

Note: The Board of Game approved an Agenda Change Request to consider this proposal at the Statewide, 2012 meeting.

PROPOSAL 257 - 5 AAC 92.095 Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Amend 5 AAC 92.095(a)(16)(A) to allow the use of larger snares for trapping wolves in a portion of Unit 1C, provided the snare is designed with a breakaway system and a diverter wire.

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. (a) The following methods and means of taking furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

(16) in Unit 1C, that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage, by using

(A) a snare with a cable diameter of 1/32 inch or larger that is set out of water, **unless the snare cable is severed at a point that is 10.0 inches to 10.5 inches from the cable end stop and then reattached with a double ferrule, and the snare has a wire designed to divert non-target species that is attached to the snare so that the diverter wire extends at least 28 inches from the snare loop and is perpendicular to the loop;**

ISSUE: At the November, 2010 Southeast Region meeting, the Board of Game authorized wolf trapping in Unit 1C with the use a specific type of breakaway snare with a diverter wire for the purpose of diverting non-target species. At the Barrow meeting in November 2011, the board repealed the new regulations, and asked the department for modified language to address the issue in Gustavus.

With the repeal of this regulation, trappers in Gustavus will no longer be able to use snares > 1/32" out of water to pursue wolves as of July 1, 2012.

In the Southeast Board meeting in 2002, the Board passed a proposal that prevented the use of snares > 1/32" set out of water at Gustavus because of concerns about incidental moose trapping. The new regulation eliminated the opportunity for trappers to snare wolves in the area. At public meetings with the residents of Gustavus during that time frame, the Department agreed to support future proposals to allow wolf snaring if and when a snare was designed that either prevented moose from being caught, or, if caught, allowed them to break free.

With the recent development and testing of this type of snare, a trapper in Gustavus submitted a proposal at the November 2010 SE meeting to once again allow snaring of wolves in the Gustavus area. The board passed that proposal and the opportunity to snare wolves became available, with the stipulations of the breakaway type snare and diverter wire. If this regulation isn't reinstated, or a similar regulation adopted, the opportunity for snaring wolves in and around Gustavus will be lost to trappers in the future.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers in Gustavus will not be able to use the larger snares needed for wolf trapping.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The moose population in Gustavus will benefit from the harvest of additional wolves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers will benefit from being allowed to use snares to take wolves, and moose will be able to escape from the modified snares.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers may have to modify existing snares to comply with the breakaway requirements.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do not require breakaway snares and diverter wires, which would mean use of snares for wolf trapping in the area would be prohibited..

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFGBOG257

Note: The Board of Game approved an Agenda Change Request to consider this proposal at the Statewide, 2012 meeting.

PROPOSAL 258 - 5 AAC 85.020. Seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Change the brown bear hunt structure in Units 7 and 15.

Replace the current limited-permit draw hunt with an open registration hunt for Units 7 and 15. The proposed season is September 15 to November 30, and harvest will be regulated by an established quota and short reporting period.

ISSUE: The Kenai/Soldotna Advisory Committee and others on the Kenai Peninsula, have requested the local Department of Fish and Game staff to increase the number of permits issued or implement a registration hunt for hunting brown bears for years, with no success. In every advisory committee meeting concerning game issues, the concern for too many brown bears comes up, resulting in many heated discussions over nothing being done by the department. Brown bear density has increased on the Kenai Peninsula but hunting opportunities have not. In recent years, the majority of the bears killed locally were killed as defense of life and property or by department staff for public safety concerns. We believe licensed-hunters should have an opportunity to take these bears instead of department staff or being killed in defense of life or property.

Further, the current permit hunt has not resulted in an adequate harvest, nor would it be, given the current quota set by the department, even if all 100 permits were issued. Likewise, the fall portion of the permit hunt has been unnecessary due to the quota being met or close to it.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of hunting opportunity for brown bear in Units 7 and 15.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters in Units 7 and 15 and the moose population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: ADFGBOG258

Note: The Board of Game approved an Agenda Change Request to consider this proposal at the Statewide, 2012 meeting.

PROPOSAL 259 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports; 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls; and 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Streamline the reporting, sealing and salvage of black bears.

5AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

...

(I) For black bear, a person may not hunt black bear in Units 1-~~5~~[7, 11-17, 19(D), AND 20], except when a permit is required, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and has obtained a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket); **in Units 6-26 a person must first obtain a harvest report card (harvest tickets are not required).**

5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls. (a) Sealing is required for brown bear taken in any unit in the state, black bear of any color variation **need not be sealed unless sealing is required in designated areas for biological purposes by ADF&G area staff** [TAKEN IN UNITS 1 - 7, 11, 13 - 17, AND 20(B)], and a bear skin or skull before the skin or hide is sold. A seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process has commenced. A person may not possess or transport the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken in a unit where sealing is required, or export from the state the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken anywhere in the state, unless the skin and skull have been sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if requested by the department, except that

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. (a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC [84](#) - 5 AAC [85](#), a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

...

(3) statewide from January 1 through May 31, the hide[, SKULL,] and edible meat as defined in 5 AAC [92.990](#), from June 1 through December 31, **either** the hide **or meat must be salvaged, in addition, the** skull of a black bear taken in a game management unit in which sealing is required, [AND FROM JUNE 1 - DECEMBER 31, THE SKULL AND EITHER THE HIDE OR EDIBLE MEAT OF A BLACK BEAR TAKEN IN UNIT 20(B);]

ISSUE: These changes are intertwined enough that we decided they should all be included in a single proposal even though they address three separate regulations. There are currently areas of the state that require sealing but not harvest reports or tickets; harvest tickets/reports but not sealing; some require both; and some require neither. There are also varying salvage requirements. These changes will not eliminate all reporting and salvage differences across all regions and units but it will greatly simplify the requirements to the public. Public compliance

with regulations and reporting will be increased due to simplified regulations. This regulation change will clean up the current disparity in salvage, sealing, and harvest ticket/reporting.

Reporting: Black bear hunting in greater Alaska (GMU 6-26) will require a harvest report card but not harvest tickets. Sealing will be required only in those areas in which ADF&G area staff need biological data that can only be obtained by sealing. Units 1-5 will not change.

Salvage: Salvage requirements will be standardized statewide to require salvage of meat, and hide January 1-May 31 and meat or hide June 1-December 31. Skulls only need to be salvaged in areas where sealing is required.

This Proposal consists of several consensus items from a black bear resource users' group held at the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. All of these suggestions were approved by ALL members of the group. We have not included any items or suggestions that were not supported by all members of the group.

The intent of this group is to clarify and remove complicated or excessively restrictive regulations and ADF&G discretionary provisions pertaining to black bear hunting in Alaska Statewide but especially Greater Alaska. Over the years bear hunting and baiting regulations have accumulated many unnecessary restrictions. We realize Southeast Alaska has unique issues pertaining to black bear hunting. Many of our suggestions are intended to be statewide. If Southeast is intended to be excluded we will state a specific area for the regulation (unit 6-26, etc.).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to be confused by the sealing/harvest ticket/none situation in greater Alaska. Hunters will be required to salvage poor quality hides while meat hunting in the late spring, summer and fall.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Possibly; a hunter that is not required to salvage a hide and skull may be able to take better care of bear meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunters will have less confusing regulations and more options as to the salvage of their animals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow the salvage of the meat OR hide year-round. Require sealing statewide but no harvest ticket/report.

PROPOSED BY: The Greater Alaska Black Bear Committee

LOG NUMBER: ADFGBOG259
