

2008 NEW HAMPSHIRE MOOSE SEASON SUMMARY

The 2008 New Hampshire moose season took place from Oct. 18 through Oct. 26. The weather throughout the season was wonderful, with cold crisp mornings and daytime temperatures that ranged from the 50's to 80's. This year moose were very actively rutting and many hunters found they could call in bulls, while others were fortunate enough to watch bulls sparring and wooing cows. However, due in part to the large number of antlerless-only permits issued in the White Mountain Region, the statewide success rate is down from last year (65.5% vs 71.1%). This year 516 permits were issued, down substantially from the preceding two-year average of 675.

During the 9-day season, 333 moose were taken. The take consisted of 180 (54%) adult bulls, 132 (40%) adult cows and 21 (6%) calves. Success rate for all permits combined was 64.5%; 65.2% for either-sex permits and 62.2% for antlerless-only permits. Regional success rates were up from last year (North Region – 83.3%, Central Region - 68.3%, Southwest Region – 45%, Southeast Region – 37.5%), with the exception of the Connecticut Lakes and the White Mountain regions, which were down. The Connecticut Lakes Region was down slightly from 88.1% to 79.7%, while the White Mountain Region was down significantly, from 62.3% to 46.7% due primarily to the first time issuance of antlerless only permits. The regional adult harvest sex ratio (bulls per cow) for either-sex permits increased or remained stable in 2008, as compared to 2007: (Connecticut Lakes - 2.6:1, North - 3.5:1, S.West - 8:1, S. East - 1.0:1), with the exceptions of the White Mountain Region, which declined from 3.9:1 to 1.9:1, and the Central Region, which declined from 3.9:1 to 2.2:1.

Hunters traveled from 17 states and one foreign country (Scotland) to participate in the 2008 season. Non-residents took 79 moose (24%), while residents took the remaining 254 moose (76%). Moose were taken by rifle (325), muzzleloader (5), shotgun (2), and bow (1). The preferred caliber used for rifles was the 30.06. Permittees accounted for 68% of the moose harvest (227), while subpermittees accounted for 32% (106). Women took 16 moose, and 61% of the 2008 moose harvest was taken in the first three days of the season.

The oldest hunter was Kneiland Wheeler, an 80-year-old gentleman from Pittsburg, NH, who took a 720-lb bull with a 50.25 inch spread. The youngest hunter was 9-year-old Keith Locke of Concord, NH, who took an adult bull with a 37-inch spread during the newly established "Hunt of a Lifetime" program. The largest bull of the season weighed 840 lbs (dressed weight) and was taken in D1 by Robert Whitten of Litchfield, NH. Walter Celley of Vermont called in and took the bull with the largest spread (61 in) in unit B. Brian Cole of Antrim took the largest cow (715 lbs dressed weight) in unit A1.

A map of the wildlife management units and moose management regions and a table of permit issuance and success rates for 2007 and 2008 follows.

**2008 MOOSE SEASON RESULTS INCLUDING PERMITS ISSUED
AND MOOSE TAKEN PER UNIT AND REGION.**

UNITS & REGIONS	PERMITS ISSUED			MOOSE TAKEN BY PERMIT TYPE			SUCCESS RATE
	Either Sex	Antlered Only	TOTAL ISSUED	Either Sex	Antlered Only	TOTAL FILLED	
A1	14	15	29	10	13	23	79.3%
A2	25	25	50	21	19	40	80.0%
CT. LAKES	39	40	79	31	32	63	79.7%
B	35	14	49	31	11	42	85.7%
C2	15	5	20	14	5	19	95.0%
D1	16	5	21	12	2	14	66.7%
NORTH	66	24	90	57	18	75	83.3%
C1	15	10	25	11	9	20	80.0%
D2	25	15	40	10	4	14	35.0%
E1	5	5	10	2	3	5	50.0%
E2	5	0	5	2	0	2	40.0%
E3	10	5	15	5	1	6	40.0%
F	35	20	55	16	7	23	41.8%
WHITE MTNS	95	55	150	46	24	70	46.7%
G	54		54	45		45	83.3%
H1	15		15	11		11	73.3%
I1	20		20	11		11	55.0%
I2	30		30	20		20	66.7%
J1	11		11	7		7	63.6%
J2	31		31	16		16	51.6%
CENTRAL	161		161	110		110	68.3%
H2N	5		5	3		3	60.0%
H2S	5		5	2		2	40.0%
K	10		10	4		4	40.0%
SOUTHWEST	20		20	9		9	45.0%
L	10		10	3		3	30.0%
M	6		6	3		3	50.0%
SOUTHEAST	16		16	6		6	37.5%
STATE TOTALS	397	119	516	259	74	333	64.5%

**2007 MOOSE SEASON RESULTS INCLUDING PERMITS ISSUED
AND MOOSE TAKEN PER UNIT AND REGION.**

UNITS & REGIONS	PERMITS ISSUED			MOOSE TAKEN BY PERMIT TYPE			SUCCESS RATE
	Either Sex	Antlered Only	TOTAL ISSUED	Either Sex	Antlered Only	TOTAL FILLED	
A1	31	15	46	30	12	42	91%
A2	78	35	113	70	28	98	87%
CT. LAKES	109	50	159	100	40	140	88%
B	65	15	80	54	11	65	81%
C2	40	11	51	38	8	46	90%
D1	29	10	39	23	3	26	67%
NORTH	134	36	170	115	22	137	81%
C1	25		25	22		22	88%
D2	30		30	14		14	47%
E1	25		25	16		16	64%
E2	5		5	4		4	80%
E3	30		30	14		14	47%
F	31		31	21		21	68%
WHITE MTNS	146		146	91		91	62%
G	50		50	41		41	82%
H1	15		15	8		8	53%
I1	15		15	5		5	33%
I2	40		40	24		24	60%
J1	14		14	9		9	64%
J2	24		24	10		10	42%
CENTRAL	158		158	97		97	61%
H2N	5		5	2		2	40%
H2S	5		5	3		3	60%
K	15		15	6		6	40%
SOUTHWEST	25		25	11		11	44%
L	11		11	6		6	55%
M	9		9	0		0	0%
SOUTHEAST	20		20	6		6	30%
STATE TOTALS	592	86	678	420	62	482	71%