

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Allow additional moose harvest opportunity in Unit 16A by providing an antlerless hunt and/or an “any bull” hunt as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(14)		
...		
Unit 16(A)		
1 bull per regulatory year as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers Or 50-inch antler or 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow; or	Aug. 10—Aug. 17 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10—Aug. 17
1 bull with spike-fork antlers Or 50-inch antler or 3 or more brow tines on one side; and	Aug. 20—Sept. 25	Aug. 10—Sept. 25

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only; up
to XXX antlerless moose
permits may be issued; or**

**Aug. 20—Sept. 25
(General hunt only)
Nov. 1—Last Day of
February
(General hunt only)**

**1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to XXX permits may be
issued;**

**Aug. 20—Sept. 25
(General hunt only)
Nov. 1—Dec. 15
(General hunt only)**

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the March 2018 Board of Game (board) meeting in Dillingham, the board requested a board proposal to provide additional moose harvest opportunity in Unit 16A by providing an antlerless hunt and/or an “any bull” hunt. Unit 16A is in the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Peninsula Nonsubsistence Area.

In November 2017, after many years of inadequate survey conditions, a complete moose survey was conducted in Unit 16A. The population was estimated at 8,654 moose, which is above the population objective of 3,500–4,000 moose. The population was comprised of 33.4 bulls:100 cows and 36.3 calves:100 cows. This high calf-to-cow ratio suggests that the population is continuing to increase, and the bull:cow ratio, which also exceeds the objective (20–25 bulls:100 cows), indicates that there are surplus bulls in the population.

Over the last five years the average annual moose harvest has been 204 moose; harvest has been increasing and is within the harvest objective of 190–360 moose. Additional resident harvest opportunities provided through a draw hunt structure will provide the necessary harvest to continue to meet harvest objectives as well as to reduce population levels. Two draw hunts are being proposed in addition to the current archery season and general moose season – one antlerless hunt and one “any bull” hunt.

An antlerless hunt would follow the general season dates for moose in Unit 16A, however, there would be another hunt period beginning post-rut on November 1 extending through the winter until the last day of February. Depending on population size and composition, these two hunt periods could be administered through a single draw hunt with two periods or two separate draw hunts, either of which should maximize hunter participation.

The “any bull” draw hunt would also follow the general season dates for moose in Unit 16A in August – September but would add a second hunt period beginning November 1 and ending December 15. This draw opportunity could also be split either into a single draw hunt with two hunt periods or two draw hunts, depending on the needs of management to bring the population composition into management objectives.

These proposed options are in lieu of registration hunts, which can be unwieldy to administer particularly around high population centers.

PROPOSED BY: Board of Game (HQ-F18-072)
