

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 92.108 Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Reduce harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13C as follows:

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
...			
Moose			
...			
GMU 13C	Positive	2,000–3,000	<u>80–200</u> [155–350]
....			

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

Unit 13C is included in an active intensive management program for moose in Unit 13. A long history of harvest and population monitoring has shown that moose abundance has gone through three peaks since 1967 (Figure 41-1).

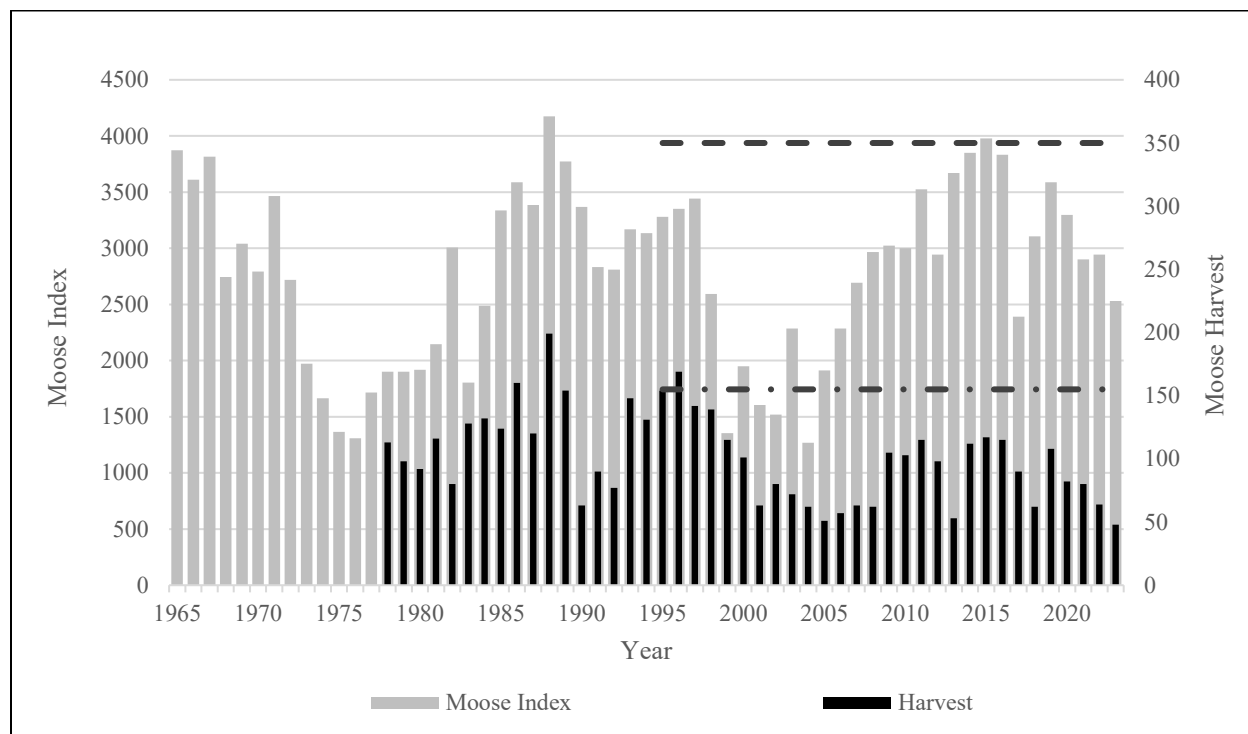


Figure 41-1. Moose abundance index and harvest in Unit13C, RY1965–2023.

Reported harvest numbers are available since 1978, but in those 46 years the minimum harvest objective has only been achieved three single years. The current harvest objectives for Unit 13C are not attainable. Furthermore, the current harvest objectives of 155–350 moose represents roughly 7.2%–10.4% of the current moose population objectives, which is not a sustainable goal. The proposed new harvest objectives for Unit 13C is 80–200 moose, which includes the long-term

(approximately 65 year) average of 102 moose and also reflects harvest levels reported in recent years when moose abundance was at a historically more sustainable level. The historic range (1965-2022) of moose harvest in Unit 13C is 51–199. The new harvest objectives would represent a harvest rate of roughly 3.8%–6.3%.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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