

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Bruce Dale, Director
Region IV, Dillingham Area Office
PO Box 1030
Dillingham, AK 99576



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sam Cotten, Commissioner
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Neil Barten
Dillingham Area Biologist
Phone: (907) 842-1599
neil.barten@alaska.gov



Winter Moose Hunts extended in Game Management Unit 17A

(DILLINGHAM) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, are extending the winter moose hunts in Game Management Unit 17A. The hunting season, which was scheduled to close at midnight on January 20, 2018, will be extended to midnight on February 20, 2018.

Travel conditions have been poor for hunters and access to moose has been impeded by warm temperatures and lack of snow for snowmachine travel. As of January 16, only five cows and four bulls were reported harvested. Moose numbers in Unit 17A exceed the population objective and extending the season allows for more harvest opportunity. Hunter harvests are an important management tool for lowering the moose density in this area.

To keep the harvest within sustainable limits, the antlerless moose hunting season will be closed by emergency order and federal special action if the quota of 30 cows is reached before the February 20 season closing date. The antlered bull season will be closed by similar action if the quota of 20 bulls is reached earlier than the scheduled closing date of February 20.

To participate, hunters must possess a valid 2018 Alaska state hunting license, and at least one state registration permit (RM575 and/or RM576). Hunters will be allowed to shoot one antlered bull if they have registration permit RM575 in their possession and/or one antlerless moose if they have permit RM576. Hunters are required to have both permits to shoot two moose (one antlered bull and one antlerless moose). Hunters who have already taken a moose since July 1, 2017 can only shoot one additional moose.

Registration permits are available at the Dillingham Fish and Game office, Togiak Traditional Council office, and the Manokotak Traditional Council Office. Successful hunters are required to report to the Dillingham Fish

and Game office (phone: 907-842-2334) or the Togiak Traditional Council (phone: 907-493-5003) within 24 hours of killing a moose. All permit reports must be returned to Fish and Game by March 5, 2018.

For additional information, contact Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Dillingham at 907-842-2334; or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge at 907-842-1063.

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