

# Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

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**PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Shorten the moose seasons in Unit 15 as follows:

Go back to a September season, with the archery season starting on September 1, running for one week with a two week rifle season following.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Moose hunting starts too early. The weather is too warm. Antler restrictions due to lack of bulls. Shorten the season. Three weeks rather than six is plenty of moose hunting opportunity considering the lack of mature bulls. There will be better meat and less spoilage. Antlers are still growing in archery season. Hunters will need to butcher moose the day they are harvested.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joseph Ross (EG-C14-193)  
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**PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Change the general bull moose season dates in Unit 15 to September 1-30 as follows:

Move the season forward ten days, changing the Unit 15 general bull moose harvest dates to September 1-30, so a much higher percentage of harvested meat will make it back to hunters' homes to be good table fare.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At issue is the preservation of moose meat in Unit 15. It is so warm and humid during the season that moose harvests can turn into monumental struggles to properly care for fresh meat. The culprits are heat, moisture, and flies, each singularly able to ruin a harvest in a matter of a day or two. Current season dates are August 20-September 20. Historical weather data from the Kenai Peninsula in August shows temperatures in the 50-60 degree range with plenty of rain. Most hunters are in the field, far from the controlled environments of freezers and fly-proof hanging areas of their homes. Even with ATVs or horses, it can take a couple of days to move a moose from the areas that most people hunt. This is a travesty and is the intent of neither the hunter nor the game managers.

In September the weather tends to be cooler and sometimes drier, which in turn lowers the fly count. The temperature is lower, even starting to frost at night then, which does a world of good in cooling the 800 pounds of meat from a moose. The frost kills the flies also. During the same time, it tends to be a bit drier as well, also a great help in averting moisture spoilage in meat under field care. Hunters will be able to more easily and safely care for the meat in the field and transport it home, leaving more energy to deal with other inherent travails such as the sheer mass of a large moose, or the birds, or of course bears.

If nothing is changed in the regulations, much meat will continue to be unfairly wasted due to environmental conditions.

In defense of potential overharvest due to this season date change proposal: Some would say that allowing hunters in the field during the last week of September would give unfair advantage to hunters, as the bulls are closer to rut and therefore more active. I feel that the current ADF&G regulations specifying antler size and configuration in the general bull hunt, and the opportunity limit of 50 for the drawing cow hunt DM549, positively and correctly identify and limit that class of animals that are targeted by ADF&G for the harvest. Most other units have their moose season in September. The brush is much thicker and taller in Unit 15, no shortage of moose cover. There will be no more or less moose harvested by this season shift.

Considered was the idea instead to shorten the season to September 1-20. It was rejected due to hunter opportunity loss. Remember how thick the brush is and how inclement the weather can be. Note that years ago, the season dates in Unit 15 were September 1-30, same as most of the state.

Please consider the above date change to the Unit 15 moose hunt. Peninsula meat hunters thank you.

**PROPOSED BY:** Douglas Malone (EG-C14-241)  
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**PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C as follows:

Unit 15C Nonresidents:

1 bull 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side;

September 1-20 (General hunt only).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently Unit 15C is closed to nonresident moose hunters. Unit 15C has been closed to nonresident moose hunting since intensive management was put in place in 2011. Current population levels (2013 estimate 3,204) are within population objectives of 2,500-3,500 moose. Bull to cow ratios have increased significantly and are currently within objectives of 15 to 20 bulls:100 cows. Nonresident hunters took an average of 4% of the harvest before the closure during the general moose season. Moose harvest in Unit 15C during 2013 was 98 animals; this would equate to an additional four bulls being harvested by nonresident hunters at past harvest levels. Currently, several other management units under intensive management are open to nonresident hunting such as Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bruce Willard (EG-C14-103)  
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**PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open a nonresident moose drawing hunt in Unit 15 as follows:

Before opening the hunt to a spike/fork in Unit 15, consider making it a drawing for nonresidents for 50-inch bulls, similar to areas in Unit 13.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increased pressure on moose numbers, not enough mature bulls. More bulls make it to maturity, I would have a chance to hunt around my house with family or friends from out of state. All hunters would have a chance at bigger bulls and nonresidents could hunt and make some money for the state by applying.

**PROPOSED BY:** Frank Casey EG031213737  
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**PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C or implement predator control as follows:

We recommend to either implement predator control, which is why nonresident moose hunting has been stopped, or open nonresident moose hunting.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Closing of nonresident moose hunting in Unit 15C due to the implementation of predator control as a result of the declined moose population. ADF&G has estimated the moose population at 3,200 last year and the population objective is 2,500 to 3,500. The moose harvest last year was between 80 to 90 moose with a 200 to 350 moose objective. Please reinstate the nonresident moose hunting for Unit 15C. Thank you for your consideration.

