

*Note: Proposal 193 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting originally scheduled for March 2021, and postponed to March 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**PROPOSAL 193**

**5 AAC 85.050. Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.**

Establish a hunt for muskox within a portion of Unit 26A as follows:

Open a hunt in that portion of Unit 26A west of the Topagoruk River following W156 south to the Unit 26A border with season dates of August 1 – March 15, and a bag limit of one musk ox.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Cape Thompson musk ox population in Units 23 and 26A has been increasing, and a recent survey indicated the portion of the population in Unit 26A is large enough to allow for the harvest of up to six musk ox.

The board will need to determine if there is a positive or negative customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for these animals now found in western Unit 26A. If the board determines there is a positive C&T finding, the board will need to determine if the existing positive customary and traditional use finding for Unit 23 should be applied to the herd now found in western Unit 26A or apply the existing positive customary and traditional use finding for Units 26A and 26B combined. Muskox were not present in western 26A when the board deliberated customary and traditional use findings for muskox in the eastern portion of 26A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-ACR4)

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