

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
5TH COUNCIL, 34TH SESSION**

- RECOMMENDATION TO
COUNCIL NO. 9-34**

TABLED ON APRIL 6, 1967

Recommendation to Council 9-34
Tabled on April 6, 1967



March 5, 1967.

Confidential - Not
for release before
tabling during the
34th Session of
Council.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 9
(First Session, 1967)

SPORT HUNTING OF MUSKOXEN - QUEEN ELIZABETH ISLANDS

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered

SPORT HUNTING OF MUSKOXEN QUEEN ELIZABETH ISLANDS
Re: Item For Action No. 137

At the 33rd Session of the Northwest Territories Council, Sessional Paper No. 12, Sport Hunting of Muskoxen was considered in committee. The Committee accepted the Administration's recommendation that they should continue to acquire the information necessary to provide a basis on which to make definite recommendations to Council at a future session. Council requested that this be treated as a matter of urgency.

In compliance with Council's request, meetings were recently held between the different Branches which would be involved in this program and officials of the Canadian Wildlife Service to resolve the different, existing opinions. As a result of these discussions, the Administration is now prepared to recommend that sport hunting of muskoxen on the Queen Elizabeth Islands be permitted according to the plan and specific recommendations outlined in this paper. At the 34th Session of Council, the Member for Eastern Arctic tabled a brief from the people of Grise Fiord, concerning hunting of muskoxen, a summary of which is attached as Appendix A.

(a) Quota System

Sport hunting for muskoxen will be on a strict quota basis. Quotas will be established from year to year for certain localities on the Queen Elizabeth Islands.

A 1968 quota of 32 muskoxen is suggested of which 16 would be allotted to the Resolute Bay Co-operative and 16 to the Grise Fiord group. This quota, representing less than .05% of the total muskox population is considerably lower than the annual herd increase and could be increased appreciably if the demand for and practicability of muskox sport hunting should warrant a higher quota. A Canadian Wildlife Service survey of muskoxen distribution in Canada, taken 5 years ago, is attached as Appendix B.

The quota of 32 muskoxen is also based on reasons of practicability and economics. It must be realized that charter of local aircraft is the most expensive, individual item of the entire program. Consequently, every effort must be made to utilize flying hours in the best interest of the Eskimo Co-operatives. It is therefore suggested that hunters be handled in groups of eight who will simultaneously arrive at Resolute Bay; either by Nordair from Montreal (weekly flight) or by charter aircraft from Edmonton or Yellowknife. These eight hunters will be split up at Resolute Bay and four will hunt from there and four of them will proceed to Grise Fiord. Four hunters can conveniently be handled by Otter or Beechcraft aircraft. Furthermore, when bringing hunters out, meat for the Eskimo can be carried on the same flight.

(b) Meat Retained by Co-operative

All of the muskox carcasses except the heads and hides shall be retained by the Co-operative for the benefit of all members of the community.

(c) Open Season

The open season for muskoxen will commence during the first part of August and will terminate after five weeks. This season coincides with the ice free period and will make it possible for hunters to participate in seal and beluga hunting.

The opening date will change from year to year depending on Nordair flight schedules. The date closest to August 5 is preferred. Despite the fact that hunters should have no difficulty to bag their muskox within a few days, it is suggested that hunters remain one week in the field to be replaced by other hunters who will arrive by mainliner or chartered aircraft.

(d) Financial and Legal Arrangements

It is proposed that the financing and legal responsibility for this operation be handled by the Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay Co-operatives. The Co-operatives concerned have expressed interest in principle in carrying out these operations. Their respective Boards of Directors, however, have not yet had time to study the detailed feasibility of each program. In general terms the economics of the proposal may be as follows: Prospective hunters will be offered a package deal at a total fee of \$4,000. This amount will cover the following approximate expenses:

1. Aircraft fare per hunter from Montreal or Yellowknife to Resolute Bay and return and to include shipment of trophies (head and hide) \$500.00
2. Fees for Licences approximately -
 - i) Muskox (to include caribou and wolf) . . . \$250.00
 - ii) White Whale \$ 40.00
 - iii) Seal (except bearded seal) \$ 25.00
 - iv) Angling \$ 2.00
3. Guides' Fees (including rental of boats) \$700.00
4. Charter of Local Aircraft \$1,000.00
5. Co-operative Outfitters Fee approximately . . . \$1,500.00

According to information from the Department of Fisheries, beluga and seal (except bearded seal) hunting is now authorized in all waters north of Latitude 60° north. In this manner, fullest utilization of aircraft can be obtained. The returning hunters will spend approximately another week in the settlement where they can engage in seal hunting, fishing, etc.

The licence fee of \$250. may appear relatively high, however, it should be realized that the Territorial Government will be confronted annually by additional expenses which should be defrayed by the revenues realized through licences.

(e) Hunting of Other Game

As there are substantial caribou populations on some islands, it is recommended that each hunter should be entitled to bag one caribou provided the meat remains with the Eskimo. The taking of wolves should be permitted. Each hunter should obtain the other enumerated licences in order to take advantage of seal and beluga hunting as well as of fishing whenever opportunities present themselves. It may be possible that some local persons who own aircraft would like to participate in muskox hunting. In such instances it is suggested that their expenses should be reduced by approximately \$1,500.00.

(f) Arctic District Tourist Development Officer

All hunters must make arrangements through the Arctic District Tourist Development Officer acting on behalf of the Co-operatives.

(g) Licencing and Training of Guides

Each hunter will be required to be accompanied by a guide licensed and appointed by the proper authority.

