

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order 05-09-11

Issued at Nome, Alaska
September 14, 2011

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m.
September 14, 2011

Expiration Date: June 30, 2012

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the State of Alaska season for antlered bull moose by registration permit hunt RM841 in Central Unit 22(A) until 11:59 p.m. on September 20, 2011. The hunt area covered by this extension includes Unit 22(A) that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages. Current harvest is at half the harvest quota of 14 antlered bulls and an extension of the season will allow additional hunting opportunity to reach quota. The season will be closed by a subsequent emergency order when the harvest quota is reached.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.045 (a) (20) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE** are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting moose in a portion of Unit 22(A):

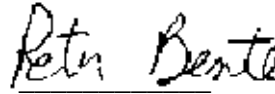
Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20) ...		
Unit 22(A), that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages		
1 antlered bull by registration permit only	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	No open season

...

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Peter Bente
Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

Moose seasons in the central portion of Unit 22(A) were closed in 2005 because of a declining trend in the area's moose populations since 1989. A stratified moose census completed in March 2007 estimated 339 moose in the area, and beginning in 2008 the Alaska Board of Game adopted a registration moose hunt regulation with harvest quotas to prevent over harvest. The department set a harvest quota of 14 antlered bull moose in this portion of Unit 22(A) for regulatory year 2011-2012. At the time of this announcement, the combined total harvest from state and federal hunts is 7 antlered bulls. Due to the low harvest, the season is being extended to allow additional opportunity to reach the harvest quota of 14 antlered bulls. To protect breeding bulls from disturbance or harvest by hunters, the season will not be extended beyond September 20. Since all other hunting seasons since 2008 have met or exceeded harvest quota, this season extension is considered an unusual, but necessary, announcement by the Department. Because of the rare nature of this situation, we do not expect emergency announcements such as this in the future.

The Department uses registration permit hunts with harvest quotas and early September seasons to manage moose harvest in areas where populations are low or declining. Hunting after the middle of September is avoided to protect breeding bulls in the population for improved recruitment in the following spring calving period. Quota-based moose hunts occur in Units 22(A) Central, 22(B) Remainder, Unit 22(C), and Unit 22(D). All hunt areas except Unit 22(A) have fall season harvest quotas combined with an optional winter season opening to receive any unmet surplus quota from the fall hunt. The strategy for harvest opportunity is to let hunters know in advance that seasons close when fall quotas are reached and, if needed, unmet fall quotas are transferred to winter seasons opening January 1 for antlered bull harvest until quota is reached. Since this winter hunt alternative is not currently available to Unit 22(A) Central hunters, the Department will recommend regulations to the Board of Game so that all future hunts in this area follow the Unit 22 model of offering winter hunts to fulfill harvest quotas.

DISTRIBUTION: