

Note: Proposal 195 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region meeting originally scheduled for January 2021. Because the board meeting was postponed to January 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the board scheduled action on this proposal at a special meeting on March 18, 2021.

PROPOSAL 195

5 AAC 85.050. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Align seasons and bag limits for moose in a portion of Unit 15B as follows:

5 AAC 85.045(a)(13)(B) is amended to read:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
[UNIT 15(B), THAT PORTION BOUNDED BY A LINE RUNNING FROM THE MOUTH OF SHANTA- TALIK CREEK, TUSTUMENA LAKE, NORTHEASTWARD TO THE HEAD OF THE WESTERNMOST FORK OF FUNNY RIVER; THEN DOWNSTREAM ALONG THE WESTERNMOST FORK OF FUNNY RIVER TO THE KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BOUNDARY; THEN EAST ALONG THE REFUGE BOUNDARY TO ITS JUNCTION WITH THE KENAI RIVER; THEN EASTWARD ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE KENAI RIVER AND SKILAK LAKE; THEN SOUTH ALONG THE WESTERN SIDE OF SKILAK RIVER, SKILAK GLACIER, AND HARDING ICEFIELD; THEN WEST ALONG THE UNIT 15(B) BOUNDARY TO THE MOUTH OF SHANTATALIK CREEK	SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 20 (GENERAL HUNT ONLY)	SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 20
1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 3 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE; OR		
1 BULL BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY;]	SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 25	NO OPEN SEASON.

Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island 1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 15(B) 1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows: 1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only; or	Aug. 22 - Aug. 29 (General hunt only)	Aug. 22 - Aug. 29
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
1 bull by drawing permit only;	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25	No open season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations in Unit 15B, adopted in March 2019, are confusing to the hunting public because of the differences in season dates and legal animals, which results in lost opportunity. When the existing regulations were passed to remove the drawing permit and institute general season harvest ticket hunts across Unit 15B and align regulations in the previous permit areas with the rest of Unit 15B three unintentional discrepancies occurred. No bow season was established in the old permit area to match the current season dates already present in the remainder of Unit 15B; spike antlered bull moose were not listed as an animal legal for harvest; and the general season dates in the old permit area remained five days shorter than the general season throughout the rest of Unit 15. If this problem is not addressed confusion will continue to exist surrounding moose harvest regulations in Unit 15B, an increase in illegal harvest will likely occur, and legal harvest opportunity that is biologically sustainable will be missed.

These differences have caused confusion for moose hunters and there are no biological concerns for the moose population in the areas. The area in question was previously managed under a drawing permit. Habitat conditions improved significantly due to wildfire activity benefitting moose. This portion of 15B can support the additional harvest that is likely to occur by having season dates and bag limits aligned with 15B remainder.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-ACR6)
