

**PROPOSAL 77**

**5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Establish a drawing hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 15C north of the south fork of the Anchor River as follows:

| <b>Units and Bag Limits</b> | <b>Resident<br/>Open Season<br/>(Subsistence and<br/>General Hunts)</b> | <b>Nonresident<br/>Open Season</b> |
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(13)

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Remainder of 15(C)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS**

1 bull with spike or  
50-inch antlers or  
antlers with 4 or more brow  
tines on one side; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 25  
(General Hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit  
only, **or**

Oct. 15—Mar. 31

**1 antlerless moose by  
drawing permit only; the  
taking of calves, and females  
accompanied by calves, is  
prohibited; up to 100 permits  
may be issued.**

**Oct. 20—Nov. 20**

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS**

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or  
antlers with 4 or more brow  
tines on one side

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current moose population levels in Unit 15C indicate that this area can sustain additional harvest. Creating an additional late season antlerless drawing permit hunt will allow for increased harvest opportunity for residents while the population is at high levels. The number of permits issued annually (ranging from zero to 100) would be adjusted to meet current population numbers and status. A similar antlerless moose hunt currently exists in Unit 15C south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay (DM549) and is open to both residents and nonresidents.

Moose harvest in Unit 15C has been below or just within the lower end of the Intensive Management (IM) objectives (200–350 moose) since changes to the legal antler requirement were implemented in 2011 and 2013. Current moose population estimates are at the upper end of the IM population objective (2,500–3,500). In February 2017, a geospatial population estimate (GSPE) census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,529 moose (95% confidence interval (CI): range 2,769–4,289), of which 19% (95% CI: 14–24) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately three moose/mi<sup>2</sup> in the census area. Fall composition counts in core count areas during November 2017 provided a bull ratio of 55 bulls:100 cows. If no changes are made to the current hunt structure, additional harvest opportunity will be missed and harvest will likely remain below IM harvest objectives during a time period when Department of Fish and Game census data indicates moose populations are at the high end of the IM population objective.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-052)

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