



Wednesday, November 23, 2011

Honourable Terry French
Minister of Environment and Conservation
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

Honourable Glen Sheppard
Minister of Natural Resources
Postville, NL, A0P 1N0

Dear Minister French,

The Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board have cooperated with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Nunatsiavut Government to implement its 2010 decision to establish a Total Allowable Harvest for Moose within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA).

We are pleased and encouraged by the moose co-management process, as it has unfolded. Moose co-management has become a part of our annual planning cycle and we are pleased to attach our TAH decision for the 2012-13 harvesting season.

The TAH Moose Decision is complimented by three recommendations that the TWPCB have a responsibility to make under section 12.9.1.b of the Labrador Inuit Labrador Claims Agreement. The complimentary recommendations relate to a slight boundary shift for one Moose Management Area (MMA) and a name change for another.

It remains important to the TWPCB that the Moose TAH of 35 be sufficiently distributed throughout the LISA. As always we look forward to hearing from you as you consider the following decision and recommendations.

Your's truly,

Bruce Roberts
Chairperson
Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board



Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-Management Board
Memorandum to the Minister of Environment and Conservation
Wildlife Management in Nunatsiavut
(Wednesday, November 23, 2011)

Issue: Moose Management in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area

Decision and Recommendations:

Consistent with Chapter 12 of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (12.9.1 a), the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board (TWPCB) has decided, by consensus, to:

- Maintain the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) of Moose at 35 for the 2012/2013 hunting season within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA).

Pursuant to Sections 12.9.1 (b) and 12.9.2 of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the TWPCB submits the following recommendations respecting the management of Moose within the LISA:

- The TWPCB recommends that the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunatsiavut recognize the original 4 Moose Management Areas (MMA) as recommended and defined by the TWPCB in its original submissions.
- The TWPCB recommends that the originally defined northern boundary of Moose Management Area (MMA) 'Rigolet' be moved to include Michael's River and Lake Michael.
- The TWPCB recommends the name of MMA 'Postville' be renamed to 'Kaipokok'.

We respectfully acknowledge the Minister(s) powers and responsibilities with respect to this matter as per parts 12.9.4 and 12.9.7 of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, and we look forward to your timely reply.

1. Case History and Context

- The Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-Management Board (TWPCB) is the creation of the three negotiating parties to the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA), and established in Part 12.8 of Chapter 12, with its roles, responsibilities and powers outlined in Part 12.9. For greater clarity, and ease of reference, the TWPCB is empowered to establish TAHs for non-migratory species of wildlife (12.9.1a), and



recommend management measures to coordinate and harmonize the management of wildlife, plants and habitat in the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (12.9.1b(xiii)).

- The TWPCB is the primary body making recommendations on the timely collection, analysis, and sharing of data and information relevant to Inuit rights and the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife (12.9.1e).
- In June of 2010, with support from the Nunatsiavut Government, the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board decided to establish MMAs in Nunatsiavut.
- In August of 2010 the Minister of Environment and Conservation supported the decision in principle – but rejected it for the 2010-11 season – and encouraged the TWPCB to work with departmental officials towards implementation in 2011-12.
- Negotiations with departmental officials continued through to 7 April, 2011, when a press release and the Hunting and Trapping Guide confirmed the changes.

2. Total Allowable Harvest

- In a Memorandum submitted to the Minister of Environment and Conservation on 23 June, 2010, the TWPCB detailed the scientific and Inuit knowledge that informed its decision to establish a TAH in Nunatsiavut. No new information or rationalization has emerged to warrant changes at the time of this submission.
- Poor snow conditions in the winters of 2010 and 2011 prevented the TWPCB from conducting surveys in any MMA. The TWPCB are currently exploring other options for assessing the Moose population within the LISA.

3. Moose Management Area Boundaries

- While a MMA is not a TAH, it is a logical accompaniment. It is now recommended that these MMAs be honoured by the Nunatsiavut Government as it remains the view of the TWPCB that a TAH be sufficiently distributed throughout the LISA due to our current understandings about Moose and Moose habitat within the LISA. A TAH by itself is insufficient without an accompanying mechanism for distributing effort across the region.

