

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

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL  
NO. 5-30

TABLED ON JUNE 14, 1965



7 May, 1965.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 5  
(Second Session, 1965)

MUSKOX HUNTING  
QUEEN ELIZABETH ISLANDS

DISPOSITION

Accepted as Read..... **JUN 16 1965**  
Amended..... See Text.  
Rejected..... See Text.  
Deferred..... See Text.  
Not considered.

## MUSKOX HUNTING

### QUEEN ELIZABETH ISLANDS

A Game Survey by the Canadian Wildlife Service in 1961 estimated there were 7,500 muskoxen on the Queen Elizabeth Islands, with the main concentrations on Ellesmere, Melville, Bathurst and Axel Heiberg Islands.

The Survey concluded that muskoxen could be of value to the Eskimo economy through a small annual kill. The muskox population on the Queen Elizabeth Islands has reached a level that will permit this.

To avoid killing too many, hunting should be on a quota basis. During the survey, percentage of yearlings in the larger herds were 1.1, 2.7, 6.78 and an exceptionally high 12.89 on Ellesmere Island. Therefore, to ensure that the kill remains within the productive capacity of the herds, it is recommended that initially, a quota of 1% of the estimated number on each Island be established. This quota should be flexible to permit adjustment in relation to altering reproduction rates.

It is important that the herds remain undisturbed during the calving period; therefore, it is proposed that the hunting season be closed from April 15th to June 15th.

Hunting of muskoxen by the Eskimos will provide benefits of meat and skin. Great benefits can also be derived through the development of muskox sport hunting. Benefits to the Eskimos would include income through employment as guides and the sale of handicrafts to visiting hunters.

This is a unique opportunity with considerable potential. On a controlled-quota basis, such sport hunting can provide seasonal income to quite a number of Eskimos for an indefinite period.

The Commissioner recommends that hunting of muskoxen be permitted to the holder of a General Hunting Licence on the four Islands, which contain the main concentrations- Ellesmere, Bathurst, Melville and Axel Heiberg, and that the possibility of sport hunting in these areas be looked into.