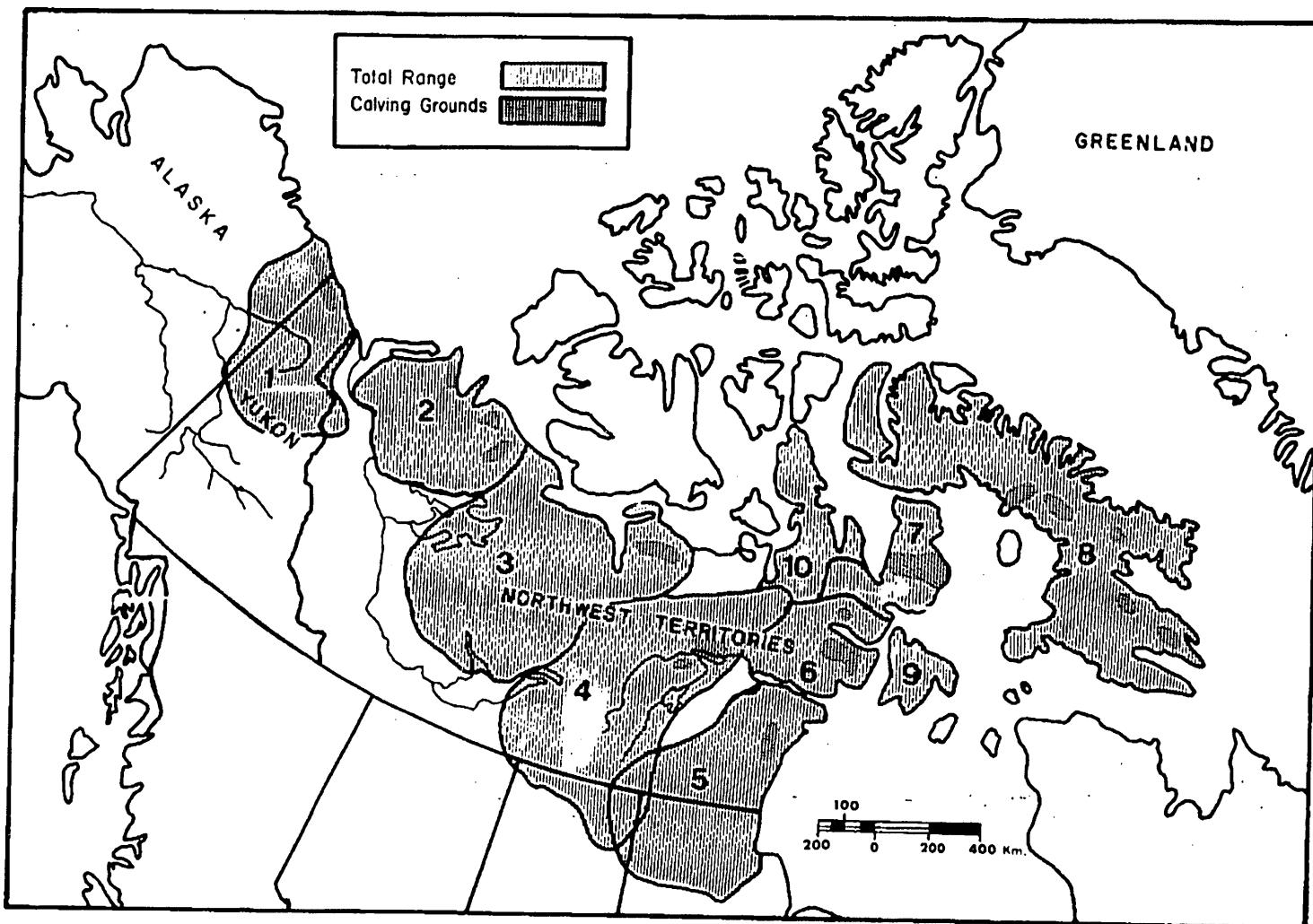


Table 1: Population trends and hunter kill in Northwest Territories caribou herds.

