

**Proposal 155**

**5 AAC 085.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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(13) hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15 are as follows:

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Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island

1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20—Sept. 20	Aug. 20—Sept. 20
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**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game. The current regulation for hunting moose on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest antlerless moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island’s carrying capacity and deteriorating habitat conditions, the board established a drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in 1995. In a further attempt to reduce the number of moose on the island, the board established a registration hunt for any moose in 1999. Despite these measures to reduce moose numbers, moose remain abundant on the island and continue to meet or exceed the management objective. Antlerless hunts, such as RM572, provide potential opportunities for hunter harvest and improved food security while maintaining healthy moose herds and habitat at this time.

During the most recent moose survey, department staff counted 90 moose on Kalgin Island in December 2022. This count is larger than the population objective of 20–40 moose. In the last 10 years, an average of 120 permits were issued for this hunt; of which 89 permittees hunted, with an annual average harvest of 31 moose.

The any moose registration hunt is recommended to provide liberal harvest opportunity on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the department to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will make over-harvest unlikely.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-060)

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