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Hunters' and Trappers' Organization
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**Briefing Note for NWMB (Dec 2010)
Request for Study or Survey on Musk-ox Population
On the East Side of Kugluktuk**

The Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization (HTO) would like to see a study or survey done on the population of the Musk-ox on the East Side of Kugluktuk, especially in MX-19 Zone. The Kugluktuk HTO has made a motion to increase the musk-ox tags to the East Side of Kugluktuk. The local harvesters (hunters) have been noticing quite an increase in the musk-ox populations to the East of Kugluktuk. Herds can be seen in large numbers, and seen frequently by local travelers and hunters.

There is serious concerns that if the musk-ox is allowed to keep increasing, then the musk-ox tend to take over caribou trails and areas where they feed, and the caribou will move away or further away. This has been the case for the past few years, the caribou have been so far away, that local harvesters have had to travel huge distances in order to harvest caribou. The caribou move to other areas where there is no conflict for vegetation (food) with the musk-ox. This was the case for the communities of Sachs Harbour and Uluhaktuk in the past. The musk-ox was allowed to increase their herds too much, which is believed to be the cause of the caribou moving away from those two community areas. Which is still the case today; those two communities still have no caribou (or are too far) around their surrounding areas and are still relying on other communities to provide caribou for them.

This has been an ongoing issue for the Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization for a few years now. And there has been no resolution to the Kugluktuk HTO's request to increase the musk-ox tags for local harvesters (hunters). In the past, more tags were requested and received from the Bathurst Inlet HTO office. The Kugluktuk HTO would like to see an increase in musk-ox tags in our own jurisdiction for local harvesters to use. Increasing the musk-ox tags then assists the community of Kugluktuk during harvesting to provide well needed native food, which has replaced the meat of caribou these days.

Barbara Adjun
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