

Proposal 176: Unit 18 Nelson Island Muskox

This proposal seeks to modify the hunt structure for musk ox on Nelson Island.

This is a Board of Game proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**

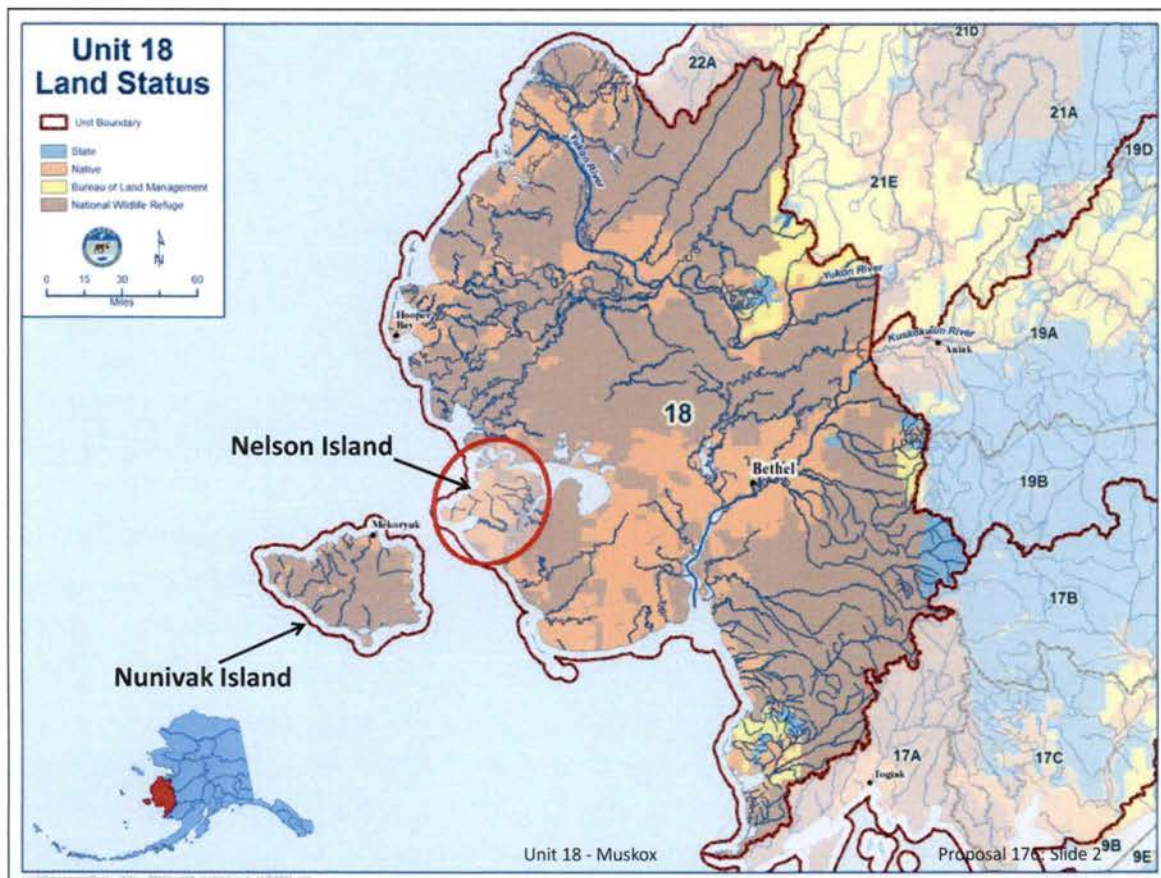
Unit 18 Advisory Committee Recommendations:

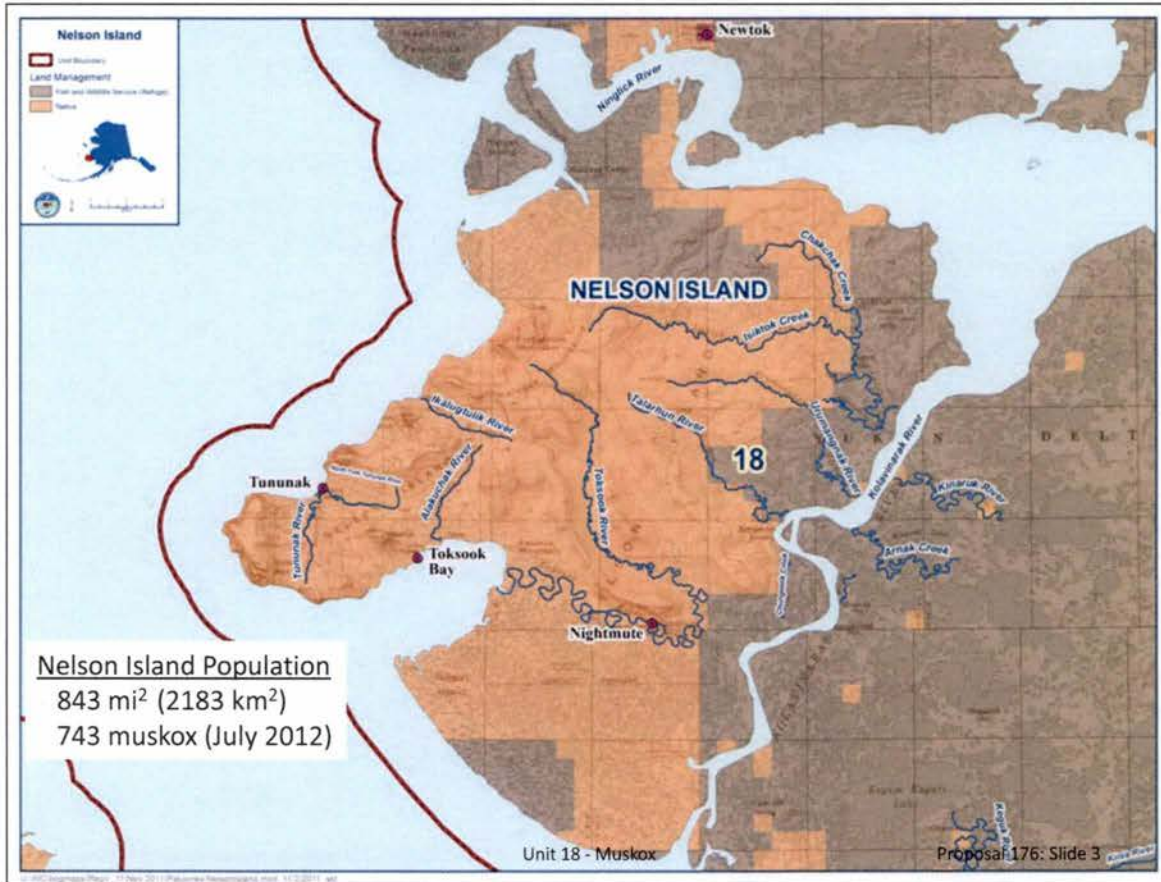
Central Bering Sea AC..... **Opposed**

Bethel AC..... **Amend and Support**

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Proposed Regulation

The proposal lists 4 ways permits can be issued based on the available harvest quota in the population. Each screen is shows an increased level of available harvest in the proposed regulation.

Proposed Regulation

Unit 18, Nelson Island

If the harvestable portion is 40 or less musk ox:

1 muskox by registration permit;
available in person in Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, Chefnak, and Toksook;

Residents

Feb. 1–Mar. 25
(General hunt only)

Nonresidents

Feb. 1–Mar. 25

Proposed Regulation - Continued

	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Nonresidents</u>
<u>If the harvestable portion is greater than 40 but less than 61 musk ox:</u>		
<u>1 musk ox by registration permit available in person in Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, Chefornak, and Toksook Bay; 40 permits shall be issued; or</u>	<u>Feb. 1–Mar. 25</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u>	<u>Feb. 1–Mar. 25</u>
<u>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</u>		
<u>1 musk ox by drawing permit; 20 percent of the permits exceeding the 40 permits available in person shall be issued;</u>	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 30</u>	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 30</u>

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Proposed Regulation - Continued

