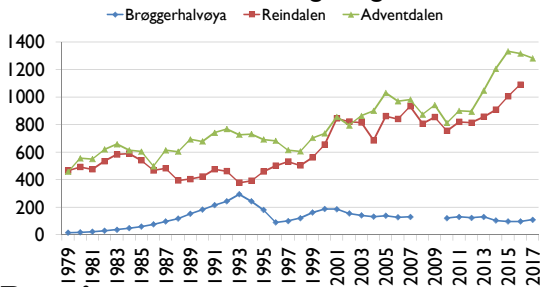


Wild reindeer and caribou on the Arctic islands

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 CARMA, WWF Russia, Norwegian Polar Institute, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Svalbard reindeer (Not At Risk)

- Annual population counts in three areas on Spitsbergen, but lack of data for other areas/islands including Edgeøya Island
- No predators; non-migratory; 60% glaciated, inhabit all non-glaciated areas including isolated peninsulas, lowland valleys
- Periodic die-offs during icing events



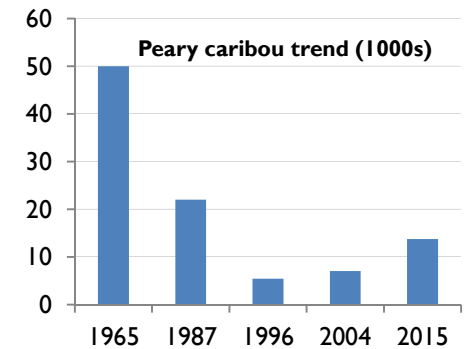
SUMMARY

- The Arctic Basin is huge (8M km²) & has 6 archipelagos + coastal islands: Svalbard 61,022 km²; Russia 144,000 km²; Canada 780,000 km²
- Diverse as three endemic sub-species (*R.t. platyrhynchus*, *R.t. pearyi* and *R.t. pearsoni*): either non-migratory or migratory including inter-islands/mainland over sea-ice
- Russia and Canada report long-term declines in abundance.
- Marked differences in degree of annual monitoring and hence high degree of uncertainty (except for some areas in Svalbard)
- Severe and strongly seasonal climate that is rapidly changing

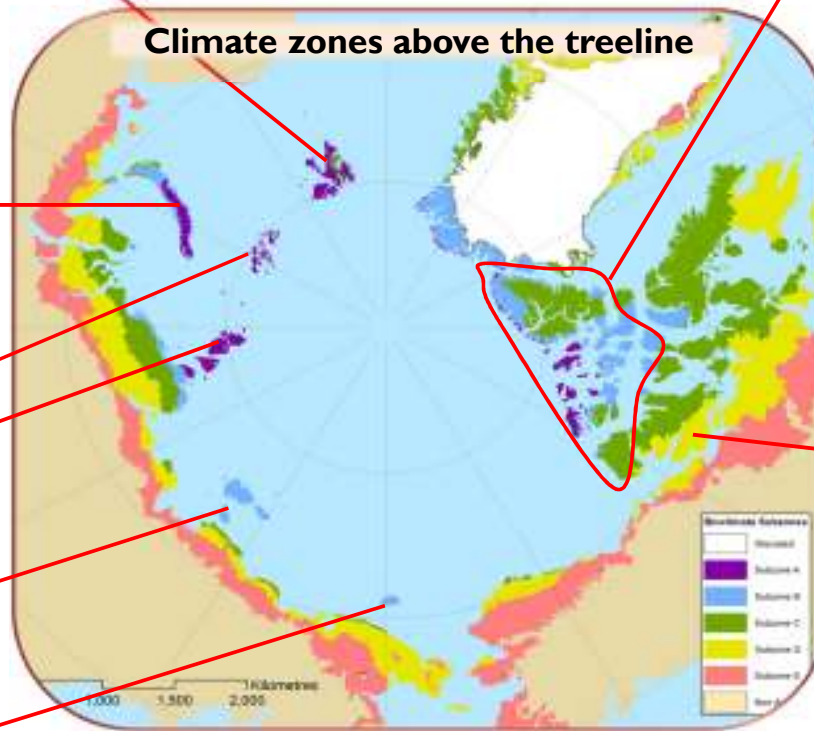
Canadian Arctic Islands (excluding Baffin Island)

Peary caribou (Threatened)

- Periodic winter die-offs on western islands
- Limited or no recovery on southern islands
- Overall 35% decline 1987–2015
- Current (2014) estimate 13,700 caribou
- Hunting on eastern & southern islands
- Wolves present on most islands



Climate zones above the treeline



Russia

Novaya Zemlya Archipelago

- Two populations including the unique *R.t. pearsoni* (Recovered/Rare) & wild reindeer which genetically incorporate a historic introduction of domesticated reindeer
- Historically, 20,000 wild reindeer
- Currently (2015) estimated 5,000

Franz Josef Land

- Little known wild reindeer

Severnaya Zemlya

- 1000-1,500 wild reindeer

New Siberian Islands

- Currently, 1-1,500 wild reindeer
- Historically, large changes in numbers

Wrangel Island

- No wild reindeer; currently 300 feral domesticated reindeer

Dolphin & Union caribou (Endangered)

- Only occurs on Victoria Island
- Migrates across sea ice to winter on mainland
- 47% decline between 1997 and 2015
- Current estimate 18,400 (2015)

Sources

Canadian information: www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/committee-status-endangered-wildlife/status-reports.html
 Svalbard: www.mosj.no/en/fauna/terrestrial/svalbard-reindeer-population.html
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 Map: www.arcticatlas.org/index and help from Graeme Pelchat.
 Typeset in Gill Sans MT