

PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 85.045(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the nonresident antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(16)

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Remainder of Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 moose; of which
 only 1 may be
 an antlered bull;
 a person may not
 take a calf or
 a cow accompanied
 by a calf; or

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

2 antlerless moose; or

Oct. 1–Nov. 30.

2 moose

Dec. 1–Mar. 15

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 30

1 antlerless moose

Dec. 1–Mar. 15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current nonresident antlerless hunt was adopted at the January 2017 Board of Game (board) meeting in Bethel. The board has previously reauthorized the resident antlerless moose season for regulatory year (RY) 2016 and RY2017. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2018.

Implementation of antlerless hunts began in 2007 and has continued each year due to increased moose abundance, productivity, and population growth along the Yukon River drainage in Unit 18. Based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, the Department of Fish and Game proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Within the areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of 17,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 65:100 to 75:100, and twinning rates from 20% to 50% for all areas. Population growth continues to be strong in this portion of Unit 18 and

anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high. The population is expected to continue to grow with high recruitment and adult survival.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized due to the early proposal deadline, we expect harvest to be similar to the past four years and well within sustained yield for this robust population. Allowing antlerless harvest will benefit hunters through increased opportunity, and any increases in harvest may help slow the growth rate of the population in this portion of Unit 18.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-053)
