



Backgrounder

There are ten sets of draft regulations and orders coming into force on July 1, 2015:

1) Assignment Regulations

Pursuant to the NLCA, Inuit and hunters and trappers organizations (HTOs) can assign harvesting rights and/or a share of the total allowable harvest (TAH) to individuals or businesses. These regulations establish a system and structure for assignments to take place and to be tracked and registered.

2) Conservation Areas Regulations

These regulations continue all of the conservation areas that exist under the current regulations. No new areas are being established, and there are no new restrictions that apply to the existing areas.

3) Fees Regulations

These regulations establish the fees for all licences and permits that may be issued under the Act and regulations. The fees for licences and permits have not been changed since the 1980s, and on a national basis are the lowest in the country. The Department of Environment researched the fees being charged by other Canadian jurisdictions, and the rates in the draft regulations were determined based on national averages. One substantial change in the fee system is that currently all revenue from licence and permit sales goes into general revenue. The cost for a licence/permit will now be split into a base charge that goes to general revenue, and a surcharge that, pursuant to Section 183(1)(a) of the Act, will go into the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund, which was established by the Act. This surcharge replaces a current "trophy fee" that will be eliminated.

4) Game Harvesting and Possession Limits Order

This order establishes the daily hunting limits, annual hunting limits, and possession limits for non-Inuit harvesters of certain wildlife species. These limits are the same as those in existing regulations.

5) Harvesting Regulations

These regulations establish the specific rules that apply to wildlife harvesters, including: equipment restrictions; species-specific restrictions such as the prohibition on harvesting certain polar bears; rules that apply to species that have a total allowable harvest; restrictions on harvesting in conservation areas; humane kills; emergency kills, and trap restrictions pursuant to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards.

6) Licences and Tags Regulations

These regulations establish the types of licences, permits and tags that may be issued; establish the administration and application processes, implement the right of first-refusal provisions of the NLCA, and establish consultation and notice obligations for certain licences/permits. They establish exemptions from the export permit requirement for small personal quantities of meat and for some sport -hunted trophies, and establish reporting obligations for violations of the Act and other statutes.

7) Open Seasons Order

This order establishes open/closed seasons for the harvesting of wildlife. In current regulations, there are closed seasons for the harvesting of most wildlife species for non-lnuit, and for some wildlife species for Inuit. The order removes the closed seasons for almost all species for all harvesters. The only exception is for Arctic wolf, which will have an open season from September 1 to May 31.

8) Repealed Wildlife Regulations

This order repeals 26 sets of existing regulations. The only existing regulations that will remain are the *Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest Order* and the *Prescribed Matters Regulations*.

9) Reporting Regulations

These regulations establish record keeping and reporting requirements for licence/permit holders, specify the samples and evidence that will be used to determine the age/sex of wildlife, and require the reporting of harvest of any species for which a total allowable harvest has been established.

10) Summary Conviction Procedures Regulations (Amendment)

This amendment modifies the *Summary Conviction Procedures Regulations*, made under the *Summary Conviction Procedures Act*. It establishes the fines and surcharges that will be levied for violations of the Act and regulations when the department chooses

to issue a summary offense ticket and information (SOTI, commonly called a ticket). Dealing with a violation using a SOTI, as opposed to a court proceeding, is much more efficient from a cost and time perspective. Therefore the approach taken was to include as many offenses as possible as "ticketable" offenses. DOE researched the fines being charged by other Canadian jurisdictions, and the rates in the draft regulations were determined based on national averages. Note that section 183(1)(b) of the Act requires that fines and surcharges in relation to offenses under the Act must go into the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund.