



CBHNP 2016 Moose Harvest Planning Meeting 07 JUN 2016 notes.docx

Two items we will need to respond to deal with proposals from the Mi'kmaq harvesters. CBHNP considerations / concerns related to #1 are in the attached meeting notes document. I will seek input from PCA Animal Care on #2.

- 1) early fall start to harvest (3rd week in SEP), to be able to call in bulls, until maybe 10OCT.
- 2) use of bows (cross bow , but maybe long bow as well): associated mostly with the proposed early fall harvest

Other key item is the next steps regarding the 2017 symposium or NAMC (North American Moose Conference)

Talk soon.

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Time to connect / Un bon temps pour se rapprocher  
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DRAFT

Operational Protocol for the Mi'kmaq-Led Harvest of Moose on North Mountain, Cape Breton Highlands National Park for 2016

1.1.1 Participant Conduct

Harvesters must be on best behaviour, and absolutely no alcohol, drugs, or prescription medication (unless prescribed) will be tolerated during the harvest or associated stay in the area.

All participants will promote a positive and respectful working / harvesting environment.

Participants must not take any photos of the harvest, nor are they permitted to post photos or any information of the same on social media sites.

No garbage or litter will be left behind in the proposed harvest area.

1.2 Animal Care Review and Recommendations

The removal will be carried out using methods that are humane, culturally and socially acceptable, and consistent with appropriate wildlife management practices. The initial 2015 harvest operational plan was been reviewed by the Parks Canada Animal Care Committee, and the harvest will adhere to the following Animal Care recommendations in order to minimize undue stress and harm to animals:

- Targeting moving animals is strongly discouraged, and only stationary animals should be harvested, either standing or recumbent
- Only rifled shotgun slugs or rifles of .270 calibre or greater will be used
- Rifles must be adequately sighted prior to arrival on-site
- Only animals within 150 m may be harvested if a rifle is used, or within 50 m for shotgun usage, to ensure accurate shot placement
- The thoracic cavity (heart and lungs) will be targeted
 - As only skilled harvesters will be selected to participate, the neck may also be targeted
 - For neck shots, the same 50 m maximum shooting distance for shotgun usage applies, but the maximum distance for rifle usage is lowered to 100 m
- Non-lead ammunition will be used, in order to avoid the introduction of toxic substances into the surrounding environment and the meat

1.3 Season

Harvesting is only permitted between August 15 and December 31 according to Mi'kmaq moose harvesting guidelines (UINR 2009). CBHNP prefers harvest not take place during the CBHNP visitor season, which is from mid-May to mid-October. In line with these restrictions, harvesting will only occur between the end of the visitor season (17 OCT 2016) and December 31, with specific harvest periods identified in a detailed harvest plan to be drafted for 2016. Where possible, harvest periods will be scheduled to minimize conflict with the provincial hunt in the neighbouring Polletts Cove – Aspy Fault Provincial Wilderness Area. Harvesting will only occur between one half-hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset each day.

Commented [DQ4]: From 15JUN2016 meeting:

- UINR proposes use of bows (longbows and crossbows?) when harvesting using calling techniques to bring moose in. This would be done from approx. 25SEP to 15OCT.
- CBHNP to check Parks Canada's animal care policies regarding this.

Commented [DQ5]: From 15JUN2016 meeting:

- UINR proposes beginning harvest in late-SEP, when moose can be called in and bows can be used. Less intrusive in that there is no shooting noise to alarm visitors or scare away moose. Bulls would be targeted.

- CBHNP to consider the proposal. Among the considerations to be addressed are the following:

1. Effectiveness: Would this be effective in reducing the moose population in the study area, esp those animals that browse fir there?
2. Cost: comparable to using firearms?
3. Visitor / public impacts: Will this cause public/visitor concerns or risks during the CBHNP visitor season?
4. NS moose hunters: Provincial hunt in Z5 starts 23SEP and continues through the fall. Could be seen as competing hunt that will affect local guides and hunters. Effect could be reduced by limiting harvest during this period to well south of the Cabot Trail
5. Opposition: Harvest during tourist season could provide a reason for demonstrations and an audience.

Commented [PCA6R5]:

Commented [DQ7]: UINR and CBHNP are both comfortable with a harvest period of 17OCT-16DEC (earlier start above needs to be considered)

This period overlaps considerable with Z5 hunting, much more than 2015. Effort can be limited to south of the Cabot trail until 06NOV when Z5 hunting pauses.

Commented [DQ8]: UINR and CBHNP prefer focussed periods of harvest followed by pauses to allow moose to wander in. More harvesters could participate and it would be less intense and disturbing than 2015. Would increase the rate of removal of moose whose ranges include the study area.

