Create a 7-day sealing period for wolves harvested in Unit 2

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Support

AC Recommendation:

Craig AC: Support

Ketchikan AC: Failed

Klawock AC: Support with Amendment (14 days)

Juneau-Douglas AC: Failed

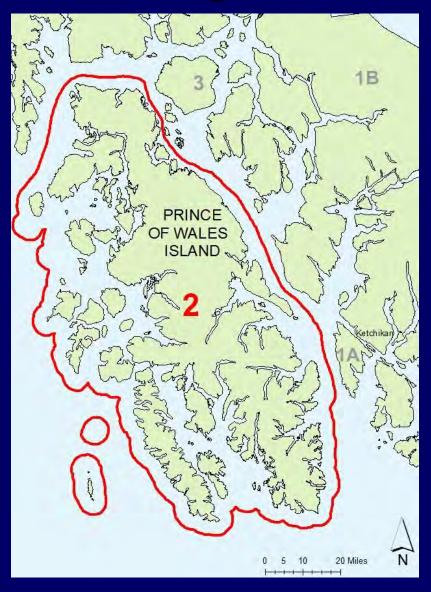
RC4

Effect

This proposal would change the sealing period for wolves harvested by hunting or trapping in Unit 2 from within 30 days of the close of the season to within 7 days of harvest.

 Reason: to correct an unforeseen consequence of a 2019 change in regulation.

Game Management Unit 2 RC4



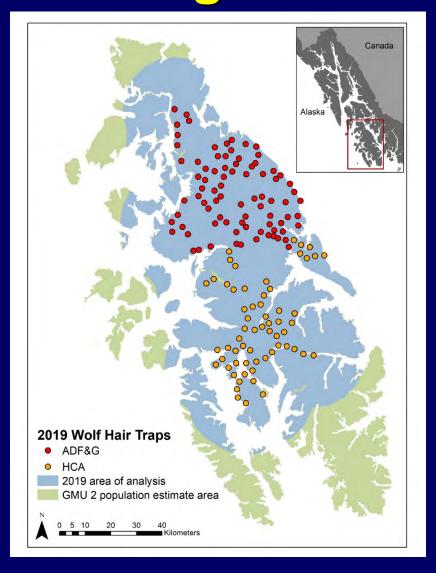
Background

- 2019 changed harvest management from an HGL with harvest quota to maintaining a fall population objective (150-200 wolves).
- That strategy relies on annual or periodic population estimates.
- Wolves cannot be counted in dense forest, so their numbers must be estimated.

Population Estimates

- Began annual fall DNA-based spatiallyexplicit capture-recapture (SECR) estimates in 2013.
- Wolf DNA is extracted from hair captured on an array of scented hair boards.
- Hair boards are checked/rescented every 7 days from mid-Oct – mid-Dec.

Game Management Unit 2 RC4



Population Estimates

- Mark = 1st detection at hairboard.
- Recapture = subsequent detections at hairboards or harvest.
- The mid-Oct. to mid-Dec. sampling period coincides with harvest seasons.

Unforeseen Consequence

- Wolves are harvested and removed from the population during the sampling period.
- Population estimation model assumes each "marked" wolf is available to be recaptured, unless we tell it that wolf was removed.
- Trappers can't tell "marked" from "unmarked" wolves.

Improving Model Predictions

- More precise information on when and where each wolf is removed ⇒ better info to the model ⇒ more accurate and precise estimates.
- A 7-day sealing period coincides with our weekly hair board sampling periods and will provide the most precise data.
- ADF&G proposal to federal reg process.

