

## Proposal 179: Unit 18 Nunivak Island Muskox

This proposal modifies the hunt structure for musk ox on Nunivak Island.

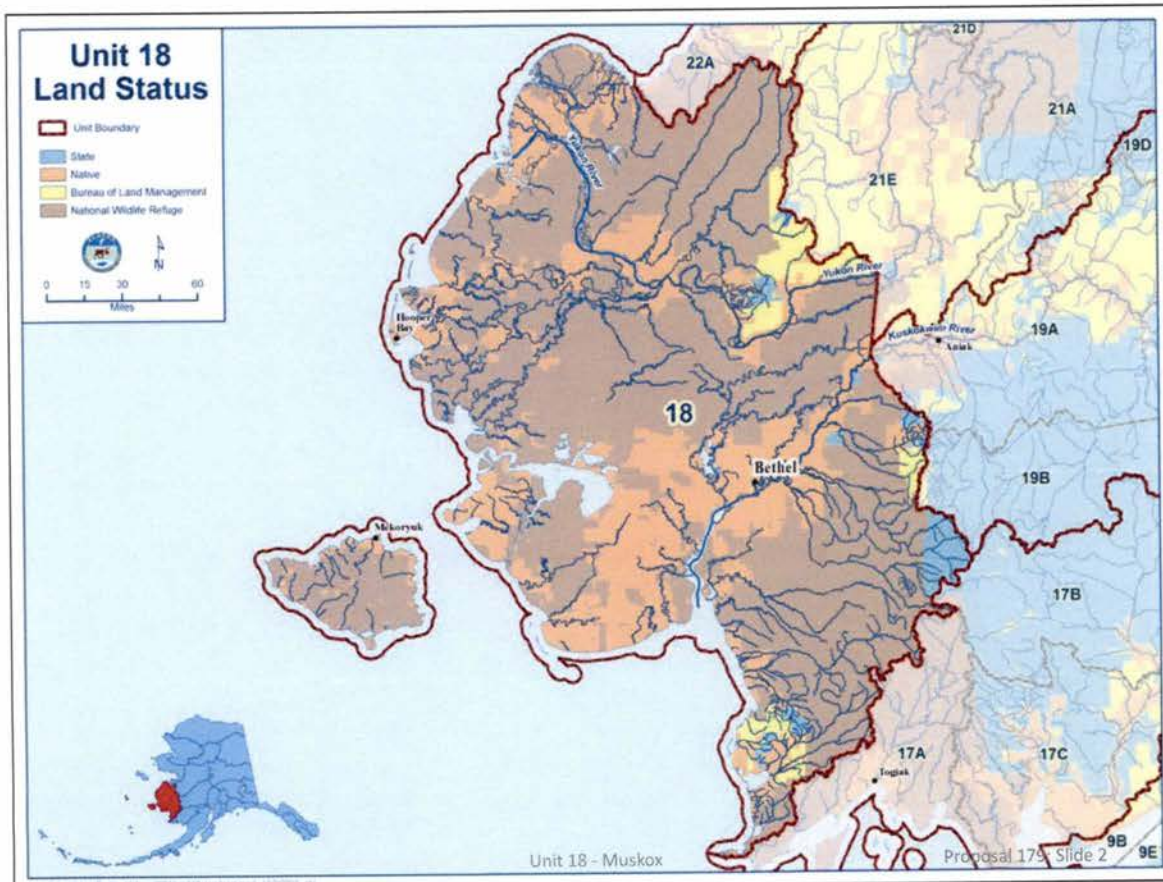
This is a Board of Game proposal.

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**

Unit 18 Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Central Bering Sea AC..... **Support**

Bethel AC..... **Amend and Support**



## Proposed Regulation

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>
Unit 18, Nunivak Island		
1 bull by drawing permit only, with up to 10 permits to be issued for the fall season and up to 100 drawing permits for <b>1 bull</b> to be issued for the spring season; or 1 <b>musk oxen</b> [COW] by registration permit only, with up to 60 permits issued on a first-come, first-served basis	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Feb. 1 - Mar. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30  Feb. 1 - Mar. 15

**5 AAC 92.016. Musk oxen tag fees.**

The resident tag fee for hunting musk oxen **by registration permit** on Nelson Island and [OR FOR HUNTING COW MUSK OXEN] on Nunivak Island is \$25. The Board of Game waives the resident tag fee for subsistence musk oxen hunting.

- \*\*Resident tag fee for registration permits on Nunivak would be \$25 for bulls and cows
- \*\*Resident tag fee for draw permits on Nunivak would be \$500 for bulls
- \*\**Nonresident tag fee for registration permits on Nunivak would be \$1100 (\$1500 alien)*

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## Bethel AC Amendment

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 18, Nunivak Island</li> <li>•</li> <li>• 1 bull by drawing permit only, with up to 10 permits to be issued for the fall season and up to 100 drawing permits for <b>1 bull</b> to be issued for the spring season; or 1 <b>musk oxen</b> [COW] by registration permit only, with up to 60 permits issued on a first-come, first-served basis; <b>provided not more than 20 bull registration permits are issued when there are less than 20 cow registration permits issued so that a minimum of 20 registration permits are issued</b></li> </ul>	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Feb. 1 - Mar. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1-Sept 30 Feb. 1-Mar. 15

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## Current Regulation

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>
Unit 18, Nunivak Island		
1 bull by drawing permit only, with up to 10 permits to be issued for the fall season and up to 100 permits to be issued for the spring season; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Feb. 1–Mar. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Feb. 1–Mar. 15
1 cow by registration permit only, with up to 60 permits for cows to be issued on a first-come, first-served basis		

### **5 AAC 92.016. Musk oxen tag fees.**

The resident tag fee for hunting musk oxen on Nelson Island or for hunting cow musk oxen on Nunivak Island is \$25. The Board of Game waives the resident tag fee for subsistence musk oxen hunting.

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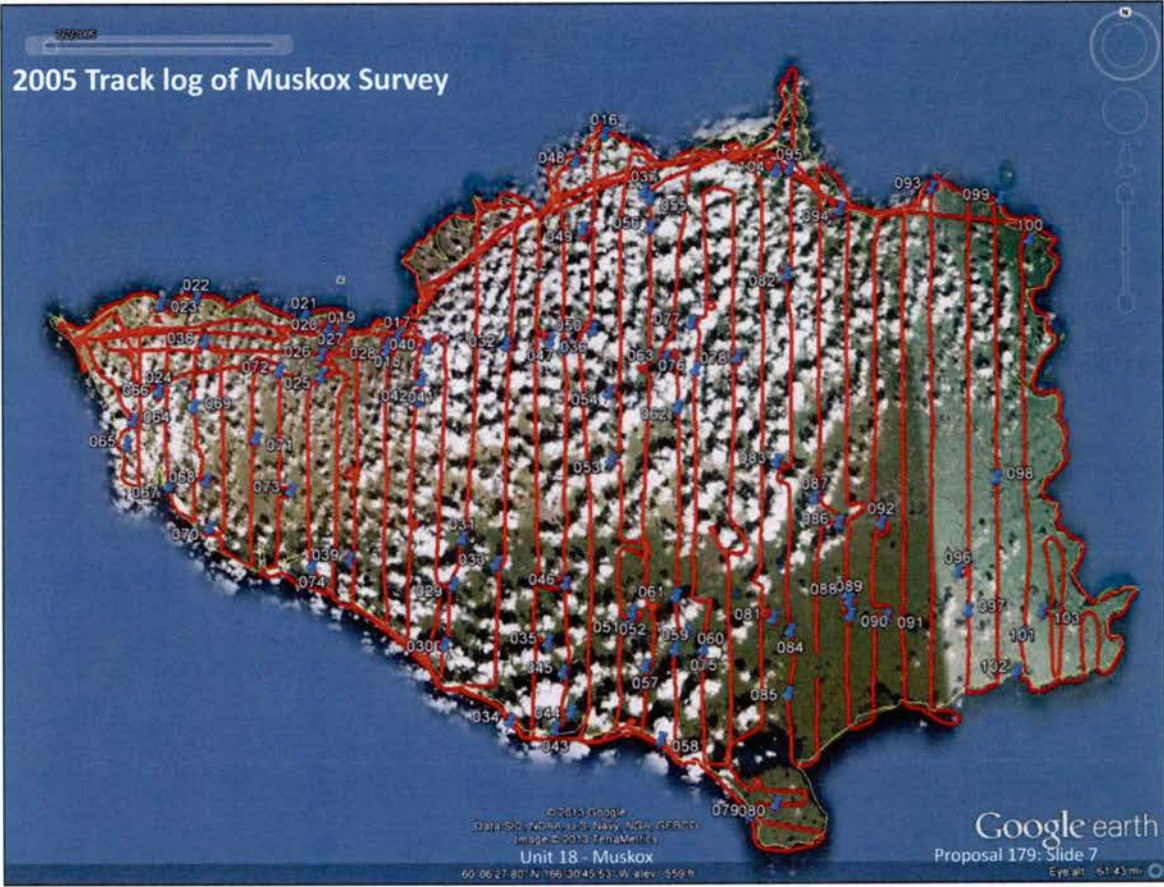
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## History of Muskox in Unit 18

