Identifying a legal muskox

**Bull muskox horn characteristics:**
- Young bulls have larger horn mass than cows, but incomplete growth of a horn boss. *(Figs. 1 & 2)*
- By fall, 3-year-old bulls have a thin, but developed horn boss. *(Fig. 3)*
- Mature bulls (4 years old and older) develop a thick horn boss at the base of each horn. *(Fig. 4)*
- All mature bulls have horns that are thicker and more massive than mature cows *(Figs. 4 & 5)*
- It is unreliable to identify sex based solely on the color of horn tips or presence of white hair between horns.

**Cow muskox horn characteristics:**
- Cows do not have a horn boss at any age. Mature cows (4 years old and older) have horn bases that are small, dark, and visible. *(Fig. 5)*
- Cow horn diameter is smaller and less massive than bulls. From a distance, the length of the hook may be similar to bull horns.
- Young cows have incomplete growth of horn bases and considerable white hair between the horns.

**How many animals do you see in Fig. 6?**
- Know what is behind your target before you shoot.
- Muskox cluster together as herd animals making separate individuals hard to see.
- Calves, yearlings, and 2-year-olds often stand behind larger animals for protection.
- Take your time! The group will eventually disperse giving you a clear shot.

*Trophy destruction is required for Unit 22 & 23 subsistence hunts. Hunters must remove the horns within 2 inches of the eye level at the kill site. See permit for details.*

For more muskox hunting tips visit: [http://hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov)

Photos courtesy of:
Figs. 2, 4, 6: Patrick Jones