

PROPOSAL 83

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

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C as follows:

This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for the Homer benchland and the targeted, antlerless hunt along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C.

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,	Oct. 15—Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 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		Oct. 20—Nov. 20

calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the resident drawing hunt

Remainder of Unit 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)
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1 moose by targeted permit only,	Oct. 15—Mar. 31
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side;	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The antlerless moose season for the Homer benchland (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in 15C would be reauthorized for the 2019–2020 hunting season.

Background: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15C that encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549 often holds high moose densities in winters when deep snow pushes the moose down into human-populated areas. Even without deep snow, moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans are common as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In February 2017, a geospatial population estimation (GSPE) census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,529 moose (95% confidence interval (CI): range 2,769–4,289), of which 19% (95% CI: 14–24) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately three moose/mi² in the census area. Density estimates for the winter are difficult to determine because the areas available to moose vary depending on snowfall, but winter density is consistently higher. Fall composition counts in core count areas during November 2017 provided a bull ratio of 55 bulls:100 cows. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last ten years, resulting in an average harvest of 23 cows annually.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during the winter if they pose a significant threat to highway vehicles. On average, 61 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. The Department of Fish and Game will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt

period. The hunt is administered through a registration permit. The number of permits issued each year will depend on conditions and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-050)
