



## **Wolf Hunting Regulations Policy**

### **Background**

NOTO fully supported the initiative by MNR to re-classify the wolf as a big game animal, and to establish open and closed seasons, harvest monitoring, and a separate wolf hunting license. These moves recognize the wolf as a valuable resource and encourage sustainable management. However, several aspects of the implementation of the new regulation adversely affect the tourism industry and do not materially improve wolf management.

The use of a wolf tag along with a small game license greatly increases the cost to non-resident hunters, since they must purchase both a small game license and tag. Furthermore, they are required to also have a valid big game license (bear, moose or deer) in order to legally carry a center-fire rifle.

The current open season for wolves has made hunting in the spring virtually impossible, since the month of April is an ideal hunting time in some areas of the province. There are businesses that developed a spring wolf hunt to replace their spring bear hunt who have now lost this source of business.

The opening of the season in the fall on September 15 eliminates combined bear-wolf hunting packages, since virtually all tourism industry bear hunting activity ceases by September 15.

Currently, wolf tags are available only at MNR offices during regular business hours rather than through license issuers.

### **Policy**

- MNR should replace the current wolf seal with a separate license to hunt wolf
- The fee for a resident license to hunt wolf should be equivalent to the fee for a resident license to hunt deer
- The fee for a non-resident license to hunt wolf should be equivalent to a non-resident license to hunt deer
- A license to hunt wolf should permit use of a center-fire rifle throughout the open season for wolf without the need to possess any additional license
- Unless there is a clearly demonstrated reason necessary for the sustainability of the population, the open seasons for wolf should be extended to September 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year

*Adopted by the NOTO Board of Directors January 4, 2006*

*Review Date:* \_\_\_\_\_