Herd	Population	Suspected Trend	Kill <sup>a</sup>	Kill as % of population	N.W.T. communities which hunt
Porcupine	100,000 (1972)	Stable	1429	1.5 <sup>b</sup>	Ft. McPherson, Aklavik, Arctic Red River, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk
Bluenose	90,000 (1975)	Increasing	645	0.7	Paulatuk, Colville Lake, Ft. Good Hope, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk
Bathurst	150,000 (1978)	Stable or slightly decreasing	6950	4.6	Coppermine, Cambridge Bay, Ft. Franklin, Yellowknife, Detah, Rae-Edzo, Snare Lake, Rae Lakes, Bathurst Inlet
Beverly	124,000 (1974)	Stable	1146	1.2 <sup>c</sup>	Ft. Smith, Snowdrift, Baker Lake
Kaminuriak	44,000 (1977)	Decreasing	3216	7.3 <sup>d</sup>	Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Eskimo Point, Whale Cove
Melville Peninsula	52,000 (1976)	Increasing	771	1.5	Igloolik, Repulse Bay, Hall Beach,
Wager Bay	29,000 (1976)	Increasing		0.0	No communities in herd's range.
Baffin	20,000 (1974)	Decreasing	1857	9.3	Frobisher Bay, Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay

a = average of 3 yrs (1973-74 to 1975-76)

b = does not include Alaska-Yukon kill

c = does not include Saskatchewan kill

d = does not include Manitoba-Saskatchewan kill

Table 2: Assignment of caribou population monitoring to administrative regions

HERD	REGION
Porcupine }	Inuvik
Bluenose }	
Bathurst }	Fort Smith
Beverly }	
Kaminuriak }	Kugluktuk
Wager }	
Melville }	Baffin
Sarrin	

## Current Status of Caribou Herds.

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Caribou herds in the Northwest Territories consist of Peary's Caribou (Peary's Caribou); Woodland Caribou (Woodland Caribou), Barrenland Caribou (Barrenland Caribou) (Figure 1) and Porcupine Herd (Porcupine Herd). The Barrenland Caribou herd consists of two main groups, Beverly and Kami-nuriak (Beverly and Kami-nuriak). The Barrenland Caribou herd consists of three main groups, Franklin, Rae-Edzo, Snare Lakes, Rae Lakes, Detah and Lutsel Lake herds.

Figure 2 shows the current status of the Barrenland Caribou herd, Porcupine Herd, Franklin, Rae-Edzo, Snare Lakes, Rae Lakes, Detah and Lutsel Lake herds. The Barrenland Caribou herd consists of two main groups, Beverly and Kami-nuriak (Beverly and Kami-nuriak). The Barrenland Caribou herd consists of three main groups, Franklin, Rae-Edzo, Snare Lakes, Rae Lakes, Detah and Lutsel Lake herds.

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## ԵԼՇՆԾՎՈՐԸ ՀԵԿԸ (ՄԱՏՌՆԾՎՈՐԸ)