	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Nonresidents</u>
<u>If the harvestable portion is greater than 60 but less than 71 musk ox:</u>		
<u>1 musk ox by registration permit available in person in Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, Chefornak, and Toksook Bay; 40 permits shall be issued; or</u>	<u>Feb. 1–Mar. 25</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u>	<u>Feb. 1–Mar. 25</u>
<u>1 musk ox by registration permit; available online; or</u>		
<u>1 musk ox by drawing permit; 5 permits shall be issued;</u>	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 30</u>	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 30</u>

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Bethel AC - Amendment

	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Nonresidents</u>
Unit 18, Nelson Island		
<u>If the harvestable portion is 42 or less musk oxen:</u>		
1 musk ox by registration permit only; permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis <u>in Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, Chefornak, and Toksook</u>	Feb. 1 – Mar. 25	Feb. 1 – Mar. 25
<u>If the harvestable portion is 42 musk oxen or greater:</u>		
<u>1 musk ox by registration permit only; 42 permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis in Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, Chefornak, and Toksook; the remaining permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis: 80% in Nightmute, Tununak, Newtok, Chefornak, and Toksook; 20% in Unit 18 communities</u>	<u>Feb. 1 – Mar. 25</u>	<u>Feb. 1 – Mar. 25</u>

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Unit 18 Muskox Regulations

	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Nonresidents</u>
Current Regulation:		
Unit 18, Nelson Island		
1 musk ox by registration permit only; permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis	Feb. 1–Mar. 25 (General hunt only)	Feb. 1–Mar. 25

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Department Management Objectives

- Maintain a post-hunt pre-calving population between 250-450 muskoxen on Nelson Island
- Issue permits for harvesting muskoxen to maintain optimal size, composition, and productivity of the muskox populations Nelson Island.
- Provide hunter orientation and post-hunt checkout to ensure hunters understand permit requirements, properly identify legal muskoxen, and report their harvests in a timely and accurate manner.
- Encourage the emigration of muskoxen on to the mainland.
- Use the cooperative management plans for Nelson Island.

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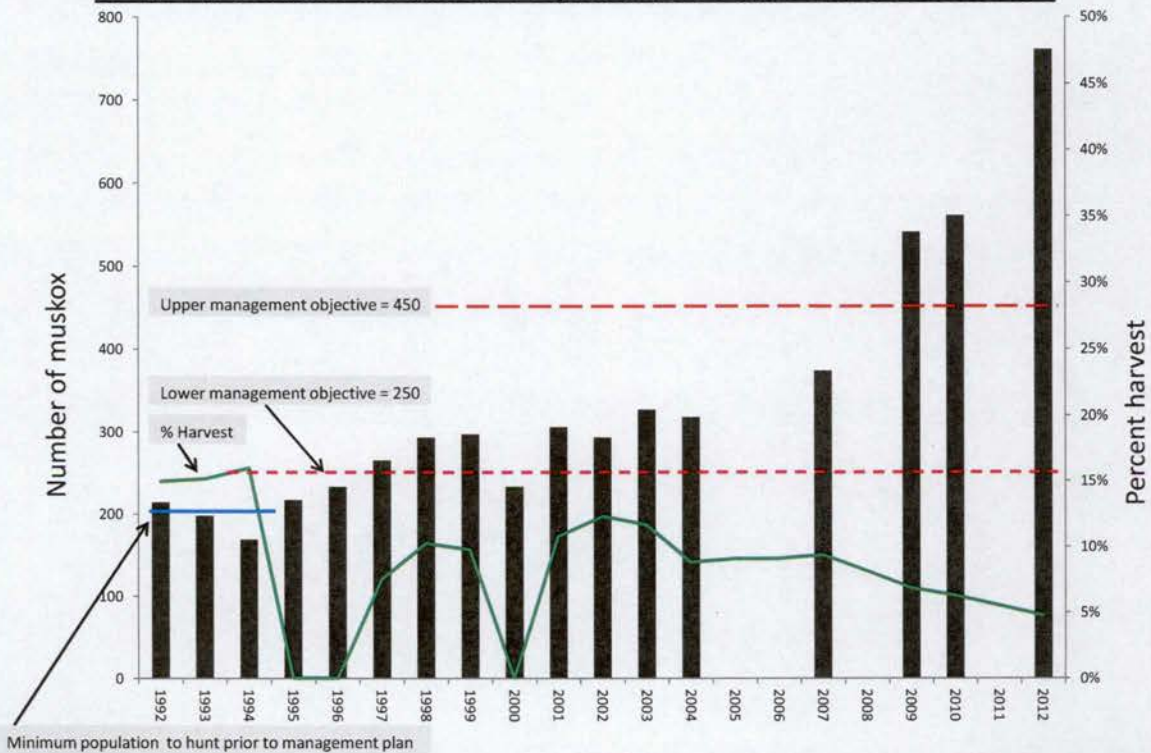
Nelson Island Muskox Surveys

