

**MX-10 & MX-13 Muskox Abundance and Management
Recommendations
Consultation With Kivalliq Hunters and Trappers
Organizations**

September 23rd to 26th, 2019

Authors:

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Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut Arviat, Nunavut

Executive Summary

Representatives of the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (DOE) including Mitch Campbell, Kivalliq Region Biologist, and Keenan Lindell, Wildlife Technician, conducted phone call consultations with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) of Rankin Inlet, Naujaat, and Coral Harbour as well as a face to face consultation with the Arviat HTO, between September 23 and September 30th, 2019. The purpose of these consultations was to review the status of the Kivalliq MX-10 and MX-13 muskox subpopulations and request support for the DOE recommendation to increase the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of the Northern Kivalliq muskox subpopulation (MX-10) from 90 to 95 muskox, and the recommendation to keep the Central Kivalliq Muskox subpopulation (MX-13) status quo (unchanged) at 182 muskox.

Attempts were made to speak with all Kivalliq HTOs, unfortunately our calls with Baker Lake and Whale Cove had to be postponed due to a search and rescue in Baker Lake, and a lack of quorum in Whale Cove. Despite several attempts to reach the Chesterfield Inlet HTO by both phone and e-mail, we did not receive a response back. All calls were preceded by the distribution of all final muskox survey reports four weeks prior to the phone consultation. In the case of Baker Lake and Whale Cove HTOs, both HTOs indicated that the reports were sufficient to finalize their decision to support the GN recommendations for status Quo for MX-13 (Central Kivalliq Muskox Subpopulation), and an increase in the TAH of the northern Kivalliq muskox subpopulation (MX-10) from 90 to 95 muskox. Within one week following the phone consultations, the GN received support letters, supporting the GN recommendations to keep MX-13 status quo, and to increase the TAH for MX-10 from 90 to 95 muskox, from each of the Arviat HTO, Rankin Inlet HTO, Naujaat HTO, Baker Lake HTO, Coral Harbour HTO, and Whale Cove HTO.

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1.0 Report Purpose and Structure

This report is intended to collate and summarize comments, questions, concerns and suggestions provided by the HTOs in response to the information presented by Mitch Campbell, Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Biologist with the Government of Nunavut. The following communities were consulted from September 23rd to 26th, 2019:

- Naujaat - September 23rd, 2019
- Arviat - September 24th, 2019
- Rankin Inlet - September 25th, 2019
- Coral Harbour – September 26th, 2019
- Whale Cove – September 30th, 2019

** Phone call meeting with Baker Lake scheduled for September 24th, canceled due to funeral and search and rescue operation. **

** Phone call meeting with Whale Cove scheduled for September 30th, meeting canceled because not enough members showed up. **

2.0 Purpose of Consultation Tour

The purpose of these consultations was to review the status of the Kivalliq MX-10 and MX-13 muskox subpopulations and request support for the GN recommendation to keep the Central Kivalliq Muskox subpopulation (MX-13) status Quo (unchanged) and to increase the TAH of the Northern Kivalliq muskox subpopulation (MX-10) from 90 to 95 muskox with all other management actions unchanged.

2.1 Format of Meetings

Meetings were conducted by phone and preceded by the distribution of the survey reports approximately 4 weeks prior. All meetings started with a verbal overview of the MX-13 and MX-10 survey results, and ended with an overview of GN recommendations based on survey findings. Following the presentation, the floor was opened up for questions, comments and concerns. On average, each meeting took 45 min to an hour to complete.

DOE Presentation Overview:

- Since their near-extirpation in the early 20th century, muskox have been re-colonizing much of their former range.
- The central Kivalliq Muskox subpopulation (MX-13) changed little between July 2012 (Estimate = 4,506, 95% CI = +/- 948), and July 2016 (Estimate = 4,437, 95% CI = +/- 1,054). As

the population appears stable the DOE is not recommending any change in management action at this time.

