

Agriculture Depredation Policy Consultation

Consultation Rationale

- Issue
 - Farmers have been experiencing significant damage to crops caused by moose feeding on crops, particularly at night.
 - The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources is reviewing its Agriculture Depredation Policy as it relates to shooting of moose on farms at night.
- Consultation objective
 - To obtain public views and opinion about whether farmers should be permitted to shoot moose at night on farms, and, if so, how to ensure it is done in a manner that does not risk public safety.

Federal Legislation

- Criminal Code of Canada
 - Careless use of firearm, etc.
 - Every person commits an offence who, without lawful excuse,
 - uses, carries, handles, ships, transports or stores a firearm, a prohibited weapon, a restricted weapon, a prohibited device or any ammunition in a careless manner or without reasonable precautions for the safety of other persons

Provincial Legislation

- Provincial Wild Life Regulations

- Hunting at night

- Shall not hunt/take/kill big game one hour after sunset or one hour before sunrise
 - Shall not use artificial light to hunt/take/kill any game

- Hunting near dwellings, schools, etc.

- Shall not discharge a firearm within:

- 1000 m of a school, playground or athletic field
 - 300 m of a dwelling

- Every person who, while hunting, discharges or mishandles a firearm is guilty of an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not more than \$500 or to imprisonment not more than 6 months, or both

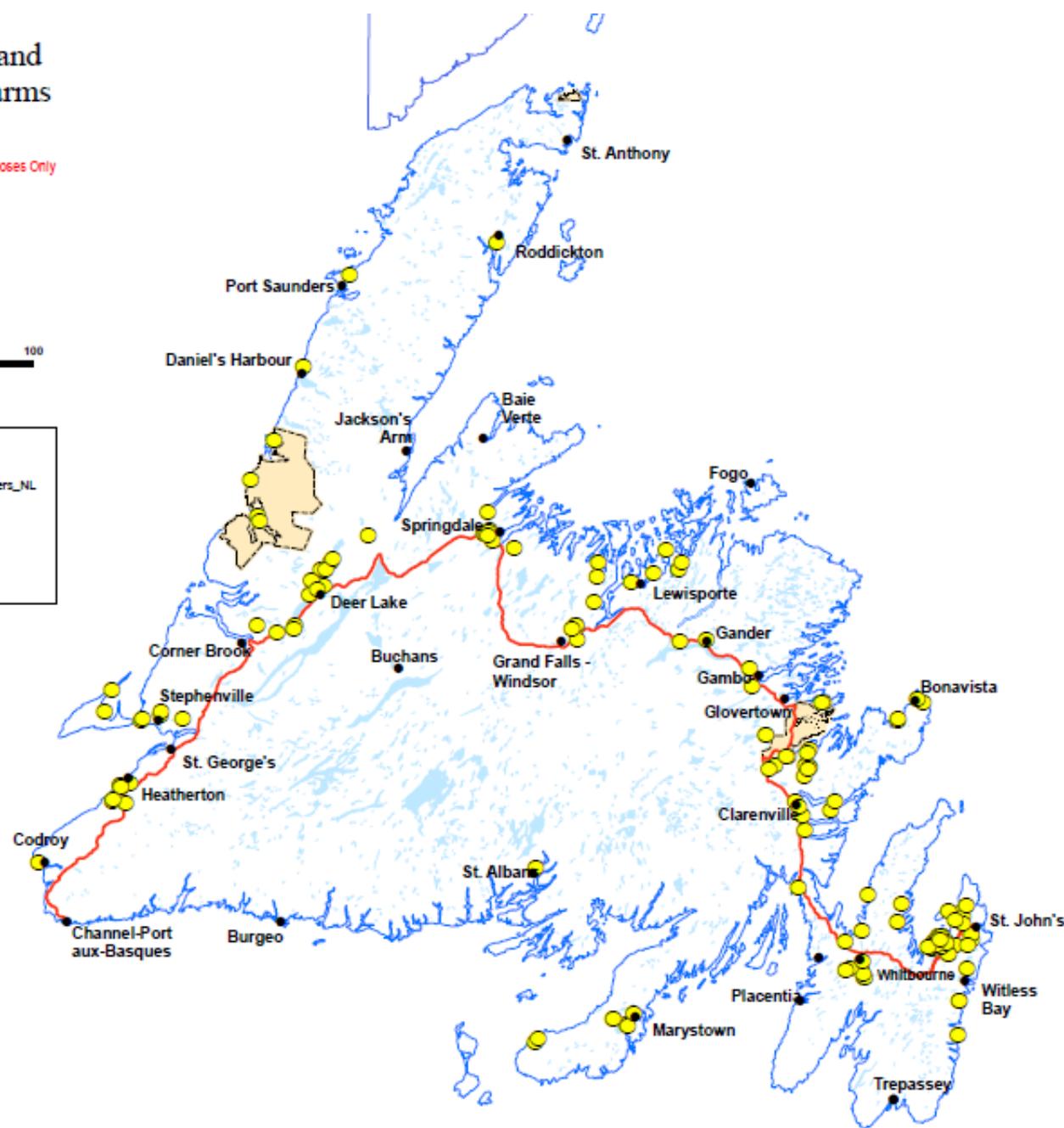
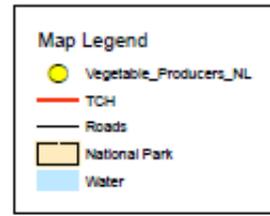
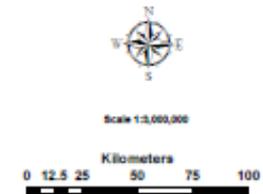
- Shall not hunt or discharge a firearm within 1000 m of a commercial wood cutting operation