Things to consider:

1. Cost compared to 2015
2. CBHNP support, such as ResCon, helicopter and LE. Scheduled periods will help manage this.
3. Local haulers will be less available during Z5 hunting
4. Opposition
5. Impacts on park operations in the area and with others that service the North Mtn sites

Commented [PCA9]: Would it be feasible to hold off conducting any moose removal until after the Zone 5 provincial hunts are completed? May be seen as gesture of good will and ease some tensions a bit.

- Moose harvested in accordance with S15 Authorization are no longer under the jurisdiction of the Canada National Parks Act once they are outside of the park, and provincial regulations regarding possession, transfer, and transport of moose apply
- **Eric Zscheile** will confer with DNR to let them know of the arrangements regarding possession
 - o PCA Law Enforcement Branch is also in discussions with DNR, and cross-discussions encouraged

5.7 Harvested Moose Distribution

- Harvesters will have the choice of returning meat and other parts to their communities, or donating meat via Feed Nova Scotia at UINR's expense
- Certified butcher of wild game for donation to Feed Nova Scotia is Bonnar's Meats, North Sydney
 - o Required to be skinned and quartered
- Food may also be distributed via food bank servicing north of Smokey
 - o Local food bank contact in Ingonish is Gordon Rideout
 - o Food donations are stored in the Ingonish United Church basement, and freezer space is available
 - o **Rosie to arrange packaging and permitting**
 - o **Rosie to look into Pleasant Bay food bank contact**
- Some meat may be saved for a potential moose celebration in CBHNP in 2016
 - o **Storage location?**

5.8 Helicopter use

- To minimize costs, efforts will be made to restrict helicopter usage to one harvesting shift
 - o Likely the final harvest shift
- CBHNP will arrange and support the helicopter
 - o **Derek to follow-up on potential NS DNR or alternate commercial supplier involvement**
 - o Vision Air has been contacted and is available for the duration of the harvest period and associated monitoring – **Rosie to contact re: detailed schedule**
 - Vision Air may require letter from CBHNP for Transport Canada, indicating that harvest is not a recreational/sport hunt, and is a management operation – **Rosie to draft, if required**
 - Vision Air machine can sling 800 lbs without issue, and up to 1000 lbs depending on conditions. Moose will be slung inside nets, to minimize visibility and for safety purposes.
- Accommodations will be provided to the pilot at the Ingonish bunkhouse, and the helicopter pad employed at the Ingonish compound
- Fuel will be made available at the Ingonish helipad, and may be arranged at the North Mountain staging area as requested
- The helicopter may also be made available for law enforcement needs if required.

- Once animal is located and killed, blood and hair samples are taken and data collection card filled out. GPS location is immediately relayed to harvest coordinator.
- Ground haulers will be dispatched for moose near to staging area, Vision Air for farther animals
- Helicopter extraction:
 - o Harvesters may need to move moose into more accessible area
 - Portable winch (being repaired) and kit located in helicopter
 - o Moose will be slung to staging area
 - Harvesters must send data collection information back to staging area in the helicopter during this same trip
 - o Harvesters will remain on site while moose is slung to staging area (not permitted in helicopter during slinging operations) and will not be redeployed until data collection info is verified
- When moose arrives at staging area, CBHNP coordinator will ensure data collection card is filled out, tags attached appropriately, and LE sample taken
 - o Once information is verified, harvesters may be redeployed (by foot or helicopter) or return to base camp
 - o If moose slung to alternate location, will need additional CBHNP staff for these tasks

Hauling

- Sled available from Cheticamp (Erich)
- CBHNP portable winch is being repaired (Erich)
 - o May be required to move moose into areas accessible for helicopter slinging
- Mill Brook hauler with horses being contacted by Clifford
 - o Rosie to follow up on logistical requirements if hauler is available
- Vision Air
 - o Contacted by Rosie, earliest availability middle of Nov 30 week
 - o Not possible in inclement weather, so method of wrapping/storing moose in field is necessary

CBHNP Staffing Requirements

- Two staff members with two vehicles at staging area, to track harvest operations, receive and complete data collection packages, collect LE samples, and provide logistical support
- One staff member in Ingonish warden office, maintaining communications links and monitoring designated TMR channel, CBHNP repeater, and with reliable phone access
 - o Also responsible for loading helicopter fuel

Operational adjustments in case of higher snow levels, making North Mountain staging area inaccessible to vehicles

Option 1: North Mountain staging area with snowmobile access

- Helicopter slings moose to staging area
- Tracking and data collection as above
- Once all information is gathered, moose will be sledged to road in snowmobile
 - o May need to be quartered

