

PROPOSAL 92

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Shift the moose hunting season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B, from August 20–September 20 to September 1-25 as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

Change 5 AAC 85.045 (13) (A) Kalgin Island section to read: (bold text is changed language)

Unit 15(B) Kalgin Island

(Bag limit:) One moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only

(Season:) Residents and Nonresidents : **SEPTEMBER 1-25** [August 20- Sept. 20]

Explained in text, move the season forward on Kalgin Island to new dates of September 1- 25. This mirrors the season dates on the east side of the Inlet in the rest of Unit 15. The Board of Game made an identical change in 2015 via Proposal 157 with the same reasoning for the general bull season in Unit 15. Although weather has always been inconducive in August for moose hunting on Kalgin, now that due to board action the Island is part of Unit 15B, it is even more apparent that the season should shift forward and mirror the general season in the rest of Unit 15. It will tidy up the regulation book and ease enforcement questions. Cooler weather in September will greatly help bringing down the temperature of the hanging meat. The fly problem will lessen some, as it is beginning to frost at night in September. It will perhaps give those Kalgin hunters a bit of time to relax in camp, eating steak and enjoying the camp life, as they are investing significant personal gas or air/water taxi cost to get there. It is doubtful there is a risk to the herd of overharvest by allowing hunters later in September, because Kalgin is consistently over the population objective (latest population survey 11/29/2024 counted 103 moose, and 107 Registration permits were issued) and consistently under the harvest objective with a five-year average of 22 moose taken annually in this hunt. ADF&G has been trying to reduce this herd for years.

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

At issue are the poor conditions for meat care during the RM572 moose season on Kalgin Island, Unit 15B. Current season dates are August 20 - September 20. During the first half of this season, temperatures are routinely in the 60's or even higher. Rain has returned in force by then as well. These meteorological conditions of high heat and high humidity, coupled with the abundant blowfly numbers, create an extremely difficult, time and resource-consuming, and high-stress environment in which to properly care for 600 plus pounds of hanging moose meat. Hunters on Kalgin Island will also need time to transport by airplane or boat, then on the road system before they can get their meat to a controlled environment where it can be safely hung to age and subsequently butchered. Having an open season in August is, we believe, unethical. If nothing is done to correct this, much delicious wild meat will continue to be lost to heavy trimming or even outright spoilage.

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

This proposal, conceived from comments by local hunters, was developed by the Homer Advisory Committee with input from ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(OI-F25-043)
