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## **Advisory Announcement**

*For Immediate Release: November 15, 2023*

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### **State Winter Hunt Opens in 22A Central**

(Nome) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order to open the State resident winter season for antlered bull moose by registration permit hunt RM844 in Unit 22(A) Central during the period December 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024 with a harvest quota of 10 antlered bull moose. This winter season will close January 31, 2024 or by subsequent emergency order if the harvest quota is reached before the season closing date.

Moose hunting seasons in Unit 22(A) Central were closed 2005-2007 in response to declines in moose abundance. During this time, the population grew and in November of 2007 the Alaska Board of Game adopted regulations establishing a registration moose hunt with a harvest quota to prevent overharvest. Since that time, the population continued to grow with an estimated 9% annual rate of growth between 2012 and 2017. The department completed a moose abundance survey in Unit 22(A) Central in the spring of 2021 resulting in an estimated abundance of 766 moose (90% CI: 643-888), with 10% recruitment. These results suggest that the population has remained stable 2017-2021. Post-hunt fall moose composition surveys completed in Unit 22(A) Central in 2016 and 2020 indicated that the bull:cow ratio is well above the management objective.

The current reported harvest following the completion of the fall RM841 registration permit hunt is below the estimated harvestable surplus for the hunt area and the department has determined that providing additional harvest opportunity is warranted at this time.

The RM844 hunt area includes that portion of Unit 22(A) within the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of and including the Egavik Creek drainage.

This hunt is open to Alaska residents only and registration permits will be available in person from the license vendor in Unalakleet or online at [hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov) beginning November 15, 2023. The department will be monitoring the harvest closely and all successful hunters are required to report their harvest within 48hrs of the kill, unsuccessful hunters must submit their hunt report by February 15, 2024.

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