

*This proposal was submitted as an Agenda Change Request and accepted by the Board of Game during the 2015 Southeast Region meeting. The board has scheduled it for the Central/Southwest Meeting, February 2015.*

**PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 85.015(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.**  
Change the bag limit for black bears in Unit 6D to one bear every three years as follows:

Unit 6D bag limit: One bear **every three regulatory years**.

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?**

This regulation change is designed specifically to reduce the harvest of black bears to conserve the population. It is based on 2006-2012 data, and would reduce harvest by 50 plus bears annually, more than 10%. The black bear population doesn't appear sustainable under current regulation. This is evidenced by declining harvest, reduction in age and size of bears harvested, increased percentage of sow harvest and for reasons unknown the last two years cub production appears low. Some form of regulation change to reduce bear harvest is warranted.

The actual black bear population in Unit 6D is not known. It is clearly declining. I just recently saw new statistics on bear harvest that indicate a steep decline in 2012 and 2013 (partly due to lack of snow and bears being inaccessible to most hunters) and a continued high percentage of sows being harvested. Part of the decline may be from record snowfall in 2011 and a blueberry crop failure in 2012 which might have had an effect on winter survival.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Pinguoch

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