

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526



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JUNEAU, AK

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
FALL 1999 MEETING  
OCTOBER 25 - 29, 1999  
BARROW, AK**

1999  
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GAME

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O.E.O

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Laird Jones at (907) 465-6098 no later than October 8, 1999 to make any necessary arrangements. To correspond by text telephone (TDD) call 1-800-478-2028.

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
FALL 1999 PROPOSAL BOOK  
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*PLEASE READ CAREFULLY*

**REVIEWER LETTER**

DEAR REVIEWER:

The attached packet of regulatory proposals will be considered by the Alaska Board of Game at its **Fall 1999** meeting concerning hunting and use of game in the Arctic and Western Regions, **October 25 - 29, 1999**, at the Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to hunting and trapping regulations in Units 8, 22, 23, and 26A.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.

The proposals in this packet are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In some cases, where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, underlined words are additions to the regulation text and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXXX] are deletions.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this packet, as some regulations have statewide application and may affect all regions of the state.

After reviewing the proposals, you may send written comments to:

**ATTN: BOG COMMENTS**  
**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**  
**Boards Support Section**  
**P.O. Box 25526**  
**Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526**  
**FAX - (907)465-6094**

Comments may be submitted at any time until the public testimony period for that proposal and/or its subject matter is closed at the meeting and deliberation by the board begins. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to have all written comments presented to the above Juneau address by October 8, 1999. Receipt by this date will assure that your written comments will be published in the board workbook. Comments received after October 8 will be presented to board members at the time of the meeting, but will not be printed in the board workbook. Written comments will also be accepted during the board meeting, and of course, public testimony during the meeting is appreciated.

When making comments regarding these proposals, on the first line list the PROPOSAL NUMBER to which your comment pertains and whether you favor or oppose the proposal. This will ensure that the comments are noted by the board members in relation to the proper proposal(s).

The following guidelines will greatly assist the board in understanding your concerns:

Written comments will be hole-punched and copied to go into the board workbook. Therefore, please use 8 1/2 x 11 paper and leave at least a 1-1/2 inch margin on the left side and a 1-inch margin on the right side, top and bottom. If typed, please make sure the print is dark. If handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly. Briefly explain why you are in favor of or opposed to the proposal.

If you plan to testify, a written copy of your testimony is helpful, but is not required. Again not required, but 25 copies of your written testimony is also helpful.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEES:** In addition to the above, please make sure the meeting minutes reflect why the committee voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description--a couple of sentences--will do. Detail attendance, number in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and what interests were represented (such as guides, hunters, trappers, etc.).

Additional proposal booklets may be obtained at offices of the Department of Fish and Game. Also, the proposals can be found on our web page:

*<http://www.state.ak.us/local/pages/fishgame/boards/boardhome.htm>*

A tentative agenda for the Fall 1999 meeting of the Board of Game is shown on page **iv**. A roadmap showing a tentative order in which proposals will be considered will be available in early October. During the meeting, a recorded telephone message will be available, with current updates on the board's agenda and roadmap. That phone number is 465-8901 (Juneau) or 1-800-764-8901 outside of Juneau.

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to comment on the proposed regulations, please contact the Boards Support Section at 465-6098 no later than October 8, 1999. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-2028.

Sincerely,

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION

## ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

(Revised August 1999)

<b>NAME AND ADDRESS</b>	<b>TERM EXPIRES</b>
Bob Churchill	1/31/2000
Mike Fleagle	1/31/2002
Lori Quakenbush, CHAIRMAN	1/31/2000
Greg Roczicka, VICE-CHAIR	1/31/2002
Walter Sampson	1/31/2001
Greg Streveler	1/31/2002
Eruk Williamson	1/31/2001

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### BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION

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Bertha Horton, Admin Clerk, BOG

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Kotzebue, AK 99752-0689

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**Board Meeting Recording:** Phone: 465-8901 (in Juneau)  
1-800-764-8901 (outside of Juneau)

**TDD Phone:** 1-800-478-2028

**Email address:** Laird\_Jones@fishgame.state.ak.us

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**  
**BOARD OF GAME**  
**October 25 - 29, 1999**  
**INUPIAT HERITAGE CENTER, BARROW, ALASKA**

[NOTE: This is a tentative agenda for this meeting of the Board of Game. It is subject to variance throughout the course of the meeting. At the discretion of the chair, additional periods of public testimony may be set. Also, evening sessions may be scheduled as necessary. A more detailed agenda will be available in early October.]

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**Monday, October 25**

**8:30 AM**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

Call to Order; Introductions of Board Members and Staff, Board Ethics Disclosure  
Purpose of Meeting (overview)

**STAFF REPORTS**

1:00 PM or at the conclusion of staff reports

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY** - This is the primary time for testimony on all issues before the Board of Game. At the chair's discretion, there may be additional sessions.

**TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE BOARD ON PROPOSALS BEING CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING, YOU MUST COMPLETE A BLUE TESTIMONY CARD. PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL WHO SIGN UP HAVE TESTIFIED.**

<p><b>DEADLINE FOR <u>SIGN-UP</u> TO TESTIFY IS: 12 NOON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26</b></p>
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**Tuesday, October 26**

**8:30 AM**

Continue public testimony

**At the conclusion of public testimony the Board will begin deliberation on the proposals.**

**Wednesday, October 27 through Friday, October 29**

**8:30 AM**

Board Deliberation on proposals

Miscellaneous Business, if any

The Board schedule will generally be: 8:30 AM - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 PM with lunch from noon until 1:00 PM. This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the chair.

**PROPOSAL 1** - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING; 5 AAC 85.060. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR FUR ANIMALS; and 5 AAC 92.170(a)(3). SEALING OF MARTEN, LYNX, BEAVER, OTTER, WOLF AND WOLVERINE. Amend these regulations for beaver in Unit 23 as follows:

For Unit 23 1) Designate beaver as a game animal so that they may be taken under hunting regulations; 2) Establish no closed season for hunting and trapping regulations 3) Establish no limit for trapping and hunting beaver, and 4) Remove the sealing requirement for all beaver taken in Unit 23.

**Beaver Trapping**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>
Unit 23[THE KOBUK AND SELAWIK RIVER DRAINAGE]	<u>No closed season</u> [NOV. 1 – JUN. 10]	<u>No limit</u> [50 PER SEASON]
[REMAINDER OF UNIT 23]	[NOV. 1 – JUNE 10]	[30 PER SEASON]

**Beaver Hunting**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunt)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(6)		
<u>Unit 23</u>	<u>No closed season</u>	<u>No closed season</u>
<u>No limit</u>		

**Beaver Sealing**

No person may possess, transport, or export from the state the untanned skin of a marten taken in Units 1-5, 7, 13E, and Units 14-16, or the untanned skin of a lynx, beaver (except in Unit 23), land otter, wolf or wolverine, whether taken inside or outside the state, unless the department has sealed the skin.

**ISSUE:** Beavers are abundant and expanding in Unit 23. Harvests occur year round and are modest relative to the harvestable surplus. Harvests are not expected to substantially increase if this proposal is adopted.

Current hunting and trapping regulations unnecessarily restrict opportunities to take beavers in Unit 23. Beavers have saturated available habitat in the Selawik River drainage, are abundant in the Kobuk drainage, and are rapidly expanding into other portions of Unit 23. Selawik residents are concerned that beavers will dam tributary streams and reduce the availability of whitefish, an important subsistence resource. They are also concerned that *Giardia*, a common parasite of beaver that causes diarrhea in humans, will contaminate the village water source. Given the abundance and expansion of beaver populations in Unit 23, there is no biological reason to restrict their harvest.

Current regulations were established to regulate the harvest of beaver for fur. Beaver are also taken for human consumption in Unit 23, often during summer when the season is closed and their fur is not prime. Extending the season through summer would allow subsistence users to legally take beaver for food consistent with traditional practices. The hides of many beavers taken in Unit 23 for meat are not salvaged or sealed. Alternate methods of collecting harvest data for beavers, e.g., trapper questionnaires or community-based harvest interviews, are superior and or more appropriate means of assessing harvest levels for beaver than sealing records.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Trapping regulations will be unnecessarily complicated and restrictive, and will not accommodate customary subsistence uses of beaver. Beaver populations will continue to increase and may interfere with subsistence fishing or contaminate village water sources.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Residents of Selawik and people who would like additional opportunities to take beavers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We rejected issuing nuisance animal permits to take beavers because this would add to the administrative burden of managing them, and would not simplify hunting or trapping regulations. We also rejected limiting these regulatory changes to the Kobuk and Selawik drainages because it would unnecessarily complicate Unit 23 regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Selawik IRA Council, Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee, Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee and ADF&G

(HQ-99F-G 039)

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**PROPOSAL 2** - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING and 5 AAC 92.095(3). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FUR BEARERS; EXCEPTIONS. Amend these regulations for beaver in Unit 18 to provide the following:

Unit 18 special provisions:

- A firearm may be used to take beaver with a trapping license in Unit 18 throughout the open season.
- Unit 18 beaver trapping season: July 1 – June 30.
- Unit 18 beaver sealing – No person may possess or transport from Alaska the untanned skin of a beaver, whether taken inside or outside the state, unless the skin has been sealed by an authorized representative of ADF&G, except in Unit 18 where the untanned skin of a beaver does not need to be sealed unless commercially tanned or sold.
- Salvage requirement hide and/or meat.

**ISSUE:** The beaver in Unit 18 have become so abundant, to the point that fur quality has declined, they have affected some traditional boat travel, and they have affected both prey and predator fish migration in all seasons. I have included the same proposal that I sent to the Federal Subsistence Board. (Will include as a comment in the board work books.)

