

(94P) MUSKOX COMPOSITION AND IDENTIFICATION ON NUNIVAK ISLAND. Randall Kacyon, Alaska Dept. Fish and Game, Bethel, AK USA.

During annual spring snow machine censuses and summer helicopter surveys on Nunivak Island, muskoxen were classified whenever possible by sex and age. Seven (spring) or eight (summer) classification categories included: calves (<1 year old of both sexes); yearlings (previous year calves of both sexes); and 2, 3, and 4 year old animals of each sex. Horn characteristics were useful for identifying and aging males from 2 to 4 years of age, but could not be relied upon to distinguish sex in younger animals. Difficulty was encountered in aging both males and females in older age classes, although experienced observers were able to differentiate between females 3 years of age and older ones. Drawings, descriptions, and photographs are presented to aid in sex and age determination of muskoxen.



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