

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. R3-2-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska
February 18, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 AM
March 1, 2026

Expiration Date: June 30, 2026
unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This announcement opens a state resident registration permit hunt, RM831, for any moose in the portion of Game Management Unit 21D south of the south bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.045(a)(19), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are in effect for hunting moose in Unit 21D:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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Unit 21(D), that portion south of the
South bank of the Yukon River,
downstream of the up-river entrance of
Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
1 moose, by registration permit only, however, a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Mar. 1–Mar. 15	

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All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 21D remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
Glenn Stout
Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Board of Game established a registration permit hunt in the portion of Unit 21D south of the south bank of the Yukon River downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek at their January 2019 meeting.

From 2011 to 2018, the moose population in the Kaiyuh Flats area of Unit 21D increased, providing additional opportunity for moose harvest. Moose abundance in the hunt area was estimated to be 1,900–2,500 in 2011 and increased to an estimated 4,000–4,500 moose by fall 2018. Trend count surveys conducted in November, from 2019 through 2025, indicate the population continued to grow through 2023, although productivity apparently slowed down in 2024 and 2025. Despite the recent slowdown in growth, 969 adult moose were observed in the 2025 fall survey, compared to an average of 850 adult moose observed from 2001 through 2025.

The Unit 21D 10-year average estimated harvest during 2015–2024 was 388 moose, which is below the Intensive Management harvest objective of 500–1,000 moose. The harvest quota for this winter hunt will be 25 moose, to include no more than 20 cows. The harvest of cows accompanied by calves is prohibited. Hunters who have already harvested a moose during this regulatory year (after July 1, 2025) are not eligible to participate in this hunt. Hunters must report their harvest within 2 days of harvest, and unsuccessful hunters or hunters that did not hunt need to report by March 31, 2026.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution of the Emergency Order is to the following list. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Fairbanks.

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2. Commissioner, ADF&G
3. Assistant Attorney General
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 - a. Director
 - b. Deputy Director
 - c. Regional Supervisors
 - d. Regulations Coordination Team
 - e. Area Offices, Statewide
 - f. Information Management
 - g. Wildlife Information Centers
 - h. Web Master – HQ
5. State/Federal Regulations Coordinator
 - a. Anchorage
 - b. Anchorage (Federal)
6. Division of Subsistence
 - a. Fairbanks
 - b. HQ
7. Division of Boards
 - a. Executive Director, Juneau
 - b. Boards Coordinator, Fairbanks
8. Public Communication Section
9. Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT)
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 - d. Tok
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10. US Fish and Wildlife Service
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12. Tanana Chiefs Conference
 - a. Fairbanks
13. Koyukuk-Nowitna-Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
14. Fairbanks Advisory Committee
15. Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
16. Ruby Advisory Committee
17. Middle Yukon River Advisory Committee
18. TRM Advisory Committee
19. GASH Advisory Committee
20. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
21. Kaltag Tribal Council
22. Nulato Tribal Council
23. Koyukuk Tribal Council
24. Louden Village Council
25. Grayling Tribal Council
26. Anvik Tribal Council
27. Holy Cross Tribal Council