**PROPOSED BY:** Derek and Bunny Alexander (EG-C14-216)  
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**PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Change the bag limit for moose in Units 7 and 15 to 50-inch antlers with three or more brow tines as follows:

No spike hunting for bull moose. Legal bull to be 50-inches wide and at least three brow tines on one antler. Keep wolf and brown bear regulations in place

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The low numbers of moose on the Kenai Peninsula, especially the low number of mature bull moose, and lost hunter opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Thomas and Helen Netschert EG-C14-313)  
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**PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 85.XXX. Hunting seasons and bag limits.** Eliminate all early and late season start dates for archery, muzzleloader, and shotgun hunts in Unit 15 as follows:

Eliminate all special privilege seasons in Unit 15.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Special pre- or post-season bowhunting, muzzleloader and shotgun hunts. If you choose to hunt with a bow and arrow, that's fine with me but you shouldn't be given special time to do so. With today's antler restrictions, to

be a responsible hunter you need to stalk and get close to an animal to be sure it is legal, therefore you shouldn't be penalized for hunting with a rifle.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Garcia (EG-C14-245)  
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**PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Eliminate the early archery season for moose in Units 15A and 15B as follows:

Remove the early archery only season for moose from August 10-17 in Units 15A and 15B.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The early archery only season (August 10-17) for moose in Units 15A and 15B. There is no justification for this early season. This would align the moose seasons in Units 15A, 15B, and 15C, simplifying regulations for the hunting community.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-208)  
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**PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open seven day archery seasons for moose following the general seasons in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

In each of the units listed for moose hunts where only a harvest ticket is required there would be a separate season "by bow and arrow only" starting the day following the general season and extending for an additional seven days. These hunts would have the same antler restrictions as currently listed for each unit. They would be limited to IBEP certified bowhunters only. (Note that starting in July 2016 anyone hunting big game anywhere in Alaska will be required to be IBEP certified.) This would apply for units 7 and 15.

*(This proposal was also submitted for the February 2015 Central/Southwest Region meeting.)*

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We request additional hunting opportunity for moose for IBEP certified bowhunters. We would like to see seven days added to the end of the general moose season with a season for bowhunting only. This would be for moose hunts in these units currently available by harvest ticket and would not include areas open only by drawing permit. In the case of Units 15A and 15B which have seven day, mid-August archery moose seasons, we would recommend elimination of those seasons in return for an archery season at the end of the regulatory moose season.

The primary reason for this request is to increase hunter opportunity at a time when the bulls are moving more because of the rut and meat care is easier because of cooler weather. The early archery season in Unit 15 has had very low participation and success because of dense foliage, limited moose movement and warm temperatures which make meat salvage difficult. We believe that this would result in a slightly higher harvest rate but would still be easily within the biologic surplus of animals available to be harvested without affecting the overall moose population.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-C14-242)  
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**PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open an archery moose season for residents and nonresidents in Unit 15C as follows:

Add Unit 15C to the archery season August 10-17, in Units 15A and 15B.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Biologists tell me there are more moose in Unit 15C. Spread the archers out over a wider area to reduce congestion, making it safer to hunt. Just include Unit 15C in the same regulation as Units 15A and 15B.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Hanrahan (EG-C14-195)  
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**PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Change the resident, antlerless moose season in Unit 15C to November 1-30 as follows:

Unit 15C: 1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued; November 1-30.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Troopers in Unit 15C are often called to investigate cow moose killed legally under DM549 permits during the general hunting season. This impedes their ability to pursue true hunting violations at a crucial time of year. The Homer antlerless hunt was originally in November; we would like to move it back. It is a meat hunt, and November is a better month in which to hunt for ease of meat preservation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-209)  
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**PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Issue resident moose permits for problem areas near roads during the winter in Unit 15C as follows:

I recommend that the ADF&G be authorized to issue a limited number of permit tags for problem areas for winter harvest of moose near roadways. Hunts will be opened at the discretion of ADF&G.

Unit 15C: 1 cow or calf moose within one mile of the Sterling Highway by permit only; by shotgun or muzzleloader; November 15-February 28. Up to 100 permits may be issued.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** An average of 247 moose die each year by vehicle collision in Unit 15 (25% of which occur in subunit 15C). Additionally, approximately 71 moose are hit annually by vehicles that are not recovered. This equals 318 moose dying each year by vehicle collision or 25% more than are taken by hunters. These vehicle/moose collisions represent a serious concern for human safety, property damage, and loss of hunting opportunity. Although the salvageable portion of these animals is currently distributed

through a “roadkill list”, a large portion of each moose is often unsalvageable for human consumption. We believe that the dangers and other negative effects of vehicle/moose collision can be lessened by having targeted roadside hunts in problem areas. Other actions have been taken in the past to try to reduce moose vehicle collisions including raising driver awareness through better signage, increasing right of way visibility through vegetation clearing, and reducing speed limits. Even with these measures in place, the number of collisions per year remains high. If no action is taken life and property damage will continue to occur at high rates, hunters will continue to loose opportunity, and our wildlife resources will continue to be wasted.

