

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 04-12-17

Issued at Palmer, Alaska
December 20, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
December 21, 2017

Expiration Date: June 30, 2018
unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the State of Alaska winter hunting season for moose in Game Management Unit 17(A) from December 21, 2017, through January 20, 2018. The bag limit for the winter season in Unit 17(A) is two moose. Hunters are allowed to harvest one antlered bull moose with a RM575 registration permit (antlered bull permit) and/or one antlerless moose with a RM576 registration permit (antlerless permit). To keep harvests within sustainable limits, the antlerless season will be closed by emergency order and federal announcement when 30 cow moose have been harvested. The bull harvest will be closed by similar actions when 20 bulls have been taken.

Hunters who have already harvested a moose during the current regulatory year are eligible to participate in this hunt, but can only take one additional moose.

This emergency order does not affect any other moose hunting regulations in Unit 17.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.045(15), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Moose**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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Unit 17(A)

Up to 2 moose per regulatory year, only as follows

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or Aug.25 –Sept. 20 (Subsistence Hunt only)

Up to 2 moose by registration permit; during the period Dec. 1–last day of Feb., a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order Dec. 21–Jan. 20 (Subsistence Hunt only)

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All other moose regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Sam Cotten Commissioner

By delegation to:

Neil Barten Dillingham Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board authorized a winter moose hunting season of up to 31 days in Unit 17(A) with a bag limit of up to two moose. A March 2017 aerial survey estimated 2,076 moose in Unit 17A, which is well above the population objective. Composition surveys conducted in October 2017 revealed an estimated 77 bulls and 24.5 calves per 100 cows, which indicate surplus bulls available for harvest. Allowing harvest for antlered and antlerless moose is important to lower moose density in this area, while providing additional harvest opportunity. To keep harvests within sustainable limits, the antlerless season will be closed by emergency order and federal announcement when 30 cows have been harvested. The bull harvest will be closed by similar actions when 20 bulls have been taken.

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