- It is the understanding of the TWPCB that there are currently 6 moose allocated to the Nain MMA, 18 allocated to the Kaipokok MMA, and 11 allocated to the Rigolet and Backway MMAs combined.
- If the following TAH allocations were framed from a harvesting perspective, 6 were allocated to Nain (1 of which was for the community freezer), 6 were allocated to Hopedale (1 of which was for the community freezer), 6 were allocated to Postville (1 of which was for the community freezer), 6 were allocated to Makkovik (1 of which was for the community freezer), 6 were allocated to Rigolet (1 of which was for the community freezer), and 5 were allocated to Upper Lake Melville and the provisions for the community freezer have been rejected by the community corporations in favour of more individual beneficiary access.
- While these new distributions by the Nunatsiavut Government do differ from the original TWPCB submissions and may not have a significant impact on the LISA Moose populations; the TWPCB stands by its original recommendations for Moose Management Areas as defined and their corresponding allocations. The original MMAs and allocations were recommended as such based on what we currently know about Moose abundance within the LISA and for science project planning.
- The northern boundary of the originally defined MMA 'Rigolet' is somewhat arbitrary, and is a legacy of former MMA 55. Although the boundary was confirmed by the TWPCB for implementation in 2011-12, subsequent Board deliberations and community consultations have identified Michael's River, Lake Michael, and surrounding areas as belonging more appropriately within MMA 'Rigolet'. The new boundary (shown in Appendix A and described in Appendix B) will more accurately reflect historical and contemporary patterns of use.

3. Moose Management Area Names

- Moose Management Area 'Kaipokok', as agreed to, appears as 'Postville' in the Hunting and Trapping Guide. Hopedale, Makkovik, and Postville are all located within this MMA – picking one community name to denote the entire region is not representative and may lead to confusion.

Key Considerations

- The Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement provides the legal and constitutional basis to the supplied decision and the suggested course of action.



- There are no cost implications associated with the management measures outlined herein, as the prescribed actions fall within the routine business of the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation.
- The Nunatsiavut Government employs a Wildlife Manager, a Licence Administrator, and Conservation Officers, who have the capacity and the expertise to implement these measures, and monitor and enforce compliance. This decision will build, not burden, existing capacity within the Lands and Natural Resources Department of the Nunatsiavut Government.

Consultations and Meetings

- Moose management and research were discussed at regular Board meetings in Happy Valley-Goose Bay (March, 2008; October, 2009; December, 2010; March, 2011; September, 2011), Nain (May, 2009), Makkovik (May, 2010), the Torngat Mountains National Park (September, 2010), and Hopedale (June, 2011). Moose management was the focus of a Public Consultation hosted by the Board in Makkovik (May, 2010). The Board has also consulted with representatives of the Nunatsiavut Government and the Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- The Torngat Secretariat supplied the following decision and recommendations to the Nunatsiavut Government on July 7, 2011 for consultative purposes as per part 12.9.10 of the LILCA.

