

ACR 4 – Open a musk ox hunt in Unit 26A.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 85.050(a)(3) Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

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 the existing positive customary and traditional use finding for Unit 23 should be applied to the herd now found in Unit 26A, or apply the existing positive customary and traditional use finding for Unit 26A. However, the department notes muskox were not present in western 26A when the board deliberated customary and traditional use findings for muskox in the eastern portion of 26A.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

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, with up to six permits available.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.** N/A
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.** N/A
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?** N/A
- 4) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?**

Yes, a survey conducted in 2020 on the Cape Thompson musk ox population in Units 23 and 26A showed a total population of 911 (95% CI of 743-1193) and the portion of the population in Unit 26A to be 455 (95% CI: 350-631), which is well above the 300 animals the board determined necessary to allow a hunt.

- 5) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?** N/A

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

There will be opportunity lost to hunters prior to the next regularly scheduled Western Arctic/Western Region Board of Game meeting which is scheduled for 2023.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

The department has identified a harvestable surplus of musk ox in the western portion of Unit 26A. The board can determine if the hunt should be allocated to residents or nonresidents after determining customary and traditional use of the identified musk ox (see number 2 above).

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

Resource Manager

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.

This ACR has not been submitted to the board previously.