



Alaska Board of Game

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
2024/2025 Cycle
Tentative Meeting Dates

Meeting Dates	Topic	Location	Comment Deadline
January 9, 2025 (1 day)	Work Session	Wasilla Best Western Lake Lucille Inn	TBD
January 10-17, 2025 (8 days)	Central & Southwest Region Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17	Wasilla Best Western Lake Lucille Inn	December 27, 2024
March 21-28, 2025 (8 days)	Statewide Regulations 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98	Anchorage Egan Civic & Convention Center	March 7, 2025

Total Meeting Days: 17

Agenda Change Request Deadline: Friday, November 1, 2024

(The Board of Game will meet via teleconference to consider Agenda Change Requests following the November 1 deadline.)

In March 2011 the board also exempted brown bear tag fees for brown bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed primarily as a trophy species. Brown bears are frequently observed in communities where they destroy property in search of food or garbage and occasionally kill pets. The bear seasons and bag limits adopted in 2011 along with the elimination of the tag fee were intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of bears in defense of life or property.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9. Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates cultural and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative from the general season hunts for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-064)

Note: This proposal addresses Game Management Units outside the scope of the Central Southwest Region meeting.

PROPOSAL 2

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

5 AAC 95.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Open two bear baiting seasons in Units 9, 11, 13, 14B, 14C, 16, and 17 where bear baiting is legal as follows.

Proposed changes to the following bear baiting seasons are:

Units 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2-3, 5 -----	Apr 15-June 15 / Sept 1-Oct 15
Units 6A, 6B, 6C -----	Apr 15-June 15 / Aug 20-Oct 15
Unit 6D -----	Apr 15-June 10 / Sept 10-Oct 15
Units 7, 9, 11-13, 14A & B, 14C Remainder, 15, 20 -----	Apr 15-June 30 / July 1 - Oct 15
Units 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25-----	Apr 1 - Jun 30 / July 1 - Oct 15

With these changes in season dates and caribou herds dropping throughout the State of Alaska, the Department of Fish and Game can regulate / put in emergency orders if the bear population drops too low. In certain units of Alaska, it is harder for some hunters / subsistence users to gain access to their bear baiting sites and being able to hunt them due to the rivers not being safe to travel on.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Bethel Advisory Committee proposes to have two (2) bear baiting seasons in the State of Alaska in Units where bear baiting is legal. Hunters and subsistence users will have better opportunities to take bears during a two (2) season bear baiting. In certain units throughout the state, hunters & subsistence users may only have two (2) to three (3) weeks to get a legally take a take. There are nineteen (19) out of twenty-six (26) units in Alaska with a NO CLOSED SEASON for black bears.

Current State of Alaska Fish and Game Areas Open for Bear Baiting:

Units 1-(A, B, C), 2-3, 5, 6(A, B, C) -----Apr 15 – Jun 15
Unit 6D* -----Apr 15 – Jun 15
Units 1D, 7,9, 11-13, 14A & B, 14C Remainder, 15, 19(A, B, C, E) ---Apr 15 – Jun 30
19D remainder, 20, 21(A, B, E), 23, 24 A & B, 25(A, B, C)
Unit 16-----Jul 1–Oct 15 / Apr 15-Jun30
Unit 17-----Apr 15-May 31
Unit 18-----Apr 1 – Jun30
Unit 19D East Predator Control Area: Those portions of the Kuskokwim River Drainage within Unit 19D Upstream from Selatna River Drainage and the Black River Drainage 21C & D, 24C & D and 25D-----Aug 1-Sept 30 / Apr 15-Jun 30

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? Yes.

PROPOSED BY: Bethel Fish & Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-016)

Note: This proposal addresses Game Management Units outside the scope of the Central and Southwest Region meeting.

PROPOSAL 3

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Allow the use of cellular cameras for the taking black bear and brown bear over bait in Units 9, 11, 13, 14B, 16, and 17 as follows:

I would like the Board of Game to allow the use of cellular cameras for the taking black bear and brown bear over bait in Units 7, 9, 11-13, 14A, 14B, 15-21, 23-25, 26B, and 26C, during applicable seasons (same units as airborne). This allows an easily enforceable regulation for law enforcement with concise purpose of use and time when these cameras can be used.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently hunters are not allowed to use any camera or other sensory device that can send messages through wireless communication. This includes cellular game cameras over bear bait. These were prohibited with the assumption that this would give an unfair advantage to hunters, yet despite when the hunter gets a photo, he would still have to travel to hunt his bait station often requiring hours of travel

King Salmon Area – Units 9 & 10

PROPOSAL 5

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Reduce the nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 9D from two bull caribou to one as follows:

Unit 9D. Nonresidents limited to one bull caribou by harvest ticket.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abuse of the liberal bag limits on bull caribou for nonresident hunters in Unit 9D. The current bag limit is two bulls per regulatory year. This is one of, if not the only, unit in Alaska that still allows nonresidents to take two bulls. The area was just opened up eight years ago after a long closure due to low numbers. Then shortly after opening back up to allow nonresidents to take two bulls seems out of line with the situation and herd. Some guides on state land are taking many hunters and allowing them to take two bulls, which is an abuse of the limited resource. The herd is healthy and trophy quality is good and can withstand sustainable harvest of the mature bulls, but not at the current two bag limit.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Developed in coordination with Unit 9 game biologists in King Salmon along with other commercial use operators in the area.

PROPOSED BY: Jordan Wallace

(EG-F24-046)

PROPOSAL 6

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Shorten the nonresident hunting season for caribou in Unit 9D as follows:

Unit 9D, nonresident season: Sept. 1-30 by harvest ticket.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abuse of the liberal seasons on bull caribou for nonresident hunters in Unit 9D. The current season for nonresidents is August 1-September 30. August is a difficult time to keep meat and keep the bugs and heat from spoiling it. Also, hides and antlers in velvet are not prime at this time and also hard to keep from spoiling in these warmer conditions. Additionally, this long season in combination with the limit of two bulls is not sustainable long term. The area was closed for many years and just opened up eight years ago. Then shortly after opening back up, they developed this long season that seems out of line with the situation and herd. The herd is currently healthy and can withstand sustainable harvest of the mature bulls, but not at the current rate.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSAL 7

5 AAC 85.025(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Extend the fall Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou season for residents and nonresidents as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
Unit 9(D) If the harvestable portion is 99 caribou or less:	Aug. 1–Sept. 30 (Subsistence hunt only) Nov. 15–Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		No open season
If the harvestable portion is greater than 99, but less than 151 caribou:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 caribou by registration permit only	Aug. 1–Sept. 30 Nov. 15–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		No open season
If the harvestable portion is greater than 150, but less than 251 caribou:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 caribou	<u>Aug. 1–Oct. 21</u> [AUG. 1–SEPT. 30] Nov. 15–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		

2 bulls

Aug. 1–Oct. 21
[AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]

If the harvestable portion
is greater than 250,
but less than 451 caribou:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Aug. 1–Oct. 21
3 caribou [AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1–Oct. 21
[AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]

If the harvestable portion
is greater than 450,
but less than 551 caribou:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Aug. 1–Oct. 21
4 caribou [AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1–Oct. 21
[AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]

If the harvestable portion
is great than 550:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Aug. 1–Oct. 21
5 caribou [AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1–Oct. 21
[AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd has been showing an increasing population trend with high calf:cow ratios and bull:cow ratios that meet objectives. Currently, the population estimate is around 4,300, with a population objective of 1,500–4,000. To change the trajectory of herd growth and decrease the possibility of the herd crashing, a tiered harvest structure was passed by the Board of Game in 2022. Due to the remoteness of Unit 9D, complicated transportation logistics, and often difficult weather, harvest levels are well below sustainable harvest thresholds and increased harvest is recommended. Nonresident bull caribou harvest exceeded resident harvest in 2018 and has steadily

increased to 64 bull caribou harvested this last season while resident harvest remained steady around 25 caribou harvested each year since 2017 (Figure 1-1).

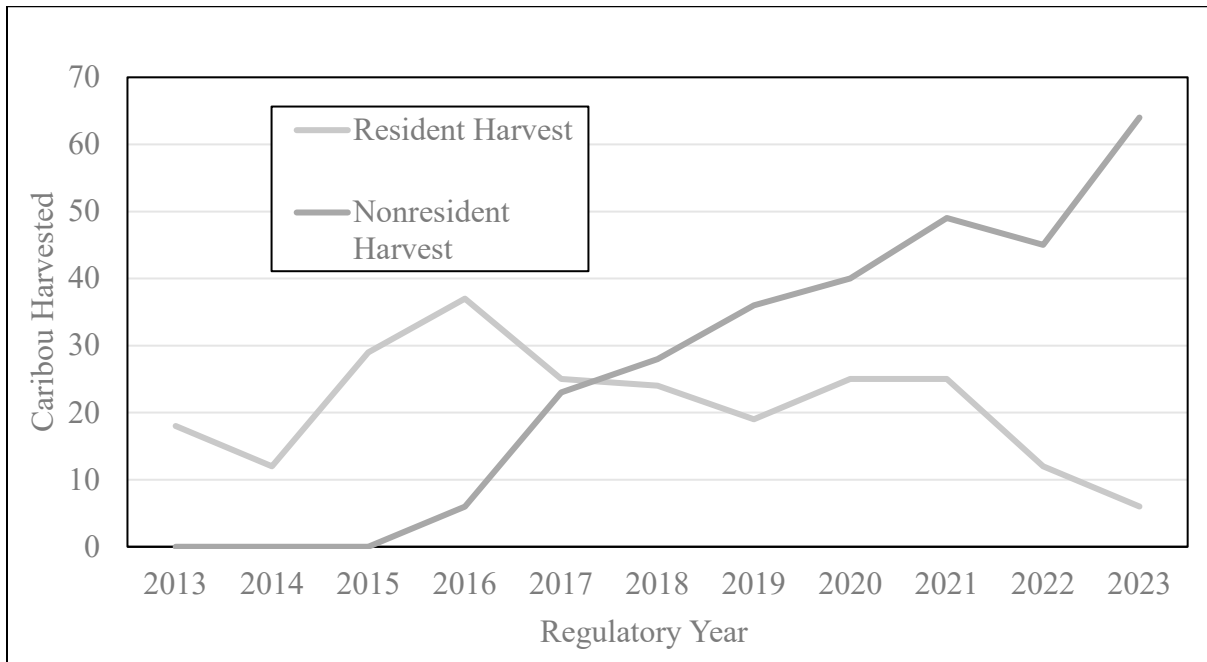


Figure 7.1. Caribou harvested by residents and nonresidents for the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd.

