



2023 New Hampshire Moose Hunting Regulations



In addition to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's general hunting rules, the following regulations are strongly enforced throughout the moose hunting season.

Fis 301.07 Moose Season.

(a) "Antlered moose" means a moose which has at least one antler 6 inches long measured from the tip of the main beam along the distal edge of the antler to the base of the antler burr at the skull.

(b) For purposes of this section the state shall be divided into wildlife management units, as described in Fis 301.02.

(c) The moose season shall be 9 consecutive days and shall open on the third Saturday in October.

(d) No moose shall be taken with the aid and use of dogs.

(e) No moose shall be taken with the aid and use of bait.

(f) No person other than the permittee and subpermittee shall participate in a joint hunt to take moose except that the permittee may employ one licensed guide. The licensed guide may direct, aid, assist, or instruct the permittee and subpermittee but shall not shoot a moose.

(g) No person shall use an unmanned aerial vehicle as defined in Fis 312, or a person in any other aircraft to locate moose or communicate the location of moose to a permittee, subpermittee, or licensed guide between September 1 and December 31 of any year, or during the open moose season.

(h) No person shall use radio telemetry equipment, electronic calls, cell phones, radio transceivers, pagers, or other communication devices to collect and thereafter provide information to a permittee, subpermittee, or licensed guide for the purpose of attracting or taking moose

after September 1 of any year or during the open moose season.

(i) No moose shall be taken within 300 feet of a class I, II, III, IV, or V highway, as classified pursuant to RSA 229:5. For purposes of this section both the hunter and the moose shall be not less than 300 feet from a class I, II, III, IV, or V highway.

(j) No moose shall be taken with rimfire firearms or with shotguns using shot loads including buckshot. In towns restricted to weapon types pursuant to RSA 207:3-b, 208:3, 208:3-a, 208:3-b, and 208:3-c, only shotguns loaded with a single ball, muzzle-loading rifle, pistols as specified in RSA 208:3-d, crossbow or bow and arrow shall be permitted for the taking of moose, except pistols shall not be used in the town of Bow pursuant to RSA 207:3-b.

(k) A person holding a current moose permit or subpermittee's permit may hunt moose with a muzzleloading firearm of not less than .45 caliber.

(l) Notwithstanding (f) above, a permittee taking moose under the provisions of RSA 208:1-aa may use additional guides to assist in carrying out such hunt as necessary for the safe and successful completion of the hunt.

(m) Only one moose shall be taken per permittee and subpermittee combination.

(n) Moose may be taken in the water.

(o) The permittee or the subpermittee may shoot the moose, but it shall be the responsibility of the permittee to tag the moose immediately upon killing, remove the moose, and transport it to the biological check station as required by Fis 301.08.

(p) The moose tag shall contain the following:

- (1) The shooter's signature;
- (2) The date and time of kill;
- (3) Town of kill;

- (4) Specific location of kill
- (5) The assigned wildlife management unit.

(q) The permittee shall remain with the moose during transportation to the biological check station. If the moose is shot by the subpermittee, both the permittee and subpermittee shall go to the check station to check the moose.

(r) The permittee and subpermittee shall only hunt in the wildlife management unit to which they are assigned by the department.

(s) The subpermittee shall always be accompanied by the permittee while hunting moose. All subpermittees shall be within sight and hearing, excluding electronic devices, when actual physical direction and control can be effected pursuant to RSA 207:1, XXX. All subpermittees under the age of 16 shall be accompanied by a permittee 18 years of age or older.

(t) The moose tag shall remain with the moose at all times until the moose is sealed at the biological check station, pursuant to RSA 208:9.

(u) Once the moose has been sealed as provided in Fis 301.08(h), a moose may be transported during the open season, and for 10 days after provided the registration seal remains firmly affixed to the moose at all times.

(v) The permittee, subpermittee, or both if requested, shall return with or without fish and game department personnel to the kill site, the site of evisceration, or both for purposes such as, but not limited to, verification of kill site or to obtain ovaries or other biological samples left behind.