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Beaver fur quality will continue to decline, traditional boat travel area will continue to decrease, and both prey, and predator fish



population will decline to the point that subsistence users will not catch them. Short answer: We will continue to have the same problem, or it will get worse.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local residents who want to harvest beaver year-round. Boat travelers who want to go to traditional sites. Trappers will benefit from better fur quality. Home tanners will not have to worry about the sealing requirement. All subsistence users will benefit, especially during the moose season, where beaver can become dinner.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** I cannot think of anyone who will be hurt by the proposed change in the beaver regulations.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Emmonak Tribal Council (HQ-99F-G-037)

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**PROPOSAL 3** - 5 AAC 85.020(16). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change this regulation in Unit 18 as follows:

Have the season dates for Unit 18 the same as adjacent Unit19A, Sept. 1 – May 31 residents and nonresidents or open the season for Unit 18 Apr. 15 – May 25 for residents and nonresidents.

**ISSUE:** Bear season opens too late, season is currently May 10 – May 25. Because of this late season there is difficulty with access due to breakup conditions and the hair on the bear is in much better shape in April than during this late season.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Will keep taking bear too late in season for good hide on the bear.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone. An earlier season makes for safer access and better hide conditions. With only two guides with permits on the refuge (most of Unit 18 is on the refuge) the number of bears taken cannot exceed number of bears allowed by refuge manager.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bob Adams (HQ-98S-G-036)

(HQ-99F-G-004)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 4** - 5 AAC 85.020(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend these regulations in Unit 22 to provide the following

Provide for resident harvest of one bear every regulatory year in Unit 22.

**ISSUE:** Too many bears in Unit 22.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Human conflict and predation on the ungulate population will increase.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Campers, hunters and ungulate populations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one except few bears.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Caleb Pungowigi (HQ-99F-G-020)

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**PROPOSAL 5** - 5 AAC 85.020(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 22 to provide the following:

Unit 22 Residents: IBEP (International Bowhunter Education Program) certified bowhunters only. One grizzly bear by bow and arrow every two regulatory years.

**ISSUE:** Too many grizzly bears in Unit 22. The grizzly bear population in Unit 22 is increasing while some important species they prey on (namely moose) are decreasing. Due to the decline in the moose population in Unit 22, the local game biologists are submitting proposals to shorten the moose hunting season in Unit 22.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The bear population will continue to increase, and more bears will be taken under DLP (defense of life and property). In addition, the moose population will continue to decrease.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** This solution would allow the moose population to slowly increase. This solution also provides a small, but effective means to manage our bear problem.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The moose population will continue to decrease while our bear problem will continue to increase.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I considered proposing one bear per year. However, sows only reproduce every four years. I believe that one bear per year would have a negative effect on the bear population. We need to reduce the bear population, not annihilate the species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark W. Smith (HQ-99F-G-024)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 6** - 5 AAC 85.020(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 22 to include the following:

Nonresident grizzly bear hunters in Units 22B, 22C, 22D, and 22E must apply for a permit. If successful, nonresidents must hunt with a registered guide or an Alaskan resident, but not necessarily a relative. Nonresidents drawn for grizzly bear permits may not hunt moose in the same regulatory year in Units 22B, 22C, 22D and 22E. Permits could be divided between guided and nonguided hunters.

**ISSUE:** Relaxation of regulations governing nonresident grizzly bear hunters in Units 22B, 22C, 22D, and 22E in order that all permits are used in order for ADF&G to achieve the desired reduction in grizzly bear numbers to boost moose populations.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some permits may not be used and consequently not enough bears harvested. Many nonresidents come to Alaska to sport hunt, but are limited to moose due to economic factors or the desire to hunt with certain friends or relatives. So those desiring a hunting experience on the Seward Peninsula will continue to harvest moose – further reducing the population.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The moose population. ADF&G’s goal to reduce the bear population. Some nonresident hunters who have the opportunity to harvest a species which previously was not a realistic possibility (i.e. cousins, friends, etc.).

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who oppose grizzly bear hunting. The bears. No one else if permits are divided between hunters hiring guides and those hunting with residents.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Allowing residents to harvest a grizzly bear every two or three years. My proposal broadens the opportunities for another segment of hunters. After all, Alaskans enjoy sport hunting opportunities in other states.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Kelso (HQ-99F-G-016)

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**PROPOSAL 7** - 5AAC 85.020. (20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Increase the number of nonresident drawing permits issued for Units 22(B) and 22(C) in combination from 20 to 27 permits, and for Units 22(D) and 22(E) in combination from 5 to 8 permits, as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(20)		

Unit 22A

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only.	Sept. 1-May 31 (Subsistence hunt only)
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1 bear every 4 regulatory years	Sept. 1-May 31
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**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bear every 4 regulatory years	Sept. 1-May 31
------------------------------------	----------------

Unit 22B

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every  
regulatory year  
by registration permit  
only.

Sept. 1-May 31  
(Subsistence hunt  
only)

1 bear every 4  
regulatory years

Sept. 1-May 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every 4  
regulatory years by  
drawing permit only; up  
to 27 [20] permits  
may be issued in  
combination with Unit 22C

Sept. 1-May 31

Unit 22C

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every 4  
regulatory years

Sept. 1-Oct. 31  
May 10-May 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every 4  
regulatory years by  
drawing permit only; up  
to 27 [20] permits  
may be issued for this hunt in  
combination with Unit 22B

Sept. 1-Oct. 31  
May 10-May 25

Remainder of Unit 22

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every  
regulatory year  
by registration permit  
only.

Sept. 1-May 31  
(Subsistence hunt  
only)

1 bear every 4  
regulatory years

Sept. 1-May 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every 4  
regulatory years by  
drawing permit only; up  
to 8 [5] permits  
may be issued.

Sept. 1-May 31

**ISSUE:** We believe that brown bears have increased in much of Unit 22. As part of a plan to allow harvests up to sustained levels, we recommend increasing the number of drawing permits issued to nonresident bear hunters by 10 permits. In Units 22B and 22C, we suggest an increase of seven permits (from 20 to 27 permits) and in Units 22D and 22E, an increase of three permits (from 5 to 8 permits).

In 1980, the board required nonresidents to obtain drawing permits to hunt brown bear in Unit 22. The following year that requirement was eliminated in Unit 22A where bear densities are the highest and local people have little interest in hunting bear. From 1981-1992, twenty drawing permits were available annually to nonresidents for Units 22B, 22C, 22D and 22E. Since 1992, twenty drawing permits have been allocated to nonresident hunters in Units 22B and 22C, and five permits to nonresidents in Units 22D and 22E. Most nonresidents who draw a permit hunt with registered guides.

Since 1996, the nonresident harvest has been 39% to 41% of the total brown bear harvest in Unit 22. A majority of the unit's nonresident harvest (57%-64% in regulatory years 1996-1998) is taken in Unit 22A, where during the last three regulatory years, 77%-87% of the harvest was taken by nonresidents. In Unit 22B, 27%-29% of the harvest was by nonresidents, in Unit 22C nonresidents took 0%-11% of the harvest, in Unit 22D, 0%-18% and in Unit 22E nonresident harvest was 33%-50% of the total. In Units 22B, 22C and 22D where there are high harvests by local hunters and in 22E, where bear density is the lowest, nonresident bear hunting effort needs to be limited by the permit system.

Since 1996, the drawing hunts in Unit 22 have been fully subscribed. Prior to 1998 the nonresident success rate averaged 60%. In 1998, the success rate climbed to 72% for nonresidents. In part this was due to excellent conditions for spring hunting, and in part because the new long season from Sept. 1 – May 31 allows hunters who are unsuccessful in the fall to try again in the spring if they purchase a tag and license for the new year.

Since there is demand for more nonresident permits in Unit 22, it is reasonable to give nonresidents additional hunting opportunity.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Opportunity for nonresidents to hunt what appears to be an increasing bear population will be unnecessarily limited.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those who want to see a reduction in brown bear numbers in Unit 22, nonresident hunters who wish to hunt brown bear in Units 22B, 22C, 22D, and 22E, and guides who operate in those units.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who oppose nonresident hunting activity in Unit 22.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Eliminate the permit system in Units 22B, 22C, 22D and 22E. Rejected due to concern that lack of a permit system for nonresidents may result in over harvest of brown bears in some areas and decrease opportunities for residents to harvest large bears. We are concerned that an increase in nonresident bear hunting activity may also increase nonresident moose harvest in areas where declining moose populations are important for subsistence.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-034)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 8** - 5AAC 85.020(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Lengthen the spring brown bear hunting season by ten days in Unit 22(C) as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(20)		
...		
Unit 22(C)		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bear every 4 regulatory years	Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 <u>May 1 – May 25</u> [MAY 10-MAY 25]	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bear every 4 regulatory years by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits <u>may</u> [WILL] be issued in combination with Unit 22(B)		Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 <u>May 1 – May 25</u> [MAY 10-MAY 25]
...		

**PROBLEM:** Brown bear numbers in Unit 22C appear to be increasing in spite of harvests that have consistently exceeded the sustainable harvest rate recommended for Unit 22C following a brown bear census of portions of Unit 22 in 1991. From 1991-97 the average annual, reported harvest in Unit 22C has been eight bears, above the estimated sustainable harvest of five bears. In 1998 the harvest in Unit 22C increased to 17 bears, three of which were illegal kills, and four were taken in defense of life and property.

