

SB

144

<target><bill>SB 144</bill><subject>SB
144</subject><comm>SFIN26</comm></target>

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/10/10

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 144

SB 144 MUSK OXEN PERMITS

"An Act relating to hunting permits and tag fees for musk oxen."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS SB 144 (FIN)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:
 Same Title
 New Title

HOUSE BILL:
 Same Title
 Technical Title Change
 New Title w/ SCR # _____

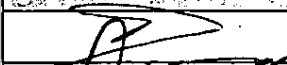

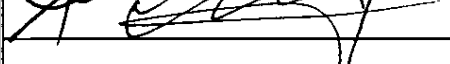
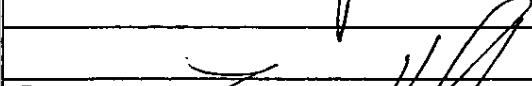

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
ADF & G				✓	

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Egon	✓			
	OLSON	✓			
	Huggins			✓	
CO-CHAIR: 	Hoffman	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Stedman	✓		AS 4/9	

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182

(907) 465-3707
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Senate Bill 144 – Musk Oxen Permits & Tags

Version 26-LS0666/R, March 9, 2009

STAFF: Tim Benintendi, 465-4989

SPONSOR STATEMENT and SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

SPONSOR STATEMENT:

There are four Game Management Units in which musk oxen are found in Alaska; Unit 18 (Nunivak and Nelson Islands), Units 22 and 23 (Seward Peninsula and Northwest), and Unit 26 (Northeast). The musk oxen population in Alaska is currently estimated to be 4,400 animals, and annually, between 325 and 350 animals are available for harvest.

The primary objective of SB 144 is to allow issuance of a second permit for a musk ox hunt in a second Game Management Unit or hunt area within a unit, for resident hunters and subsistence hunters only; no out-of-state hunters qualify. If a harvester does not take an animal under the first permit, this would double the chance a hunter has to harvest the bag limit of one animal, either a bull or a cow. It would not allow for the taking of two animals.

Current statute provides for a limit of one musk ox permit for each hunter per calendar year. Musk oxen are the only game animals in the Arctic to which the one-permit restriction still applies. Under SB 144, the department could issue subsistence permits beyond a calendar year basis, to accommodate a season which straddles two calendar years (Example: a season which runs from August 1st to March 15th), because a "year" under this bill, is changed from a calendar year to a regulatory year, which is July 1st to June 30th.

Wildlife biologists and regulators within the Department of Fish and Game have determined that the health and size of the state's herd is well past the threshold for expanding opportunities for Alaskan hunters. State biologists

estimate that a minimal number of additional permits would be issued under the provisions of this bill, and perhaps 25 more animals would be harvested. If passed this legislative session, these new provisions would be in place for seasons beginning in August of this year.

SB 144 would authorize the Board of Game to reduce or eliminate subsistence tag and fee requirements at its discretion.

SB 144 carries a ZERO fiscal note, and has the support of the department. Support from the hunting community in Northwest Alaska includes the Northern and Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committees, and the Seward Peninsula Musk Ox Cooperators' Group. We have discovered no opposition to this bill.

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS:

SECTION 1: Amends AS 16.05.340(a)(16) to allow the Board of Game to reduce or eliminate the fee, as well as the tag requirements, for a musk oxen hunt, and makes it applicable to all or a portion of a game management unit. Applying this to an open season has been eliminated. The objective is to have the statute for musk oxen read the same as for other game.