Create a 7-day sealing period for wolves harvested in Unit 2

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Support

AC Recommendation:

Craig AC: Support

Ketchikan AC: Failed

Klawock AC: Support with Amendment (14 days)

Juneau-Douglas AC: Failed

RC4

Proposal 195

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Proposal (ACR6)

Effect of Proposal:

Align season dates, methods of take, and bag limits for moose in a portion of Unit 15(B)

Advisory Committee Support:

- Kenai/ Soldotna AC, Cooper Landing AC, Seward AC, Homer AC, and Seldovia AC voted unanimously in support of Proposal 195.
- Central Peninsula AC did not meet

Recommendation:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game supports adoption of Proposal 195

Background

- Proposals 69, 70, 71 at the March 2019 BOG meeting with perceived intention to align season dates, methods of take, and bag limits for the General Season and archery moose hunts in Unit 15(B).
- BOG amended Proposal 69 to exclude Kalgin Island and adopted it.
 - **Proposal 69 stated:** "Change the designation of that portion of Unit 15B north of Tustemena Lake that is now a trophy area for moose and open it as a general hunt."

Background

- As a result there are 3 discrepancies in regulations between Unit 15(B)
 East and Unit 15(B) remainder excluding Kalgin Island:
 - 1. Season dates in Unit 15(B) East were established 1–20 September as opposed to 1–25 September in Unit 15(B) remainder.
 - 2. Legal bull harvest in Unit 15(B) East included those with 50" antler spread or 3 or more brow tines on at least one side, but did not include bulls with a spike on at least one side which are legal animals in Unit 15(B) remainder.
 - 3. No archery season was established in Unit 15(B) East as opposed to the bow and arrow season in Unit 15(B) remainder occurring 22–29 August.
- Proposal 195 intends to correct the above discrepancies and align season dates, methods of take, and bag limits for the General Season and archery moose hunts in Unit 15(B) excluding Kalgin Island.

Outcome

Units and Bag Limits	(Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 15(B)		
1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only; or	Aug.22-Aug. 29 (General hunt only)	Aug.22-Aug. 29
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1-Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1-Sept. 25
1 bull by drawing permit only;	Sept. 1-Sept. 25	No open season.

Summary

Correcting the discrepancies in the General Season and archery moose hunts in Unit 15(B) excluding Kalgin Island will simplify the regulations and increase hunter opportunity.

RC4

Proposal 195

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Proposal (ACR6)

Effect of Proposal:

Align season dates, methods of take, and bag limits for moose in a portion of Unit 15(B)

Advisory Committee Support:

- Kenai/ Soldotna AC, Cooper Landing AC, Seward AC, Homer AC, and Seldovia AC voted unanimously in support of Proposal 195.
- Central Peninsula AC did not meet

Recommendation:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game supports adoption of Proposal 195

RC4

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

Nushagak AC:

Support (11-0-0)

Togiak AC:

Support 10-0-0

17A Fall Hunting Seasons

RC4

RM573: Residents Only - Any Bull

Season Dates: Aug. 25-Sept. 20

DM570: Nonresidents Only - 50" or >4 brow tines on at least 1 side

Season Dates: Sept. 5-Sept. 15 (20 permits issued)

17A Winter Hunting Seasons

Residents Only - 2 moose total

RM575: Antlered bull permit - <u>May be Announced</u>

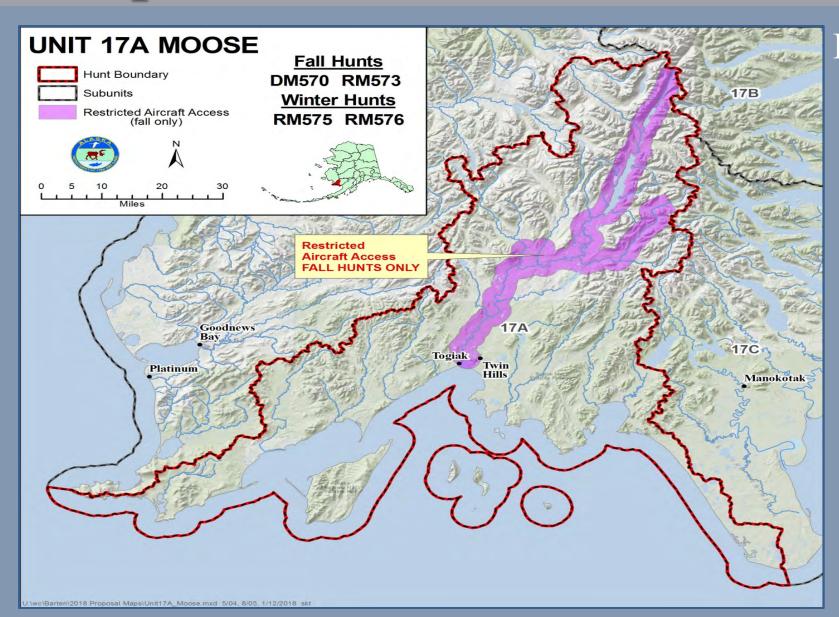
RM576: Antlerless permit - May be Announced

