

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Policies and Resolutions

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#2009-182-BOG Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

#2009-181-BOG Unit 19D-East Intensive Management Supplemental Findings

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#2008-178-BOG Finding of Emergency: Predator Control Implementation Plans

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#2002-138-BOG Request to US Forest Service re: Management of Guided Brown Bear Hunting in Unit 4
 #2002-137-BOG Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area Findings
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2000

- #2000-134-BOG Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Team Findings
- #2000-133-BOG Habituation of Wildlife (unsigned – left in draft)
- #2000-132-BOG Reaffirm Resolution re: Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process
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- #2000-130-BOG Resolution re: Support of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999

1999

- #99-129-BOG Snow Machine Use in the Taking of Caribou

1998

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- #98-127-BOG Findings on Commercial Guiding Activities in Alaska
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- #97-117-BOG Customary and Traditional Use of Musk Ox on the Seward Peninsula
- #97-116-BOG Dall Sheep Management in the Western Brooks Range
- #97-115-BOG Resolution supporting Co-management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources
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- #97-113-BOG Resolution re: Methods and Means of Harvesting Furbearers and Fur Animals Including Wolves
- #97-112-BOG Resolution re: Management of Alaska’s Fish and Game Resources/Ballot Initiative Process
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- #97-109-BOG Findings re: Unit 16B-South Moose
- #97-108-BOG Resolution re: Subsistence Division Budget
- #97-107-BOG Findings re: Wanton Waste on the Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers

1996

- #96-106-BOG Delegation of Authority re: Issuing Permits to Take Game for Public Safety Purposes
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#96-104-BOG Finding of Emergency re: Western Arctic Caribou Herd
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#95-95-BOG Resolution – Wildlife Diversity Initiative
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 #95-93-BOG Requiring License Purchase in advance
 #95-92-BOG *Open Number*
 #95-91-BOG Delegation of Authority – Comply with Alaska Supreme Court Opinion in Kenaitze vs. State
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 #95-89-BOG Findings – Noatak Controlled Use Area
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 #95-87-BOG Subsistence Needs for Moose in Unit 16B
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 #95-83-BOG Resolution: Subsistence Use on National Park Lands
 #95-82-BOG “No Net Loss” Policy for Hunting and Trapping Opportunities
 #95-81-BOG Resolution: Remove Federal Management of F&W on Public Lands and Waters
 #95-80-BOG Resolution to Legislature to Define Subsistence

1994

#94-80A-BOG Wolf Predation Control Program in Unit 20A
 #94-79-BOG Delegation to Commissioner to Adopt Regulations Resulting from Kenaitze Decision which Invalidates Nonsubsistence Areas
 #94-78-BOG Addendum to Findings on Unit 16B Moose
 #94-77-BOG Resolution on SB325 (Repeal Antlerless Moose Statute)

1993

#93-76-BOG Findings on McNeil River Refuge Bears
 #93-75-BOG Resolution on Adak Caribou
 #93-74-BOG Delegation of Authority for Permits to Take Furbearers with Game Meat
 #93-73-BOG Delegation of Authority to Make Emergency Regulations Permanent, Moose in Unit 19D
 #93-72-BOG Wolf Control Findings – Delta Area

#93-71-BOG Resolution on Round Island Walrus Hunt
 #93-70-BOG Findings on Unit 16B Moose Seasons and Bag Limits
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 #93-68-BOG Resolution on Commercialization of Moose
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1992

#92-65-BOG Findings in Units 12, 20B, D, and E on Wolves
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 #92-58-BOG Findings on Kilbuck Caribou re Fall Hunt
 #92-57-BOG Report of the Board of Game, Area Specific Management Plans for Wolves
 #92-56-BOG Relating to Moose in GMUs 19A and 19B per Superior Court order in Sleetmute vs. State
 #92-55-BOG Relating to Endorsement of State Closure of Deer Hunting in GMU 4 and Requesting Federal Closure

1991

#91-54-BOG Findings on Strategic Wolf Management Plan
 #91-54a-BOG Relating to Kilbuck Caribou Management Plan
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 #91-53a-BOG Board Direction to Committee for Strategic Wolf Plan
 #91-52-BOG Findings on Unit 13 Moose Season and Bag Limits

1990

#90-51-BOG Findings on Strategic Wolf Management Plan
 #90-50-BOG Relating to Kilbuck Caribou Management Plan
 #90-49-BOG Findings on Kwethluk Emergency Caribou Hunt Petition
 #90-48-BOG Relating to the Use of Furbearers by Rural Alaskans, Including Alaska Natives
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1989