**Figure, 1**

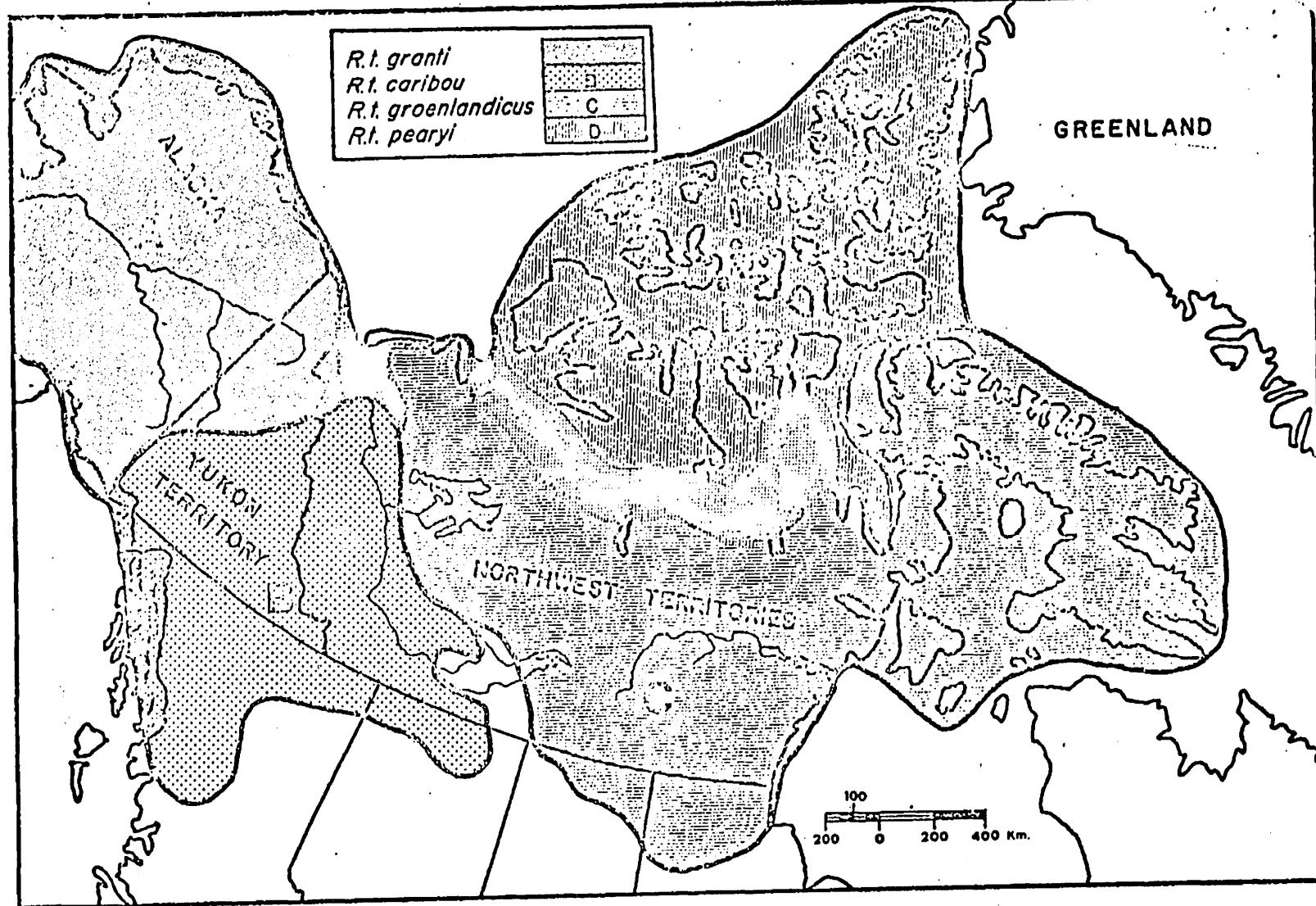
աշաճեածութեան մասին գործ ( Կամաց կամ առաջակա պատճեան )

- A. Աշաճեածութեան մասին գործ ( Կամաց կամ առաջակա պատճեան )
- B. Աշաճեածութեան գործ
- C. Աշաճեածութեան գործ
- D. Պատճեան ( Աշաճեածութեան մասին գործ ) Կամաց կամ առաջակա պատճեան Peary's

Figure 2

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1. ፍርማ ክፍል ዘዴ በኋላ የሚከተሉት ሥነዎች
2. ማስረጃ በኋላ
3. የሚከተሉት ሥነዎች
4. የሚከተሉት ሥነዎች
5. የሚከተሉት ሥነዎች
6. የሚከተሉት ሥነዎች
7. ማስረጃ በኋላ
8. የሚከተሉት ሥነዎች



