

## **PROPOSAL 20**

### **5 AAC 85.050. Hunting seasons and bag limits for muskoxen.**

Change the bag limit for Tier II muskox hunts in Unit 22 to one muskox every two years as follows:

Establish a multi-year bag limit for all Unit 22 Tier II musk ox hunts as follows:

Unit 22A. One bull by permit every two years. TX090

*Unit 22B east of the Darby Mtns., including drainages of the Kwiniuk, Tubutulik, Koyuk, and Inglutalik rivers. One bull by permit every two years. TX105*

Unit 22B remainder. One bull by permit every two years. TX105

Unit 22C that portion of the Snake River drainage... mouths of the Nome River and the Snake River. One bull by permit every two years. TX095

Unit 22C that portion of drainages flowing into Norton Sound... to the Safety Bridge. One bull by permit every two years. TX096

Unit 22D that portion west of the Tisuk... confluence with Tuksuk Channel. One bull by permit every two years. TX103

Unit 22D Kuzitrin River drainage (includes Kougarok and Pilgrim rivers). One bull by permit every two years. TX102

Unit 22D remainder. One bull by permit every two years. TX102

Unit 22E. One bull by permit every two years. TX104

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Under the points-based Tier II system, recipients of muskox hunting permits are limited to a relatively small pool of residents who are able to claim the maximum number of points on their application every year. Although the spirit of this system is in good faith and was established for good reason it eliminates longtime residents of communities who score slightly fewer points. This has led to a heavily skewed and very uneven distribution of the muskox resource in Unit 22 and added additional frustration for residents that perceive negative impacts from muskox without being able to benefit from the animal in any tangible way. Members of the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee have voiced frustration with the allocation of permits as well as heard testimony from many frustrated members of the public.

Because of the current population of muskox in Unit 22 and the amount necessary for subsistence, it is not practical to address the frustrations of the community by issuing more tags. This would run contrary to the current management plan and the sustained yield principle. My proposed solution is to establish a multi-year bag limit to ensure that permittees, who are successful in harvesting a muskox, cannot be selected for a permit two years in a row, allowing for increased participation in a subsistence hunt, albeit on a biennial basis.

Under the Tier II system it is anticipated that there is not a reasonable opportunity for all eligible residents to participate in subsistence hunting, so applications are scored. This proposal would not change that, nor

would it change a hunter's opportunity to participate in a subsistence hunt two years in a row if they were not successful in the first year. Only if a muskox was harvested in one hunt would the bag limit be met and the hunter would be ineligible for the permit the following year, opening up the opportunity for another eligible resident to participate in the subsistence hunt.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jacob Mannix

(EG-F23-207)

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