- The first survey of muskoxen in the northern Kivalliq region (MX-10) occurred in 1999, giving an estimate of $1,522 \pm 679$ (95% CI).
- Muskox populations (MX-10 and MX-13) in the Kivalliq region have expanded their range to the northeast, north, and south over the past 20 years, according to population monitoring.
- Hunters in Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake have also reported increased abundance of muskox in MX-10 and continued expansion of their range within this management unit.
- By 2008, seasonal Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) had been removed and proportions used to set a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) on Kivalliq muskox populations were increased from 3% to 5%.
- The northern Kivalliq muskox subpopulation (MX-10) estimate indicates an increase from 2,341 (95% CI = +/- 545) muskox in July 2012 to 3,239 (95% CI = +/- 1,050) muskox in July 2017, though this increase was not statistically significant. Further trend analysis strongly suggested an increasing trend. Though the increase did not test significant, the trend analysis did provide a strong indication that the herd was growing. Additionally, calf proportions also displayed an increase over previous survey observed proportions. For this reason the DOE is recommending a small increase in the MX-10 TAH from 90 to 95 muskox.
- The DOE recommends keeping the MX-13 muskox subpopulation status quo (no management action recommended). Based on the most recent survey results, the DOE recommends increasing the TAH in the MX-10 muskox subpopulation from 90 to 95 to meet conservation, management, and food security needs of Kivalliq Inuit.

3.0 Summary by Community

HTO Phone Meeting Naujaat

Musk Ox Reports

Meeting Date: September 23, 2019

Start time: 6:45

Attendance:

- Mitch Campbell (GNDOE)
- Keenan Lindell GNDOE

- Dolly Mablik (Naujaat HTO)
- ** Need attendance**

Presentation-M. Campbell

- 1**-Present status of Kivalliq Muskox subpopulations.
- 2**-Recommendations to keep MX-13 unchanged and to Increase MX-10 TAH from 90 to 95 muskox, no change in NQLs for either MX-13 or MX-10.
- 3**-Requested a letter of support for DOE recommendations.
- 4**-Questions/concerns with survey results and/or DOE management recommendations.

Discussion:

Hugh - when the tags are used do they use them all or are there any left over?

Mitch Campbell - We believe that all the tags don't really get all filled. We are currently getting the HKRs (hunter kill returns) sent to us so we do not have the numbers yet.

Peter Manik - We have a local outfitter here and we'll ask him if he is interested in that.

Mitch Campbell - If the communities do agree with increase, we then present it to NWMB then to KWB to allocate the tags. If we can get support by the end of the month we can get it in time for the NWMB December meeting therefore you would get more tags sooner.

Chair - Your request will be reviewed and we will discuss whether we support the increase or not.

Mitch Campbell - that's fantastic, please let us know if you need anything else, really appreciate making this happen on such short notice.

Adjourned at 7:05 PM

HTO Face to Face Meeting Arviat

Muskox Reports

Meeting Date: September 24, 2019

Start time: 7:13

Attendance:

- Mitch Campbell (GNDOE)
- Keenan Lindell (GNDOE)
- Andrea Issaluk (Arviat HTO)
- Thomas Hiatalaaq (Arviat HTO)
- Thomas Ubluriaq (Arviat HTO)
- Sam Muckpah (Arviat HTO)
- Louis Angalik (Arviat HTO)
- Gordy Kidlapik (Arviat HTO)
- Taipana (Arviat HTO)

Presentation-Mitch Campbell

1-Present status of Kivalliq Muskox subpopulations.

2-Recommendations to keep MX-13 unchanged and to Increase MX-10 TAH from 90 to 95 muskox, no change in NQLs for either MX-13 or MX-10.

3-Requested a letter of support for DOE recommendations.

4-Questions/concerns with survey results and/or DOE management recommendations.

Discussion:

Thomas Ubluriaq - I am in favor of supporting this because I want to see an increase in the number of muskox being hunted.

Louis Angalik - Is this increase for Arviat only? Or all of Kivalliq?

Mitch Campbell - This will be for all the Kivalliq and the KWB will be in charge of allocating the tags.

Gordy Kidlapik - With the increase of muskox how is that impacting caribou? Many people say that caribou and muskox do not like to be in the same area.

Mitch Campbell - We believe that the movement north east, which is not heavily used by caribou, will likely pose little to no threat to caribou in the area. What we are observing through time is that where ever Muskox are, grizzlies seem to follow. We are not too concerned right now for the caribou population as it seems to be doing well. One thing we have also noticed within muskox groups in the north are that there are a lot of calves and the population is steadily growing. We don't know what this might mean if this growth starts to overlap with sensitive caribou habitat. We are going back into the communities in January, one of the questions we will be asking in those meetings is increasing the percent of harvest in the northern herd because they might not want to see a huge increase in muskox due to the concerns you have indicated.

