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Hunters' & Trappers' Organization  
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**Briefing Note Submission to NWMB (AMENDED)**

**Request for Temporary Exemption Permit for  
MX-19 Musk-ox Zone and On the Islands Between  
the Mainland and Victoria Island**

**Information:**

**Decision: X**

**Issue:** To apply for a temporary exemption permit to increase the total allowable harvest (TAH) in the Musk-ox Management Zone MX-19 which is located east of the community of Kugluktuk, and to also include the islands between the mainland and Victoria Island in the quota increase.

**Background:**

Following a discussion/consultation/meeting held between Department of Environment (DOE), Kugluktuk, Wildlife Manager, the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association proposed changes to the musk-ox management in MX-19 zone and on the islands between the mainland and Victoria Island (in the Kugluktuk area) to increase the total allowable harvest and seek an exemption permit until new regulations are implemented. The Department of Environment supports our request to increase the total allowable harvest to assist in management of the musk-ox populations in the areas.

The last population survey was done in 2005 by the Department of Environment, Kugluktuk, and after which an increase in TAH was recommended. This has been an ongoing issue. And now, from traditional knowledge from hunters/harvesters who travel in the MX-19 zone, it has been noticed that the musk-ox herds have become too large and more herds and larger herds are being noticed in the area. And on the islands between the mainland and Victoria Island, the concern is that each spring there is musk-ox being reported on the islands, and if they are allowed to stay on the islands, they would starve to death or they are difficult to herd to bigger islands and are subject to drowning in ice leads while herding them.

These are the present details to the tags:

- ✓ (20) tags are issued to Bay Chimo –MX-19: They may not be used because of the area being too far West for Bay Chimo.
- ✓ (20) tags are issued to Bathurst Inlet –MX-19: They may not all be used each year.
- ✓ (20) tags are issued to Kugluktuk –MX-19: (16) tags are for allocated for sports hunts, while (4) tags are allocated for the inland residents or people who live in the Contwoyto Lake area. All the tags are usually allocated immediately.
- ✓ (100) tags are issued to Kugluktuk – MX-10 East Victoria Island: The Kugluktuk HTO has been conducting two community harvests per year in December and April and each time

we have harvested up to 10 musk-ox in December and 30 musk-ox in April (before closing season). Right now the community harvests are allocated to East Victoria Island (MX-10). The harvesters have to travel a long distance, on very rough ice terrain to get there and it is a costly harvest because of the distance and the number of days to do the hunts. The total allowable harvest on Victoria Island is (100) tags per year.

These are the recommendations that the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association is seeking:

- ✓ To increase the total allowable harvest from 60 to 75 tags in the MX-19 zone, as per recommendations from the Department of Environment.
- ✓ To increase the quota for Kugluktuk, allocating unused tags from Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet.
- ✓ Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet has tags for the East MX-19 zone, but they do not use all of the tags that are issued to them.
- ✓ To increase the quota to allow the residents of Kugluktuk to harvest musk-ox in place of caribou as part of a temporary management plan to address the caribou herds decline.
- ✓ Increasing the musk-ox quota in MX-19 and to include the islands, would allow the harvesters to hunt closer to home during the annual community musk-ox harvests.
- ✓ Increasing the musk-ox TAH would benefit the community for country food to those who cannot provide it for themselves and their families.

#### **Current Situation:**

The musk-ox management plan and changes to the zone areas will be tabled for discussion with all concerned parties in the West Kitikmeot which include Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Bathurst Inlet and Bay Chimo.

Presently, (20) tags are issued to the East of Kugluktuk for sports hunts and Contwoyto Lake or inland use, and (100) tags are issued for Victoria Island.

#### **Recommendations:**

The Kugluktuk Angoniatit recommends issuing the exemption permit for the musk-ox zone MX-19 total allowable harvest and to include the islands between the mainland (Kugluktuk area) and Victoria Island for the harvesting season 2011-2012.

The DOE, Regional office in Kugluktuk supports the temporary exemption for the total allowable harvest increase and the inclusion of the islands between Kugluktuk and Victoria Island as part of MX-19, while discussions are taking place to make changes to the management plan/zones of the musk-ox in the Kugluktuk area.

Regards,

Barbara Adjun  
Manager

c.c. DOE, Kugluktuk  
Kugluktuk HTO Board