(Up to a 31-day season may be announced Dec. 1- End of Feb.)

RC4

Unit 17A Moose Management Strategy

- Moose Management Group (MMG): Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence RAC, Nushagak and Togiak F&G AC's, Togiak NWR, ADF&G, and a commercial hunting guide.
- ➤ Unit 17A Moose Management Plan (MMP)
 - Earliest version 1996-latest revision in January 2013.
- > BOG recognition of MMG and MMP
 - In 2013 revision, the board did not adopt plan but adopted regulations consistent with the plan.
 - Board provided findings that directed department's discretionary authority and has upheld these decisions in subsequent meetings.



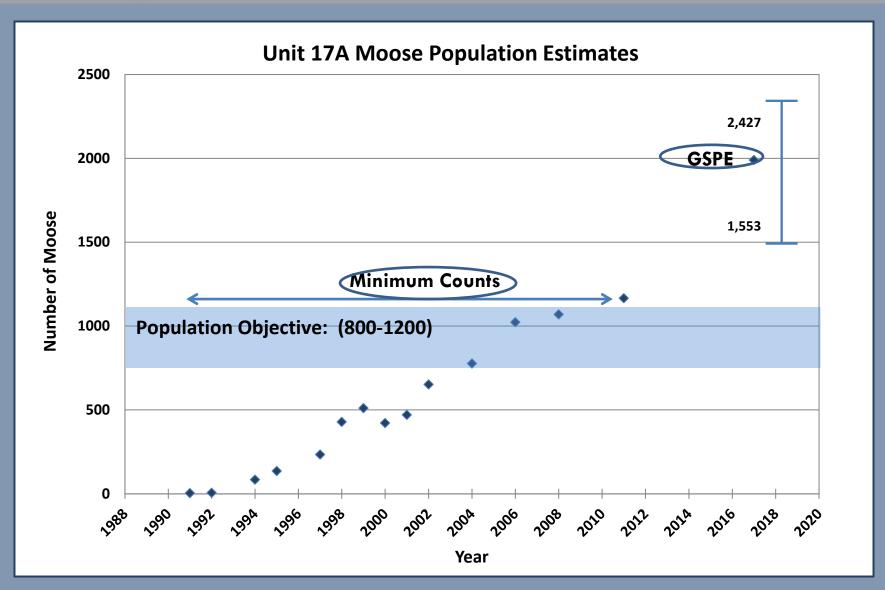
RC4

RC4

Relevant Plan Objectives

- ➤ 17A Population Objectives: 800 –1,200 moose (based on moose habitat studies).
- ➤ If moose population is stable or increasing and above 600 animals, allow for a limited winter antlerless hunt.





RC4

- Abundance exceeds objectives.
- Management plan recommends antlerless harvest under current population parameters.
- Antlerless hunt is an important management tool in lowering moose density.
- Antlerless hunt provides harvest opportunity for surplus moose.
- Positive C&T finding in Unit 17 with an ANS of 100-150 moose.

RC4

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

Nushagak AC:

Support (11-0-0)

Togiak AC:

Support 10-0-0

Unit 13 Moose

Unit 13A antlerless moose reauthorization

Department Recommendation: **SUPPORT**

Department Proposal

Copper Basin AC: Support 8-0-0

Unit 13 Moose

13B 13A 13E Tyone Lake Lake / Louise DM325 14B Little Nelchina River GLENN HIGHWAY 14A 13D Mountain CA

RC4

Unit 13 Moose

Unit 13A antlerless hunt (DM325) hunt statistics, regulatory years 2015–2020.

Regulatory Year	Total Permits	Total Applicants	Hunted	Harvest
2015	10	2800	9	7
2016	10	3590	8	5
2017	10	3369	9	8
2018	10	3613	10	6
2019	10	4284	10	10
2020 ¹	20	5272	TBD	8 ¹

¹ Hunt is ongoing (season Oct. 1-Oct. 31 and Mar. 1-Mar. 31); harvest of 8 cows in October Season

Positive C&T in Unit 13 with an ANS of 300-600 moose, board has not determined drawing hunts provide for subsistence opportunity.

Unit 13 Moose

Population Objectives & Current Estimates

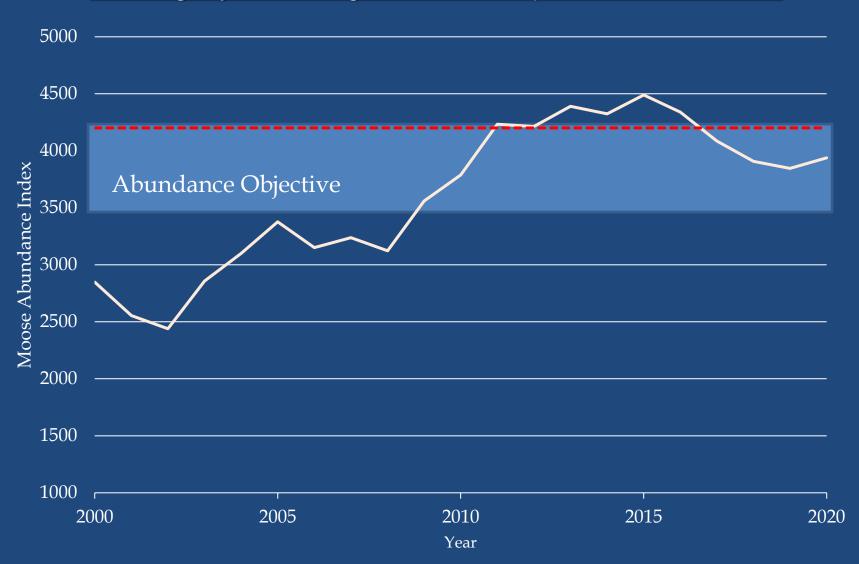
*DM325

Subunit	Population	Harvest	Bull-to-cow
13A*	3,500-4,200	210-420	25:100
3yr Avg	3,937	283	25:100
13B	5,300-6,300	310-620	25:100
3yr Avg	3,941	223	30:100
13C	2,000-3,000	155-350	25:100
3yr Avg	3,330	86	23 : 100
13D**	1,200-1,900	75-190	25:100
3yr Avg	1,194	88	80:100
13E	5,000-6,000	300-600	25:100
3yr Avg	6,330	196	26:100

