

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
6TH COUNCIL, 36TH SESSION

RECOMMENDATION TO
COUNCIL NO. 3-36

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 7, 1968



January 31, 1968

CONFIDENTIAL -

Not for release before
tabling during the 36th
Session of Council

RC 3.36

Tabled on Feb 7, 1968

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 3

(First Session, 1968)

WHITE FOX TRAPPING SEASON

DISPOSITION

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

WHITE FOX TRAPPING SEASON

At its 35th session, Council requested consideration of an amendment to the Game Ordinance to extend the white fox trapping season from April 15th to April 30th. The Game Management Service, to which the matter was referred, reports that because white foxes represent the main source of income for the northern Eskimo, and because large areas of the Northwest Territories with substantial white fox populations have not been harvested at all, it has undertaken a comprehensive study of the white fox situation with a view to maximizing the benefits of this harvest for the local Eskimo. The research included the possibility of extending the white fox season to the latest date when pelts are still in a prime condition.

A limited study was carried out in the northern part of Banks Island from April 15th to April 25th, 1967. During this period, a total of thirty-two foxes were caught by local trappers under the supervision of the Superintendent of Game and the Regional Game Management Officer of Inuvik. Although these pelts did not show any evidence of deterioration and were sold at normal prices, the Service is not prepared to recommend a general extension of the season on the basis of such a restricted survey.

Before a final recommendation is made, data from other areas is urgently required. Information on denning areas and movements is essential for a decision on whether an extension of the season is biologically justified. A study on the white fox by Dr. A. MacPherson, as yet unpublished, is expected to provide most of the necessary details.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that a decision on the extension of the white fox season to April 30th be held in abeyance until the winter session of 1969.