

RC 005

To: Board of Game

Re: Prohibit the Sale of Harvested Moose Antlers

Date: January 15, 2020

From: Rex J. Nick – Pilot Station (unit 18)

In regards to this proposal, to be clear, it does not state anything about antler sheds that naturally fall off during the winter season.

As for Harvested Moose, yes there are a few people that do go looking for big or bigger bulls but yet the meat is also harvested in our area one way or another. Meat is passed out to those in need and are not able to go out to hunt because of the lack of funds or transportation. But on the other hand, a majority of the people hunt and shoot what they see as soon as the moose is spotted, if they are able to get to it.

In most areas, hunting cows and/or calves is closed and illegal. When most people have no choice to hunt bulls and they do get a bull or a big bull, what are they to do with the antlers? Out here in our rural villages, jobs are very few and far apart. To this day, I see people with the bare minimum struggling to get by with no job and practically no income. If they do get a chance to hunt and are lucky enough to get a bull, again, what are they to do with the antlers? Of course they want to sell them to make a few dollars.

Not one person in this area has gotten rich off selling ANY sort of antler whether it be sheds or from a harvested moose. The only real way I can think of to make any kind of money off antlers is by carving or scrimshaw or some sort of furniture which in our area we really don't have a person or persons to do such a job.

I personally think this proposal needs more public input from each of the villages named because I do not want Pilot Station on this list. I have no problem with people selling their harvested moose antlers if they cannot do anything with them but to try and sell them just for a few dollars to maybe help with what bills they may have or help feed their child(ren). I am 100% against selling harvested moose antlers to those who continue to hunt bulls or big bulls after the fact that they have already gotten a moose and against the people who pay big dollars to fly into our area who actually hunt for antlers and antlers only.

For the communities named, one person or community should not speak for all the rest of the nearby villages and especially not for the entire unit 18.

During the fall hunt, our only way to hunt is by skiff, and there is almost a slim chance to none to harass any type of moose. I mean, how does one chase a moose all over the land by skiff? During the winter I can see that is more possible but to this day, I have not witnessed any one person chase down a moose to see if the antlers would fall off. There is not many of us that go out hunting or riding during the winter. Although, I have seen an increase of people go out and more often to look for sheds but not to harass any type of moose.

Harassing may have been done maybe in some places but it is something probably most people have not witnessed with their own eyes. This also, should or needs to be more looked into before making any decisions and closing all doors on everybody that is struggling to get by and just wants to make a few dollars.

I myself, have sold a few harvested moose antlers because of my own struggles. Most people in most areas get only what is needed and I know for a fact that most have sold what was caught all because they could use the few dollars to help their families and because we have no use for these antlers.

The real problem here is with outside sport hunters coming into our area and hunting for antlers only and some illegal hunters as well.

The thing with sawed off antlers is that we are not sure and have no proof of a person or persons killing a moose and leaving the dead animal and just taking the antlers. A lot of us here in unit 18 have found dead moose. How do we know for sure what killed it? Some have found moose dead and frozen to the ground or in ponds or on land due to possibly sickness or wounded by a hunter and the moose was not able to be retrieved or maybe killed by predators. When we do find dead moose and they still have antlers, of course we are going to cut them off to try and sell for those few dollars.

In closing, please be more considerate and get more input from each of these villages named or the entire unit 18 before making such a decision to Prohibit the Sale of Harvested Moose Antlers. Again, a letter of complaint made by one person or one community should not and does not speak for all. Not very many and most people do not know about this proposal, especially the people trying to make a few dollars off the moose they got for harvest. Not very many hunt during the winter season also and that does not give them a chance to harass any type of moose even if they wanted to. Not very many people go out looking for antler sheds but yes there was an increase of people that do go out looking for them to help support their families but none that I have witnessed harassing any moose for the antlers.

Thank you for your time and please give this more time to look into for more input. Once again, speaking for the few people hoping to get a few dollars off of a harvested moose, I do not want to see Pilot Station included on this and im sure a lot of other communities as well.

Any questions or comments or concerns you are free to contact me @ 907-549-2112

Thanks again, Rex J. Nick