

BOUNTY PAYMENT STOPPED

Until the Alaska Board of Fish and Game establishes predator control areas in the state, and designates which ones are eligible for bounty payments, the State of Alaska will pay no bounty—at least until July 21.

According to the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, the Fish and Game Board received a ruling from the attorney general's office this week. The Board has been in session here in Fairbanks since April 16 and will soon draw its meetings to a close.

Legislation passed this session, submitted by Sen. Jay Hammond, stipulates that any action the board takes during its spring meeting does not go into effect until July 21.

Animals formerly classified as predators include the wolves, coyotes, wolverines and seals taken in northern waters. All leg bones of wolves now in possession of trappers and bounty hunters

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are now worthless, the attorney general's office said.

In other action this week the Fish and Game board tabled a proposal to open up a musk oxen hunt on Nunivak Island. However, Commissioner of Fish and Game Augie Reetz assured the News-Miner that this proposal would be taken up and acted on before the board's meeting adjourns.

It has been recommended by the Department of Fish and Game that a controlled

hunt be conducted on Nunivak Island to combat musk oxen overpopulation. Recently, 15 musk oxen were successfully transplanted from Nunivak Island in the Bering Sea to Nelson Island near the mainland.

The animals were released near the village of Tununak, where they joined at least seven of eight animals transplanted in a similar operation last year. The animals were all calves except for one yearling.