

Reduction In Moose Permits Impacts Availability Of Hunting Lodge Permits

Due to a peak year for winter ticks and their impact on the moose population this winter, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is reducing the overall number of moose permits available to hunters this fall.

On May 9, The IFW's advisory council accepted the department's recommendation to reduce the number of moose permits available for the 2014 season. This fall, the department will issue 3095 permits statewide, down from the 4,110 that were available last year.

"Based upon the research of our biologists, I feel it is prudent to decrease the number of female moose permits available," said IFW Commissioner Chandler Woodcock. "Decreasing the amount of permits will help lessen the impact of winter tick on the state's moose population."

In particular, the department decreased the number of antlerless only permits that are available to hunters. Antlerless only permits were decreased in wildlife management districts 1-5, 7-9 and 12-13. This is the northern and northwestern part of Maine including northern the northern portions of Oxford, Franklin, Somerset, Piscataquis, Penobscot and Aroostook counties.

Under a new law that was passed in 2014, if the number of moose permits available was over 3,140, 10% of the number in excess of 3,140 would be available to hunting lodges if they met certain criteria.

The 3,095 permits that are now available is under the threshold of 3,140 permits, and unfortunately the department will be unable to issue any permits to hunting lodges this year.