#89-45-BG Delegation of Authority to Adopt Waterfowl Regulations

1988

#88-44-BG Delegation of Authority for March 1988 Meeting

#88-43-BG	Resolution Supporting Funding for Division of Game
<u>1987</u>	
#87-42d-BG	Procedures for Delegations of Authority (Replacing #75-2-GB)
#87-42c-BG	Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors
#87-42b-BG	Delegation of Authority to Correct Technical Errors Before Filing Regulations
#87-42a-BG	Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (Replacing #75-3-GB)
<u>1986</u>	
#86-41-BG	Finding of Emergency: New State Subsistence Law
#86-40-BG	Delegation of Authority
<u>1985</u>	
#85-39-GB	Resolution on Resources v/s Logging
#85-38-GB	Findings: <u>Madison vs. State</u> Requirements
#85-37-GB	Lime Village Management Area Findings
#85-36-GB	Findings: Waterfowl hunting in and near Palmer Hayflats
<u>1984</u>	
#84-35-GB	Resolution on Waterfowl Stamp
#84-34-GB	Transplant of Musk Ox to Nunivak Island
<u>1983</u>	
#83-33-GB	Resolution on Guide Board
#83-32-GB	Findings on Moose in GMU 16B
<u>1982</u>	
#82-31-GB	Supplement to Wolf Population Control
<u>1981</u>	
#81-30-GB	Findings and Policy Regarding Nelchina Caribou
#81-29-GB	Finding and Policy for Future Management of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
#81-28-GB	Letter of Intent: Wolf Reduction in Alaska
<u>1980</u>	
#80-27-GB	Letter of Intent Regarding Use of Alaska's Game for Religious Ceremony
#80-26-GB	Findings and Policy Regarding Bowhunting
#80-25-GB	Standing Committee II on Deer
#80-24-GB	Regarding Advisory Committee Coordinators
<u>1979</u>	
#79-23-GB	Authorization to Export Animals from Alaska
#79-22-GB	Staff Directive to Subsistence Section
#79-21-GB	Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4

#79-20-GB Relating to Brown Bear in GMU 4
#79-19-GB Brown Bear, GMU 4
#79-18-GB Relating to Muskoxen

1978

#78-18-GB Statement of Direction: Use of Airplanes in Controlling Predation by Wolves
#78-17-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources
#78-16-GB Relating to (d)(2) Legislation, State's ability to Manage Fish & Wildlife Resources

1977

#77-15-GB Delegation of Authority to Commissioner to Address Petitions
#77-14-GB Repeal of Regulations Relating to Registration of Camps by Guides for Hunting Bears
#77-13-GB Regarding Closed Season for Caribou (rescinded November 30, 1977)
#77-12-GB Regarding the 17(d)(2) Land Settlement

1976

#76-11-GB Trapping Wolves by ADF&G
#76-10-GB Request for Public Safety Involvement in Enforcement of Caribou Regulations
#76-9-GB Management Goal: Western Arctic Caribou
#76-8-GB Export of Live Game Animals Outside of Alaska
#76-7-GB Musk Ox to Anchorage Children's Zoo (rescinded November 30, 1977)
#76-6-GB Taking of Wolves by Helicopter
#76-5-GB Regarding the Taking of Wolves in Units 23 and 26A

1975

#75-4-GB Endorsement of Trapping as a Legitimate Use of Renewable Resources
#75-3-GB Delegation of Authority to Adopt Emergency Regulations (See #87-42a-GB)
#75-2-GB Procedures for Delegations of Authority (See #87-42d-GB)
#75-1-GB Effectuating Delegation of Authority

Finding for the Alaska Board of Game
2007-173-BOG

Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy
March 12, 2007

At the March 2007, Southcentral/Southwest Region meeting in Anchorage, the Board of Game modified the Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy, #2006-162-BOG, by adding item #4 to the guidelines that shall be applied when determining the allocation percentage for drawing permits to nonresidents:

1. Allocations will be determined on a case by case basis and will be based upon the historical data of nonresident and resident permit allocation over the past ten years.
2. Each client shall provide proof of having a signed guide-client agreement when applying for permits.
3. Contracting guides shall be registered in the area prior to the drawing.
4. When a guide signs a guide-client agreement, the guide is providing guiding services and therefore must be registered for the use area at that time.


Cliff Jenkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Vote: 7-0
Amended: March 12, 2007
Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska Board of Game
2002-137-BOG
Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area Findings

The Board of Game (Board) took public and advisory committee testimony on Douglas Island (Unit 1C) wolves, received biological information from the Department of Fish and Game, and deliberated a proposal (Proposal 3) dealing with management of wolves and deer on the island. As a result, the Board finds the following:

1. There have been occasional sightings of wolves and wolf tracks on Douglas Island over the past 20 years, and especially over the past 3-4 years. The only confirmed records of wolves being harvested on Douglas Island are seven (7) animals taken in January 2002. A single juvenile wolf was found dead near Eagle Crest ski area in September 2001.
2. The pack removed in January 2002 likely represented all the wolves present at that time.
3. Wolves may re-colonize the island but when this will occur is unpredictable.
4. Douglas Island and its wildlife are in close proximity to the third largest human population center in Alaska, and many residents have an interest in viewing, hunting, and otherwise experiencing wildlife, including wolves, on the island.
5. Sitka black-tailed deer occur on the island and provide a large fraction of the deer harvest in Unit 1C. In recent years (1995-2001) deer harvests have ranged between about 200 and 350 annually.
6. Under 5 AAC 92.106 (the intensive management regulation) the deer population in Unit 1C is identified as being important for high levels of human consumption. The harvest objective is 450 deer per year.
7. If wolves re-colonize Douglas Island and increase to high densities, there is potential for wolf predation on deer to decrease deer numbers and deer harvests.
8. It is likely that low to moderate numbers of wolves on Douglas Island can coexist with a deer population that can continue to provide a reasonable number of deer for human consumption.
9. In order to provide for sustained numbers of both wolves and deer on Douglas Island after wolves re-colonize, a management area (the Douglas Island Management Area) shall be created. This area will consist of Douglas Island in its entirety.
10. Within the management area, hunting and trapping of wolves is prohibited until at least seven (7) wolves are present. Subsequently, annual harvests may not exceed 30 percent of fall wolf numbers.

11. When wolves are present, if the island deer harvest declines more than 35 percent below the average harvest over the preceding 10 years (with approximately equal hunting effort), wolf hunting and trapping will be reopened as necessary to maintain both wolf and deer populations.
12. In order to more closely monitor the harvest, trappers shall register with the department and receive a permit prior to entering the field. Specific conditions of the permit will include attending a trapper orientation course, obtaining a trapper registration number, and providing information on trapping locations. Restrictions on methods and means and registration requirements, and other aspects shall occur as needed.
13. By this action, the Board's intent is to provide desired sustained opportunities for a broad diversity of user groups concerned with wolves and deer on Douglas Island. This is compatible with the desires of virtually all those who expressed their views to the Board.

Vote: 6/0
November 7, 2002
Juneau, Alaska


Ben Grussendorf, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

Alaska Board of Game
2002-136A BOG
Unit 1D Brown Bear Drawing Hunt Finding

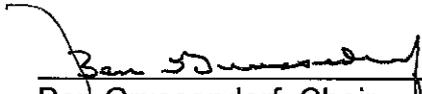
The Board of Game (Board) took public and advisory committee testimony on (Unit 1D) brown bears, received biological information from the Department of Fish and Game, and deliberated a proposal (Proposal 7) dealing with a drawing permit hunt for brown bears. As a result, the Board finds the following:

1. Harvest of brown bears in Unit 1D has met or exceeded harvest goals during the 1991-2001 period. This is due to an increase in Defense of Life and Property (DLP) by expanding human populations into brown bear habitat and to increasing nonresident harvest.
2. Specific details of over harvest of brown bears are noted: harvest of brown bears exceeds the harvest goal in Unit 1D during 1991-2001. The harvest goal for brown bears in Unit 1D is 16 bears (4% of the estimated population of 396) with the female portion of the harvest not to exceed 1.5% of the estimated population. Mean annual harvest during 1991-2001 is 17 bears/year.
3. Harvest of female brown bears exceeds the goal of 1.5% including a harvest of 5 sows in one season by the nonresident clients of one big game commercial service provider.
4. A greater number of guides are operating in Unit 1D due to recent restrictions that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) imposed on brown bear guiding on federal lands in Unit 4 and in the remainder of Unit 1. Because of restrictions on federal land, guiding on state land in Unit 1D has become very attractive to guides not permitted to hunt brown bears on federal lands in southeast Alaska. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not have an effective means in which to limit or distribute the intensity of big game commercial service provider effort.
5. The Board finds that a lack of a Big Game Commercial Services Board and the inability to limit the scope of operation pertaining to individual big game commercial service providers has detrimentally affected guided hunter allocation. The state has no way to restrict the number of guides who can operate in a particular area since the Owsichuk decision in 1988. If additional guides begin targeting Unit 1D this will put additional hunting pressure on the brown bear population.
6. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) and DNR hope to work together with brown bear guides to address big game commercial guiding in the Haines State Forest (HSF) Plan. A permitting system enacted by DNR would allow them to potentially limit the number of

guides operating on HSF land if ADFG believed this would help solve the resource concern with brown bears or other wildlife species.