In 1987, the spring season in Unit 22C was shortened from Apr. 15 - May 25 to May 10 - May 25 because the long spring season in this small, snowmachine-accessible unit allowed excessive harvest, especially of large males. Currently most bear hunting in Unit 22C occurs along the road system and often the majority of the harvest is in the fall. Usually by May 10, snowmachine travel is over and often the roads are not yet passable, so spring hunting in Unit 22C has limited success rates.

In 1997, the department opposed liberalizing bear hunting regulations in Unit 22C when it recommended that the remainder of Unit 22 be included in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area and that the general season be lengthened to Sept. 1 – May 31. We were concerned that the large number of serious bear hunters in Nome would overharvest bears in Unit 22C if they had snowmachine access during the long open season.

However, in the last several years problems with bears have increased significantly near Nome and at camps along the coast and river systems in Unit 22C. Public concern about increasing numbers of bears in areas of human habitation has been building over the last decade. A large segment of the local public is running out of patience and is demanding a reduction in bear numbers in areas close to town. We feel it is reasonable to manage for a lower density of bears in close proximity to Nome and to increase harvest opportunity somewhat in Unit 22C. Unit 22 as a whole has a healthy, productive bear population that is believed to be increasing in many areas. Reducing bear numbers in Unit 22C should not adversely affect the overall health of the Unit 22 bear population.

We recommend opening the spring season in Unit 22C on May 1, thereby lengthening the season by 10 days. This will allow more opportunity for spring harvest in most years. Timing of breakup varies considerably from year to year but a May 1 opening will generally give hunters some access to bears by snowmachine. As recommended in companion proposals for brown bears in Unit 22, we also advocate eliminating the resident tag requirement for brown bear hunting in all of Unit 22 and increasing by 7 (for a total of 27) the number of nonresident drawing permits issued for Units 22B and 22C.

Unit 22C has a productive moose population with recruitment that regularly exceeds 20%. We do not believe that bears are adversely affecting the moose population in Unit 22C.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Bear problems and complaints in Unit 22C will continue and the public will be further alienated by our lack of responsiveness to their frustrations and concerns about the increasing presence of bears near human habitation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Individuals with cabins and camps in Unit 22C, hunters who want more opportunity to hunt bears in Unit 22C, and Unit 22C reindeer herders.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who enjoy viewing bears in the Nome area and trophy hunters who, in the long-term, want to harvest large bears in Unit 22C.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Align the Unit 22C season with the season in the remainder of Unit 22; Sept. 1- May 31. Rejected because of the potential to drastically overharvest bears in Unit 22C in the spring because of easy access with snowmachines when bears leave their dens.

We also considered the single action of eliminating the resident tag requirement or increasing the number of nonresident permits for Units 22B and 22C, but the combination of three bear proposals for Unit 22 would best achieve the desired reduction in bear numbers without causing too steep of a decline in any one year.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-036)

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**PROPOSAL 9** - 5 AAC 85.020(21). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.530(16)(B)(ii). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend these regulations in Unit 23 and in the Northwest Brown Bear Management Area as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunt)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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(21)

Unit 23, that portion in the Northwest  
Alaska Brown Bear Management Area

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bear every regulatory year by  
registration permit.

Sept. 1 – May 31  
(Subsistence hunt  
only)

No open season

1 bear every [4] regulatory year(s)

Sept. 1 – May 31

Sept. 1 – May 31

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bear every [4] regulatory year[s]  
by drawing permit only, up to 18 [36]  
permits will be issued

Sept. 1 – Oct. 10

1 bear every regulatory year by  
registration permit only, season will  
be closed when 18 brown bear have  
been taken

March 1 – May 31

Remainder of Unit 23

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bear every [4] regulatory year[S]

Sept. 1 – May 31

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bear every [4] regulatory year[S]  
by drawing permit only, up to 18 [36]  
permits will be issued

Sept. 1 – Oct. 10

1 bear every regulatory year by  
registration permit only, season will  
be closed when 18 brown bears have  
been taken

March 1 – May 31

Aircraft may not be used in any manner for brown bear hunting under the authority of a brown bear registration permit, including transportation of hunters, bears, or parts of bears except in Unit 23; however, this does not apply to transportation of bear hunters or bear parts by regularly scheduled flights to and between communities by carriers that normally provide scheduled service to this area, nor does it apply to transportation by aircraft to or between publicly owned airports.

**ISSUE:** Brown bears are currently abundant in Unit 23, and harvest data indicates a low percentage of the population is currently being taken. Local residents are concerned that brown bears are becoming a threat to human life and property. Additionally, brown bears may be depressing moose calf survival to low levels in the Noatak River drainage. This proposal attempts to increase the harvest of brown bears without risking overharvest by providing greater opportunity for subsistence and sport hunters to take bears.



This proposal represents the third step taken to increase brown bear harvest in Unit 23. The Northwest Brown Bear Subsistence Management Area was established during the 1992-1993 regulatory year to provide greater opportunity for subsistence hunters to take brown bears consistent with traditional practices. Trophy hunting regulations were liberalized during the 1998-1999 regulatory year by substantially lengthening the resident hunting season, and increasing the number of nonresident spring drawing permits from 7 to 18. We recognize brown bears have inherently low productivity and are difficult to count. We prefer to liberalize brown bear hunting regulations incrementally to avoid depressing this population. We are requesting ADF&G and the National Park Service to census brown bears in the 1987 Red Dog census area to determine the current status of this population.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Brown bear harvests will continue to be low and the population will remain high. In the Noatak River drainage, moose calf recruitment may be depressed to low levels by bear predation. Resident hunters will be unnecessarily deprived of hunting opportunity. Brown bears will continue to threaten human lives and property.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence and sport hunters who want more opportunities to take brown bears, guides and spring nonresident sport hunters who will not have to deal with a drawing permit hunt, residents of Unit 23 who feel brown bears threaten their lives or property, and possibly the Noatak drainage moose population.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** ADF&G will have the additional responsibility of monitoring the spring nonresident registration permit hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We considered imposing an overall harvest quota (i.e., for all hunts combined) to guarantee brown bears will not be overharvested. We rejected this because it will probably be unnecessary, and we want at least one year of harvest data before establishing a quota.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-99F-G-038)  
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**PROPOSAL 10** - 5 AAC 85.020(21). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 23 as follows:

No drawing required for nonresidents. Registration for fall brown/grizzly permits in Unit 23.

**ISSUE:** DB 781 brown/grizzly bear fall permit drawing in Unit 23.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Drawing is not biologically necessary. Grizzly bear population continues to increase. Moose/calf mortality is too high. Guided hunts in Unit 23 are less competitive than other areas with registration or open hunts.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose hunters, tax payers (through less administrative costs), the general human population, moose population, guides, clients and guests, and wildlife viewers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Increase number of fall permits – rejected because guides and clients would still face the delay and uncertainty of drawing a permit. There are not enough applicants to warrant this. Allocate permits on a drawing basis – not enough applicants to warrant.

**PROPOSED BY:** James P. Jacobsen (HQ-99F-G-011)

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**PROPOSAL 11** – 5 AAC 85.020(24). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change the general season bag limit in Unit 26(A) from one bear every four years to one bear every regulatory year as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24)		
... 1 bear every [4] regulatory year[S]	Aug. 20 - May 31	Aug. 20 - May 31
...		

**PROBLEM:** Brown bears are plentiful in Unit 26A. Although the department has not estimated the population in Unit 26A since 1992, the available information from local residents and other sources indicates the population has remained the same size or increased in size. In recent years the reported harvest of brown bears by resident and nonresident hunters has been approximately 50% of the estimated harvestable surplus (harvestable surplus = 5% of the brown bear population). At the current harvest rates, there is no need to restrict the harvest to one bear every four years.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some people will continue to be unnecessarily deprived of hunting opportunity. Recovery of the Unit 26A moose population may not be as fast as it would be if there were fewer bears in the area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters who want to take more than one bear every four years. If more bears are harvested moose will probably have better calf survival and moose hunters will benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Leaving the bag limit the same was rejected because the harvestable surplus is considerably larger than the number harvested. Eliminating the tag fee was rejected because the tag fee is not considered a deterrent to general season hunters. Subsistence hunting of brown bears with no tag fee is available to resident hunters because Unit 26A is part of the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-028)

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**PROPOSAL 12** - 5 AAC 85.025(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 18 south of the Yukon River to provide the following:

Residents: 5 caribou; however, Aug. 1 – Apr. 15  
no more than 2 may be bulls

Nonresidents: 2 caribou Aug. 1 – Apr. 15.

**ISSUE:** There is no nonresident caribou season south of the Yukon River and the Mulchatna Caribou Herd has established itself as using Unit 18 south of the Yukon River as part of its normal range over the last five years.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** A good portion of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is spending much of the hunting season in Unit 18, which is reducing the harvest as these caribou are hunted only by residents with very limited access.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All residents of Unit 18 will not have to wait for emergency openings and nonresident hunters having more area to hunt will reduce hunting pressure and overcrowding in Units 17 and Unit 19.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one will suffer. I do not believe the Kilbuck Caribou Herd even exists anymore as they have joined the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Rick Townsend (HQ-99F-G-044)  
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**PROPOSAL 13** - 5 AAC 85.025(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS OF CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 18 as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 18 south of the Yukon River with a bag limit of one caribou	Sept. 1 – Oct. 1.

