

A brief summary of ISRO moose captures.

We captured and collared 20 moose on the island, 10 on the east and 10 on the west end, as planned. Captures occurred over 3 days, with a poor weather day in the middle that delayed progress somewhat. We had two capture teams working for almost all of these, with the helicopter crew (pilot, gunner, and in some situations an additional person from Quicksilver) darting and going in initially to monitor and start collecting samples. The pilot would then shuttle Seth and I to finish the procedures and recover the animals.

Immobilizations generally went very well. Induction times were short (generally 2-4min) and the total procedure time was generally less than 20min (from induction to recovery). Body temps were generally 100-101, with the highest body temp observed being 103.5. It seems the short pursuits and rapid induction times really contributed to these ideal body temps. Overall I was happy with the drug combination, although I'm somewhat inclined to lowering the xylazine from 40mg to 30mg next year. In both Grand Portage and ISRO, I observed a few more instances of regurgitation (all mild in severity) than I have seen with the Carfentanil/Xylazine combination.

Complications to report - all non-life-threatening - include one moose with moderate bleeding from the nose and mouth upon capture - unknown origin of the bleeding - though we suspect there may have been some trauma during pursuit, this could not be confirmed on examination. That animal was collared and reversed quickly and observed the following day behaving normally. We also had a mix-up in loading of darts where 6 darts were inadvertently loaded with naltrexone instead of thiafentanil. Two animals were darted with these darts before this mix-up was confirmed (one animal was darted three times and another twice). In both cases the xylazine was sufficient to sedate the animal but not to the level that allowed handling, so both were reversed immediately without collaring and data collection. Fortunately, I was flying with the capture crew when these animals were darted and observed directly the differences in induction, which allowed us to make decisions and respond quickly and appropriately. Both animals recovered without further incident and observed by the spotter planes behaving normally later in the day.

At this point, we're a month out from GP and ISRO captures with all collared animals alive and monitored remotely. Please let me know if there are any clarifications I can make to this report or if any new questions arise.

Thanks,  
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