

ACR 12 – Open a moose hunt in Unit 18 to align with federal subsistence regulations.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 85.045 (16) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. The Department would like to align its regulation with federal changes in the moose season and hunt type in the “Unit 18, that portion south of the Eek River Drainage and north of the Goodnews River Drainage.” Currently, federal lands are closed and state managed lands are open for the month of September. After consultation with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the community of Quinhagak, a shorter season for the state lands and an open season on federal managed lands is desirable. The exact structure (registration permit or harvest ticket) and season dates are undetermined pending input from the ongoing public process on what is desired by the community and state and federal managers. Accepting this ACR now instead of waiting for the regularly scheduled board meeting will allow the state to move in step with the federal process and ensure that state interests are accommodated during the federal process.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? It is in the best interest of the hunters to align the moose hunt on state managed lands with the federal season and bag limit. The new state hunt is proposed to be managed under a state registration permit, rather than the current harvest ticket.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.**
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.**
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**
- 4) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?**
- 5) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?** Federal public land and state managed lands have different seasons and bag limits. The moose population in this area appears to be increasing to a point where there is a desire by the Togiak NWR to open federal lands to hunting. Passing this regulation would align state and federal seasons in an area with a small harvestable surplus.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? State and federal regulations will be out of alignment, and it will result in reduced opportunity for additional allowable harvest.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. This ACR increases the area where people will be able to hunt and does not allocate between users.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. The Department is the hunt manager and is interested in expanding opportunity the regulations for hunters.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING. This is the first time the Board of Game has considered this proposal.