

Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee Position on proposal 177

The NNSAC held a telephonic meeting 2:00 pm March 3 2014 to discuss our position on the proposal to allow the use of snowmachines to track and pursue caribou, wolves and wolverine. We found it confusing that currently only wolves and caribou are mentioned in conjunction with snowmachines and hunting. After talking with F&G staff we were left with the idea that these animals are most likely to quickly flee hunters and other commonly hunted animals are less prone to run and are therefore less likely to encourage pursuit by a vehicle. Certainly, there are a number of animals hunted in winter where snowmachines are the primary means of transport for the hunter. We all agreed another animal that was likely to flee across open ground was a wolverine.

Generally speaking, the caribou and wolves of Unit 23 and unit 22 are the same populations. The community of animals present in the two units are very similar. It would stand to reason that the regulations governing hunting ways and means should be the same in the two units. This reasoning should probably be expanded to the units listed in the regulation on page 20 of the current hunting regulation book: units 9, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, and 25. It is odd that Unit 23 was not listed there and it should be.

The NNSAC split on the subject of motorized pursuit of the animals that have not been shot and injured. At least four members voiced the opinion that shooting should not occur from a moving vehicle. However, another said that he favored the more efficient pursuit and shoot method. Discussion considered adverse effects of exhaustion and injury to the animals, the fact that meat quality was impacted by stress and fine line between a quick pursuit and too much. Nearly all of us hunt from snowmachines for meat and fur. We often shoot from a parked machine or use the machine as a rest for long shot. We consider these legitimate and normal legal practice. We agree there should be a common standard that all are aware of.

The six members attending the teleconference and Nate Perkins provided verbal approval of this statement.


Charles Clark
 Kevin R. Smith sec.

Northern Norton Sound AC
3/3/2014
Teleconference

I. Call to order:

Meeting not able to be called to order due to the lack of a Quorum

Discussion began at 1400hrs lead by Charlie Lean, Committee Chair

II. Roll call:

Members present: Charlie Lean (Chair), Paul Kosto (Vice Chair), Kevin Knowlton (Secretary), Sheldon Nagaruk (Elim), Clifford Seetook (Wales), Tom Gray (Nome)

Members absent: Adem Boeckman (Nome), Nate Perkins (Nome), Daniel Stang (Nome), Charles Saccheus (Elim), Jack Fagerstrom (Golovin), Peter Buck (White Mountain), Stanley Tocktoo (Shishmaref), Teller Repetitive, Vernon Rock (Brevig Mission)

Number needed for Quorum on AC: 7

List of User Groups Present: Kawerak, Nome Eskimo

III. Approval of Agenda:

MM: M2nd:

IV. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes from 12/17/13

V. Public Comments:

VI. Fish and Game Staff Present:

Bill Dunker (ADF&G Nome), Tony Gorn (ADF&G Nome)

VII. Guests Present:

Roy Ashenfelter (Kawerak), Brandon Amasuk (Kawerak), Mike Sloan (Nome Eskimo), Ken Atchison (Park Service)

X. Adjournment:

Discussion ended at 1455hrs.

Minutes Recorded By: Kevin Knowlton
Minutes Approved By: Chair
Date: 3/3/2014