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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: October 2, 2019

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Unit 1C RM049 Gustavus Moose Hunt Closed

(Juneau) – Prior to the season ADF&G set a harvest quota for the Gustavus area registration moose hunt, RM049, of 11 bulls that meet the antler restrictions listed for this hunt. Current regulations require that a bull moose have antlers with either a spike (one point) or fork (two points) configuration on at least one side or be 50 inches or greater in width or have at least 3 brow tines on one side. To date only 5 of the 9 moose taken in this hunt have met legal antler requirements. During the 2018 season only 4 of the 7 moose taken in this hunt met the antler requirements. The Alaska Board of Game has instituted antler restrictions in many moose hunts around the state. The goals of antler restrictions are; 1) to ensure some breeding-age bulls remain in the population after the hunting season to participate in the rut, and 2) to extend hunting opportunity by requiring hunters to locate bulls meeting the antler requirements. Without the current antler restrictions, the small RM049 harvest quota would likely be met in just a few days greatly reducing hunting opportunity and satisfaction.

To prevent further take of sublegal animals we are instituting an Emergency Order closing the season at 11:59 pm October 3, 2019. The reason for this closure is the high proportion of bull moose taken by RM049 hunters that do not meet current legally harvestable antler configurations. In addition to potentially limiting the number of breeding-age bulls in the post-hunt population, additional take of sublegal bulls will also limit the recruitment of younger bulls into the larger legal antler configurations in future years.

In consideration of the annual take of sublegal moose in Gustavus the Juneau/Douglas Area Manager would like to meet with Gustavus moose hunters in the coming six months to consider different hunt regulations and management schemes that provide the most opportunity for hunters while protecting enough of the Gustavus moose herd to guarantee future hunting opportunities.

An Emergency Order (01-12-19) was issued that closes RM049 moose season in this area on Thursday, October 3, 2019 @ 11:59 pm.

The remaining registration moose regulations in Unit 1C are unchanged and are not affected by this Emergency Order.

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