

PROPOSAL 260

5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize a winter antlerless moose season during part of February and March in Unit 21E as follows.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(19)		
...		
Unit 21(E)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 moose, by registration permit only, a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb 15. – Mar. 15	No open season.
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goal is to provide additional harvest opportunity and meet harvest objectives.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game's completed its most current survey in 2022 and it indicated there are approximately 9,300 moose in Unit 21E, which is within the range of the Intensive Management (IM) population objective of 9,000–11,000 moose. There is currently a harvestable surplus of 390 moose; however, many of those moose are not accessible in the fall. Approximately 200 moose are harvested each fall along the rivers. The most recent composition survey in 2024 showed 33 bulls per 100 cows and 41 calves per 100 cows. The IM harvest objective for Unit 21E is 550–1,100 moose.

Within the Unit 21E moose survey area (4,094 mi²), the overall moose density increased from 1.0 moose/mi² in 2000 to 1.9 moose/mi² in 2022. The 2024 2-year average twinning rate in the Holy Cross area was 42%, while north of Anvik and Shageluk (where the moose density is lower) the twinning rate was 56%.

Additional harvest opportunity is available. Furthermore, winter hunts distribute hunter pressure temporally and allow access to areas inaccessible in the fall.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game

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