

## **PROPOSAL 22**

### **5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Establish a minimum caliber for moose hunting in Unit 22A and a portion of Unit 22B as follows:

A set minimum .243 caliber size rifle for moose hunting in Units 22A and a portion of 22B in the Koyuk and Inglutalik River drainages.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Minimum rifle caliber for moose hunting in Unit 22A and a portion of Unit 22B in the Koyuk and Inglutalik Rivers drainages. In the last several years, reports of moose being wounded and not recovered have increased. In many instances, young adults (in their teens and twenties) shooting small caliber rifles have been responsible for these reports. In 2022 alone, two moose were harvested in the Unalakleet River drainage that had evidence of rifle wounds. Small caliber bullets were recovered from both. Setting a minimum caliber for moose hunting is one part of a larger effort to better educate hunters in the area. The Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee has been working with ADF&G to increase hunter education classes within communities of the Southern Norton Sound Area. Another possible regulation would be to require one person in a hunting party to possess a larger caliber rifle if there was a young hunter carrying a smaller caliber rifle.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-021)

\*\*\*\*\*