According to recent surveys, population levels (2013: 3,204±650) in Unit 15C are currently at the upper end of management objectives (2,500-3,500) for moose. Should population levels continue to increase moose numbers may soon exceed carrying capacity leading to a population decline as wintering habitat becomes over-browsed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Thomas Hagberg (EG-C14-249)  
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**PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits   | Resident<br>Open Season<br>(Subsistence and<br>General Hunts) | Nonresident<br>Open Season |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| (13)<br>...<br>Unit 15C, that portion<br>south of the south fork of<br>the Anchor River and northwest<br>of Kachemak Bay   | Aug. 20—Sept. 20<br>(General Hunt only)                       | No open season             |
| 1 bull with spike antlers<br>or 50-inch antlers or<br>with 4 or more brow tines<br>on one side   | Aug. 20—Sept. 20  | Aug. 20-Sept. 20           |
| 1 antlerless moose by drawing<br>permit only; the taking of<br>calves, and females accompa-<br>nied by calves, is prohibited;<br>up to 100 permits may be issued |   |                            |

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15C often holds high moose

densities in winters when deep snow pushes the moose down into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, a high number of moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans are common as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In February 2013, 1,218 moose were counted during a population survey in the northern portion of Unit 15C, of which 13.7% were calves (19 calves:100 cows). November 2013 composition counts for the area affected by this hunt provided ratios of 19 bulls:100 cows and 44 calves:100 cows. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 11 years resulting in an average harvest of 23 cows per year. We recommend reauthorization of the antlerless hunt.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-341)  
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**PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open a nine day, resident archery season in August for Dall sheep in Units 7, 14C and 15 as follows:

Create a new resident hunting season for bow and arrow only for Dall sheep from August 1-9, in Units 7, 14C, & 15, that currently have general sheep hunts by harvest ticket only.

These seasons would be for full curl, broomed both tips or 8+ year old rams only. Twenty years of bowhunting harvest statistics from Unit 14C indicate that only 1.7% of bowhunters are successful at taking full curl rams. IBEP certification would be required (it will be required for all bowhunting after July 2016 anyway).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Overcrowding and limitation of opportunity for hunting Dall sheep. We suggest a method to increase hunting opportunity, spread out participation and reduce crowding with minimal impact on the species.

By creating a new hunt by bow and arrow only before the regular sheep season it would reduce crowding that occurs August 10th at the opening of the general sheep season. Hunters choosing to use bow and arrow would gain an advantage of being first into the mountains. They would be enjoying a higher quality sheep hunting experience because of less crowding. At the same time they would be markedly limiting their chances of actually killing a ram because of the need to get so much closer to their quarry than if using a rifle. There is no biologic reason to wait until August 10th to open sheep season as sheep seasons in Canada open as early as July 15th.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-C14-243)  
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**PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Modify the current harvest management strategy for Kenai Peninsula brown bears, Units 7 and 15 as follows:

This proposal calls for a modification of the current harvest management strategy for Kenai brown bears by: 1) establishing an annual cap on human-caused mortalities (HCMs) of reproductive age female bears (preliminary modeling indicates an annual cap of 12 HCMs of adult female bears) on the Kenai Peninsula; 2) amending current hunting season dates to decrease both the overall number and the proportion of adult female sows in the harvest; and 3) delineating "front country" and "back country" areas of the Kenai Peninsula and applying differential season dates and in-season management using HCM caps for adult female bears in these areas.

Season dates for the "back country" would be October 15 to November 30 and April 1 to April 30. Season dates for the "front country" would be September 1 to November 30 and April 1 to May 31.

Annual caps on human-caused mortalities would be four adult females in the "back country", at which point the hunting season in this area would be administratively closed; and 8 adult females for the front country, at which point the hunting season in this area would be administratively closed.

Proposed modifications of the harvest management strategy for Kenai brown bears involving establishment of HCM caps for adult female bears, in-season management, and delineation of front and back country areas could be accomplished under discretionary authority of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Amendment of season dates would require regulatory change.

