

Other Regional Proposals

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 85.045(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (1)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay Drainages: 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued	Sept. 15—Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15—Oct. 15
...		
Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage: 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:	Sept. 15—Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15—Oct. 15
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Nov. 10—Dec. 10 (General hunt only)	Nov. 10—Dec. 10

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Berners Bay: The Berners Bay (Unit 1C) strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of 90 moose based on the area's estimated carrying capacity. The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) has been successful at maintaining the Berners Bay population close to the post-hunt population objective by implementing both bull and cow hunts.

From 1998–2006 the number of drawing permits for Berners Bay moose ranged from ten bull and ten antlerless permits to seven bull permits and no antlerless permits. The average annual harvest of bulls during that period was seven moose, and in years when antlerless permits were issued, the annual harvest averaged four cow moose. Although ADF&G has had authorization to issue a total of 30 permits each year, over the past ten years no more than 20 total permits have been issued during a single year. As a result of several severe winters and resulting population declines, no Berners Bay moose permits were issued from 2007–2013.

The number of drawing permits issued annually for Berners Bay is based on the number of moose observed during winter aerial surveys. The mean number of moose seen during aerial surveys conducted from 1990–2006 was 77 (range: 59–108). As a result of a series of severe winters from

2006–2009 and associated population declines, the number of moose observed during surveys from 2007–2009 ranged from 33–62. Surveys in 2010 and 2011 found 73 moose including ten calves each year. Under ideal survey conditions in 2012, 102 moose were observed, including 21 bulls, 81 cows, and 14 calves. Adjusted for sightability based on collared moose, the 2012 population was estimated at 113 +/- 11 moose. Under less ideal conditions in 2013, 73 moose were observed, including 18 bulls, 47 cows, and eight calves. Adjusted for sightability, the 2013 population estimate was 90 +/- 13 moose. During the most recent survey in January 2014 a total of 105 moose were observed, including 22 bulls, 52 cows, 24 calves, and seven unknown. Based on this survey, the population was estimated to be 109 +/- 6 moose. The Berners Bay population has slowly increased and now exceeds ADF&G's population and bull:cow management objectives.

Five bull permits were issued in 2014 and 2015. ADF&G would like to retain the ability to implement an antlerless moose hunt should the population or habitat conditions warrant this type of management.

Gustavus: The Gustavus moose population (Unit 1C) rapidly expanded from just a few animals in the 1980s and early 1990s to a peak of about 400 animals in 2003. In 2002 ADF&G estimated the density of moose on the Gustavus Forelands winter range exceeded five moose per km² despite only a small proportion of the area consisting of productive (abundant willow) winter habitat. In response to concerns about moose damaging the winter habitat, ADF&G initiated spring browse surveys in 1999 and determined that an unsustainable level (85% - 95%) of the current annual growth of willow twigs had been consumed by moose.

To conserve winter habitat ADF&G requested the Board of Game authorize an antlerless moose hunt, and the first antlerless hunt was held in the fall of 2000. From 2002–2008 hunters harvested between 11 and 67 antlerless moose annually, depending on the number of permits issued. No hunt was held in fall 2007 due to high moose mortality during the previous winter, and no antlerless hunts have been held since 2009.

The objective of antlerless moose hunts in Gustavus is to maintain the moose population using the winter range to levels commensurate with habitat capability. Based on aerial surveys corrected for sightability and annual browse surveys, management of the population using antlerless hunts has been successful. In 2013, under favorable survey conditions 186 moose (25 bulls, 121 cows, and 40 calves) were observed. The population estimate corrected for sightability was 323 +/- 87 moose. Under poor late winter survey conditions in March 2014 91 (24 cows, 12 calves, and 55 unknown) moose were seen yielding a sightability corrected population estimate of 244 +/- 98 moose. Due to exceptionally mild winter weather, at the time of this survey a number of radiocollared moose had already transitioned to forested summer range outside the survey area. There was little snow cover during the winter of 2014–15, so no survey was attempted.

Severe winters from 2006 through 2009 reduced calf survival, but since then calf survival has returned to 21% to 37%. Even during severe winters survival of adult females remained high at about 89%. Given the improved survival rate of calves during successive mild winters and stable cow survival, the potential exists for the Gustavus moose population to rapidly increase.

