

**Board of Game Southeast Regional Meeting
November 10-14, 2006**

DESIGNATED REPORTER: Gerry Bigelow

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.

PROPOSAL 1

ACTION: Carried as Amended

DESCRIPTION: Require that all traps in Unit 1C be marked with owner identification,

DISCUSSION: Board members supported the concept of identifying traps with markers which is already required in other areas of the state. There was discussion on whether this should be piecemealed across the state or if it should be a statewide change to be addressed at the appropriate statewide meeting. Some board members felt that this requirement is not needed in all areas of the state. They also expressed the need to obtain more input from the public and trappers on this issue before making the change. It was noted that requiring personal markings on traps would have a positive impact on getting trappers to retrieve their traps at the end of the season.

PROPOSAL 2

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Open beaver trapping in Unit 4, west of Chatham Strait, December 1 – May 15.

DISCUSSION: The department provided information to the board that the beaver population is expanding in the area and is causing problems along roads and drainages. Nuisance permits are being issued during the summer months resulting in the taking of beavers with fur that is of little or no value. The board agreed that the department's provided adequate information to open beaver trapping in this area of Unit 4.

PROPOSAL 3

ACTION: Carried as Amended

AMENDMENT: Change season dates to 12/1-5/15 (current season) with unlimited bag limit.

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen beaver season and increase bag limit in Unit 1D.

DISCUSSION: Board members expressed concern for beavers with kits in dens if the season is extended into the end of May. They noted the proposal will provide additional opportunity for trappers and that the population can withstand additional harvest.

PROPOSAL 4

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit trapping within ½ mile of hiking trails in Unit 1C, Juneau.

DISCUSSION: The board felt that the current prohibitions on trapping near trails in Juneau and the department's efforts to reduce conflict are more than adequate. The board noted that the department has received very few complaints about trapping activities and that the Juneau/Douglas advisory committee did not support the proposal.

PROPOSAL 5

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Change Unit 5 coyote trapping from December 1 to November 10.

DISCUSSION: Board members supported changing the season dates to make it consistent throughout the unit with other trapping season dates such as wolves and

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wolverines. The board discussed the issue of incidental take of coyotes. Board members did not feel that there were any conservation concerns by extending the date.

PROPOSAL 6

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Change Unit 5 red fox trapping season opening date from December 1 to November 10.

DISCUSSION: Board members supported the proposal based on the discussion on proposal 6 regarding consistency of season lengths in the unit, animals being caught incidentally in other traps, and because there are no conservation concerns. The department noted that red fox are scarce and rarely caught incidentally in traps.

PROPOSAL 7

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen Unit 5 muskrat trapping season from December 1 – February 15 to November 10 – May 15.

DISCUSSION: The department commented that muskrats are very uncommon in this area and very few are ever taken incidentally in other traps. The board agreed with the information provided by the department and did not support the proposal.

PROPOSAL 8

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Change Unit 5 lynx trapping season opening date from December 1 to November 10.

DISCUSSION: Board members referenced the discussion on proposal 6 regarding consistency of season lengths in the unit. There was some discussion on the different trap styles being used for lynx compared to those for wolves and wolverines and the cycle of the lynx population and harvest in the area.

PROPOSAL 9

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Require a bear wounded in Unit 5 to count against the bag limit.

DISCUSSION: Ethical hunting practices were discussed amongst board members and whether or not it is something the board should regulate. The history of the adoption of the regulation for other southeast units was discussed. Board members supported the proposal because the change would be consistent with the remainder of the region.

PROPOSAL 10

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Change the non-resident harvest of black bears region-wide from one to two, providing that one is a blue or glacier color phase.

AMENDMENT: Limit proposed change to Unit 5.

DISCUSSION: Board members expressed concern for the size of the glacier bears which generally tends to be small. They noted that the proposal may result in increased harvest of black bear but there is no indication that the population is in jeopardy. Board members expressed a desire to provide additional opportunity for nonresidents

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PROPOSAL 11

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Repeal the requirement that a wounded brown or black bear counts against the bag limit.

DISCUSSION: In light of the action on proposal 9, the board did not support the proposal.

PROPOSAL 12

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish harvest quota system for brown bears taken from Taku Inlet to Echo Cove, Unit 1C.

DISCUSSION: The board felt the department is managing the brown bear population in Unit 1C very well and that the proposed change is not necessary. The board did not believe that there are any conservation concerns with the population. It was noted that the department has the authority to allow more bears to be harvested if nuisance bears become more problematic. The department also has the authority to establish a quota or guideline harvest level if necessary, and has the emergency order authority to close down the bear season.

PROPOSAL 13

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open Swan Cove and Swan Island in the Pack Creek – Seymour Canal Closed Area to spring and fall brown bear hunting.

DISCUSSION: Board members commented on the overwhelming number of comments opposing the proposal. The board referenced the public hearing in Juneau on October 19th where many individuals testified in opposition to the proposal. Board members felt there was not a compelling reason to open the small area to brown bear hunting and that Admiralty Island seems to be well balanced with wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities. The board discussed the issue of habituated bears roaming outside the boundaries of the closed area and are not entirely protected from hunting. The board imposed a ten year moratorium to exclude the Seymour Canal Closed Area from future calls for proposals unless a majority of board members request it.

PROPOSAL 14

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Close brown bear hunting in portion of Unit 1A, including Rudyerd and Walker Cove

DISCUSSION: Board members felt the separation of the tourist season from the bear hunting season eliminated the problem of user conflict in the area and that this is a good example of where hunting and viewing can work together without one displacing the other. It was noted that this was not something the Ketchikan City or Borough requested to promote tourism and enhance the local economy. The board felt that there has not been a long history of bear viewing in this area to substantiate closing the area to hunting.

PROPOSAL 15

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Open Swan Cove in the Pack Creek – Seymour Canal Closed Area to spring and fall brown bear hunting.

DISCUSSION: The proposal failed in light of the action taken on proposal 13.

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PROPOSAL 16

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Allow the hunting of brown bears within the City of Angoon.

DISCUSSION: Board members agreed that no biological or conservation concerns exist but that there is a problem with the local landfill. The board expressed a desire for the US Forest Service to work with the City of Angoon to resolve the issue by possibly moving the landfill to nearby USFS land. The board noted that there was some testimony in support of the concept of allowing the harvest of animals in defense of life and property issues. The board commented that the city does not support the proposal.

PROPOSAL 17

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish a doe season in Unit 2 with a bag limit of one doe per season.

DISCUSSION: Board members discussed the deer population density on the Prince of Whales Island; the department indicated the population is below carrying capacity and that an antlerless harvest may reduce growth. Deer on Prince of Whales Island has several sources of mortality including illegal harvesting of does and predation on fawns by black bear and wolves which is unlike other Southeast Alaska Islands where deer populations thrive. The board discussed the federal subsistence hunting regulations which provide an antlerless hunt for rural residents. The board also discussed the limited road access on the south side of the island compared to the north side of the island. The board expressed some interest for providing hunters, such as those from Ketchikan, opportunity to hunt does on the eastern portion of the island since hunters on the western side have an opportunity to take deer through the federal subsistence hunt. It was felt that the hunting pressure was concentrated on the north-western side of the island which is more accessible by road compared to the other side of the island that is less accessible.

PROPOSAL 18

ACTION: Carried as Amended

DESCRIPTION: Extend Unit 3 deer hunting season by one month on a portion of Mitkof Island (Petersburg Management Area).

AMENDMENT: Increase the bag limit to two bucks in the Petersburg Management Area

DISCUSSION: The board felt that liberalizing the bag limit in the Petersburg Management Area (PMA) would alleviate some of the problems with nuisance deer. The amended language provides additional opportunity for hunters and the bag limit does not count against the bag limit outside of the PMA.

PROPOSAL 19

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Remove the proxy requirement to destroy deer antlers in Units 1-4.

DISCUSSION: The board commented that the purpose of the proxy system is to provide food for the beneficiary. Antler destruction is required for each animal taken by the proxy hunter (both the proxy hunter's animals and the beneficiary's animals). The board discussed the intent of the antler destruction requirement which is to curb the abuse that occurs within the system. They agreed that the requirement should continue and can be reevaluated after a couple of years.

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PROPOSAL 20

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Amend the proxy requirement for destruction of deer antlers by providing an exception when the hunter is not carrying any proxy licenses while hunting Units 1-4.

DISCUSSION: The board reiterated their comments mentioned during the deliberation on proposal 19 such as the intent for the recent requirement for antler destruction to curb the problems of abuse. They agreed that the requirement should continue over the next couple of years. It was felt that if an individual wants to hunt for a trophy animal, then that person should not sign up to proxy hunt. The department commented that the antler requirement does not apply to animals taken by an individual who hunts prior to signing up as a proxy hunter.

PROPOSAL 21

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Modify the Unit 3 elk hunting season by converting the late-October elk drawing permit hunt (DE-323) on Etolin Island to a registration permit hunt.

DISCUSSION: The department expressed their desire to withdraw the proposal and requested the board to take no action.

PROPOSAL 22

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish mountain goat hunting seasons in two areas of Unit 1C.

DISCUSSION: The board noted that the Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee opposed opening the area to goat hunting. Board members felt this area is a popular goat viewing area for Juneau residents and tourists. The department commented that as a general practice for Southeast Alaska, they observe a minimum of 100 goats before considering the opening of hunts in areas where goats have been introduced or where hunts have been closed in the past. The department lacks knowledge of the present trends of the goat population in this area, but recent counts enumerated 66 in area 1 and 131 in area 2.

PROPOSAL 23

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Subdivide a portion of the registration permit hunt RG012 area into two separate hunt areas with differing season dates.

DISCUSSION: Board members agreed with the information provided by the department that the proposal is not necessary. The Juneau-Douglas Advisory committee opposed the proposal. Many of the concerns raised by the author of the proposal are currently being addressed by the department's current management system.

PROPOSAL 24

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Change opening date in goat registration hunt RG014 from August 1 to September 1.

DISCUSSION: Board members agreed with the information provided by the department that the proposal is not necessary. The department noted that although the season was closed by emergency order in 2005, there have not been any goats harvested to date for the 2006 season. The Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee opposed the proposal. The opening season date for this hunt has changed in each of the last two board cycles. The

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board felt it was justified to leave the dates the status quo and adjust if necessary at the next regional meeting.

PROPOSAL 25

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Limit goat harvest to one male per year or one female every three years throughout Region I.

DISCUSSION: Board members felt that the proposal is unnecessary due to their action taken on proposal 20 which disallows the shooting of nannies with kids. The proposal would be more restrictive on hunters. The board noted that the Juneau/Douglas Advisory Committee did not support the proposal.

PROPOSAL 26

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Subdivide Unit 1C into mountain goat management areas with harvest quotas, establish a point system for male and female goats, and require 48 hour reporting.

DISCUSSION: The board agreed with the information provided by the department that the intent of the proposal is being met by either previous board action or by the department's discretionary permit conditions. The board felt the current point and reporting system is working well and the changes are not necessary. The Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee does not support the proposal.

PROPOSAL 27

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish goat drawing permit hunt for Unit 1C south of the Gilkey River/Glacier to the north ridgeline at Sawmill Creek.

DISCUSSION: Board members agreed with the department's recommendation that the proposed changes are not necessary. The proposal would make the current goat hunt more restrictive thus reducing opportunity which is not justified by any conservation concerns.

PROPOSAL 28

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Establish registration hunt for goats north of Eagle Glacier/River to the ridge line north of Sawmill Creek with season dates of September 15-November 30.

DISCUSSION: Board members felt that the proposed changes are not necessary and that it would not improve mountain goat management in this area. The board commented that a later season opening date would deter some hunters, but it would also provide a road accessible hunt area for late season goat hunters.

PROPOSAL 29

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Change Unit 1D registration mountain goat hunt to a drawing hunt.

DISCUSSION: The board concurred with the department's analysis that the proposal would unnecessarily restrict the local hunting opportunity. Board members felt the department has done an excellent job managing goats in the area and providing ample opportunity to hunt the resource. The board adopted a positive customary and traditional use finding for goats in Unit 1A.

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PROPOSAL 30

ACTIONS: No Action

DESCRIPTION: Establish drawing hunt for goats for portion of Unit 1C south of the Taku River and east of the Wright Glacier/River to Mt. Ogden, September 1 – September 30; reporting period of 48 hours.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action in light of their action and discussion on the other mountain goat proposals in Unit 1C.

PROPOSAL 31

ACTION: No Action

DESCRIPTION: Establish drawing hunt in that portion of Unit 1C north and west of the Herbert River/Glacier to Eagle River/Glacier, September 15 – November 30.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action in light of their action and discussion on the other mountain goat proposals in Unit 1C.

PROPOSAL 32

ACTION: No Action

DESCRIPTION: Establish drawing hunt in that portion of Unit 1C north and west of McGinnis Creek to the Herbert River, September 15 – November 30.

DISCUSSION: The board took no action in light of their action and discussion on the other mountain goat proposals in Unit 1C.

PROPOSAL 33

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Restrict the shooting of nannies with kids throughout Region I.

DISCUSSION: Board members supported the proposal and felt that it is a standard practice with other game such as black and brown bears and moose. Harvesting females with dependent young increases the chances of kid mortality. Board members commented that goat populations can be vulnerable because of slow reproduction rates. They also commented that as goat hunting becomes more popular, the pressure on the population will increase. This requirement will help maintain healthy populations which in the long run will benefit hunters.

PROPOSAL 34

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Change the registration permit moose hunting season at Gustavus to a drawing permit hunt.

DISCUSSION: Board members supported the department for their innovative efforts for managing the moose hunt while providing hunting opportunities such as the recent requirement for hunters to stop hunting at noon each day. The board was interested in the impact of wolves on the moose population. One board member commented that the department should work to eliminate the emergency order closure process because it can have a dramatic impact on hunters.

PROPOSAL 35

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Limit the number of drawing permit applications to one per household for the any-bull moose hunts in Unit 3.

DISCUSSION: Board members felt that the current system is fair. Restricting drawing permit applications to one per household would be difficult to administer and would not

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accomplish the desired goal expressed by the author of the proposal. The board commented that there was testimony opposing the proposal. The board inquired about sharing and wasting meat when multiple people from the same household receive permits.

PROPOSAL 35A

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Change codified language in Units 1(B) and 3 for the spike-fork/50 inch antler restriction hunt to reflect that the hunt is both a subsistence and general hunt.

DISCUSSION: The department explained that the proposal is a housekeeping measure to correct an inconsistency in regulations for the hunting season, bag limit, and the customary and traditional uses of the game populations. The proposal clarifies that the hunt is a subsistence and general hunt; the drawing hunt is for residents only.

PROPOSAL 36

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Change the registration permit moose hunting season at Gustavus to a drawing permit hunt.

DISCUSSION: The board referenced its' discussion on proposal 34 and agreed with the information provided by the department. Board members felt that the hunt can be effectively managed as a registration permit hunt, rather than a drawing permit hunt with a severe restriction on hunter participation.

PROPOSAL 37

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen the Unit 1D Tier II moose hunt season from 15 to 21 days.

DISCUSSION: The board noted that the Icy Straits Advisory Committee did not support the proposal, but the Juneau-Douglas AC supported it. The board agreed that the population size, calf to cow ratio and bull to cow ratio provided by the department indicated that the population is strong enough to support the harvest. There was discussion for the preference of longer rather than shorter seasons to benefit hunters and that the department has the authority to close the season by emergency order once the desired harvest level is reached.

PROPOSAL 38

ACTION: Carried as Amended

DESCRIPTION: Clarify the existing antler restrictions for moose in Units 1-5.

AMENDMENT: Clarification that any damaged, broken, or altered antler may not be used to satisfy the "spike-fork antlers" requirement.

DISCUSSION: Board members agreed that overall, the changes to the antler restriction regulations address the enforcement concerns expressed by the Department of Public Safety. Members referenced the evening session scheduled for the purpose of listening to concerns by local moose hunters on the Stikine River and felt that there was support for this change. The board noted comments by local residents that if hunting opportunity is reduced by a "broken antler restriction" regulation, additional hunting opportunity needs to be provided such as a season extension. Local residents also requested antler education at the beginning of the hunting season and additional enforcement personnel.

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PROPOSAL 39

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Extend wolf hunting in Unit 1 from April 30 to May 30.

AMENDMENT: Restrict to Unit 1D and change the season end date to May 15.

DISCUSSION: Board members supported additional opportunity for wolf hunting as a way to provide some relief to the pressure on the moose population. Board members were also in support of the proposal since it was requested by the local advisory committee and public testimony was given that the number of wolves and moose kills by wolves has increased. They felt that the season extension would provide guided bear hunters the opportunity to take wolves while in the field. Other board members opposed the extension because it was getting into the pupping season and they felt the current nine month season provides ample opportunity for bear hunters to take wolves. There is also opportunity for trappers to take wolves in the winter when the quality of the fur is more valuable. The board adopted a positive finding for the Customary and Traditional use of the wolf population for Unit 1D.

PROPOSAL 40

ACTION: No Action

DESCRIPTION: Allow same day airborne harvest of wolves in Unit 1D.

DISCUSSION: The sponsor of the proposal requested it be withdrawn and therefore, the board chose to take no action.

PROPOSAL 41

ACTION: Carried as Amended

DESCRIPTION: Extend the hunting season for wolverines in Units 1-5 by 101 days.

AMENDMENT: Modify season dates to September 1 – February 15

DISCUSSION: Board members supported additional opportunity for hunters who are in the field hunting other species. The season will be consistent with other seasons around the state and it was felt that the change in dates would not have a significant impact on the population. Board members discussed the fur value of the wolverines by the change in season dates.

PROPOSAL 42

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Change the dates of the waterfowl hunting season in units 1-4 from September 1 – December 16 to September 16 – December 31.

DISCUSSION: Board members expressed support for both maintaining the traditional Labor Day season opening date and for the proposed change for a later opening date. Some board members felt the Labor Day opening is more beneficial to the younger hunters. Board members commented that more support from the public is needed before making the change. The board discussed the long distance throughout the unit and the potential need for an additional zone. The department commented that they have been working with the Flyway Council for a zone split and will continue to work for it in the future.

PROPOSAL 43

ACTION: No Action

DESCRIPTION: Change the dates of the waterfowl hunting season in Units 1-4 from September 1 – December 16 to September 16 – December 31.

DISCUSSION: No action was taken due to the action on proposal 42.

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PROPOSAL 44

ACTION: No Action

DESCRIPTION: Change the dates of the waterfowl hunting season in Units 1-4 from September 1 – December 16 to September 16 – December 31.

DISCUSSION: No action was taken due to the action on proposal 42.

PROPOSAL 45

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Require Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge waterfowl hunters to complete basic hunter education course, create refuge hunting zones.

DISCUSSION: Board members expressed a desire for the department to work with the local organizations and hold public meetings to obtain input on refining the zone plan, particularly the length of time for zone closures. The board inquired about the content of the hunter education course which is intended to be basic hunter education material with some specific points about the refuge. The board and department discussed the intent of the change is to provide good management of the refuge which will benefit all interested parties including hunters and homeowners.

PROPOSAL 46

ACTION: Carried as Amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow resident military personnel serving in Combat Zones to be reissued drawing hunt permits when they return from active duty and be allowed to transfer Tier II permits to substitute hunters in their absence.

AMENDMENT: Clarification of the regulatory language maintaining the same intent.

DISCUSSION: Board members referenced the public comment in support of the proposal and commented that they did not feel it would not be a huge impact to the various game populations. The board supported the proposal as a way for the state to support military men and woman who serving this country. There was discussion regarding the concept of providing this benefit to residents over nonresidents. Nonresidents have guide requirements for certain game hunts which will make the transfer complicated, there are separate drawing hunts for nonresidents, and board members felt there would be very few nonresidents who would qualify. Board members felt that it is more likely Alaska's National Guard members will be impacted, especially for the Tier II permits which are for residents only. There was also discussion for requiring Tier II permits to be transferred only to those who qualify for Tier II permits.

PROPOSAL 47

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Amend the definition of "highway".

DISCUSSION: Board members concurred that the proposed change would jeopardize human safety. The roads may not be drivable but they are used by the public by other means.

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Miscellaneous

Customary and Traditional Use Findings

The board adopted positive findings for the Customary and Traditional (C&T) determinations for the goat in Units 1A, 1B, 1D, and Unit 5 and agreed to address the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for these populations at the November, 2008 meeting. The board adopted a positive finding for the C&T determination for wolf in Unit 1D and a negative C&T finding for Unit 1C moose.

Board Findings and Resolutions

The board adopted a Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Use finding, #2006-170-BOG, which was requested at the October 2006, special meeting on subsistence. The board also adopted a resolution, #2006-171-BOG, supporting a moratorium on new zoo applications.

2007/2008 Cycle Schedule

The board adopted the meeting schedule for the 2007/2008 cycle as follows:

Arctic/Western Region:	November 9-14, 2007	Bethel
Statewide Regulations Cycle B:	January 25-28, 2008	Anchorage
Interior Region:	Feb 29 – March 10, 2008	Fairbanks

Approval of the draft IMO A for Coordinated Fisheries and Wildlife Management for Subsistence Uses on Federal Public Lands in Alaska

In January, 2006 the board voted to give the required 60 day written notice to terminate the Board of Game's participation in the above mentioned IMO A. Since that time, the board made proposed changes to the agreement. The board approved the proposed changes and requested copies of the draft document be sent to the other signatories.