

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

September 2005

The Alaska Board of Game will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its **Fall 2005** meeting, to be held **November 11-14**, at the Armory, Kotzebue, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to the regulations governing hunting and the use of game in the Arctic and Western Region, Region V. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and staff have submitted these proposals, which are published essentially as they are received.

The proposals are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXXX] are deletions from the regulation text.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this book. Some regulations have statewide application and some regulations may affect other regions of the state. Also, some proposals recommend changes to multiple areas or regions.

The proposals are set forth in the Table of Contents, which is not in roadmap order for the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the board will generate and make available to the public, a roadmap for deliberations. The roadmap may be changed prior to and during the meeting.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.

After reviewing the proposals, please send written comments to:

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

Public comment, in combination with Advisory Committee comments and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the Board of Game with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Comments may be submitted at any time until the public testimony period for that proposal and/or its subject matter is closed at the meeting and the board begins deliberations. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to mail or fax your written comments to the above Juneau address no later than **5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2005**, to ensure inclusion in the board workbook. All comments received after that time will be presented to board members at the time of the meeting, but may not be printed in the board workbook. Written comments will also be accepted during the board meeting and public testimony during the public testimony portion of the meeting is always appreciated. **Written comments become public documents.**

When providing written comments on the proposals in this proposal book, please consider the following simple tips to help ensure board members and the public more fully understand recommendations to the board:

Timely Submission: Submit written comments by fax or mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Comments received at least two weeks prior to the meeting are printed and cross referenced in the board

members' workbooks. Written comments received after the two-week period will be included in the workbooks as "late comments" and are not cross referenced. Materials received during the meeting also are not cross referenced. If you provide written comments during a board meeting, submit 20 copies to Board Support Section staff, who will distribute your written comments to board members. If including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.

List the Proposal Number: Written comments should indicate the proposal number(s) to which the comments apply. Written comments should specifically state "support" or "opposition" to the proposal(s). This will help ensure written comments are correctly noted for the board members. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate "support as amended" and provide a preferred amendment in writing.

Do Not Use Separate Pages When Commenting on Separate Proposals: If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

Provide an Explanation: Please briefly explain why you are in support or opposition of the proposal. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved in each proposal, not a mere calculation of comments for or against a proposal. Advisory committees and other groups also need to explain the rationale behind recommendations. Minority viewpoints from an advisory committee should be noted in advisory committee minutes along with the majority recommendation. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pro and cons of each issue. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient.

Write Clearly: Comments will be photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins on all sides, allowing for hole punches. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly.

Use the Correct Address or Fax Number: Mail written comments to Board of Game Comments, ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802; or fax them to 907-465-6094; or deliver them to a Regional Boards Support Office.

Pertinent policies and findings, proposals, written comment deadlines, meeting calendars and notices for the Board of Game meetings are posted on the Board Support website at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>.

A tentative agenda for the November 2005 Board of Game meeting is shown on page x. A roadmap detailing the tentative order in which proposals will be considered will be available in October 2005 at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>.

Updated Status of the Meeting: After the board meeting begins, a recorded telephone message will provide current updates on the board's agenda and schedule. Dial (800) 764-8901 (in Juneau, call 465-8901).

Additional Accommodations: Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than October 28, 2005 to make any necessary arrangements.

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
(907) 465-4110

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
FALL 2005 PROPOSAL BOOK
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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE
for 2005/2006 Meeting Cycle
as of August 2005**

	<u>Dates & Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Fall 2005	November 11 – 14, 2005 Kotzebue Proposal Deadline: August 19, 2005 Written Comments: October 28, 2005	Arctic and Western Regions
Winter 2006	January 27 – 29, 2006 Anchorage Proposal Deadline: November 18, 2005 Written Comments: January 13, 2006	Statewide Cycle A
Spring 2006	Dates: TO BE ANNOUNCED Fairbanks Proposal Deadline: TO BE ANNOUNCED Written Comments: TO BE ANNOUNCED	Interior Region

For information about the Board of Game, contact:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526
Phone: (907) 465-4110
Fax: (907) 465-6094
<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us>

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING CYCLE

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. Each region will be discussed on a two-year cycle. When the regional area is before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
(Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Wolf Control Implementation Plans
- Bag Limit for Brown Bears
- Areas Closed To Hunting
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas
- Controlled Use Areas
- Areas Closed To Trapping

Regulations specific to an area (e.g., Permits for Access to Round Island) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that region.

Proposals for changes to regulations pertaining to reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, will be taken up annually, at spring meetings.

The Board of Game does not consider proposals to statewide regulations in every meeting cycle. Instead, the Board of Game reviews statewide regulations on a four-year cycle, distributed between fall meetings, every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated "Cycle A" and "Cycle B" meeting schedule is set forth on the next page of this publication.

<u>Regulations for:</u>	<u>Will be considered:</u>		
SOUTHEAST REGION	Fall 2006	Fall 2008	Fall 2010
Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5			
SOUTHCENTRAL & SOUTHWEST REGIONS	Spring 2007	Spring 2009	Spring 2011
Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17			
All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts			
ARCTIC AND WESTERN REGIONS	Fall 2005	Fall 2007	Fall 2009
Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A			
INTERIOR REGION	Spring 2006	Spring 2008	Spring 2010
Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C			
All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts			

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME STATEWIDE REGULATIONS SCHEDULE

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92 CYCLE “A”: 2006, 2010, 2014, 2020

- .001 Application of this Chapter
- .002 Liability for Violations
- .003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- .004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and Transporting Game
- .005 Policy for Changing Board Agenda
- .010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
- .011 Taking of Game by Proxy
- .012 Licenses and Tags
- .013 Migratory bird hunting guide services
- .018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
- .019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
- .020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
- .025 Permit for Exporting a Raw Skin
- .027 Permit for Exporting Big Game Trophies
- .028 Aviculture Permits
- .029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
- .030 Possession of wolf hybrid prohibited
- .031 Permit for Selling Skins and Trophies
- .033 Permit for Sci., Ed., Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- .034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
- .039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- .047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
- .104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions
- .106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
- .110 Control of predation by wolves
- .115 Control of predation by bears
- .165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- .170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- .171 Sealing of Dall sheep horns
- .200 Purchase and Sale of Game
- .210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
- .220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
- .230 Feeding of Game
- .250 Transfer of Muskoxen for Sci. and Ed. Purposes
- .450 Description of Game Management Units
- .990 Definitions

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92 CYCLE “B”: 2008, 2012, 2016, 2022.

- .009 Obstruction or hindrance of lawful hunting or trapping
- .035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- .037 Permit for Falconry
- .040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
- .041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- .043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- .044 Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures
- .049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- .050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
- .052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- .068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- .070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- .075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- .080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- .085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
- .090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- .095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- .100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
- .130 Restriction to Bag Limit
- .135 Transfer of Possession
- .140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- .150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- .160 Marked or Tagged Game
- .260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
- .400 Emergency Taking of Game
- .410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property
- .420 Taking nuisance wildlife

BOARD OF GAME
As of August 25, 2005

<u>MEMBER'S NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
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Carl M. Morgan, Jr. PO Box 243 Aniak, AK 99557	3/1/2008
Ted Spraker 33350 Skyline Drive Soldotna, Alaska 99669	3/1/2008

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached at:
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4110 FAX: (907) 465-6094

NOTE: Anyone may provide written comments on proposals published in this proposal booklet. To be published in the Board of Game's Fall 2005 Board workbook, written comments must be received via fax or postal service by Boards Support Section personnel no later than 5:00 p.m. October 28, 2005. A postmark is not sufficient. Fax or mail your written comments to Boards Support Section personnel at any of the fax numbers or office addresses provided at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/> or as listed on page viii. Written comments on the proposals contained in this proposal booklet sent to individual board members or to ADF&G personnel, and not to Boards Support Section personnel, will not be published in the Board of Game's Fall 2005 board workbook.

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 25526
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For updated information on the progress of an ongoing Board of Fisheries or Board of Game meeting,
call: Juneau 465-8901; outside Juneau 1-800-764-8901

Website address: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY & ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

Persons planning to testify before Board of Game hearings must fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board's staff. Persons providing written material for the board members must provide at least **20 copies** to the staff; and **submit with your blue testimony card**. Do not wait until it is your turn to testify to submit written material, as it may not be distributed to the board in time for your testimony. **Provide a name and date on the first page of written material and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials.**

When the chairman calls your name, please go to the microphone; state your name and whom you represent. At the front table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking. A yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining. A red light will indicate that your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments.

If you wish to give testimony for more than one group (i.e., yourself plus an organization, or advisory committee), you only need to turn in one sign-up card, listing each group you will be representing. When you begin your testimony, state for the record the group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the first group you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for the second group, give comments for that group.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions. **A person using derogatory or threatening language to the board will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

Generally, the board allows five minutes for oral testimony, whether you testify for yourself or on behalf of an organization. The board chairman will announce the length of time for testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

Advisory Committee representatives are usually allowed 15 minutes to testify, and should restrict testimony relating to what occurred at the advisory committee meeting(s). Testimony should be a brief summary of the minutes of the meeting and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An Advisory Committee representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony.

PLEASE NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions the board members may have for you.

~ DRAFT ~
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Arctic and Western Regions
November 11 – 14, 2005, Kotzebue, Alaska
TENTATIVE AGENDA

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting.

This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda. Persons wishing to testify must sign-up by the deadline. Public testimony will continue until those present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony. The following time blocks are only an estimate. Updated agendas will be posted in the meeting room, or call 1-800-764-8901, or 465-8901 in Juneau, for a recorded message on daily progression through the meeting.

Friday November 11, 2005, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order; Introductions of Board Members and Staff
Board Member Ethics Disclosures
Purpose of Meeting (overview)

STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS: (A complete list will be available at the meeting.)

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY: Oral public testimony will begin immediately upon conclusion of staff reports.

DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY

To be announced at the meeting. Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline and who are present when called by the Chair to testify, are heard.

Saturday, November 12, 2005, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

Sunday, November 13 2005, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS: At conclusion of oral public testimony.

Monday, November 14, 2005, 8:30 AM

Continue/Conclude Board deliberations.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Including Petitions, Findings, Resolutions, Letters, & Other

1. Approve Board of Game meeting calendar for 2006 / 2007;

ADJOURN

SPECIAL NOTES

A. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. A list of staff reports and a roadmap will be available at the meeting. Scheduled updates will be available on the board's recorded message phone. Phone Number: 1-800-764-8901; in Juneau call 465-8901.

B. Advisory Committee representatives may present their reports either at the beginning or end of the "Oral Public Testimony." The committee representative should notify the boards' staff whether they prefer to present their report at the beginning or end of public testimony.

C. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than October 28, 2005 to make any necessary arrangements.

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 85.045 (a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(21)

...
Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1 – Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; **or**

Aug. 1 – Dec. 31

one bull. [OR 1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]

Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
[SEPT. 1 – SEPT. 20]

ISSUE: Total lack of hunting opportunity in Unit 23 for Alaska residents who are not trophy hunters. Currently, Alaska residents without a registration permit are restricted to exactly the same season and antler restrictions as nonresident hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaska residents living in other rural areas who are not trophy hunters will have no opportunity to hunt in the unit because of the high cost of travel to a license vendor in Unit 23 just to get a registration permit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? In the rule change that brought about the registration permit two years ago, the department stated that one of the primary justifications for the current regulation was that “the sex/age structure of a low and declining population could quickly be skewed against large mature bulls.” This proposal would provide for a more balanced harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents who are not trophy hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Historically, very few non-trophy bulls were harvested by Alaska residents who reside outside Unit 23. If this regulation is adopted, a biologically insignificant number of additional moose will be harvested.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: James Szymanski

(HQ-05F-G-015)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Shorten the fall moose hunting season in three portions of Unit 22 adjacent to the Nome road system as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20)		
...		
Remainder of Unit 22(B)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; or	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 14</u> [AUG. 10 – SEPT. 23]	
1 antlered bull by registration permit only;	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		No open season.
...		
Unit 22(D), that portion within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; or	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 14</u> [AUG. 20 – SEPT. 14]	
1 antlered bull by registration permit only; during the period Jan. 1-Jan. 31, a season may be announced by emergency order	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 (To be announced)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		No open season.
Unit 22(D) Southwest, that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage, west of the west bank of the unnamed creek originating at the unit boundary opposite the head- waters of McAdam’s Creek to its confluence with Canyon Creek, and west of the west bank of		

Canyon Creek to its confluence
with Tuksuk Channel

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit
only; or

Sept. 1 – Sept. 14
[AUG. 20 – SEPT. 14]

1 antlered bull by registration
permit only; during the period
Jan. 1-Jan. 31, a season may be
announced by emergency order

Jan. 1 - Jan. 31
(To be announced)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

...

ISSUE: In 2001, in response to declining moose populations, the Alaska Board of Game established registration moose hunts in the heavily hunted, road accessible areas of western Unit 22B, the Kuzitrin River drainage of Unit 22D, and in Unit 22D southwest. In 2003 the Board established a registration hunt in Unit 22C so that all areas along the Nome road system could be included in one registration hunt. At the time registration permits were implemented, different harvest quotas and seasons were established based on differing biological situations and harvest patterns in each area. However, hunting pressure has been high, harvest quotas have been reduced in some areas due to continued declines, and harvest quotas were exceeded despite using emergency orders to close seasons well in advance of published season dates. Over harvest occurred in the Kuzitrin River drainage of Unit 22D in 2003 and 2004, and in western Unit 22B in 2004. When the seasons were closed early by emergency order in 2003 and 2004, hunters shifted their hunting activity to open season areas along the Nome road system that cannot tolerate additional harvest. By shortening the season to two weeks and establishing a uniform season in all road accessible areas, we hope to avoid over harvest and reduce hunting pressure in the areas where serious concerns about declining moose populations exist.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Over harvest will likely continue in areas where the existing seasons are too long for the established harvest quotas. Hunters will continue to shift their efforts from closed areas to open areas along the road system that cannot withstand an increase in harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The short season with many hunters competing for a limited number of moose may impact the quality of the hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long term, all those who hunt moose along the Nome road system.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who hunted during the times when the season will now be closed. Those who are accustomed to the long moose seasons of past years will have to adjust to a short season and intense pressure to get a moose before the quota is filled.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None at this time, however, these proposed changes were enacted by emergency order for the fall 2005 season and we may amend our recommendations after evaluating the fall moose season.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-037)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Close the moose season within the central portion of Unit 22A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20)		
Unit 22A, that portion north of and including the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull	Aug. 1–Sept. 30	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 1–Sept. 14
Unit 22A, that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages	<u>No open season.</u>	<u>No open season.</u>
[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]		
[1 BULL]	[AUG. 15–SEPT. 25]	
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]		[NO OPEN SEASON]
...		

ISSUE: Recent observations of low numbers of adult and yearling moose in Central Unit 22A have raised serious concerns about the status of the moose population in the Unalakleet area. In March 2005 biologists estimated 123 moose in a 2400 square mile census area between the Golsovia and Tagoomenik River drainages including the Unalakleet drainage. The estimated moose density of 0.05 moose per square mile is very low and low recruitment rates (9 yearlings per 100 adults) suggest few moose are surviving to reproductive age. In addition to this low density, further decline has occurred since 1989 when a census of a smaller area (1100 square miles) within the 2005 census area was estimated at 325 moose. The combination of a low moose density, declining population trend and low numbers of yearling moose require eliminating human harvest to allow for conservation of the herd. There is no nonresident harvest in central Unit 22A and resident harvest in recent years has been almost exclusively by Unalakleet residents.

Unalakleet residents are very concerned about declining moose numbers in their area and have had poor moose hunting in recent years. At a meeting of the Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (SNSAC), department staff, committee members and Unalakleet residents discussed options for reducing hunting pressure and further protecting the declining moose population. The preferred option was a closure of the moose season in central Unit 22A with an evaluation to possibly open the season following the next scheduled census in 2008. The SNSAC asks that the situation be reevaluated at that time with the option of reestablishing a hunt if population data supports allowing a limited harvest. The department will continue to evaluate the status of the moose herd and propose a moose harvest as soon as is possible.

Intensive management requirements should be considered due to the closing of moose hunting in this area. The board may need to consider whether this reduction in take is significant, or is considered short-term and of a temporary nature, since the department intends to reopen this area to hunting as soon as the population has recovered.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population has already reached critically low numbers in this area and human harvest would likely contribute to a continued decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long term, all those who hunt moose in central Unit 22A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who want to continue to harvest moose in central Unit 22A in the short term.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A short season or a registration hunt with a limited number of permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-040)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
...		
<u>Unit 18, that portion north and west of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kusilvak Mt. to Mt. Village and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mt. Village (however, portions of this area may be closed to the taking of calves by Emergency Order)</u>		
<u>1 antlered bull</u>	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 30</u>	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 30</u>
<u>1 antlered bull or any calf</u>	<u>Dec. 20 – Jan. 10</u>	

Remainder of Unit 18

1 <u>antlered</u> bull per regulatory year[; DURING THE PERIOD DEC. 1 – FEB. 28, A 10-DAY SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 <u>Dec. 20 – Jan. 10</u> [DEC. 1 – FEB. 28] [(TO BE ANNOUNCED)]	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
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ISSUE: If the proposal passes to change the winter moose season to December 20 – January 10, with an antlered bull bag limit, then this proposal would further change the bag limit in a portion of Unit 18, below Mt. Village to allow the harvest of calves.

Moose populations have increased in this area, survival is high, twinning rates are high, and we understand that additional hunting opportunity is possible without jeopardizing the moose population. We recently embraced a strict management plan that involved a moose hunting moratorium and because that plan has succeeded, we would like to add to the harvest. We support the idea of taking calves as a way to take more moose and we understand the importance of saving cow moose to ensure continued population growth.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population would continue to grow rapidly and hunting opportunity would be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Moose calf meat is of extremely high quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unit 18 moose hunters will benefit, especially those from the area where calves would be legal. These same village residents were the ones responsible for the

successful moose moratorium of the late 1980s and early 1990s that was instrumental in establishing this population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody, unless they do not like the idea of a calf hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave it alone. However, with this growing moose population, there should be a way to allow additional harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Yukon Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-011)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 85.045 (a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Remove the requirement to obtain a bull moose permit for the remainder of Unit 23 in person at licensed vendors within Unit 23 and make it obtainable statewide. Remove the 50-inch antlers or 4 or more brow tines restriction for the harvest hunt September 1 through September 20.

ISSUE: The inability of some rural Alaska residents to obtain a registration permit to hunt moose in Unit 23. Currently, Alaska residents without a registration permit are restricted to exactly the same season and antler restrictions as nonresidents.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaska residents living in other rural areas who are not trophy hunters will have no opportunity to hunt in the unit because of the high cost of travel to a license vendor in Unit 23 just to get a registration permit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The department would know in advance the number of hunters planning to hunt in the unit before the season begins. In the rule change that brought about the registration permit two years ago, the department stated that one of the primary justifications for the current regulation was that “the sex/age structure of a low and declining population could quickly be skewed against large mature bulls”. This proposal would provide for a more balanced harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents of limited means who are not trophy hunters. Some rural residents are unable to obtain the registration permit because of the expense of travel to Unit 23 just to get a permit or they are working in seasonal occupations such as commercial fishing. Without the registration permit these resident hunters must become trophy hunters (over 50-inch or 4 brow tines).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Historically, very few non-trophy bulls were harvested by Alaska residents who reside outside Unit 23. If this regulation is adopted, a biologically insignificant number of additional moose will be harvested.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do away with registration permits and go back to harvest tickets for Alaska residents. It probably would not fly.

PROPOSED BY: Karl Johnson

(HQ-05F-G-014)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Change the resident December moose season in south Unit 22A to January.

ISSUE: The December winter moose season is during short daylight and inclement weather (wind and limited visibility for spotting game). Stebbins residents and St. Michael would like to change from December to January. The Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee discussed this issue in January 2005 and is in support of the change. Stebbins IRA initiated the change and the village of St. Michael concurs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? During the December winter moose season, some will not attempt to hunt. They would prefer to go out when daylight is getting longer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Success rate of harvest would be increased.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of Stebbins and St. Michael.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Fred Pete, Sr.

(HQ-05F-G-003)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the nonresident registration moose hunt in the Remainder of Unit 22D to a drawing hunt as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(20)

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Remainder of Unit 22D

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless

Aug. 10 – Sept. 14

moose may be taken only from Dec. 1 through Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; only antlered moose may be taken from Jan. 1 through Jan. 31

Oct. 1 – Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by **drawing** [REGISTRATION] permit only; **up to 20 permits may be issued**

Sept. 1 – Sept. 14

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ISSUE: In 2003 the Board established a nonresident registration permit hunt to allow a limited amount of nonresident hunting opportunity in the Remainder of Unit 22D. The moose population in this area has not changed and continues to support a nonresident harvest of not more than 10 large bulls. However, complaints from the public recommend replacing the first-come first-serve registration permits with drawing permits to allow a more equitable distribution of permits. In each of the last two years when six permits were issued at the Nome department office, the applicant pool greatly exceeded the available permits and we received many complaints about the unfairness of the registration permit system compared to a lottery-based drawing permit system. We believe drawing permits are preferred by a broad cross-section of nonresidents hunting in Unit 22 where all interested parties (applicants) would have an equal chance of getting permits and successful applicants could make their plans in advance of the hunt. We are requesting the flexibility to issue up to 20 permits but anticipate issuing less than 10 permits in the first year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An unacceptable method of issuing nonresident moose permits will continue to alienate the public and put staff in unnecessarily unpleasant situations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who wants a fair chance of getting a nonresident moose permit in the remainder of Unit 22D.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who have easy access to the place where permits are issued and want to obtain permits for their own clients, relatives, friends or associates. Those interested in obtaining these permits will have to plan ahead to enter the draw.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Remainder of Unit 22D:

Nonresidents: One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit; **10** [SIX] permits available at Nome department offices beginning July 1, 9:00 a.m. regulatory permit for September 1 – September 14

ISSUE: Recently a registration permit hunt was established for nonresident hunters in the remainder of Unit 22D. A limit of up to 10 permits were authorized for the department to release per year. The exact number is at their discretion which was currently set at six. This proposal would require the department to issue all 10 permits each year. In the event over harvest concerns arise, the issue would be brought up at the next board meeting for the Arctic region, scheduled for the fall of 2007.

Looking at the past 15 years harvest levels by nonresidents in the remainder of Unit 22D, harvesting up to 10 moose (each permit does not equal a harvested moose, only the opportunity for a nonresident to harvest a moose) for years 2006 and 2007 could not cause a crisis that could not wait for the next scheduled board meeting.

The portion of Unit 22D covered by the registration permit is very remote and accessed by few hunters. This is an issue of personal concern because I am responsible for the overwhelming majority of nonresident moose and bear hunts in this area. There are very few resident hunters that access the area, outside of Brevig Mission and Teller. I cover the entire area many times each spring and fall, along with adjacent units, and have first-hand knowledge of the moose, bear, musk ox and reindeer populations of the area in question and who actually hunts in the area.

During the past 12 years we have taken many bears out of the area and the moose have begun to stabilize. That particular moose population tends to migrate seasonally north and south and does not directly migrate to the east where it could arguably enhance hunting opportunities of the numerous Nome residents who hunt on or near the road systems of Unit 22D far to the east. Our harvest have no statistical relevance to the opportunity of moose hunters near the road systems of 22D or 22C. We do not ever compete with local rural residents. In any case, the meat resource is transported to the local villages. The only comments I have heard would be to provide more fall harvested moose. The relatively liberal resident moose seasons and a lack of a bull quota for that portion of Unit 22D reflect that these facts are recognized by the department.

The severe limiting of available nonresident moose permits has created completely unnecessary problems between nonresident hunters who come up to hunt on a quality hunt and several Nome residents who wish to hunt with nonresident relatives or legally marginal arrangements with third party nonresident hunters. The fact is that we hunt completely away from these other hunters and never see them in the field. The limit of permits that cover such a large area creates an unnecessarily competitive situation. To maintain a viable operation, a number of permits must be obtained and, if successfully obtained, eliminates the opportunity for certain other people to

experiment with taking out nonresidents in geographically distant areas. The problem is a lack of available permits, not over-hunting the resource or directly competing in the field.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued unnecessary loss of quality moose hunting opportunity in an area where it never was a problem. The implementation of the registration permits was unnecessary and not based on a factual problem. What little private sector business that has been established in the area will be destroyed. The economic benefit to local rural residents and the meat resource delivered to the local elders will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the nonresident moose hunts in this area are high quality and have very low impact on the resource. A negligible number of bulls are taken and virtually all the meat remains in the local area. The economic benefit is enjoyed primarily by local rural residents and Nome service providers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The only private business in the area, all nonresident hunters who wish to have a quality experience, local Nome residents desiring to take out relatives or experiment in informal guiding, local residents who cannot afford to travel that far to obtain quality, fat, fall harvested meat which is delivered to their backyards, in short, everyone involved would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate the registration permit hunt and return to a general nonresident harvest season, with dates September 1 to September 14. This is probably the best solution, as there was no particular reason to implement the registration hunt in the first place. The concept was born two years ago by one individual with no personal, first-hand knowledge of the area or available resources, or realizing the lack of any existing conflict between user groups. The department would probably strongly resist losing control of this issue, and so the proposal to simply require the department to issue all ten permits they are currently authorized, was assumed to be the least disagreeable solution.

The implementation of a drawing hunt is completely unacceptable. The numbers are so small that the overhead and costs involved would be out of proportion, particularly when there is no real need for any of this micromanagement in the first place. The random nature of drawing hunts would most likely often result in completely uninformed persons obtaining permits without any operational focus on how to execute a successful hunt in the area in question. Most permits would be wasted and again the only viable small business in the area would be destroyed. The only way a drawing system should be considered is if the number of permits reflected at least 50 percent to 75 percent wastage factored into the equation. If the goal is to keep the nonresident harvest to between six and 10 moose, the minimum number of drawing permits available should be between 15 and 20, if the board decides to implement a drawing permit system.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Simpson

(HQ-05F-G-008)

**PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
5 AAC 92.540(6). Controlled use areas.** Amend these regulations as follows:

Establish a controlled use area for moose hunting in the Lower Yukon River of Unit 18.

Existing regulation reads:

Unit 18 – that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowitz River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake, then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border, and then north of and including the Eek River drainage. Closed for hunting.

Unit 18 – south of and including the Kanektok River drainages. Closed for hunting.

Unit 18 – remainder-1 antlered bull. September 1 – 30.

A 10-day winter hunt to occur between December 1 and February 28 (1 bull, evidence of sex required) will be opened by emergency order.

Proposed addition to the existing regulation:

Special Provision:

The Lower Yukon controlled use area, consisting of that portion of Unit 18 with a straight line beginning at the confluence of the Pastolik River to Mountain Village, from Mountain Village to the easterly point of Askinuk Mountain approximately three quarter mile west of Kingokthlik Lake, continuing to Cape Romanzof, then north along the coastline back to the confluence of the Pastolik River is closed during moose hunting seasons to the use of aircraft for moose hunting, including transportation of a moose or moose part. However, this does not apply to transportation of a moose or moose part by aircraft between publicly owned airports within the Lower Yukon controlled use area and points outside of the area.

ISSUE: There have been some moose hunters spotting a moose by the use of illegal aircraft, both private and commercial in the proposed area. When a moose is spotted by use of illegal aircraft, a moose hunter, or hunters, hunts the animal within the proposed area on the same day airborne. The problem is poaching by use of aircraft. This is considered to be illegal and unfair to local subsistence moose hunters that use outboard skiffs or a canoe while hunting moose in the proposed area. There also has been nonresident moose hunting reported by local people within the proposed area. There are growing concerns among private land owners in the proposed area who own Village Corporation lands, Native allotments, or inholdings that are being invaded by some of the moose hunters from other areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be increased impacts on subsistence moose hunting opportunities which would have an adverse effect on moose populations in the proposed area. This proposal, if adopted by the board, would contribute towards continuing and ongoing increases of moose population numbers in the proposed area which is very sensitive

and new habitat for moose. Sensitivity of moose habitat in the area proposed consists of mostly wetlands and there is limited cover should any harassment of the animals occur at any time.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposed regulation would enhance subsistence harvest of moose that is much needed for subsistence use by the local rural residents of the proposed area. In the future, there would be increased opportunity for other user groups such as sport/recreation in the area should there be a surplus of animals. Main concern of the local area residents is that when a five year moose moratorium was proposed within the same area, local people agreed to abide by the moratorium and sacrificed much to allow moose population numbers grow in the area proposed despite subsistence harvest needs. Moose moratorium in the area proposed has been used as an example in other areas to establish similar moose moratoriums to protect and enhance moose numbers. Area residents deserve credit for the increased moose populations in the Lower Yukon. Priority consideration should be made for those who have sacrificed and spent the last decade improving subsistence moose hunting opportunity in the area proposed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence moose hunters sacrificed valuable time in the past within the proposed area to allow future harvestable surplus of moose. Therefore, subsistence moose hunters benefit from the past moose moratorium. This new regulation would not have any impact on sport, recreational, commercial, or other uses of the resource because there is no commercial guided moose hunting in the proposed area. Subsistence moose hunters would benefit greatly as in the past, a five year moose moratorium in the proposed area was for the purpose of improved subsistence moose hunting opportunity for the local residents and future generations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Other user groups will not suffer if this proposal is adopted because there is no known other use of the resource in the proposed area. Sport/commercial use of the resource is prohibited within the proposed area on federally managed lands and waters. State managed lands consist of the privately owned native allotments and ANCSA village corporations within the proposed area. Under state hunting laws, access to any privately owned lands is not guaranteed. Landowners may restrict part or all access to the privately lands for any purpose including hunting and fishing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Some solutions considered were public and agency staff comments received during the meetings such as the Regional Advisory Council meetings within the region and the Federal Subsistence board meetings relating to this and similar proposals submitted to the Federal Subsistence board for its consideration. Public comments which were in opposition to the proposed controlled use area in the Lower Yukon River portion of Unit 18 are totally unacceptable by the local users and residents due to the fact that those individuals making such public comments in opposition to a similar proposal previously submitted, do not have their residency within the proposed area of concern, and those submitting such comments are likely the owners of privately owned aircraft.

PROPOSED BY: Harry Wilde, Sr. and Lower Yukon Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-020)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation to allow the following:

Hunters become entered into a drawing by registering at the Nome department office and the first five registries randomly drawn are issued a cow moose permit. Time of drawing is during normal business hours and notification is by mail. The new drawing hunt would be via registration at the Nome office only. The new regulation would also reduce the number of permits from 20 to five. AS 16.05.346 appears to be the only direction as to how drawing permits are to be regulated by the board. That direction appears to allow the department to collect drawing permit applications, a fee for limited permits, and must be fairly governed. I believe that establishing a drawing hunt to be administered by the local department office suffices. The drawing can be crafted to ensure its fairness but also ensuring that local residents are afforded the fair opportunity.

ISSUE: The problem is the process of obtaining cow moose permits for Unit 22C and declining moose populations. Currently persons line up outside the Nome department office to acquire a special cow moose permit a day in advance and maintain a night long vigil or have others line up for them. Persons who have jobs that start early and end late and which would otherwise not allow such absences are not well situated to acquire the cow moose permits. Thus, those persons who wish to acquire the cow moose permits do not, in order to attend to their summer work requirements. Persons may obtain the Unit 22C registration permit, RM850, but may also obtain other Unit 22 registration moose permits. Upon hunting, a person may opt to harvest a bull while still in possession of the cow permit and may not use the Unit 22C cow permit in favor of taking a bull. More than 20 persons wish to hunt cows from Unit 22C but risk employment absences and undue competitiveness, which results in those persons not applying for the RM850 permit. I believe the RM850 permit provides a good opportunity to hunt moose and addresses the concerns raised about their productivity in Unit 22C. However, the current registration hunt does not provide a fair opportunity for persons whose work demands require their attendance. With adequate habitat in neighboring subunits, declining moose populations there would certainly benefit from more cows. It seems plausible those cows would come from Unit 22C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is done, persons who wish to obtain the Unit 22C cow moose permits but cannot because of work demands will not be able. Additionally, removing cows from Unit 22C limits the number of migrants to neighboring Unit 22 subunits. If the problem is solved it is likely that the hunt will look more favorable and certainly more fair and will also set an important precedent. If not solved, the problem of being overly competitive will remain. It would seem that if the department could regulate the RM850 permit under an absolutely fair veil, which only involves the brief submission of registration materials, all concerns could be appeased to make the hunt absolutely fair by random lottery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal improves the quality of the resource harvested by providing permits to moose hunters in a fair distribution. I also believe that reducing the cow harvest in Unit 22C will allow for cow moose to colonize neighboring subunits. Movements of moose during winter apparently occur after it appears moose have fully browsed willowed valleys and search for suitable habitat outside their wintering area. Moose use the shore fast ice to move to other areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Cow moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Wildlife viewers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Statewide drawing permit with normal application procedures. I do not believe that is necessary as it appears that a fair drawing can be accommodated to make a drawing hunt for cow moose favorable to Unit 22 residents.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (HQ-05F-G-028)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. 5 AAC 92.540(10)(A)(ii). Controlled use areas. Within Unit 26A, redefine hunt areas with changes to seasons and hunts, and allow aircraft use with drawing permits as follows:

5 AAC 85.045(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24)		
Unit 26A, that portion in the Colville River drainage <u>upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage</u> [DOWNSTREAM FROM AND INCLUDING THE CHANDLER RIVER]		
1 bull; <u>or</u>	Aug. 1—Sept. 14	No open season.
<u>1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits may be issued; or</u>	<u>Sept. 1—Sept. 14</u>	<u>No open season.</u>
<u>1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf</u>	<u>Feb. 15-Apr. 15</u>	<u>No open season</u>

Unit 26A, that portion west of 156° 00' W. longitude and [NORTH OF 69° 20' N. LATITUDE] excluding the Colville River drainage

1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf[; OR]	<u>July 1—Sept. 14</u> [JULY 1—AUG 31]	No open season.
[ONE BULL]	[SEPT. 1 – SEPT. 14]	[NO OPEN SEASON]
Remainder of Unit 26(A)		
1 bull	<u>Aug. 1—Sept. 14</u> [SEPT. 1—SEPT. 14]	No open season.
...		

5 AAC 92.540(10)(A)(ii). Controlled use areas.

(10) Unit 26:

(A) the Unit 26A Controlled Use Area:

(i) The area consists of Unit 26A

(ii) The area is closed to the use of aircraft for hunting moose, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose from July 1 through September 14 and from January 1 through March 31, **except as provided under terms of a drawing hunt permit**; however, this provision does not apply to the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose by aircraft between publicly owned airports[IN THE AREA].

ISSUE: The Colville River moose population has been gradually increasing since a 75 percent decline in the early 1990s. In 2001 and 2003 the board passed proposals that extended the hunt area and season to provide more hunting opportunity. In addition, the board extended the length of time that the use of aircraft was restricted for moose hunting to prevent over harvest of the recovering population. The population has continued to grow with the total population count increasing from 576-998 between 2002 and 2005. Considering this healthy growth rate, it is safe to increase hunting opportunity and allow a limited amount of aircraft based hunting in the portion of the unit experiencing the greatest population recovery.

To accommodate additional hunting opportunity this proposal creates three hunt areas in Unit 26A with modifications to seasons and bag limits:

- 1) The southern portion of the unit in the Colville River drainage retains an August 1-September 14 bull season, adds a fall resident drawing hunt during September 1 - September 14, and adds a winter general season hunt during February 15 – April 15 for any moose except calf moose and cows accompanied by a calf. Aircraft restrictions apply to all hunting except for the drawing permit hunt.
- 2) In the northwestern portion of the unit, the bag limit and season were changed so that a hunter may harvest an either sex moose (except a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf) from July 1 - September 14 instead of an either sex moose during July and August and bulls-only during September. Aircraft restrictions apply to this hunt area.

- 3) The remainder of Unit 26A covers the northeast portion of the unit, including the Colville River drainage downstream from the Anaktuvuk River and the Ikpikpuk River drainage, and it retains the August 1 - September 14 bull season with aircraft restrictions.

The southern portion of the unit, within the Colville river drainage upstream and including the Anaktuvuk River, has experienced the strongest recovery of moose and this proposal increases harvest by adding a resident drawing permit hunt in September. To accompany the drawing hunt, we recommend that the Controlled Use Area restrictions be changed to allow drawing permit winners to use aircraft while moose hunting. We favor limiting additional harvest through drawing permits to avoid excessive impacts that could occur if we offered an unrestricted general season hunt. Although “up to 40” permits are being proposed, we intend to issue fewer permits until the population fully recovers and hunter success is estimated. The population is still well below the level achieved in the early 1990s, especially in the upper drainages. We suggest that the moose population should be managed by allowing: residents-only hunting, bull-only bag limits in times and places where the majority of harvest occurs, and aircraft restrictions except during September 1-14 for a limited number of drawing permit winners.

In addition to a drawing permit hunt, this proposal also increases hunting opportunity in the southern area by adding a winter season general hunt during February 15 – April 15. This would provide hunting opportunity for hunters from the western North Slope. There are no transporters in that area so the only practical access to this area for them is by snow machine during the late winter. Since it would be difficult to determine the sex of moose during a late winter hunt we are proposing an ‘either sex’ bag limit (except calves and cows accompanied by a calf). We expect a minimal harvest because of difficult hunting conditions and our experience in the early 1990s that shows very few moose have been harvested in winter hunts on the North Slope.

In the northwest part of the unit this proposal increases the length of the either sex season. During the summer a small number of moose disperse into the northwestern part of Unit 26A. The board allowed a hunt in that area in 2003 so that hunters in this portion of the North Slope could occasionally harvest a moose. Currently hunters can harvest either sex moose during July and August and bulls-only in September. In order to simplify the regulation, we proposed increasing the length of the either sex season to include September 1 - September 14. Nearly all moose have moved out of that area by September so it is unlikely that changing the bag limit in September will result in any increase in harvest.

In the northeast portion of the unit (remainder of Unit 26A), we propose to expand the hunt area for the general season bull hunt from August 1 to September 14 to include the Ikpikpuk River.

To make the aircraft restriction language in the Controlled Use Area, (CUA), less confusing, the last three words of Paragraph (10)(A)(ii) are removed by this proposal. The words “in the area” implied that aircraft flights could only originate within the CUA at publicly owned airports. The intention is to restrict the destination of aircraft flights in the CUA and this is accomplished if the words “in the area” are removed. Changing the wording makes it consistent with this requirement as it is applied to other parts of the state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose hunters would be unnecessarily restricted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents who hunt moose on the North Slope

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Local residents that are disturbed by increased aircraft traffic.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leaving the regulation as is, but this would result in lost hunting opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-043)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Any nonresident bull moose permits for Unit 22D-remainder shall be distributed by a random drawing; preferably with the winners identified in the early drawing period of January of the same calendar year as the hunt.

ISSUE: The method in which nonresident bull moose permits are distributed for Unit 22D-remainder.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued “maneuvering” of all parties interested in the permits will persist. For July 2005, a local guide paid six boys \$200.00 each to stand-in for his hunters. Two local residents obtained permits based on a technicality of lining up at the door first. Hard feelings were created and department staff was placed in an awkward position.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? I do not think it will have any bearing on the quality of the resource harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All parties interested in “leveling the field” for distribution of limited moose permits for nonresidents in Unit 22D-remainder.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone who wishes to secure all or the majority of permits by hiring stand-ins or by exercising other unknown strategies.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Auctioning of the permits crossed my mind but this would not be an impartial method of distribution as it would definitely favor those with more disposable funds.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Kelso (HQ-05F-G-002)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Establish a four year moratorium on all moose hunting in central Unit 22A with an option for an emergency order opening following the 2008 census, provided there is significant improvement.

ISSUE: Dramatic reduction in moose population, especially among yearling stocks, in central Unit 22A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued decline in moose population will occur and a potential crash in central Unit 22A.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it allows moose populations in central Unit 22A to recover.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All future moose hunters in central Unit 22A will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Any moose hunters in central Unit 22A who rely on moose will suffer temporarily.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A shortened season was considered but any harvest at this point is inappropriate.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-048)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a nonresident drawing hunt for large bull moose in Unit 22B East, that portion east of the Darby Mountains, and including the drainages of the Kwiniuk, Tubutulik, Koyuk, and Inglutalik Rivers, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(20)

...

Unit 22B **East**, that portion east of the Darby Mountains, and including the drainages of the Kwiniuk, Tubutulik, Koyuk, and Inglutalik Rivers

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; or	Aug. 1-Sept. 30
1 antlered bull	Nov. 1-Dec. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side **by drawing
permit only; up to 10 permits
may be issued**

Nov. 1- Dec. 31

...

ISSUE: This proposal is intended to provide tighter control on nonresident moose harvest in Unit 22B East by using drawing permits in an area where a very limited number of bull moose may be harvested. The drawing permit system preserves nonresident hunting opportunity, allows applicants to receive permits in an equitable manner, and gives the department flexibility to manage harvest based on moose population status.