SECTION 2: Amends AS 16.05.346(a) by providing that the department shall issue permits to take musk oxen once the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated requirements for a resident tag and fee. This statute is further amended by providing that a resident may not be charged a fee for an application for a musk oxen permit under these circumstances.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 144
 (S) Publish Date: 3/10/10

Identifier (file name): SB144-DFG-DAS-03-05-10 Dept. Affected: ADF&G
 Title An Act relating to hunting permits and tag fees for musk oxen RDU Administration and Support
 Component Administrative Services
 Sponsor Senator Olson
 Requester Senate Resources Component Number 479

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact to Department of Fish and Game

Prepared by: Jeff Hoover, Deputy Director
 Division: Administrative Services
 Approved by: Tom Lawson, Director of Administrative Services
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone 907-465-6077
 Date/Time 3/5/10 12:00 PM
 Date 3/5/2010

Adopted 26-LS0666E
Kane
3/22/10 3/16/10

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 144(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATOR OLSON

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to hunting permits and tag fees for musk oxen."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1.** AS 16.05.340(a)(16) is amended to read:

4 (16) Resident big game tags

5 (A) Bear, brown or grizzly, each 25

6 The Board of Game may, by regulation effective for not more than one year,
7 eliminate the resident brown or grizzly bear tag and fee for all or a portion of a
8 game management unit.

9 (B) Musk oxen, each 500

10 However, the Board of Game may by regulation reduce or eliminate the [FEE
11 FOR A] resident big game tag **and fee** for musk oxen for **all or a portion of a**
12 **game management unit** [AN OPEN SEASON].

13 *** Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.346(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) If the Board of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen and has
15 not reduced or eliminated the \$500 resident tag **and** fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16),

1 the department shall conduct a drawing for permits to take the musk oxen. If the Board
2 of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen for which the Board of Game has
3 reduced or eliminated the resident tag and fee, the department shall issue permits to
4 take the musk oxen in the order in which applications are received by the department.
5 [A PERSON IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MORE THAN ONE MUSK OXEN PERMIT
6 A YEAR.] The department may not charge a resident a fee for an application for a
7 musk oxen permit for an open season in which the Board of Game has reduced or
8 eliminated the resident tag and fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16). In all other cases, the
9 application fee for a musk oxen permit is \$10.



Current Status of Muskoxen in Alaska 1970-2009

Letty Hughes^{1*}, Patricia Reynolds^{2*}, Kimberlee Beckmen^{1*}, Phillip Perry¹, Geoff Carroll¹, Steve Arthur¹
¹Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, ²US Fish & Wildlife Service, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Introduction

Muskoxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) were reintroduced to Alaska after disappearing in the late 1800s. The first establishment of muskoxen from Greenland to rural Alaska was Nunivak Island in 1936. The Nunivak population acted as a source of animals for future relocations on historic range between 1967-1981. The relocation of 300 animals created five populations throughout Alaska: Nunivak, Nelson Island, Northeastern, Northwestern, and Seward Peninsula (Figure 1). The successful establishment of muskoxen populations and current cooperative management efforts have resulted in range expansion, population growth and stability, along with hunting and viewing opportunities.



Harvest

Hunting of reintroduced muskoxen first occurred on Nunivak Island in 1975. Four of the five populations are open to harvest on an annual quota and permit basis (Table 1). In 2008, the Board of Game adopted regulations that allow Alaskans to harvest muskoxen on the Seward Peninsula with a registration permit (Gorn 2009). The new hunts were created from recommendations from local advisory committees and Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators, a stakeholder group established in 1994.

Table 1. Harvest of Muskoxen in Alaska

Population	Hunting Began	Average Annual Harvest 1995-2008	Average Annual Harvest 2009	Available Harvest 2009	Hunt Structure 2009	Sex of Harvest	Available Harvest as % of population 2009
Nunivak Island	1975	56	81	85	-Drawing -Registration	*Bulls *Cows & Bulls	15
Nelson Island	1981	23	23	42	-Registration	*Cows & Bulls	8
Northeastern	1990	9	8	0	No Open Season	*Closed to harvest in 2006	0
Northwestern	1998	No Hunt	<3	6	*Tier II drawing	*Bulls 1999-present	1
Seward Peninsula	1995	13	76	197	*Tier I Registration -Drawing -Federal Permit	*Bulls 1995-2000 *Cows & Bulls 2000-present	7*

*will be < 7% in 2010-2011 pending census results



Your purchase of hunting licenses or equipment supports wildlife restoration funding.