**ISSUE:** Open the caribou season in Unit 18 south of the Yukon River to nonresident hunters with a bag limit of one caribou, Sept. 1 – Oct. 1.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued loss of revenue to ADF&G. Continued loss of revenue to local economy.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local guides, air taxis, residents, and ADF&G through increased license sales.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. Nonresident harvest will be insignificant with regard to resource conservation and subsistence use.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Goll

(HQ-99F-G-001)

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**PROPOSAL 14** - 5 AAC 85.025(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation for residents and nonresidents in Unit 22D to provide the following:

Unit 22D caribou season: July 1 – May 15 cow caribou  
No closed season for bulls

**ISSUE:** Increase of caribou in Unit 22D. The increase warrants permanent opening of caribou season instead of by announcement by ADF&G. In several occasions ADF&G has not opened the season soon enough even though caribou were present in the subunit.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued lost opportunity to harvest caribou in Unit 22D.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All hunters of caribou.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. Except perhaps, the concern of reindeer herders of hunters taking reindeer mistaken as caribou.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Limit the permanent opening by subdividing Unit 22D to the eastern portion (east of Belts Creek). Rejected due to not solving lost hunting opportunity problem.

**PROPOSED BY:** Thomas S. Sparks

(HQ-99F-G-005)

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**PROPOSAL 15** - 5 AAC 85.025(17) and (18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 22E to provide the following:

The new regulation would have the same seasons and bag limits for caribou in Unit 22E as exists in Unit 23. This would allow us to hunt year-round except during calving and have a five caribou a day bag limit in Unit 22E.

**ISSUE:** Local hunters of Shishmaref are not able to hunt caribou in Unit 22E. The hunters must drive by the caribou in Unit 22E and then shoot caribou in Unit 23. All the caribou come from the same herd. We are also concerned about the safety of our hunters because they must travel a long distance during the winter months and may get stranded in winter storms.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some of our hunters may lose their lives trying to travel to or from a caribou hunt. We will continue to spend money to buy gas and oil and drive by caribou in Unit 22E, to shoot caribou in Unit 23. We will not be able to hunt caribou when we see them while boating here in Unit 22E.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local hunters of Shishmaref. We would be able to prepare and hunt a short distance, which would allow us to return safely or more quickly if the weather

turns bad. We would be able to hunt more often, during late fall by boat. We would be able to feed more people by allowing those who are not able to travel great distances during the winter to hunt. We would save money on fuel and gas.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Shishmaref/IRA Council (HQ-99F-G-023)

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**PROPOSAL 16** - 5 AAC 85.045. (16). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation to clarify a boundary description in Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
... (16) Unit 18, that portion north and west of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kuzilvak Mountain, and then to Mountain Village, <u>and excluding</u> <u>all Yukon River drainages upstream</u> <u>from Mountain Village</u> [AND WEST OF (BUT NOT INCLUDING) THE ANDREAFSKY RIVER DRAINAGE]	Sept. 5 - Sept. 25	Sept. 5 - Sept. 25

...

**PROBLEM:** There is a gap in the description of the moose hunt area between Mountain Village and the Andreafsky drainage. Since the described boundary is not contiguous, there is confusion among hunters about the area open to moose hunting in areas upstream from Mountain Village. By excluding all drainages of the Yukon River upstream of Mountain Village from the hunt area, the hunt area boundary is less confusing and easier to understand.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Moose hunters and Fish and Wildlife Protection will not know where the hunt boundary lies. This is becoming increasingly more important because moose occasionally move into the area of confusion and because it is an area of high traffic among local residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nobody.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We considered using the north bank of the Yukon River as the boundary. However, this would leave the south side of the Yukon open while the north side is closed and since most fall traffic is by boat, it was not preferred. We also considered using

the road between Mountain Village and the Andreavsky drainage. This was not preferred since roads can change.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-026)

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**PROPOSAL 17** - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation in Unit 22B as follows:

If the length of the season needs to be reduced, the new season for residents in Unit 22B should be Aug. 15 - Oct. 15.

**ISSUE:** If the board feels compelled to reduce the length of the resident moose season in Unit 22B, then I propose a different season than that recommended (Aug. 1 – Sept. 30). Early August is not ideal for hunting moose (too warm and bulls in velvet) while early October can be prime (more movement of animals, cool, few bugs).

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some meat may be wasted if moose are harvested in early August. Rain can also be a problem. Those hunters who are trophy hunting in addition to procuring meat are penalized as bulls are still in velvet. Some ideal weather and opportunities to spend time afield in early October will be lost in Unit 22B.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local moose hunters who will have a better two-month period to harvest a bull.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those few residents who typically start hunting August 1.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Kelso (HQ-99F-G-022)

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**PROPOSAL 18** - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASON AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 22D to provide the following:

**Units and Bag Limits**

	<b>Resident Open Season</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 22D, that portion within the Kougarak, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages		
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS [1 BULL WITH 50 INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLER WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]		<u>No open season</u> [AUG. 1 – JAN. 31]

Remainder of Unit 22D

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS  
[1 BULL WITH 50 INCH ANTLERS OR  
ANTLER WITH 4 OR MORE BROW  
TINES ON ONE SIDE]

No open season  
[AUG. 1 – JAN. 31]

**ISSUE:** Decreasing subsistence opportunity for moose hunting in Unit 22D. In recent years, subsistence moose bag limits in Unit 22D have been reduced in response to declining moose populations, but the nonresident hunt has continued.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Subsistence opportunity will continue to be limited for subsistence hunters. It will take longer for moose populations to recover in Unit 22D, limiting opportunity for all hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** In the short-term, subsistence hunters. In the long-term, all hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresident hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No change – we want to restore opportunity for subsistence moose hunters in Unit 22D.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kawerak, Inc. (HQ-99F-G-017)

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**PROPOSAL 19** - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reduce the resident and nonresident seasons and eliminate the antlerless moose season in Unit 22(B), as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
-----------------------------	---	------------------------------------

(20)

...

Unit 22(B)[, THAT PORTION WEST  
OF THE WEST BANK OF THE FISH  
RIVER AND WEST OF THE  
SOUTHWEST SHORE OF GOLOVIN  
BAY FROM THE MOUTH OF THE  
FISH RIVER TO ROCKY POINT]

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 [ANTLERED] bull	<u>Aug. 1–Sept. 30</u> <u>Dec. 1–Jan. 31</u> [AUG. 1-JAN. 31]
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with	<u>Sept. 1- Sept. 30</u>
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50-inch antlers or  
antlers with 4 or more  
brow tines on one side

[AUG. 1- JAN. 31]

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 22(B)]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[1 MOOSE; HOWEVER,  
ANTLERLESS MOOSE MAY BE  
TAKEN ONLY FROM DEC. 1  
THROUGH DEC. 31; NO PERSON  
MAY TAKE A COW  
ACCOMPANIED BY A CALF]

[AUG. 1- JAN. 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[1 BULL WITH 50-INCH  
ANTLERS OR ANTLERS  
WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES  
ON ONE SIDE]

[AUG. 1- JAN. 31]

...

**PROBLEM:** Census data indicate the moose population in Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains (western Unit 22B) has declined by 50% since 1987. Initial losses were caused by severe winters in 1989, 1990 and 1992. In spite of relatively easy winters in most subsequent years, moose have continued to decline in this area. Since 1992, recruitment in western Unit 22B has remained very low, ranging from 4% to 9% in the Fish River and Niukluk River count areas. During a March 1999 census of this area, the percentage of short yearlings was 8%, showing that recruitment is currently quite low.

Data from a radio collar study of cow moose in western Unit 22B during 1995–1997 suggest that low productivity and low recruitment are responsible for the failure of this population to rebound. In this study, 75% of calves observed died within three months of birth. Although birthing dates and calf viability may be factors (lateness of calving dates indicates that winter range conditions may be a problem affecting calf viability; condition of cows collared was relatively poor as well), we attribute the high calf mortality largely to bear predation. When brown bears were censused in portions of Unit 22 during 1991, western Unit 22B had the highest bear density estimate in the bear census study area (18.9 bears  $\geq 2$  years old /1000km<sup>2</sup>).

We do not have recent data on moose bull:cow ratios; but, observations by staff, hunters and the public indicate that the bull:cow ratio is adequate and not a factor limiting productivity.

Reported harvest in western Unit 22B has averaged 49 moose per year (6% of the current population estimate) over the past three years. In April 1999, the department and Kawerak Inc. completed community-based harvest assessments of big game use in the Unit 22 villages of Koyuk and Shaktoolik. Results from these surveys indicate only 10%-12% of the village harvest is reported through the harvest ticket reporting system. A similar reporting pattern probably exists in White Mountain, Golovin, and Elim (communities located in Unit 22B where the combined average reported harvest for the past three years has been 5 moose/year. Considering the unreported harvest rates from the village-based harvest assessments, the total harvest in western Unit 22B likely exceeds recruitment.



The reported cow harvest in western Unit 22B has averaged only 2 cows/year over the last three years and we believe the total annual harvest of cows is also small.

In 1993, following the initial decline of moose in Unit 22B, the antlerless moose season was shortened to Dec. 1 – Dec. 31. In regulatory year 1997-98, the antlerless season was eliminated for that portion of Unit 22B north and west of the Fish River where the largest reported harvest occurs. No other regulatory measures have been taken to date.

Considering the continued population decline documented in the March 1999 Unit 22B moose census, we recommend that the harvest of cows in Unit 22B be prohibited in order to protect the reproductive component of this population. We also recommend shortening the resident season to Aug. 1 – Sept. 30 and Dec. 1 – Jan. 31 and that the nonresident season be shortened to Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 with a bag limit of one bull for both resident and nonresident hunters. We advocate maintaining a winter season for bulls to provide subsistence hunting opportunity for those people whose only access is by snowmachine. Based on harvest rates over the last three years, these suggested changes would reduce the reported harvest approximately 33%.

