



State of Alaska

Department of Public Safety

Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Sean Parnell, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

October 21, 2010

Chairman Judkins
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau Ak, 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

The following comments give a brief description of the position that the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers has on the proposals that are up for consideration at the November 2010, Alaska Board of Game meeting in Ketchikan.

In general, when the board considers seasons and or bag limit changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request that every effort possible be made to align the season dates and bag limits with adjacent game management units and/or sub units. This is mainly due to enforceability of multiple seasons in multiple locations as well as consistency of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals having to do with allocation or biological concerns, AWT is generally neutral in position.

AWT recognizes that regulations are developed by the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game through the public process to support management plans. Further, all management plans rely upon public compliance with regulations to achieve success. Enforcement is a crucial element needed to ensure long-term compliance with regulations by the public. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers request the board recognize that the division has limited resources and man power and any new regulation scheme or area restrictions may place an additional burden on AWT.

Comments on specific proposals AWT favors or opposes are included in this letter.

Thank you for your time.

Bernard Chastain

Lieutenant, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Anchorage Headquarters

Proposal Analysis-

Proposal 13-

Alaska Wildlife Troopers support proposal 13 and recommend ADOPT.

Any time regulations can be made more understandable, the public and enforcement both benefit. Everyone benefits from this proposal because it clarifies the boundary used to determine the legal area for hunting.

Proposal 17-

Alaska Wildlife Troopers support proposal 17 and recommend ADOPT.

Proposal 17 will align hunting seasons with adjacent hunting areas which will benefit both the public and enforcement.

Proposal 31-

Alaska Wildlife Troopers support proposal 31 and recommend ADOPT.

The use of traps with an inside jaw spread of less than 5 7/8" before the trapping season is open for mink and marten is an enforcement problem. Persons claim to be trapping animals with an open season when they are actually targeting mink and marten before the season opens, giving them an unfair advantage compared with trappers trying to follow the regulations.

Proposal 38-

Alaska Wildlife Troopers support proposal 38 and recommend ADOPT.

The ability for enforcement to accurately and efficiently locate bear bait sites in the field is very important. With a GPS requirement for the sites, Troopers will be able to quickly get to bear bait sites, inspect for compliance and leave the area with minimal interaction at the site. Additionally, it will be easier for AWT to visit more sites and not waste time looking for them.