Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Emergency Order 05-08-12

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. September 6, 2012 **Issued at** Nome, Alaska September 6, 2012

Expiration Date: June 30, 2013

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order closes moose seasons in two hunting areas in Unit 22 covered under registration permit hunt RM840.

Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains moose season closure: the fall portion of the State resident season for bull moose by registration permit Hunt RM840 in Unit 22(B), that portion west of the Darby Mountains closes at 11:59 p.m. on September 6, 2012. The fall harvest quota of 15 bulls is expected to be reached by the season closing date announced in this emergency order and no further harvest is warranted. (*Note: this area is identified as the Remainder of Unit 22(B) in the Regulation Section, below*). Moose hunting in Unit 22(B) is managed by permit hunts with separate fall and winter harvest quotas. The State season in Hunt RM849 will reopen January 1, 2013 with a minimum winter harvest quota of 8 antlered bulls. Hunters are reminded to get a new hunting license if they plan to hunt with a RM849 permit in the winter 2013 season.

<u>Unit 22(C) moose season closure</u>: 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 6, 2012. The fall harvest quota of 13 bulls is expected to be reached by the season closing date announced in this emergency order and no further harvest is warranted.

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Therefore, the following regulations in 5 AAC 85.045 (a) (20), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE, are superseded by this emergency order and the following provisions are effective for hunting moose in the Remainder of Unit 22(B) and Unit 22(C):

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

Units and Bag Limits

(20)

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Remainder of Unit 22(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 6	
1 antlered bull by registration permit only;	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		No open season.
Unit 22(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 6	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit; or	Sept. 15 – Sept. 30	
1 antlered bull by registration permit only; during the period Jan. 1—Jan. 31, a season may be announced by emergency order	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 (To be announced)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by registration permit		Sept. 1 – Sept. 6
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All other mease hunting regulations	in Unit 22 remain unchanged by	this amargancy order

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

Cora Campbell Commissioner

By delegation to:

Jully Cru

Letty Hughes Assistant Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

<u>Unit 22(B) West moose season closure</u>: The moose population in western Unit 22(B) has declined by 64% since 1987, and recruitment rates have been below 10% for over 10 years. To help stabilize this population, the Alaska Board of Game established a moose registration permit hunt in western Unit 22(B) and the department set a fall 2012 harvest quota of 15 bulls. The fall harvest quota of 15 bulls is expected to be reached by the season closing date announced in this emergency order and no further harvest is warranted.

A winter registration permit hunt for moose in western Unit 22(B) will be opened January 1 through January 31 with a minimum quota of 8 antlered bulls.

<u>Unit 22(C) moose season closure</u>: following a record harvest in 2004 of 52 bull moose in Unit 22(C), fall composition surveys found the bull:cow ratio had declined to 11 bulls per 100 cows. For regulatory year 2012-2013, the department established a harvest quota of 13 bulls in Unit 22(C) to prevent excessive harvest and to improve the bull:cow ratio. The fall harvest quota of 13 bulls is expected to be reached by the season closing date announced in this emergency order and no further harvest is warranted.

DISTRIBUTION:

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