

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Shorten the moose season five days in a portion of Unit 20B as follows.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
(18) ...		
Unit 20(B), that portion of the Salcha River drainage downstream Of Goose Creek and upstream from And including Butte Creek		
1 bull, or	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]	<u>Sept. 5–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 5–SEPT. 20]
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion southeast of the Moose Creek dike within one-half mile of each side of the Richardson Highway		
1 bull, or	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]	<u>Sept. 5–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 5–SEPT. 20]
...		
Remainder of Unit 20(B)		
1 bull, or	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]	<u>Sept. 5–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 5–SEPT. 20]
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Game Management Unit 20B has a management objective to maintain a bull-to-cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows. This ratio has been declining in the more accessible portions of Unit 20B since 2015. The 2017 survey showed 17 bulls per 100 cows, an indication that the harvest of bull moose is likely too high.

After providing this information to, and gaining support from the local advisory committees, an emergency order was issued in July 2018 to shorten the season to the dates that are proposed. An

emergency order will also be issued for the 2019 season, to continue to improve the bull-to-cow ratio in these portions of Unit 20B.

Prior to 2011, these portions of Unit 20B had a September 1–15 moose season for residents and a September 5–15 moose season for nonresidents. The Board of Game lengthened the season in 2011 to September 1–20 for residents and September 5–20 for nonresidents because the moose population was above the Intensive Management (IM) population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose and the harvestable surplus of bulls was high. The moose population has decreased to 12,871 moose, which is a more appropriate level for the available habitat. Returning the moose season to the pre-2011 dates during the coming regulatory year is likely to alleviate the low bull:cow ratio and allow it to return to the objective of 30 bull per 100 cows.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-160)
