

Eastern Moose

Alces alces americana (Mainland Population)

STATUS

Not Listed



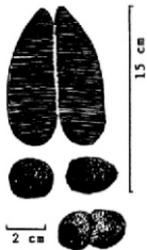
Endangered



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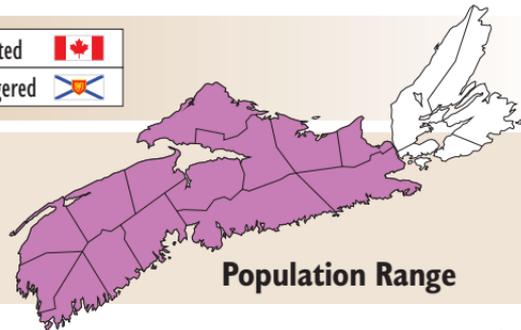
Species Description

The Eastern Moose is the largest member of the Cervidae (deer) family. It has a broad over-hanging muzzle, long ears, short neck, and broad, high shoulders. Its torso is solid, and it has long legs and a short tail. Its fur has a coarse, brittle texture and varies in colour from shades of brown, to brown-black, to grey. Adult males are known for their large, palmate (broad and flattened) antlers and the "bell" or dewlap that hangs on the upper throat region.



Moose track and droppings

There are likely fewer than 1000 moose found throughout mainland Nova Scotia.



Population Range

Habitat

Moose are herbivores who live in boreal and mixedwood forests. They are often found where there is an abundance of food (twigs, stems, and foliage of young deciduous trees and shrubs). In spring, islands and peninsulas are often used by cows when giving birth. In summer, access to wetlands (and aquatic vegetation) is important.



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Mainland Moose appear to be concentrated in four regions in Nova Scotia including the Tobeatic Wilderness Area, Cobequid Mountains, Antigonish & Guysborough Counties, and southern Halifax County.

Interesting Points

- The last legal season for hunting Mainland Moose was in 1936 in the western end of the province and in 1981 in the eastern end.
- Females typically give birth to one or two calves in May or June, although rarely triplets can be observed.
- A mechanical moose nicknamed "Bullwinkle" has been used to catch poachers on mainland Nova Scotia.



Bull moose

© NS DNR



Cow moose

© NS DNR



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Threats to Survival

- Poaching (made easier with increased access via roads and OHVs).
- Recreational based disturbance.
- Disease and parasites (brain worm and winter tick).
- Pollution (heavy metals, acidification and global warming).
- Habitat loss and modification.



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Sick mainland moose

How You Can Help

Do not disturb moose! Report sightings, or signs like antlers or scat (take a photograph and note the date, time and location). Report observations to the hotline below, or fill in an online form at:

www.novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/large-mammals/msform.asp



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Scat is the size and shape of chocolate almonds

Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: NS Department of Natural Resources at (902) 679-6091

Info: www.novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/large-mammals/moosefaq.asp

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447 or NS DNR online reporting form:
www.novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/large-mammals/msform.asp

Hunting Mainland Moose is Illegal

To Report Illegal Activity:
Phone 1-800-565-2224

Due to the covert nature of poaching, it is impossible to count how many mainland moose are illegally killed. Recent enforcement actions by NS DNR clearly show that illegal harvest is a serious threat to the long term health of moose in some mainland areas of Nova Scotia.