The number of nonresidents that hunted surpassed resident hunter numbers in 2021 and it appears there is a greater interest in hunting this area by nonresidents than residents. Increasing season dates through the fall brown bear season has the potential to allow for additional caribou to be taken which will aid in keeping the herd within objectives.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game (HQ-F24-072)

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 92.990(a)(21). Definitions.

Clarify that hunting feral reindeer in Unit 10, Umnak Island, is allowed under the current caribou hunting regulations as follows:

We are seeking clarification that reindeer hunting is currently allowed on Umnak Island under current regulations. If that is not the Board of Game’s determination, then we are seeking to declare an open season through the deleterious exotic wildlife regulations. The intent is to provide harvest opportunity on the herd, and to develop an economically viable business opportunity for the

Chaluka Corporation. We can provide further input on suggested seasons, bag, and possession limits, etc. We would also recommend that the regulations note the need to respect the land ownership rights of each corporation, and that hunters contact the appropriate corporation to seek permission prior to accessing their land.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reindeer were introduced to Umnak Island in 1923 for the benefit of island residents. The herd size is now estimated at over 5,000 animals following an aerial survey conducted in 2022.

In reviewing the hunting regulations, it appears the best regulatory comparison is to that of Kodiak Island, where hunting feral reindeer existed with no limits and no closed season until roughly 2008, when the Board of Game adopted a new proposal to implement a hunting season of August 1 – January 31, with a limit of one bull per season. This was done out of a conservation concern. No such Board of Game proposals or regulations exist for Umnak Island.

We are seeking clarification regarding the regulations that should apply to feral reindeer on Umnak, and confirmation that hunting feral reindeer is allowable under current regulations.

Umnak Island is located in the Aleutians about 900 miles from Anchorage. The island is divided into a patchwork quilt of roughly eight landowners, including Chaluka Corporation (Nikolski), the U.S. wildlife refuge, St. George Tanaq Corporation (St. George) and TDX Corporation (St. Paul). There is also a cattle ranch which has operated on leased land, as well as some military land too. The only residents on the island live in Nikolski.

There is a history of reindeer ownership on Umnak Island which pre-dates ANCSA. Our understanding is that sometime after ANCSA in 1971, two Alaska Native Corporations applied for and reportedly acquired ownership of reindeer on the island. However, the herd has since spread throughout the Island and established itself elsewhere, including heavy concentrations of animals on land more than 25 miles away which is owned by the Chaluka Corporation (village corporation with land holding near Nikolski). Local residents, a key landowner (Chaluka Corporation) and tribal leadership have advised that there have been no efforts to manage the herd for at least 25 years.

The herd is now considered a nuisance and a habitat/conservation risk by local residents given its size and the risk of overgrazing.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? We have developed this proposal with some guidance from the Department of Fish and Game.

PROPOSED BY: Chaluka Corporation (HQ-F24-022)

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the spring and fall brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 9 as follows:

Reinstate the previous season dates of a 21-day season for both spring a fall hunts on alternating years.

Season dates for even years 2026, 2028.... 5/10-5/31 and odd years 2025, 2027... 10/1-10/21.

This will help alleviate the compressed air travel schedule, allow local residents the opportunity to make more revenue and allow hunters more time to be more selective on the trophy they pursue.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Season length for brown bears in Unit 9. While state website statistics are not complete, however a trend showing an increase of harvest of sows is up. This trend does not show a healthy population trend moving forward. With the shortening of the season more pressure is placed upon hunters that are going for once in a lifetime hunt to fill their tag and are more likely to shoot a legal bear instead of genetically selecting a mature boar that doesn't harm the overall population like a sow does. Since the season change, sow harvest has gone up 11% to 1/3 of the overall take.

An equal however different issue with the short season is the strain and safety issues it creates with an equal number of hunters in a compressed season does on all logistical operations. The number of flights and need for qualified pilots to get personnel, supplies and fuel to one of the most remote areas of Alaska in and out of the field cannot keep up with demand.

Subsequently the revenue generated for these remote villages and business has been impacted as well with only a two-week window for residents that stand to make money to help live in an expensive and logistically challenging portion of our great state.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Anthony Marchini (EG-F24-044)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Close Unit 9A to nonresident brown bear hunting as follows:

Close Game Management Subunit 9A to brown bear hunting by nonresidents (currently designated as registration permit hunts RB368 and RB370).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The brown bear population in the small portion of Unit 9A open to hunting is under likely significant hunting pressure. The

Unit 9A hunting season should be closed to nonresidents in all regulatory years, odd and even, to protect that resource while still providing opportunity to residents.

Available ADF&G data on the number of permittees who reported hunting indicates increasing hunting pressure RY2011-RY2017 in Unit 9A, though it is decreasing in Unit 9 as a whole. Contrary to Unit 9 as a whole, Unit 9A reported brown bear kills have been increasing RY2011-RY2017. ADF&G has conducted no Unit 9A brown bear population or density surveys in recent decades.

In Unit 9A the number of permittees who reported hunting in RY2017 was substantially higher, an increase of 173.4% over those who reported hunting in Unit 9A in RY2011. Similarly, and also contrary to Unit 9 as a whole, Unit 9A reported harvest in RY2017 was substantially higher, up 157.5% from the RY2011 reported harvest.

Recent percentages of Unit 9A resident permittees range from 6-15% of the total Unit 9A permittees who reported hunting.

More analysis and information will be provided in proposal commentary if more data and reports are made available by ADF&G. No published summary harvest data is yet available from the fall 2023 hunt and the spring 2024 hunt will occur well after the deadline for these proposals.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? No.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne Hall (EG-F24-050)

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Shorten the spring and fall brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 9C by one week for residents and nonresidents as follows:

I request that the Board of Game shorten the brown bear hunting season by one week (back to its previous length) in both the spring and the fall for Unit 9C, re-establishing the season as October 7–21 and May 10–25 respectively.

Shortening the season allows for the last of the other user groups to exit the popular rivers and lakes where hunting takes place.

In the Department of Fish and Game’s 2022 comments, they wrote that “The department and Board of Game have for decades supported short seasons and reduced bag limits for nonresident and resident hunters in Unit 9 for bear conservation and hunt quality. The management objective for bears in all of Unit 9 is to maintain a high bear density with a sex and age structure that will sustain

a harvest composed of 60% males, with 50 males 8 years or older taken during the combined fall and spring seasons. “

Also, at issue is whether it is ethical to sport hunt animals that are habituated to humans. The bears hunted on Moraine, Funnel and Kulik Rivers are known worldwide. Photographers, film crews and other visitors pay thousands of dollars a day to view and photograph these bears. They are used to the presence of humans: sows will nurse their cubs next to fishermen and wildlife viewers. Many of the bears are known individually by guides and visitors alike. Much of the visiting public is unaware that these bears will be hunted later in the season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2022, the Board of Game adopted a proposal to increase brown bear fall and spring seasons in Unit 19C by one week each, allowing hunters to hunt earlier in the fall and later spring. In the passing of that proposal, the board extended the brown bear seasons to October 1-21 and May 10-31.

In the 35 years I’ve lived in Alaska I have worked as a resource manager for three different land management agencies, including Alaska State Parks. For 16 of those years, I was a law enforcement officer; part of my job was dealing with user conflicts, human-wildlife conflicts, enforcing Alaska game regulations and public safety. What I observed with this early season hunt was the potential for major user conflicts and public safety issues.

- **User conflicts-** Several operators were still dropping off sport fisherman and wildlife viewers on rivers where bear hunting was taking place. Hunting camps and hunters were occupying critical habitat where bears were fishing, forcing other users to avoid these areas.
- **Public Safety-** Bears were being shot right at the outlet of the Kulik River. The Kulik Lodge still has employees breaking down camp, there were several groups of sport fisherman on the river as well as wildlife viewers. A bear had cached a hunter shot carcass right at the outlet of the Kulik River where aircraft picked up sportfisherman and other visitors.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? I have discussed addressing this early season hunt with other guides and businesses that use this area for sport fishing and bear viewing. I am a member of Katmai Service providers.

