

RC58
73

Amend
get use to
exclude area
in the
non-subsistence
area done for
all in SAAC
99.025
to SAAC
99.025

Alaska Board of Game
Subsistence Regulation Review Sheet
Customary and Traditional Use Regulations
Seasons and Bag Limits
November 1992

Worksheet # 15
Game Species Moose

Population (Unit/Subunit) 20A and 20B, except that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area

1. Is this population in a nonsubsistence area?

A. BOARD DECISION: No
Yes

Other A portion of Subunits 20A and 20B are within the proposed Fairbanks/Denali Nonsubsistence Area.

If yes, subsistence hunting is not allowed in regulation (skip to Section 8). If no, proceed to Section 2.

2. Is this population customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence?

A. CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DATA SUMMARY

Previous Board Findings:

The Board of Game has found that there is a customary and traditional subsistence use of moose in GMU 20A and B (SAAC 99.025).

Use pattern summary:

For residents of Nenana and Minto who have customarily hunted this area of the lower Tanana River, moose have been an integral part of the seasonal round of hunting activities throughout this century. Moose hunting is usually carried out in fall using riverboats to access areas of moose habitat along rivers, lakes, and sloughs. Moose are often spotted from hillside lookouts and climbing trees or attracted by calling. In winter, snowmachines are used to access moose hunting areas.

Moose meat is customarily shared between members of the hunting party and widely distributed between individuals and households in the community. Meat, including the head, are typically cooked and eaten fresh or frozen for future use and is an important element of community potlatch ceremonies. Moose bones, fat, organs, hooves, and intestines also may be cooked and eaten. Hides are frequently saved for tanning and lungs may be boiled for dog food.

Source Material Reference: CTUW 3:161-175; Andrews 1988

B. ADF&G RECOMMENDATION: (No) + (Yes) X

C. BOARD DECISION: No

N-1192
7-0

Yes
Other

If no, subsistence hunting is not allowed in regulation (skip to Section 8). If yes, proceed to Section 3.

3. Can a portion of the population be harvested consistent with sustained yield?

A. **BIOLOGICAL DATA SUMMARY**

Population Status:

In Subunit 20A, the 1991 moose population was estimated to include 11,072 moose (2.2 moose/mi²); 4,989 in the Tanana Flats (2.4 moose/mi²) and 6,083 in the foothills (2.8 moose/mi²). Compared to estimates for 1988, there was no detectable change in the adult population in the flats, but the adult population in the foothills had increased by 3-21% per year. This increase occurred despite severe winters in 1989-90 and 1990-91 and coincided with a sharp decline in the Delta caribou herd, which ranges throughout the foothills. It is possible that wolf predation pressure shifted to caribou, allowing continued growth of the moose population. In the flats, where the moose population appears to be stable, moose are the only year-round big game prey for wolves.

In Subunit 20B, the moose population increased from an estimated minimum of 7,300 in fall 1985 to approximately 9,800 moose by fall 1990. The greatest increase occurred in the western portion of the subunit, where a wolf reduction program occurred from 1984-86. A more moderate increase occurred in the central portion of the subunit, where wolf reduction occurred from 1982-1984. Very little, if any, increase occurred in the eastern portion of the subunit, where wolf reduction programs were not conducted.

Relative Density: High X Medium Low
Trend: Decreasing Stable X Increasing
Closures in last 10 years: None

Management Objectives/Strategies:

In Subunit 20A, our objectives are to: (1) maintain at least 8,000 adult moose (i.e., excluding calves) in the population, and 10,000 total moose, (2) maintain at least 30 bulls:100 cows overall. Maintain at least 20 bulls:100 cows in count areas in the northeastern Tanana Flats and in the western and central foothills, (3) maintain an annual harvest of no more than 300 adult bulls (excluding yearlings) and a total harvest of less than 400 bulls; and (4) to allow the harvest of cow moose when the population is above the objective of 8,000 adult moose and is exhibiting a positive growth rate.

In Subunit 20B, our objectives are to: (1) increase the moose population to 10,000 moose by 1993, with 4,000 moose in western Subunit 20B and 6,000 in the remainder of the subunit, (2) maintain a minimum of 20 bulls:100 cows in each count area and an overall subunit ratio of at least 30 bulls:100 cows, (3) sustain an annual harvest of at least 300 bulls, (4) provide for moose hunting opportunities for bowhunters with a registration hunt in the Fairbanks Management Area, and (5) limit the moose hunting opportunity in Minto Flats to Tier II hunters if necessary.

Other Management Considerations:

Source Material Reference: FY92 Moose Management Report 20A and 20B.

B. ADF&G RECOMMENDATION: Yes X No
Analysis:

The population is above minimum size/composition objectives, stable or increasing and can sustain hunter-caused mortality.

C. BOARD DECISION: No
Yes
Other

If no, hunting is not allowed in regulation (skip to Section 8). If yes, proceed to Section 4.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence use?