We do not have census data for Unit 22B east of the Darby Mountains (eastern Unit 22B). However, during March 1999 we completed recruitment surveys along the Koyuk River and Peace River drainages in eastern Unit 22B and found 10.5% short yearlings. Koyuk residents report increasing difficulty harvesting moose in their traditional hunting areas. Based on this information, we believe that eastern Unit 22B is experiencing a moose productivity and recruitment problem similar to western Unit 22B, although the decline may not be as severe as in western Unit 22B. Consequently, we recommend the regulatory changes outlined in this proposal be applied to all of Unit 22B.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Moose numbers in Unit 22B will continue to decline as long as harvest and predation exceed recruitment.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** In the long-term, all who utilize moose in Unit 22B.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Individuals who want to harvest a cow moose in Unit 22B, residents who want to hunt during October or November and nonresidents that want to hunt at times other than September.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Apply these changes only to Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains, but rejected due to the desire to reverse the decline in eastern Unit 22B before it becomes as serious as in western Unit 22B. In addition to changes in moose season and bag limits, the department has proposed changes to brown bear seasons and bag limits that apply to Unit 22B to help reduce the predation rate on moose (see brown bear proposals).

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-035)

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**PROPOSAL 20** - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 22C as follows:

Provide a winter resident harvest of cow moose during the month of December for up to 20 moose by residents only.

**ISSUE:** Increase of moose population in Unit 22C, loss of winter habitat due to increasing browse.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Moose population may crash.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All hunters of Unit 22C, moose population.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Thomas S. Sparks (HQ-99F-G-006)

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**PROPOSAL 21** - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change the season dates in Unit 22C as follows:

Open the resident moose season in Unit 22C from Sept. 1 – Sept. 30.

**ISSUE:** Short hunting season of bulls (moose) in Unit 22C. This short season makes for a poor hunt with too much concentration in two weekends of hunting, and weather conditions prevent successful harvests.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Loss of harvest opportunity.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters in Unit 22C, other units will also benefit due to decrease in hunting pressure.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Thomas S. Sparks (HQ-99F-G-007)

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**PROPOSAL 22** - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 22C to provide the following:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 22C		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull moose	Sept. 1 – Sept. 14	
<u>One antlerless moose by registration permit antlerless season will be closed when 20 antlerless moose have been taken</u>		<u>Sept. 15 – Sept. 30</u>

**ISSUE:** Limited subsistence opportunity for moose hunting in Unit 22C. Seasons in Unit 22C are the shortest on the Seward Peninsula, and hunting opportunity has been limited to bulls only.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Subsistence opportunity will continue to be limited for subsistence hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All subsistence hunters who hunt in Unit 22C.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No change – we want to improve opportunity for subsistence moose hunters in Unit 22C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kawerak, Inc. (HQ-99F-G-019)

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**PROPOSAL 23** - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Establish a resident drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 22(C) with up to 20 permits issued, as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(20)		
...		
Unit 22(C)		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull	Sept. 1-Sept.14	
<u>1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits may be issued; no person may take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.</u>	Sept. 15-Sept.30 (General hunt only)	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 1-Sept.14

...

**PROBLEM:** The Unit 22C moose population is the most productive moose population in Unit 22. Results from the last census in 1995 show our management goal of maintaining a population of 480

moose was met. In spite of low bull:cow ratios varying from 10 to 20 bulls per 100 cows over the past decade, recruitment has remained at least 20%, annually.

Although our census estimate is four years old, we believe the population in 22C has increased. During April 1999, we recorded the highest number of moose ever counted in the Snake River valley, a prime wintering area near Nome. Recruitment was 26%. Observations of crowding in the river bottoms and distribution of moose in marginal habitats during a period of heavy snow accumulation late in the spring of 1999, causes concern that we are reaching the carrying capacity in Unit 22C. Had deep snow accumulated earlier in the winter, it is likely that significant starvation would have occurred.

We have little information on movements of moose in and out of Unit 22C, or to what extent moose disperse from Unit 22C to populate surrounding, less productive subunits. However, the Kigluaik Mountains probably create an effective barrier to the north. A radio collar study of moose in western Unit 22B showed almost no movement of moose from Unit 22B into 22C.

We believe the Unit 22C moose population can withstand additional harvest, but that the harvest of additional bulls and further reduction in the bull:cow ratio would be unwise. An average of 24 bulls have been taken annually in Unit 22C over the past three years. Using jaws voluntarily submitted by hunters, the average age of harvested bulls in Unit 22C has been two years throughout this decade.

We recommend establishing a resident drawing hunt for antlerless moose during the fall when the additional hunting effort can be directed exclusively at cows. In order to protect bull calves we recommend prohibiting the harvest of calves in addition to cows with calves. Until the next scheduled census in 2001 confirms our assumption that the population has grown, we recommend issuing a conservative number of permits; up to 20. By providing additional opportunity for hunters to harvest moose in the productive area close to Nome, we hope to reduce harvest pressure on surrounding less productive areas.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The population in Unit 22C may increase to the point where major losses would occur during years with severe winters. Habitat may be overbrowsed, reducing carrying capacity in subsequent years.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People wanting additional opportunity to hunt and all those who enjoy having a healthy moose population in Unit 22C.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who object to harvesting cows.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** One option is a registration subsistence general cow hunt in late October or early November. Another option of distributing permits would be a Tier II subsistence cow hunt. A third option is a permit hunt in December rather than in the fall to provide opportunity for those who hunt by snowmachine and to lessen the impact along the road system where viewers may be offended. This third option was rejected because additional bulls might be harvested during a December antlerless season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-031)

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**PROPOSAL 24** - 5 AAC 85.045(21). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 23 to provide the following:

Drawing permit for bull moose in the Upper Noatak River and its tributaries from the headwaters to the Kelly River drainage, and also in the Squirrel River drainage.

**ISSUE:** Low numbers of bull moose in the Squirrel River drainage and Northcentral Unit 23.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued decline in the numbers of bull moose and the viability of these populations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everybody, from the continued presence and viability of the moose herds in these areas.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some guides and transporters and their clientele in the short term.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Request the Federal Subsistence Board close down these areas to the take of bull moose. Rejected as too drastic and because would leave the state out from management participation.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Walker and Gordon Ito (HQ-99F-G-008)

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**PROPOSAL 25** - 5 AAC 85.050(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSK OXEN. Amend this regulation to open muskox hunting in Unit 22C and a portion of Unit 22D, and change bag limit from one bull to one muskox.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 22C		
<u>1 muskox by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only, up to six may be taken, musk ox may not be taken within (1 mile?) of the Nome Council Road, Nome-Taylor Highway, and Nome-Teller Highway.</u>	<u>Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 (Subsistence hunt only)</u>	<u>No open season</u>
Unit 22D		
[THAT PORTION NORTH AND WEST OF GRANTLEY HARBOR, IMURUK BASIN, AND THE PILGRIM RIVER DRAINAGE.]	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
1 <u>muskox</u> [BULL] by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 30 <u>muskoxen</u> [BULLS] may be taken		

Unit 22E

1 muskox [BULL] by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 15 muskoxen [BULLS] may be taken

Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 (Subsistence hunt only)

No open season

**ISSUE:** This proposal addresses two problems with muskox hunting regulations in Unit 22C. First, it would open muskox hunting in Unit 22C and a portion of Unit 22D. Although the muskox population in these subunits is large enough to support hunting, muskox hunting has not been opened in these areas in order to provide increased opportunities for wildlife viewing. Second, it would change the bag limit from one bull to one muskox. Cows and young bulls have better meat than older bulls. Hunters find it difficult to tell the difference between young bulls and cows, so they target older bulls. Changing the bag limit to one muskox would allow hunters to harvest cows and to target young bulls without worrying about illegally taking a cow.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If either problem is not solved, fewer muskoxen will be available for harvest. Keeping Unit 22C and a portion of Unit 22D closed means that hunters who start their hunt from Nome have to travel much further to reach areas open to muskox hunting. Keeping the bull bag limit means that hunters will have to be more selective in their harvest. The meat they harvest may be of less than ideal quality.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence hunters who start their hunting from Nome. Hunters who want better quality meat.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No change – subsistence opportunity is unnecessarily restricted. No closed corridor along roads – closing the road corridors will minimize disturbances of muskox groups along the road systems where they are most likely to be viewed. Also improves safety.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kawerak, Inc. (HQ-99F-G-018)

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**PROPOSAL 26** - 5 AAC 85.050(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSK OXEN. Amend this regulation in Unit 22D as follows:

All of Unit 22D open for muskox hunting after Sept. 15.

**ISSUE:** Hunters who have muskox permits can hunt only at north side of Grantley Harbor, Imuruk Basin and drainages. They spend more on fuel to get to the muskoxen since they have to travel further instead of going a couple of miles to hunt.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunters put their lives at risk by traveling further for hunts. They could possibly get caught in storms, get lost and lose their lives.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence hunters from Teller, which is the primary village in Unit 22D.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Wildlife photographers.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Teller Native Corp.

(HQ-99F-G-014)

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**PROPOSAL 27** - 5 AAC 85.050(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSK OXEN. Amend this regulation in Unit 22D as follows:

All of Unit 22D is open to muskoxen hunts after September 15.

