ANTICOSTI:
FROM A HUNTING PARADISE
TO A WILDLIFE LABORATORY

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PRESENTATION PLAN

- General characteristics of the island
- Deer introduction and its impact
- Deer hunting
Location

- Corse: 8722 km²
- Île d'Anticosti: 7950 km²
- Île de Montréal: 464 km²
- Île-du-Prince-Édouard: 5656 km²
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS
1. Climate

- Maritime climate:
  - cool summers, long mild winters
- 14.8 °C July, -13.6°C January
- 1005 degree-days >5°C
- Rainfall 63 cm, snowfall 406 cm
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

2. Substrate and vegetation

- Ordovician and Silurian limestone
- Boreal forest:
  - balsam fir, black spruce, white spruce,
  - white birch, trembling aspen
- Natural disturbances:
  - insect epidemics, blowdown, fire
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

3. Native mammalian fauna

- Black bear
- River otter
- Red fox
- American marten
- Deer mouse
- Bats (2 species)
SUCCESSFUL INTRODUCTIONS

- White-tailed deer (1896-1900)
- Moose (1895-1913)
- Beaver (1900)
- Frogs (1899)
- Snowshoe hare (1902-1907)
- Muskrat (1930)
- Ruffed grouse (1926)
- Spruce grouse (1985-1986)
Boreal forest is not for deer?
WHITE-TAILED DEER INTRODUCTION

- 1896-1900 ≈200 deer introduced
- 1907 Deer present at Fox Bay (east)
- 1930 Heavy winter mortality
- 1989-1990 120,000 deer
- 2001 125,000 deer (16/km²)
Deer number on Anticosti

ANNÉE

POPULATION

150-220 cerfs

A  B  C  D
Double-count aerial survey technique
Deer rapidly overbrowsed shrubs and balsam fir regeneration
Negative impact of deer on vegetation

- 1917-1927 Marie-Victorin
- 1942 Rousseau
- 1953 Pimlott
- 1975-1990 Huot, Potvin
Cailloux exclosure, summer 1994 (10 years)
Cailloux exclosure, winter 2002 (18 years)
Forest composition by 10-year recruitment periods

**WHITE SPRUCE**  **BALSAM FIR**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% STEMS</th>
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<td>1850</td>
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<td>1870</td>
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<td>1950</td>
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<td>1970</td>
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Balsam fir stands on Anticosti

1896

Present

Overall decrease ≈ 50%
LOGGING OPERATIONS
1896-1917 Menier
1926-1930, 1946-1971 Consolidated-Bathurst
1995-2005 Produits forestiers Anticosti
Balsam fir stands
White spruce stands
DEER HUNTING
- Very high quality hunting
- Cost: 1000 - 3000 $ per hunter
- Bag limit: 2 deer either-sex by trip (max. 4 deer by year)
- ≈ 5000 hunters per year
- Success: 1.6 - 1.8 deer/hunter
- ≈ 50% non residents
Deer take 1984 - 2004
(sport hunting and management)
2002-2008 management plan

- Objective: 90,000 deer (after hunting) in 2008
- Diversify hunting products
- Bag limit per trip: 4 deer (≤2 bucks)
  - Basic permit: 2 deer either-sex
  - Additional permit: 2 antlerless deer
- Limited success up to now
What is ahead?

Manage population and habitat
Chaire de recherche industrielle
CRSNG-Produits forestiers Anticosti

En aménagement intégré des ressources forestières
de l’Île d’Anticosti
Plan d’aménagement intégré des ressources forestières de l’île d’Anticosti