A. HISTORIC HARVEST AND USER DATA SUMMARY

In Subunit 20A, harvests averaged 311 moose between 1963 and 1969. From 1969 to 1974, harvest increased to an average of 617 moose per year. Thirty-four percent of the annual harvest from 1963 to 1974 were cows. Beginning in 1975, seasons and harvests were dramatically reduced and taking of cows was prohibited. From 1975 to 1978, mean annual harvest was only 44 bulls. From 1979 to 1982, harvests averaged 226 bulls. Since 1982, the harvest averaged 370 bulls per year.

From 1986 through 1990, 75-89% of the reporting moose hunters in Subunit 20A were residents, 6-10% were nonresidents, and the remainder did not report their residency.

In Subunit 20B, general hunting seasons were lengthened following moose population increases in the early 1980s. Harvests increased to approximately 300 bulls per year between 1983 and 1986. During 1987 and 1988, harvests further increased to approximately 375 bulls per year, despite a 5-day reduction in the 1988 season. In 1989 and 1990, 417 and 387 moose were reported harvested, respectively. In addition, reported harvest from permit hunts has included 9-28 bulls per year (1986-1990) from the Minto Management Area and 22 bulls from the Fairbanks Management Area in 1990.

From 1986 through 1990 (but no data for 1987), 80-94% of the moose hunters in Subunit 20B were residents. The proportion of nonresidents ranged from 3-7% during the same period.

Other Harvest and Use Information (Mean harvest per household; Harvest Range per household; etc.):
Residents of Minto harvested an estimated 19 moose in 1983-84 and 27 moose in 1984-85, based on household surveys.

Handwritten calculation:
370
+ 417

787

4/1/92
Ken Taylor

Anderson 25%
FAI 57%
Moose 1%
Mean 13%
2.5%
25% of
.7%
8.3%
0%

in the 20A Subs. Area
63

Source Material Reference: FY92 Moose Management Reports 20A and 20B. Andrews 1988. WRB 7, 11.1-29

B. ADF&G RECOMMENDATION:

300 - Board amendment
300-400 Moose
Non-resident harvest

C. BOARD DECISION. Total Amount for all Subsistence use:

7% 20A Non-Subs.
20% 20A Subs.

5. Do the proposed regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence users?

A. DATA SUMMARY

Regulatory History:

7% Non-Subs 20B
13% Subs. 20B
27% 20C 14%
Other

In Subunit 20A, the moose hunting season since 1981 has been 15-30 days in September. In addition, during 2 years in the early 1980s, there was an 8-11 day season in late November. The bag limit during this time has been 1 bull, with antler restrictions applying to the bag limit in the southwestern subunit since 1988. Much more liberal seasons (53-103 days plus opportunities to take antlerless moose) took place from 1961 through the mid-1970s.

Moose seasons differ throughout Subunit 20B. The Fairbanks Management Area was established in 1983, provides for bowhunting of moose in Fairbanks, and has a season open during all of September and 1 week in late November. The remainder of the subunit has had a 15-20 day season in September since 1983-84. Much more liberal seasons (62-79 days plus opportunities to take antlerless moose) also occurred in Subunit 20B from 1961 through the mid-1970s. Since 1975, the bag limit throughout Subunit 20B has been 1 bull.

Information regarding reasonable opportunity:

Since 1986, hunter success rates in Subunit 20A ranged from 28-34%. These rates continue to be higher for nonresidents (49% and 54% in 1989 and 1990, respectively) than for residents (31% and 28%, respectively).

In Subunit 20B, hunter success rates for the general season ranged from 17-19% since 1986 (no data for 1987). Hunter success is generally lower in Subunit 20B than elsewhere in Unit 20 because many Fairbanks residents obtain harvest tickets but only hunt along the road system where hunting pressure is high and the number of legal moose is limited.

Source Material Reference: FY92 Moose Management Report 20A and 20B. WRB 7, 11.1-29

B. ADF&G RECOMMENDATION: No Analysis:

Yes X See Proposal

C. BOARD DECISION: No
Yes
Other

20B FAI mgmt AREA

20B Salcha-Charley

Remainder 20B (exc Minto)

Non Subs 20B

Other 12
Anderson 5
Coke 0
Fisher 252
Minto 2
Nanana 1

If no, proceed to Section 6. If yes, then stop.

82 in Subs Area

100-50-25
20A

75-100-200
20B

7-0

63
143
200-50-200

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses?

A. ADF&G RECOMMENDATION: No Yes See Proposal # 115
Analysis:

B. BOARD DECISION: No
Yes
Other

If yes, then the Board shall adopt regulations to differentiate among consumptive uses that provide a preference for the subsistence uses, or the Board shall adopt regulations that eliminate other consumptive uses in order to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses. Go to Section 7.

7. Does the adoption of regulations reducing or eliminating consumptive uses other than subsistence uses provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses?

A. ADF&G RECOMMENDATION: No Yes See Proposal
Analysis:

B. BOARD DECISION: No
Yes
Other

If yes, then stop. If no, the Tier II subsistence regulations must be adopted.

8. Other Regulations Requiring Action

1. Repeal of subsistence regulations in nonsubsistence areas. See proposal
2. Closure on populations without a harvestable surplus. See proposal