

Proposed New Brunswick Hunting and Fishing Heritage Act - 2004

The NBWF presented the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Act shown below to the Minister of the Department of Natural Resources in August 2004.

The NBWF has requested the Minister to consider introducing this legislation and strongly believe it would be an important and positive step towards supporting and protecting the hunting and fishing heritage of all New Brunswickers.

A National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Federations, which included the NBWF, developed a similar Canadian Hunting and Fishing Heritage Accord in 2003. This Accord was presented to the Federal Government with a request to have it put forward as the National Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act, Bill C-469. This Bill was fully supported and co-sponsored by the Federal Liberal Outdoor Caucus but unfortunately died due to the calling of the recent Federal election.

At the present time the National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Federations is attempting to get this proposal back into the system and it appears that we have the full support of all of the Federal parties.

Nova Scotia, Ontario and other provincial governments have already enacted similar legislation, while the remaining Territories and Provinces are presently working towards this objective.

The NBWF along with the other Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Federations including counterparts in the United States have also been involved in similar efforts towards a North American Hunting Accord. Representatives of the Coalition last met in December of 2003 in Texas in order to debate hunting and fishing issues of importance to hunters and anglers in Canada and the United States and create a North American Accord. This Accord continues to be worked on and a symposium will be held again in 2004 to continue this important work.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK FISH & WILDLIFE ACT PROPOSED HUNTING AND FISHING HERITAGE ACT NBWF - AUGUST 2004

N.B. Regulation 82-103 under the Fish & Wildlife Act (O.C. 82-473)

1. This may be cited as the general angling regulation

AND: NB Regulation 82-133 under the Fish & Wildlife Act (O.C. 84-480)

1. This may be cited as the hunting regulation

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS hunting and fishing are an important part of New Brunswick's heritage and form an important part of the social, cultural and economic present-day life of New Brunswick

WHEREAS hunters and anglers contribute to the understanding, conservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife in New Brunswick

WHEREAS hunting and fishing should be recognized as legitimate forms of recreation and as legitimate tools with which to effectively manage the fish and wildlife of New Brunswick

WHEREAS the best traditions of recreational hunting and fishing should be valued by future generations

WHEREAS the New Brunswick hunting & fishing community will support a balanced approach to hunting and fishing that considers the impact on the resource, the experience, application of skills and maximization of opportunities for the hunter and angler

WHEREAS the New Brunswick hunting and fishing community pledges to conduct itself in a responsible manner before, during and after the hunt/angling

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, enacts as follows:

Right to hunt and fish

1. A person has the right to hunt and fish in accordance with the law.
2. No person shall interfere with the lawful hunting or fishing of wildlife by another person, or with any lawful activity preparatory to such hunting or fishing, with the intention of preventing or impeding hunting or fishing or the continuation of the activity of hunting and fishing.
3. Disturbance of wildlife; No person shall disturb, or engage in an activity that will tend to disturb, wildlife with the intention of preventing or impeding its being lawfully hunted or fished.
4. Disturbance of hunters and anglers; No person shall disturb another person who is engaged in the lawful hunting or fishing of wildlife or in any lawful activity preparatory to such hunting or fishing with the intention of dissuading that person from hunting or fishing or otherwise preventing the hunting or fishing activity.

RATIONALE:

Hunting Laws and Regulations have been successfully governed by conservation and safety, and should continue to be so governed.

By undertaking these changes, the activity of hunting and fishing will continue to be ecologically sustainable, safe, lawful and true to the hunting and fishing heritage of our forefathers.