The Gustavus moose population is currently at a level ADF&G believes is appropriate for the available winter habitat. However, we believe it is important to retain the ability to implement antlerless hunts should the population increase to a level that is detrimental to the habitat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-116)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 85.045(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 5A, the Nunatak Bench hunt, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3) Unit 5(A), that portion south of Wrangell - Saint Elias National Park, north and east of Russell and Nunatak Fiords, and east of the east side of East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border (Nunatak Bench)	Nov. 15—Feb. 15	Nov. 15—Feb. 15
1 moose by registration permit only; up to 5 moose may be taken		
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nunatak Bench The Nunatak Bench hunt area (Unit 5A) is managed as a separate population because it is generally isolated from other moose populations by fiords and glaciers. The area is subject to severe winters and has low capability to support moose relative to other moose habitat in Unit 5A. The purposes of this hunt are to provide opportunity as the population allows and to maintain the number of moose within a level the limited habitat can support. This hunt opens after other moose hunts in the unit have closed, and it is a popular alternative for hunters who were unsuccessful during those hunts. Because much of the open season for this hunt takes place after bulls have dropped their antlers, either sex may be harvested.

The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of no more than 50 moose. During an aerial survey in 2001 52 moose were seen. From 2005 through 2012 only 11–14 moose with one or two calves were seen during surveys. The decline in moose numbers following the 2001 survey may be related to the 68-foot rise of Russell Fiord flooding and damaging habitat when it was blocked by the surging Hubbard Glacier during 2003. Due to poor weather and the remoteness of the location this area was not surveyed again until December 2015

when a total of 14 moose (three bulls, two cows, three calves, and six unknown) were observed. A series of severe winters from 2006 through 2012 may have inhibited recovery of the population. Anecdotal reports from hunters indicate that wolves in the area may also be inhibiting recovery of this small population.

From 1997 through 2004, an average of 12 either sex permits was issued annually with about four people actually hunting. During this period a total of 15 moose (nine bulls, six cows) were harvested for an average of about two moose per year. No permits have been issued and no moose have been harvested in this area since 2004.

The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) believes it is important to retain the ability to implement an antlerless hunt in this area to prevent habitat damage should the population increase. ADF&G will continue to monitor this population as conditions allow, but we do not plan to issue hunt permits until the population reaches at least 25 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-117)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 085.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 6C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(C)		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
or		
1 moose by registration permit only;	Nov. 1—Dec. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Department of Fish & Game recommends reauthorizing the state antlerless hunt in Unit 6C to achieve the harvest objectives when the federal subsistence hunt is not able to achieve the desired level of harvest. The population objective in Unit 6C is 400–500 moose. A population estimate completed during February 2014 yielded an estimate of 600 moose, 25% of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, we have

not held the antlerless hunt since the 1999–2000 season. Continuation of the antlerless hunts will be necessary to manage population growth and keep it within the limits of what the habitat can support.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-118)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in the Twentymile/ Portage/ Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(5)		
...		
Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued	Aug. 20—Oct. 10 (General hunt only)
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts	Aug. 20—Oct. 10
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...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless hunt in Units 7 and 14C. The moose population in the

Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters and sharp reductions during severe winters. The harvest of antlerless moose provides ADF&G with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area at a population level low enough to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and starvation during severe winters. The moose population will be healthier and more productive due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages. This hunt has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity with little or no controversy.

In 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. The number of permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. A November 2013 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 155 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 23 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 27 calves per 100 cows. Since 2013, a lack of snow has prevented surveys from being conducted, but ADF&G has had no indication from either harvest or roadkill numbers that the moose population has changed significantly. It is likely that moose survival has been good during recent mild winters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-119)

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(11)		
Unit 13		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Oct. 1—Oct. 31 Mar. 1—Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation allows hunters to take a limited number of cows in specific areas to keep the population within objectives.

This Unit 13 antlerless hunt was initially adopted in March 2011, and the first Unit 13 antlerless hunt under this regulation took place in September 2012. The hunt was modified when the board adopted an October and March season during the February 2013 board meeting.

