

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2012-192-BOG
Subunit 15C Moose
Intensive Management Supplemental Findings
January 18, 2012**

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other users of moose in Subunit 15C. These findings are supplemental to the findings set forth in 5AAC 92.108 and 5AAC 92.125.

1. The moose in Subunit 15C has been identified by the Board as a herd that is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. The Board established an intensive management population objective of 2,500 - 3,500 moose and an intensive management harvest objective of 200 - 350 moose annually for the herd.
2. The population size of the Subunit 15C moose herd is currently estimated to be 2,919 moose (\pm 277) which is within the intensive management population size objective of 2,500 – 3,500 moose.
3. The harvestable surplus of moose in Subunit 15C is currently estimated at about 180 moose, which is less than the harvest objective of 200 – 350. The harvest objective was not achieved in 2011.
4. Low moose calf recruitment has resulted in a reduction in harvestable moose that is predicted to continue without intensive management, and additional hunting restrictions in 2011 further reduced the harvest to only 23 bulls. The bull:cow ratio measured in 2010 and 2011 was 9 bulls and 14 bulls:100 cows respectively and remains below objectives of 20 bulls:100 cows. The decreased moose harvest from Subunit 15C has resulted in a failure to provide for human needs.
5. Recovery of the bull:cow ratio in Subunit 15C to provide adequate harvest will be prolonged unless action is taken to improve calf survival and recruitment.
6. Habitat is not suspected as a limiting factor. Nevertheless, harvest objectives were not achieved in 2011 because of substantial harvest restrictions. Wolf and bear predation have been important causes of mortality in the population. Mortality from predation has contributed to both the problems with calf recruitment and low bull/cow ratios. Objectives are unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future unless predator control is conducted.
7. Increases in moose recruitment and abundance in the Subunit 15C population are achievable utilizing the recognized and prudent active management techniques including predator control in combination with recent habitat improvement from forestry practices, wild land fires and land clearing by land owners.

8. Reducing predation can reasonably be expected to help achieve and help maintain a sex and age structure that will sustain the population, provide for harvest, and allow growth toward objectives.

Vote: 7-0
January 18, 2012
Anchorage, Alaska



Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game