



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 6

A BRIEF
INDICATING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR CERTAIN CHANGES
IN
N.W.T. GAME ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS
AND
N.W.T. FISHERIES REGULATIONS.

PRESENTED BY
THE EXECUTIVE
OF THE
N.W.T. ANGLERS AND HUNTERS ASSOCIATION
TO
MEMBERS OF THE N.W.T. COUNCIL
OCTOBER 1966.

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this brief is to present to members of the Northwest Territories Council, certain recommendations concerning proposed changes in the existing N.W.T. Game Ordinance and Regulations, and N.W.T. Fisheries Regulations. These recommendations indicate the majority opinion of the membership of the N.W.T. Anglers and Hunters Association who feel that certain regulations now in effect are not in the best interests of residents of the Territories.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ANGLERS AND HUNTERS ASSOCIATION(A.) History:

The Association was formed in November 1965. At present there are 191 certified members and the membership is growing rapidly.

(B.) Purpose:

- (a) To promote the conservation of fish and game so as to ensure good hunting and fishing now and for the future.
- (b) To promote and support scientific research and general investigation of problems relating to fish and game and their conservation.
- (c) To promote and support regulations and/or measures for the conservation of fish and game.
- (d) To ensure that the taking of fish and game is done in a sportsmanlike manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1.) An open season should be instituted in Game Management Zone #1 for the taking by hunting, of a limited number of moose of either sex, and of any age; the number of licences being restricted to 50, or as recommended by the Superintendent of Game and his Officers; the hunting season to be from 1st September to 31st December next following.

Hunting seasons for moose have already been instituted in Game Management Zones 3, 4 and 5. The membership of this Association feel that there are sufficient moose in Game Management Zone #1 to warrant an open hunting season for a limited number of animals. Residents of the Yellowknife area who have to travel well over 200 miles to hunt moose feel that under the circumstances, there appears to be some discrimination against them.

We are well aware that first consideration must be to ensure that the food supply for the native population is definitely adequate. It would seem, however, that except for certain small areas, the natives are not harvesting the surplus of moose. An animal population is limited by the amount of food available. When the population becomes so large that there is insufficient food, especially winter food, to sustain them, then that population becomes sharply reduced by starvation and disease. Predation may become an important factor when weak animals are considered. Furthermore, cows that survive are far less likely to calve than are more healthy, well fed animals. It is a known fact that the best hunting is in the vicinity of native villages. This is so because the population has been kept down in these areas by hunting. These natives have been using animals that are in excess to the number that can be maintained by the amount of winter feed available. The amount of food available in summer can support a much larger population than can the supply of winter food. If the population is in balance with the summer food supply then part of that population must die under winter conditions. Such animals are wasted. It is much to the interest of

residents of the Territories that they be taken for food and revenue rather than lost. As long as a good breeding stock is kept, and winter food is available for them, then the taking of a limited number of animals each fall can go on almost indefinitely.

Some time ago the Province of Ontario instituted a Moose Conservation Program based on the principle of keeping the population in line with the food supply by hunting. The results have been spectacular.

The taking of moose illegally in this area is not uncommon. Due to the vastness of the region it is extremely difficult to curtail such poaching. Such conditions are an invitation to dishonesty. The Association feels that if a limited hunting season were instituted, a large proportion of those people who now feel obliged to poach would take their moose legally with a resulting increase in revenue for the Territories.

- (2.) It is recommended to the Department of Fisheries that certain lakes be set aside for sports angling and fishing for domestic use only. Commercial fishing in these lakes should be prohibited. The lakes in question are listed as follows:

| <u>NAME OF LAKE</u> | <u>WEST LONGITUDE</u> | <u>NORTH LATITUDE</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victory Lake | 113°1' | 62°40' 30" |
| Waite Lake | 113°20' | 62°50' |
| Allan Lake | | |
| Gordon Lake | 113°15' | 63° |
| Wedge Lake | 113°35' | 62°52' |
| Watta Lake | 113°5' | 62°16' |
| Detour Lake | 112°54' | 62°38' 30" |
| Blachford Lake | 112°30' | 62°13' |
| Payne Lake | 112°4' | 62°50' |
| Indin Lake | 115°10'W | 64°15'N. |
| Sparrow Lake | 113°38' | 62°37' |
| Dadson Lake | 112°22' | 63°17' |
| Lee Lake | 113°18' | 62°53' |
| Harding Lake | 113°21' | 62°19' |
| Ross Lake | | |
| Duncan Lake | 114° | 62°50' |
| Jennejohn Lake | 113°45' | 62°24' |
| Languish Lake | 112°51' | 62°46' |
| Frances Lake | 112°18' | 62°27' |
| Pauline Lake | 113°13' | 62°4' |
| Consolation Lake | 112°55' | 62°45' |
| Bigspruce Lake | 115°56' | 63°33' |
| Thistlewaite Lake | 113°30' | 63°10' |
| Lake (Unnamed) | | |
| McKay Lake | 111°00 W. | 64°00 N. |