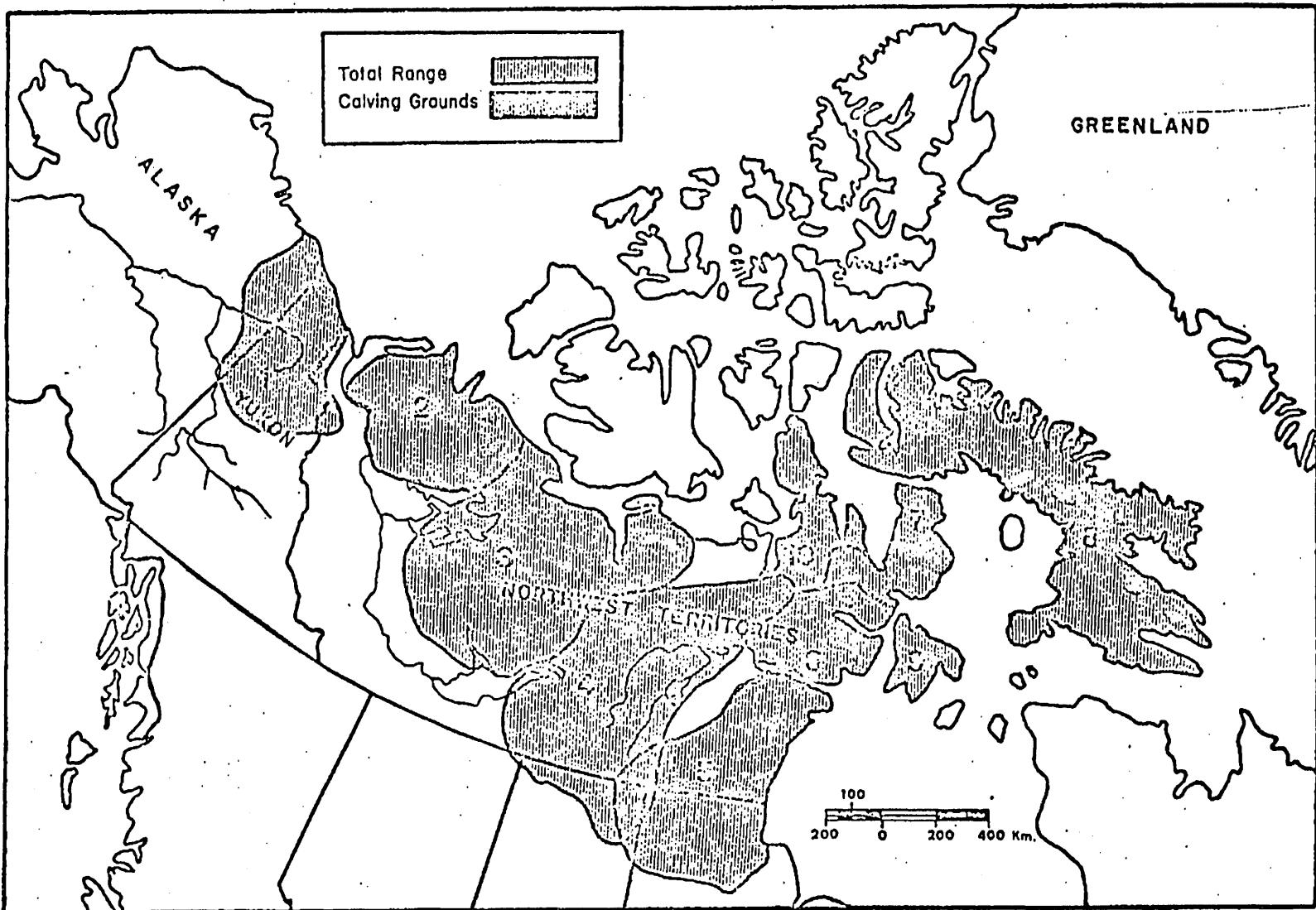


Table 1:

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$\Delta = \Delta_{\text{Lc}}(\sigma) - \Delta_{\text{Pc}}(\sigma)$  (1973-1974)  $\Delta_{\text{Lc}}$  1975-1976)

$$b = \Delta C \cap D^{\perp} \cap \Delta^{\perp} \Delta^{\perp} b \Gamma \Delta^{\perp} \Delta^{\perp} \Delta^{\perp} \Delta^{\perp} \Delta^{\perp} \Delta^{\perp}$$

C =  $\Delta c \nabla \nabla C \Delta \Psi^2$   $\Delta b \Psi c^2$   $\Delta C \nabla \nabla A \sigma^2$   $\Psi^2 \nabla \nabla \sigma$   $\Delta \Psi^2 \nabla \nabla \Psi^2$

**d** = **ΔcDUDCDYc** **aDc** **Δb** **9c** **m** **c** **b** **CDCRAAfc** **LcDcRGd** **b6** **b8** **r8** **1G**

7AC

አዲስ አበባ

Table 2 : የሚከተሉት ስርዓቶች በትንሹ የሚከተሉት ስርዓቶች በትንሹ የሚከተሉት ስርዓቶች በትንሹ