Harvest management efforts to reduce negative-human bear interactions would be augmented through expanded educational and enforcement efforts aimed at reducing human-generated attractants in communities and on public lands. Educational efforts to help hunters identify and differentiate adult male and female bears in the field should be initiated. Harvest of brown bears over bait will continue to be disallowed by federal regulation on the Refuge.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue being addressed in this proposal is the impact of recent high levels of human caused-mortality on the Kenai Peninsula brown bear population. The purpose of this proposal is to ensure the long-term conservation of a healthy brown bear population on the Kenai Peninsula in a manner which provides for public interests, protects public safety, and which best meets the missions and legal mandates of the several state and federal agencies with management responsibilities in the region. Recognizing the complexities of managing the free-ranging Kenai brown bear population, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is committed to working toward a strategic and coordinated approach with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Board of Game, other federal agencies and affected publics in meeting these goals.



Beginning with the 2012-13 hunting season, the Alaska Board of Game liberalized hunting regulations for Kenai brown bears. The current regulations allow for a 9-month season (September 1- May 31) with a bag limit of one bear every regulatory year.

In 2013, 70 total known human-caused mortalities of brown bears occurred on the Kenai Peninsula; estimates of unreported mortality generated from radio-collared bears totaled an additional 28 bears. Of known mortalities, 34 (50%) were females, and 24 were adult reproductive-age females. Radio telemetry data suggest that 17% of the adult sows in the Kenai brown bear population were killed by humans in 2013; demographic data (stable age distribution analysis) indicated an 18% decline in the number of adult females in the population due to the 2013 kill (Alaska Department of Fish and Game data).

These levels of mortality, especially of reproductive-age female bears, resulted in an immediate decline in the Kenai brown bear population. Even when considered as a one-time event, modeling indicates this high loss of adult females, in combination with high overall mortality, will continue to impact the population in coming years. The potential for continued high mortality levels under the current harvest management strategy, particularly of adult females, is high and is of concern, as are resulting population level impacts.

The Refuge is considered core brown bear habitat on the Kenai Peninsula, and provides for a substantial proportion of the brown bear hunting opportunity in the region. Of the 70 total known 2013 human-caused mortalities, 44 bears were taken during the fall hunt. Of these 44, 31 (70%) were taken on federal lands, including 20 brown bears taken on the Refuge (45% of harvested bears), and 11 bears (25%) taken on Chugach National Forest.

The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is legally mandated to conserve all fish, wildlife and habitats on the Refuge in their natural diversity, as well as to provide for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife resources in a manner consistent with meeting its other establishment purposes. Sport hunting of brown bears on the Refuge must be administered in manner compatible with its establishment purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In meeting this mandate, our current goal is to maintain brown bear densities on the Refuge at levels estimated in 2010 (approximately 42 bears per 1000 km<sup>2</sup>, US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service data).

The specific objectives of this proposal are to: 1) manage brown bear harvests and limit overall human-caused mortality of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula to levels which will maintain a healthy and relatively stable brown bear population; 2) provide consistent, long-term opportunities for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of this important wildlife resource; and 3) to the degree possible and consistent with sound conservation practices, increase harvest opportunities proximal to communities as part of an overall strategic approach to decreasing the potential for negative human-bear interactions.

**PROPOSED BY:** US Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge  
(EG-C14-305)

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**PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bears.** Modify the brown bear harvest management strategy on the Kenai Peninsula, Units 7 and 15, as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits   | Resident<br>Open Season<br>(Subsistence and<br>General Hunts) | Nonresident<br>Open Season |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| (6)  |   |                            |
| Unit 7   |   |                            |
| 1 bear every regulatory<br>year by registration<br>permit only | Sept. 1 – May 31<br>(General hunt only)                       | Sept. 1 – May 31           |
| (14)   |   |                            |
| Unit 15  |   |                            |
| 1 bear every regulatory<br>year by registration<br>permit only | Sept. 1 – May 31<br>(General hunt only)                       | Sept. 1 – May 31           |

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The purpose of this proposal is to ensure public input on brown bear harvest management strategies on the Kenai Peninsula. ADF&G is proposing two significant changes that do not require change in regulation and can be done under permit conditions. These include managing two portions of the peninsula with different season lengths and different caps on the amount of allowable human cause mortality of adult females.

Management strategies regarding hunting opportunities for Kenai Peninsula brown bears have been controversial for decades. During the 1990’s, conservative regulations were adopted due to concerns for the long term viability of the Kenai Peninsula brown bear population. These actions led to reduced hunting opportunity and coincided with a period of time where reported Defense of Life or Property (DLP) killings of brown bears increased. This was also a period of time when the human population continued to increase on the Kenai. Consequently, the construction of residences and seasonal cabins expanded into areas previously unoccupied by man-made structures as did the human generated food attractants for brown bears.

During recent years, brown bear hunting opportunities have been liberalized. The current regulations allow for a nine month season (September 1 – May 31) and a bag limit of one brown bear per regulatory year (RY, July 1 – June 30). The hunt is administered through a registration permit and the number of permits available is unlimited. The board also stipulated that the three year running average of human caused mortality of brown bears, not exceed 70 total bears based on a calendar year, and the “cap” of 70 bears apply to the entire Kenai Peninsula. During the fall (September 1 – December 31) of the first year of hunting opportunity under these new

regulations, hunters reported killing 43 brown bear, of which 14 were adult females. When spring 2013 harvests and reported non-hunting human caused mortalities are added, we have documentation for 70 human caused brown bear mortalities (including 24 adult females). In 2014, ADF&G informed the board that it will institute an annual total human caused mortality cap of 17 adult female bears given concerned about the rate of total adult female mortality.

Another concern for ADF&G is the number of DLP killings, the majority of which occur near residences. In order to address this concern, ADF&G will continue its' efforts to provide information to the public regarding methods available to minimize bear attractants in residential areas. ADF&G also proposes an alternative harvest strategy in an attempt to focus harvest near human settlements. This strategy involves more conservative regulations in the "back country" (areas away from human settlement) and more liberal regulations in the "front country" (within 5 miles of significant human settlement). This strategy provides a "refugia" approach intended to provide flexibility in reducing bear-human conflicts while ensuring appropriate levels of harvest from the population.

For the "front country" we propose season dates of September 1 – May 31. This area will have a bag limit of one brown bear per regulatory year and be administered using a registration permit system. ADF&G will close this season by emergency order if 12 adult female, human caused mortalities (from all causes) occur during a regulatory year.

For the "back country" ADF&G will close this season by emergency order if five adult female, human caused mortalities (from all causes) occur during a regulatory year.

As now, ADF&G will close the season if human caused mortality exceeds 70 bears on the peninsula. All of these changes can be accomplished under discretionary authority and do not require regulatory change. Given the allocative implications of this management approach, ADF&G is seeking input from the public and direction from the board.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-331)  
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**PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 85.020. Seasons and bag limits for brown bear, and 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs and hides.** Lengthen the brown bear season in Units 7 and 15 and remove the meat salvage requirement for brown bear taken over bait as follows:

Bag limit - One bear every regulatory year;

Season - September 1-June 30, and may be taken over black bear bait station (April 15-June 30, no salvage of meat required.)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Units 7 and 15 brown bear population explosion. Brown bear predation on moose is not sustainable. Management has been constantly delaying any harvest and doing everything it can to halt any harvest.

Brown bear history on the Kenai has always been a small number and only elevated by ADF&G efforts or mismanagement. History; native kills, miners, homesteaders (the original defense of

life and property) and market hunters hunting hides for profit kept the brown bear numbers down. Moose do need better habitat but don't have much of a chance against wolves all winter and adding brown bear come spring until hibernation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert White (EG-C14-19)  
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**PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.** Remove meat salvage requirements for taking brown bear over bait in the Southcentral Region as follows:

Remove all meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait for the Southcentral Region.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Brown bear salvage requirements that force hunters to salvage meat that may be inedible. Why force hunters to salvage meat that may not be fit to eat?

**PROPOSED BY:** Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-317)  
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**PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.** Remove meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait in the Southcentral Region.

Align salvage requirements for brown bear with black bear, for bears taken over a bait station for Southcentral.

*(This proposal was also submitted for the February 2015 Central/Southwest Region meeting.)*

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Salvage of brown bear meat taken over bait. Remove salvage requirement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joel Doner (EG-C14-314)  
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**PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.** Shorten the season and reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan north of Kachemak Bay and Fox River, in Unit 15C as follows:

Unit 15C north of Kachemak Bay and the Fox River, August 10-February 1, five birds per day, 20 in possession, resident and nonresident. The remainder of Unit 15C, August 10-March 31, ten birds per day, 20 in possession.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A significant decline in ptarmigan numbers has occurred in Unit 15C north of Kachemak Bay compared to historic levels. This decline appears to be associated with ease of access, increased hunting pressure, and limited habitat. The majority of the access and increased hunting pressure is via snowmobile.

Extensive trails now cover this entire region and human population density has increased significantly. To reduce pressure I suggest shortening the season dates to August 10 - February 1.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bruce Willard (EG-C14-112)  
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**PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.** Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 15C, north of Kachemak Bay and Fox River, as follows:

Unit 15C north of Kachemak Bay and the Fox River, August 10-March 31, five birds per day, 20 in possession, resident and nonresident.

The remainder of Unit 15C, August 10 - March 31, ten birds per day, 20 in possession, resident and nonresident.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At issue is a serious decline in the ptarmigan population in Unit 15C, due to limited habitat and easy access to that habitat.

