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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 25
(First Session, 1967)

REPORT ON THE 1966 BIG GAME HUNT
IN THE MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS

DISPOSITION

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

REPORT ON THE 1966 BIG GAME HUNT
IN THE MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS

For the second consecutive year big-game hunting operations in Game Management Zone No. 12 for residents and non-residents were carried out. Seven outfitters were authorized to cater for sport hunters, however, one outfitter did not operate so that the following data relate to the operations of six persons.

A total of 313 animals were harvested during the open season from August 1 to November 30th. The breakdown by species is as follows:

Black Bear	-	4
Grizzly Bear	-	28
Dall Sheep (Rams)	-	128
Moose	-	69
Caribou (Woodland)	-	71
Wolf	-	13

A total of 180 Non-resident Big-game Hunting Licences were issued of which four were refunded because holders could not hunt due to illness. Out of the remaining hunters, 163 were non-residents (including Europeans) and 13 came from the Canadian Provinces. Outfitters handled from a low of three hunters to as many as eighty-one. Generally speaking, the 1966 Big-Game Sport Hunting Program was unquestionably, an economic success.

Economic Significance of the Program

The economic values of a Sport Hunting Program such as the present one are so intrinsically interwoven that it is rather difficult to submit a detailed analysis of all financial implications. For example, out-of-pocket expenses by non-residents during their stay in the Northwest Territories are difficult to obtain. Such expenses, although quite often substantial to the local economy, do not clearly indicate actual revenues to individuals, to the Territorial and/or Federal Governments. The values of tips in the form of cash, clothing or the like are also difficult to estimate for an inclusion in a comprehensive analysis. Consequently, in the following brief discussion, only revenues will be considered which can be directly related to the Program.

A. Revenues from Licences

The following Licences issued under the Sport Hunting Program brought the undernoted revenues to the Territorial Government:

Non-resident (Alien)	-	163 @ \$150.	=	\$24,450.
Non-resident (Canadian)	-	13 @ 100.	=	1,300.
Outfitter Licences	-	6 @ 50.	=	300.
Guide Licences	-	54 @ 10.	=	<u>540.</u>
Total -				\$26,590.

B. Wages Paid to Local Guides

Outfitters reported the hiring of 37 local guides to whom they paid the total amount of \$19,335. (Wages of non-resident guides are not included.)

As the period of employment varied greatly for individual guides, it would be deceiving to indicate here an average earning per guide.

In addition to their wages, guides often receive very generous tips in cash, clothing and other articles. Furthermore, substantial quantities of dried and fresh meat, as well as many moose and caribou hides, were sent or taken home by the guides.

C. Value of Food Purchased in the Northwest Territories

Six outfitters purchased food locally in the amount of \$4,465. for their camp operations. This amount is certainly not too impressive but it should be borne in mind that hardly any fresh meat is required in hunting camps.

D. Value of Gas Purchased in the Northwest Territories

Six outfitters used four light, privately-owned aircraft in their operations and purchased aviation gas in the amount of \$7,458.

E. Other Supplies

A total of \$15,885. was reportedly required for purchase since other items to be used in the Sport Hunting Program (outboard gas, camping equipment, boats, canoes, saddles, etc.) This, as is obvious, is more of a national economic nature.

F. Local Aircraft Charter

In addition to using their own aircraft in this Program, it was necessary for some outfitters to charter local aircraft while others depended exclusively on charter services. All outfitters paid a total of \$24,282. (It is estimated that local air services required 5,500 gallons of aviation gas as a direct result of this Program.)

G. Freight Expenditures

Outfitters reported to have spent a total of \$5,703. for freight expenditures.

Revenues realized by Pacific Western Airlines netted approximately \$3,500. by transporting hunters to and from Norman Wells, Fort Simpson and Hay River and for excess baggage charges.

Tabulation of Tangible Expenditures

Licences	- \$ 26,590.
Guide Wages	- 19,335.
Food Supplies	- 4,465.
Aviation Gas	- 7,458.
Other Supplies	- 15,885.

Aircraft Charter	-	24,282.
Freight	-	5,703.
Other Expenses	-	<u>1,598.</u>
Grand Total	-	\$105,316.

Discussion

An attempt has been made to demonstrate that a Sport Hunting Program can add to the northern economy. Certainly, the above amount of \$105,316, reflecting more or less the direct benefits for the Northwest Territories, is not very impressive in comparison with the total present financial transactions. However, in realizing that this amount was formerly not available, then the value of a rational game management program becomes evident.

In order to better comprehend the true values of Sport Hunting in the Territories, it seems to be advisable that its significance for the national economy be mentioned briefly.

By estimating that each hunter spent on the average \$2,000. for his hunting excursion (Outfitter's fee, Licence, travel expenses, etc.) it follows that this Sport Hunting Program added approximately \$350,000 to the national economy.

In anticipating a future expansion of the sport hunting in the Northwest Territories, it can be predicted that a very substantial contribution can be made towards the stabilization of the northern economy by utilizing those natural, renewable resources which presently lie fallow.

Although it has been stated that the Sport Hunting Program in Game Management Zone 12 was an economic success, it must also be emphasized that it had some serious shortcomings. While a few outfitters did operate satisfactorily, others went too far and accepted more hunters than they were able to handle. This resulted in justified complaints some of which even reached the Office of the Director of the Northern Administration Branch. One outfitter in particular did not provide appropriate services to his hunters and in contradiction to guide and zoning regulations, he established his own rules so that it became necessary to cancel his outfitting privileges in order to prevent jeopardizing the entire Sport Hunting Program. However, it is noted that outfitters learned through last year's experience, and voluntarily plan to reduce the number of guests to assure that adequate services can be provided.

Guide services were generally not satisfactory despite the fact that the Game Management Service, in co-operation with the Vocational Training Section, conducted a guide training course prior to the opening of the open season. However, it must be realized that guiding is still a novelty in the Northwest Territories and one cannot expect to produce qualified guides within a year or two. It will therefore be necessary to conduct additional and more intensified guide training programs. It is planned to employ prospective guides in the fur and big-game ground surveys the Game Management Service will carry out during the next few years. This will, no doubt, help to provide future guides with a better understanding of their duties in field work and guiding in particular.

The remuneration for guides will also require some future consideration, for \$10. per day appears to be inadequate recompensation for a qualified guide. Consequently, many of the more aggressive hunters are not interested in guiding because of the low pay.

The take of 28 grizzlies during the 1966 season is a source of some concern. This kill might be excessive and, if so, it will be detrimental to the entire Program because this species is one of the main attractions. Should a closed season on grizzly bear be required, the number of hunters will be reduced as a consequence. It is therefore hoped that the new licensing system as recommended at the 33rd Session of the Territorial Council will be approved in the not too distant future to provide the Game Management Service with a tool to regulate the kill in every Game Management Zone.