

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

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KWB Chairman  
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**Re: Muskox Management Plan, Adjustments to Quotas and Seasons**

Dear Mr. Tatty,

Our office received your letter e-mailed February 2, 2008 and I will do everything possible to attend your meeting and/or have our Regional Manager attend in my possible absence. Please review the following recommendations from the DoE as a result of the consultations with the community's leaders from your last KWB meeting.

**Background**

The KWB meeting of October 26, 2009 was extremely valuable in that it provided excellent discussion between the KWB, NTI, and DoE regarding future goals and objectives concerning muskox management in the Kivalliq. During these discussions the KWB respectfully made clear its desires to move forward on four main items concerning muskox management in the Kivalliq region;

- 1- Expand current hunting zones
- 2- Increase quotas to achieve stability in Kivalliq muskox populations.
- 3- Remove seasons.
- 4- Initiate a population survey of the Central Kivalliq muskox population.

The KWB members relayed information from hunters in their communities that they believed would support the first three requests and that their forth request would help insure that fact and possibly indicate further an increase in the central Kivalliq muskox population.

The GN DoE in 2007 had come to the same conclusions and strongly supported the KWB and its members regarding the expansion of the current muskox zones (Figure 1). The DoE research Division then re-drafted their TAH (Total Allowable Harvest) report to support the KWB in the expansion of these zones as the expansion in DoE and the KWB's opinion would not represent a conservation risk to the two identified muskox populations. The DoE then sent a letter to KWB in

November 2009 in support of the expansion of zones into two populations as indicated in Figure 1. The revised report did however caution that focused harvesting on the expanding edge of either population could, in time, cause future muskox distributions to exist further from communities. Therefore a balance in the harvesting of muskox both close to and further away from communities is strongly recommended to the KWB and all their represented HTOs.

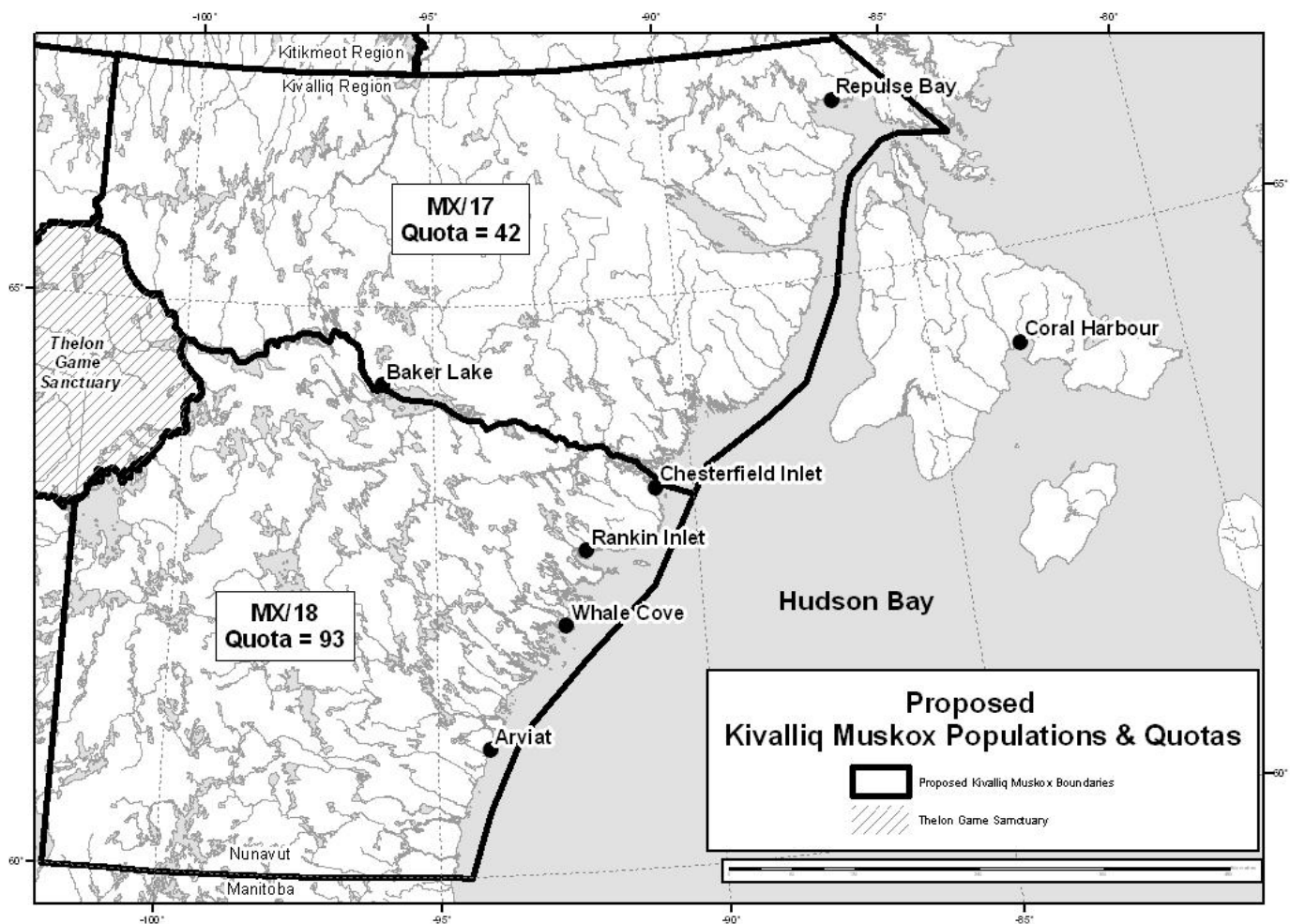


Figure 1 DoE recommendations for muskox population boundaries and new increased quotas based on an estimate of the sustainable harvest. The most current population estimate was flown July 1999.