**13D is outside of wolf predation control area

Unit 13 Moose

Running 3-year Average of Moose Population Index in 13A



Unit 13A antlerless moose reauthorization

Department Recommendation: **SUPPORT**

Department Proposal

Moose / Unit 14A & 14B

Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Unit 14A and 14B

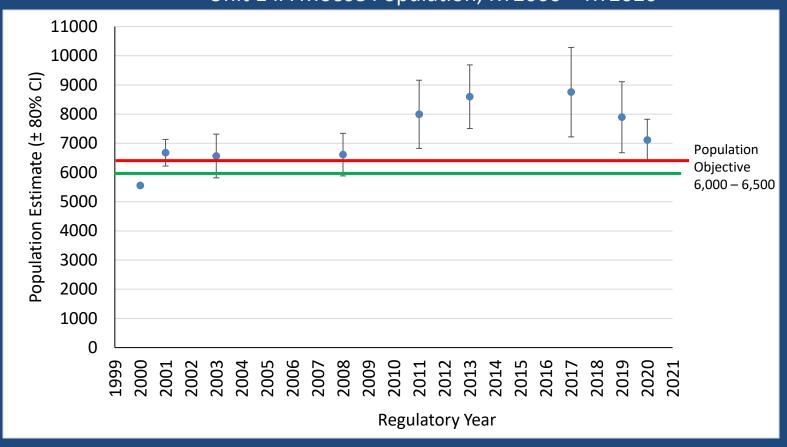
Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

Mat Valley AC Support/Oppose (0-0)
Su Valley AC Support (5-0)