PROPOSED BY: Jennifer Culbertson (EG-F24-061)

PROPOSAL 12

5 AAC 85.020 Hunting season and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the fall brown bear hunting seasons in Units 9D and 9E for both residents and nonresidents as follows:

Units 9D and 9E: Both residents and nonresidents, October 1-21: 1 bear every four regulatory years by registration permit RB368

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The shortened fall season for brown bear for nonresidents in Units 9D & 9E. Several years ago, due to guide conflict in Unit 9B and 9C, a proposal was passed to limit the harvest of bears in those subunits due to user conflict and perceived abuse of the resource. Units 9D and 9E were not at all affected by this user conflict and issue. However, the proposal was passed to shorten the seasons for all of Unit 9 from October 1-21 to October 7-21. This cut the first six days of the season and shortened it from 21 days to 15 days. The first six days of October are much better weather and more favorable hunting conditions for large mature boars than the end of the season. Additionally, the weather in Units 9D and 9E can be downright terrible later in October and make it difficult to hunt and even more difficult for outfitters to operate safely, and even more difficult to get home at the end of the season.

Then last year, those same "upper" Unit 9 subunits that had the issues that caused the shortening of the season, successfully proposed to extend their seasons. Unit 9A and 9C to October 1-21 and Unit 9B September 20-21, while Units 9D and 9E were left unchanged at our October 7 start date. Consultation with the Unit 9 biologist in King Salmon confirmed the bear population in Units 9D and 9E is healthy and consistent with the other subunits. Also confirmed the harvest statistics are similar in all Unit 9 subunits for ratio of male/female harvest. This indicates that there is no statistical evidence to suggest a limited season for these two subunits when the other subunits have a longer season.

A shift in the season dates would not increase the number of hunters in the field. It will simply increase hunter experience and harvest of mature boars, which is already determined to be a sustainable practice. It will also be adding additional safety factor for operators that is more aligned with other subunits and the current weather patterns.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? In coordination with other outfitters in Units 9D and 9E as well as consultation and insight from the Unit 9 biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Jordan Wallace and Dave Leonard (EG-F24-049)

PROPOSAL 13

5AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the fall brown bear hunting seasons in Units 9D and 9E for residents and nonresidents, and lengthen the nonresident spring season as follows:

5AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Units 9D and 9E

One bear every four regulatory years by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> and in person in King Salmon beginning July 5, RB368, both residents and nonresidents, **October 1 - October 21** [OCT 7- OCT 21].

One bear every four regulatory years by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> and in person in King Salmon beginning April 2, RB370, residents, May 10 - May 31. Nonresidents, **May 10 - May 31** [MAY 10 - MAY 25].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

I recommend restoring the brown bear seasons to what they were prior to 2018 when they were shortened. At the 2018 Dillingham meeting, the seasons were shortened by six days each, spring and fall. They are presently May 10 - May 25th for nonresidents for the even years, and October 7th to October 21st for residents and nonresidents in the odd years. The winter of 2011-12 was devastating to the brown bears in these Units. During this winter, in my estimation, we lost 50 to 75% of our young bears and sows; the older boars seemed to have made it through the winter in good shape. This was reflected in the skull size of harvested bears. The season was shortened to reduce the harvest of sows until the population had recovered. It has been 12 years, and we are seeing many more sows with cubs and young bears these days. I believe they have recovered enough to restore these seasons back to their prior lengths.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? I spoke with some other guides who guide in these areas and they were in agreement.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F24-023)

PROPOSAL 14

5AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the fall brown bear hunting seasons in Units 9D and 9E for residents and nonresidents as follows:

Change the brown bear season in Units 9E and 9D to October 1st to Oct 21st of odd number years for residents and nonresidents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The start brown bear season in Unit 9 was changed from October 1st to October 7th of odd numbered years a few years ago. I would like for the season to start on October 1st again. The bear population is doing great with a diverse age class of bears. There was concern after the late winter/spring of 2012 that some sows and cubs were lost. The population has rebounded, and we are seeing a very diverse age class of bears.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: David Byrd

(EG-F24-028)

PROPOSAL 15

5AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the nonresident, spring brown bear hunting seasons in Units 9D and 9E as follows:

Units 9D and 9E. Nonresident season May 10-31. One bear every four regulatory years by registration permit, RB370.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The shortened spring season for brown bear for nonresidents in Units 9D and 9E. Several years ago, due to guide conflict in Unit 9B and 9C, a proposal was passed to limit the harvest of bears in those subunits due to user conflict and perceived abuse of the resource. Units 9D and 9E were not at all affected by this user conflict and issue. However, the proposal was passed to shorten the seasons for all of Unit 9 from May 10-31 to May 10-25. This cut the last six days of the season and shortened it from 22 days to 16 days. This drastically cut valuable hunting time away from nonresident hunters and placed undue stress and demand on the outfitters to conduct the hunts in a shorter amount of time. Any weather delay or bad winds, which are increasingly common, cuts precious days off a hunters' time. Additionally, the last week of May can be an excellent time for harvesting large mature boars and the weather is getting better and safer to operate. Furthermore, any chance of a "late spring" where bear activity is less early on due to larger snow years and other factors, causes the last week of May to be even more valuable for hunter harvest and success of large mature boars. Then last year, those same units 9B and C that had the issues that caused the shortening of the season, successfully proposed to extend the season back to May 10-31, but Units 9D and 9E were left unchanged at our 16 days.

Consultation with the Unit 9 biologist in King Salmon confirmed the bear population in Unit 9D and 9E is healthy and consistent with the other subunits. Also confirmed the harvest statistics are similar in all Unit 9 subunits for ratio of male/female harvest. This indicates that there is no statistical evidence to suggest a limited season for these two subunits when the other subunits have a longer season.

A longer season would not increase the number of hunters in the field. It will simply increase hunter experience and harvest of mature boars, which is already determined to be a sustainable practice. It will also be adding additional safety factors for operators.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? In coordination with outfitters in Units 9D and 9E. as well as consultation and insight from the Unit 9 biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Jordan Wallace and Dave Leonard

(EG-F24-048)

PROPOSAL 16

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the fall brown bear hunting seasons for in Units 9D and 9E for residents and nonresidents as follows:

5 AAC 85.020(18) Unit 9D and 9E Brown/Grizzly Bear.

Brown/Grizzly Bear for both residents and nonresidents in Unit 9D and 9E.

One bear every 4 regulatory years by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> and in person in King Salmon beginning July 5.

Open Season: **October 1** [October 7] – October 21.

If nothing is done, the brown/grizzly bear hunting opportunity in Unit 9D and 9E will continue to be underutilized with only a 14-day season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lengthen the registration RB368 fall hunting season for brown/grizzly bears in Units 9D and 9E to October 1-21. This would then align all of Units 9A, C, D and E RB368 registration hunts. Currently the season is October 7 – 21 in Units 9D and 9E and October 1-21 in Units 9A and C.

I believe the intent of shortening the season last cycle was to lessen the overall harvest of brown bears. Currently, there is no shortage of brown bears in Units 9D and E. The brown bear population appears to be healthy and on the rise with a diverse age class of brown bears. On a side note, having the season start earlier will thus create a safer hunting experience. Throughout the fall the days get shorter, and the weather patterns worsen. Hunters going afield or returning are constantly negotiating a travel window and that window gets smaller every day throughout the October season. Allowing hunters into the field a week earlier will facilitate the daylight and weather window easier.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? No.

PROPOSED BY: Spencer Pape (EG-F24-057)

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the spring and fall brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 9E for residents and nonresidents as follows:

Change the brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 9E, for both resident and nonresident hunters, (RB368) and (RB370). Lengthen the bear season to mirror Units 9A & C.

Unit 9E (RB 368) brown bear season date: **Oct. 1 - Oct. 21**, [Oct. 7 to Oct. 21] odd number years.

(RB 370) brown bear season date: **May 10 - May 31**, [May 10- May 25] even number years.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 9E, for both **resident and nonresident hunters**, (RB 368) and (RB370). Lengthen the bear season to mirror Units 9A and C.

The brown bear population in Unit 9E has been increasing for the last eight - ten years. Sows are routinely birthing three - four cubs, per litter, (personal observation).

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s plan, to help the population of the Northern Alaska Peninsula grow, is as follows:

5 AAC 92.111. Intensive Management Plans I. Northern Alaska Peninsula (NAP) Caribou Herd Intensive Management Plan, in unit 9(C) and 9(E)

(2) Caribou, brown bear and wolf objectives are as follows:

(D) the brown bear population objectives for Unit 9 is to maintain a high density bear population with a sex and age structure that can sustain a harvest composed of 60 percent males, with 50 males eight years of age or older during combined fall and spring season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? I have been guiding hunters every year on the Alaska Peninsula since 1978. I spend an average of 120 days per year in Unit 9E, guiding hunters and fisherman.

PROPOSED BY: Tracy Vrem (EG-F24-068)

PROPOSAL 18

5AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Shorten the spring and fall brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 9C for residents and nonresidents, and convert to drawing permits hunts as follows:

Unit 9C: Restore brown bear hunting season to October 7-21 (from October 1-21) and May 10- 25 (from May 10-31), and establish 1 bear every four years *by drawing permit only*.

ISSUE: The current regulation for Unit 9C establishes an October 1 to October 21 (odd years only) and May 10 - May 31 (even year only) season for brown bear hunting. Part of Unit 9C includes Katmai National Preserve and the Funnel, Moraine, and Battle Creek drainages. While hunting is permitted within national preserves under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980, the act also directed that the National Park Service provide for "high concentrations of brown/grizzly bears and their denning areas" in Katmai National Park and Preserve. Bear viewing guides in this area have reported a decline in the number of bears, most notably trophy class mature males, observed by their clients.