Year	Adult Bulls	Adult Cows	Bulls 2yr	Yearlings	Calves	Unknown	Total
2007	67	106		0	99	102	374
2008	No survey						
2009	113	107	22	61	88	150	541
2010	110	191	20	62	126	52	561
2011	No survey						
2012	126	200	42	103	169	121	761
2013	No survey						

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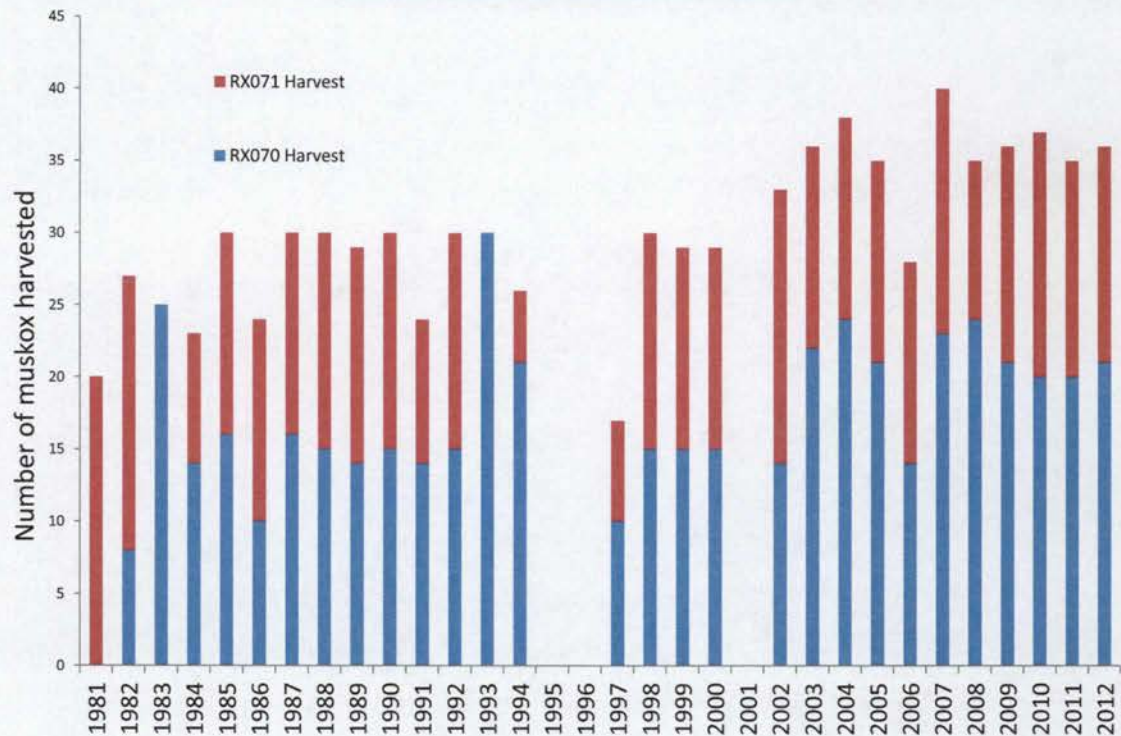
Nelson Island Muskox Population And Harvest Rates