In response to low moose numbers in Unit 22B East and as an effort to reduce nonresident moose harvest, the board shortened the nonresident moose season in 1999. This action reduced nonresident harvest by 50 percent and yielded a drop in harvest from 12 bulls to six bulls annually. However, by 2004, gradual increases in the number of hunters and success rates have returned nonresident harvest to pre-1999 harvest levels. Since low numbers of moose continue to occur in Unit 22B East, the population cannot support or sustain the current high levels of nonresident harvest. To achieve a reduction in harvest while preserving a long hunting season (preferred by nonresidents because of difficult access and unpredictable weather), we recommend limiting harvest through the use of drawing permits.

The department has not collected census data from Unit 22B East, but since 1999 aerial recruitment surveys have only found 9 to 18 percent yearlings and a steady decline in the total number of moose observed. The decline of the Unit 22B East moose population is consistent with local resident observations and documented declines found in surrounding areas of Unit 22 and Unit 23. At this point, we believe the moose population in Unit 22B East is capable of providing limited harvest for resident and nonresident hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest rates may exceed what we believe the moose population can support and over harvest would contribute to the decline of moose in Unit 22B East.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents, nonresident hunters, and guides are all likely to benefit in the long term from this proposal. In recent years nonresident moose hunting opportunities have declined statewide, but this a proactive step to preserve nonresident hunting opportunity in Unit 22.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-039)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

It would be the responsibility of the Pilot Station Traditional Council, a federally recognized tribe, to request for a 10 day moose hunt for bull only and residents only of the native community of Pilot Station August 20 – 30 of each calendar year.

ISSUE: Possibility of hunters overcrowding on parts of the lower Yukon River during annual Unit 18, September 1 – 30 moose hunt because of the moratorium set for parts of the Yukon River above Russian Mission and most of the Kuskokwim River villages and communities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Pilot Station residents have experienced finding remains of cows and calves on traditional moose hunting grounds, rivers and sloughs. This translates to less chances of bagging bull moose on or near the village because of high traffic.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal improves the chance of more locals to catch the much needed supplement needed to compensate for the cost of living and price of gasoline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All residents of Pilot Station would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered closure to nonresidents of the community using local native corporation to maintain sustainable number of moose in the area but we thought this unfair to neighboring communities.

PROPOSED BY: Pilot Station Traditional Council (HQ-05F-G-030)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
...		
Remainder of Unit 18 1 antlered bull per regulatory year[;	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
DURING THE PERIOD	<u>Dec. 20 – Jan. 10</u>	

DEC. 1 – FEB. 28, A 10-DAY
SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED
BY EMERGENCY ORDER]

[DEC. 1 – FEB. 28]
[(TO BE ANNOUNCED)]

ISSUE: This proposal would change the current winter moose season along the Yukon River to a set December 20 – January 10 season. This longer opening provides a better window of hunting opportunity and better satisfies local concerns regarding season length and weather conditions.

Additionally, this proposal would change the bag limit so that a legal bull must have antlers. We prefer this change because under federal regulations, a legal bull must have antlers and we prefer simplicity in these regulations. We also feel that the season closing date is appropriate because few bulls still carry antlers after this date.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Emergency Order hunt with a 10-day season will continue and dissatisfied hunters will complain if the selected 10-day season had poor weather for hunting.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No change in meat quality is expected if this proposal passes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters would benefit through a longer season by being able to plan their hunt further in advance, because identification of legal animals will be easier, and the antlered bull bag limit would align state regulations with federal regulations which would simplify the regulations. The set season would also benefit the department because it would make hunt administration easier.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The season might start during some years prior to safe travel conditions and it will be harder for hunters to decide whether or not it is safe to hunt. However, this is balanced against the longer hunting season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave it as it is. However, this leaves hunters dissatisfied in some years because of poor travel conditions and the season being closed when the weather is good.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Yukon Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-010)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Permits to resident Alaskans for Unit 23 moose may be obtained by applying either by mail or online.

ISSUE: The requirement to obtain a permit in person at license vendors within Unit 23 villages June 1 through July 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It is cost prohibitive for resident Alaskan hunters from other areas in the state to obtain a permit in person.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska resident hunters; Alaskans who have traditionally hunted in Unit 23 who cannot now because of permit processes and costs to travel for the permit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The locals in Unit 23.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Loomis (HQ-05F-G-013)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Eliminate the nonresident hunt in Unit 22C.

ISSUE: Moose harvest allocation in Unit 22C—moose harvest quotas of Unit 22 have been drastically reduced in recent years resulting in the possibility of intensive management practices.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaskan residents will find it more difficult to harvest moose and subsistence needs will not be met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Residents will not have to compete with other hunters for a severely limited resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident moose harvest may increase and nonresident hunters will not be led to believe there is a realistic possibility of a 50 inch bull.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who could financially benefit from a nonresident hunter.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered adding Units 22B, 22D, and 22E to the proposal but heard testimony that nonresident hunters in those areas hunt in remote locations and often share their meat with disadvantaged locals who were unlikely to have moose meat otherwise.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-023)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation in Unit 18 to change the bag limit to antlered bull and establish a Dec. 20 – Jan. 10 winter season with an antlered bull bag limit in the remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
(16)		
Unit 18, that portion easterly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake then to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border and north of and including the Eek River drainage.	No open season.	No open season.
Unit 18, that portion south of the Eek River drainage		
1 antlered bull per regulatory year; during the period Dec. 1–Feb. 28, a 10-day season may be announced by emergency order	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Feb. 28 (To be announced)	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 18		
1 antlered bull per regulatory year[; DURING THE PERIOD DEC. 1–FEB 28, A 10-DAY SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Dec. 20–Jan. 10 [DEC. 1–FEB. 28] [(TO BE ANNOUNCED)]	Sept. 1–Sept. 30

ISSUE: The current winter moose season in the “remainder of Unit 18” (generally described as along the Yukon River) is a 10-day “to be announced” season between December 1 and February 28 and an effort is made to announce this season with travel conditions, holidays, weather conditions, antler drop, and village based social concerns (i.e., safety, funerals, fishing success, etc.) taken into consideration. To address when to open concurrent state and federal seasons, the department and the US Fish and Wildlife Service collaborate to conduct a poll of the Yukon River villages and follow their advice. This has been cumbersome and we regularly hear from resident hunters dissatisfied with this season, generally because hunting opportunity is lost due to bad weather.

This proposal would change the current season to a set December 20 – January 10 season. This longer opening provides a better window of hunting opportunity and better satisfies local concerns listed above.

Additionally, this proposal would change the bag limit so that a legal bull in Unit 18 must have antlers. We prefer this change for the sake of simplicity because under federal regulations, a legal bull must have antlers and we have a strong, mutual interest in having equivalent state and federal seasons and bag limits. Furthermore, we have reason to believe that the current bag limit contributes to cows being shot.

Most importantly, opening the winter season for antlered bulls after enough bulls have dropped their antlers provides sufficient survival to extend the winter season without risking overharvest. The season closing date was chosen because few bulls still carry antlers after this date.

Federal managers have indicated that if this proposal is passed, they would submit an equivalent proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We would continue to hold and administer an Emergency Order (EO) hunt with a 10-day season and will continue to field complaints from dissatisfied hunters who believe the selected 10 days were inadequate. Cows will continue to be lost and there will continue to be uncertainty about when the season will be held. Hunting opportunity will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No perceptible change in meat quality is expected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters would benefit through a longer season on the Yukon and by being able to plan their hunt further in advance.

The set season would benefit the department because it would facilitate hunt administration. The set season and the antlered bull bag limit would aid enforcement efforts by allowing them to plan their activities during the holiday season and facilitating identification of legal animals. Furthermore, the antlered bull bag limit would align state and federal regulations which would assist enforcement efforts by both agencies.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The longer season would make it more difficult for enforcement personnel to patrol throughout the entire season and less effort on their part is likely. Also, because the season might start during some years prior to safe-travel conditions, hunters will have to use their judgment in deciding whether it is safe to hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered leaving the season as is but rejected it because an EO opening is cumbersome; a 10-day season doesn't provide as much hunting opportunity. Poor weather often ruins a large portion of a short season.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-033)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation in Unit 18 to establish a new hunt area along the Yukon River with a fall and winter season, an antlered bull bag limit, and a winter bag limit to include calf moose, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(16) Unit 18, that portion easterly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake then to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border and north of and including the Eek River drainage.	No open season.	No open season.
Unit 18, that portion south of the Eek River drainage	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Feb. 28 (To be announced)	No open season.
1 bull per regulatory year; during the period Dec. 1–Feb. 28, a 10-day season may be announced by emergency order		
<u>Unit 18, that portion north and west of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kusilvak Mt. to Mt. Village and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mt. Village</u>		
<u>1 antlered bull; or</u>	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 30</u>	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 30</u>
<u>1 antlered bull or 1 calf</u>	<u>Dec. 20–Jan. 10</u>	
Remainder of Unit 18 1 bull per regulatory year; during the period Dec. 1–Feb. 28, a 10-day season may be announced by emergency order	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Feb. 28 (To be announced)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30

ISSUE: If the department proposal passes changing the winter moose season to December 20 – January 10 with an antlered bull bag limit, then this proposal would further change the bag limit in a portion of Unit 18, below Mt. Village to allow the harvest of calves.

The moose population along the Yukon River downriver from Mt. Village has increased rapidly in response to a moose management plan that included a moose hunting moratorium and continued adherence to a bulls-only bag limit. In the past we increased the season length and added a winter season, yet we continue to see rapid population growth.

This area has only recently been colonized by moose, and no track record has been established to evaluate long-term carrying capacity. Recent habitat assessments indicate greater use of browse but habitat measures are difficult to assess for populations growing at rapid rates. We believe that the area can support more moose, but there is a potential to overshoot carrying capacity in coming years. This suggests a need to continue to manage carefully through regulatory changes in the future.

This proposal would allow us to provide for high levels of human consumptive use and slow population growth to more manageable levels by allowing the harvest of calves during the winter hunt. The department would have the ability to close portions of the area, or all of the area, to the taking of calves by Emergency Order (EO) to assure sufficient recruitment if surveys reveal that a calf hunt is not warranted during any particular year.

This harvest strategy has the important benefit of not limiting participation through issuing of permits. Drawing and registration permits for residents of remote villages are problematic. The other strategy considered, harvest quotas followed by emergency season closures are also difficult to manage than the preferred alternative of this proposal.

This proposal also has the important benefit of providing significant harvest opportunities for a group of villages that recently embraced a strict management plan that involved a moose hunting moratorium. With the success of such a plan should come increased harvest opportunity.

Federal managers have indicated that if this proposal is passed, they would submit an equivalent proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population would continue to grow rapidly, risking growth beyond the ability of the habitat to support it. Over the long-term, hunting opportunity would be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Moose calf meat is high quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Only Unit 18 residents are eligible to participate in moose hunting under federal regulations and most of the unit is subject to federal regulations. These residents, especially those who participated in the moose management plan below Mt. Village, are likely to benefit most from this hunt. However, all unit residents will benefit through the example of a successful management plan, including those participating in moose closures in other parts of the unit who are hoping to emulate this success.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to hunting calf moose may dislike this proposal.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered a drawing permit hunt for calves, but rejected it because it would be difficult to provide sufficient access to materials and education regarding this type of hunt and we did not believe that the added control of a permit hunt provided any benefits.

We also considered a drawing permit hunt for any moose, however, we would not be able to harvest as many moose under such a strategy. This would decrease population productivity as adult cows were lost. We are also reluctant to suggest a hunt that would include adult cows because we have educational efforts underway in other portions of Unit 18 that conflict with the idea of a cow hunt. We work hard to dispel rumors of legal cow hunts under senior citizen licenses and other scenarios that are believed to be true by some segments of the public. We prefer to not confuse the issue, though a cow hunt may be a useful tool in future years.

We considered two scenarios using registration permits and both would be expensive and complicated to administer. Under the first scenario, permits would be available in unlimited numbers and we would close the season by EO after a target harvest quota is reached. Under the second registration permit hunt scenario we would offer a limited number of permits in the nearby villages on a first come, first served basis. We rejected these options because it would be difficult to provide adequate access to permits, and to obtain harvest reports in a timely manner. If the Department needed to issue an EO closure, it would be difficult to inform hunters in the field of the season closure.

In summary, all permit hunt options would restrict participation unnecessarily, they would be difficult to administer, and it would be difficult to educate the local public on how these hunts would proceed. We would expect significant frustration with these permit hunts and we would expect compliance problems.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-034)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation to remove the winter season announcement in the portion of Unit 18 south of the Eek River drainage as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
(16)		
...		
Unit 18, that portion south of the Eek River drainage		
1 bull per regulatory year[; DURING THE PERIOD DEC. 1–FEB. 28, A 10-DAY	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 [DEC. 1–FEB. 28] [(TO BE ANNOUNCED)]	No open season.

SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED
BY EMERGENCY ORDER]

...

ISSUE: This proposal eliminates the winter moose season in that portion of Unit 18 south of the Eek River drainage. This season has not been opened since the 1999-2000 regulatory year. Since then, a complete moose hunting moratorium was implemented north of the Eek River drainage and another is being proposed south of the Kanektok River drainage.

The low moose population in this area does not justify a winter opening while adjacent moose hunting moratoria are in effect; opening the winter season within this area is biologically inappropriate. We expect moose populations to respond to current cooperative moose management strategies within, and south and east of the Kuskokwim River drainage. When moose populations increase a winter season should be reevaluated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We would continue to have a winter hunt south of the Eek River drainage on the books, but we would not issue an Emergency Order to open the season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters will benefit because they will not be deceived into planning a moose hunt south of the Eek River drainage that will not take place.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Typically those unable to use a season that has been eliminated would be adversely affected; however, since this season hasn't been opened, no one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered keeping the status quo, but rejected it because leaving the season on the books is misleading.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-031)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation to establish "no open season" for the area south of and including the Goodnews River drainage in Unit 18, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 18, that portion easterly of a line from the mouth of the	No open season.	No open season.

Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake then to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border and north of and including the Eek River drainage, **and that portion south of and including the Goodnews River drainage**

Unit 18, that portion south of the Eek River drainage **and north of the Goodnews River drainage**

1 bull per regulatory year; during the period Dec. 1–Feb. 28, a 10-day season may be announced by emergency order

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
Dec. 1–Feb. 28
(To be announced)

No open season.

...

ISSUE: The current moose population in this area is about 20 moose. Moose are recent immigrants in the area and have not been present in high numbers. This closure is part of a strategy to establish a moose population in the southern drainages of Unit 18 and was coordinated with Goodnews Bay, Platinum, and the USFWS Togiak Refuge office in Dillingham. We had previously closed this season by emergency order (EO) and will reopen this season when we are able to count 200 moose in the Goodnews River drainage.

Under federal regulations, there is no open moose season in this area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The number of moose in the area will remain the same.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters desiring to harvest moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some moose are currently harvested in the open fall season. A few hunters will not be able to hunt this area for a few years.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered leaving the season as is and continuing to issue EO closures until we could count 200 moose. This approach has the advantage of allowing us to reopen the season in an administratively simple and timely manner if

the moose population reaches our goal when the board is not scheduled to meet. However, this is a decision best left to the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-032)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 92.011(a). Taking of game by proxy. Amend the regulation as follows:

(a) A resident hunter (the proxy) holding a valid resident hunting license may take only moose, caribou, **muskoxen** and deer for another resident (the beneficiary) who is blind, physically disabled, or 65 years of age or older, as authorized by AS 16.05.405.

...

ISSUE: Much of the muskox harvest in Alaska is by subsistence Tier II and Tier I permit. Permit holders are often subsistence hunters responsible for feeding many people in their families and communities. In the event that a permit holder is elderly or becomes disabled, it is reasonable that they be allowed to designate a proxy to provide them and their dependents with muskox meat, just as they are able to do with caribou and moose.

Since 1998 when Tier II muskox hunting began on the Seward Peninsula there have been repeated requests for authorization of proxy hunting by permit holders who are physically disabled or 65 years old or older and the issue is brought up regularly at public meetings concerning muskox hunting on the Seward Peninsula. Proxy authorization for muskoxen will likely increase success rates in subsistence hunts and make it possible to achieve harvest quotas with the number of permits that are being issued.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Those depending on the permit winner to provide meat will continue to lose out and permits will continue to go unfilled in the event that a permit holder becomes disabled.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Elderly and disabled permit winners and their dependants who want to have a proxy hunt for them.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Peninsula MuskOx Cooperators Group, Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee, Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committee, Noatak-Kivalina Advisory Committee, Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee, and Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-016)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 85.050(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.
Amend the regulation as follows:

Unit 22E: Residents: One bull by permit	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15
or one muskox by permit	Jan. 1 – Mar. 15
or one bull four years old or older by permit	<u>Aug. 1</u> [FEB. 1] – Mar. 15
<u>Nonresidents: One bull four years old or older by permit</u>	<u>Aug. 1 – Mar. 15</u>

The proposed regulation change would amend the existing drawing permit, or create a new permit identical to existing (including the season changes requested in a sister proposal if adopted) that would reserve 20 percent (one in five permits) to be awarded to nonresident hunters. Fractions would be rounded down in determining the percentage assigned to nonresidents.

ISSUE: Currently the drawing muskox permits are only available to resident hunters. Nonresident hunters should have a percentage of the drawing permits assigned to them.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonresidents will continue to be denied access to this resource, in which their taxes and public lands have been used to reintroduce this sought after species.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the Seward Peninsula muskoxen are a unique resource. The drawing permit hunt creates opportunity for statewide residents to have the opportunity to hunt these animals. There is currently no provision for all American hunters to have this opportunity. Yet, through excise taxes, licensing and tag fees, nonresident outdoor enthusiasts have helped fund the reintroduction of these animals. The muskox also utilizes public range lands that are the property of all Americans. We are always told how beneficial the public lands lock-up is good for Alaska and that it is the property of all Americans. However, most Americans are shut out from any benefits this lock-up may have produced for them.

There is also the issue of economic development in rural Alaska. The same state employees and grant writers visit rural Alaska with endless failed plans for economic development. Nothing practical is ever suggested to create the opportunity for citizens to actually create a viable private sector economy. The muskox resource is just another example of how our resources are wasted. Third world countries create better opportunities than Alaska.

This valuable resource is best managed by allowing for the local subsistence needs to be adequately met, and then preserving the trophy quality of the herd to allow for an excellent trophy hunt through the permit system. This drawing permit system should provide all Alaska residents and American residents some chance of drawing one of these sought-after permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Virtually all Americans who wish to have a chance to hunt muskox. Airlines into Alaska, hotels, restaurants and service providers from Anchorage to Nome and Shishmaref, local residents of Unit 22 and specifically Unit 22E would all benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Two or three Alaska residents annually would be displaced by a nonresident obtaining a permit. Alaska residents retain the overwhelming majority of all permits available if this proposal is adopted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The other solution is to do nothing which is unjust to the vast majority of America’s hunters who wish to have a chance of a lifetime hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Simpson (HQ-05F-G-006)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.050(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen. Amend the regulation as follows:

Remove references to harvest quotas and replace with harvest rates. Additionally, harvest rates should be increased to no less than 8 percent but no higher than 10 percent in all Unit 22 subunits. Muskox have sustained harvest rates below 5 percent and still experience growth greater than 8 percent—most Unit 22 subunits enjoy growth of approximately 14 percent. It seems clear that muskox can sustain higher harvests. Without knowing how muskoxen respond to higher harvest rates we lack the necessary information to manage muskox under varying conditions and events.

ISSUE: I would like the board to address increasing muskox populations by removing harvestable quotas and replacing harvest quotas with harvest rates. Muskox have been experiencing growth and expansion throughout all of Unit 22 since their introduction and I believe are moving into neighboring units. Current harvest quotas do not allow the department to issue additional permits when it appears muskox can sustain additional hunting. I believe harvest rates in all Unit 22 subunits should be increased to no less than 8 percent and no greater than 10 percent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the problem is not solved, muskox hunting will remain limited and not take advantage of the growth that has been taking place since their introduction. Many more people apply for muskox permits than are currently distributed and with more restrictive moose seasons, muskox are a replacement for moose.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal does address improving the resource harvested. Understanding the dynamics of this vastly growing population and taking advantage of a growing resource for subsistence by understanding its response to higher harvests is beneficial. Eight percent growth fits well with harvest rates I am proposing. In all previous years the quota has never been reached except in February 1 – March 15 season and is likely to remain unachieved because of the difficulties in some hunt areas and other social factors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Muskox hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Muskox viewers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Higher quotas, rejected because that idea still does not allow the department to change the number of permits in time with measured population increases or decreases.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk

(HQ-05F-G-027)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 85.050(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.

Amend the regulation as follows:

Unit 22E: Residents: One bull by permit
or one muskox by permit
or one bull four years old or older by permit

Aug. 1 – Mar. 15

Jan. 1 – Mar. 15

Aug. 1 [FEB 1] – Mar. 15

ISSUE: Currently the drawing permit hunt for muskox commences February 1. The Tier II hunt commences August 1. Both hunts end March 15. The proposed regulation change would align the two seasons. The drawing permits are valid for hunting until the season closes and is not closed early by Emergency Order when a certain quota of bulls is harvested, as is the Tier II hunt. Therefore changing the drawing hunt opening dates does not conflict with the quotas or opportunity of the Tier II permit holders.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? N/A.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the fall opportunity is more varied and for some hunters more enjoyable. Those hunters who prefer to hunt late winter shall be able to do so. As most of the ox harvested are done so by Tier II and federal permits, and these seasons already commence August 1, there is no conflict with the quality of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All permit holders would have a longer season to hunt for their muskox, and could combine other fall hunting opportunity during their hunt. Many of the permit hunters have expressed the desire to hunt caribou during their hunt for muskox. Fall caribou are preferable to late winter caribou, and the whole experience can be more varied and enjoyable. Grizzly bear could also be hunted in combination with muskox during the fall, with essentially zero opportunity in the late winter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, as explained earlier.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The other solution is to do nothing, which would unnecessarily leave the drawing permit hunt opportunity less than what it should be.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Simpson

(HQ-05F-G-005)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.050(a)(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.

Amend the regulation as follows:

In Unit 18, the taking of muskoxen in Mekoryuk shall be limited to residents only with a bag limit of two animals per family.

ISSUE: I would like to address letting nonresidents and some people in Mekoryuk having two and more muskox per family.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be problems within the community and there will be a waste of muskoxen meat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, that way all residents in Mekoryuk can have meat for their families.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who just want the hides.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Mary E. Amos (HQ-05F-G-001)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 85.050(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for muskoxen. 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Amend the regulations as follows:

- 1) increase the allowable harvest rate for muskoxen in Units 22D Southwest and Unit 23 Southwest from 5 percent to up to 8 percent with an allowable cow harvest of up to 4 percent;
- 2) add Unit 22A with “no open season” to muskox regulations;
- 3) simplify the existing regulations on the Seward Peninsula for Unit 22B, Unit 22D, and Unit 23 Southwest; and
- 4) replace the “up to” numbers of muskoxen that can be taken in Unit 22B, Unit 22D and Unit 23 Southwest with harvest guideline levels.

Note: similar proposals for simplification of regulations and use of harvest rates for Units 22C and 22E have been submitted separately

5 AAC 85.050 (a)(2) Hunting seasons and bag limits for muskoxen.

Units and Bag Limits (2)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<u>Unit 22(A)</u>	<u>No open season.</u>	<u>No open season.</u>
[UNIT 22B, THAT PORTION WITHIN THE FOX RIVER DRAINAGE UPSTREAM OF THE FOX RIVER BRIDGE, AND WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE FOX	[NOV. 1- MAR. 15] [(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]	[NO OPEN SEASON]

RIVER BRIDGE, AND WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE COUNCIL ROAD EAST OF THE FOX RIVER BRIDGE]

[1 BULL BY TIER II SUBSISTENCE HUNTING PERMIT ONLY; THE TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 16 BULLS IN UNIT 22B]

[REMAINDER OF]Unit 22B

Aug. 1- Mar. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season

1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only[; THE TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 16 BULLS IN UNIT 22B]

...

Unit 22D Southwest, that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage, west of the west bank of the unnamed creek originating at the unit boundary opposite the headwaters of McAdam's Creek to its confluence with Canyon Creek, and west of the west bank of Canyon Creek to its confluence with Tuksuk Channel

1 muskox per regulatory year by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only[; HOWEVER, COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY DURING THE PERIOD JAN. 1 – MAR. 15, UP TO 9 MUSK OXEN MAY BE TAKEN; HOWEVER, NOT MORE THAN 4 COWS MAY BE TAKEN; TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 9 MUSK OXEN IN

[SEPT. 1 – MAR. 15] No open season
[(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

UNIT 22D SOUTHWEST]

[UNIT 22D THE PILGRIM
RIVER DRAINAGE]

[1 MUSK OX PER REGULATORY
YEAR BY TIER II
SUBSISTENCE HUNTING
PERMIT ONLY; HOWEVER,
COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY
DURING THE PERIOD JAN. 1 –
MAR. 15, UP TO 41
MUSK OXEN MAY BE TAKEN
IN COMBINATION WITH THE
REMAINDER OF UNIT 22D;
HOWEVER, NOT MORE THAN 17
COWS MAY BE TAKEN AND TOTAL
HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 41
MUSK OXEN IN UNIT 22D
EXCLUDING UNIT 22D
SOUTHWEST]

[NOV. 1- MAR. 15]
[(SUBSISTENCE HUNT
ONLY)]

[NO OPEN SEASON]

Remainder of Unit 22D

1 musk ox per regulatory
year by Tier II
subsistence hunting
permit only[; HOWEVER,
COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY
DURING THE PERIOD
JAN. 1 – MAR. 15, UP TO
41 MUSK OXEN MAY BE TAKEN
IN COMBINATION WITH UNIT 22D
UPPER PILGRIM RIVER; HOWEVER,
NOT MORE THAN 17 COWS MAY BE
TAKEN AND TOTAL HARVEST MAY
NOT EXCEED 41 MUSK OXEN IN
UNIT 22D EXCLUDING UNIT
22D SOUTHWEST]

Aug. 1- Mar. 15
(Subsistence hunt
only)

No open season

...

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 22]

[NO OPEN SEASON.]

[NO OPEN SEASON.]

Unit 23 Southwest, that
Portion on the Seward Peninsula

West of and including the
Buckland River drainage

1 musk ox per regulatory
year by Tier II
subsistence hunting
permit only[; HOWEVER,
COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY
DURING THE PERIOD
JAN 1 – MAR. 15, UP TO
17 MUSK OXEN MAY BE TAKEN;
HOWEVER, NOT MORE THAN
7 COWS MAY BE TAKEN AND
TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT
EXCEED 17 MUSK OXEN IN
UNIT 23(SOUTHWEST)]

Aug. 1-Mar. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season

...

5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. For purposes of management of the named species, the department shall manage harvest by hunting and trapping as follows:

(1) wolves: the annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should not exceed 30 percent of the unitwide, preseason population as estimated by the department;

(2) black bears: the annual harvest of black bears on Kuiu Island in Unit 3 by nonresident hunters shall be managed so that in any given consecutive three-year period, the average annual harvest does not exceed 120 bears.