| <u>NAME OF LAKE</u> | <u>WEST LONGITUDE</u> | <u>NORTH LATITUDE</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Smokey Lake | 113°20' | 63°14' |
| Self Lake | | |
| Redout Lake | 113°2'30" | 62°45'30" |
| Graham Lake | 113°44' | 62°53' |
| Morose Lake | 112°52' | 62°49' |
| Tumpline Lake | 112°45' | 62°36' |
| Mystery Lake | 112°32' | 62°16' |
| Reid Lake | 113°24' | 62°28' |
| Johnson Lake | 114°12' | 63° |
| Bliss Lake | 113°44' | 62°39' |
| Muir Lake | 112°22' | 63°16' |
| Hearne Lake | 113°8' | 62°20' |
| Dome Lake | 113°15' | 62°45'45" |
| Patterson Lake | 113°3' | 62°53' |
| Hidden Lake | 113°35' | 62°33' |
| Defeat Lake | | |
| Turnback Lake | 112°40' | 62°41'30" |
| Buckham Lake | 112°38' | 62°18' |
| Meander Lake | 112°9' | 62°34' |
| Giauque Lake | 112°50' | 63°13' |
| Saunders Lake | | |
| McRae Lake | | |

As tourism provides the second largest source of income in the Territories, and as fresh water fish here constitute a natural resource of inestimable value, this Association feels that the Northwest Territories will realize far more revenue per pound of fish from tourism for sports fishing than it will from the sale of fish on a commercial basis. Income from commercial fishing to the Territories is almost negligible. It would appear that the fishing industry will have to be subsidized. Why subsidize such an industry when the same fish supply a huge potential for revenue, for jobs and for pleasure? We are underselling one of our most precious commodities. From the standpoint of sports fishing alone our fish population is the envy of practically every state and province in North America.

Aside from the setting aside of a very few lakes for sports angling and domestic fishing, little has been done to ensure a future supply of fish for natives and their dogs. Fish is a prime requisite of their lives. How long will it be until they are obliged to depend on angling and domestic fishing preserve lakes for fish. If what has happened in other provinces is an indication of what will happen here, it is apparent that this day will come in the not too distant future.

The proposed highway into the area to the North of Yellowknife will open up a huge area that will provide tourists with some of the finest sports fishing in Canada. Some of the lakes we are asking to be reserved for sports angling and domestic fishing are large enough to support sizeable tourist camps. This means jobs and revenue for many people; especially for natives who are well suited for this type of work.

The Cameron and Beaulieu river systems constitute superb canoe routes for tourism.

Fishing in certain of the lakes provides almost the only source of recreation for people in existing mining camps, etc.

- (3.) It is recommended that the hunting season for ptarmigan be shortened in Game Management Zones 1 to 8 inclusive. Season to extend from 1st September to 31st January next following.
- (4.) It is recommended that the bag limit for ptarmigan be set at 10 birds per day per licence and the possession limit be 25 birds per licence.

Ptarmigan constitute an important source of food in the Territories. Existing regulations allow the killing of substantial numbers of these birds, and this is as it should be for those who must take their living from the land. On the other hand, as population increases and as access becomes easier to many parts of the Territories, it is becoming evident that more and more people who have little real use for the birds are taking them in large numbers. This is especially true in the spring. This Association feels, that over a period of time, this practice will undoubtedly increase and will inevitably result in a substantial reduction of the number of birds available to those residents of the Territories who are in some way dependent upon them for food. The interests of these people must be protected.

- (5.) It is recommended that the N.W.T. Department of Fisheries and the Department of Game Management for the Territories be merged into one Department.

Most of the provinces have single Departments of Game and Fisheries. The advantages of economy and efficiency are obvious. This Association has been informed that both Departments in the Territories would welcome such a merger.

- (6.) The Arctic Islands Game Preserve should be abolished. Furthermore, the Commissioner of Game and members of the N.W.T. Council should abide by recommendations of the Superintendent of Game pertaining to the use of, and management of, the muskoxen population inhabiting this area. Should an open season for the taking of a limited number of these muskoxen be provided, as recommended by the Superintendent of Game, then absolutely no person other than a native residing in the area should be allowed by law to act as guide and/or outfitter for the taking of muskoxen as trophies by hunting. Furthermore, only old or outcast male animals should be harvested.

This Association feels that the Arctic Islands Game Preserve serves little useful purpose and is probably a detriment to good game management, and to the interests of residents of the Territories. The preserve covers a huge area aside from the Arctic Islands. At present, only descendants of natives who lived in the area at the time the preserve was established may trap within this area. There are many natives in the region who may not trap under existing regulations who could make a living if this right was not withheld from them. It is one thing to establish a preserve. It is quite another to achieve

maximum benefit from it. If proper control is exercised, benefits are there for the taking, and this can apparently be done without jeopardy to the animal populations. The muskoxen herd is a case in point. The Superintendent of Game last year recommended that 32 muskoxen be taken by hunting under strict supervision. This recommendation was rejected. The animals in question are old or outcast males. These animals constitute the best trophies. There are sportsmen who will gladly pay huge trophy fees to take a muskox. This, plus revenue from outfitting, transportation, etc., could be of immense benefit to the Eskimo, as well as to the Territories. If these animals can be taken without detriment to the herd, then they should be taken. The taking of these old males would probably be far more beneficial than detrimental.