I propose to lower the daily bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 15C, from the northern boundary with Unit 15B south to Fox River and Kachemak Bay from ten/day to five/day, with possession limits remaining at 20. The habitat that is suitable for these birds within this area consists of only Ptarmigan Head, the Boxcar Hills, and to some degree Bald Mountain. Ptarmigan have not been observed in any numbers for many years on other seemingly suitable habitat areas of Lookout, Epperson, Ohlsen Mountains or the Ninilchik Domes. I believe this is largely due to proximity to large population of hunters enjoying easy access via snogo. We can help the ptarmigan population in Unit 15C by lowering the daily limit, while still providing plenty of hunter opportunity in the area, as well as keeping the larger daily limit in areas that are both flush with birds and involve more difficult access, namely the Kenai Range.

**PROPOSED BY:** Douglas Malone (EG-C14-239)  
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**PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 84.270. Trapping seasons and bag limits.** Shift to an earlier opening date for beaver trapping in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Beaver trapping opens October 20 and closes March 31 in Units 7 and 15.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current opening date for beaver trapping is currently too late for dependable open water sets. The current season opening date for beaver should begin October 20 rather than November 10. The season also currently runs too late as pelts are coming out of prime and severely rubbed in April and travel on water ways is often becoming unpredictable and dangerous. Trappers will continue to be unable to reliably trap beavers in open water and the season will continue to be open when conditions are more dangerous for trapping. By having an earlier open date, snowmachine trappers who trap only on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Lands and must wait for appropriate snow conditions to

access trapping areas will benefit. Beaver seasons currently open in many other units across the state as early as September 25.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Dahman (EG12172729)  
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**PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**  
Require trap identification in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Adopt the wording on page 21 of the 2013-2014 trapping regulations that dictates trapper ID requirements in Units 1-5. "Trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless the trap or snare has been individually marked with a permanent metal tag upon which is stamped or permanently etched the trapper's name and address, or the trapper's permanent identification number, or is set within 50 yards of a sign that lists the trapper's name and address, or the trapper's permanent identification number; if a trapper chooses to place a sign at a snaring site rather than tagging individual snares, the sign must be at least three inches by five inches in size, be clearly visible and have numbers and letters that are at least one-half inch high and one-eighth inch wide in a color that contrasts with the color of the sign."

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Due to the popularity of trapping and increased user conflict as well as the illegal removal of legal traps, a trap identification requirement such as currently exists in Units 1-5 should be adopted for trapper use in Units 7 and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-205)  
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**PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**  
Establish a trapper identification numbering system for Units 7 and 15 as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game will issue an ID number much like a hunter ID or archery certification number to any trapper requesting one. This would fulfill any trapper ID requirement for trappers who wish to identify their traps, but prefer not to use their name. This would also alleviate the issue of trappers that do not have a current driver's license.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A method for trappers to anonymously identify and register traps with ADF&G and law enforcement agencies is needed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-204)  
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**PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**  
Restrict trapping in the Cooper Landing area as follows:

Proposal for Trapping Restrictions in Cooper Landing as enumerated by roads, multi-use trails and campgrounds, and specific special area closures.

Road Restrictions: Trapping is prohibited (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), within 250 feet of any roads that lead to public or private property, and the boundaries of all private property, in the Cooper Landing Area, as defined below:

The Cooper Landing Area is defined as public roads that serve as arteries to private properties and public use areas from the Sterling Highway mile 37 to the Sterling Highway mile 55, inclusive.

Multi-Use Trail and Campground Restrictions: Trapping is prohibited (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), within 250 feet of specific multi-use trails, their trailheads, and campgrounds, as defined below:

Resurrection Pass Trail (Cooper Landing to Hope)

Lower Russian Lake Trail to Barber Cabin and to Russian River Falls

Crescent Creek Trail (Trailhead at Quartz Creek Road to bridge over Crescent Creek at outlet of Crescent Lake)

Crescent Creek Campground

Russian River Campground

Old Sterling Highway (Quartz Creek Road to Tern Lake)

Quartz Creek Campground

Bean Creek Trail (from Slaughter Ridge Road to where the Bean Creek Trail intersects the Resurrection Pass Trail).

Sunrise East Track Trail that starts 50 feet up Russian Gap Road from where Russian Gap Road intersects the Sterling Highway, to the end of the Sunrise East Track Trail. (Sunrise East Track Trail travels from its intersection with Russian Gap Road, directly behind the Russian Gap Subdivision, and continues easterly for about four miles along the Bench below Russian Gap).