(3) musk oxen: The annual combined state and federal harvest of muskoxen, and cows where specified, in Units 22 and 23 will not exceed the following percentages of the current population estimate in each hunt area.

(i) 22(B) – 5 percent (bulls only)

...

(iii) 22(D) Remainder – 5 percent (2 percent cows)

(iv) 22(D) Southwest – 8 percent (4 percent cows)

...

(vi) 23 SW – 8 percent (4 percent cows)

Note: new regulatory language for sub-paragraphs (ii) and (v) is shown in additional proposals for muskox by the authors of this proposal.

ISSUE: Muskoxen on the Seward Peninsula have exhibited population growth and range expansion under recent years of conservative harvest rates endorsed by the board. Harvest management and regulations need to be updated to respond to three population conditions on the peninsula:

- 1) colonization of new areas,
- 2) continued growth and expansion in other areas, and
- 3) population stability in remaining areas.

This proposal recommends changes in Units 22A, 22B, 22D and Unit 23 Southwest based on population status and harvest rates supported by the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators and the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee at their meetings in Nome during June 2005. Two other proposals, one for Unit 22C and one for Unit 22E, should be consulted to see the complete package of changes for Seward Peninsula muskox submitted by the authors.

As muskox expand and colonize new range they need to be protected from harvest so the initial population can grow. A few muskox groups are now reported in Unit 22A, an area that is not individually identified in the regulations. This proposal establishes “No open season” in Unit 22A to emphasize that no harvest is allowed in this area while being colonized by muskox.

In past years, conservative harvest rates of 5 percent have been used to allow muskox to increase their population and expand their range on the Seward Peninsula. In Unit 22B the population continues to experience growth and expansion and the Cooperators recommend continuing a conservative 5 percent bull-only harvest in this area to promote continued herd growth.

In contrast, Units 22D Southwest and Unit 23 Southwest are areas where population growth appears to have stabilized and significant increases in muskox numbers are no longer expected. The Cooperators believe it is time to begin harvesting at a higher, yet sustainable, level and suggest testing an “up to 8 percent” harvest rate with “up to a 4 percent” cow harvest in Units 22D Southwest and Unit 23 Southwest. Both areas adjoin units where an 8 percent harvest rate is either already adopted Unit 22E or proposed Unit 22C. Considerable movement of animals is believed to occur between these adjoining areas, making uniform harvest rates appropriate. Although population growth has also stabilized in the remainder of Unit 22D, the Cooperators recommend retaining the more conservative 5 percent harvest rate in this large hunt area until the effects of an 8 percent harvest rate on population size and composition has been assessed in these other areas.

The Cooperators recommend expressing harvest limits in the codified regulation as harvest rates rather than as harvest quotas. Using a rate-based method maximizes flexibility to adjust quotas as populations fluctuate. For simplification purposes, harvest rates have been added to the Harvest Guideline regulation and they replace the harvest limits that are currently in the season and bag limit regulation. Further simplification eliminates the language describing sub-areas with differing season dates as we understand the department has the ability to establish hunt areas, seasons, and quotas within the overall framework of regulations approved by the board. The Cooperators have a good working relationship with the department and we anticipate no changes to existing season dates or bag limits as a result of this effort to simplify the muskox regulation for the Seward Peninsula.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional opportunity to harvest muskox on the Seward Peninsula will be unnecessarily lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who want to harvest muskox on the Seward Peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Group, Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee, Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committee, Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee, and Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-019)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 85.050(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen. 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Change the existing hunt area boundaries and season dates in Unit 22C, and adopt harvest guideline levels for managing total harvest and cow harvest as follows:

5 AAC 85.050(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for muskoxen.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
...		

Unit 22C, that portion **excluding the eastern portion of the Penny River drainage (east of the east bank), the Snake River drainage, the portion of the Nome River drainage downstream from and including Hobson Creek drainage and Rocky Mountain Creek drainage, and the western portion of the Flambeau River drainage (west of the west bank) extending along Safety Sound to Safety Bridge, and all additional drainages flowing to Norton Sound between Safety Bridge and the**

mouth of the Penny River

[WEST OF THE WEST BANK OF THE BONANZA RIVER, NORTH OF THE NORTH BANK OF BONANZA CHANNEL AND SAFETY SOUND, EAST OF THE EAST BANK OF THE FLOWAGE CONNECTING SAFETY SOUND WITH THE CONFLUENCE OF THE ELDORADO AND FLAMBEAU RIVERS, AND EAST OF AND INCLUDING THE ELDORADO RIVER DRAINAGE]

1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only[; UP TO 3 BULLS MAY BE TAKEN]

Jan. 1 – Mar. 15
[AUG. 1 - SEPT. 30]
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season

[UNIT 22(C), THAT PORTION WEST OF THE WEST BANK OF THE SINUK RIVER]

[FEB. 1 – MAR. 15] [NO OPEN SEASON]
[(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

[1 BULL BY TIER II SUBSISTENCE HUNTING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 3 BULLS MAY BE TAKEN]

Remainder of Unit 22C

No open season

No open season

...

5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. For purposes of management of the named species, the department shall manage harvest by hunting and trapping as follows:

(1) wolves: the annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should not exceed 30 percent of the unitwide, preseason population as estimated by the department;

(2) black bears: the annual harvest of black bears on Kuiu Island in Unit 3 by nonresident hunters shall be managed so that in any given consecutive three-year period, the average annual harvest does not exceed 120 bears.

(3) musk oxen: The annual combined state and federal harvest of muskoxen, and cow harvest where specified, in Units 22 and 23 will not exceed the following percentages of the current population estimate in each hunt area.

...

(ii) 22C – 8 percent (bulls only)

...

Note: new regulatory language for sub-paragraphs (i), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) is shown in additional proposals for muskox by the authors of this proposal.

ISSUE: Tier II muskox hunts have existed in Unit 22C since 2001. Hunt areas, seasons, and bag limits were originally developed to provide limited subsistence hunting opportunity, protect areas for muskox viewing, and allow growth and range expansion of the muskox population. Since recent population data suggests the Unit 22C muskoxen population has stabilized and significant population growth is not expected in the near future, the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Group (Cooperators) met during June 2005 in Nome and adopted several management actions to improve hunting opportunity in Unit 22C. The Cooperators recommend the following actions for Unit 22C:

- 1) increasing harvest to sustainable levels (up to 8 percent);
- 2) continuing with bulls only harvest to assure high rates of productivity;
- 3) changing hunt area boundaries to improve hunter success rates by making more groups of muskox accessible to hunters;
- 4) enhancing viewing opportunities along the Nome road system by continuing a “no hunt area” near Nome and allowing hunting only during the winter; and
- 5) simplifying the season and bag limit regulations by replacing the codified harvest limits with codified harvest rates in the harvest guidelines regulation.

Since 1992 the Unit 22C muskox population has grown 27 percent annually and is currently 220 animals. Composition surveys completed in 2002 and 2004 found 19 percent and 10 percent yearlings respectively and yielded an average of 78 bulls per 100 cows. The high rate of growth during the period 1992-2002 was the result of excellent productivity, conservative harvest rates, and low hunter success rates. Since 2002, population growth has stabilized, but bull:cow ratios have increased showing that the population can be managed at a higher sustained harvest. With the population reaching a stable condition, the conservative harvests favoring growth and expansion should be replaced with rates that allow opportunity to harvest muskoxen at a sustainable level in Unit 22C.

For the first hunts in Unit 22C the state set harvest at 3 percent based on conservative rates recommended by the Cooperators. Since 2002 hunters have experienced mixed success and have actually harvested less than 2 percent of the population. Due to the high demand to hunt in Unit 22C and the high number of available bulls for harvest, the Cooperators recommend increasing the harvest rate from 3 percent to “up to 8 percent”. The harvest rate change would become part of the harvest guidelines regulation and guide management if, and when, the population changes in size through time. The season and bag limit regulation would be simplified by removing the current “up to 3 bulls” language described for the two current hunt areas.

The hunt area in Unit 22C has been modified to allow better access to muskox groups while preserving muskox viewing opportunities along the Nome road system. Previously, two hunt areas were used to allow subsistence hunting, one area located east of Nome and one area located

west of Nome. Muskox were not very accessible in the eastern area and hunters experienced low success rates since hunting began there in 2002. This proposal defines a new hunt area that merges the pre-existing hunt areas and allows better access to muskox in areas that do not conflict with roadside viewing of muskox. Hunting would be allowed in all portions of the unit outside of a “no hunt area” centered on Nome including the area between the western portion of the Flambeau River drainage and the eastern portion of the Penney River drainage and south of Rocky Mountain Creek on the Nome River drainage approximately 22 miles north of Nome.

In the past, season dates have been used as an effective method for protecting muskoxen viewing opportunities and this proposal continues this approach by allowing hunting only during winter months. Since the Nome road system is not maintained during winter and closes shortly after the first snowfall, setting hunting season dates that begin after the roads close allows both wildlife viewers and hunters to noncompetitively use and appreciate muskoxen. In this proposal the hunting season is shifted away from fall season hunts and is scheduled for an expanded period from January 1 through March 15. Moving away from fall hunts minimizes conflicts with viewing opportunities and an expanded winter hunt gives more opportunity for hunters to be successful. The mid-March closure is needed to safeguard calving in the herd and to be sure that cows are not disturbed during the latter part of gestation. Muskoxen begin calving in mid-April and hunting should conclude at least one month prior to the onset of calving.

In summary, the Cooperators developed this proposal to offer additional hunting opportunity and increase hunter success rates by increasing the size of the hunt area and shifting season dates. The proposal was developed to also protect wildlife viewing interests along the Nome road system in Unit 22C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Muskoxen hunting will remain unnecessarily restrictive.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters who obtain a Unit 22C Tier II permit and wildlife viewers who enjoy watching muskoxen along the Nome road system.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Alaska residents who wish to hunt Unit 22C muskoxen under the Tier II system, but have been unsuccessful in obtaining a Tier II permit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Group and the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-017)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.050(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen. 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Amend these regulations as follows:

Increase muskox hunting opportunity in Unit 22E by:

- 1) replacing the Tier II subsistence hunt with a resident Tier I registration hunt;
- 2) lengthening the resident drawing hunt season;
- 3) increasing the number of available drawing permits to ‘up to 20 permits’;
- 4) create new regulatory code that reflects the current harvest regime governing total harvest (state and federal) and the cow portion of harvest in the Unit 22E hunt area; as follows:

5 AAC 85.050(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for muskoxen.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
...		
Unit 22E		
1 muskox per regulatory year by registration [TIER II SUBSISTENCE HUNTING] permit only; [HOWEVER, COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY DURING THE PERIOD JAN. 1-MAR. 15; UP TO 50 MUSK OXEN MAY BE TAKEN; HOWEVER NOT MORE THAN 25 COWS MAY BE TAKEN; THE TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 50 MUSKOXEN IN UNIT 22(E)]	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
1 bull 4-year-old or older by drawing permit only, up to 20 [10] permits may be issued	<u>Aug. 1 – Mar. 15</u> [FEB. 1 – MAR. 15]	No open season
...		

5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. For purposes of management of the named species, the department shall manage harvest by hunting and trapping as follows:

- (1) wolves: the annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should not exceed 30 percent of the unitwide, preseason population as estimated by the department;
- (2) black bears: the annual harvest of black bears on Kuiu Island in Unit 3 by nonresident hunters shall be managed so that in any given consecutive three-year period, the average annual harvest does not exceed 120 bears.

(3) musk oxen: The annual combined state and federal harvest of musk oxen, and cow harvest where specified, in Units 22 and 23 will not exceed the following percentages of the current population estimate in each hunt area.

...

(v) 22(E)-8 percent (4 percent cows)

...

Note: new regulatory language for sub-paragraphs (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (vi) is shown in additional proposals for muskox by the authors of this proposal.

ISSUE: Based on recent growth of the Seward Peninsula muskox population, the harvestable surplus of muskox is now 140 muskox and it exceeds the amount necessary for subsistence, which was set at 100 by Board action in October 1997. Unit 22E is the only place on the Seward Peninsula where several contributing factors favor moving out of Tier II permit restrictions:

- 1) the number of muskox available for harvest exceeds the pool of Tier II applicants;
- 2) local demand for muskox appears to be being met;
- 3) local residents support a Tier I registration hunt; and
- 4) we believe a Tier I hunt is reasonable without fear of rapid over harvest.

Residents of Wales and Shishmaref worked with department and National Park Service staff to develop this proposal for the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators (SPMC) meeting held in Nome during June 20-21, 2005. SPMC is a stakeholder group that developed the Seward Peninsula Cooperative Muskox Management Plan (1994) and has guided management decisions during the recent period of herd growth. Support for a Tier I registration hunt is strong in the villages in Unit 22E where there is a desire to see the available harvest quota filled annually as a way to provide meat on-the-table and slow herd growth. Tier I hunting appears more user-friendly and acceptable to the public compared to the cumbersome Tier II system and it was noted that issuing an unrestricted number of registration permits would prevent the situation of wasted opportunity when permits end up in the hands of people who don't use them.

Unit 22E residents expressed willingness to share this increasingly abundant resource with other users but wanted to establish permit conditions that help ensure that local subsistence needs are satisfied. The following permit conditions were recommended by the villages and supported by a SPMC majority:

- 1) registration permits would be available throughout the season only in Wales and Shishmaref;
- 2) there would be a two-day reporting requirement;
- 3) use of aircraft would be prohibited for hunting or transporting meat or hunting gear;
- 4) trophy destruction would be required if the head is removed from Unit 22 or Unit 23 Southwest;
- 5) harvest would NOT be limited to one muskox per household; and
- 6) concensus by SPMC was that if the harvest quota is not reached under these permit conditions, permits should also be issued in Nome.

