

*DRAFT*

FINDING OF EMERGENCY

The Board of Game finds that an emergency exists and that the attached regulations are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. The facts constituting the emergency are as follows:

**Moose Unit 22A**

The Alaska Board of Game adjusted the winter season for the remainder of Unit 22A during the 2005 meeting from Dec. 1- 31 to Jan. 1-31 to compensate for changing weather patterns. This year, inclement weather, extreme cold, lack of snow, and bare ground conditions limited snow machine access to hunting areas in the vicinity of the communities of Stebbins and St. Michael. Harvest data for the current regulatory year are considered incomplete due to a lag in harvest ticket reporting, but to date 7 bulls have been reported in the remainder of Unit 22A, compared to a combined total of 25 moose per year for the two villages in 2003–2004. Staff anticipate that the increase in moose harvest resulting from a longer, antlered-bull only season will be within acceptable limits, and not significantly detract from continued population growth. Alternative species, such as caribou, muskoxen, and marine mammals, are not available for harvest at this time and a longer moose season, as requested by the petitioner, will mitigate the hardship resulting from poor hunting conditions and limited harvest opportunities.