

Issue

Musk ox is an unresolved issue in the development of the Nunavut Wildlife Act Regulations; Exemption Permits reducing harvesting zones to two zones (MX17 and MX18) have allowed hunters to harvest Musk ox closer to their communities however it is but a temporary solution, a Management Plan for the Kivalliq Musk ox Population is required in order to properly manage and conserve the herd.

Background

Prior to 2007, hunters in the Kivalliq had to travel very long distances, often passing many herds of Musk ox, to harvest from their respective zones. In 2007, after much community consultation, the use of Exemption Permits was established to allow Hunters to harvest closer to their communities. The use of these permits proved beneficial however the renewal process was cumbersome and lengthily.

In further consulting with communities, it was determined that a management plan for the Kivalliq Musk population was necessary; three main priorities have been identified for permanent changes within the Wildlife Act Regulations:

- Permanent change to eliminate existing Musk ox harvesting zones and change them into two populations as demonstrated in the attached map (MX17 and MX18).
- Permanent change to remove existing restrictions on harvesting seasons currently imposed on Kivalliq Musk ox.
- To increase the TAH on the Kivalliq Musk ox population to reflect a 5% harvesting ratio which current information suggests is consistent with stable populations of Musk ox.

The Management and Action Plans were developed in cooperation with Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, NTI Wildlife and with full consultation with Members of the KWB. A letter from GN DOE is attached supporting the efforts of the KWB.

Conclusion

Kivalliq Wildlife Board is seeking a decision on the Kivalliq Musk ox Management Plan that was recently submitted to the NWMB for consideration; the Plan once approved will be incorporated into the Nunavut Wildlife Act Regulations.

Ross Tatty
Chairman, Kivalliq Wildlife Board