(w) Each permittee or subpermittee shall carry a moose permit and each permittee and subpermittee 16 years of age or older shall carry a hunting license at all times when hunting for moose and registering the moose at the check station.

(x) Any person leaving moose parts in the field shall place parts out of sight of roads traveled by conventional vehicles.

Fis 301.041 Minimum Requirements for Crossbow and Archery Equipment Used for Hunting.

(a) Unless authorized by permit pursuant to RSA 207:10-c, a crossbow that is used for the purpose of a take shall have:

- (1) A minimum pull of 125 pounds;
- (2) At least one working mechanical safety;
- (3) A total length of no less than 25 inches; and
- (4) A rigid stock that permits only a single horizontally mounted bow with transverse limbs, a single string to be fully drawn, loaded with one bolt, maintained indefinitely in a firing position, and mechanically released. No crossbow fitted with 2 or more bows, limbs, or strings, or which permit 2 or more bolts to be released without recocking shall be permitted for the purpose of a take.

(b) Unless authorized by permit pursuant to RSA 207:7-a, a traditional straight, recurve, or compound bow used for the purpose of a take shall:

- (1) At 28 inches or less draw length have a minimum peak weight pull of:
 - b. If used to hunt moose, 50 pounds;
- (2) Be drawn or released only by hand, or with a hand-held release; and
- (3) Contain no manufactured or accessory device secured to or supported by the bow for the purpose of maintaining the bow at full draw in a firing position.

(c) No person shall use an arrow, bolt, or quarrel tip other than a broadhead for the purpose of a take, that fails to meet the following minimum criteria:

- (1) Fixed blade broadheads shall not be less than 7/8 of an inch or more than 1 1/2 inches wide;
- (2) Retractable blade broadheads may be smaller than 7/8 of an inch wide in flight, but shall not be less than 7/8 of an inch wide when open;
- (3) There shall be no upper size limit on retractable blade broadheads; and

- (4) The hunter's name and address shall be plainly and legibly printed on each arrow, bolt, or quarrel.

Fis 301.08 Moose Registration at Biological Check Stations.

(a) Moose taken during the open moose hunting season shall be presented at the nearest biological check station within 24 hours of the kill.

(b) Moose taken prior to the open season on hunting adventure permits under RSA 208:1-aa shall be presented to a designated conservation officer or a designated deer registration station within 24 hours of the kill.

(c) The moose shall be transported in such a manner that a portion of the moose is open to view.

(d) Biological check stations shall be open for 3 to 9 days during the open moose hunting season. The day after the season closes moose shall be registered at any fish and game department regional office or at headquarters in Concord.

(e) At the registration station, the permittee shall provide the fish and game department with his or her hunting license, moose permit and completed moose tag as well as the following on the "Moose Registration" form:

- (1) Date and time of kill;
- (2) Wildlife management unit, town, and locality of kill;
- (3) Weapon used;
- (4) An indication as to whether or not the moose was taken with aid of a guide;
- (5) Shooter's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, sex, and license number, if required; and
- (6) The shooter's signature, signed subject to the penalties for making unsworn false statements under RSA 641:3.

(f) The permittee shall allow biological information to be taken from their moose including the sex, antler beam diameter, number of points, antler spread, weight, estimated age, and estimated tick loads.

(g) The permittee shall bring in to the biological check station at least the following:

- (1) The lower jaw, including incisors, one of which shall be taken for aging purposes;
- (2) The intact antler rack on an antlered moose;
- (3) The skull plate on a male antlerless moose;
- (4) The female reproductive tract including both of the ovaries and the mammary sack; and
- (5) All edible portions of the moose.

(h) Once all moose registration requirements are completed, a moose registration seal as provided in RSA 208:9 shall be affixed by fish and game personnel or their designated agents to the moose for transportation.

Wildlife management unit map and descriptions are available in the NH Hunting and Trapping Digest or by visiting www.huntnh.com.