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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **State Closes Resident and Nonresident Moose Hunt in Unit 22C**

(Nome) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order to close the State resident and nonresident moose season in the Unit 22(C) hunt area covered under registration permit hunt RM840.

The State resident and nonresident season for bull moose by registration permit hunt RM840 in Unit 22(C) closes at 11:59 p.m. on September 2, 2017. The fall harvest quota of 11 bulls is expected to be reached by the season closing date announced in this emergency order and no further harvest is warranted.

Following a record harvest in 2004 of 52 bull moose in Unit 22(C), fall trend count composition surveys completed between 2006 and 2012 resulted in undesirable bull to cow ratios below 20 bulls to 100 cows. In regulatory year 2013 the department implemented reduced quota hunt management strategy to improve the Unit 22(C) bull to cow ratio. Fall trend count composition surveys completed in 2014 and 2015 resulted in 21 bulls to 100 cows and 28 bulls to 100 cows, respectively.

For regulatory year 2017-2018 the department established a harvest quota of 11 bulls in Unit 22(C) to prevent overharvest of bulls, and to continue the improvement of the bull to cow ratio. The fall harvest quota of 11 bulls is expected to be reached by the season closing date announced in this emergency order and no further harvest is warranted.

The Unit 22(C) season closure does not affect the remaining registration permit hunt RM840 hunt areas Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains, Unit 22(D) in the Kuzitrin River drainage, and Unit 22(D) Southwest. Unless additional closures are announced by emergency order, the RM840 season in these remaining hunt areas is from 1 Sept. through 14 Sept. Hunters are advised to check with the Nome ADF&G office for emergency closures as the season progresses and harvest is reported to the department.

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged by this emergency order.

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