

**Division of Wildlife Conservation**  
**Doug Vincent-Lang, Acting Director**  
Region V, Nome Area Office  
PO Box 1148  
Nome, AK 99762



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**  
**Cora Campbell, Commissioner**  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
[www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: Tony Gorn, Unit 22 Area Biologist**  
**(907) 443-2271; [tony.gorn@alaska.gov](mailto:tony.gorn@alaska.gov)**

### **State Extends Registration Moose Hunt in Unit 22A Central**

(Nome) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order extension of registration moose hunt RM841 in the central portion of Unit 22(A). The RM841 moose hunting season is extended until September 20, 2013. Due to poor early season weather and local harvest needs, the season is being extended 6 days to allow additional opportunity to reach the harvest quota of 22 antlered bulls.

The area included in the extended season for hunt RM841 includes Unit 22(A) Central, 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.

Moose seasons in Unit 22(A) Central were closed in 2005 because of a declining trend in the area's moose populations since 1989. A stratified moose census completed in March 2008 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. A stratified moose census completed in February 2012 estimated 545 moose in the survey area, which is a 13% annual rate of increase since the 2008 population survey.

Based on the population in this area, the department set a harvest quota of 22 antlered bull moose for regulatory year 2013-2014. To protect breeding bulls from disturbance or harvest by hunters, the fall season will not be extended beyond September 20.

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