The SPMC recommends adopting a harvest quota based on a harvest rate applied to the population of muskox found in Unit 22(E). The recommended harvest rate for the combined taking of bulls and cows is "up to 8 percent" with not more than 4 percent of the harvest

comprised of cows. Basing the quota on a harvest rate allows year-to-year flexibility to issue the appropriate number of permits to help ensure the available annual harvest is reached during each hunting season.

For the resident drawing permit hunt, the SPMC recommend increasing the “up to” number of available permits from 10 to 20 permits. Based on 2005 population data, the allowable harvest for the drawing hunt is nine bulls. Increasing the “up to” number of permits will allow additional permits to be issued to compensate for herd growth or hunter success rates and make it feasible to reach annual harvest quotas. The SPMC also supported a guide’s request to lengthen the season for the drawing hunt to August 1 - March 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Muskox hunting will remain unnecessarily restrictive for all users.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who would like to hunt muskox in Unit 22E but who have not been able to get a Tier II or Federal subsistence Permit. Drawing permit winners who are not able to hunt during the winter season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If there is more demand coupled with higher success rates than we expect, it is possible that the Tier I registration season will close early because harvest quotas are reached and some hunters who typically harvest late in the season may not be able to hunt. If demand is greater than expected and large numbers of hunters are in the field at the same time, it is possible that even with a two-day reporting requirement there would be overharvest of the population suggesting that an unlimited number of permits may not be feasible for the resident Tier I registration hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Group and the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-018)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 85.050(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.
Amend the regulation as follows:

Change the regulation for the Tier II subsistence hunting permit (and any other proposed or existing subsistence permit designation), to require all muskox horns that are harvested under any type of subsistence permit to have their trophy value destroyed, if they are removed from Unit 22E. Subsistence hunters should hunt with the appropriate permit and motive, trophy hunters likewise. Changing the regulation as proposed would eliminate the potential for abuse of the current loophole.

ISSUE: Currently the Tier II muskox permits allow hunters who reside outside of Unit 22E, to harvest muskox and remove the horns from 22E, without destroying the trophy value.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will remain a discrepancy in allowing trophy hunters from Unit 22 (outside of 22E) to obtain subsistence permits to trophy hunt for muskox in Unit 22E.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the Seward Peninsula muskoxen are a unique resource. The subsistence needs for rural residents of Unit 22E are adequately met by the state and federal subsistence permits. There is a provision for trophy hunting of muskoxen through the statewide eligibility drawing permit hunt. The subsistence permit system is being used as a manner for trophy hunters who live in Unit 22, outside of Shishmaref and Wales, to essentially trophy hunt without taking their chances in the drawing hunt as all other state residents currently need to do.

This valuable resource is best managed by allowing for the local subsistence needs to be adequately met, and then preserving the trophy quality of the herd to allow for an excellent trophy hunt through the permit system. This drawing permit system should provide all Alaska residents the same chance (however small) of drawing one of these sought-after permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Virtually all Alaska hunters who wish to have a chance to hunt muskox.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A very small number of trophy hunters who hunt muskox under the authority of a subsistence permit for trophy purposes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The other solution is to do nothing, which is unjust to the vast majority of Alaska’s hunters who wish to have a chance of a lifetime hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Simpson (HQ-05F-G-004)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.050(a)(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for muskoxen. Increase bull drawing permits by 15 permits and increase cow registration permits by 15 permits for Nunivak Island muskox hunts in Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
Unit 18, Nunivak Island 1 bull by drawing permit only, with up to 10 permits to be issued for the fall season and up to <u>50</u> [35] permits to be issued for the	Sept.1-Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Feb.1-Mar. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept.1-Sept. 30 Feb. 1- Mar. 15

spring season; or 1 cow by registration permit only, with up to **60** [45] permits for cows to be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

...

ISSUE: The number of muskox on Nunivak Island has been slowly increasing in spite of heavy harvest of both bulls and cows. The current population is about 650 animals and is above the population management goal of 590-640. We currently issue 45 bull and 45 cow permits per year and are not able to cap the population growth despite high hunter success rates with harvests between 85 - 90 animals per year for the last 5 years. Additional permits would allow the flexibility to harvest more animals and accomplish the slight reduction in numbers of muskox that is desirable on Nunivak Island.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The number of muskox will slowly increase until the quality of winter forage is impacted. This happened in the late 1960s when the muskox population on Nunivak Island increased to about 750 and they overgrazed the range.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will have an increased opportunity to harvest both bull and cow muskox.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-036)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.025(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Amend the regulation as follows:

Units 22B, 22C, 22D (west of Fish River and Darby mountains) open season is October 1 through May 1.

ISSUE: The public, composed of both local residents and visitors, shoot or poach privately owned reindeer. Reindeer are both intentionally and mistakenly harvested as caribou. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd start to migrate from the North Slope to Seward Peninsula in late September and leave the Peninsula in May.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The reindeer industry will continue to lose valuable animals to hunters. The economic impact of loss of reindeer, which mingle and migrate

with caribou, is tremendous. The additional loss to hunters who believe they are shooting wild caribou is very high.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, a later open season would assure that hunters can actually get caribou. Large numbers of migrating caribou (from North Slope) do not reach the Seward Peninsula until late September or early October. If hunters truly want wild game, the open season should accommodate them by having an open season when wild game (caribou) are available in these units.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Reindeer herders would benefit if their animals are not harassed by hunters during the current open season time period during which caribou are not actually present in large numbers; the months of June, July, August and September.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer because caribou are not actually present in large numbers in June, July, August and September. Big game hunters usually start hunting in the fall. Having access to animals and being able to choose from large numbers would enhance the hunter's success and ability to bring home the bag limit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Under federal regulations, caribou within a reindeer herd are considered reindeer. However herders believe local people have a traditional preference for reindeer, as the taste is different. They want to provide a true reindeer red meat. The satellite collars that the department monitors show caribou are available on the Seward Peninsula during a certain time frame. If there are early movements the department could issue an Emergency Order.

PROPOSED BY: Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association (HQ-05F-G-021)

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 85.020(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.
Amend the regulation as follows:

Lengthen the spring bear season for all hunters from May 31 to June 15.

ISSUE: Increased bear predation on moose is contributing to the serious decline in moose population in central Unit 22A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued bear predation has the potential for more decline in the moose population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, increase in potential bear harvest helps efforts to rebuild moose stocks in central Unit 22A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Spring bear hunters, bear guides and future moose hunters will all benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-047)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.020(a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. 5 AAC 92.015(b). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. 5 AAC 92.165(a)(7). Sealing of bear skins and skulls. This proposal would add that portion of Unit 23 on the Baldwin Peninsula north of the Arctic Circle to the Unit 23 brown bear subsistence hunt area and make housekeeping changes to tag fee and sealing regulations as follows:

5 AAC 85.020(a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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...

(21)

Unit 23[, ALL DRAINAGES,
EXCEPT THE BALDWIN
PENINSULA NORTH OF THE
ARCTIC CIRCLE]

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit	Aug. 1-May 31 (Subsistence hunt only)
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1 bear every regulatory year	Aug. 1-May 31
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every regulatory year by drawing permit only; up to 58 permits may be issued [IN ALL OF UNIT 23]	Sept. 1-Oct. 10 Apr. 15-May 31
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[REMAINDER OF UNIT 23]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[1 BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR] [AUG. 1-MAY 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[1 BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR
BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO
58 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED IN ALL
OF UNIT 23]

[SEPT. 1-OCT. 10]
[APR. 15-MAY 31]

...

5 AAC 92.015(b)(8). Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

...

(8) Unit 23[; THAT PORTION INCLUDING ALL DRAINAGES, EXCEPT THE
BALDWIN PENINSULA NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE;]

...

5 AAC 92.165(a)(7). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

...

(7) ..., [ALL DRAINAGES IN] Unit 23 [EXCEPT THE BALDWIN PENINSULA NORTH
OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE;], ...

...

ISSUE: Subsistence hunting by registration permit was authorized for brown bear in the Northwest Brown Bear Management Area in 1992. At that time there was widespread concern that resident hunters would take advantage of the liberal bag limit associated with the subsistence registration permit hunt (RB700) and substantially increase bear harvest in Unit 23. Kotzebue, with its large population compared to surrounding villages, was recognized as a potential source of excessive harvest. Therefore, several advisory committees (including Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee), the department, and the board all agreed to exclude the northern portion of the Baldwin Peninsula from the subsistence hunt management area. Kotzebue is located on the Baldwin Peninsula. Residents of Kotzebue could still participate in RB700, as could any other resident of Alaska. However, any brown bear hide removed from the management area, in this case taken to Kotzebue, would need to be sealed and have its trophy value destroyed by removing the skin of the head and front claws at the time of sealing. As the years have passed, very few bears taken in the subsistence hunt area have been sealed because they were transported to Kotzebue.

Since 1992, several developments have occurred relevant to the management of brown bears in Unit 23:

- 1) implementation of RB700 resulted in little, if any, increase in brown bear harvest levels;
- 2) many residents of Unit 23, as well as some guides and transporters, have reported that brown bear numbers are now relatively high throughout most of the unit compared to past years; and
- 3) during the period 1992-2003 the advisory committees and the department recommended incremental liberalization of brown bear regulations in Unit 23 that were subsequently adopted by

the board. Now, the season and bag limit for the brown bear general hunt are identical to subsistence RB700. There is no reason to exclude any portion of Unit 23 from the subsistence hunt area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bear regulations will be unnecessarily complex. Residents of Kotzebue will be required to seal brown bears taken under RB700.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of Kotzebue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committee, Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee, and Noatak-Kivalina Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-041)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.020(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Change the brown bear seasons in Unit 26A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24)		
Unit 26A		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit	<u>July 1</u> [AUG. 20] – May 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
1 bear every regulatory year	Aug. <u>1</u> [20] – May 31	Aug. 20 – May 31

ISSUE: Subsistence and recreational hunters have been requesting more opportunity to harvest brown bears for food and recreation. Residents have complained of increasing bear-human conflicts. Muskox numbers in Unit 26 have declined, partly due to bear predation. This continues a process to incrementally liberalize brown bear regulations in Unit 26A to address all of these issues. Residents of Unit 26A would like to have the option of harvesting bears under the subsistence regulations when they go to their subsistence camps in July. It is unlikely that this would greatly increase bear harvest. Brown bear harvest in Unit 26A is currently well below the sustainable

harvest level. The change in the general hunt season would make it consistent with the season in Unit 23.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident bear hunters will have a shorter season than necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who would like to hunt earlier in the year would benefit. This change may benefit muskox hunters if it slightly increases harvests of brown bears and reduces predation on muskoxen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who enjoy seeing bears may suffer if bear harvests increase somewhat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave the regulations as they are but this would unnecessarily restrict hunters.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee (HQ-05F-G-044)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.020(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.
Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 22A: Residents: Three [ONE] bears every regulatory year	Aug. 1 – May 31
Nonresidents: One bear every regulatory year	Aug. 1 – May 31
Unit 22B: Residents: Three [ONE] bears every regulatory year	Aug. 1 – May 31
Nonresidents: One bear every regulatory year by permit	Aug. 1 – May 31
Unit 22C: Residents: One bear every four regulatory years	Aug. 1 – Oct. 31
or	May 10 – May 25
Nonresidents: One bear every four regulatory years by permit	Aug. 1 – Oct. 31
or	May 10 – May 25
Units 22D and 22E: Residents Three [ONE] bears every regulatory year	Aug. 1 – May 31
Nonresidents: One bear every regulatory year by permit	Aug. 1 – May 31

No changes to the current subsistence regulations are proposed and the combined bag limit would not exceed three bears in any regulatory year for any combination of hunts. The regulations prohibiting the taking of cubs and sows accompanied by cubs would not be affected. Methods and means would remain the same.

ISSUE: Currently the Seward Peninsula moose and reindeer populations continue to be decimated by predation of brown/grizzly bears. Most viable plans to reduce bear populations are considered controversial and do not materialize while every day that nothing is done, more moose and reindeer are lost. This proposal would increase regulatory year bag limits for resident hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued unnecessary loss of moose and reindeer would create heightened tension among user groups and continued waste of Alaska’s renewable resources.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the Seward Peninsula ungulate populations continue to suffer from extreme bear predation. Most effective plans for predation control are controversial and never implemented. The ungulate population would benefit in the near future and the bear population would benefit in the long run as the general biomass of available food increases.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? There are a handful of hunters who do most of the hunting on the Seward Peninsula. A hunter who is out in the field and harvests a bear under the current regulations cannot take another bear if the opportunity arises. With the costs of transport in the field rising, the more productive each hunting trip becomes is important to the overall goal to reduce bear populations on the Seward Peninsula. It is anticipated that additional harvest would be done by dedicated hunters who pursue various game species during the different seasons, and a general increase of incidental harvests. For example, a hunter may take a bear on a spring hunt and run into another bear on the way home. That hunter might also hunt moose in the fall and again have an opportunity to take a bear. Increasing the bag limit would allow hunters the ability to take bears during the various seasons on a consistent basis and not limit out on the one per regulatory year limit. This proposal does not cost the state any resources as the expenses of travel are born by the hunter who chooses to travel in the field.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increase the resident bag limit to two bears per regulatory year or continue to do nothing effective to address the bear predation problem.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Simpson (HQ-05F-G-007)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.020(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.
 Change the brown bear season in Unit 26A, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24) Unit 26A 1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit	<u>July 1—May 31</u> [AUG. 20—MAY 31] (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.

1 bear every regulatory year

July 1—May 31
[AUG. 20—MAY 31]

July 1—May 31
[AUG. 20—MAY 31]

...

