

Skeena Wildlife Regulation Change Proposal Form

Submitted By: Heidi Schindler

Phone: 250-847-7423

E-mail: Heidi.schindler@gov.bc.ca

Affiliation: FLNRO

Objective of Proposal (describe what outcomes the regulation change is expected to achieve. For example change to bull:cow ratio, reduce crowding of hunters, etc):

Complete harvest data for all moose harvested in northern Management Units (MUs) and improved trust and relationships with northern First Nations.

Proposal Description (specific MU's, season dates, bag limits, attach a map if required, # of authorizations, etc):

Amend MUs under in the Compulsory Inspection (CI) of harvested moose regulation to include 6-26 to 6-29.

Proposal Rationale (provide supporting survey data*, scientific literature, and/or traditional knowledge):

Amending the CI regulation to include 6-26 to 6-29 would create a large contiguous area in the north Skeena Region that would provide more complete information about moose killed there. Several northern First Nations (including 3 Nations of Tahltan, Taku River Tlingit and Kaska Dena, and Champagne Aishihik) have expressed concern with respect to adequate accounting of licensed harvest of moose using only the Big Game Hunter Survey questionnaire. FLNRO may receive greater acceptance of the BGHS data from this area if CI data can be used for validation. Furthermore, in cases where little moose harvest occurs, the BGHS questionnaire is less likely to accurately account for harvested moose there (due to the randomness of questionnaire distribution and response), and CI data would be the best alternative method for harvest accounting.

Pros and Cons of Implementing this Proposal (explain how the benefits of this proposal outweigh the costs):

Pros:

- CI for moose will increase the accuracy of harvest estimates which will allow FLNRO to assess the need for management actions related to hunting related impacts.
- Implementing CI for moose will have a high likelihood that the First Nation's concern, regarding moose harvest data accuracy, will be reduced.
- Addition of these MUs to the current regulation would make the CI requirement consistent across the northern region and all northern nations' territories.

Cons:

Please submit to Conrad Thiessen at conrad.thiessen@gov.bc.ca

*We encourage early communication with regional wildlife biologists regarding proposed changes particularly for those lacking survey data as we can provide advice on how to collect data to strengthen rationale for proposed change.

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- An increased cost to government (estimated at not more than \$1000) will be required to pay the Compulsory Inspection Inspectors (\$25/animal inspected) to inspect 40 moose.

Demonstrate how support was achieved for this proposal within your First Nation or stakeholder group (e.g., voting results from members including total number polled, # support, # non-support, # indifferent, etc; concerns raised during discussion; efforts taken to reach as many individuals represented by your group):

List First Nations and stakeholder groups (other than your own) that you contacted regarding the proposed regulation change (include details of support or not for the proposal):

- Support from First Nations has been through 3 Nations Fish & Wildlife Working Group meetings and interjurisdictional moose management meetings between Yukon Government and BC Government.
- Members of the Tahltan Guide Outfitters Association expressed interest in full CI coverage in the north during the Tahltan Wildlife Symposium in May 2016.

The following First Nations have expressed interest in this regulation change:

- Taku River Tlinget
- Kaska
- Tahltan
- Champagne Aishihik

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