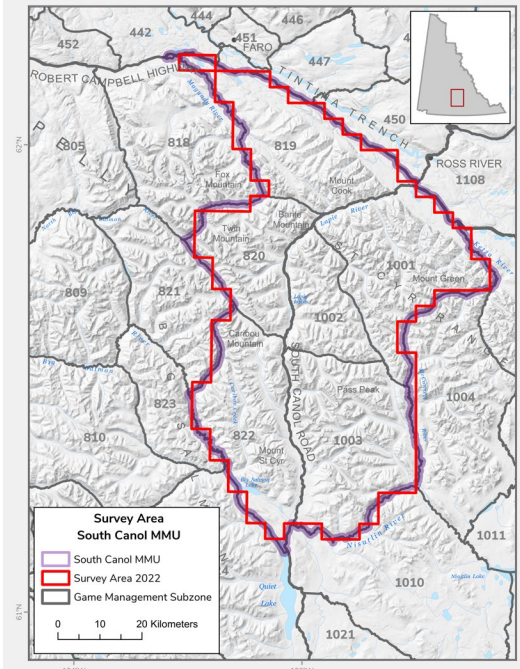
South Canol Moose Management Unit



Early – Winter Moose Survey, November 10-15, 2022

MMU status

GMS: 8-19, 8-20, 8-22, 10-01, 10-02, 10-03

Survey Area: 4,807 km^2

Sustainable Harvest: 21 bulls

Total No. of Moose: 681

Total No. of Adult Bulls: 214

Adult Bulls/100 Adult Cows: 66

Calves/100 Adult Cows: 23

Density (in moose habitat): 175 moose/1,000km^2

Avg. License Harvest: 15.6 (2017-2021)

Yearlings/100 Adult Cows: 21

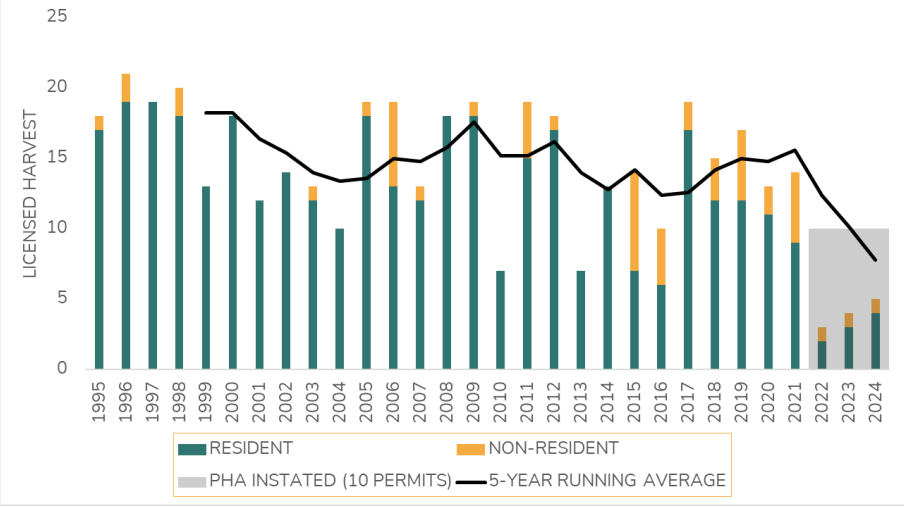
Est. Avg. First Nation Harvest: 12.2 (2017-2021)

Location

The South Canol Moose Management Unit (MMU) is located south of the communities of Faro and Ross River and is within the traditional territories of Kaska Dena First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council.

