

Proposal 102

5 AAC 85.045(a)(17)(B). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize a fall antlerless hunt during September and a winter any-moose season during February in a portion of Unit 19D as follows:

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

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(17)		
...		
Unit 19(D), that portion of the Black River drainage within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River and that portion of the Selatna River drainage north of the Selatna River within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
Unit 19(D), that portion 2 miles on either side of the Kuskokwim River from the Selatna River upstream to the confluence of the South Fork and the North Fork of the Kuskokwim River, and 2 miles on either side of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River from the mouth to Nikolai, and 2 miles on either side of the Takotna River from the mouth to the bridge at Takotna, excluding the Black River drainage and the Selatna River drainage		

...

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb. 1 – Last day of Feb.	No open season
Unit 19(D), that portion of the Black River drainage excluding that portion within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River, and that portion of the Selatna River drainage north of the Selatna River, and excluding that portion with 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
Unit 19(D) Remainder		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 moose by registration permit only;	Feb. 1 – Last day of Feb.	No open season

a person may not take a cow
accompanied by a calf

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

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board).

The moose population in Unit 19D upstream of the Selatna River recently experienced a significant decline due to the extremely difficult winter of 2022–2023. During a November 2023 geospatial population estimate (GSPE), the department documented a decline from 2,471 moose (2.2 moose/mi²) to 1,591 moose (1.4 moose/mi²). Due to this decline, the department closed the winter hunt in regulatory year (RY) 23 by emergency order. In March 2024, the board adopted Proposal 66, which was submitted by the McGrath Advisory Committee (AC) prior to the documented decline, and authorized a new drawing permit hunt in the fall for cows in a portion of Unit 19D. Both hunts were reauthorized by the board in March 2026 with unanimous support from the McGrath AC. To allow the moose population to recover from the 2022–2023 winter decline, the department did not implement any antlerless hunts during RY24 and RY25. While the department does not intend to issue antlerless permits in RY27, the department would like to keep the hunt available as a tool to provide additional opportunity when it is again warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-013)
