

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
6<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 36<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO  
COUNCIL NO. 5-36**

**TABLED ON FEBRUARY 7, 1968**



January 30, 1968

CONFIDENTIAL -

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

RC 5-36

Tabled on Feb 7, 1968

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 5

(First Session, 1968)

RESIDENT MOOSE HUNTING IN  
GAME MANAGEMENT NO. 1

DISPOSITION

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

## RESIDENT MOOSE HUNTING IN GAME MANAGEMENT ZONE NO. 1

During the 35th session of the Territorial Council, the Member for Mackenzie North informed Council of the concern and opposition of the Indian people of Yellowknife to the opening of resident sport hunting of moose in Game Management Zone No. 1. A paper setting out all factors of the moose season was requested for the February, 1968 session of Council.

The desirability of fully utilizing the moose population by permitting sport hunting in the Yellowknife-Rae area was expressed and discussed by residents of Yellowknife as well as by the Game staff as early as 1957, when the popular opinion that the moose population was increasing in the area prevailed. An aerial game survey was carried out in March, 1962, over an area adjacent to Yellowknife, to determine the feasibility of permitting hunting by residents. The area surveyed was approximately one-fifth of the present Game Management Zone No. 1. A total of 500 moose was estimated in the surveyed area.

Due to the relatively low survey result, it was decided not to recommend an open season until additional information became available. The annual kill by holders of General Hunting Licences amounted to approximately 100 animals during the years 1961 to 1962; therefore any additional take could have been detrimental to Indians depending on game for their livelihood.

Game Management Officers were instructed to report all moose sightings during their field trips in order to gather all possible information. Such records indicating details of age, sex and location of sightings were accumulated by the Game Superintendent, where they have become valuable reference material.

Since 1965, an intensified Game Management program has kept Game Officers more and more in the field. The frequency of moose sightings has almost doubled in relation to time spent in the field and miles travelled during previous years, indicating an increasing moose population.

When the Yellowknife Anglers and Hunters submitted a request to the Territorial Council asking for a restricted moose season, the Game Management Service, after discussing and appraising the prevailing situation, supported their request on the ground that a rational management program calling for a more realistic moose harvest in the area.

As a result of an obvious decrease in hunting and trapping effort by Indians and a steady decline in the moose kill from 118 in 1962-63 to 57 in 1966-67, it became evident that controlled moose hunting by persons other than holders of General Hunting Licences was not only permissible but highly desirable for reasons of management and adequate utilization.

It would have been desirable had additional surveys been carried out to determine in greater detail the size of the moose population in Game Management Zone No. 1. However the Game Management Service is working under certain financial and personnel limitations.

The primary objective of the Game Management Service is to use available funds and manpower to assist the indigenous people in their struggle for survival. Other aspects of our Game Management Programme must be curtailed, but this does not exclude the gathering of mandatory data for providing recreational opportunities simultaneously within the framework of a realistic, economic Game Management Program.

Another point should be stressed: numerical abundance or scarcity of individual species is frequently meaningless. The biological composition of game populations, for example, age, sex, reproduction and physical condition of the animals, is equally important. Such information can be obtained through the medium of

sport hunting data which provides the Game Management Service with information that otherwise cannot be obtained, unless unlimited funds and a huge staff are at its disposal. Sport hunting can be an economic tool in game management and it is deemed advisable to take advantage of it whenever possible.

It should be pointed out that a quota of 40 animals may appear relatively high. However, as the hunter success is never 100% and, commonly, is very satisfactory at a 30% level, it follows that the actual take of moose in Game Management Zone No. 1 by sport hunters will seldom exceed 12 to 15 animals annually. In respect to the duration of the season, to which representatives of the Indians objected, it must be borne in mind that freeze-up and, later on, temperatures and snow conditions are automatic restrictions.

The present open season for moose hunting in the Yellowknife-Rae area is biologically sound and does not unduly interfere with the hunting by Indians. A close study will be continued into all aspects of the sport hunting of moose in Game Management Zone No. 1 and recommendations pertaining to quota revisions will be submitted when necessary.

#### Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the present open season and quota of 40 moose for sport hunting in Game Management Zone No. 1 remain in effect and that the quota be revised as studies by the Game Management Service may indicate.