7. Regulatory options available to ADFG included managing the hunt through Emergency closures. However, because of the low reproductive potential of brown bears, the Board realized that this strategy would likely result in continued over harvest.
8. In order to address conservation concerns, ADFG proposed the option of establishing a drawing permit hunt for nonresidents for brown bears in Unit 1D (Proposal 7) similar to the hunt established for brown bears in 26B (5AAC 85.025).
9. Alaskan residents and advisory committees were divided on the drawing permit issue. The Juneau Advisory Committee supported the department proposal with the amendment that the Board approve 20 permits for the drawing permit hunt. The Upper Lynn Canal AC opposed the idea of a drawing permit hunt. All respondents agreed that harvest has met or exceeded ADFG harvest goals and that there is an increasing trend in harvest of brown bears in Unit 1D.
10. Given that the human population continues to grow and expand in Unit 1D and given that there is no way to allocate hunting opportunity for brown bears among a continually growing population of guides, it is evident that the brown bear population would continue to be threatened as the annual harvest exceeds harvest goals.
11. Given that harvest of brown bear sows has been increasing during the previous decade and that sows comprised 50% of the harvest in some years, it is evident that the brown bear population would continue to be threatened as the annual harvest exceeds harvest goals.
12. The Board adopted a nonresident drawing permit hunt for brown bears in Unit 1D to be held each year between the dates of Sept. 15 through Dec. 31 and March 15 through May 31. Up to 20 permits are authorized.
13. By this action, the Board's intent is to provide desired sustained hunting opportunities for resident and nonresident hunters and to support a viable guiding industry in Unit 1D.

Vote: 6/0
November 7, 2002
Juneau, Alaska


Ben Grussendorf, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

Alaska Board of Game
Findings 2000 -134 BOG
Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy

At its meeting in Juneau, Alaska, November 1-7, 2000, the Board of Game (Board) received the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy (Strategy), heard a summary of the Strategy presented by the Unit 4 Brown Bear Planning Team (Team), and considered public testimony on the subject. Based on this information, and in consideration of the Board's statutory authorities and requirements, the Board supports the Strategy as indicated by the endorsement of these Findings.

The Board reached the following conclusions:

1. The planning process used by the Team involved a wide range of public and agency interests in formulating comprehensive management recommendations for Unit 4 brown bears.
2. The recommendations in the Strategy are a comprehensive compromise package. To maintain the integrity of the compromise embodied in the Strategy, all essential elements must be implemented in a timely and reasonable manner.
3. Recommendations in the Strategy are both within and outside the jurisdiction of the Board. Recommendations within the jurisdiction of the Board include setting mortality guidelines, prioritizing options for hunting regulation changes should the mortality guidelines be exceeded, and adjusting regulations as needed to assist management of bear hunting/viewing areas.
4. As previously determined by the Board, brown bears in Unit 4 are customarily and traditionally used for subsistence and the amount necessary for subsistence uses is 5-10 bears. Recently, the Federal Subsistence Board, in response to a proposal by the Southeast Regional Federal Subsistence Council, authorized five federal registration permits annually for educational purposes of teaching customary and traditional subsistence harvest and use practices. The Board supports this action as long as the risk of overharvest is minimized.
5. The existing codified regulations governing the taking of Unit 4 brown bears (5 AAC 85.020) provide a framework within which the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (Department) can administer hunts consistent with the harvest recommendations in the Strategy through exercise of discretionary authority vested in the Department under 5 AAC 92.052. Therefore, no changes are necessary in the codified regulations to implement the recommendations of the Strategy with respect to harvest.

Based on these findings, the Board:

1. Supports the package of recommendations from the Team and urges other agencies and entities with the power to implement these recommendations to do so.