This Association has confidence in the local officers of the Fish and Game Departments. We feel that the Territorial Council would not be misled by their recommendations.

This Association is of the opinion that if culling of the herd by supervised trophy hunting is feasible, then the people who should benefit directly by this must be the Eskimo. In addition to revenue they could obtain by outfitting and guiding, they should be entitled to most of the meat.

- (7.) It is recommended that the licence fee for non-resident big game hunting outfitters be increased to \$1,000.00 per annum, and that the licence fee for non-resident big game guides be raised to \$200.00 per annum. Non-resident big game hunters should be compelled to purchase a \$10.00 game tag for each species to be hunted. In addition, a non-resident fee should be charged for each trophy taken. Such fees recommended as follows: Moose \$100; Barren Land Grizzley Bear \$200.00; Grizzley Bear \$150.00; Dall Sheep \$100.00; Mountain Goat \$100.00; Woodland Caribou \$100.00; Wolf \$25.00; Wolverine \$25.00.

The Northwest Territories are the last stronghold for certain species of animals. We have much to offer the non-resident sportsman, and he is apparently eager to accept. Sportsmen are willing to go to great expense to acquire premium trophies. If this were not the case, and if such trophies were not available, they most certainly would not come all the way to the Territories to hunt. It is to our best interests to ensure that the sportsman or tourist gets his money's worth. By the same token, if we give them their money's worth, we are obliged to ensure that the Territories also gets the maximum possible return from this resource without placing future game populations in jeopardy.

The recommended trophy fees would bring the Territories in line with other provinces. If fees in the Territories are higher than elsewhere in Canada, it is because we have more to offer the sportsman, and we are confident they will willingly pay the price.

Under existing regulations, for a ridiculously low fee, non-resident outfitters may set up camps in prime hunting areas in the Territories. Concessions have been let for this purpose allowing hunting privileges, and certain Territorial residents are excluded. This is discrimination of the worst sort. Premium trophies are being taken and very little of the revenue is retained in the Territories. No other province would allow such practices under such easy terms, and with so little return. The increase in the number

of non-resident hunters indicates that there is much scope for outfitters, guides, tourist camps, etc. The natives would benefit especially as they are remarkably well suited for work of this nature. If anyone is to profit from our resources it would be a remarkable miscarriage of justice if it is not first and foremost the natives and other residents of the Territories.

- (8.) It is recommended that the N.W.T. Council and the Superintendent of Game consider the possibility of harvesting, by hunting for trophy purposes in the N.W.T. portion of Buffalo National Park, a percentage of the bison which are now slaughtered at regular intervals to control the size of the herd. A substantial trophy fee should be charged for each animal taken by such hunting. Hunting season to be during the month of December. No draught animals to be used for this hunting.

The members of the Anglers and Hunters Association feel that if it is necessary for proper game management that a portion of the bison herd must be systematically culled out by slaughtering at regular intervals, then at least part of this culling could be carried out by legalized hunting under strict supervision. If a substantial trophy fee is charged for each animal killed, this additional revenue would help pay for herd management. Furthermore, there would be some scope for qualified guides and/or outfitters to provide their services. Guiding and outfitting should be restricted to natives and residents of the Territories.

The December hunting season has been recommended so as not to interfere with the Whooping Crane population, indigenous to a portion of the area. If the taking of bison by hunting is properly controlled, this Association feels that such hunting could not adversely affect the Crane population.

To avoid possible infection (or spread of infection) by anthrax, it is recommended that no draught animals be used for this hunting.

It is notable that in the case of the bison, for good herd management, the Government has deemed it necessary to cull out certain animals from the herd on a systematic basis. This is exactly the same principle that we advocate for best control and usage of the moose population. Sufficient comparison may be drawn between the moose and bison situations that the basic principles of management for the one population also applies to the other.

REQUEST:

The executive of the Northwest Territories Anglers and Hunters Association specifically request that if the foregoing recommendations cannot be carried out in whole or in part, that we be informed in writing by the Territorial Council and/or the Departments of Fish or Game as to the reasons why they are not acceptable.

The Executive

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ANGLERS
AND HUNTERS ASSOCIATION
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

October 28th, 1966.

Territorial Council - 7

C.C. Mr. Orange, M.P.

Town Council: Town of Yellowknife

Mr. Geo. Bilton: Pres. N.W.T. A. & H. Association

Miss N. Hriskow: Secretary N.W.T. A. & H. Association.