

PROPOSAL 76

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

Establish an “any bull” drawing hunt in Unit 15C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
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 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt; or	Oct. 20—Nov. 20	
1 moose by targeted permit only, or	Oct. 15—Mar. 31	
<u>1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued in combination with the remainder of Unit 15(C)</u>	<u>Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS		
1 bull with 50 inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow Tines on one side; or		Sept. 1—Sept. 25

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 in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt; or

Oct. 20—Nov. 20

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 bull by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued in combination with that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

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? 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. Currently, moose population estimates in the same area are at the upper end of the IM population objective (2,500–3,500) according to a February 2017 geospatial population estimation (GSPE) census (3,529, 95% confidence interval 2,769–4,289). The bull:cow ratio in the traditional composition count area has also increased substantially since reaching a low of nine bulls:100 cows in 2010. The bull:cow ratio in this same area was estimated at 46 bulls:100 cows in 2015, 40 bulls:100 cows in 2016 and 55 bulls:100 cows in 2017. The management objective for this area is 25 bulls:100 cows. Under the current antler restrictions in Unit 15C it is unlikely that IM harvest objectives will be achieved on an annual basis. Adding an “any bull” drawing permit

hunt will provide the opportunity to harvest additional moose while the population and bull:cow ratios are high. Permit numbers (ranging from zero to 200) will be adjusted annually to reflect current population numbers and composition status. If no changes are made to the current hunt structure, harvest will likely remain below IM objectives during a time period when Department of Fish and Game census and composition data indicate the moose population is at the high end of the IM population objective, and also above the management objective for bull:cow ratio. A drawing permit with an “any bull” bag limit will also provide a new opportunity for hunters with reduced potential to harvest an illegal animal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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