While there may be multiple factors causing the viewable number of bears to decline, we don't know for sure the full range of the causes. Recent population data and harvest analysis has not been provided by the National Park Service or ADF&G to support the extended hunting season in Unit 9C, Uniform Coding Units (UCU) 702 and 703.

My concern is the high probability that too many Katmai Preserve bears are being harvested to meet the congressional mandate in ANILCA of providing for "high concentrations" of brown bears. In addition, the impact of this harvest on the age distribution, as well as the overall populations numbers, is at odds with the National Park Organic Act and with direction in Chapter Four of the National Park Management Policies that, in part, directs the Park Service to "strive to understand, maintain, restore and protect the inherent integrity of the natural resources...". To support a sustainable bear harvest in Unit 9C that also meets the Park Service mandate, a reliable study needs to be done on bear populations, including age classes.

The National Park Service and the State of Alaska need to collaborate to determine what level of harvest can occur in Katmai Preserve and still meet the federal mandate of "high concentrations" of brown bears. Once a harvest level is determined, we request that the department adopt a draw hunt to ensure that only a sustainable harvest is taken each year.

Will the quality of the resources harvested or the products produced be improved? It improves the quality of the bear viewing resource by reducing the overharvest of brown bears. This will also, eventually, improve the quality of the hunting in this area as only a few bears will be harvested each year and those bears will undoubtedly be trophy sized.

Who is likely to benefit? The bear population will increase, particularly large mature males. The National Park Service will benefit from being able to meet its congressional mandate. The State of Alaska will benefit by being seen as partnering with the federal government on how to sustain a hunt in an area with a specific population directive from Congress. Those hunters that are eventually allowed back into this area will benefit from trophy size bears. Visitors and residents alike will benefit by the return to historic brown bear population numbers giving unsurpassed brown bear viewing experiences found nowhere else in the world. The opportunity to view bears will continue to be an economic benefit to gateway communities on the Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage, and Kodiak.

Who is likely to suffer? A small number of hunters will not be able to hunt bears in this area. There is some economic loss from air transport and guide services.

Other solutions considered? Restore hunting season to October 7-21 and May 10-25, and establish drawing permit for that portion of Unit 9C in Katmai Preserve; namely, UCU 702 and UCU 703.

What will happen if nothing is done? There will continue to be harvested levels of brown bears that conflict with the National Park Organic Act and other federal laws, including the mandate found in ANILCA to provide for "high concentrations" of brown bears. Not only will this

continued violation of federal law exacerbate state/federal tensions over jurisdiction, but continued hunting without reliable population data will contribute to the depletion of brown bears in Katmai National Park and Preserve. Observations by bear viewing operators in the immediate area in Katmai Preserve have recently noted a decline in number of large mature male bears.

At risk here is one of the world's premier brown bear viewing areas. Because of the lack of vegetation, this area provides a unique opportunity to observe brown bears in their natural habitat. These bears become habituated to human observation and the result is bear viewing unlike anywhere else in the world. This is exemplified by the volume of people that utilize bear viewing guides each summer and pay significant money to observe these bears. The close proximity of these bears to Alaska's major population centers have created a unique bear viewing opportunity that provides jobs and a good source of income to bear viewing guides living on the Kenai Peninsula, King Salmon, and Kodiak.

A study by the University of Alaska Fairbanks - The Economic Contributions of Bear Viewing in Southcentral Alaska, stated that bear viewing related service providers (air/boat taxis, guides, lodging) reported \$34.5 million in sales in 2017 and that bear viewing service providers paid approximately \$10 million in direct wages and benefits and hired 371 employees in 2017. Direct spending by service providers and households contributes approximately \$19 million in value added to the regional economy. This sustainable economic activity is at risk, as well as the educational and inspirational opportunities provided by this unique bear viewing experience.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? No Advisory Committee or others were involved.

PROPOSED BY: David Bachrach (EG-F24-091)

PROPOSAL 19

5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.

Establish a hunting season and nonresident bag limit for Arctic fox on the Pribilof Islands in Unit 10 as follows:

Establish a hunting season and nonresident bag limit for Arctic fox on the Pribilof Islands in Unit 10. Establishing a hunting season will prevent Pribilof foxes from being hunted during their breeding season. The rationale behind suggesting a bag limit only for nonresidents is to avoid undue hardship for residents living on the Pribilof Islands who may seek to harvest foxes as a means of livelihood. (The majority of nonresident hunters to the Pribilofs are believed to be from out of state.)

Suggested draft regulatory language:

Hunting Regulations – Fur Animals

Arctic fox: Unit 10, **Pribilof Islands located in a portion of Unit 10,**

RESIDENT HUNTERS: No Limit, open season Nov 10 – Feb 28 [NO CLOSED SEASON].

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Two foxes [NO LIMIT], **open season Nov 10 – Feb 28** [NO CLOSED SEASON].

This establishes an open season that does not overlap the fox breeding season, and is similar to the two fox bag limit for Arctic fox hunting in other units.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 10 includes the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea, in addition to the western and central Aleutian Islands from Attu Island to Unimak Island.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (2015) identifies the Arctic fox, *Vulpes lagopus*, as a Stewardship Species, a Sentinel Species, and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Arctic fox on the Pribilof Islands, i.e., Pribilof foxes, are further recognized as an endemic subspecies, *Vulpes lagopus pribilofensis* (Angerbjörn et al. 2004; Norén et al. 2023) and are the islands' only terrestrial carnivore. There are no red fox (*V. vulpes*) on the Pribilof Islands.

Foxes (arctic and red) were historically introduced onto many Aleutian Islands (Bailey 1993) in Unit 10. Subsequently, introduced foxes have been successfully eradicated from many Aleutian Islands in Unit 10 through a USFWS removal program (Bailey 1993; Petersen et al. 2015). Possibly influenced by this history of past introductions and eradications of foxes on Aleutian Islands, the Alaska Hunting Regulations (2023-2024, and previous years) stipulate “No Limit” and “No Closed Season” for Arctic fox hunting throughout Unit 10.

Because the Pribilof Islands are designated as being in Unit 10, Pribilof foxes may be legally hunted with no bag limit and no closed season.

Why is this an issue?

On the Pribilof Islands, the lack of bag limits on the hunting of Arctic foxes could result in unsustainable levels of harvest. In particular, having “No Closed Season” allows for Pribilof foxes to be hunted throughout their breeding season. [In addition to hunting, the trapping of Arctic fox is permitted throughout Unit 10, including the Pribilofs, with “No Limit” during the open season.]

Pribilof foxes are part of the Pribilof Islands' native faunal and floral biodiversity (Elliott 1881). Pribilof foxes provide unique photo-tourism viewing opportunities, and serve as a first-line of defense against introduced rodents, i.e., rats, becoming established on the Pribilof Islands.

Pribilof fox populations appear to be in decline (Fig.1)(White 1992, 2017) as a result of reductions in natural food sources e.g., northern fur seals, nesting sea birds. Other factors, including decreasing sea ice (Geffen et al. 2007), exposure to organochlorine contaminants (Bolton et al. 2017), and disease (White 2010; Spraker and White 2016) may be further contributing to the observed decline in Pribilof fox numbers.

Compared to historic population estimates of >250 breeding pairs on each of St. Paul and St. George Islands (Jones 1914; Isto 2012), Pribilof foxes currently exist in low numbers. A

standardized island-wide survey last conducted in July 2023 on St. Paul documented a total of 57 active dens, 34 of which appeared to be natal (although pups were observed at only 26 dens).

What would happen if nothing is changed?

Unlimited hunting, especially during the fox breeding season, is likely to be detrimental to the long-term conservation and survival of endemic Pribilof foxes. As small, genetically-isolated populations, Pribilof foxes are vulnerable to a myriad of natural and anthropogenic threats, as noted above. A combination of factors, including climate change, and future and emergent threats such as increasing risk of disease e.g., avian flu, could drive Pribilof foxes towards extinction.

In the short-term, unlimited harvest reduces opportunities for tourism viewing, and reduces the fox populations' capacity to prevent introduced rodents from becoming established on the Pribilof Islands.

The local St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation Office (ECO) informally oversees resident hunting. However, an unknown number of nonresidents who travel to the Pribilof Islands specifically to hunt (primarily sea ducks and reindeer) also harvest Pribilof foxes. The lack of available data on nonresident fox harvest, and the current regulations that allow for "No Closed Season" and "No Limit" on Arctic fox hunting throughout Unit 10, hampers ECO's ability to effectively monitor or conserve the Pribilof Island's natural resources.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? This proposal was presented to the St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation Office (ECO) and the St. Paul Tribal Council. While there are concerns about the lack of monitoring of visiting hunters who harvest local wildlife (Pribilof foxes, sea ducks), overall, the Tribal Council was not in consensus as to whether the proposed changes would address concerns about fox conservation without interfering with local activities e.g., fox hunting, control of "nuisance" animals in town.

The Tribal Council supports the concept of ECO establishing a local monitoring program of all on-island hunting to obtain harvest data that can help inform local conservation programs, similar to ECO's established and successful reindeer hunt monitoring program. However, in the absence of both a monitoring program and any local enforcement authority, the Tribal Council expressed doubt as to how the proposed regulatory changes could be reasonably enforced.

