

PROPOSAL 204

5 AAC 85.045(a)(8). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Lengthen moose seasons in Units 9B and 9C and align hunt areas in Unit 9C as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| (8) | | |
| Unit 9(B) | | |
| RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; or 1 antlered bull by registration permit only | <u>Sept. 1–Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20] Dec. 15–Jan. 15 | |
| NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by registra- tion permit only | | Sept. 5–Sept. 15 |
| Unit 9(C), [THAT PORTION DRAINING INTO THE NAKNEK RIVER] | | |
| RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; or 1 antlered bull by registration permit only | <u>Sept. 1–Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20] <u>Dec. 1–Jan. 15</u> [DEC. 1–DEC. 31] | |
| NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by registra- tion permit only | | Sept. 5–Sept. 20 |

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 9C]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 BULL BY REGISTRATION PERMIT SEPT 1–SEPT. 20
ONLY; OR

1 ANTLERED BULL BY DEC. 15–JAN. 15
REGISTRATION PERMIT
ONLY

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS SEPT. 5–SEPT. 20
OR ANTLERS WITH 3 OR MORE
BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE, BY
REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose populations in Units 9B and 9C are above management objectives regarding bull-to-cow ratios and could sustain additional bull harvest under registration moose permits RM272 (residents only). There are no moose population estimates for Unit 9, however, composition surveys indicate that the bull:cow ratio in Unit 9B was high in 2018 and was 67 bulls:100 cows in Unit 9C in 2020. This proposal would add five days to the fall season and 15 days to the winter season in Units 9B and 9C. On average (2011–2019), in Unit 9B there were 35 moose harvested annually during the fall season (86%) and 6 during winter (14%). In Unit 9C harvest averaged 21 moose in the fall (83%) and four during winter (17%). Winter seasons are often hampered by lack of snow. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will monitor bull:cow ratios and recommend reverting to shorter seasons if necessary.

This proposal would also remove the split of Unit 9C into Naknek River drainages and the remainder portion for registration hunts RM272 and RM282 (nonresidents). The only difference currently is a two-week shift later in the winter season for the remainder portion for resident hunters. The proposed winter season dates for RM272 would span the entire range of current winter dates for both portions of Unit 9C.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-21-022)