West Juneau Creek Road. This gated Chugach National Forest Service Road starts near the broad parking lot that fronts the Cooper Landing Trailhead for the Resurrection Pass Trail, along the Sterling Highway. It travels north and easterly, on Juneau Creek Bench, for about three miles.

Stetson Creek Trail to the Stetson Creek Falls.

### Special Area Closures

1) Kenai Lake Beach Closure. South side of Kenai Lake, from Snug Harbor Road/Sterling Highway intersection, to mile 6.5 of Snug Harbor Road. The area from the north side and west side of Snug Harbor Road on the Cecil Rhode Mountain side – the right hand side of the road when traveling towards Cooper Lake - to Kenai Lake inclusive of the shoreline is closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

2) Kenai Lake Beach Closure. North side of Kenai Lake, from the bridge at Kenai Lake, along the Sterling Highway, to the Sterling Highway/Quartz Creek Road intersection. The area from the south side of the Sterling Highway to Kenai Lake inclusive of the shoreline is closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

3) Kenai Lake Beach Closure. North side of Kenai Lake, from the Quartz Creek/ Sterling Highway intersection, to the end of Williams road. The area from the north side of the above named roads to Kenai Lake inclusive of the shoreline is closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

4) Kenai Lake Beach Closure. North side of Kenai Lake, from the end of Williams Road, heading south east along the shore line of Kenai Lake, will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten), for 2 miles within 250 feet of Kenai Lake.

5) Cooper Landing “Organic Dump/ Old Borough Gravel Pit” Closure. The Cooper Landing Organic Dump, which is located in an old KPB gravel pit located at approximately mile 2.5 of Snug Harbor Road (just prior to where the large power line crosses over Kenai Lake), is closed to trapping (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), 250 feet outside of the perimeter of the old KPB gravel pit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Purpose of our proposal: The community of Cooper Landing is the location of many of the most important, heavily used trailheads and jumping off points into the Chugach National Forest and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge on the Central Kenai Peninsula. It is also the home to a number of populated neighborhoods spread throughout the length and breadth of the community. As such, it is a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds including resident and visiting hikers, bikers, skiers, snowshoe-ers, ski joure-ers, mushers, berry pickers, birders, dog walkers, fishermen, hunters and trappers. Conflicts between trappers and other user groups have led to the formation of a cross-community group we call the “Safe Public Lands Coalition” to put forth the following regulatory proposal.

The purpose of this proposal is to ensure equitable access, during the trapping season, to trails and other areas where the presence of physically dangerous traps and snares endangers pets and small children and discourages other users from accessing these areas. Specifically, worries about trapping hazards in key, multi-use areas around our community severely restricts the ability of bird hunters to hunt with their dogs, of responsible dog owners to safely walk with their dogs even when leashed, of ski joure-ers and mushers to ski and sled with their dogs, and of families with small children to use trails without the worry of injury, as traps may, at present, be legally set in and directly adjacent to these multi-use areas. Beside resident trappers, who typically support the ethical principles of the Alaska Trappers Association and who work to trap in a manner that is cooperative with other user groups, our community sees many trappers arriving from distant communities and setting traps directly along roads, in and along trails, and not checking their sets on a regular basis. The danger created by unethically set traps has prompted the need for this regulatory proposal. Our proposal is aimed at minimizing or ending the risk of injury, mutilation and death to pet animals, notably dogs and puppies, and to small children.

Clearly definable, easily recognizable, coherent, reasonable and not excessive regulations are needed. Our objective is to make these regulations for the Cooper Landing area obvious enough to satisfy the stipulation of being "enforceable" areas. This simply means that a wildlife trooper would recognize that there are boundaries and trappers, pet owners and family groups would



know without uncertainty where all users can go and avoid run ins with set traps. Our concept is to include exceptions for possible small size (to be determined) non-lethal leg hold traps and game management special concerns in specific areas that affect residents of Cooper Landing.

We submit our proposal with the understanding that it is amendable and can be adjusted before the Board of Game meeting to include our concerns and those of trappers and game managers that we may have overlooked. We haven't considered any other options for solving this trapping issue to be realistic, but we have rejected offers to make informal agreements with the Alaska Trappers Association. We believe we need formal arrangements as based on our proposal. Unless we establish our proposal, we see that user conflicts will continue and become more frequent as the dynamics of our rural Cooper Landing community change and a greater number younger people settle and families grow.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ken Green (EG-C14-252)

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**PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

Restrict trapping in the Seward and Moose Pass areas as follows:

Proposal for trapping restrictions in Seward and Moose Pass areas as enumerated by roads, multi-use trails and campgrounds, and specific special area closures.

(For the purpose of this proposal, the Seward and Moose Pass area is defined as the corridor from Tern Lake to Tonsina Creek including a portion of the Resurrection River Valley.)