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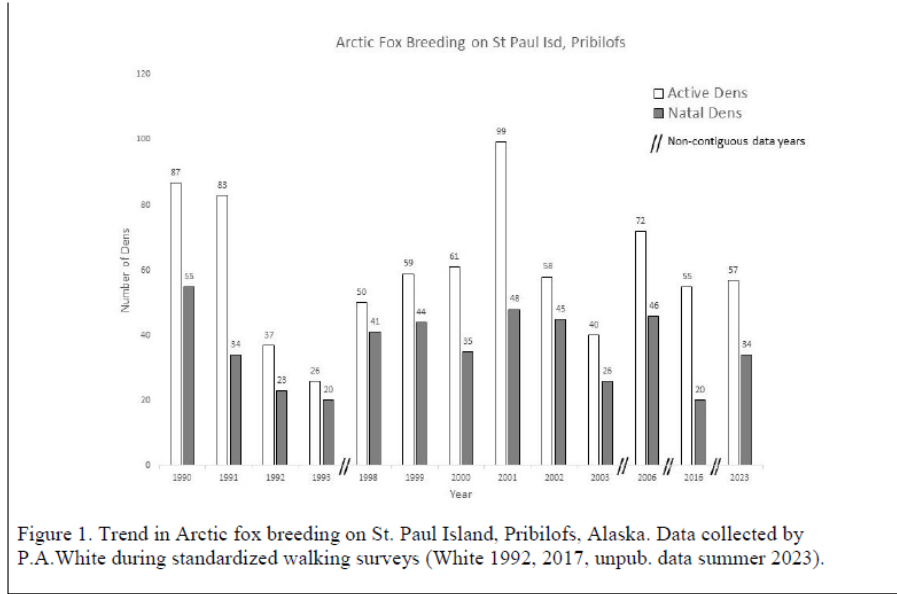
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Continued on next page.



PROPOSED BY: Paula White, PhD

(HQ-F24-034)

PROPOSAL 20

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Establish a nonresident bag limit on Arctic fox trapping on the Pribilof Islands in Unit 10 as follows:

Establish a nonresident bag limit on Arctic fox trapping on the Pribilof Islands in Unit 10. The rationale behind suggesting a bag limit only for nonresidents is to avoid undue hardship for residents living on the Pribilof Islands who may seek to harvest Arctic foxes as a means of livelihood.

There already exists an open season for Arctic fox trapping throughout Unit 10. There are no changes proposed to the existing open season dates. There are no changes proposed for bag limits on resident trapping.

Suggested draft regulatory language:

Trapping Regulations – Central/Southwest Alaska, Units 9-11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17

Arctic fox: Unit 10, **Pribilof Islands located in a portion of Unit 10**

RESIDENT TRAPPERS: Nov 10 – Feb 28..... No Limit.

NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS: Nov 10 – Feb 28..... **Two foxes** [NO LIMIT].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a nonresident bag limit on Arctic fox trapping on the Pribilof Islands which are located in a portion of Unit 10 as follows:

NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS: BAG LIMIT 2 FOXES

Unit 10 includes the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea, in addition to the western and central Aleutian Islands from Attu Island to Unimak Island.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (2015) identifies the Arctic fox, *Vulpes lagopus*, as a Stewardship Species, a Sentinel Species, and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Arctic fox on the Pribilof Islands, i.e., Pribilof foxes, are further recognized as an endemic subspecies, *Vulpes lagopus pribilofensis* (Angerbjörn et al. 2004; Norén et al. 2023) and are the islands' only terrestrial carnivore. There are no red fox (*V. vulpes*) on the Pribilof Islands.

Foxes (arctic and red) were historically introduced onto many Aleutian Islands (Bailey 1993) in Unit 10. Subsequently, introduced foxes have been successfully eradicated from many Aleutian Islands in Unit 10 through a USFWS removal program (Bailey 1993; Petersen et al. 2015). Possibly influenced by this history of past introductions and eradications of foxes on Aleutian Islands, the Alaska Trapping Regulations (2023-2024, and previous years) stipulate “No Limit” for Arctic fox trapping during the open season (Nov 10 – Feb 29) throughout Unit 10.

Because the Pribilof Islands are designated as being in Unit 10, Pribilof foxes may be legally trapped (including shot) with no bag limit during the open season.

Why is this an issue?

On the Pribilof Islands, the lack of bag limits on the trapping of Arctic foxes could result in unsustainable levels of harvest. [In addition to trapping, the hunting of Arctic fox is currently permitted throughout Unit 10, including the Pribilofs, with “No Limit” and “No Closed Season”.]

Pribilof foxes are part of the Pribilof Islands' native faunal and floral biodiversity (Elliott 1881). Pribilof foxes provide unique photo-tourism viewing opportunities, and serve as a first-line of defense against introduced rodents, i.e., rats, becoming established on the Pribilof Islands.

Pribilof fox populations appear to be in decline (Fig.1)(White 1992, 2017) as a result of reductions in natural food sources e.g., northern fur seals, nesting sea birds. Other factors, including decreasing sea ice (Geffen et al. 2007), exposure to organochlorine contaminants (Bolton et al. 2017), and disease (White 2010; Spraker and White 2016) may be further contributing to the observed decline in Pribilof fox numbers.

Compared to historic population estimates of >250 breeding pairs on each of St. Paul and St. George Islands (Jones 1914; Isto 2012), Pribilof foxes currently exist in low numbers. A standardized island-wide survey last conducted in July 2023 on St. Paul documented a total of 43 active dens, 26 of which were confirmed as natal (one or more surviving pups present).

What would happen if nothing is changed?

Unlimited trapping is likely to be detrimental to the long-term conservation and survival of endemic Pribilof foxes. As small, genetically-isolated populations, Pribilof foxes are vulnerable to a myriad of natural and anthropogenic threats, as noted above. A combination of factors, including climate change, and future and emergent threats such as increasing risk of disease e.g., avian flu, could drive Pribilof foxes towards extinction.

In the short-term, unlimited harvest reduces opportunities for tourism viewing, and reduces the fox populations' capacity to prevent introduced rodents from becoming established on the Pribilof Islands.

The local St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation Office (ECO) informally oversees resident trapping. However, an unknown number of nonresidents who travel to the Pribilof Islands specifically to hunt (primarily sea ducks and reindeer) also 'trap' Pribilof foxes (legally by shooting). The lack of data on nonresident fox harvest, and current regulations that allow for "No Limit" on Arctic fox trapping throughout Unit 10, hampers ECO's ability to monitor or effectively conserve the Pribilof Island's natural resources.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? This proposal was presented to the St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation Office (ECO) and the St. Paul Tribal Council. While there are concerns about the lack of monitoring of visiting hunters who harvest local wildlife (Pribilof foxes, sea ducks), including visitors who may legally shoot foxes under a trapping license, overall, the Tribal Council was not in consensus as to whether the proposed changes would address concerns about fox conservation without interfering with local activities e.g., local fox trapping. [The proposed changes do not apply to resident trappers.]

The Tribal Council supports the concept of ECO establishing a local monitoring program of all on-island hunting/trapping to obtain harvest data that can help inform local conservation programs, similar to ECO's established and successful reindeer hunt monitoring program. However, in the absence of both a monitoring program and any local enforcement authority, the Tribal Council expressed doubt as to how the proposed regulatory changes could be reasonably enforced.

(See references provided in corresponding proposal to establish a hunting season and nonresident bag limit.)

PROPOSED BY: Paula White, PhD (HQ-F24-035)

PROPOSAL 21

5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping.

Remove the two per day bag limit for beaver when taken by firearm during April 15–May 31 in Unit 9 as follows:

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
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(1) Beaver

...

Unit 9[, FIREARMS MAY BE
USED TO TAKE UP TO 2 BEAVER
PER DAY FROM APR. 15–MAY31]

Oct 10–May 31

No limit.

....

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 9 currently has no bag limit for beaver under trapping and hunting regulations and no closed season under hunting regulations so having a limit under trapping regulations for beaver taken by firearm is unreasonably more restrictive. Anyone with a hunting license can take an unlimited number of beavers with a firearm during that time period in Unit 9. Beaver populations are healthy and are found in the majority of drainages where there is suitable habitat in Unit 9 and there are no conservation concerns.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-066)

PROPOSAL 22

5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine.

Shorten the season for hunting wolverine in Unit 9 for both residents and nonresidents as follows:

September 1 through **February 28** [March 31].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Shorten the season dates for wolverine hunting in Unit 9.

Wolverine enter the breeding stage during late February and are in full swing by March with activity increasing drastically which makes them easy targets for hunting with a rifle on a snowmachine. Considering they only reproduce two - three kits per year and often fail to reproduce I believe the hunting season should coincide with the closure of trapping on February 28. This would give them the best chance at reproduction.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? I developed this solution on my own and from personal experience in the area. I have trapped and hunted in this area for over 35 years and do not see how killing breeding wolverines allows a future in which we will be able to harvest them. Wolverines are now on the endangered species list in the lower 48.

PROPOSED BY: Graham Morrison

(HQ-F24-007)

Note: Game Management Unit 8 is outside the scope of the Central Southwest Region meeting.

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Lengthen the nonresident hunting season for Emperor geese in Units 9 and 10, and increase the number of permits allocated to nonresident hunters as follows:

Oct. 8 - Jan. 22 NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 goose by drawing permit only; up to **150** [25] permits may be issued in combination with Unit 9, that portion within the Izembek State Game Refuge.

Oct. 16 – **Dec. 16** [Oct. 31] NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 goose by drawing permit only; up to **150** [25] permits may be issued in combination with Units 8, the remainder of Unit 9, and 10 Unit 9, remainder.

