

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
5<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 30<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL  
NO. 1-30

TABLED ON JUNE 14, 1965



30 April, 1965.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 1  
(Second Session, 1965)

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALLER GAME ZONES  
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DISPOSITION

Accepted as read.....

Amended..... See Text.

Rejected..... See Text.

Deferred..... See Text.

Not considered.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALLER GAME ZONES  
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The possibility of establishing smaller game zones was discussed by the Council of the Northwest Territories in 1962 and 1963. At the request of Council the Administration examined the proposal to revise the existing boundaries.

Present Situation

The Northwest Territories are now divided into six groups of overlapping game zones. Each group was established to assist in the management of particular species of game. The groups are as follows:

- (1) Beaver and muskrat - Four zones, all in the Mackenzie District.
- (2) Big Game - Six zones, covering that portion of the Mackenzie District outside the Arctic Island Preserve.
- (3) Caribou - Two zones, one east and one west of the Mackenzie River System.
- (4) Polar Bear - Two zones, established according to Territorial districts.
- (5) Fox - Two zones, one north and one south of the timber line.
- (6) Otter - Two zones, one north and one south of the Arctic Circle.

These game zones were established to meet particular situations rather than any overall plan. They are, in many instances, inadequate for their purposes and are generally confusing.

Proposals

The Administration proposes that the existing game zones be abolished and that new zones be established with common boundaries for all species of game and fur-bearing animals. The new zones should be large enough to facilitate proper game management.

In more detail, the Administration proposes that:

- (1) the existing game zones be abolished;
- (2) revised game zones be established by legislation;
- (3) the new zones conform to local topography, human and physical geography, ecology and climate;
- (4) general legislation regarding seasons, quotas and capture techniques, based upon the best biological information available, be enacted for the new zones, either singly or in groups;
- (5) specific seasons, quotas, capture techniques and other management directions be set for each zone or group of zones by regulations; and

- (6) the hunters resident in each zone be encouraged, through their elected councils, to control specific items in (5) above, within the general framework of (4), but with the Commissioner holding a final control over the recommendations of these councils.

The zoning pattern calls for the establishment of 36 game management zones. In drawing up these zones, the advice of the Canadian Wildlife Service was considered. Trappers' Councils within the Mackenzie District were also consulted. Changes in the original zoning were made to accommodate the views of the trappers' councils and Canadian Wildlife Service.

### Conclusion

Approval of the new zoning system is recommended. The smaller zones will permit greater flexibility in arranging open seasons both for fur bearers and for big game animals, and are conducive to a program of good game management.