ISSUE: Hunters have been requesting more opportunity to harvest brown bears for food and recreation. Local residents have complained of increasing bear-human conflicts. This proposal provides additional hunting opportunity in Unit 26A and addresses the above issues. Residents of Unit 26A would like to have the option of harvesting bears under subsistence regulations when they go to their subsistence camps in July. It is unlikely that this would greatly increase bear harvest. Brown bear harvest in Unit 26A is currently below the sustainable harvest level.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident bear hunters will have a shorter season than necessary.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who would like to hunt earlier in the year would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who enjoy seeing bears may suffer if bear harvests increase somewhat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave the regulations as they are, but this would unnecessarily restrict hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-042)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.020(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.
Amend the regulation as follows:

Resident brown bear bag limits should be increased to three brown bear per year in Units 22A, 22B, 22D, and 22E.

ISSUE: Unit 22 has an over abundance of brown bear. Brown bear are not being utilized to their full potential in subunits 22A, 22B, 22D, and 22E.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity for hunting is not being fully realized and as bear exhaust their food supply bear/human conflicts will rise.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This action will result in a modest increase in brown bear harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The hunting public, campers and berry pickers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who wish to watch bear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered adding subunit 22C to the proposal but bear are fully utilized there. We considered increasing the harvest to two per year but do not believe the bear population will be fully utilized at three per year.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-022)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 92.080(4). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Amend the regulation as follows:

Allow hunters the ability to hunt and harvest wolves on motorized vehicles including ATV, snowmobile and boat.

ISSUE: Unlawful harvest of wolf by motorized vehicle.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued increase in wolf population in central Unit 22A.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Hopefully increasing wolf harvest will aid the effort to increase moose populations in central Unit 22A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wolf hunters and future moose users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-05F-G-046)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 85.056(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Change the season and bag limit for wolves in Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2) ...		
Units [18] 20-22, 24, and 25(C) 5 wolves	Aug. 10 – Apr. 30	Aug. 10 – Apr. 30
Units 18 and 19 10 wolves per day	Aug. 1 – May 31	Aug. 1 – May 31

...

ISSUE: Unit 18 wolf hunting seasons were established to allow big game hunters the opportunity to take wolves during hunts for other big game species. A recent review indicated that as seasons were expanded for other big game species in Unit 18, wolf seasons did not change to accommodate the additional hunting opportunity. This proposal corrects that oversight and increases the bag limit to match that found in adjacent Unit 19.

Wolf harvest by hunters is typically light and of little consequence to the wolf population. The inherent difficulty in hunting wolves is sufficient to prevent over-harvest so this proposal will simplify the hunting regulations and offer additional opportunity without risk to the wolf population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters pursuing other big game species in Unit 18, particularly caribou and brown bear hunters, would lose hunting opportunity.

This proposal is not expected to change the harvest greatly and should not be misconstrued as a mechanism to alter wolf predation. Additional hunting opportunity and regulation simplification are the goals of this proposal.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This change will not, and is not intended to, improve the quality of the resource. Wolves harvested early typically are taken by the hunter for trophy values that vary from hunter to hunter, not for the quality of the hides. Whether a wolf is valuable enough to harvest prior to, or after, the fur is prime is best left to the hunter in those situations where the population is not harmed by such harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters benefit through increased opportunity and simplified regulations. As a general rule, concurrent and coincidental big game seasons and bag limits in adjacent areas make enforcement easier benefiting wildlife enforcement officers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who prefer that wolves are not harvested would oppose this regulation change.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered leaving the season as it is but rejected this option because we prefer consistency with wolf and other big game seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Yukon Advisory Committee, Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee and Orutsararmut Native Council (HQ-05F-G-009)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.065(a)(4)(k). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.
Amend the regulation as follows:

Remove the requirement to obtain a swan registration permit in Unit 22 but keep the current bag limit in place. I understand that the registration permit requirement may be an existing federal requirement that the board may not be able to change at this meeting. I believe that reviewing this

proposal at the November 2005 meeting is the first step towards changing the registration requirement. Forwarding your approval of my proposal to the Flyway Councils, Service Regulations Committee, and the Secretary of the Interior should suffice to change the regulation.

ISSUE: Obtaining a registration permit for swan in Unit 22. A registration permit is not needed as obtaining both the federal and state duck stamp is sufficient to document swan harvest by enlisting person into the Harvest Information Program. The registration permit seems an unnecessary hoop.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Persons may become cited for not having a registration permit when a permit may not always be readily available to rural residents of Unit 22. The swan registration permit may have outlived its initial establishment to keep the hunt a separate hunt.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? My proposal would remove the requirement to obtain a registration permit to hunt swan. In consideration of a license requirement, federal and state duck stamp requirement, the burden to the hunter seems excessive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Swan hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None other considered.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (HQ-05F-G-025)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 84.270(7). Furbearer trapping. Lengthen the trapping season for mink and weasel in Unit 18 as follows:

Species and Unit	Open Season	Bag Limit
(7) Mink and weasel		
...		
Units 7, 8, <u>and</u> 14-16[, AND18]	Nov. 10-Jan.31	No limit.
<u>Unit 18</u>	<u>Nov. 10 – Mar. 31</u>	<u>No limit.</u>
...		

ISSUE: Most trapping seasons in Unit 18 open on November 10 and close on March 31. However, mink and weasel seasons close on January 31 because fur quality declines after this date. In our experience harvest pressure on mink and weasel is only high during the first few weeks of the season. Thereafter harvest pressure is light and trappers do not target mink and

weasel during the latter part of the season (December and January). Occasional mink and weasel are taken incidentally during February and March while trappers target other species. This extended season would allow trappers to keep these mink and weasel. It would simplify the regulations by having concurrent closures for coyote, fox, lynx, marten, wolf and wolverine trapping in Unit 18. We expect few additional mink and weasels to be harvested during the two-month extension to the season.

If mink prices rise sufficiently to increase the harvest pressure on mink, we should revisit this change and restrict these seasons again. Until such time an extended season poses no population-based concerns.

Federal managers have indicated that if this proposal is passed, they would submit an equivalent proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The season will remain shorter than necessary to maintain healthy populations and hides taken late would have to be relinquished.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, the few additional hides produced as a result of this proposal would be of poorer quality. However, we deem the trade off in regulation simplicity and improved utilization of late mink and weasels to be of greater value.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers who occasionally catch mink and weasels in sets for other species would benefit by being able to utilize these hides and all trappers would benefit from regulatory simplification. Concurrent trapping seasons make enforcement easier.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who believe that seasons should be open only when furs are prime would oppose this change.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered leaving the season as is but rejected this option because we don't need the current shorter season to maintain healthy populations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-05F-G-035)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 92.100(a)(1). Unlawful methods of hunting waterfowl, snipe, and cranes. Make the exception that in Unit 22, a rimfire rifle may be used per the following:

...

- (1) with a rifle or pistol, a shotgun larger than 10 gauge, or a shotgun not plugged to a three shell capacity; **exception, a rimfire rifle may be used to take waterfowl in Unit 22;**

...

ISSUE: The problem is that a rifle may not be used to take waterfowl but is a customary method to take waterfowl in Unit 22 therefore should be legal. Taking waterfowl with a rimfire rifle is an effective means to follow up on crippled birds or merely to take waterfowl.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this problem is not solved, persons may become cited for using a rifle despite there being a longstanding use of small bore rimfire rifles to take waterfowl and other migratory birds. Per capita subsistence migratory bird harvest in Unit 22 is a significant subsistence use, under the newly enacted spring/summer season (50 CFR Part 92) subsistence bird harvest occurs in Unit 22 without a shotgun (i.e. egg gathering or net) and a portion of the shotgun hunt likely occurs with a rimfire rifle. Rimfire rifles are allowed under 50 CFR 92.20 for taking waterfowl but causes confusing non-uniformity notwithstanding the rapid transition at August 31 and September 1 from the spring/summer season to the fall season with their differing regulations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Allowing rimfire rifles to take waterfowl legitimizes practices that are legal during the spring/summer season and are occurring in the fall season despite prohibition. I am not defiantly asking for lead to be used in the taking of waterfowl as most rimfire cartridges are lead based but merely to legitimize harvests that do occur with rimfire rifles. I do favor removal of all lead shot as there are now viable alternatives to lead based rifle cartridges and shotshells, and would encourage the board to enact non-toxic shot for rifle and shotshells for all of Alaska's hunts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who take waterfowl with rimfire rifles.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make rifle use a statewide legal method and means, but, I am not aware of other customary uses that occur in other parts of Alaska and not aware of abuses that the department is aware of, that would result from making rimfire rifles legal for all of Alaska when harvesting waterfowl.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (HQ-05F-G-026)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 92.540(6). Controlled use areas. Create a new controlled use area as follows:

Goodnews Bay River Controlled Use Area: the area consists of that portion downstream of North, Middle and South Forks, including all streams accessible by skiff powered by outboard motor all the way to the confluence of Goodnews Bay Lake;

The area is closed to the use of any boat equipped with inboard and outboard motors with an aggregate in excess of manufacturer's rating of 40 horsepower for taking of salmon, rainbow trout, or big game, including transportation of any fishermen or big game hunters, their gear, and/or parts of fish and big game from June 15 through November 1.

ISSUE: Restrict the use of outboard motor and jet drive outboard units in the Goodnews Bay River which would prevent future boating accidents in Goodnews Bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In the near future, there will be an adverse impact on the use of outboard motors and jet drive units over maximum of 40 horsepower in Goodnews Bay River waters owned privately by the shareholders of the Kuitsarak Incorporated, an ANCSA village corporation of Goodnews Bay.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The proposed controlled use area would improve the quality and would further contribute toward the increase of big game in the proposed area. An increase of big game species would enhance opportunity for the future use of wildlife resources by other user groups such as sport and recreation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence is known to be labeled as “opportunistic activity”. Subsistence fishers and hunters seek the opportunity to harvest fish and wildlife of their choice in the field. Therefore, subsistence harvest would increase while sport and recreation opportunity decrease only for the present. In the foreseeable future, there would be an increased opportunity for all user groups; subsistence, commercial, sport, and recreation users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial, sport and recreational user groups would suffer only for a short time. In the increase in population numbers, all user groups would benefit with an increased resource use opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The tribal community of Goodnews Bay has attempted to address this issue without success. In consideration of this, the community of Goodnews Bay, City of Goodnews Bay, Native Village of Goodnews Bay, (aka Village Council of Mumtraq), and the Kuitsarak Incorporated rejects other avenues which would fail.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Goodnews Bay and Kuitsarak Inc. (HQ-05F-G-012)

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 92.540(10)(A)(ii). Controlled use areas. Amend the regulation as follows:

Prohibit the use of aircraft for caribou hunting in Unit 26A controlled use area north of Anaktuvuk Pass that includes the Chandler and Anaktuvuk River drainages to their confluence with the Colville River from August 15 to October 15.

ISSUE: Subsistence hunters of Anaktuvuk Pass believe that the disturbance by aircraft used to transport sport hunters in the area north of Anaktuvuk Pass impedes the movement pattern of the fall caribou migration through Anaktuvuk Pass. Because 80 percent of the meat consumed by residents of Anaktuvuk Pass is caribou, any negative impact of aircraft disturbance has disproportionate negative impacts on their livelihood. Access to hunting grounds by residents of Anaktuvuk Pass has geographical limitations and legal restrictions because of restrictions on ATV use within the gates of the Arctic National Park. There is no river access to caribou. Economic constraints of Anaktuvuk residents preclude equal access to caribou between subsistence hunters and sport hunters using aircraft.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local hunters will be unnecessarily limited to access to caribou. Hunters using aircraft north of the village may divert caribou migrations through Anaktuvuk Pass.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents of Anaktuvuk Pass.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport hunters will experience a slight reduction of the geographical range from which they can access caribou via aircraft.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave the regulations as they are but this would unnecessarily risk access to foods required by residents of Anaktuvuk Pass for their sustenance.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee (HQ-05F-G-045)

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas. Establish a community subsistence hunt area as follows:

In accordance with the four criteria of 5 AAC 92.072(b), which are fulfilled both by Orutsarmiut Native Council (ONC) members and administration, establish a paragraph for a community subsistence hunt area as follows: 5 AAC 92.074(d) Orutsarmiut Community Harvest Area for moose: includes Unit 18, Unit 19A, Unit 19B and Unit 21E.

ISSUE: Increasing complexity of regulations surrounding permits, hunt status and moose harvest opportunity for ONC members in customary and traditional subsistence hunting areas. For those familiar, affluent or acculturated enough, such restrictions may only present a hoop of “inconvenience”. For many of ONC’s membership however, they result in substantial burden and hardship that precludes participation, and threatens continued viability or hunt eligibility in the future if current trends continue.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ONC members will become increasingly disenfranchised from participation in available hunting opportunities due to cultural and societal differences in understanding that involve filing applications, obtaining additional permits, paperwork compliance etc. in variable and evolving regulatory requirements.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? ONC members and potential other subsistence user groups in the Kuskokwim region who may wish to model this action to utilize community harvest permits for protection/facilitation of subsistence opportunity for their respective memberships in the future. State/board management process in furthering associated statutory and regulatory intents of recognizing subsistence as the priority use, and providing support for more sustainable opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Same as above.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Waiting for moose populations to rebuild/return to levels maintained for decades that provided consistent harvest levels, generally healthy and abundant moose populations and related open hunt opportunities—too uncertain given ongoing changes in administrations and mutability of other actions or circumstances beyond our (or the board’s) control.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-05F-G-024)

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas. Amend the regulation as follows:

Add Akiachak Community Harvest Area for moose in Unit 18, Unit 19A, Unit 19B and Unit 21E.

ISSUE: Our residents are not able to receive permits due to economic hardship by the majority of the residents where customary and traditional subsistence hunting occurs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident hunters may be disallowed from participation caused by differences of understanding that require multiple forms to be completed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Akiachak Native community members and residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Moratorium to increase the availability of the moose resource.

PROPOSED BY: Willie Kasayulie (HQ-05F-G-029)

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