Sept. 1 - Dec. 16 NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 goose by drawing permit only; up to **150** [25] permits may be issued in combination with Units 8, that portion of Unit 9 within the Izembek State Game Refuge, and 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Emperor goose fall-winter hunting has now been open for seven seasons. Residents may register for one permit to harvest up to a statewide total of 1,000 (liberal) or 500 (restrictive) geese harvested each season. Nonresidents have been allowed to hunt for the past six of those seven years and have been limited to 25 total tags allowed. Resident hunters have harvested fewer than 150 geese each season and participation appears to be declining among resident hunters. Meanwhile, nonresident interest has increased as demonstrated by a 200%+ increase in the numbers of nonresident hunters applying for DO508 permits - from 263 applicants for the 2018 season to 826 applicants for the 2024 season. Harvest data shows that resident hunters are not interested in hunting Emperor Geese - nonresidents are very interested. Nonresident hunts take place in November through January in rural areas and benefit local economies while not taking resource opportunities away from local Alaskans.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and game Advisory Committee? No.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Wasley

(HQ-F24-040)

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Close the season for Alaska hares in Units 9 and 17 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
Snowshoe and Alaska hares		
...		
Units 9 and 17 Alaska hares [ONLY 1 PER DAY, 4 TOTAL]	<u>No open season</u> [NOV. 1 – JAN. 31]	<u>No open season</u> [NOV. 1 – JAN. 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska hare, one of two species of hare found in Alaska, are an endemic species that were once abundant in western coastal areas and their range extended from Cold Bay on the Alaska Peninsula north to Kotzebue on the Baldwin Peninsula (Units 9, 17, 18, 22, and 23). Historical accounts from the 1970’s described a high abundance of Alaska hares often observed in groups ranging from 50-100 individuals. Recent research and anecdotal observations indicate the population is currently at historic lows for this species across their range, including in Units 9 and 17.

In 2018, in response to the sustained low abundance, a department project was initiated to develop survey methods for this elusive species to examine population dynamics and gain insight into Alaska hare movement ecology. Genetic fecal pellet surveys with hundreds of miles of transects were conducted from 2018-2022 in Units 9, 17, 18, 22, and 23 to gain a better understanding of Alaska hare distribution and abundance. Results from this work documented extremely low numbers of individual Alaska hares, especially in areas surveyed in Units 9, 17, and 23. Larger survey efforts in Units 22 and 23 yielded similar results with low abundances or complete absences from historical ranges that were last confirmed to have Alaska hares as recently as 2006.

Specific causes of this apparent decrease in abundance remain unknown. In response to the low abundance of Alaska hares, both the State Board of Game (Unit 9 in 2018; Units 18, 22, 23 in 2020 and Unit 17 in 2022) and the Federal Subsistence Board (Units 9, 17, 18, 22, and 23 in 2022) changed harvest regulations limiting harvest via bag limits, season restrictions, and salvage requirements.

Hunting seasons in Units 9 and 17 should be closed to address the low abundance and conservation concern for Alaska hare. Snowshoe hare hunting would remain open and unchanged in the area. A closed hunting season in the southern Alaska Peninsula may protect localized populations for quicker

recovery and recolonization. It remains unclear if human harvest is one of the factors preventing a recovery of the species but closing the hunting season is the first step in a conservation effort. Considering the extremely low abundances in this area eliminating the hunting season may be necessary to protect vulnerable Alaska hare populations.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for Alaska hares in Units 9 and 17. Any take is inconsistent with sustained yield and could jeopardize future harvest opportunity for subsistence and other harvest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-075)

Dillingham Area – Unit 17

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Increase the number of moose drawing permits issued to nonresidents for Unit 17A as follows:

Allow for more nonresident draw tags to be issued. The management plans allows for a maximum of 50 nonresident tags. In 2023 only **six** moose were harvested from 20 tags issued in Unit 17A. With a healthy population that is 50% over the recommended population, allowing for another 30 tags would likely result in less than 10 more moose being harvested.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ADF&G surveys in Unit 17A have identified an estimated 1,200 moose. Eight hundred moose is what the Department of Fish and Game has deemed to be the ideal highest population of moose in that area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? This has been a proposal I have come up with.

PROPOSED BY: Gabriel Davis (EG-FF24-041)

PROPOSAL 26

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Lengthen the nonresident, fall moose hunt in Unit 17A as follows:

Allow nonresident hunting from September 1-20. The moose surveys have showed 1200 moose in an area that 800 animals was the top to the target range, according to the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge representative.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An eleven-day hunting season in Unit 17A.

Did you develop your proposal with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? Developed proposal myself.

PROPOSED BY: Gabriel Davis (EG-F24-043)

PROPOSAL 27

5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(15)		
Unit 17(A)		
Up to 2 moose per regulatory year only as follows:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 moose by registration permit only; or	Aug. 25–Sept. 25 (Subsistence hunt only)	
...		
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only;	Jan. 1 – last day of Feb. (Subsistence hunt only)	
....		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the board. The goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with the opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios. The board adopted an antlerless moose hunt in 2013 after hearing many comments from heavily invested groups such as the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

The Unit 17A moose management plan calls for antlerless moose hunting opportunity when the population is above 600 moose and increasing. When the population exceeds 1,200 moose, a bag limit of up to two moose is needed to provide increased opportunity and to reduce moose abundance to protect habitat. Based on the most recent survey in October 2022, the population

estimate was 1,967 ±358 moose. After further analyses, this estimate will be corrected for sightability which will result in a higher population estimate further supporting liberal harvest strategies. The bag limit of two moose and antlerless harvest opportunity provide a mechanism to limit population growth and allow hunters to harvest surplus animals.

The moose population in subunit 17A is over objective and can sustain additional harvest; however, the objectives for this population include allowing it to expand into neighboring areas to provide additional harvest opportunities. This population is currently contributing to the growth of adjacent moose populations, especially to the north and west.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-063)

PROPOSAL 28

5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Reduce population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 17B as follows:

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
...			
Moose			
...			
GMU 17B	Positive	<u>2,800–3,500</u> [4,900-6,000]	<u>100–250</u> [200-400]
....			

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current population objectives for moose in Unit 17B have never been met and harvest objectives have rarely been met. Robust moose population surveys across the Unit have been conducted by the department six times since 2000 but are challenging to complete due to the distance from Dillingham and poor survey conditions. Unit 17B is split into two survey units, 17B-West comprised of the Tikchik and upper Nushagak River watersheds, and 17B-East comprised of the Mulchatna watershed. Between 2000 and 2009, 17B-West was surveyed three times with an average population estimate of 1,183 (range of 1,137–1,210); 17B-East was surveyed twice with an average population estimate of 1,709 (range 1,466–1,953). Ideally, survey units are completed in consecutive years which occurred in 2000 and 2001 and 2008 and 2009. The combined estimates from 2000 and 2001 resulted in 3,155 moose, and from 2008 and 2009 resulted in an estimated combined 2,603 moose. Neighboring Unit 17C has similar moose habitat quality and quantity (~ 5,450 mi² moose habitat), a defined objective of 0.5 moose/mi² (~5,800 mi²), and a population objective of 2,800–3,500. Unit 17B population estimates from the robust surveys have never been documented within the existing lower population management objective of 4,900, nor the upper objective at 6,000.

Table 28-1. Unit 17B moose population estimates, regulatory year (RY) 2000–2009

Year	17B-West	17B-East	Total Estimate
2000	1,202	-*	
2001	-*	1,953	3,155
2005	1,210	-*	
2008	-*	1,466	
2009	1,137	-*	2,603

*Survey not completed.

The reported annual harvest for Unit 17B over the last 40 years demonstrates that the minimum harvest objective has only been achieved in two independent years. The current harvest objectives for Unit 17B are not attainable due to a lack of resident hunter participation within the subunit and difficult access for nonlocal resident and nonresident hunters. The proposed new harvest objective for Unit 17B is 100–250 moose, which includes the 40-year average harvest of 121 moose, and also reflects the most recent harvest levels.

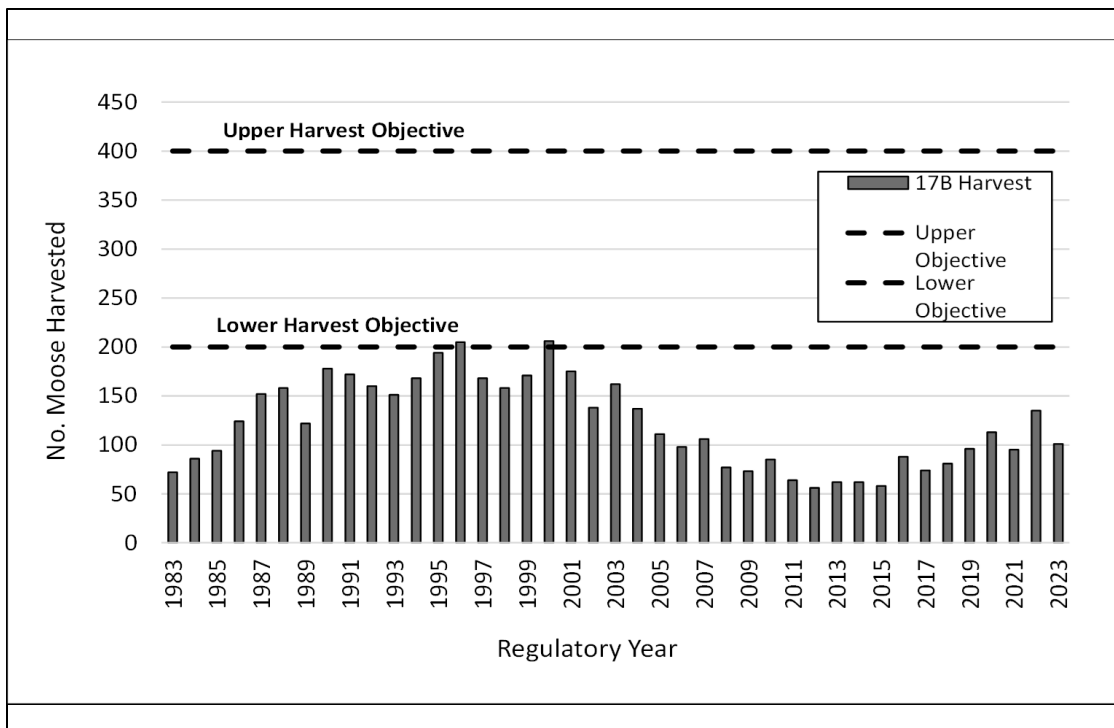


Figure 28-1. Unit 17B moose harvest RY1983–2023

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-077)

