

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Revisit the Amount Reasonably Necessary for subsistence uses for moose in Unit 22 as follows:

ADF&G is making sound management decisions based off of current data, not data that is over 20 years old. The Amount Necessary for Subsistence for moose hunting needs to be revisited and revised to reflect the current situation for local residents in Unit 22.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The information on the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for moose in Unit 22 is over 20 years old (24 years) and should be updated with current data on subsistence users' needs. Communities on the Seward Peninsula have grown substantially in the last 20 years. The Nome population has almost doubled. According to the ADF&G data for 2022, 539 permits were given to Unit 22 local residents. The 2022 harvest in Unit 22B west was at 32, Unit 22C harvest was at 33, Unit 22D Kuzitrin/Pilgrim/Teller was at 38, and Unit 22D Remainder is at 15, with the total harvest of moose in these Units at 118.

By moose harvest tickets issued alone many residents are not getting a moose. The cost of meat in stores alone in rural Alaska is extremely high. Many residents within Unit 22 highly depend on moose meat to offset this cost as well as prefer moose over store bought meat. For several years Unit 22 residents have gone over the quota amounts as set forth by ADF&G staff; this indicates the need for moose by residents in Unit 22 is very high. A.S. 16.05.258(f) definition "An opportunity, as determined by the appropriate board, that allows a subsistence user to participate in a subsistence hunt or fishery that provides a normally diligent participant with a reasonable expectation of success of taking of fish or game." By definition, local subsistence moose hunters are not being allotted a reasonable amount of time to harvest moose when quite often the moose hunt is closed the very next day after opening ex: fall of 2022 Unit 22C closed on day two of the hunt. In the Fall of 2022, the beginning of the moose hunt fell on a Thursday and closed on a Friday in Unit 22C. Many local residents simply cannot afford to take time off during the week to participate in a moose hunt, many local residents have to wait for Friday evening right after work or even the beginning of the weekend to start a moose hunt. These hunters are put at an extreme disadvantage, again by definition are not even being given a reasonable amount of time to participate in a hunt that is already closed.

PROPOSED BY: Kawerak, Inc, Melanie Bahnke President

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