

During the 2014 Arctic/Western Region meeting, the Board of Game requested this proposal be scheduled for the 2014 Statewide Regulations meeting.

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 85.050 Seasons and bag limits for musk oxen. Modify the hunt structure for musk ox on Nelson Island as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident	
	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1) ...		
Unit 18, Nelson Island		
If the harvestable portion is 40 or less musk oxen: 1 musk ox by registration permit; available in person in Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, Chefornak, and Toksook;	Feb. 1 – Mar. 25	Feb. 1 – Mar. 25;
if the harvestable portion greater than 40 but less than 61 musk oxen: 1 musk ox by registration permit; available in person in Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, Chefornak, and Toksook; 40 permits shall be issued; or	Feb. 1 – Mar. 25	Feb. 1 – Mar. 25;
1 musk ox by registration permit; available online; 80 percent of the available permits exceeding the 40 permits available in person shall be issued; or	Feb. 1 – Mar. 25	Feb. 1 – Mar. 25
1 musk ox by drawing permit; 20 percent of the available permits exceeding the 40 permits available in person shall be issued;	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
if the harvestable portion is greater than 60 but less than 71 musk oxen: 1 musk ox by registration permit; available in person in Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, Chefornak, and Toksook; 40 permits shall be issued, or	Feb 1 – Mar 25	Feb 1 – Mar 25,

1 musk ox by registration permit;
available online; or Feb. 1 – Mar. 25 Feb. 1 – Mar. 25

1 musk ox by drawing permit;
5 permits shall be issued; Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 Sept. 1 – Sept. 30

if the harvestable portion is greater than 70 musk oxen:

1 musk ox by registration permit;
available in person in Nightmute, Tununak,
Newtok, Chefornak, and Toksook;
40 permits shall be issued; or Feb. 1 – Mar. 25 Feb. 1 – Mar. 25

1 musk ox by registration permit
available online; or Feb. 1 – Mar. 25 Feb. 1 – Mar. 25

1 musk ox by drawing permit;
6 permits shall be issued Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 Sept. 1 – Sept. 30

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

According to information provided by the Department of Fish and Game, the musk ox population on Nelson Island has an increasing trend with high density. Without a reduction in the total number of animals, the population on the island has a potential risk of over grazing the range. During the Arctic/Western Region board meeting, the Board of Game (board) adopted a regulation lifting the current maximum limit of 42 permits available annually to allow for increased harvest.

The board also agreed to consider a proposal for a modified hunt structure that would provide enhanced hunting opportunities and help achieve the desired population reduction. The board requested the proposal be scheduled for the March 14-18, 2014 Statewide Regulations meeting. Because the musk ox population on the island occurs primarily on private land, access may be restricted. The board is seeking comments from the affected village corporations to develop a regulation compatible with private land ownership objectives.

PROPOSED BY: Board of Game

(HQ-SW14-03)