Thomas Hiatalaaq - We all know about the caribou calving grounds for Qamanirjuaq. Do you guys know where the muskox have their calving ground? Is it near Qamanirjuaq, or Baker Lake? How big do the groups get? When do you need the letter?

Mitch Campbell - Based on what we have seen, muskox calve wherever they happen to be feeding although they select certain terrain during the actual calving events. Muskox can travel great distances but usually they stay within about a 60 km area. They feed, rut, and calve within this annual range.

The biggest group I have seen is 120 in January/ February. As spring melt gets underway they disperse into broader habitats and in smaller groups. We think they stick together in winter as the large numbers make it easier to dig up the snow and ice to get their food.

We are trying to get a letter before the end of the month then so we can get the NWMB request for decision proposal together before their meeting in December. Their deadline for submission is mid-October.

Thomas Hiatalaaq - Okay Mitch I will give you a letter of support, no sweat.

Gordy Kidlapik - I say we make a motion that we vote on the letter off support now.

Motion to increase 90 to 95 on MX 10 Musk Ox, Carried

Thomas Hiatalaaq - We are noticing that the number of black bears is getting too high as well.

Adjourned at 7:47

HTO Phone Meeting Rankin Inlet

Muskox Reports

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Start time: 6:37

Attendance:

- Mitch Campbell (GNDOE)
- Keenan Lindell (GNDOE)
- Clayton Tartak (Rankin Inlet HTO)
- Brian Sigurdson (Rankin Inlet HTO)

Presentation-Mitch Campbell

1-Present status of Kivalliq Muskox subpopulations.

2-Recommendations to keep MX-13 unchanged and to Increase MX-10 TAH from 90 to 95 muskox, no change in NQLs for either MX-13 or MX-10.

3-Requested a letter of support for DOE recommendations.

4-Questions/concerns with survey results and/or DOE management recommendations.

Discussion:

Brian Sigurdson - Are you suggesting the increase for central as well?

Mitch Campbell - No we are only recommending the quota change for the northern herd. We are recommending no change for the central muskox subpopulation (MX-13)

as the 2010 and 2016 survey estimates showed no change in abundance indicating the subpopulation is stable.

Clayton Tartak - Have you had any negative response from any other HTOs regarding your recommendations?

Mitch Campbell - No we have not, Naujaat has already provided a support letter and Arviat made a motion that received unanimous support to support the quota change.

Brian Sigurdson - Since we don't have any questions or concerns regarding your recommendations we will probably just go ahead and support it.

Adjourned at 7:47

HTO Phone Meeting Coral Harbour

Muskox Reports

Meeting Date: September 26, 2019

Start time: 7:20

Attendance:

- Mitch Campbell (GNDOE)
- Keenan Lindell (GNDOE)
- Coral Harbour HTO members

Presentation-Mitch Campbell

1-Present status of Kivalliq Muskox subpopulations.

2-Recommendations to keep MX-13 unchanged and to Increase MX-10 TAH from 90 to 95 muskox, no change in NQLs for either MX-13 or MX-10.

3-Requested a letter of support for DOE recommendations.

4-Questions/concerns with survey results and/or DOE management recommendations.

Discussion:

Moses Nakolak - Here in coral we don't finish all the tags we have, are we able to sell the meat to the Rankin meat plant?

Mitch Campbell – You can ask them ahead of time if they would be willing to purchase harvested animals from your allocation, but yes you can. You can also sell your tags to sport hunters/guides as they usually are looking out for more tags. You would have to make the request to the HTOs holding the tags for the specific management unit as they would need to know who might be harvesting there. You could raise this issue at the next KWB meeting.

Moses Nakolak - One time when we had a meeting with the KWB in Rankin we got a few tags from KWB, they said we were not allowed to sell the tags to sport hunters.

Mitch Campbell - I will have to double check then, because it was my understanding that you can sell them to sport hunters.

HTO Member - Is there any other way it can be more than 5 tags?

