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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
6TH COUNCIL, 37TH SESSION

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A BRIEF

CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE N. W. T. GAME ACT
RELATIVE TO RESIDENT SPORTS HUNTING FOR MOOSE
IN GAME ZONE #1

Presented to the N. W. T. Council
From
the N. W. T. Anglers and Hunters Association

June, 1968

SUBJECT: Amendment to Game Regulations concerning Resident Moose Hunting in Game Zone #1, as follows:

"That white sports hunters not be permitted to hunt moose in Game Management Zone #1 within a 25 mile radius of a native settlement."

The N.W.T. Anglers and Hunters Association opposes this amendment to the Game Regulations for the following reasons:

1. Such a law would almost completely defeat the purpose for which sports hunting licences are issued in Game Management Zone #1. Paragraph 7 from Game Management Paper presented to the 36th Session of the N.W.T. Council reads as follows:

"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."

Surveys made in 1962-63 by the Canadian Wildlife Services indicating a substantial increase in the moose population were confirmed by a 1967 survey made by the Game Management Service. As native hunting alone was not apparently adequate for utilization of the moose population, a quota of 40 moose was established in 1967, to be taken by resident sports hunters. (40 licences: 1 moose per licence). To restrict such hunting would defeat the purpose for which it was designed.

2. The restriction concerning "white" sports hunters, makes this law discriminatory.
3. This law is to all practical purposes unenforceable.
4. In the past, sports hunting for moose was prohibited within a 15 mile radius of Hay River, Kakisa River and Fort Providence settlements. In 1964 this 15 mile radius restriction was dropped as it was found to serve no useful purpose. If a 15 mile radius was deemed sufficient around the foregoing settlements, then why is a 25 mile radius necessary around Zone 1 settlements? If 15 miles was ridiculous, then 25 miles is nearly twice as ridiculous.
5. Good moose areas replenish animal populations rapidly. Poor ones won't. The location of good areas bears no relationship to an arbitrary 25 mile radius around native settlements.
6. The 25 mile radius effectively cuts off hunters from road transportation. In addition, transportation by boat becomes an extensive undertaking, or may be totally impractical. Between the restricted area surrounding Rae, and that surrounding the Yellowknife native village, there is only a very narrow strip open for hunting that is accessible by road. Hunting is not permitted in Game Zones 7 and 8 adjacent to the road from Rae to Providence as this is a sanctuary for Wood Buffalo.

7. The natives do not have any objection to the taking of a 40 moose quota by resident sports hunters in Game Zone #1. Unfortunately the natives somehow came to believe that every white resident of the Territories was entitled to take 40 moose annually. Naturally they voiced strong objections to such an assumed extravagance. On being informed as to the true situation, they do not oppose the 40 moose quota.
8. The term "sports hunter" bears unfortunate connotations suggestive of blood-thirsty individuals who kill only for the love of killing, or for a set of trophy horns. This is hardly the case for residents of the Territories. Considering the high cost of living here, residents who take out sports hunting licences do so basically because they want the meat.

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