

BACKGROUNDER

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA WILD ANIMALS REGULATIONS

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT PROVISIONS

Background

The *National Parks Wildlife Regulations* were originally brought into force pursuant to the *Canada National Parks Act* in 1981. Since the last amendment in 1997, several changes have taken place, including:

- coming into force of a new Canada National Parks Act (2000), which includes new regulationmaking authorities;
- establishment of new national parks and national park reserves (national parks) in northern Canada;
- new obligations under various land claim agreements, impact and benefit agreements and park establishment agreements; and
- increased potential for visitation in northern national parks.

Given these changes, Parks Canada is proposing the *National Parks of Canada Wild Animals Regulations* (the Regulations) to replace the *National Parks Wildlife Regulations*. The proposed Regulations:

- extend protection provided by the Regulations to all wild animals at any developmental stage and to any of their parts or derivatives;
- enhance the protection of wild animal dwelling places;
- regulate the use, possession and transportation of firearms and other weapons;
- respect obligations under various land claim agreements, impact and benefit agreements or park establishment agreements;
- address the implementation of subsistence harvest quotas developed with co-operative management partners consistent with provisions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement in Ivvavik National Park, Aulavik National Park and Tuktut Nogait National Park; and,
- enhance visitor safety in national parks where polar bears are present by allowing certain categories of park users to carry and use firearms for their protection and the protection of others.

The proposed Regulations are fully consistent with provisions in relevant land claim agreements, impact and benefit agreements or park establishment agreements with regards to the carrying out of traditional resource harvesting and/or harvesting-related activities in national parks.







The following is a summary of the significant provisions of the proposed Regulations:

| SHORT TITLE | DESCRIPTION | SECTION |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------|
| Defining "wild animal" | A new definition of "wild animal" would include any individual of the animal kingdom that is not, or no longer, domesticated, at any developmental stage and to any part or derivative of a wild animal. | 1 |
| Defining "transporting rules" | This definition would provide clarity on the circumstances under which a firearm, a bow or a trap can be transported in a national park. | 1 |
| Prohibitions | Additional provisions would enhance the protection of wild animals by prohibiting: the possession of wild animals as well as their parts or derivatives; the attraction or the enticement of wild animals to approach or to leave the park; and the removal of nests, lairs, dens or beaver lodges or dams or any other type of dwelling place for wild animals. | 3(1) |
| Food storage | A new provision would help reduce wild animal-human encounters due to the improper storage or disposal of food or other things that can be consumed by wild animals. | 3(1)(/) |
| Weapons and traps | These provisions outline prohibitions relating to weapons and traps, such as possession, carrying, use, transportation or transactions. | 4 |
| Defining "weapons" | A definition of weapon would extend the application of prohibitions under section 4 beyond firearms and bows and their projectiles. | 1 |
| Firearms for protection* | Authority would be given to the superintendent to authorize members of the Canadian Forces Sovereignty Operations (s.7), bear monitors (par.9(a)), guides (par.9(b)), researchers (par.9(c)), and local users (par.9(d)) to carry, transport and use a firearm for self-protection and the protection of others from bears. | 7, 9 |
| | This provision outlines the circumstances under which a person mentioned in sections 7 and 9 could obtain a Parks Canada Firearm Permit, including permit criteria (par.13(a) to (c)) and the parks for which the permit could be issued (par.13(d) and (e)). | 13 |
| Commercial sport hunting guides | This provision would authorize the use of a firearm for self-protection and the protection of their clients to Inuvialuit guides who must traverse through Aulavik National Park and Tuktut Nogait National Park; and Inuit guides who must traverse Sirmilik National Park, Auyuittuq National Park or Quttinirpaaq National Park. | 12 |
| Harvest quotas | Provisions would address the implementation of subsistence harvest quotas in Ivvavik National Park, Aulavik National Park and Tuktut Nogait National Park | TBD** |

^{*}See "Backgrounder on the Proposed *National Parks of Canada Wild Animals Regulations* - Use of Firearms for Protection" for more information.

^{**} See "Backgrounder on the Implementation of Subsistence Harvest Quotas in Ivvavik National Park, Aulavik National Park and Tuktut Nogait National Park" for more information







Consultation Timeline

Parks Canada is holding consultations on the proposed Regulations with Aboriginal peoples, partners, stakeholders and interested Canadians until December 31, 2011. Following these consultations, the proposed Regulations will be revised as appropriate. Information on how the proposed Regulations were amended following the consultations will be available at www.parkscanada.gc.ca/consultations-animals. The revised Regulations will then be published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I for 90 days to provide an additional opportunity for comments.

Information on the proposed Regulations or on how to participate in the consultations can be found on the Parks Canada Website at www.parkscanada.gc.ca/consultations-animals.



