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CARIBOU SURVEY, SOUTHERN ALASKA PENINSULA HERD
14-15 January 1983

Introduction

RM Sarvis (pilot/observer) and WB Dau (observer) performed the subject survey during 6.5 hours of flight time on 14 January and 4.0 hours of flight time on 15 January. The 14 January effort was terminated near the Cathedral River. A void in caribou distribution existed from the Moffet Lagoon wetlands to the lowlands north of Pavlof Bay, hence, we believe there was no exchange of animals or overlap in our counting efforts over the two day period.

Climatic Conditions

Survey conditions were ideal with complete snow cover and little or no wind on both survey days. Air temperatures were in the 20-25° F range. Izembek Lagoon, during this period, was 85 to 90% ice covered and all lakes had ice and snow cover. Light conditions varied with a slight overcast being best for spotting animals.

Survey Results

A total of 5,641 caribou in 227 separate groups were observed during the survey. (Tables 1 and 2) The largest herd was a loose assemblage of 420 animals observed between Outer Marker and the Grant Point road. The average group size was 24.9 caribou.

We felt we had very good coverage south of a line from the Black Hills to the north side of Pavlof Bay. From the David River to Herendeen Bay and south to Canoe Bay, willow (Salix sp.) became more common in mixture with alder (Alnus sp.) Willow, due to the retention of leaves, gave the terrain a more 'blotchy' appearance and it was in such areas that most of the caribou were observed. They were difficult to spot and we feel our numbers (i.e. 462 caribou for the areas in question) could be 30-50% low. The survey area and survey units (map areas) are shown in Figures 1 and 2 a,b.

Another caribou survey on 23 December by RN Sarvis and ARM Nunn covered a portion of the area surveyed on 14 January. (i.e. map areas 2-12, 14-15). On 23 December 4, caribou were observed by a combination of ocular and photographic methods. The same area contained 4,352 caribou on 14 January. Only local movements were thought to occur during the interum, hence, the close agreement in numbers probably suggests an accurate population level.

Incidental Observations

Ten(10) wolves were observed on the survey in groups of 7,2 and 1 with all being from Jackson Lagoon to Herendeen Bay. The group of 7 was on one of the three(3) caribou kills seen during the two-day survey. These kills were natural (i.e. non-hunting) mortalities.

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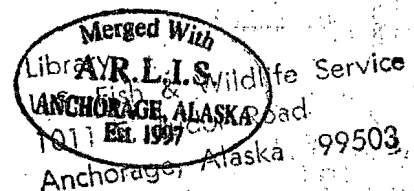


Table 1. Results of 14-15 January 1983 Caribou Survey
Izembek NWR and Pavlof Unit APNWR

(map Group/s No.area)	Number of Animals	Location
1 (1)	17,55,41,14,3,31,7	West of Paul Hanson Lake
2 (2)	35,55,22	S.E. of Strawberry Pt.
3 (3)	46,27,21	N. of Kinzarof Lagoon
4 (4)	2,36,38,13,47	S. of Blaine Pt.
5 (5)	10,77,184,28	E. of OPl
6 (5)	35,19,24	Pintail Lake & Loop
7 (6)	49,14,22	Kinzarof Road area
8 (6)	29,25,6	Swan Lake
9 (7)	73,57,12,29	W. of POI
10 (8)	70,90	Outer Marker
11 (7)	46,5	Blinn Lake
12 (7)	27,14	VOR Lake area
13 (8)	17,57,35,40,420	Between OM/Site roads
14 (9)	80,115,150,11,32	W. of Site Road
15 (10)	13,36,12,31,110	Near AF Site
16 (11)	12,7,70,10,63,29,65,12,11, 13,82,59,24,45,23,3,41,52, 26,11,9,13,4	Baldy Village Rd area
17 (7)	45,30	Trout Creek
18 (12)	10,32,56,52,80,57,130,31, 3,55,145,40,3,5	Mortensen Marsh area
19 (13)	5	Thin Point
20 (14)	15,7,48,5,3,16,15,4,17,12	Frosty Creek to S. End
21 (15)	5,7,24,28,23,6,19,3,12,4, 2,4,3,9,10,4,26,2,26,75,14	Big Lagoon/Morzhovoi Lake/Sout
22 (16)	51,48,20,1,10,3,3	Refuge boundary
23 (17)	19,7	S. Morzhovoi Village
24 (18)	35,43,30	Right-Hand Valley
Sub-total for AREAS 1-18		139 groups, 4,795 caribou (34.5/grp)
25 (19)	14,9,13,16,14,7,5,7,13,1,3, 17,3,22,14,1,3,20,7,11,2, 24	N/NW Pavlof Bay Marsh
26 (20)	2,6,2,5,8,16,12,5,23,15,2, 6,50,5	Jackson/Chinaman Lagoon
27 (21)	2,7,10,10,2,11,3,13,2,4,8, 2,30,23,52,2,7,8,6,2,2	David River area
28 (22)	1,6,15,1,2,56	Mouth of Sapsuk River
29 (23)	3,14,3,3,8,5,3,2,2,4,6,2, 2,1,6,12,2,23,4,23,17,13	W. Herendeen Bay
30 (24)	11,5,2	Canoe Bay area
Sub-total for AREAS 19-23		88 groups, 846 caribou (9.6/group)
TOTAL		5,641 caribou/227 groups (24.9 caribou/group) Range: 1-420