Despite the fact that preliminary guide training has already been conducted, it is strongly recommended that prospective guides receive at least one week of additional intensive training prior to the commencement of the regular hunt. This will ensure that a highly qualified guide service be available within a few years. As a relatively stiff price is being charged, hunters should obtain first-class service.

As it will be again mandatory to kill one or two muskox for the Resolute Bay as well as for the Grise Fiord intensive Guide Training Program planned for 1967, it is suggested that two sports writers, (publicity men) could partake in this initial phase. It is also very likely that museums will be interested in obtaining specimens of muskoxen. Such requests could be given favourable consideration. This too should be done under supervision by the Game Management Service in order to provide for an optimum of guide training. It is evident that the Game Management Service must also take advantage of all opportunities to gather detailed information for designing a sound sport hunting program which would exclude as many detrimental factors as possible. In co-operation with Vocational Training, Guide Training will be provided by the Game Management Service who will simultaneously assist the Eskimo Co-operatives throughout the open season and will also engage in studying the possibility of expanding the program as well as making further investigation regarding localities where future years' quotas can be taken. The collection of biological information will be mandatory.

As discussed and agreed to during the meetings with the Eskimo Co-operatives, each hunter will be accompanied by a qualified guide. In addition, one apprentice guide, receiving approximately half the pay of a regular guide, should be assigned to each outpost camp to obtain on-the-spot training and to assist in every way possible. Because some muskoxen may be bagged miles away from camp, salvaging the meat by just one guide may prove to be rather difficult. Any wastage of meat must be avoided by adequate precautions. After a year or two, the apprentice guide will become a regular guide so that a qualified guide service will always be available.

(h) Business Manager

The Co-operatives will require assistance in organizing hunts. Because neither of the Eskimo Co-operatives possesses any experience in outfitting and both are in a disadvantageous position because of their isolated geographical situation, to correspond with prospective hunters or to make the final arrangements, it is strongly recommended that one person be appointed to act as a business manager and to co-ordinate and arrange all details pertaining to this sport hunting project. This person in conjunction with the other staff of the Arctic District could assist the Co-operatives as follows:

1. Conduct all correspondence with enquirers.
2. Arrange and confirm bookings for respective co-operatives.
3. Receive deposits and/or advance payments in full.
4. Arrange and confirm airline reservations.

5. Establish billing arrangements between airlines and co-operatives.
6. Ensure that the Game Management Service is kept informed.
7. Act as purchasing and shipping co-ordinator and expediter for co-operative materials and supplies.
8. Arrange a tour by a reputable free-lance writer. It is further suggested that this officer should also proceed to Resolute Bay just prior to the open seasons to assist in arranging the final phases of the hunt and to complete the final business transaction (paying local air services, guides and other persons rendering direct services and making final payments to the co-operatives).

(i) English Speaking Eskimo Assistant

It will be necessary to hire one English speaking Eskimo to assist the Grise Fiord Eskimo Co-operative for the duration of its hunts. This person who will be required in the field because there is no Eskimo at Grise Fiord with a sufficient command of English. This can be arranged by the District Tourist Development Officer (funds are available for this purpose).

Recommendations

The Commissioner recommends that muskox sport hunting on Queen Elizabeth Islands be approved for 1968 in accordance with the program outlined in this paper. It will have to be advertised immediately to ascertain the number of prospective hunters intending to hunt muskoxen in 1968. Preparations and ordering of supplies and materials will require considerable time.

APPENDIX A

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE STATISTICS ON MUSKOX
DISTRIBUTION AND POPULATION IN CANADA

(Data obtained between 1960-1962)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Muskox Population</u>
Banks	100
Victoria	670
Prince of Wales	100
Somerset	100
Devon	200
Cornwallis	50
Bathurst	1,160
Melville	1,000
Amund Ringnes	10
Axel Heiberg	1,000
Ellesmere	<u>4,000</u>
Total - Arctic Islands	8,390
Bluenose Lake	100
Paulatuk	200
*Thelon Game Sanctuary	700
Northeastern Keewatin	300
Northwestern Keewatin	<u>200</u>
Total - Arctic Mainland	<u>1,500</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>9,890</u>

* Revised estimate based on surveys in 1966.

Summary of a Brief from the People of Grise Fiord on Hunting of Muskoxen

At the 34th Session of Council, the Member for Eastern Arctic tabled a brief from the people of Grise Fiord on hunting of Muskoxen. A summary of the recommendations in the brief follows.

- (1) If muskox hunting is allowed the Eskimo people should be allowed to hunt them.

Very often Eskimos travel up to 400 miles on hunts and may see only muskox in their travels. Caribou meat and fish cannot be bought at Grise Fiord and there is no variety of food except for sea animals. The Eskimos are running out of food in the cold winters when seals are hard to get. The dogs also need muskox meat.

- (2) Both young and old bulls should be hunted but females with calves should be protected.

It is a mistake to hunt only the old bulls who have the experience to protect the younger muskox from wolves.

- (3) The hunting season should start in September and end in May.

After May the seals are more plentiful and the muskox hide is in poor condition.

- (4) Hunting should start in 1967.

- (5) A quota of 16 muskox is sufficient for Grise Fiord.

- (6) Each sport hunter should be limited to a quota of one muskox.

- (7) Eskimo Guides.

There is no need for an Eskimo guide to take a course in the south because Eskimos are experienced hunters. An older guide who is experienced should be in control of the sport hunter's movements. A younger, less experienced guide, with a knowledge of English, should also be in the hunting party to act as an interpreter.

- (8) Eskimos should be able to seal the skins and horns of muskox that they kill.

- (9) There is a need for a Game Officer in the Eastern Arctic - so that regulations can be properly enforced and changes in regulations can be communicated to the Eskimos.