2. Requests the Department to manage hunting of Unit 4 brown bears to maintain a total 3-year average human-caused mortality guideline that does not exceed 4% of each island (Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagof, Northeast Chichagof) population, and a total 3-year average human-caused female mortality guideline that does not exceed 1.5% of each island population.
3. Requests that the Department follow the recommended priority for hunting regulation changes should the mortality guidelines be exceeded. They are:
 - In the event that human-caused mortality guidelines are exceeded for one season or year, the Department will attempt to change the next year's outcome by obtaining voluntary harvest adjustment from guides and hunters.
 - In the event that documented human-caused mortality calculated on a 3-year average is exceeded, the following options will be evaluated and implemented if appropriate.
 - 1) Mandatory adjustment of number of guided hunters by US Forest Service (USFS).
 - 2) Season adjustments.
 - 3) Establish drawing permits for nonresidents on a Guide Use Area basis.
 - 4) Establish drawing permits for residents only after above management alternatives have been employed.
 - All non-subsistence hunting by residents will, when necessary, be by registration permit, until the resident harvest exceeds 70% of the harvest guideline for a given population. If resident harvest exceeds 70% of the harvest guideline, institute a resident drawing permit hunt.
 - Consider all proposed regulatory actions or steps in the context of their effect on bear harvest in the entire Southeast Alaska region, not just Unit 4.
 - Cooperate with the USFS in management of habitat and access.
4. Will strive to bring State regulations into harmony with Federal subsistence regulations that provide additional opportunity to take brown bears under an educational permit for the purposes of teaching customary and traditional subsistence harvest and use practices.
5. Supports the concept of Brown Bear Special Use Zone (SUZ) management that accommodates both hunting and viewing and will consider seasons, methods and means, limited area closures and other regulations as necessary on a case-by-case basis to implement SUZ's in appropriate areas in Unit 4. Will consider use of this model for viewing area proposals elsewhere in Alaska.
6. Supports the concept of Human/Bear High Use Zone management that aims to keep key riparian and shore habitat available to bears and requests the Department cooperate with the USFS in the identification of such zones, and will consider regulations as necessary on a case-by-case basis to implement appropriate management in these zones.

7. Encourages the USFS to incorporate the team's recommendations in its Saltwater Shoreline-based Outfitter/Guide Analysis and Environmental Impact Statement for the northern Tongass National Forest.
6. Supports the USFS moratoria on guides and hunts in Units 1 and 4, pending the outcome of the ongoing USFS planning process.
7. Requests the Department to Prepare and distribute educational materials on hunter ethics and other information to help minimize wounding loss and the harvest of females.

Vote: 7 - 0

November 9, 2000

Lori Quakenbush

Lori Quakenbush, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

Alaska Board of Game
98-128-BOG
Findings on Elk Management in Region 1

At its October 1998 meeting in Ketchikan, the Board of Game reviewed information on the history of elk in Southeast Alaska, their present status, and their prognosis. The board reached the following conclusions:

- Elk, an introduced, exotic species to Alaska, are now thriving at the transplant site on Etolin Island and have established a population on nearby Zarembo Island in Southeast Alaska.
- Scientific literature from elk research conducted elsewhere, supported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's own research on Etolin Island, indicates that the diet of elk broadly overlaps that of deer, and that this overlap includes forage critical to the winter survival of deer.
- Elk are larger than deer, with a greater rumen capacity. Elk can reach higher for forage and can subsist on coarser forage than deer. Where the two species coexist, especially in restricted areas (i.e. islands) elk may out-compete deer.
- Introduced populations of elk with few predators can severely trample and overbrowse their range. In Southeast Alaska, this potential may be great, especially on islands without wolves and in localities difficult for hunters to access. Severe reduction in browse has broad implications for other species dependent on the understory for food, shelter or cover.
- Elk are presently emigrating to locations other than Etolin and Zarembo Islands, and once established on an island in Southeast Alaska, elk will be very difficult to eradicate if it becomes desirable to do so.
- Deer are the most important ungulate for human consumption in Southeast Alaska, and are a designated subsistence species. The board determined most deer populations in Southeast Alaska as important for high levels of human consumptive use as required by the Intensive Management Law. On the other hand, elk do not qualify for customary and traditional use or intensive management.
- Ungulate experts from within and outside the department predict declines in deer populations that are in competition with elk.
- Elk are not likely to become a preferred subsistence replacement for deer, because elk are likely to lower the region's overall carrying capacity for meat production, and elk are more difficult to pack out of areas without vehicular access.

Therefore, given the potential for elk to negatively affect deer populations and the general carrying capacity of Region 1, the board recommends that the department take the following actions:

1. Inform the public of the problems that may occur where elk and deer overlap, and that the overall capacity of the region to support deer may decrease.

2. Reaffirm the initial post-transplant policy of restricting elk to islands where populations are now established until:
 - the effects of elk in Southeast Alaska have been fully evaluated, and
 - the public has been fully informed and has provided guidance to the board and the department.
3. In one year, report to the board the options for containing the elk population on the islands where populations have become established.

Resolution 93-67-BOG indicates that the board had similar concerns several years ago, and came to the same conclusion regarding confinement of the elk population to Etolin and Zarembo Islands.

DATE: October 26, 1998
Ketchikan, Alaska



Lori Quakenbush, Chairman

VOTE: 7-0