Agriculture Depredation

- Depredation
 - The act of consuming agricultural resources (crops, livestock)
- Agriculture Depredation Policy (ADP)
 - Originally implemented in 1988
 - Targets damage to horticultural crops by moose
 - Provides a legal mechanism for farmers to dispatch moose prior to hunting season
- Forestry and Wildlife Branch
 - ADP established by Wildlife
 - Operational implementation by Forestry

Newfoundland Vegetable Farms

Designed for Illustrative Purposes Only



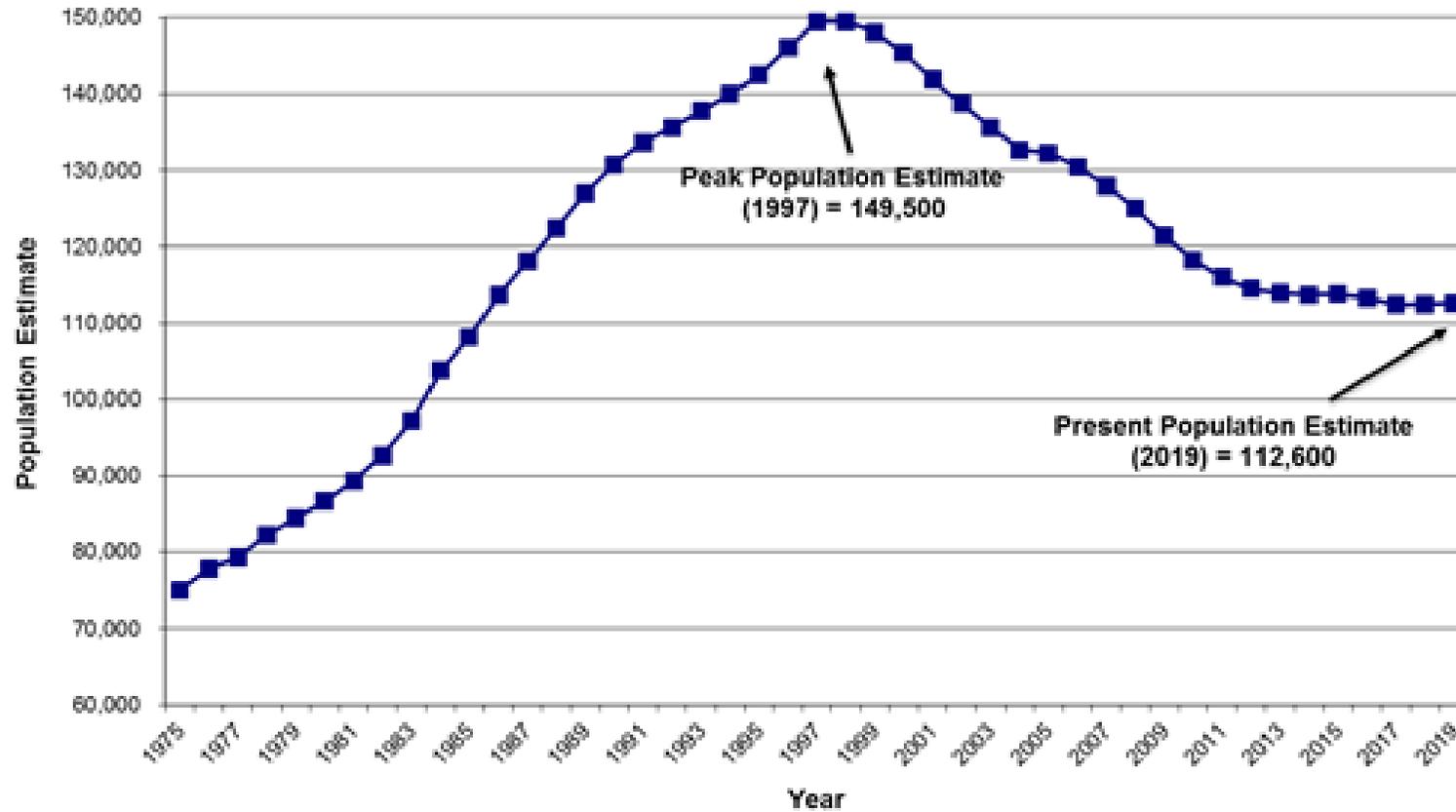
- 168 commercial producers of vegetables
- ~775 hectares currently in-production

