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03/16/15

Request for BOG to indicate its' intent to the northern region ADF&G.

It has been clarified that the RM842 hunt itself remains in place and the Nome ADF&G office must determine the number of permits to authorize. The number of permits has been set at 10 since the inception of this registration hunt, with a call in upon harvest requirement, with an EO closure upon reaching this number.

The hunt has never reached this closure number, and the average annual harvest has been 5.4 bulls. The department did a survey in 2014 which indicates a decline in the moose numbers on the 22D side of the divide and continued increase of moose on the 22E side which has RM853 with 10 permits, with an average harvest of 3 bulls.

The moose in these units migrate regularly between them, as the continental divide is the unit boundary. The department is considering not authorizing the ten permits of RM842 effective fall 2015. If the department follows through with this it will be very detrimental to my guiding operation and the local communities.

Combined units RM842 and RM853 permits is 20. Average annual permit harvest: 8.4  
Combined units moose population 2014: 1,200 all general hunt and permit harvest: 36  
Combined units moose population 2011: 1,450 all general hunt and permit harvest: 45  
Combined units moose population 2006: 1,200 all general hunt and permit harvest: 21  
Combined units moose population 2002: 1,070 all general hunt and permit harvest: 24

The RM842 quota was set at 10 in 2004 when the moose had a lower population than now. It is not clear why they are all being removed at once when the population remains higher than it was then. Overall harvest remains at 3% since 2011. I would submit that the RM842 should be left as is at the 10 authorized limit until the next Arctic region Board cycle or the next population survey.

I would stress that our field observations are in line with the departments observations as outlined in proposal #40. The departments abrupt about face on this position, canceling the antlerless moose and intending to cancel the RM842 permits appear to be based on one survey. I would request a more moderate response from the department until better and consistent data is collected, considering the drastic effects their proposed action will create.

As remedial action in deference to the departments concerns, I propose to concentrate our hunting pressure in RM853 (22E) and minimize RM842 to the extent possible. I am very concerned for the resource itself and understand that conservation is of number one importance. As the moose migrate between units, a snap shot survey conducted every few years can easily overstate one unit and understate the other unit. When combining the totals a clearer picture of the area's population is established as a baseline. This baseline shows a higher population than existed when the department could justify allowing 20 combined permits.

It is critical for the Board and the department to consider these aspects and consequences before eliminating the RM842 opportunity:

- 1) These bulls are harvested during their annual prime health, weight and fat content. This factor is of critical importance to the local rural population whom are the direct beneficiaries of the resource. Virtually ALL of the meat, fat and organs, are salvaged and transported to the Villages of Shishmaref, Brevig Mission and the city of Nome.
- 2) The fact that the animals are harvested by non-residents, who take the antlers and capes out with them, does not in any way detract from the fact that many local elders and families, who have no means or access to these prized foods at this time of the year, because the larger bulls provide the prized aqutak fat in large quantities. Moose harvested later in the fall and winter have little or no fat and lose a lot of body mass and weight.
- 3) The large bulls are not accessible by riverboat during the season when they are at peak condition for harvest.
- 4) By breaking down the average harvests of moose in these units illustrates the large percentage of resources that should be included in the "subsistence" surveys (namely 8,000 lbs. of prime meat delivered to the local homes). To ignore this fact, and to create management policy based solely on the residence zip code of who harvests the animal versus the residence zip code of who utilizes the animal is faulty and incomplete.
- 5) It is noteworthy that the concept of proxy hunting for individuals who cannot themselves hunt but need the meat from certain animals is popular. In this particular hunt, the end result of the RM842 is identical to a proxy hunt, in that local people receive the benefit of a highly prized food source that is difficult to obtain during the early fall season.
- 6) In fact, the non-resident harvested meat is far more meaningful to local residents than meat removed to relatively distant Nome, or through illegal activity.
- 7) The hunting operations also provide meaningful and practical economic benefits to many local residents who have few alternate opportunities. The loss of the musk ox hunting operations resulted in the loss of substantial income and resources to local residents. Outside of government jobs and public assistance and the local stores, the guiding economy, now entrenched for 25 years is the single largest private source of income, (and the important benefit of the increase in sale of local arts and crafts). This proposed closure will result in destroying much of what is left of this opportunity. We have placed a great deal of effort and resources into training and cultivating local people in this industry, and many have taken advantage of this. In fact, one of the reasons our guided hunts are so popular in these two units is because of the unique and good experiences the non-resident hunters enjoy with their local guides and operations staff.

In context of these facts and negative consequences, I request that the department leaves the 10 RM842 permit quota in place.

Brian Simpson

Native Village of Shishmaref



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### FAX TRANSMITTAL

Date: 3/6/15  
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To: Fish & Game

cc: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax #: 907-474-8056 Ph.#: \_\_\_\_\_

From: Clifford Wejiouanna

In Reference To: \_\_\_\_\_

Urgent  For your Review  Reply ASAP  Please Comment

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sent By \_\_\_\_\_



Shishmaref, Ak 99777  
March 16, 2015

STATE GAME Board  
Anchorage, Ak

Writing regarding moose harvested  
in game unit 22E and 22D.

Great portion of meat is shipped into  
Shishmaref and Brewster Mission, where it  
is given here to elders first and  
families with no hunters. It is always  
appreciated by those who are given  
meat.

Hunting by local people which  
are few by boat due to price of  
gas at \$6.00 to \$7.00 a gallon and distant  
of moose seem have to be harvested  
by foot.

Moose population is good and it  
was people of Shishmaref that shorten  
the season and bulls only years back  
and now moose population has increased.

My statement is to support moose  
harvest remain same and season same.

Thank You!

CHIFFORD WEXIQUANNA (Age 72 yrs)  
Box 74  
Shishmaref, Alaska 99777

March 16, 2015

to: Board of Fish and Game

This letter is in support of Brian Simpson regarding moose hunting. Where as the meat that Brian sends to our community of Brevig benefits our people. A lot of our elders can't hunt for themselves and our community with families can't afford vehicles such as boats, motors and 4 wheel Hondas due to lack of jobs for them to hunt. Gas prices is really expensive here in Brevig now at \$6.50 a gallon. The meat prices at our local stores are really expensive. We appreciate what Brian does to help our people with fresh meat (moose) by sending it by small plane from wherever he's hunting at. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Leonard and Pauline Olanna  
Brevig Mission, Alaska

P.S. enclosed our phone # @ 907-642-2172

Page 5 of 5