

Proposal 74

5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels.

Change the location of Nelson Island muskox registration permit availability to reflect the change from Newtok to Mertarvik as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels.

(4) Musk oxen on Nelson Island in Unit 18 shall be managed by registration permit hunts based on the harvestable portion of the population, as follows:

(A) if 150 permits are available

(i) 65 of the available permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis in the 5 villages of Nightmute, Tununak, **Mertarvik** [NEWTOK], Chefornak and Toksook Bay on an annual rotating basis; remaining permits after issuance will be issued as follows;

(ii) 20 of the available permits will be issued in Bethel; and

(iii) 65 of the available permits will be issued online, with up to 5 issued to nonresidents;

(B) if more or less than 150 permits are available

(i) 44% of the available permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis in the 5 villages of Nightmute, Tununak, **Mertarvik** [NEWTOK], Chefornak and Toksook Bay on an annual rotating basis; remaining permits after issuance will be issued as follows;

(ii) 12% of the available permits will be issued in Bethel; and

(iii) 44% of the available permits will be issued online, with up to 8% allocated to nonresidents;

(iv) in order to achieve the desired number of permits, allocations will be adjusted proportionately until the allocation for Nightmute, Tununak, **Mertarvik** [NEWTOK], Chefornak and Toksook Bay reaches no less than 40 permits; the allocation for online and Bethel will then continue to be reduced proportionately.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

The community of Newtok has relocated to a new location on Nelson Island, and the name of the new community is Mertarvik. Moving the community began in 2019, and there are no longer any residents in the old location of Newtok. The new location is approximately 9 miles from the original location. The regulation needs to be updated to reflect the move, and the board will need to determine if the existing pattern of issuance in regulation is still desirable given the new location of the community.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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