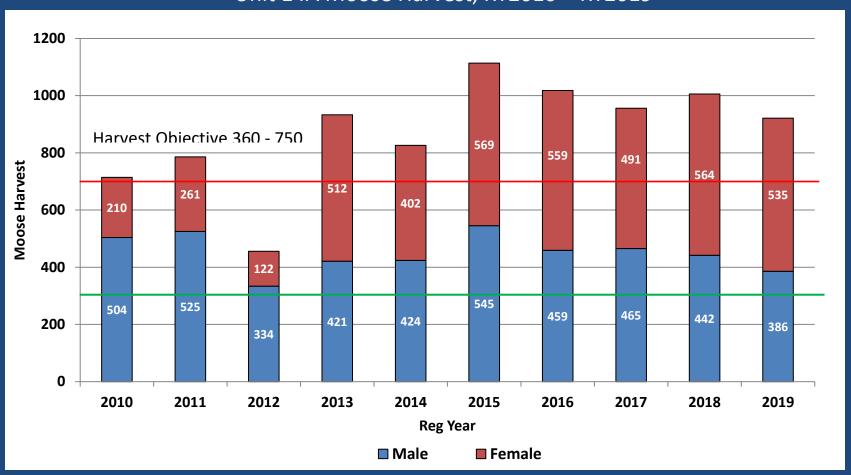
Moose / Unit 14A &14B

Unit 14A Moose Population, RY2000 – RY2020



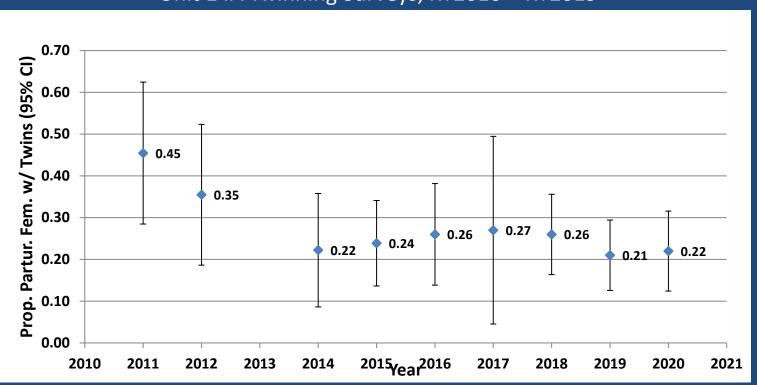
Moose / Unit 14A & 14B

Unit 14A Moose Harvest, RY2010 – RY2019



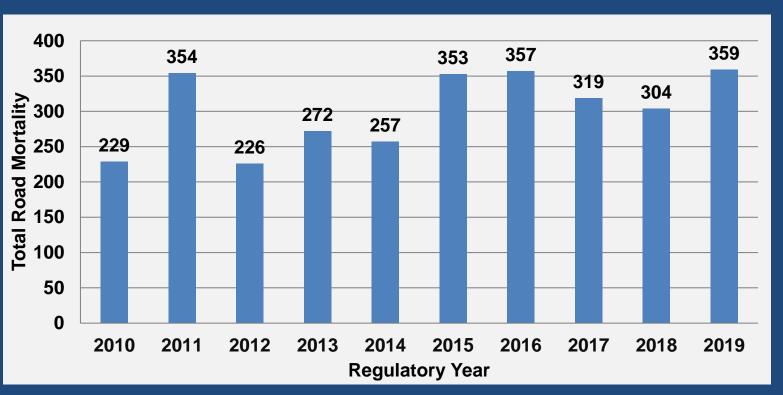
Moose / Unit 14A &14B

Unit 14A Twinning Surveys, RY2010 – RY2019



Moose / Unit 14A &14B

Minimum Moose-Vehicle Collisions in Units 14A & 14B, RY2010 – RY2019



Moose / Unit 14A &14B

- Population estimate for 14A is 7,112 as of Dec 2020
- 1300 permits offered last 2 years, success rate about 62%
- Twinning Rate 22%
- Browse surveys in 2016 show a large amount of browse removal
- Complaints about lack of moose
- The number of permits offered has been decreased to adjust for the reduction in the population.
- All hunts are within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area.

Moose / Unit 14A &14B

Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Unit 14A and 14B

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

Mat Valley AC Support/Oppose (0-0)
Su Valley AC Support (5-0)

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 1C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Juneau-Douglas AC Icy Straights

Supports Opposed

- Antlerless hunts in codified for Berners Bay and Gustavus Forelands.
 - Berners Bay 137± 23 moose (2019)
 - Gustavus 188 ± 56 moose (2020)
- Antlerless hunts provide opportunity and are a tool to maintain appropriate moose abundance.
- Last antlerless hunts held: Gustavus (2008) & Berners Bay (2006)
- Berners Bay is entirely within the Juneau Nonsubsistence Area, and there is a negative C&T finding in Gustavus Forelands.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 1C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Juneau-Douglas AC Icy Straights

Supports Opposed

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 5A

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Yakutat AC

Did Not Meet

- Unit 5A antlerless hunt (RM059) occurs in Russell Fjord, north and east of Yakutat; commonly known as Nunatak Bench.
- Hunt held when at least 25 moose are observed during aerial survey.
 - 14 moose observed (2015)
- Hunt occurs during winter and is intended to provide additional opportunity with other Unit 5A and Unit 5B hunts.
- Permits last issued in 2004.
- Positive C&T finding in all of Unit 5 with an ANS of 50 moose.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 5A

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Yakutat AC

Did Not Meet

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 6C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Copper River/Prince William Sound AC

- Antlerless hunt occurs near Cordova.
- Population Objective: 600-800 moose
 - Population Estimate: 677 moose (2018)
- Hunt managed jointly by ADF&G and USFS. Currently, all antlerless moose opportunity provided federal subsistence season.
- Hunt last held in 1999.
- There is a negative C&T finding for moose in Unit 6.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 6C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Copper River/Prince William Sound AC

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Units 7 and 14C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Anchorage AC Seward AC Support

9-0-0

- Antlerless hunt occurs in the Twentymile River/Portage/Placer areas of Units 7 and 14C.
- Hunt is intended to maintain abundance at a level to buffer mortality during severe winters.
- Minimum counts obtained in 2020 (153 moose) and 2016 (155 moose).
- This hunt is within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Units 7 and 14C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Anchorage AC Seward AC Support

9-0-0

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Anchorage AC

Support

9-0-0

- Antlerless hunt occurs in areas adjacent to Anchorage.
- Hunt is intended to provide hunting opportunity and to maintain abundance at a level to buffer mortality during severe winters.
- Population Objective: 1500-1800 moose
 - 2013 estimate: 1,533 moose
- All hunts are within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Anchorage AC