PROPOSAL 29

5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Review the population and harvest objectives for the Mulchatna caribou herd as follows:

I recommend establishing new population and harvest objectives after a habitat assessment has been performed to determine the current ecological potential of the range to support caribou. Further, I recommend consideration of recent population and distribution data collected by state and federal Mulchatna caribou herd (MCH) managers that suggest that there are multiple, independent caribou populations within the designated range of the MCH.

Caribou Herds, Population Finding Population Harvest

Adak Negative

Beaver Mountain Negative

Central Arctic Positive 28,000 - 32,000 1,400 - 1,600

Chisana Negative

Delta Negative Denali Negative

Farewell/Big River Negative

Fortymile Positive 50,000 - 100,000 1,000 - 15,000

Galena Mountain Negative

Kenai Lowlands Negative

Kenai Mountains Negative

Killey River, Fox River, and Twin Lakes Negative

Macomb Positive 600 - 800 30 - 50

Mentasta Negative

Mulchatna Positive To be determined [30,000 – 80,000 2,400 – 8,000]

Nelchina Positive 35,000 - 40,000 3,000 - 6,000

Northern Alaska Peninsula Positive 6,000 - 15,000 600 - 1,500

Nushagak Peninsula Negative

Porcupine Positive 100,000 - 150,000 1,500 - 2,000

Rainy Pass Negative

Ray Mountain Negative

Southern Alaska Peninsula Positive 1,500 - 4,000 150 - 200

Sunshine Mountain Negative

Teshkepuk Positive 15,000 - 28,000 900 - 2,800

Tonzona Negative

Unimak Island

Western Arctic Positive at least 200,000 12,000 - 20,000

White Mountain Negative

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Mulchatna caribou herd has changed continuously from the time monitoring began, increasing from an estimated 14,000 in 1974 to 200,000 in 1996, then decreasing to ~12,000 currently. A population objective of 25,000 was initially established in 1987, and since then revised multiple times. The current population objective (30,000-80,000) was established in 2008 at which point the population was estimated to be 30,000. This objective has been achieved only once since then. The multiple revisions in objectives over time have been a sensible approach to management of a changing resource. I request that the Board of Game review the Intensive Management population and harvest objectives with the goal of adjusting objectives to an ecologically sustainable level. I recommend this review include consideration of habitat quality, which almost certainly has changed in response to caribou grazing, reducing population potential.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? I have discussed this concept with local federal and state MCH managers but am submitting the proposal individually.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Walsh (EG-F24-090)

PROPOSAL 30

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Implement a three-year moratorium on caribou hunting in Units 17 and 19 as follows:

Mulchatna caribou herd implements a three-year moratorium in the following Units: 9B, 17, 19A, and 19B in conjunction with the three-year moratorium in Unit 18.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Due to the continued decline of the Mulchatna caribou herd, all efforts to rebuild the population is vital. Implementing a three-year moratorium on the herd in the following Units: 9B, 17, 19A, and 19B is necessary to ensure that there will be no hunting as "Every Caribou Counts." With active efforts on both state and federal management doing everything we can to ensure that rebuilding the caribou population is vital.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? After submitting a Federal Special Action Request (SAR) to close hunting on the Mulchatna caribou herd. Office of Subsistence management Wildlife Supervisor, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council Coordinator, and I met on 4/11/2024 at 10AM to discuss in depth the SAR. During our discussion it resulted in the following actions that needed to take place. Implement a moratorium on the full range of the Mulchatna caribou herd's migratory areas. This will provide clarity that there is no open hunting season on the full range of the Mulchatna caribou herd. That we civilians, managers, and both state and feds are working together

to rebuild the caribou population. As the herd is still declining in numbers, we want to ensure that hunting remains closed until we meet or exceed the threshold.

PROPOSED BY: Alissa Nadine Rogers (EG-F24-017)

PROPOSAL 31

5AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Close the resident caribou season in Units 9B, 17 and 19 as follows.

Units 9B, 19A, 19B, 17A, 17B, 17C: Change the Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunt) from 19: (August 10- September 30) change to (No open season). 17: (August 1- March 31) change to (No open season).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the security and protection that "Every Caribou Counts" on the Mulchatna caribou herd. The following changes need to be addressed to ensure hunting on the full range of the caribou migratory range continues to be closed until the population numbers have met or exceeded the 30,000 threshold to harvest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? After submitting a Federal Special Action Request (SAR) to close hunting on the Mulchatna caribou herd. Office of Subsistence Management Wildlife Supervisor, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council Coordinator, and I met on 4/11/2024 at 10AM to discuss in depth the SAR. During our discussion it resulted in the following actions that needed to take place. Change state regulations to open season to No open Season. This will provide clarity that there is no open hunting season on the full range of the Mulchatna caribou herd. That we civilians, managers, and both State & Feds are working together to rebuild the caribou population. As the herd is still declining in numbers, we want to ensure that hunting remains closed until we meet or exceed the threshold.

PROPOSED BY: Alissa Nadine Rogers (EG-F24-016)

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Allow the year-round take of brown bear in Unit 17 as follows:

Allow year-round harvest of bears in Unit 17. Legal harvest still requires sealing and reporting of bears but it is far less onerous on the harvester. Less burden on the shooters will encourage more complete reporting and better data for management needs.

Specifically: in Unit 17

Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
---------------------------------	------------------------------------

Units and Bag Limits	(Subsistence and General Hunts)	
(15)		
Unit 17		
2 bears every regulatory year by registration permit only	<u>No closed season</u> [AUG. 20 – MAY 31] (Subsistence only)	No open seasons.
2 bears every regulatory year	<u>No closed season</u> [AUG. 20 – MAY 31]	<u>No closed season</u> [AUG. 20 – MAY 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Quite a few bears are shot in the "off season" in Unit 17 and not reported or sealed. Most of these might be considered defense of life and property (DLP) bears. However, people are generally subsistence fishing and conflict between bears and subsistence users prevent individuals from coming into Dillingham during this important season. The DLP process is extremely onerous and inconvenient, especially for those who live outside of hub communities. In other cases, the shooters fear prosecution or investigation and suspicion while just trying to put up fish, and gather food for the rest of the year. Therefore, shot bears are commonly disposed of without contacting ADF&G or wildlife troopers. There is a strong desire in many villages for reduction in bear numbers, especially in close proximity to their communities and subsistence sites. With a number of guides working in the unit, and with the intensive management program in the unit, there is a strong management need for ADF&G to have better bear harvest data.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? Partially, I tried to bring up the concept at the recent Nushagak Advisory Committee meeting but since development of proposals was not advertised or on the agenda, I was only allowed to briefly mention my idea. I was advised to submit a proposal and the advisory committee could review once it's in the proposal book. However, I did discuss this with area biologist who helped me with wording.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Dunaway (HQ-F24-032)

Note: The Board of Game can only allow the take of wolf same day airborne under a predator control plan for which a permit is required.

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods for taking big game.

Allow same day airborne take of brown bear and wolves Unit 17 as follows:

Allow same day airborne hunting of brown bear and wolves Unit 17.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increased liberalization of bag limits: continually meeting the harvest goals of brown bear annually warrant increased means and methods.

Record salmon returns since 2017 have likely increased bear survival and productivity.

Same day airborne would facilitate increased harvest especially in a predator control zone / area.

No conservation concerns for brown bears relatively minimal harvest primarily by nonresidents.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Dennis Williams (HQ-F24-012)

PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods for taking big game.

Allow the same day airborne take of brown bear in Unit 17 as follows:

5 AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods for taking big game; exceptions.

17 Brown Bear.

Resident Hunters: You may hunt brown bear in Unit 17 from Aug. 20-May 31 the same day you have flown, provided you are at least 300 feet from the airplane.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I'm writing this proposal to ask the board to adopt same day airborne hunting of brown bears for residents in Unit 17. Since 2017 Bristol Bay has seen record high returns of sockeye salmon. One can infer that due to record sockeye returns the Bristol Bay bear population has likely increased with higher productivity and higher survival due to the increased sockeye salmon abundance, the bears primary food resource.

ADFG's Unit 17 Brown Bear Species Management Report states a management objective of at least 50 bears harvested annually, with no more than 50% of the harvest comprising of females. This harvest objective has been met since at least 2011, possibly longer. This means even though harvest methods are being met, Unit 17 still has a significant abundance of brown bears. Harvest is largely driven by guided non-resident hunters, and steps have been taken to liberalize harvest and increase the take of brown bears over the last three Region 4 board cycles.

