

Moose Hunting Regulations

JUNEAU — The Board of Fish and Game has adopted new moose hunting regulations which curtail antlerless hunting and provide for shorter bulls-only seasons in much of Alaska.

The action, taken at the board's spring meeting in Juneau, eliminates most August openings

and reflects generally lower moose populations in many areas.

Jim Reardon, who headed the board's moose committee, told the board that there appeared to be no single reason for the decline in the state's moose populations.

"Winter losses, predation and hunting pressure are involved but loss of habitat seems to be a key factor in many of the moose reduction situations we have seen," Reardon said.

He cited "heavy predation" as a major element which caused the board to set a 10-day, bulls-only season in unit 20A. He added that severe winters and hunting pressure also had contributed to the decline of the moose there. The area has an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 moose.

In setting the new seasons, the board tailored the regulations to the specific areas rather than eliminated antlerless seasons statewide as a bill now before the legislature would do.

"The committee's recommendations on antlerless moose were conservative and antlerless moose harvests were recommended only in those areas where there was public support," Reardon said.