Prepared by: Torngat Wildlife, Plants and Fisheries Secretariat

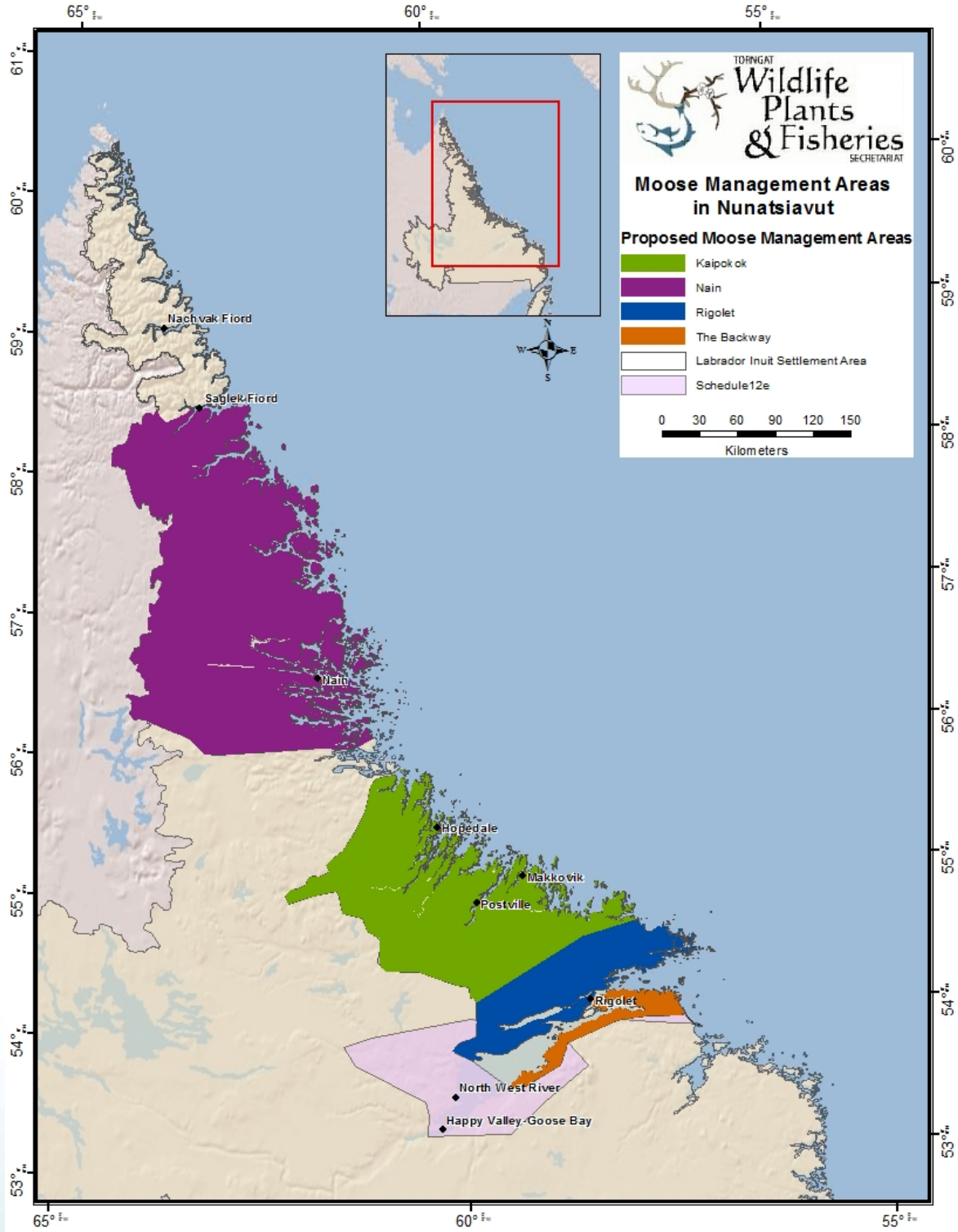
Approved by: _____ Chairperson

Approved by: _____ Executive Director



Appendix A

Revised Moose Management Areas and Names





Appendix B

Description of Moose Management Area 'Rigolet'



Beginning at a pre-defined point at 54°12'8"N, 59°49'42"W, where presently the boundary between Moose Management Areas 'Rigolet' and 'Postville' meets the boundary of the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area;

Then northeasterly to a point north of Lake Michael at 54°38'25"N, 58°29'12"W;

Then northeasterly to a point on the shoreline near Collarbone Hill at 54°43'17"N, 57°50'5"W;

Then following the coastline southeasterly to meet the present boundary of Moose Management Area 'Rigolet';

Then following the present boundary of Moose Management Area 'Rigolet' to the point of commencement.