**ISSUE:** The distances and location of hunts in Unit 22D. I feel that muskoxen be hunted anywhere on state lands within Unit 22D.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Because of distances to travel and expense involved to travel longer distances, some subsistence hunters may not hunt due to lack of funds and possibility of getting lost in storms.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those most likely to benefit are low income subsistence hunters and all would most likely participate with proper licenses.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** All hunters may benefit with this proposal.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Isaac Okleasik Jr., Pres., Teller Traditional Council

(HQ-99F-G-015)

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**PROPOSAL 28** - 5 AAC 85.050(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSK OXEN. Establish a Tier II hunt for muskox north and west of the Noatak River in Unit 23.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(2)		
...		
Unit 23, that portion on the Seward Peninsula west of and including the Buckland River Drainage	Aug. 1-Mar. 15 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 8 bulls may be taken		

Unit 23, that portion north and west of the Noatak River

1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 15 bulls may be taken

Aug.1 – Mar. 31

No open season

...

**PROBLEM:** The muskox population between Capes Lisburne and Krusenstern has grown approximately 8% annually since 1970. Censuses conducted during June 1998 and 1999 indicates this population currently numbers around 300 adult animals. Since 1985, the core range of this population has been within 12-20 miles of the Chukchi Sea coast. A small number of bulls have emigrated from this area into the Noatak River drainage and western portion of Unit 26A; however, no breeding groups have been established in these areas. The availability and quality of winter range has probably limited this population to a greater degree than other reintroduced populations of muskox in Alaska. Muskox in this area are distributed on state and federal managed lands roughly in proportion to their respective areas: about one-third of this population occurs on federal land (Cape Krusenstern National Monument) and the remainder on state and private lands. During October 1997, the Board of Game made a positive customary and traditional use determination for this population; however, no subsistence need determination has been made.

Local subsistence hunters have expressed interest in harvesting muskox from this population since 1996. A joint state and federal meeting was held in January 1999 to discuss muskox management in this portion of Unit 23. Village representatives agreed: 1) they would like to establish state and federal subsistence hunts for muskox in this area; 2) these hunts must be managed cooperatively; 3) harvests should initially be conservative to prevent jeopardizing this population. A conservative harvest of 3% of the total population, bulls only, is similar to how muskox hunts have been initiated in other portions of Alaska. We feel this would likely have no effect on population growth or composition during the next several years. Given the current population size and distribution, and the proportions of state and federal managed lands in this portion of Unit 23, this proposal would initially establish a quota of 6 muskoxen on state-managed lands. We propose a quota of 'up to 15 bulls' to provide flexibility in establishing annual quotas as this population grows.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunting opportunity will be lost. Many local residents will continue to realize no benefit from having muskoxen in this area and resent their presence.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Resident hunters who qualify for a Tier II permit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who do not qualify for a Tier II permit.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We rejected 'no hunt' for this portion of Unit 23 because it is not responsive to public desire and would unnecessarily restrict subsistence hunting opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee, Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee  
And Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-030)

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**The Board of Game agreed to accept this proposal as an Agenda Change Request for Unit 26B.**

**PROPOSAL 29** – 5 AAC 85.050(3). SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSK OXEN. Change the Tier II muskox season in Unit 26(B) by starting the season on August 1 instead of September 15, as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
-----------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------------

Unit 26B, that portion west of the Dalton Highway

**RESIDENTS:**

1 muskox by Tier II subsistence permit only; up to 20 musk oxen may be taken

Aug. 1 [SEPT. 15] - Mar. 31

**ISSUE:** Muskox hunting in Unit 26B west of the Dalton Highway is allowed by Tier II permit (Hunt TX 108) and the season currently begins on September 15. Hunters would like to be able to travel up the Colville and Itkillik Rivers by boat to hunt muskoxen. However, the rivers have low water and begin to freeze up in September, making it difficult to travel upstream if the season is not changed. If the season begins on August 1, some hunters would have easier access to the muskoxen. An August season would also make hunting muskoxen more convenient for people with Tier II muskox permits who are traveling up the river to hunt moose or caribou. Because there are a limited number of muskox permits, the increase in season would not lead to overharvest. All other Tier II muskox hunts (Seward Peninsula Hunts TX102, TX104, TX106) in the state begin on August 1.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** People who would prefer to hunt muskoxen by boat will be unable to. People that don't have access to snowmachines will be unable to participate in the muskox hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People with muskox permits that have access to a boat. The entire community because harvested muskoxen are generally shared with the community.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Continue with the current season to avoid harvesting muskoxen during rut; however, hunters report from other areas that the meat from rutting bulls does not have a strong taste like rutting bull caribou.

**PROPOSED BY:** North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management (HQ-99F-G-048)

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**PROPOSAL 30** - 5 AAC 85.060(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR FUR ANIMALS. Change this regulation for coyote in Unit 23 as follows:

No closed season. No bag limit for coyote in Unit 23.

**ISSUE:** Coyote season too restrictive.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The possibility of the undesirable and currently unestablished coyote becoming established in Unit 23 to the detriment of the highly desirable/valuable and established fox and sheep populations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Residents/fur users. Fox and sheep populations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nobody.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Keep regulation as is, along with greater chance of coyotes becoming established in Unit 23.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alex Whiting (HQ-99F-G-010)

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**PROPOSAL 31** - 5 AAC 85.065(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Change this regulation for ptarmigan in Unit 23 to provide the following:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(3)		
Unit 23		
<u>50/per day, 100 in possession</u> [20/PER DAY, 40 IN POSSESSION]	<u>No closed season</u> [AUG. 10 – APR. 30]	<u>No closed season</u> [AUG. 10 – APR. 30]

**ISSUE:** Ptarmigan abundance in Unit 23 is affected by movements and environmental conditions, and will not be reduced by this regulatory change. April through mid-June is an important period for subsistence harvests of ptarmigan in Unit 23. The current season does not allow hunting for more than half of this period. Ptarmigan are also harvested between mid-June and August 10; however, harvests during this period tend to be low and opportunistic when people are at fish camps. There is no biological reason to close ptarmigan hunting for any part of the year in Unit 23.

Most local residents hunt ptarmigan infrequently in Unit 23. During the occasional times when conditions are good hunters often exceed the bag limit. Increasing the bag limit will not reduce ptarmigan abundance in Unit 23.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunting opportunity will be lost and regulations will be unnecessarily complex. Some local residents will probably continue to harvest ptarmigan out of season and exceed the bag limit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local subsistence hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) Eliminate the bag limit. We rejected this only because the department has historically opposed proposals to eliminate bag limits, and we did not want to jeopardize the entire proposal. There is no biological reason to impose a bag limit on ptarmigan in Unit 23. It unnecessarily complicates hunting regulations. 2) Maintain the existing season opening date (August 1) and extend the season through June 15. We rejected this because there is no biological need to close the ptarmigan season in Unit 23, and it makes hunting regulations unnecessarily complicated. 3) Retain the existing bag limit and extend the season. We rejected this because there is no biological reason to not increase the bag limit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-99F-G-040)  
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**PROPOSAL 32** - 5 AAC 85.065(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Lengthen the ptarmigan season in Unit 26A as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunt</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Ptarmigan (rock, willow, and white-tailed)		
Units 8-10, 12, 17-19, and 21, 24, 25 (except 25(C)), <u>26B</u> and <u>26C</u>	Aug. 10 – Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10 – Apr. 30
20 per day, 40 in possession ...		
Unit 26A	Aug. 10 – Jun 15	Aug. 10 – Jun 15
<u>20 per day 40 in possession</u>		

**ISSUE:** The ptarmigan season ends April 30 in Unit 26A, but most ptarmigan do not arrive in the areas near most of the villages until May. In addition many people travel inland to hunting camps during May and early June to hunt waterfowl and have also traditionally hunted ptarmigan. Many people would especially like for their children to legally hunt ptarmigan. There have been no surveys in Unit 26A to determine ptarmigan numbers, but they are periodically quite numerous. There is little information about current harvest levels. The number of hunters and their geographic distribution is small relative to ptarmigan numbers and range in Unit 26A, so it is highly unlikely that hunter harvest has any measurable effect on ptarmigan abundance or population dynamics. If this proposal is passed there may be some increase in the number of birds harvested. Also, spring hunting activity may result in additional disturbance to breeding activity beyond disturbance provided by other predators. Due to the

limited geographic distribution of hunting activity, additional harvest or disturbance is unlikely to result in any measurable effects in ptarmigan population dynamics except at very local levels.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Northern Alaskans will be needlessly restricted from hunting ptarmigan during May and early June. Some people will be forced to hunt illegally because May and early June are when they traditionally hunt ptarmigan.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People in northern Alaska who want to hunt ptarmigan during this late spring.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A year-round season, which would also be acceptable.

**PROPOSED BY:** North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management (HQ-99F-G-042)  
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**PROPOSAL 33** - 5 AAC 92.015. (b) BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Eliminate the brown bear resident tag requirement in Unit 22:

...

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in that portion of Unit 13 outside of Denali State Park, in Unit 19(D), in Unit 20(D) north of the Tanana River or east of the east bank of the Gerstle River, in Unit 22, or in Unit 25(D).

**PROBLEM:** "Too many bears" is the primary issue raised at public meetings concerning wildlife throughout Unit 22. Additionally, we believe bear predation on moose calves is largely responsible for low moose recruitment in some parts of the unit, particularly in western Unit 22B.

We believe brown bear numbers are increasing throughout much of Unit 22 and that densities are higher now than in 1991 when brown bears were censused in a portion of western Unit 22. The overall density estimate in 1991 for the 12,509 mi<sup>2</sup> study area was one bear per 27 mi<sup>2</sup>, ranging from a high in the western portion of Unit 22B of one bear per 20 mi<sup>2</sup> to a low in the southern portion of 22E of one bear per 39 mi<sup>2</sup>.

