



Tammaqtailinahuarnirit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

On September 21, 2021, the NWMB wrote to the RWOs seeking additional submissions on allocating an overall TAH of 250 muskoxen. The NWMB provided reasons for its determination that the overall TAH could increase to 250 muskoxen in a letter dated September 21, 2021 (Appendix 1). The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) and the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB) provided submissions by the October 21, 2021, deadline. The QWB provided an interpretation of s. 5.6.17(b) of the Nunavut Agreement that there can only be one regional TAH for muskox in the MX-10 management unit, and asserted that establishing more than one regional TAH would infringe on RWO authority to establish regional allocations. The KRWB proposed a sharing arrangement for the 60 additional tags available after the TAH was increased. No submission was received from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

- i. A Kitikmeot regional TAH of 140 muskoxen (56 percent) in MX-10;*
- ii. A Kivalliq regional TAH of 90 muskoxen (36 percent) in MX-10; and*
- iii. A Qikiqtaaluk regional TAH of 20 muskoxen (8 percent) in MX-10.*



Decision to modify the regional TAH, allocating 140 muskoxen (56 percent) to the Kitikmeot region, 90 muskoxen (36 percent) to the Kivalliq region, and 20 muskoxen (8 percent) to the Qikiqtaaluk region.

The NWMB received two written submissions, from QWB and KRWB, following its September 21, 2021, letter to RWOs.

The KRWB reviewed the MX-10 harvest data for Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk, noting both communities had fully used their allocations in recent years, and suggested harvest data from before 2019 may be inaccurate due to limited community capacity to report harvests. The KRWB proposed a sharing arrangement for the 60 additional tags available after the TAH was increased. On the basis of Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk's harvesting, the KRWB requested 40 tags of the increase be allocated to those communities (20 for each community), and 20 tags for the other regions.

The QWB submitted an interpretation of the *Nunavut Agreement* that there should be one regional TAH for the MX-10 management unit, and the RWOs, working together, would set and change allocations among the HTOs in the regions. The QWB argued the NWMB does not have the authority to set a TAH for the regions, and that only RWOs have the power and function to allocate a regional BNL (or, in this case, a TAH) among Inuit. The Board considered QWB's argument but was not persuaded. The Board relied on an interpretation from its legal counsel of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Article 5 defines Region as Baffin [Qikiqtaaluk] Region, Keewatin [Kivalliq] Region, or Kitikmeot Region. Other references to "region" in the *Nunavut Agreement* include *Regional Wildlife Organization* and *Regional Inuit Organization*. There does not appear to be support in the text of Article 5 for a regional TAH to be set according to the boundaries of a management unit. The Board determined a regional total allowable harvest referred to in s. 5.6.17(b) of the *Nunavut Agreement*, for "a species ordinarily harvested by members of more than one HTO", applied to the defined regions of Nunavut.

No submission was received from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

Based on these submissions, and harvest data provided by the Department of Environment, the Board decided to establish a TAH of 140 muskoxen (56 percent) for the Kitikmeot region, 90 muskoxen (36 percent) for the Kivalliq Region and 20 muskoxen (8 percent) for

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