- 1850-1860 Muskox were extirpated from Alaska.
- 1930 34 Musk ox were captured in Greenland.
- 1930-1936 Muskox were retained and reared in Fairbanks.
- 1935-1936 31 Muskox were released on Nunivak Island.
- 1967-1968 23 Muskox were transplanted from Nunivak Island to Nelson Island.
- 1975 First hunting on Nunivak Island.
- 1976 First observation of a muskox on mainland.
- 1981 First hunting on Nelson Island.
- 2013 Currently, 150-200 muskox on mainland.

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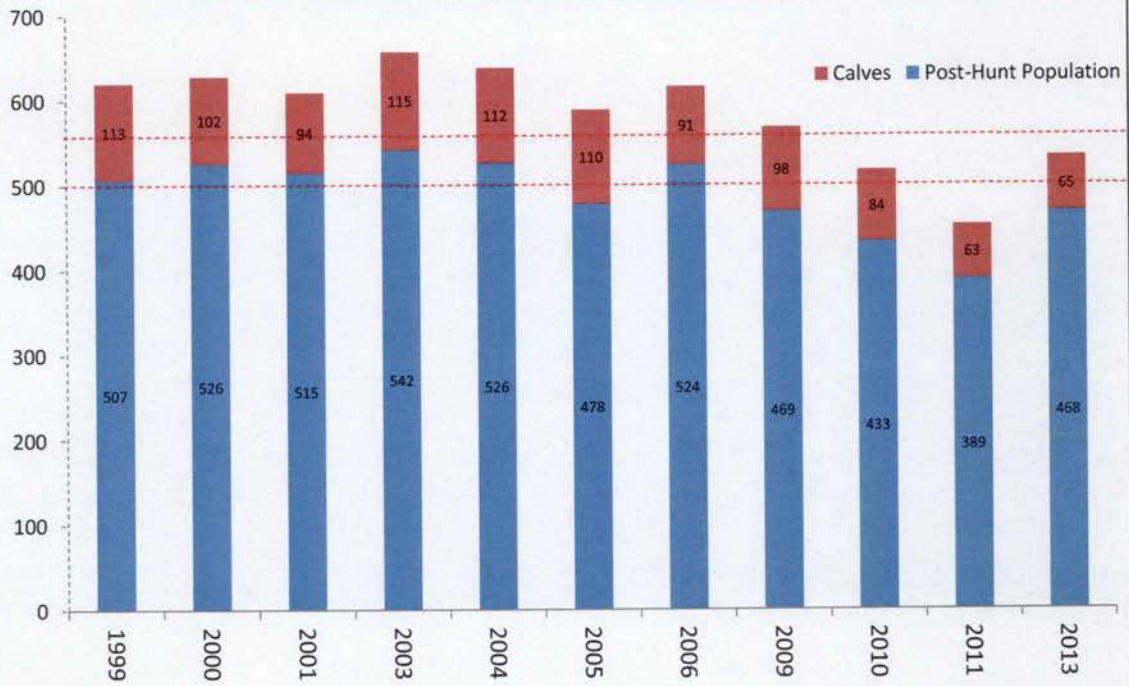
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### Nunivak Island Musk Ox Counts

