



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Headquarters

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An Agenda Change Request (ACR 8) has been submitted by the public to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 85.045 hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. The proponent is asking the board to close the RM653 hunt to non-residents in RY23, followed by a offering a limited number of permits (drawing/registration) or non-residents beginning in RY24.

With respect to the board's Agenda Change Request (ACR) acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- A. The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- B. The department is unaware of any effects of regulations that were unforeseen when the regulation was adopted.
- C. The department has observed that bull:cow ratios have declined from 40:100 in 2018 to 25:100 in 2021. This is coincident with a series of years with poor recruitment and an increase in resident and nonresident hunter participation and harvest pressure. Current regulations and the increase in hunting pressure may be contributing to the observed changes in sex ratio.
- D. The department is unaware of any unforeseen or unexpected events that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses as defined in AS 16.05.258(f).
- E. The department is unaware of any unexpected resource situation that would cause a biologically allowable resource harvest to be precluded by delayed regulatory action.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 19 outside the Lime Village Management Area, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 400-700 moose, including 175-225 in Unit 19A and 20-24 in Unit 19B.

In RY04 the board adopted antler regulations to address overharvest, after declining to 25 bulls:100cows. In RY20, a registration permit (RM653) was adopted to enhance harvest reporting and better track patterns of effort and harvest in this hunt area.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Unit 19 regulations is during winter/spring of 2023/2024. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its March 2023 meeting in Soldotna to allow for more public input.

Sincerely,

Ryan Scott

Ryan Scott
Assistant Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation