



Wildlife Watch

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Quotas Are Set For Aklavik Bear Hunt

The proposed quotas for this year's grizzly bear hunting season will allow Inuvialuit hunters to harvest eight bears from the Yukon North Slope and another three bears from the Northwest Territories portion of the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area.

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) has recommended a total allowable harvest of ten grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope during the current hunting season. However, to make the hunt easier, two of the allocated bears can be taken from the Northwest Territories portion of the hunting area, which is closer to the community of Aklavik.

Inuvialuit hunters will also be entitled to harvest an eleventh bear, allocated on the basis of the Northwest Territories grizzly bear population.

WMAC(NS) has the responsibility to recommend harvest levels on the Yukon North Slope on the basis of conservation considerations. The recommended quota is based on harvesting three percent of the grizzly population over a two-year period. WMAC(NS) believes this is a sustainable harvest level that will allow the bear population to survive and prosper.



Hunting pressure too much in past

In the past, the area close to Aklavik has seen extreme hunting pressure on grizzlies. In order to spread the hunting pressure more evenly across the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area, the bear harvest has been divided into regions.

About 157 grizzly bears are located in the area of the North Slope east of the Babbage River. On the basis of that population level, WMAC(NS) has recommended a total allowable harvest and a quota of five bears in that region.

The estimated grizzly bear population of Ivvavik National Park is about 150 animals.

However, for conservation reasons and in order to make the hunting more convenient for Inuvialuit harvesters, the Council has set a quota of only three bears in the park. The remaining two bears in the park's allocation can be taken from the Northwest Territories portion of the hunting area.

No bears from Herschel Island

In order to keep some bears on Herschel Island for monitoring and viewing, the Council has recommended that no bears be harvested in Herschel Island Territorial Park during the

current hunting season.

Both the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Inuvialuit Game Council have said they accept the Council's plan. The recommendations have been submitted to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources.

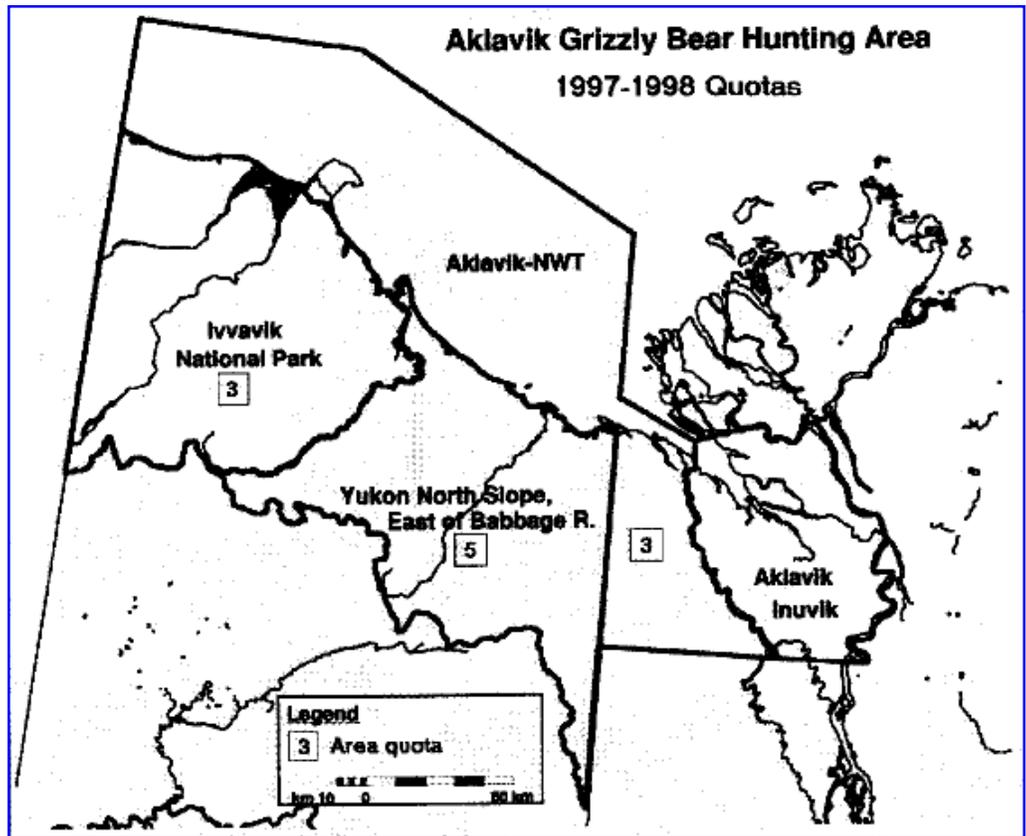
Under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Inuvialuit have exclusive hunting rights within Ivvavik National Park, so all three tags for Ivvavik bears will go to Inuvialuit hunters.

Outside the park, in the area of the North Slope east of the Babbage River, the Inuvialuit have preferential rights - that is, they have first rights to the available quota. The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) has recommended that all five tags for the quota of bears outside the park also be given to Inuvialuit hunters.

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Management plan helped set quotas

In setting this year's harvest recommendations,



WMAC(NS) considered the draft *Management Plan for Grizzly Bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Yukon/Northwest Territories, February 1997*.

The draft management plan has been developed over the past couple of years in close cooperation with the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

The management plan is designed to provide the Inuvialuit with as many grizzly bear hunting opportunities as possible while, at the same time, making sure the grizzly bear population remains large enough to survive far into the future. WMAC(NS) considers that the harvest level it has recommended will accomplish both of those goals.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

- **Inuvialuit Game Council:** Danny C. Gordon; Herbert Felix; Alternates: Billy Archie, and Carol Arey
- **Government of Canada:** Joan Eamer, Canadian Wildlife Service; Alternate: Alan Fehr, Parks Canada

- **Government of Yukon:** Brian Pelchat, Renewable Resources; Alternate: Dorothy Cooley, Renewable Resources
- **Chairperson:** Lindsay Staples
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