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PRESS RELEASE

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Winter Moose Hunt Opens 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 moose hunting season in Game Management Unit 17A. The hunt will begin on Friday, December 30, 2016, and continue through January 29, 2017. The bag limit for this winter hunt is two moose. Hunters who have already harvested a moose during the current regulatory year are eligible to participate in this hunt, but can only take one additional moose.

Aerial counts conducted in March 2011, when the moose population in Unit 17A was last surveyed for abundance, indicated at least 1,166 moose. High rates of moose calf production and survival observed since the survey indicate the population can sustain additional harvest. October 2016 composition surveys estimated 60.9 bulls and 33.6 calves per 100 cows. To keep harvests within sustainable limits, the antlerless season will be closed by emergency order and federal special action when a quota of 20 cow moose is reached. The bull harvest will be closed by similar action when the quota of 20 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 harvest one antlered bull if they have registration permit RM575 in their possession and/or one antlerless moose if they have permit RM576. Hunters are required to have both permits to shoot two moose (one antlered bull and one antlerless moose). Hunters who have already taken a moose in fall 2016 can only harvest one additional moose.

Registration permits will be available at the department's Dillingham office and Togiak Traditional Council office. Successful hunters are required to report to the department's Dillingham 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 the department by February 13, 2017.

For additional information contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, at 907-842-1063.

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