Resources

- Minimum of 2 snowmobiles and fuel
- No additional CBHNP staff required

Benefits

- No additional CBHNP staff required
- Facilitates tracking of harvest (all moose transferred through one location)
- Low visibility of moose slinging
- Less helicopter flying time required, so can maximize moose transfer during suitable flying conditions

Considerations

- Added logistical requirements for snowmobiles
- Potential for public to see moose carcass while transferring from snowmobile to vehicle

Option 2: Big Intervale staging area

- Same arrangement as current plan, but base camp and staging area located at Big Intervale instead of North Mountain seismic station
- Harvesters transported to study area and all moose transported to Big Intervale via helicopter
- North Mountain emergency shelter to be used in case of emergency under poor weather conditions

Resources

- No additional CBHNP staff required

Benefits

- No additional CBHNP staff required
- Less potential for public to see moose carcass in close proximity (not transferred to vehicle near road)
- Snowmobile logistical requirements not necessary

Considerations

- Additional flying time and associated helicopter costs (especially if route selected to avoid areas viewable by public)
- Greater potential for public to see slinging of moose
- Fewer participants on-site for response in case of emergency
- Coordinators unable to communicate with participants via Simplex

Option 3: Big Intervale staging area, with alternate location for moose slinging

- Base camp and staging area located at Big Intervale
- After harvesting, moose will be slung to alternate location, where data collection and tags are verified and LE samples taken
 - o Ingonish
 - o Paquette Lake Road
 - o Short Fishing Cove trailhead
- North Mountain emergency shelter to be used in case of emergency under poor weather conditions

Resources

- Ingonish - one additional CBHNP staff member
- Paquette Lake Road or short Fishing Cove trail: two additional CBHNP staff members with two vehicles

Benefits

- Less potential for public to see moose carcass in close proximity (not transferred to vehicle near road)
- Snowmobile logistical requirements not necessary

Considerations

- High potential for missed tracking information and data/sample collection
- Increased communications requirements and issues
 - o Short Fishing Cove trail – CBHNP repeater coverage problematic and no cell phone coverage
 - o Paquette Lake Road – CBHNP repeater and cell phone coverage both patchy
- Additional flying time and associated helicopter costs (especially if route selected to avoid areas viewable by public)
 - o Ingonish roughly double flying time of other two options
- Greater potential for public to see slinging of moose
 - o Short Fishing Cove trail requires slinging across road
- Fewer participants on-site for response in case of emergency
- Coordinators unable to communicate with participants via Simplex

Option 4: Road closure and slinging to roadside

5.4 Animal Care

- No following or herding of moose using snowmobiles or helicopters is permitted
- Targeting moving animals is strongly discouraged, and only stationary animals should be harvested, either standing or recumbent
- Only rifled shotgun slugs or rifles of .270 calibre or greater will be used
- Rifles must be adequately sighted prior to arrival on-site
- Only animals within 150 m may be harvested if a rifle is used, or within 50 m for shotgun usage, to ensure accurate shot placement
- The thoracic cavity (heart and lungs) or the neck can be targeted
 - o For neck shots, the same 50 m maximum shooting distance for shotgun usage applies, but the maximum distance for rifle usage is lowered to 100 m
- Only non-lead ammunition will be used, in order to avoid the introduction of toxic substances into the surrounding environment and the meat
- Animals wounded but not killed should be retrieved immediately. In the case of a wounded animal, Parks Canada staff must be contacted immediately to help in retrieval and provide additional resources as required

5.5 Cleaning and Retrieval

- Moose will be cleaned at the harvest location. All parts of the moose must be removed from the harvest site, with nothing left behind except the entrails
 - o This requirement is under review and may be adjusted as necessary, based on distance of animal from nearest motorized vehicle access point and hauling capacity
 - o The BIA should not be affected by any adjustment to this requirement
- Harvesters will be assisted by local haulers to transport harvested moose to the staging area or roadside, where practical
- A log book will be kept by the coordinator to track moose as they are harvested and retrieved, using the tag ID numbers – **Rosie**
- Only low-impact methods will be employed for removing moose, and may include:
 - o Hand cart
 - o Packs
 - o Horses
 - o Sled
 - o Snowmobile (if sufficient snow cover exists, and where authorized)
 - o Helicopter (for more remote sites and with appropriate authorization)
- Helicopter slinging of moose is not permitted near high visibility areas (e.g. near the Cabot Trail)

5.6 Harvested Moose Transportation Outside of Park

- Harvested moose will be discretely transported out of CBHNP by either UINR-arranged haulers or designated Mi'kmaq participants for temporary storage and/or processing for distribution.
 - o Parks Canada employees will not participate in any part of the harvest or transport, and all liability issues regarding meat contamination are the responsibility of the harvesters and transporters
 - o CBHNP will provide any authorizations required for possession and disposal of wildlife obtained within CBHNP.