

Proposal 124

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

Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during part of February and March in Unit 21E 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
(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	
...		

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. The goal of reauthorizing is to provide additional harvest opportunity and meet harvest objectives.

The most current survey results from 2025 indicated there are approximately 11,400 moose in Unit 21E, which is slightly above the intensive management (IM) population objective of 9,000–11,000 moose. Based on the population estimate of 11,400 moose, there is currently a harvestable surplus of approximately 450 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 fall 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 2.0 moose/mi² in 2025. Twinning surveys were conducted in 2024 and

2025 in the Holy Cross area, and the average twinning rate for those 2 years was 41%. Browse utilization remains high in the Holy Cross area where the population density is highest and winter mortality in deep snow years is a concern.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F26-018)