Year	Bull 3+ yrs	Cow 3+ yrs	Bull 2-yr	Yearling	Calves	Unknown	Total	Month
2009	203	177	35	41	98	13	567	Sep
2010	172	125	32	65	84	39	517	July
2011	145	130	32	59	63	23	452	Oct
2012	Incomplete survey							
2013	148	146	32	71	65	71	533	Aug

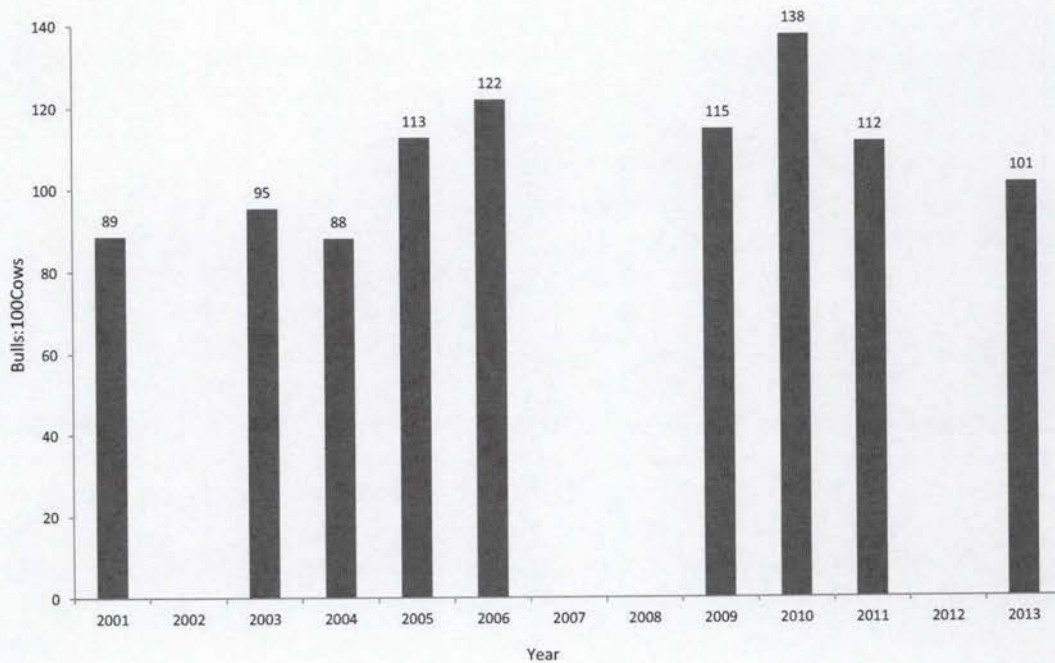
## Muskox Population Objective



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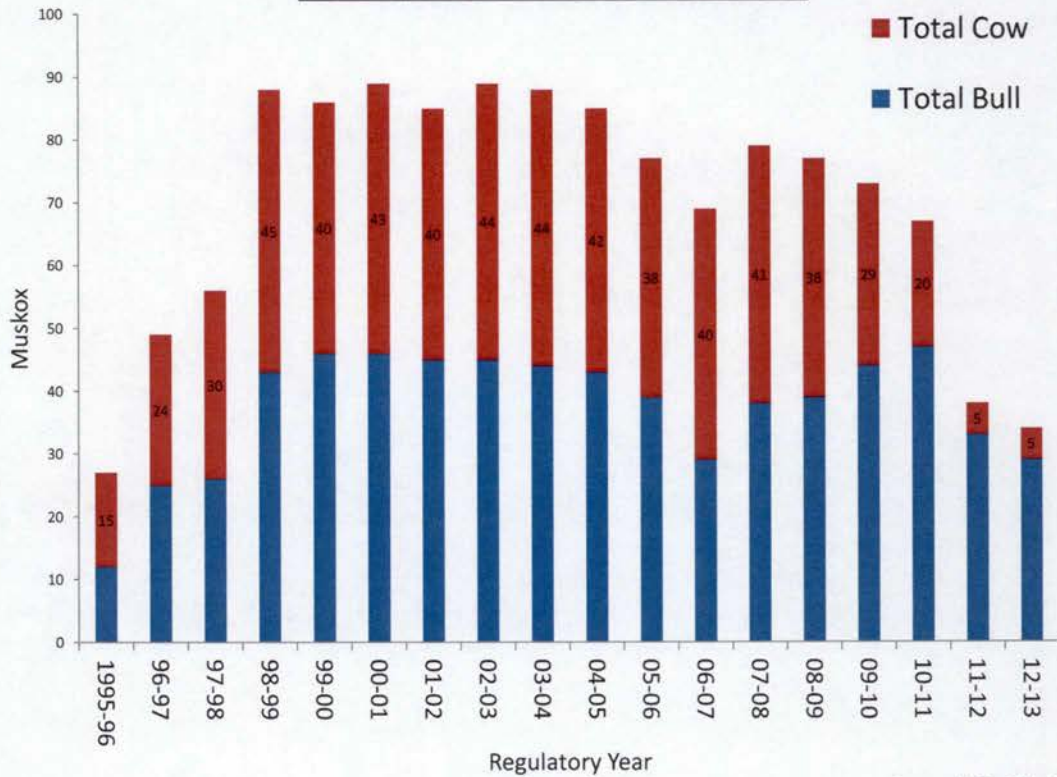
## Nunivak Island Mature Bull: Cow Ratios