The DoE is also pleased to inform the Rankin Inlet HTO and KWB that the proposed Central Kivalliq muskox survey has been approved for funding this fiscal year and that discussions will begin shortly with the Rankin Inlet HTO regarding the set up and initiation of this partnered muskox population estimate.

In response to the KWB's second and third requests, the DoE, during the October, 2009 meetings, committed to reviewing all available information including IQ, and with this information raise these requests at the November 2009 DoE Wildlife Research Divisions (WRD) annual research priorities meeting in Iqaluit. The following are the decisions and recommendations coming out of this meeting.

## **2 Muskox Quotas**

DoE would like to inform the KWB that the consultations we had during your last KWB meeting in October 2009 were discussed with the Department of Environment Wildlife Research Division. During this meeting I explained the local knowledge that was relayed to me by the community representatives as well as the scientific knowledge collected in July 2000 relayed back to the communities. With this new information the KWB indicated a desire at this time to manage Kivalliq muskox populations for stability rather than growth. There was agreement amongst the DoE Research Division that an increase in quotas from 3% (marked for growth) to 5% (marked for stability) better represented the needs and goals of Kivalliq communities while maintaining the long-term sustainability of both Kivalliq muskox populations (Appendix A). Therefore the DoE would like to recommend to the KWB a quota increase in the newly identified population of MX/18 to be raised from 60 to 93 individuals of either sex and any age and a quota increase of the MX/17 muskox population from 25 to 42 individuals of either sex and any age (this increase has already been initiated) (Figure 1). The Department would like to strongly recommend to the KWB and its members that hunters try to avoid removing dominant bulls during the months of May, June and July as the dominant bulls maintain herd structure within the group and thus protection for the growing calves from predation and displacement/separation from the group/cows.

## **3 Kivalliq Muskox Seasons**

Kivalliq muskox seasons (in light of normal hunting practices relayed to DoE through KWB's members, as well as the extreme difficulty in accessing most muskox groups during the snow-free season, as well as the reported increases in the Kivalliq muskox populations) were also reviewed. This review included the most current population information as well as a review of population trends. The DoE WRD discussed the issue and agreed that the scientific data and IQ provided by the KWB indicated that the Kivalliq muskox populations could be sustainably harvested in the absence of seasonal restrictions. As a result the

DoE would like to indicate their agreement with the KWB and recommend that within the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut all muskox seasons be removed as their removal will not represent a conservation risk to either Kivalliq population.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the KWB for their continued proactive involvement in Nunavut's co-management environment. I believe that decisions made by any stakeholder in Nunavut's wildlife management regime will develop superior decisions and actions within a collaborative environment where all parties interests, concerns and information are used. It is my goal to improve the Kivalliq research division's ability to work in partnership with the KWB and all its members to build a superior wildlife management system that benefits harvesters while conserving wildlife resources for their children.

Respectfully,

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# Appendix - A

Thelon / South (MX/18)	Adults (All strata in MX21)										
	Stratum	Yh	Var(Yh)	nh	Z	z	N	y(adults)	R (density)	Y	
	B_High	1551.14	32583.85	33	11619	5288.38	64.01	706	0.134	1551.14	
	D_Medium	742.9	64327.83	26	7047.2	2437.92	77.465	257	0.105	742.9	
	E_LowA	206.64	6824.84	15	7855.5	1482.58	70.49	39	0.026	206.64	
	<b>Estimate =</b>	<b>2500.68</b>	103736.5	74	26521.7	9208.88	211.97	1002	0.109	2885.77	
	SE(Y)			322.08		t2(0.5), 73		df= 1.993			
	95% Confidence Limits of Y (+/-)			641.91		Proposed Management Goal in Brackets					
	95% Confidence Limits of Y (%)			25.67		Old Quota (Expansion) = 3% LCI =1858.77 x 0.03 = 55					
	Coefficient of Variation			0.112		New Quota (Stability) = 5% LCI = 1858.77 x 0.05 = 93					
Thelon / North (MX/17)	Adults (All strata in MX20)										
	Stratum	Yh	Var(Yh)	nh	Z	z	N	y(adults)	density	Y	
	F_LowB	1521.83	109568.5	28	35377.65	7276.24	135.73	313	0.043017	1521.831	
	<b>Estimate =</b>	<b>1521.83</b>	109568.5	28	35377.65	7276.24	135.73	313	0.043017	1521.831	
	SE(Y)			331.01		t2(0.5), 27		df= 2.052			
	95% Confidence Limits of Y (+/-)			679.24		Proposed Management Goal in Brackets					
	95% Confidence Limits of Y (%)			44.63		Old Quota (Expansion) = 3% *LCI = 842.59 x 0.03 = 25					
	Coefficient of Variation			0.22		New Quota (Stability) = 5% *LCI = 842.59 x 0.05 = 42					

\* LCI = The Lower 95% Confidence Limits of Y (-)