Since the inception of this hunt, the department has issued ten permits annually for a hunt in Unit 13A. The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) intentionally limited the number of permits issued annually to gain public support for the hunt, even though a higher rate of cow harvest was desirable from to regulate the moose population within objectives. After considering a proposal during the 2015 board meeting, which was submitted by the public to increase the number of cow permits issued annually, the board directed ADF&G to issue a sufficient number of permits to allow the harvest of up to one percent of the cow population, when the moose population is above the midpoint of the population objective for the subunit.

Moose in Unit 13 have generally increased at a rate of 3–5% per year in the intensive wolf management area during the past ten years. The current population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500–4,200, and the population was estimated to include 4,020 in 2013. The number of cows in western Unit 13A is expected to continue increasing, and the antlerless hunt in western Unit 13A is necessary to slow the growth of this population and to keep it within the intensive management objectives. The additional harvest provided by the hunt will also assist in achieving the harvest objectives for the population. No additional antlerless opportunities in other portions of Unit 13 are recommended at this time.

If this antlerless moose hunting opportunity is not reauthorized in Unit 13, the intensive management program and objectives will likely need to be restructured to maintain the moose population within a population size range that does not result in nutritional limitations for the moose and to achieve the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-120)

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 085.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20—Sept. 20	Aug. 20—Sept. 20
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation for hunting moose

on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest antlerless moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island's carrying capacity and due to deteriorating habitat conditions, the board established a drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in 1995. In a further attempt to reduce the number of moose on the island, the board established a registration hunt for any moose in 1999. Despite these measures to reduce moose numbers, moose remain abundant on the island and continue to exceed the management objective.

During the most recent moose survey, Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) staff counted 104 moose on Kalgin Island in December 2012. This count exceeded the population objective of 20–40 moose.

The "any moose" registration hunt is recommended to provide additional mortality on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows ADF&G to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will minimize the danger of over-harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-123)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season and targeted moose season in a portion of Unit 15C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident	Oct. 20—Nov. 20	

drawing hunt: or

1 moose by targeted permit only, Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or Sept. 1—Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the resident drawing hunt Oct. 20—Nov. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit only, Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; Sept. 1—Sept. 25

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorization of the Homer benchland hunt (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C for the 2016-17 hunting season.

The Homer benchland in Unit 15C, which encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549, contains high densities of moose in winters when deep snow drives moose into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, some moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In February 2013, a geospatial population estimator census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,204 moose (95%

CI: range 2,554–3,855). This equates to a density of approximately 2.7 moose/mi² in the census area. Density estimates for the winter are difficult to determine because the areas available to moose vary depending on snowfall, but winter density is consistently higher. Fall composition counts in December 2015 provided a bull ratio of 46 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 23 calves: 100 cows. The high bull:cow ratio in 2015 could have been influenced by moose distribution and survey conditions (the 2014 ratio was 26 bulls:100 cows). Fifty permits were issued in each of the last ten years resulting in an average harvest of 23 cows annually.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during deep snow winters if they pose a threat to highway vehicles. On average, 61 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. ADF&G will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt period. The hunt is administered through a registration permit and up to 100 moose may be taken. The number of permits issued each year will depend on conditions, and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years. This hunt was established prior to the 2015-16 hunting season, but no permits were issued because snow depth was minimal and did not concentrate moose along roadways.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-124)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 17A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(15)		
Unit 17(A)		
Up to 2 moose per regulatory year only as follows:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by registration permit only; or	Aug. 25—Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 antlered bull by registration permit; during the period Dec. 1 – Last day of Feb. a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order; or	Winter season to be announced by emergency order (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit; during the period Dec. 1 –Last day of Feb. a season of up	Winter season to be announced by emergency order	

to 31 days may be announced
by emergency order;

(Subsistence hunt only)

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The board adopted an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 17A in support of the Unit 17A moose management plan, which was modified during a meeting of the Unit 17A moose management planning group in December 2012. The planning group consists of entities interested in the management of this moose population and includes representatives from the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Unit 17 management office.

According to the third goal of the revised Unit 17A moose management plan, antlerless moose hunting opportunity can be offered when the population is above 600 moose and increasing. The revised plan also recommends a bag limit of up to two moose when the population exceeds 1,200 moose.

