

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Afognak Island Antlerless Elk Registration Hunt Opens** **Southwest portion of Afognak to remain closed** **Bull Season closes**

Hunting for antlerless elk on most of Afognak Island will open on Sunday, October 23, 2011 for hunters who have picked up a registration permit from an Alaska Department of Fish and Game office. Kodiak, Shuyak, and Ban islands are also included in this opening. The southwestern portion of Afognak (south and west of a line from the head of Back Bay to the head of Malina Bay) will be closed. Elk hunting on Raspberry Island is restricted to hunters with drawing permits. Detailed maps are available at the ADF&G office in Kodiak.

The registration hunt was slated to be open for either sex of elk and include all of Afognak Island, but ADF&G has issued an emergency order to close hunting on the southwestern portion of Afognak Island. The order also restricts the bag limit in the remaining areas to antlerless (cow) elk. Hunters have already taken the harvest quota from the Malina Lakes herd. The remaining herds have an unacceptably low number of bulls, and any additional harvest would be excessive and may jeopardize future productivity.

Because this revised elk season is restricted to antlerless (cow) elk, successful hunters are reminded that they must retain evidence of the elk's sex naturally attached to the meat until it is taken out of the field and butchered or processed for storage.