EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the State of Alaska season for antlered bull moose by registration permit hunt RM841 in Unit 22(A) Central until September 20, 2014. The hunt area covered by this extension includes Unit 22(A) 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. The current harvest of 11 antlered bulls is below the established harvest quota of 22 antlered bulls. An extension of the season will allow additional hunting opportunity to reach quota. The fall season will be closed by a subsequent emergency order when the harvest quota is reached.

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Therefore, the following regulations in 5 AAC 85.045 (a) (20) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting moose in a portion of Unit 22(A):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units and Bag Limits</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Season</td>
<td>(Subsistence and General Hunts)</td>
<td>Open Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(20)</td>
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</table>

Unit 22(A), 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

1 antlered bull by Sept. 1 – Sept 20 No open season
registration permit only or

1 antlered bull by registration permit only; during the period Dec. 1 – Dec. 31, a season may be announced by emergency order

…

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Letty Hughes
Assistant Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Moose seasons in the central portion of Unit 22(A) were closed in 2005 because of a declining trend in the area’s moose populations since 1989. A stratified moose population survey 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 population survey completed in February 2012 estimated 545 moose in the survey area, which is a 13% annual rate of increase since the 2008 population survey. A stratified moose population survey in the central portion of Unit 22(A) is scheduled for February 2015.

The department set a harvest quota of 22 antlered bull moose in this portion of Unit 22(A) for regulatory year 2014-2015. At the time of this announcement, the combined total harvest from state and federal hunts is 11 antlered bulls. Due to unusually warm fall season weather, and local harvest needs, the season is being extended until September 20, 2014 to allow additional opportunity to reach the harvest quota of 22 antlered bulls. To protect breeding bulls from disturbance or harvest by hunters, the fall season will not be extended beyond September 20.

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   Assistant Director
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       Unit 18/22 Anchorage, Wildlife
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       Unit 22/23 Central Yukon, Wildlife
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     Council
     Elim
     Golovin
     Koyuk
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