Very few individuals harvest two bears in a single season. 2022- 6 2021- 5 2020- 2 2019- 3 2018- 3.

Even with the liberalization of harvest, and the sale of hides being legal resident harvest and interest still remains low. Same day airborne is a method in which more residents are likely to participate in, particularly in the spring which really drives harvest rates (two graphs below should

help show this), but fall harvest has been on a generally increasing trend the last five years. Fall harvest in Unit 17 is relatively stable due to a high proportion of moose hunters on guided combination hunts for both bears and moose. Same day airborne is already a method used across the state for other big game species (black bears, 16, deer Statewide).

In the spring of 2023 ADF&G implemented a removal project using fix wing aircraft as well as a helicopter. This costs the state hundreds of thousands of dollars in resources and staffing. Residents would be able to harvest more bears if they were able to hunt them same day airborne and alleviate some of the workload that is put on the state for removing bears in Unit 17.

The use of same day airborne means would likely increase bear harvest within the Greater Mulchatana Predator Control Area, and may help increase both caribou and moose populations due to:

- Eight years of MCH calf mortality study that determined brown bears were the leading cause of caribou calf mortality
- Three-year Unit 17B/C calf mortality study where all 23 mortalities (of 49 collared moose calves) were attributed to brown bear predation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? No, I developed this proposal myself.

PROPOSED BY: Adam Grenda (EG-F24-060)

Note: Trapping wolverine in Game Management Unit 18 is outside the scope of the Central Southwest Region meeting.

PROPOSAL 35

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Shorten the trapping seasons for wolverine in Units 9 and 17, to the last day of February as follows:

Return the wolverine seasons in Units 9B, 17 and 18 to November 10 - last day in February.

Section 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Trapping seasons and bag limits for furbearers are as follows:

(14) Wolverine

Units 1 - 5	Nov. 10 - Last day of Feb.	No limit.
Units 6, 7, 9(A), 9(C), 9(D), 9(E), 11, 15, and 16(B)	Nov. 10 - Last day of Feb.	No limit.
Unit 9(B)	Nov. 10 - <u>last day of Feb.</u> [MAR. 31]	No limit.

Unit 10	No open season	
Unit 13	Nov. 10 - Feb. 15	No limit.
Unit 14(A)	Dec. 15 - Jan. 31	2 per season
Units 14(B), 14(C), and 16(A)	Nov. 10 - Jan. 31	2 per season
Units 20(A), 20(B), 20(C) east of the Toklat River, 20(D), 20(F), and 25(C)	Nov. 1 - Last day of Feb.	No limit.
Units 12 and 20(E)	Nov. 1 - Mar. 15	No limit.
Units 17 and 18	Nov. 10 – <u>last day of Feb.</u> [MAR. 31]	No limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The trapping season for wolverine in southwest Alaska extends into the denning period in March. If a female wolverine is trapped or shot during March, she may already have kits in the den. Changing this regulation would also maintain consistency across Unit 9 and 17 and 18 with similar habitat, terrain and latitude.

What will happen if nothing is done? Trappers will continue to trap and shoot wolverines into their denning period causing some newborns to die in the den.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? This has been a topic of conversation in the area since the wolverine seasons was extended from the end of February to March 31 over 10 years ago. I have received input from other residents and trappers who the killing of female wolverines during the season is this extended trapping season is unethical.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Grant (EG-F24-052)

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 85.057 Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine.

Shorten the hunting season for wolverine in Unit 17 as follows:

Change the wolverine hunting season in Game Management Unit 17 to September 1 - February 29.

Section 5 AAC 85.057 - Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine

(a) In this section the phrase "General hunt only" means that there is a general hunt for residents, but no subsistence hunt during the relevant open season. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine are also as follows: **Resident Open Season (Subsistence and Nonresident Units and Bag Limits General Hunts) Open Season** Units 1 - 5, and 13 Sept. 1 - Feb. 15 Sept. 1 - Feb. 15 (General hunt only) 1 wolverine Units 6 - 9, 12, 15, 16(B), Sept. 1 - Mar. 31 **Sept. 1 - Feb. 29**

Unit 17 1 wolverine, Sept. 1 - Mar. 31 [17, AND] 19 - 25, and 26(A) 1 wolverine Unit 10 No open season. No open season. Units 11, 14, and 16(A) Sept. 1 - Jan. 31 Sept. 1 - Jan. 31 1 wolverine Unit 18 Sept. 1 - Mar. 31 Sept. 1 - Mar. 31 (General hunt only) 2 wolverine Units 26(8) and 26(C) Aug. 20-Mar. 31 Aug. 20-Mar. 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The hunting season for wolverine in southwest Alaska extends into the denning period. If a female wolverine is hunted and killed during March, she may already have kits in the den.

What will happen if nothing is done? Hunters will continue to be able to shoot wolverines into their denning period causing some newborns to be abandoned and die in the den.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? This has been a topic of conversation in the area since the hunting and

trapping season for wolverine were extended from the end of February to March 31, over 10 years ago. I have received input from other residents who agree killing female wolverines during their denning period is unethical.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Grant (EG-F24-086)

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping.

Remove the two per day bag limit for beaver when taken by firearm and allow the use of firearm from October 10 – May 31 in Unit 17 as follows:

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
(1) Beaver		
Unit 17[, FIREARMS OR BOW AND ARROW MAY BE USED TO TAKE BEAVER FROM DEC. 1–APR. 14, AND FIREARMS MAY BE USED TO TAKE UP TO 2 BEAVER PER DAY FROM APR. 15—MAY 31]	Oct 10 – May 31	No limit.

....

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 17 currently has no limit for beaver under trapping regulations and no open season under hunting regulations. The current regulation is prohibitive when there is no limit via trapping. Beaver populations are doing well and are found in the majority of drainages where there is suitable habitat in Unit 17. The harvest trend

has been decreasing since its peak in 2005 primarily due to decreased trapper numbers in Bristol Bay, lower demand for fur, decreasing fur prices, and decreased trapper incentive (Figure 37.1).

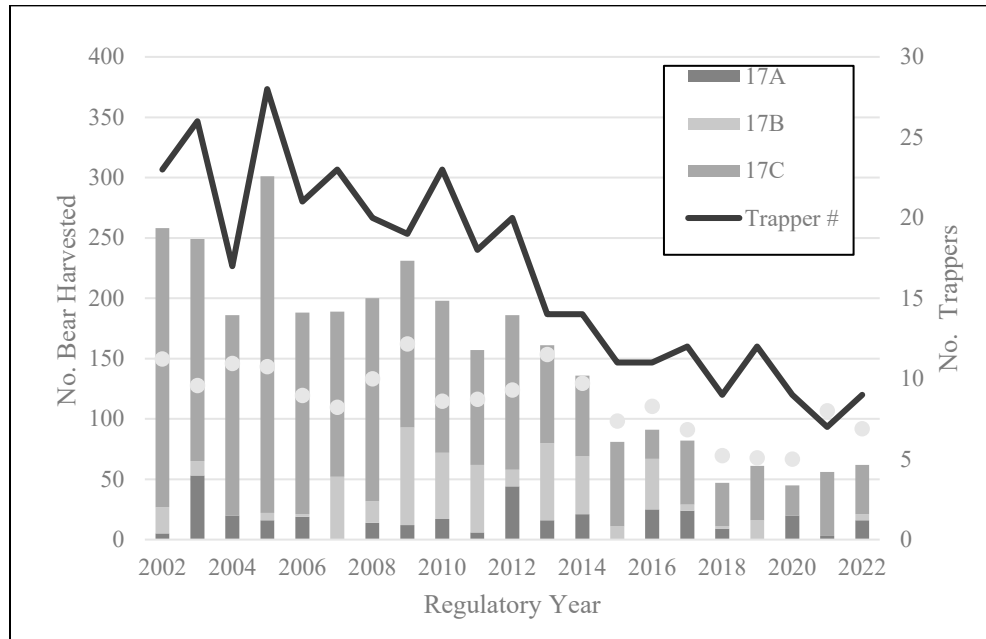


Figure 37-1. Beaver harvest through trapping and hunting in Unit 17, RY2002–2022.

There are currently no conservation concerns for beaver in Unit 17 and allowing increased methods of take and aligning season dates for take with firearm with the trapping season should reduce regulatory confusion, and aid those who subsist on fall beaver for meat and spring beaver for their fur.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-065)

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 92.066. Permit for access to Walrus Island State Game Sanctuary.

Lengthen the permit dates to access Walrus Island State Game Sanctuary for hunting as follows.

5 AAC 92.006 (4) an access permit for hunting may be issued under the conditions specified by the department on a case-by-case basis, subject to the application procedures and rules set out in (1) and (2) of this section, to hunting parties for the period of ~~September 10 – October 20~~ **September 5 - October 20** only;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the hunting period from ~~Sept 10th – October 20th~~ to **September 5th – October 20th**.

Background:

A.) Dates were chosen based off how harvesting was done by our ancestors. Now that we have new technology and just about every household has freezers to store their subsistence, preservation is no longer an issue.

B.) Weather is becoming more of a challenge, with climate change, weather patterns are more severe into the Fall season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? The proposal was developed by the Qayassiq Walrus Commission working with ADF&G and USF&WS.

PROPOSED BY: Qayassiq Walrus Commission (EG-F24-012)