Mitch Campbell - We are working on getting the estimate tighter once this is done we may be able to increase it more. Usually we need a large population change to increase the quota but since we had such a good amount of calves we decided it's safe to increase by 5. Rankin was interested in increasing as well. We will do this 5 for now but we will look into increasing it even more in March. Once we tighten up the numbers the 5% may end up being more than 5 animals so that would increase it. The muskox populations are all looking very good and healthy.

We will be coming into all the communities for visits in January or February.

Adjourned at 7: 40

HTO Phone Meeting Whale Cove

Muskox Reports

Meeting Date: September 30, 2019

Start time: 6:58 to 7:01

Attendance:

- Mitch Campbell (GNDOE)
- Keenan Lindell (GNDOE)
- Victoria (Whale Cove HTO)

Presentation-Mitch Campbell

- 1**-Present status of Kivalliq Muskox subpopulations.
- 2**-Recommendations to keep MX-13 unchanged and to Increase MX-10 TAH from 90 to 95 muskox, no change in NQLs for either MX-13 or MX-10.
- 3**-Requested a letter of support for DOE recommendations.
- 4**-Questions/concerns with survey results and/or DOE management recommendations.

Discussion:

Some discussion with Secretary Treasurer but no other members showed up to the meeting. Victoria said she would take this information to her Board and request a letter of support for the GN recommendations.

Appendix 1: Letters of Support:

Thursday, September 26, 2019



To Mitch Campbell, Keenan Lindell

On behalf of the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization, we support allocation tags for umingmak to increase from 90 to 95 in the area Mx-10 and you have full support from KHTO and Board members and we hope to continue to work with your staff on any wild life issues in the future. As it is use in sport hunting and good for our economic in our community.

Thank You

Andrew Akerolik



Arviq HTO
P.O. Box 39
Naujaat, Nunavut
X0C 0H0
Telephone / ᐅᓄᓂᓗᐅᓗᓗᓗ
Fax / ᓄᓄᓂᓗᐅᓗᓗᓗ
E-mail / ᓄᓄᓂᓗᐅᓗᓗᓗ

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X0C 0H0
(867) 462-4334
(867) 462-4335
arviq@kivallighto.ca

Re: Support Letter

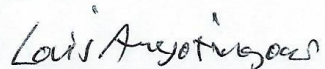
To: Mitch Campbell & Keenan Lindell
Kivalliq Wildlife Research Program
Nunavut Department of Environment
P.O. Box 120
Arviat, NU
X0C 0E0
(867) 857-3171(Mitch) or
(867) 857-3175 (Keenan)

September 25, 2019

To whom it may concern:

On the Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization regular meeting on September 23, 2019, Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Biologist requested to have the quota change of the MX-10 Musk Ox and the results of the 2017 MX-10 Musk Ox survey found a population increase from the last survey in 2012. The estimate in 2012 was 2341 and our estimate for 2017 is 3239 an increase of nearly 1000 animals. Because of the increase the Arviq Hunter and Trappers Organization Board of Directors fully supports to raise the quota from 90 to 95 and agrees with the quota change.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization


Louis Angotingoar, Chairperson

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me @ 867-462-4334 or arviq@kivallighto.ca



September 5th, 2019

Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Rankin Inlet, NU
X0C 0G0

RE: Request for 5 more Muskox Tags for MX10 (North)

The BLHTO is requesting for 5 more muskox tags for MX10 as all of our tags for that location are all used up for this season 2019-20. We have some hunter requests for muskox tags for MX10 and if we are granted 5 more tags, it should be enough.

Thank you and awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Aksawnee
Chairperson
Baker Lake HTO



September 27, 2019

Mitch Campbell
Department of Environment
P.O. Box 120
Arviat, Nunavut
X0C 0E0

Dear: Mr. Campbell,

Increase of Musk Ox Tags; MX-13

The Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 and the board of directors would like to inform you that you have been approved for the letter of support.

This letter is written to state that we, the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization Board of Directors have discussed and are in support of increasing Status Quo MX-13; Musk Ox Tags by 5 from 90 to 95 and keep the other management the same from all other wildlife; (MX-10)

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact the Arviat HTO. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Alikaswa
Arviat HTO Chairperson

