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Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

As Required by 12 MSRA Section 11552

Proposed Actions For Moose Management in Regards to the Number of Permits Issued, the Length and Timing of the Annual Moose Hunting Season



Presented by the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife January 2009

In response to the requirements set forth in 12 MSRA, 11552, subsection 2, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife submits the following report on the actions taken and the actions proposed for the management of moose relative to the number of permits, season timing, and the areas open to hunting.

The take of moose in the 2008 September and October seasons was 2,202, which is 150 more than the kill in 2007 (2,052). There were good hunting conditions in both the September and October seasons this past fall, with cool fall weather and little precipitation.

This is the first year that Maine held a moose hunt in more central parts of the state, including Wildlife Management Districts 15, 16, 23, and 26. This hunt was held during the regular firearms season on deer, and was intended originally to be a hunt to lower moose densities moderately in these areas to reduce vehicle collisions. It also turned out to be additional opportunity for hunters in those Districts that wanted to hunt lower density moose along with deer hunting, and it helped with landowners' request to not create another separate hunt. There were only 135 permits scattered across the 4 WMD's, and 34 hunters were successful. We expected the success rate to be much lower in these districts, since the moose density is much lower. We will be analyzing the data from these 4 WMD's carefully to make sure that prospective hunters understand the nature of this hunt as compared to hunting in more northern, eastern and western districts (access issues, smaller landownerships, and low success rates).

The Department proposed keeping the number of moose permits the same next season (2009) as in 2008. We have also been working with a public group in Aroostook County to develop a process to get a controlled hunt for moose in areas that are sustaining high damage by moose to agricultural crops and high numbers of moose collisions. The Department has proposed the framework of a controlled depredation hunt for moose in several towns in Aroostook County by rule and is collecting public comment on that proposal at this time.

There are a number of moose management issues being discussed internally and with the public. We continue to try to develop a better method of estimating moose numbers, and we are developing several ideas/options to present to a public working group this coming year that will consider moose management in relation to deer, bear, marten, and lynx in northern Maine.

Attached are the rule proposals and supporting materials to which the Advisory Council gave their consent in December.

Rule-Making Cover Sheet

MAPA-1

Secretary of State TO: ATTN: Administrative Procedure Officer, State House Station 101, Augusta, Maine 04333. 1. Agency: Inland Fisheries & WIldlife 2. Agency umbrella and unit number: 09-137 ACCEPTED FOR 3. Title of rule: Moose Hunting **FILING** 4. Chapter number assigned to the rule: Chapter 4.05 JAN 12 2009 5. Date(s)/method(s) of notice: 10/15/08 – See Secretary of State's Ad List SECRETARY OF STATE Date(s)/place(s) of hearing(s): None scheduled – none requested. 6. new rule 7-A. Type: " partial amendment(s) of existing rule suspension of existing rule repeal of rule emergency rule repeal and replace: complete replacement of existing chapter, with former version simultaneously repealed. 8. Name/phone of agency contact person: Andrea L. Erskine, 287-5201 If a major substantive rule under Title 5, c. 375, sub-CII-A, check one of the following 9. Provisional adoption Final adoption (prior to Legislative review) emergency adoption of major-substantive rule

10. Certification Statement: I, Roland D. Martin that the attached is a true copy of the rule(s) described above and lawfully adopted	hereby certify d by
Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife on 12/4/08 (name of agency) (date)	
(original signature, personally signed by the head of agency) Printed name & title: Roland D. Martin, Commissioner	
11. Approved as to form and legality by the Attorney General on January 12, Signature (date)	<u>2009</u> .
(original signature, personally signed by an Assistant Attorney General) Margaret Bensinger, Printed Name: Mark Randlett, Assistant Attorney General	

Repeal and replace Chapter 4.05, Paragraph a, Paragraph C (1) as follows:

C. Permits

For the purposes of this rule, the term "antlerless moose" means a moose without antlers or a moose with antlers that are shorter in size than its ears. The term "bull moose" means a moose with antlers. The term "any-moose" means a moose of either sex.

1. The number of moose hunting permits to be issued for each Wildlife Management District shall be as follows:

WMD 1 $-$ 120 bulls / 20 antlerless	WMD $12 - 35$ bulls / 20 antlerless
WMD 2 – 95 bulls	WMD 13 35 bulls / 10 antlerless
WMD 3 $-$ 225 bulls / 230 antlerless	WMD 14 – 35 bulls
WMD 4 – 255 bulls	WMD 15 – 25 any-moose*
WMD 5 – 125 bulls	WMD 16 – 20 any-moose*
WMD 6 – 220 bulls / 280 antierless	WMD $17 - 30$ bulls / 30 antlerless
WMD 7 – 125 bulls	WMD $18 - 80$ bulls / 20 antlerless
WMD 8 – 235 bulls	WMD $19 - 90$ bulls / 20 antlerless
WMD 9 – 50 bulls	WMD 23 – 45 any-moose*
WMD 10 – 100 bulls / 10 antlerless	WMD 26 – 45 any-moose*
WMD 11 – 160 bulls / 120 antlerless	WMD 27 – 25 bulls / 5 antlerless
	WMD $28 - 60$ bulls / 15 antlerless

TOTAL: 2,100 bulls/780 antlerless/135 any-moose

Ten percent of the total number of permits allocated to each Wildlife Management District shall be issued to nonresident and aliens.