Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Emergency Order 05-03-14

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. February 25, 2014 Issued at Bethel, Alaska February 25, 2014

Expiration Date: June 30, 2014

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the State of Alaska winter moose season for resident hunters in two hunt areas within Unit 18. The affected areas are the Lower Yukon Area and the Remainder of Unit 18. Winter weather has been unusually mild and snow free, creating poor travel conditions that have prevented most hunters from harvesting moose in January and February.

In the Lower Yukon Area, the resident moose season with a bag limit of <u>two antlerless</u> <u>moose</u> is extended to March 31. This area is the portion of Unit 18 north and west of the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the mouth of the river upstream to the old village of Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to Mountain Village, and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mountain Village. If a person has harvested one moose since July 1, 2013 they are eligible to harvest one antlerless moose in this extended season. If a person has harvested 2 moose since July 1, 2013 they are not eligible to harvest a moose in this extended season.

In the Remainder of Unit 18, the resident moose season with a bag limit of <u>one moose</u> is extended to March 31. This area is the portion of Unit 18 excluding the Kuskokwim Area, the portion south of and including the Goodnews River drainage, and the Lower Yukon Area. If a person has harvested a moose since July 1, 2013 they are not eligible to harvest a moose in this extended season.

This announcement DOES NOT OPEN the moose season anywhere else in Unit 18. Only the areas described above have extended resident seasons.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in 5 AAC 85.045 (a) (16), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting moose in portions of Unit 18.

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

(16)		
Unit 18, Lower Yukon Area, that portion north and west of the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the mouth of the river upstream to the old village of Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to Mountain Village, and excluding all drainages upriver from Mountain Village.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 moose of which only 1 may be an antlered bull; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 1 – Sept. 30	
2 antlerless moose	Oct. 1 – Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS 1 antlered bull		Sept. 1-Sept. 30
Remainder of Unit 18		
1 antlered bull; or	Aug. 10-Sept. 30	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
1 moose	Dec. 20-Mar. 31	

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All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 18 remain unchanged by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell Commissioner

By delegation to:

Phillip Perry Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Board of Game authorized the department to extend moose seasons in the Lower Yukon Area and the Remainder of Unit 18 at the February 2014 meeting held in Fairbanks. The season in each area is extended to March 31 by this announcement.

The moose population in this portion of Unit 18 is estimated at over 12,000 moose. Winter harvests in the past 5 years have fluctuated between 150 and 200 moose. During the current winter season, extended periods of poor travel conditions have made it very difficult to hunt moose. Hunt reports and observations from enforcement personnel indicate that harvests are very low and extending the season through the end of March will provide additional opportunity for resident hunters in Unit 18.

DISTRIBUTION:

This Emergency Order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Bethel.

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- 2. Assistant Attorney General (Board of Game Liaison, Anchorage)
- 3. Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
- 4. Division of Wildlife Conservation

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