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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Winter Moose Hunt to Open in Game Management Unit 17A**

(DILLINGHAM) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, are announcing the opening of a 31-day winter season for moose hunting in Game Management Unit 17A by emergency order (04-09-14). The hunt will be open from January 1–31 with a bag limit of two moose. Hunters who harvested a moose during the current regulatory year are eligible to participate in this hunt, but can only take one additional moose.

Aerial surveys conducted in March 2011 indicated at least 1,166 moose in GMU 17A. High rates of moose calf production and survival observed since the survey indicate that the population can sustain additional harvests of bull and cow moose. Based on this information, the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board extended the season length and increased the bag limit for the Unit 17A winter moose hunt. These regulatory changes were intended provide hunters additional opportunity to harvest moose.

To keep the harvest within sustainable limits, the cow season will be closed by emergency order and federal special action when a quota of 10 cows is reached. The bull harvest will be closed by similar actions when the quota of 15 bulls is reached.

To participate, hunters must possess a valid Alaska state hunting license and at least one state registration permit (RM575 and/or RM576). Hunters will be allowed to shoot one bull if they have registration permit RM575 in their possession and/or one cow if they have permit RM576. Hunters are required to have both permits to shoot two moose (one bull and one cow). Hunters who harvested a moose during the current regulatory year are eligible to participate in this hunt, but can only take one additional moose.

Registration permits will be available at the Dillingham ADF&G office and Togiak Traditional Council office. Successful hunters are required to report to the Dillingham ADF&G office (phone: 907-842-2334) or the Togiak Traditional Council (phone: 907-493-5003) within 24 hours of killing a moose. All permit reports must be returned to ADF&G by February 15, 2015.

For additional information contact: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Dillingham (phone: 907-842-2334), or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (phone: 907-842-1063).

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