

Greenland Trip – Musk Ox Meat for Personal Use

Intro - It turns out you can bring wild game meat back into the USA if you do your homework first. If you contact the US. Fish and Wildlife Service before you make the trip and provide some key information about the species you want to hunt and country location there are many countries you can bring back some wild game meat back for personal consumption.

- 1) **Before you travel**- Directly contact USFG on their website or by phone and explain what species you want to hunt and in what country. They will look up in their database to see if you can import that wild game species. You will need to know the scientific name of the species.

Greenland – Musk Ox example importing into Newark, New Jersey

When I contacted the Chicago Office, they informed me that it was legal to bring back up to 20KG (44lbs) back to the USA and that I needed to do the following:

Notify the Port of Entry (Newark, NJ) of your arrival, at least 48 hours prior to import. Please provide the Date of arrival, airline and flight number, and time of arrival. Newark's email address is included in the CC to this email. Their phone number is 908-787-1321.

📄 Submit a Declaration Form 3-177. Easiest method is via our EDECs online website - here is the link - <https://edecs.fws.gov/>

- Create your EDECs account, then create your EDEC, please make sure you select the Port of Newark (you can do this in advance of your trip).
- Upload your Hunting license and/or Greenland Export Permit.
 - Use the NOTES App feature on your iPhone and select the paper clip icon  at the bottom, then select Scan Documents. This will allow you to take photos of all your documents and save them as one PDF file.
 - Upload the one PDF file into your EDEC prior to importing your trophy (meat).

I followed that procedure and submitted the documentation for both my hunting partner and me.

Also contact the customs agency in the country where you will hunt, by phone or email, to confirm its export requirements. In Greenland, my guide service learned that travelers may export no more than 10 kg of meat and it must be labeled for personal use only. I also brought a black marker to label the meat.

- 2) **What to bring**- We had quite a challenge finding a cooler in Nuuk, Greenland. It took us $\frac{3}{4}$ of a day walking around Nuuk to find a cooler. I recommend bringing your own from home. Make sure it is the right size to be considered for luggage.

In addition, I brought on the trip high-quality Ziplock type freezer bags and some duct tape for the meat and cooler. It will be difficult to find these items in Nuuk.

- 3) **What to do on the trip** – Once you are back to camp with your meat it is time to start processing. We carefully trimmed off all the fat of the meat that we were going to bring back. Then we cut and packaged it into several smaller $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon bags and labeled each one so we would know what cuts we had.

The next issue is getting the meat cooled down and then frozen. It took a day for the meat to completely cool down, and we had to keep it out of the sun. When we returned to Kangerlussuaq (town) I had checked with the local café and paid them to freeze the two bags of packages of meat overnight.

We left the next day we left Kangerlussuaq and flew back to Nuuk and checked the cooler as an additional baggage and paid the extra fee.

Once I arrived that the Nuuk airport, I met with Customs and asked what paperwork needed to be filled out to properly export the meat. They informed me there was no paperwork and to go ahead and check the cooler as luggage. That afternoon I made deal with the local café in Nuuk to keep the meat frozen overnight.

- 4) **Coming Back** -The next day, we picked up the cooler at the café, placed it into the cooler and proceeded to the airport. The cooler was checked as luggage back to the USA.

While we were on the plane, US Fish and Game had sent an email before we landed to approve the EDECS form we originally filed. Once we arrived in Newark, we retrieved our luggage and went to declare it in Customs. The Customs agent had never heard of Musk Ox but looked at our email with the approved documents and sent us on our way.

- 5) **Result** – It turns out that we successfully brought back 10KG of frozen, packaged Musk Ox meat each. Also, we probably could have brought back more but did not want to violate Greenland's export laws.