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## Muskox Harvest on Nunivak



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## Registration Permit Recipients

Regulatory year	RX060			RX061		
	MYU.	GMU 18	AK Res	MYU.	GMU 18	AK Res
2004	0	5	0	25	15	0
2005	0	5	0	29	8	3
2006	0	5	0	34	6	0
2007	0	5	0	29	10	1
2008	1	2	2	34	5	1
2009	0	5	0	25	4	1
2010	1	4	0	16	4	0
2011	0	0	0	5	0	0
2012	0	0	0	5	0	0
2013	0	0	0	5	0	0

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## Nunivak Island Short-Term Management

Department short term goals for Nunivak Island population:

1. Bring population up to 500 – 550 post-hunt pre-calving through harvest management (reduced harvests)
2. Temporary decrease in harvest anticipated for next 3 years
3. Maintain bull:cow ratios at 80:100
4. Regulatory year 2014-2015 anticipated harvest:  
30 bulls and 5 cows
4. When population is within objectives (500 – 550), resume harvesting at a minimum of 10% of population (50-55 musk ox)
5. Update the cooperative management plan for Nunivak Island

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## Possible Regulatory Structure

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

Use this section of code for a regulation listing the musk ox hunts by registration and drawing permits with seasons and bag limits. No extra details of hunt management.

### **5 AAC 92.008 Harvest guideline levels.**

Use this section of code for specific details of proportions of registration and drawing permits for hunt management.

*“For purposes of management of the named species, the department shall manage harvest by hunting and trapping as follows:”*

- *Listing of hunt management and other options*

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## Regulation Template

### 5 AAC 85.050 Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.

	Resident	Nonresident
<b><u>Units and Bag Limits</u></b>		
(1)		
Unit 18, Nunivak Island		
1 bull by drawing permit only; <b><u>up to 110 permits may be issued</u></b>	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Feb. 1 - Mar. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1-Sept 30 Feb. 1-Mar. 15
or 1 <b><u>musk oxen</u></b> by registration permit only		
...		

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## Regulation Template - cont.

### 5 AAC 92.008 Harvest guideline levels.

...

**(5) musk oxen: the harvest of musk oxen in Unit 18 Nunivak Island shall be managed by a combination of registration and drawing permit hunts, as follows:**

- i. **up to 10 drawing permits may be issued for the fall season hunt;**
- ii. **up to 100 drawing permits may be issued for the spring season hunt;**
- iii. **up to 60 registration permits may be issued on a first-come, first-served basis; the permits may be issued for fall hunts or spring hunts;**

### 5 AAC 92.016. Musk oxen tag fees.

The resident tag fee for hunting musk oxen **by registration permit** on Nelson Island and [OR FOR HUNTING COW MUSK OXEN] on Nunivak Island is \$25. The Board of Game waives the resident tag fee for subsistence musk oxen hunting.

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- End -

Questions?

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