

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish an antlerless moose season in Unit 16B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
RESIDENT HUNTERS		
If the harvestable portion is 199 moose or less; up to 400 total Tier II permits may be issued;		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; or	Aug. 20–Sept. 30 (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; or	Dec. 15–Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	
if the harvestable portion is greater than 199 moose, but less than 241 moose;		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 20	
1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 260 permits may be issued; or	Dec. 15–Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	
If the harvestable portion is greater than 240 moose:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Aug. 20–Sept.25	
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 75 percent of the	Aug. 20–Sept.25 (General hunt only)	

combined drawing permits in the area may be issued to non-youth hunters; up to 600 permits may be issued; provided that the harvestable portion is greater than 310 moose; or

1 bull by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 25 percent of the combined drawing permits in the area may be issued to youth hunters; provided that the harvestable portion is greater than 310 moose; or

Aug. 20–Sept. 25
Nov. 15—Jan. 31
(General hunt only)

1 bull by registration permit only; or

Dec. 15–Last Day of Feb.

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued; or

Dec. 15–Last Day of Feb.

1 **moose** [bull] by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 260 permits may be issued; or

Dec. 15–Mar. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 200 antlerless moose permits may be issued

Aug. 20 –Sept. 25
Nov. 15 –Jan. 31
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; if the harvestable portion is greater than 240 moose

Aug. 20–Sept. 25

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of February 2019, the Unit 16B moose population is estimated at 9,984 ± 1702 (80% CI) moose. The population objective for Unit 16B is 6,500–7,500 moose.

Moose harvest has been steadily increasing since regulatory year 2012 and has been within the harvest objective (310–600) since 2015. The Department of Fish and Game sought to address the high bull-to-cow ratios by increasing the number of drawing permits available for the fall hunt. Bull to cow ratios have been reduced in portions of the unit. In the middle portion of Unit 16B the bull:100 cow ratio was 42 in 2011 and 38 in the fall of 2019. In the southern portion of the unit the bull:100 cow ratio was 52 in 2010 and 32 in the fall of 2019. The Board of Game approved a winter registration and a winter draw hunt with an ‘any bull’ bag limit in the spring of 2016. However, concerns were raised by the local communities that mid-winter bull hunts may stress cows as hunters search for a legal animal. The moose population itself was not deemed to be over the objective until surveys were completed in the spring of 2018. Additional bull permits will not address the reproductive segment of the population and would likely not be sufficient to bring the population back to the objective. Current winter opportunities include a Tier II ‘any-bull’ hunt and a youth draw hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-072)