Support

9-0-0

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Homer AC Support

Central Peninsula AC

Kenai/Soldotna AC Support Seldovia AC Support

- Antlerless hunt occurs on Kalgin Island in Cook Inlet.
- Hunt is intended to provide hunting opportunity and to maintain abundance at a level to buffer mortality during severe winters.
- Population Objective: 20-40 moose
 - 2020 Minimum Count: 115 moose
- Positive C&T finding with an ANS of 2 moose.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Homer AC Support

Central Peninsula AC

Kenai/Soldotna AC Support Seldovia AC Support

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 15C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Homer AC Support

Central Peninsula AC

Kenai/Soldotna AC Support Seldovia AC Support

- Antlerless hunts occur along the Sterling Highway (AM550) and the Homer Bench (DM549).
- Hunt is intended to provide hunting opportunity, maintain abundance at a level to buffer mortality during severe winters, and to reduce moose/motor vehicle collisions.
- Unit 15C (northern portion) population estimates:
 - 2017 ~3,529 moose
 - 2013 ~3,204 moose
- All hunts are within the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 15C

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Homer AC Support

Central Peninsula AC

Kenai/Soldotna AC Support Seldovia AC Support

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 18

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Lower Kuskokwim AC Bethel AC Mid-Lower Yukon AC Coastal Lower AC Support Support

- Antlerless hunts occur south of the Goodnews River drainage and Unit 18 remainder.
- Hunt is intended to provide hunting opportunity and to reduce the rapidly increasing moose population. Liberal bag limits are used to reduce moose numbers.
- Minimum population estimate:
 - > ~15,500 moose
- Positive C&T finding in Unit 18 with an ANS of 200-400.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 18

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Lower Kuskokwim AC Bethel AC Mid-Lower Yukon AC Coastal Lower AC Support Support

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 19D

Department: Support

Department Proposal

McGrath AC Support 6-0-0

- Antlerless hunt (RM 660) occurs in Unit 19D in portions of the Kuskokwim River drainage.
- Hunt is intended to maintain moose abundance at levels consistent with habitat quality and availability, and to provide hunting opportunity.
- Nutritional indices (twinning rates) suggest the moose population in this area should be stabilized.
- 2020 was the first year of the hunt. Preliminary data,13 permits issued with 2 moose harvested.
- Positive C&T finding in Unit 19 outside of the Lime Village Management Area with an ANS of 400-700 moose.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 19D

Department: Support

Department Proposal

McGrath AC Support 6-0-0

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Fairbanks AC
Delta AC
Middle Nenana AC

Support Opposed Support

15-0-0

4-1-6 8-0-0

- Antlerless hunts occur in all of Unit 20A.
- Hunt is intended to maintain moose abundance at levels consistent with habitat quality and availability, and to provide hunting opportunity.
- Nutritional indices (twinning rates and short-yearling weights) suggest the moose population in this area should be stabilized.
- Unit 20A moose population objective: 12,000 moose
 - 2019 population estimate ~11,770 moose
 - 2015 population estimate ~12,315 moose
- Positive C&T in 20A outside of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area with an ANS of 50-75 moose.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Fairbanks AC
Delta AC
Middle Nenana AC

Support
Opposed
Support

15-0-0

4-1-6 8-0-0

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20B

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Fairbanks AC	Support	15-0-0
Delta AC	Support	7-2-2
Middle Nenana AC	Support	8-0-0

- Antlerless hunts occur in Creamer's Field, Fairbanks Management Area, Minto Flats Management Area, and the remainder of 20B.
- Hunt is intended to maintain moose abundance at levels consistent with habitat quality and availability, and to provide hunting opportunity. Targeted antlerless hunts reduce human/moose conflict and moose/vehicle collisions.
- Moose densities in portions of Unit 20B suggest the moose population should be stabilized.
- Unit 20B moose population objective: 12,000-15,00 moose; current estimates suggest population is within objectives. An average of 178 moose are taken annually.
- Positive C&T within the MFMA with an ANS of 20-40 moose; positive C&T in 20B outside of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area with an ANS of 75-100 moose.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20B