Between 1985-1997 the annual brown bear harvest in Unit 22 averaged 53 bears. In western Unit 22B and Unit 22C harvests have been well above the recommended 7% harvest rate for those areas based on the 1991 population estimate. It appears that the size of the population is currently higher than estimated and the productivity has exceeded expectations since 1991. In spite of high harvests, bear sightings by staff and the public are more frequent. Bears increasingly frequent areas close to human habitation. Problems with bears are increasing and occurring in places where bears previously were seldom seen and not a problem. Harvest statistics indicate that overharvest is not occurring. The portion of males in the annual reported harvest has always exceeded 50% and in 1998, males comprised 65% of the harvest. A trend line depicting the average age of harvested bears from 1967 to the present has remained constant.

In 1997, the department proposed and the board passed regulations that liberalized bear hunting in Unit 22, except for Unit 22C, effective with the 1998-99 regulatory year. Unit 22 (except Unit 22C) was included in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, which allows subsistence

hunters to take one bear every year for food by registration permit with no tag fee. A long general season from Sept.1 – May 31 replaced fall and spring seasons from Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 and Apr. 15 - May 31 except in Unit 22C.

Although the 1998 reported harvest was 88 bears, a 63% increase over the five-year average of 54 bears, this cannot be attributed to the liberalized regulations. Only one bear was taken with a subsistence permit. No bears were taken in the fall after October when the fall season previously closed. Due to late emergence and frequent storms and poor hunting conditions in March and early April, only one bear was taken before April 15 when the season previously opened. The high harvest was likely an anomaly due to exceptional spring snow conditions for snowmachine travel during the latter part of the spring season, and the result of plentiful numbers of bears in Unit 22.

We do not anticipate a significant increase in subsistence harvest in the future since few Seward Peninsula residents have a tradition of eating brown bears. However, the continuous general hunting season from Sept. 1 - May 31 is likely to increase the harvest in some years. Since some bears often come out of hibernation before April 15 (when the season previously opened), the long season will provide the opportunity for these bears to be harvested.

Due to public demand for reduced bear densities and concern about predation on moose calves, we recommend that additional steps be taken to reduce bear densities in Unit 22. We propose to eliminate the resident brown bear tag requirement to encourage increased brown bear harvest in Unit 22. The tag fee was eliminated in 1985 and resulted in a 25% increase in resident harvest. It was reinstated in 1987 because of concern that harvest was excessive. Besides allowing for opportunistic harvest, we believe that eliminating the tag fee will encourage harvest unit-wide, by a wider range of users, including village residents who are deterred from harvesting bears by the need to purchase a bear tag. We believe that eliminating the tag fee, combined with our proposals to lengthen the spring season in Unit 22C and increase the number of nonresident drawing permits, will, when added to the long season adopted in 1997, achieve a harvest rate that will reduce bear densities in Unit 22. We oppose more drastic measures such as allowing the harvest of one bear per year, which in this case, may rapidly jeopardize the population structure in areas accessible to Nome hunters.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Moose populations that are important for subsistence will continue to decline in some areas. The public will become more frustrated with the department's lack of responsiveness to public demand for reduced bear densities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose hunters; those who are concerned about the increasing occurrence of bears in and around Unit 22 villages; those with camps, cabins and caches that are raided by bears; and reindeer herders.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Local residents and tourists who enjoy seeing bears and those who value the current opportunity to harvest large-sized trophy bears in Unit 22.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Allow a bag limit of 1 bear every year. Rejected because of the large number of enthusiastic bear hunters in Nome who take a bear whenever possible. Many hunters are well equipped with snowmachines, boats and four-wheelers and can

access a large part of the unit. Although it is desirable to reduce bear numbers, we hope to maintain a population with a natural age and sex structure and to continue to provide opportunity in Unit 22 for hunters to harvest trophy-sized bears.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-032)  
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**PROPOSAL 34** – 5 AAC 92.067. UNITS 22, 23, AND 26(A) BROWN BEAR PERMITS. This is a housekeeping proposal to remove the reference to general brown bear drawing permits in Unit 26 as follows:

5 AAC 92.067. UNITS 22[,] AND 23[, AND 26(A)] BROWN BEAR PERMITS. In the Units 22[,] and 23, [AND 26(A),] general brown bear drawing permit hunts, the department shall issue any surplus drawing permits on a first-come first-served basis to any applicant who holds a valid nonresident hunting license and a nonresident brown bear tag. Surplus permits for Unit 22 will be available at the Nome Division of Wildlife Conservation office, and surplus permits for Unit 23 will be available at the Kotzebue Division of Wildlife Conservation office, [AND SURPLUS PERMITS FOR UNIT 26(A) WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FAIRBANKS DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OFFICE,] beginning five days after each drawing.

**PROBLEM:** Drawing permits were eliminated in Unit 26A in 1995; however, this section in the regulation was not changed at that time.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will be conflicting sections in the regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All bear hunters in Unit 26A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-033)  
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**PROPOSAL 35** - 5 AAC 92.080(4). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation in Unit 22 to provide the following:

Include Unit 22 in the exception of taking of caribou as in Unit 23.

**ISSUE:** General hunting restrictions (methods and means). Taking of caribou in Unit 22 from a snowmachine.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Subsistence hunters in Unit 22 will continue to be in violation of taking caribou (WACH) when others in Unit 23 are allowed to use snowmachines.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We in Unit 22 are harvesting caribou from the same migrating herd of caribou as in Unit 23.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jacob Olanna (HQ-99F-G-047)

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**PROPOSAL 36** - 5 AAC 92.085(8)(D). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation by adding caribou within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd in Units 22, 23 and 26(A), to the list of big game animals a person can take the same day they have been airborne.

**ISSUE:** The Western Arctic Caribou Herd numbers more than 600,000 animals and is growing. ADF&G believes population pressure will eventually cause the herd to decline. The hunting season is now open year-round and legal bag limits allow each hunter to harvest more than a thousand caribou every year.

The requirement to camp prior to taking or assisting in taking a caribou is not needed for conservation or as an allocation tool. The allowable harvest is large enough to accommodate all users, including those who want to take a caribou the same day they have been airborne.

Allowing same-day-airborne caribou hunting would disperse hunters who now concentrate at river crossings by creating opportunities for some hunters to hunt in areas and at times where terrain or weather make camping prior to hunting impractical.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunters who wish to take or assist in taking a caribou the same day they are airborne will be prohibited from doing so for no valid management purpose.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters who wish to take or assist in taking a caribou the same day they are airborne.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one; there are more than enough caribou to accommodate all users.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Applying this exception to portions of the WACH range.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tim Smith (HQ-99F-G-041)

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**PROPOSAL 37** – 5 AAC 92.132(1). BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Add Unit 26A to the list of units that allow one bear every regulatory year. A bear taken in Unit 26A does not count against the one bear per four regulatory year’s bag limit in other units.

(1) the bag limit for brown bear in Units 6 (except Unit 6D, 12, 13 (except in the Denali State Park Management Area), 20D east of the east bank of the Gerstle River or north of the Tanana River, [AND ]20E, and 26A is one bear per regulatory year; a bear taken in these units does not count against the one bear every four regulatory years’ bag limit in other units;

...

**PROBLEM:** This is a companion proposal to the proposal changing the hunting season and bag limit for brown bears in Unit 26A in regulation 5 AAC 85.020(24). If the bag limit is changed to one bear per regulatory year, regulation 5 AAC 92.132 (1) needs to be changed to list Unit 26A with the units that allow one bear per regulatory bag limit. The bag limit change should apply to both resident and nonresident hunters.

Brown bears are plentiful in Unit 26A and at current harvest rates, there is no need to restrict the harvest to one bear every four years. In addition, the Colville River moose population is recovering from a substantial decline and would most likely recover more rapidly if there was less bear predation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will be conflicting sections of codified regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All bear hunters in Unit 26A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-027)

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**PROPOSAL 38** - 5 AAC 92.165(3) and (4). SEALING OF BEAR SKINS AND SKULLS. Amend this regulation to add two sealing locations to the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area and retain within-management area sealing of subsistence taken brown bears to be removed from the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area. This proposal clarifies that department representatives, designated sealers, and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Protection representatives may seal bears within the management area or at designated locations.

...

(3) the skin and skull of a bear taken by a resident hunter under a registration permit in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(15)) need not be sealed unless removed from the management area; if the skin or skull are removed from the management area, they first must be sealed by a department representative or a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Protection representative in Bethel, Dillingham, Iliamna, King Salmon, or McGrath;

(4) the skin and skull of a bear taken by a resident hunter under a registration permit in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(16)) need not be sealed unless they are removed from the management area or presented for commercial tanning within the management area; if the skin or skull are removed from the management area or presented for commercial tanning within the management area, they first must be sealed by a designated sealer within the management area, a department representative, or a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Protection representative in Barrow, [FAIRBANKS,] Galena, Nome, or Kotzebue;

...



**PROBLEM:** Bears taken by subsistence hunt registration permits within the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (WABBMA) or the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (NWABBMA) must be sealed, and the skin of the head and the front claws removed and retained by the department before the skin and skull are removed from the management area.

When the WABBMA was expanded to include Unit 9B, there was no provision added to allow local sealing of bears intended to be removed from the management area. Even though there is no Fish and Game office in Iliamna, there is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Protection office there and they have helped seal bears in the past. The King Salmon location is included because it is the nearest Fish and Game office to Unit 9B where bears could be sealed.