Table 2. Total Caribou Seen per Map Area, 14-15 January 1983

Map Area No.	No. of Groups	Total Caribou Seen
1	7	168
2	3	112
3	3	94
4	5	136
5	7	377
6	6	145
7	10	338
8	7	729
9	5	388
10	5	202
11	23	684
12	14	699
13	1	5
14	10	142
15	21	306
16	7	136
17	2	26
18	3	108
19	22	226
20	14	157
21	21	206
22	6	81
23	22	158
24	3	18
TOTAL	227	5,641

Figure 2a Caribou survey units (map areas), 14 January 1983

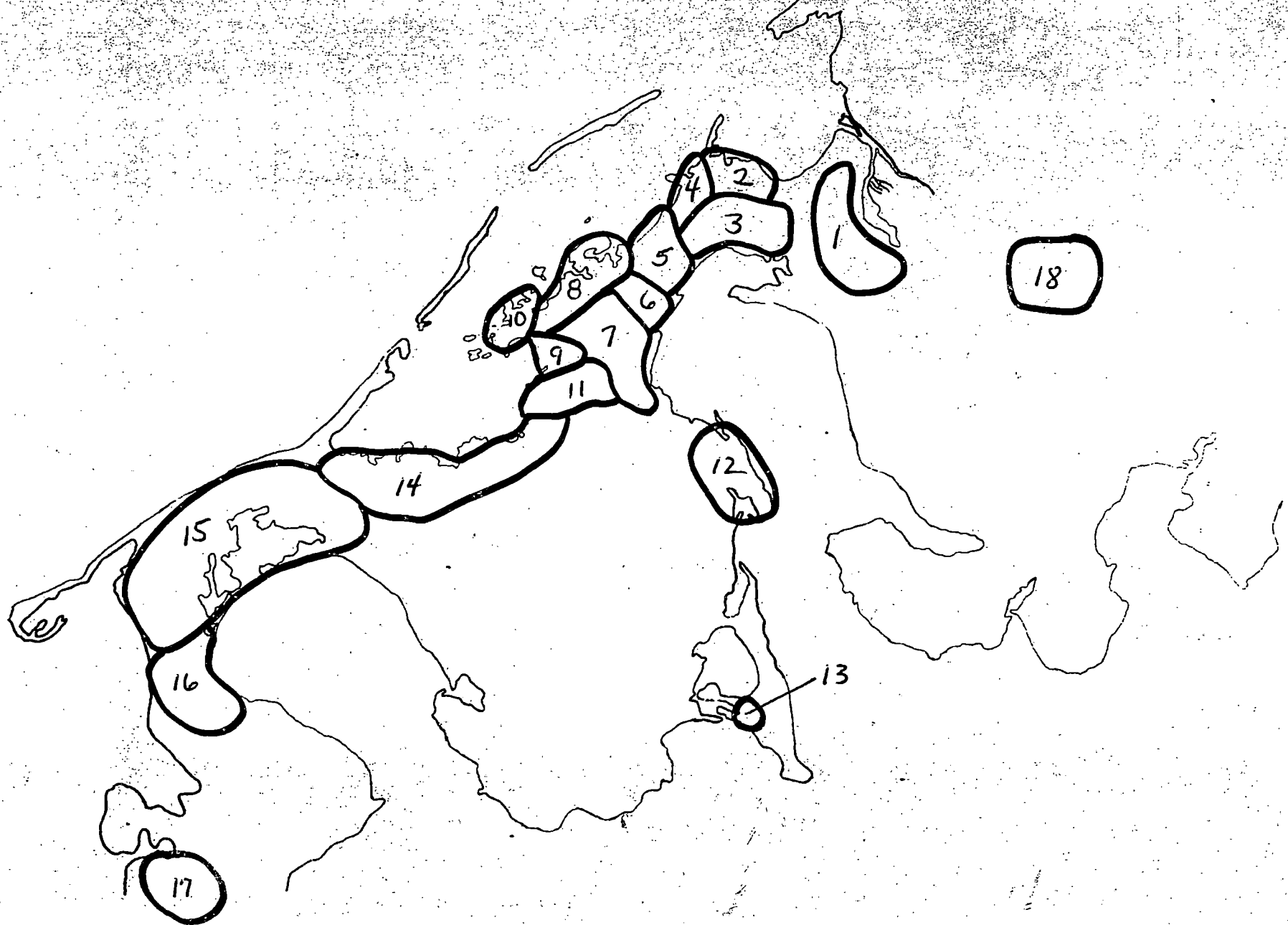
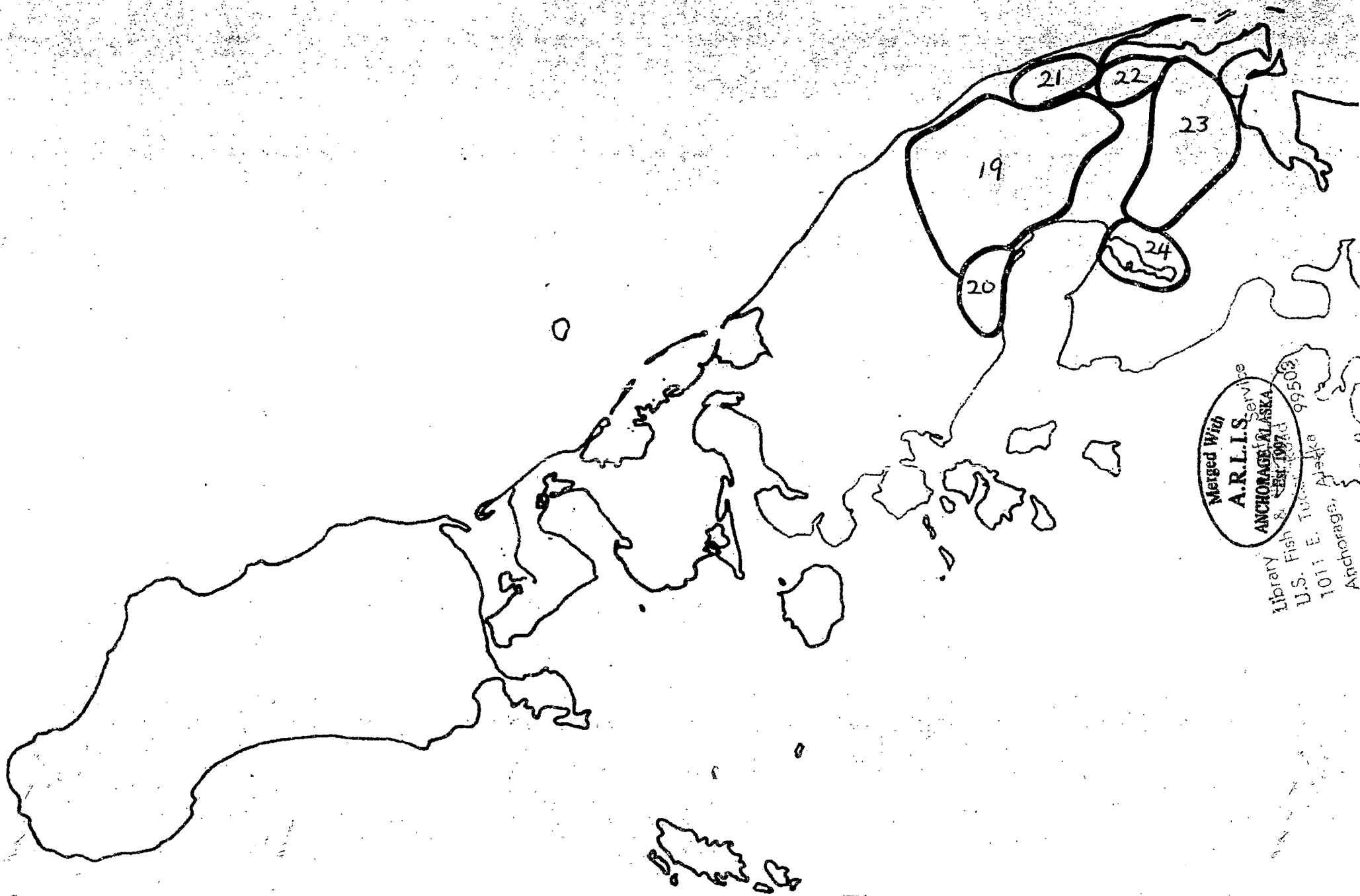


Figure 2b. Caribou survey units (map areas), 15 January 1983



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