Harvest statistics

The South Canol MMU was placed on a Permit Hunt Authorization in 2022, a process initiated in 2019. At that time, the total estimated annual harvest (reported licensed harvest plus estimated First Nation harvest) had increased and was above the recommended sustainable harvest of 10% of the adult bull population from 2013 survey results. However, results from the 2022 survey indicate that there has been no significant change in estimated moose abundance since 2013. Therefore, the total harvest (reported licensed harvest plus estimated First Nation harvest) between 2013 and 2022 was sustainable. First Nation harvest data is required to accurately evaluate the total harvest for this moose population.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Traci Morgan, Liard Regional Biologist, Department of Environment. Traci.Morgan@yukon.ca

Sophie Czetwertynski, Moose Program Biologist, Department of Environment. Sophie.Czetwertynski@yukon.ca

Survey results

Moose survey method

In the Yukon, we estimate moose abundance and demographics using a model-based approach that incorporates local knowledge and habitat information (i.e., fire history, land cover, vegetation type, and elevation). We use the information from surveyed blocks to estimate the number of moose in blocks not surveyed. We then apply a 9% sightability correction factor to the estimated total to account for individuals that were missed during the survey.

Survey overview

The purpose of this survey was to estimate the abundance, distribution, and composition of the moose population in the South Canol MMU and to use this information to determine the sustainable moose harvest. We surveyed 100 of 293 survey blocks, or about 34% of the total area. We observed a total of 416 moose (133 mature bulls, 221 mature and yearling cows, 26 yearling bulls, 34 calves and 2 unclassified adults). We observed the highest numbers of moose in the subalpine, higher elevation creek draws, and willow flats.

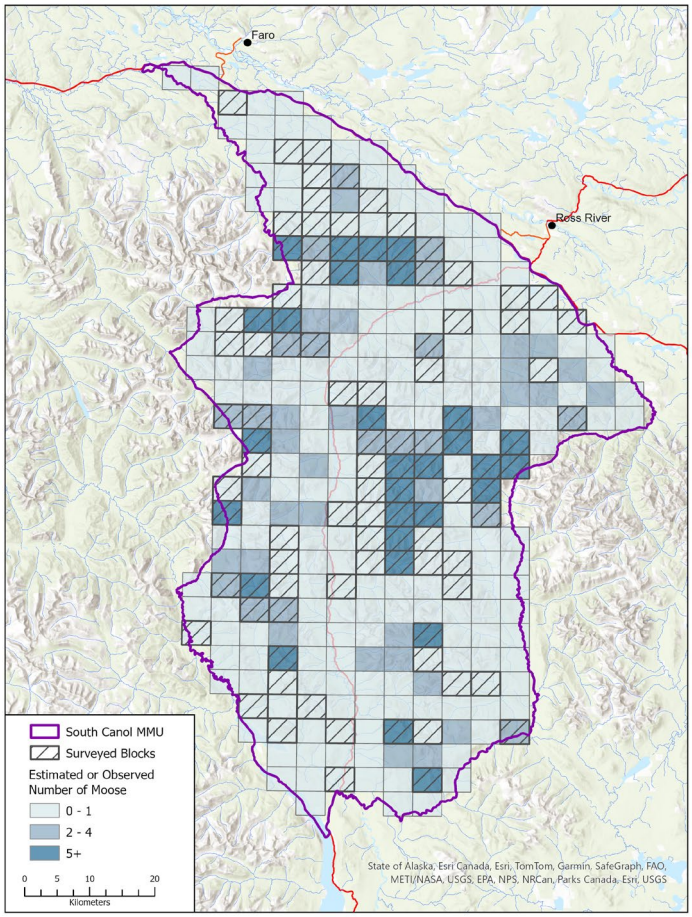
Population estimate / composition

We estimated **681 (585-802)** moose in the South Canol MMU. This equates to a density of **175 moose per 1,000 km^2 of available moose habitat,** which is within the typical range of moose densities in Yukon (100-250 per 1,000 km^2).

We estimated **23 calves per 100 adult cows**, which is below the average observed across surveyed areas in the Yukon (29 calves per 100 adult cows).

We estimated **21 yearlings per 100 adult cows**, which is above the average observed across surveyed areas in the Yukon (18 yearlings per 100 adult cows).

We estimated **66 adult bulls per 100 adult cows**, which is above the minimum recommended in our *Science-based guidelines for management of moose in Yukon*. For details, please see the full report.



Acknowledgements

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