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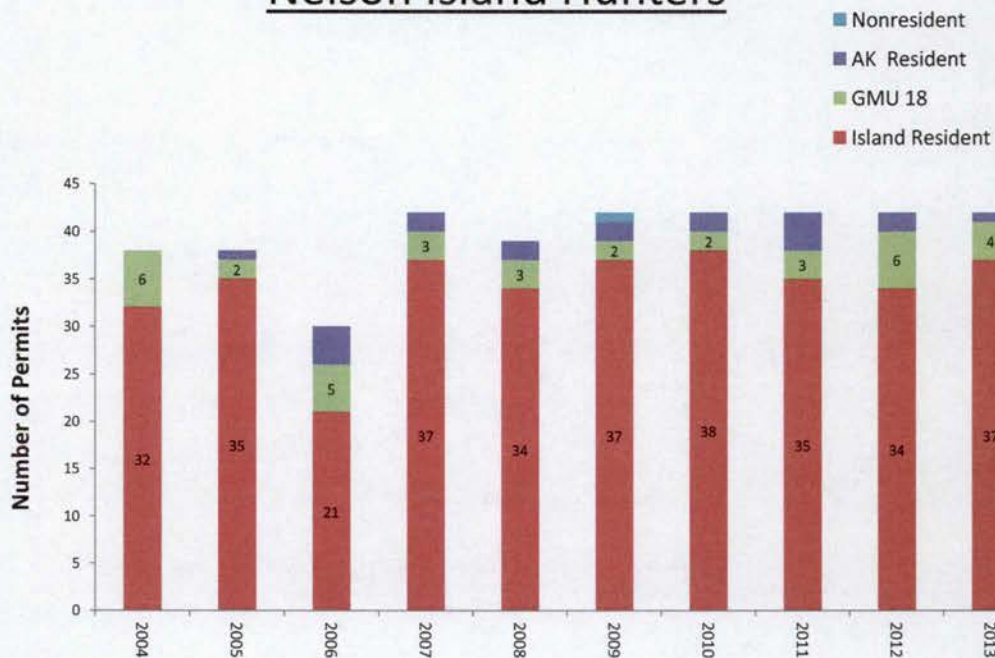
Nelson Island Harvest



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Nelson Island Hunters



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Nelson Island Short-Term Management

Department short term goals for Nelson Island population:

1. Bring population down to less than 450, but more than 250 musk ox in next three or four regulatory years.
2. Temporary increase in harvest anticipated for next 3 or 4 years
3. Regulatory year 2014-2015 anticipated harvest:
100 cows and 50 bulls
4. When population is within objectives (250-450) resume harvesting at 10% (25-45 musk ox) of population.

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Possible Regulatory Structure

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

Use this section of code for a regulation listing the musk ox hunts by registration and drawing permits with seasons and bag limits. No extra details of hunt management.

5 AAC 92.008 Harvest guideline levels.

Use this section of code for specific details of proportions of registration and drawing permits for hunt management.

“For purposes of management of the named species, the department shall manage harvest by hunting and trapping as follows:”

- *Listing of hunt management and other options*

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Regulation Template

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

	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Nonresidents</u>
Unit 18, Nelson Island		
1 musk ox by registration permit only;	Feb. 1–Mar. 25 (General hunt only)	Feb. 1–Mar. 25
<u>or</u>		
<u>1 musk ox by drawing permit only; up to 6 permits may be issued</u>	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 30</u> (General hunt only)	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 30</u>

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Regulation Template - cont.

5 AAC 92.008 Harvest guideline levels.

...

- (4) musk oxen: the harvest of musk oxen in Unit 18 Nelson Island shall be managed by a combination of registration and drawing permit hunts based on the harvestable portion of the population, as follows:
- if the harvestable portion is 40 or less musk oxen, only registration permits may be issued; permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis;
 - if the harvestable portion is greater than 40 and but less than 61 musk oxen; 40 registration permits shall be issued on a first-come, first-served basis; the remaining available permits shall be allocated 80% to on-line registration permits and 20% to drawing permits; up to 4 drawing permits may be issued; the total number of permits issued may be based on hunter success rates to achieve harvest quotas;
 - if the harvestable portion is greater than 60 and but less than 71 musk oxen; 40 registration permits shall be issued on a first-come, first-served basis; the remaining available permits shall be allocated to on-line registration permits and 5 drawing permits; the total number of permits issued may be based on hunter success rates to achieve harvest quotas;
 - if the harvestable portion is greater than 70 musk oxen; 40 registration permits shall be issued on a first-come, first-served basis; the remaining available permits shall be allocated to on-line registration permits and 6 drawing permits; the total number of permits issued may be based on hunter success rates to achieve harvest quotas;

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– End –

Questions?



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