



31 March 2023

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3208

Re: 2023 Moose Harvest Recommendation

Dear Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2023 Moose Harvest Recommendation. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide and, being so, we strongly support the proposed recommendations for the 2023 moose harvest.

SCI and Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) are longstanding partners of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and are intimately familiar with the issue of winter tick impacts on moose health, survival, and birth rate. SCIF assisted in the funding of moose research conducted by VFWD and the University of Vermont in [2017](#) and continued funding the project through completion of fieldwork in 2020. For this project, 126 moose were fitted and monitored with GPS tracking collars and showed that chronically high winter tick loads have caused the health of moose in this wildlife management unit in Northeastern Vermont to decline, particularly for calves. SCIF also funded previous studies in [New Hampshire](#) as part of a regional strategy to address declining moose populations in northern New England. Across various states and Canadian provinces, SCI/F is proud to contribute to an increased knowledge of the drivers of moose population change and how to reverse negative trends.

Expanding hunting opportunities for moose in this particular region of Vermont is the most effective management tool available, and with increased hunting opportunities likely comes increased funding for VDFW's conservation efforts thanks to the sale of licenses, tags and entries for the permit lottery. SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the 2023 Moose Harvest Recommendation.

Sincerely,

Sven Lindquist
President
Safari Club International