

## **PROPOSAL 81**

### **5 AAC 85.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C as follows.

| <b>Seasons and Bag Limits</b>                                                                                                        | <b>Resident<br/>Open Season<br/>(Subsistence and<br/>General Hunts)</b> | <b>Nonresident<br/>Open Season</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (4)                                                                                                                                  |                                                                         |                                    |
| ...                                                                                                                                  |                                                                         |                                    |
| Unit 6(C)                                                                                                                            |                                                                         |                                    |
| 1 moose per regulatory year,<br>only as follows:                                                                                     |                                                                         |                                    |
| 1 moose by drawing permit<br>only; up to 40 permits<br>for bulls and up to 20<br>permits for antlerless moose<br>may be issued<br>or | Sept. 1-Oct. 31<br>(General hunt only)                                  | No open season.                    |
| 1 moose by registration permit<br>only;                                                                                              | Nov. 1-Dec. 31                                                          | No open season.                    |
| ...                                                                                                                                  |                                                                         |                                    |

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The department recommends reauthorizing the state antlerless hunt in Unit 6C to achieve the harvest objectives when the federal subsistence hunt is not able to achieve the desired level of harvest.

The population objective in Unit 6C is 600–800 moose. A population estimate completed during March 2023 yielded an estimate of 503 moose, 22% of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, the department has not held the antlerless hunt since regulatory year 99.

The board approved a registration hunt (RM169) to provide additional hunt opportunity if harvestable surplus existed after the administration of federal subsistence hunts. Without an antlerless moose hunt, this hunt cannot function as intended if it is needed. Continuation of the antlerless hunts may be necessary to manage population growth and keep it within the limits of what the habitat can support.

#### **Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F25-033)

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