Crop Damage

- Producers experience damage/loss to various horticultural crops by moose (vegetable, fruit, forage, sod)
- Many cases of significant damage/loss are reported annually throughout the province



Moose Winter Population Estimate Insular Newfoundland (including National Parks), 1975 - 2019



Agriculture Depredation Policy Procedure

1. Farmer must contact their Agriculture Development Officer (ADO), who shall determine if a permit is required
2. ADO must complete a ADP Request Form providing rationale including:
 - Confirmation that farm is commercial
 - Severity of damage to crops
 - Attempted mitigation techniques
 - Quantification of estimated dollar loss due to damage
3. Fisheries and Land Resources Conservation Officer issues permit (valid for 7 day period)
4. Farmer/designate must notify Fisheries and Land Resources office immediately upon dispatch (contact listed on permit)

Agriculture Depredation Permit Conditions

- Must notify FLR immediately upon dispatch
- Once dispatched the moose must be properly paunched to prevent meat spoilage
- Moose to be shot only on, or within the immediate vicinity of farm (cannot be beyond 500 metres) from boundary of land under cultivation
- Farmers/designates must abide by schedule and boundaries decided by farmer and CO
- Dispatch of moose is restricted to daytime only
- Female moose with calves of the year shall not be subject to lethal removal until September 1st

Agriculture Depredation Permit Statistics

Year	# Permits Issued	# Moose Dispatched
2016	-	27
2017	31	26
2018	31	21
2019	32	31

Financial Support for Crop Depredation

- AgrilInsurance (Crop Insurance)
 - BRM program under CAP
 - One-page application- June 30th deadline annually
 - Following crops are insurable:
 - Potato, carrot, parsnip, cabbage, beet, rutabaga
 - Coverage provided for natural perils
 - Drought, excessive rainfall, wind, frost, hail, snow, plant disease, insect infestation and wildlife damage
 - Farmer pays 40% of premium cost
 - Premiums increase with each successive claim submission

Financial Support for Crop Depredation

- Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Program (PAAP)
 - Provides funding to construct wildlife control fencing
 - Funds 50% of eligible costs
 - fencing materials and third party labour
 - New entrants eligible for up to \$20,000 annually
 - Commercial farmers eligible for up to \$75,000 annually
- Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)
 - Provides funding for wildlife damage prevention measures (including fencing)
 - Funds 75% of eligible costs
 - Applicants eligible for up to \$400,000 over the 5 years of CAP
- The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources receives few applications for program funding that supports wildlife exclusion fencing for vegetable producers