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Fairbanks AC	Support	15-0-0
Delta AC	Support	7-2-2
Middle Nenana AC	Support	8-0-0

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20D

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Delta AC Support 10-0-1

- Antlerless hunts occur on the Bison Range, Southwest Unit 20D, and through the Purple Heart Recipient Hunt.
- Hunt is intended to maintain moose abundance at levels consistent with habitat quality and availability, and to provide hunting opportunity.
- Nutritional indices (twinning rates) suggest the moose population in this area should be stabilized.
- An average of 30 permits are issued annually, and 19 moose are harvested.
- All hunts listed are within the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20D

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Delta AC Support 10-0-1

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 21D

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Middle Yukon AC

Support

9-0-0

- Antlerless hunt occurs in the Yukon River drainage between Kala Slough and Kala Creek.
- Hunt is intended to maintain moose abundance at levels consistent with habitat quality and availability, meet harvest objectives, and to provide hunting opportunity.
- Based on trend counts, moose population increasing.
- Unit 21D moose population objective: 7,000-10,000 moose
 - 2018 population estimate ~10,478 moose
- Unit 21 has a positive C&T finding with an ANS of 600-800 moose.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 21D

Department: Support

Department Proposal

Middle Yukon AC

Support

9-0-0

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 21E

Department: Support

Department Proposal

GASH AC Support 8-0-0

- Antlerless hunt includes all of Unit 21E.
- Hunt is intended to maintain moose abundance at levels consistent with habitat quality and availability, meet harvest objectives, and to provide hunting opportunity.
- 2020 was first year of the hunt. Preliminary data: 11 permits issued, and 3 moose taken.
- Moose densities have increased, and nutritional indices (twinning rate) indicate the population should be stabilized.
- Unit 21E moose population objective: 9,000-11,000 moose
 - 2019 population estimate ~9,777 moose
- Unit 21 has a positive C&T finding with an ANS of 600-800 moose.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 21E

Department: Support

Department Proposal

GASH AC Support 8-0-0

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 26A

Department: Support

Department Proposal

North Slope AC

Support

- Antlerless hunt occurs in an area with only seasonal moose presence.
- Hunt is intended to provide hunting opportunity.
- 2017 Unit 26A minimum count ~339 moose.
- A total of 4 antlerless moose have been taken since this hunt was adopted.
- Positive C&T with an ANS of 15-30 in all of 26A.

Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 26A

Department: Support

Department Proposal

North Slope AC

Support

Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region IV (Central/Southwest)

Department: Support

- Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually.
- Exemptions for tag fees are intended provide opportunistic harvest opportunity.
- Exemptions include Game Management Unit 11, 13, 16, 17, 9, 10, and subsistence brown bear hunts in Units 9 and 17. Brown bear populations are believed to be healthy and will not be negatively impacted by exempting tag fees.
- Mix of positive and negative C&T findings in these units.

Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region IV (Central/Southwest)

Department: Support

Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region III (Interior and Northeast Arctic)

Department: Support

- Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually.
- Exemptions for tag fees are intended provide opportunistic harvest opportunity.
- Exemptions include Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C. Brown bear populations are believed to be healthy and will not be negatively impacted by exempting tag fees.
- Mix of positive and negative C&T findings in these units.

Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region III (Interior and Northeast Arctic)

Department: Support

Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region V (Arctic and Western)

Department: Support

- Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually.
- Exemptions for tag fees are intended provide an increase in harvest across the region, and subsistence brown bear harvest opportunity.
- Exemptions include Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. Brown bear populations are believed to be healthy and will not be negatively impacted by exempting tag fees.
- All units have a positive C&T finding.

Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions in Region V (Arctic and Western)

Department: Support