Recent Range Expansion

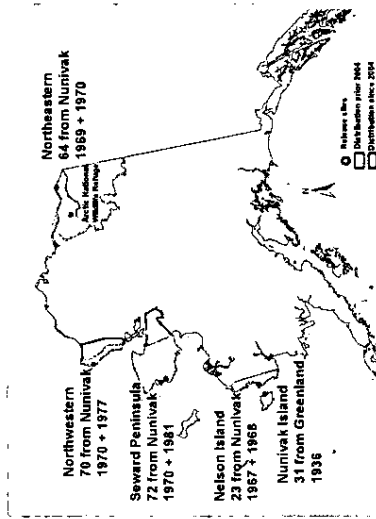


Figure 1. Reintroduction sites and group distribution of muskoxen populations

Population Growth

During the 74 years since 31 muskoxen were first established on Nunivak Island, populations have increased to over 4400 animals in Alaska (Table 2). The Seward Peninsula population is the state's largest, and continues to expand eastward (Figure 1) as the population increases (Figure 2).

Table 2. Current size of Alaska muskoxen populations

Population	Population Size	Date of Estimate	Status
Nunivak Island	567	Oct. 2009	*16% from 1947-1988 *Stable since 1970
Nelson Island	557	Jun. 2009	*22% from 1968-1981 *6% from 2004
Northeast	200-250*	Apr. 2008	*650 muskoxen by 1995 *Declined 60% 1996-2006 *Stable from 2006-2009
Northwest	324-424*	Jan. 2008	*8% from 1970-1998 *Stable from 1999-2008
Seward Peninsula	2688*	Mar. 2007	*14% from 1970-2000 *6% from 2000-2007
Total minimum Alaska population estimate	4486		*Young age *Northern Canada animals included

Table 3. Mortality type in Northeastern population 2007-2009

Mortality Type	Adults	Calves	Total
Bear Predation	16	36	52
Disease	2	2	4
Vehicle collision	3	0	3
Other non-predation	4	10	14
Total	25	48	73

Figure 2. Historic counts of Alaska muskoxen populations 1970-2009

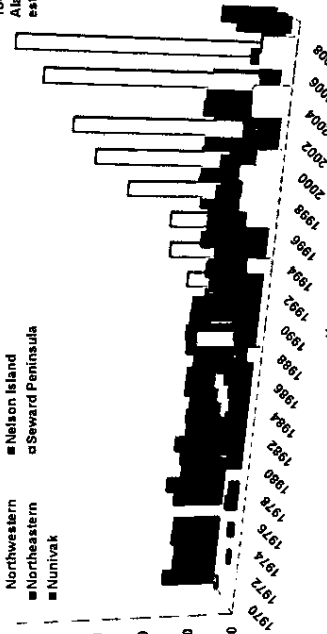


Figure 2. Historic counts of Alaska muskoxen populations 1970-2009

Mortality and Disease Surveillance

Seward Peninsula

- Predation relatively low compared to Northeastern
- Chlamydia present (Gorn 2009)
- Low in copper
- Negative for iron, zinc, selenium (Gorn 2009)
- Composition surveys show 30 yearlings:100 cows since 2002 (Gorn 2009)

Northeastern

- Predation a significant mortality factor (Table 3)
- Mortalities from drowning and stranding on sea ice
- Chlamydia present (Lenart 2009)
- Copper deficient (Lenart 2009)
- Low calf recruitment and low calf:cow ratios (Lenart 2007)

Future Management

The reintroduction of muskoxen to Alaska continues to be successful. Population growth and range expansion provides opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive uses of muskoxen. Continued investigation of population parameters and health assessments along with public input will enhance future management of Alaska muskoxen.

Letty Hughes, In Prep. Unit 22 muskox. Muskox management report survey and inventory activities. 1 July 2008-30 June 2009. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, AK, USA.
Patricia Reynolds, In Prep. Unit 22 muskox. Muskox management report survey and inventory activities. 1 July 2008-30 June 2009. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, AK, USA.
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