

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Modify the hunting season and bag limit for moose in Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(16)		
Unit 18, that portion south of and including the <u>waters draining into</u> Goodnews <u>Bay</u> [River drainage]		
1 moose by registration permit only during the period of [Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 a season of up to 21 days may be announced by emergency order];	<u>Dec 1 – March 31</u> [Jan. 1 – Jan. 31]	No open season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the resident open season for the winter moose hunt in the Goodnews River Drainage in Unit 18 in order to increase hunter opportunity in the area. Inconsistent snow and weather conditions have in the past limited hunting during the scheduled 1-month open season in January. Low participation in the hunt has would allow for more hunting opportunity with little risk of overharvest. Only 11 were issued in 2017 with five moose harvested and three in 2018-2019 with no moose harvested. Poor winter travel conditions in 2018-2019 limited hunter access to hunting areas. The hunt quota in the area could more easily be met if the announced opening could be timed to coincide with sufficient snow cover to allow winter transportation. While there is not a recent population estimate, the results from a fall 2016 composition survey are 46 bulls per 100 cows and 41 calves per 100 cows. We believe with the high calf cow ratios and high adult survival that the population has grown to over 300 moose from the last count of 203 in 2013.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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