The sealing locations in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area are being changed to achieve within-management area sealing of hides and skulls to be removed from the management area. Fairbanks Fish and Game office is removed from the approved sealing locations because it lies far outside the NWABBMA. Nome and Kotzebue are locations with Fish and Game offices adjacent to the portions of Units 22 and 23 within the NWABBMA where sealing can be accomplished. In Unit 22, designated sealers in villages located within the management area are used to seal bears and these individuals can help seal bears being removed from the NWABBMA. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Protection officers often help seal bears in northwestern Alaska, particularly in Nome and Kotzebue, and Fish and Wildlife Protection representatives are included in sealing locations for subsistence brown bears.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some areas of the WABBMA and NWABBMA will not have a within-management area or nearby sealing opportunities for bears being removed from the management area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters who comply with the subsistence brown bear hunt regulations and want to remove the bear skull and hide from the management area in areas where department representatives or Fish and Wildlife Protection officers are available for sealing.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nobody will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-029)

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**PROPOSAL 39** - 5 AAC 92.220(3). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS AND HIDES. Amend this regulation to include the Western and Arctic Regions as follows:

The same as for Southeast and Southcentral Alaska, but for Spring and Fall bears.

**ISSUE:** During their Spring 1996 session in Fairbanks, the board adopted regulations for Southeast and Southcentral Alaska regions which make it mandatory to utilize the bear meat of harvested black bears. Western and Arctic bear meat is superior to Southeast and hunters/residents should utilize the meat from spring and fall black bears in this area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Ununiform application of regulations; good meat goes to waste. Public relations problem with subsistence preference in the Arctic and Western regions on one side and waste of a resource on the other side.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All residents of Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Heinrich Springer (HQ-99F-G-021)  
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**PROPOSAL 40** - 5 AAC 92.540(6). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Create a controlled use area in Unit 18 to provide the following:

1) The use of any jet-driven inboard and outboard motors are prohibited on the portion of the Kwethluk River beginning at the mouth of the "old Kwethluk" River from the period June 1 through October 31. 2) The use of propeller-driven inboard and outboard motors with an excess of the manufacture's rating of 40-horse power are prohibited from the period June 1 through October 31, beginning on the portion of (1) above.

**ISSUE:** 1) The use of jet-driven inboard and outboard motors. 2) Propeller driven inboard and outboard motors with an aggregated horse power of the manufacture's rating of 40-horse power on the portion of the Kwethluk River beginning on the mouth of the "Old Kwethluk" River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** 1) Continued degradation of and disruption of the salmon spawning habitats. 2) Trespassing on Native allotments and private property. 3) Accumulation and build up of human and solid waste in and around the salmon habitats.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence and commercial fisherman of the Kuskokwim River and the salmon returning to spawn during the period June 1 through Oct. 31.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Sports fisherman, recreational users of the Kwethluk River with jet-driven boats and users of the river with an aggregate horse power in the excess of 40-horse power.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Complete closure of the river by users of the above equipment.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kwethluk Joint Group, Kwethluk IRA Council, and Kwethluk City Council (HQ-99F-G-046)  
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**PROPOSAL 41** - 5 AAC 92.540 (6)(A)(i). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Include Tucker's Slough on the north bank of the Yukon River as part of the Kalskag Controlled Use Area, as follows:

(6) Unit 18

(A) the Kalskag Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 18 bounded by a line from Lower Kalskag on the Kuskokwim River, northwesterly to Russian Mission on the Yukon River, then east along the north bank of the Yukon River, including Tucker's Slough, to the old site of Paimiut, then back to Lower Kalskag;

...

**PROBLEM:** The Kalskag Controlled Use Area limits aircraft access to the upriver portion of Unit 18 on the Yukon River. However, the present description of the area does not specifically include Tucker's Slough in the restricted area. For the controlled use area to be concise and meaningful, it needs to clearly limit access to Tucker's Slough through a more careful wording of the northern boundary of this controlled use area. This is basically a housekeeping measure to include a slough in the Kalskag Controlled Use Area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The controlled use area will be less useful. There will continue to be a loophole where planes are not clearly prohibited. Confusion regarding river and slough boundaries is common and will continue until clarified. Also, Tucker's Slough is a marginal place for landing a floatplane and hunters should not be encouraged to try.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters who hunt in the Kalskag Controlled Use Area expecting no competition from airplanes, and hunters who expect and deserve clear regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Aircraft borne hunters who intend to skirt the edge of the controlled use area, either for hunting the area directly, or for departing after floating in from further upriver.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99F-G-025)

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**PROPOSAL 42** - 5 AAC 92.540(9)(A). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend these regulations as follows:

Noatak Controlled Use Area repealed as no longer biologically justified.

**ISSUE:** Denial of access to world's largest caribou herd. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd has over one-quarter of a million animals. The Noatak Controlled Use Area (in which only 20 hunting licenses are sold to local residents) denies aircraft access to over 2000 sq. miles along 200 miles of the Noatak River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Every village will want a controlled use area for a monopoly of access to the local hunting area. Such zoning (without biological justification) is illegal. See McDowell v. State and Kenaitzie v. State. Alaska's Constitution prohibits granting of special privilege to any group.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskans who believe in equality, equal treatment under the law, equal access, and the common use doctrine, all as contained in the Alaska Constitution.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Greedy individuals who want the state to provide them a private hunting area.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

(HQ-99S-G-095)

**PROPOSED BY:** Lynn Levengood

(HQ-99F-G-002)

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# REVISED

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS WINTER 2000 BOARD OF GAME MEETING STATEWIDE ISSUES January 14-19, 2000

The Alaska Board of Game is accepting proposed changes to its regulations pertaining to hunting and the use of game to be considered at the Winter 2000 board meeting.

**DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: 5 PM, OCTOBER 29, 1999**

*The following regulations will be considered:*

- 5 AAC 92.035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- 5 AAC 92.037 Permit for Falconry
- 5 AAC 92.040 Permit for Taking Furbearers with Game Meat
- 5 AAC 92.041 Permit to take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- 5 AAC 92.043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- 5 AAC 92.049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- 5 AAC 92.050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 5 AAC 92.051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions and Procedures
- 5 AAC 92.052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 5 AAC 92.062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- 5 AAC 92.070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- 5 AAC 92.068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- 5 AAC 95.075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- 5 AAC 92.080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- 5 AAC 92.085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
- 5 AAC 92.090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- 5 AAC 92.095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- 5 AAC 92.100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, and Cranes
- 5 AAC 92.130 Restriction to Bag Limit
- 5 AAC 92.135 Transfer of Possession
- 5 AAC 92.140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- 5 AAC 92.150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- 5 AAC 92.160 Marked or Tagged Game
- 5 AAC 92.260 Taking Cub Bears and Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
- 5 AAC 92.400 Emergency Taking of Game
- 5 AAC 92.410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property

*The board will also consider regulation changes to:*

- 5 AAC 92.003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- 5 AAC 92.110 Control of Predation by Wolves (Unit 13 only)
- 5 AAC 92.125 Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plans (Unit 13 only)
- 5 AAC 92.132 Brown Bear Bag Limit (Unit 13 only)
- (New Regulation) Bear Predation Control (Unit 13 only)
- 5 AAC 92.990 Definitions
- 5 AAC 99.025 Customary and Traditional Uses of Game Populations (furbearers only)

**MAIL OR DELIVER PROPOSALS TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:**

Margaret Edens, ADF&G  
P O Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526  
**PHONE: 465-2027**  
**FAX: 465-6094**

Susan Bucknell, ADF&G  
P O Box 689  
Kotzebue, AK 99752  
**PHONE: 442-3420**  
**FAX: 442-2420**

Jim Marcotte, ADF&G  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599  
**PHONE: 459-7215**  
**FAX: 474-8558**

Joe Chythlook, ADF&G  
P O Box 1030  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
**PHONE: 842-5142**  
**FAX: 842-5514**

Ida Alexie, Boards Support Section  
P O Box 1788  
Bethel, AK 99559-1788  
**PHONE: 543-4467**  
**FAX: 543-4477**

Boards Support Section, ADF&G  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599  
**PHONE: 267-2354**  
**FAX: 465-6094**

Proposal forms may be obtained from any office of the Boards Support Section. All proposals must contain an original signature. Please print or type the individual's name and an organizational name if appropriate. A fax is acceptable and considered an original. Proposals must be received in one of the above offices by the deadline (a postmark is NOT sufficient for timely receipt). Proposals are reviewed by the board's proposal review committee prior to publication. Language that is emotionally charged detracts from the substance of the proposal. It may draw opposition that may not be germane to the element(s) of the proposal and may elicit nonresponsive charges from the public/board members. The proposal review committee reserves the right to edit proposals containing offensive language. Following publication, proposal booklets will be available to advisory committees and interested members of the public for their review and comments. *If you are a person with a disability who may need a special modification in order to make a proposal, please call Laird Jones at 465-6098. To correspond by text telephone (TDD) call 1800-478 2028.*

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM

P.O. Box 25526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526

BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS

- Fishing Area \_\_\_\_\_
- Subsistence       Personal Use
- Sport               Commercial

JOINT BOARD REGULATIONS

- Advisory Committee    Regional Council    Rural

BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS

- Game Management Unit (GMU) \_\_\_\_\_
- Hunting               Trapping
- Subsistence         Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Resident
- Nonresident

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All the answers will be printed in the proposal packets along with the proposer's name (addresses and phone nos. will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC _____ Regulation Book Page No. _____	
2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address?	
3. What will happen if this problem is not solved?	
4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?	
5. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt others: A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted?  B. Who is likely to suffer if you solution is adopted?	
6. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them.	DO NOT WRITE HERE

Submitted By: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Individual or Group

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