Based on the most recent surveys, there were 1,166 moose in Unit 17A during March 2011. Since then the reproductive indices from a sample of radio collared animals indicate this herd is still growing and is probably above 1,200 moose. The bag limit of two moose and antlerless harvest opportunity provide a mechanism to limit population growth and allow hunters to harvest surplus animals.

The moose population in Unit 17A is growing and can sustain additional harvest; however, the objectives for this population include allowing it to expand into neighboring areas as well as provide for additional harvest opportunity. The population is currently contributing to the growth of moose populations, especially to the north and west.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-125)

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(12)

Unit 14(A)
1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1000 antlerless moose permits may be issued	Aug. 20—Sept. 25	No open season (General hunt only)
...	Nov. 1—Dec. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 moose by targeted permit only; and by shotgun or archery only; up to 200 permits may be issued	Winter season to be announced	No open season (General hunt only)

Unit 14(B)

1 moose per regulatory year,

only as follows:

...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; and by shotgun or archery only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game. There are two types of antlerless moose hunts in the Mat-Su Valley, a drawing permit hunt used to regulate growth of the moose population in Unit 14A and targeted hunts used to mitigate public safety concerns in Units 14A and 14B.

Moose surveys conducted in November 2013 resulted in an estimate of 8,500 moose in Unit 14A with a bull ratio of 21 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 45 calves:100 cows. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000–6,500 moose and greater than the 2011 survey estimate of 8,000 moose.

Based on current projections, the Unit 14A moose population is expected to grow and continue to exceed population objectives. If the density of moose is allowed to increase, we anticipate an increase the number of moose-human conflicts, and moose may experience nutritional stress as the population nears carrying capacity. Cow harvests are warranted to control the moose population’s growth and recommended as a way to provide additional moose hunting opportunity in the Mat-Su Valley.

The targeted moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B are an effective tool to address public safety concerns related to moose-vehicle collision and nuisance management issues. Moose-vehicle collisions result in property damage and may result in human injury or death. An average of 266 moose per year were killed in the Mat-Su Valley area during the last few years of average snowfall and substantially more were killed during higher snowfall years. The Department of Fish & Game also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt structure.

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
... Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area	Day after Labor Day —Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Mar 31
1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Day after Labor Day —Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader only; up to 50 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30

be issued; or	(General hunt only)	
1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Day after Labor Day—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day—Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 bull by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued	Oct. 20—Nov. 15	No open season
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C. The harvest of antlerless moose provides ADF&G with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the desired population objective (1,500 moose). This population size has been demonstrated to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. These hunts have also been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state’s human population center with little controversy.

Moose in Unit 14C are managed intensively for a population objective of 1,500–1,800 moose and an annual harvest objective of 90–270 moose (5 AAC 92.108). The number of antlerless permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. In 2013, ADF&G estimated that the moose population contained approximately 1,533 moose in Unit 14C from a combination of population census, composition surveys and extrapolation to unsurveyed areas. Since 2013, a lack of snow has limited our ability to conduct surveys, but we have seen no indication from either harvest or roadkill numbers that the moose population has changed significantly. It is likely that moose survival has been good during recent mild winters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-122)

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption. Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 11;
- (2) Units 13 and 16(A);
- (3) Unit 16(B) and 17;

...

(11) Unit 9, within the following areas, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit:

(A) Unit 9(B), within five miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock;

(B) Unit 9(C), within five miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek;

(C) Unit 9(D), within five miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon;

(D) Unit 9(E), within five miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, Port Moller, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay;

(12) Unit 10, within three miles of the community of False Pass, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit.

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 9(B);
- (2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);
- (3) Unit 17;

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The Board of Game (board) liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16 during the March 2003 meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 meeting. The tag fee exemption in these units provides greater opportunity to harvest of brown bears by allowing opportunistic harvest.

The board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities during the board meeting in March 2011. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed as a trophy species. Brown bears are frequently observed in communities where they destroy property in search of food or garbage and occasionally kill pets. The liberalized bear seasons and bag limits adopted along with the elimination of the tag fee were intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of bears in defense of life or property.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9. Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates cultural and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

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