Road Restrictions: Trapping is prohibited (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), within 250 feet of any roads (public roads that serve as arteries to private properties and public use areas from the junction of the Seward Highway and the Sterling Highway south to mile zero in Seward) that lead to public or private property, and the boundaries of all private property, in the Seward and Moose Pass areas.

Multi-Use Trail and Campground Restrictions: Trapping is prohibited (with the exception of small size leg-hold traps to be determined), within 250 feet of specific multi-use trails, their trailheads, and campgrounds, as defined below:

The mile 12/divide ski area

Tonsina Trail from the Lowell Point State Recreational Site upper parking lot to the southern stream of Tonsina Creek within Caines Head State Recreation Area

Spruce Creek drainage from the junction with Resurrection Bay upstream for 1/2 mile

Grouse Lake

Iditarod trail corridor from Nash Road to Vagt Lake

Alaska Railroad corridor from Seward to the ARR bridge over Trail Creek

City of Seward powerline beginning at Grouse Lake to Moose Pass

Chugach Electric Association powerline beginning at Moose Pass to Tern Lake

From the north end of Rainforest Circle upstream in unnamed creek for 1/2 mile

Lost Creek Trail  
Resurrection River Trail  
Mount Alice Trail  
From the north end of Spruce Drive upstream in unnamed creek for 1/2 mile  
Bear Lake  
Lost Lake Trail  
Troop Lake Trail  
Grayling Lake Trail  
Meridian Lake Trail  
Primrose Campground  
Primrose Trail  
Victor Creek Trail  
Ptarmigan Campground  
Ptarmigan Lake Trail  
Trail River Campground  
Lower Trail Lake  
Upper Trail Lake  
Vagt Lake Trail  
Grant Lake Trail (Trail to Case Mine)  
Grant Lake Portage Trail  
Johnson Pass Trail  
Carter and Crescent Lakes Trail  
Crescent Creek Trail  
Tern Lake Day Use Area  
Tern Lake

#### Special Area Closures

1. Herman Leirer Road to NPS Boundary Closure. North side of the Herman Leirer Road to the north edge of the Resurrection River Valley will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).
2. Box Canyon Drainage Closure. Entire drainage as defined as from the bridge on the Herman Leirer Road over Box Canyon Creek upstream for 1.5 miles will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).
3. South of Bear Lake Closure. The area south of the south shore of Bear Lake to the north side of Glacier Creek will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).
4. Afognak Beach (local name) Closure. The shoreline of the northeast corner of Resurrection Bay will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

5. A portion of the Shoreline of Resurrection Bay. The shoreline of Resurrection Bay restricted by the south end of Fourth of July drainage and the north end of the Spring Creek drainage will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

6. Fourth of July Drainage Closure. From the junction of Fourth of July Creek with the shoreline of Resurrection Bay 2 miles upstream will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

7. Head of Resurrection Bay Closure. The area bounded by Nash Road on the north and east to the shoreline of Resurrection Bay on the south, the DOT Seward airport and a portion of the Seward Highway on the west will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

8. A portion of the Shoreline of Kenai Lake. The shoreline of Kenai Lake from the Primrose Campground south, east and then north to Schilter Creek will be closed to trapping (with the exception of size 3 leg-hold traps for marten).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Purpose of our proposal: The communities of Seward and Moose Pass enjoy access to many heavily used trailheads of the Chugach National Forest and lands owned by the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the State of Alaska. Enthusiasts of all kinds including resident and visiting hikers, bikers, skiers, snowshoers, skijoreers, mushers, berry pickers, birders, dog walkers, fishermen, hunters and trappers enjoy easy access to the outdoors. Conflicts between trappers and other user groups have led to the formation of a cross-community group we call the “Safe Public Lands Coalition” to put forth the following regulatory proposal.

The purpose of this proposal is to ensure equitable access, during the trapping season, to trails and other areas where the presence of physically dangerous traps and snares endangers pets and small children and discourages other users from accessing these areas. Specifically, worries about trapping hazards in key, multi-use areas around our communities severely restrict the ability of responsible dog owners to safely walk with their dogs even when leashed, of skijoreers and mushers to ski and sled with their dogs, and of families with small children to use trails without the worry of injury or witnessing pets caught in traps, as traps may, at present, be legally set in and directly adjacent to these multi-use areas. The danger created by unethically set traps has prompted the need for this regulatory proposal. Our proposal is aimed at minimizing or ending the risk of injury, mutilation and death to pet animals, notably dogs, and to small children.

Clearly definable, easily recognizable, coherent, reasonable and not excessive regulations are needed. Our objective is to make these regulations for the Seward and Moose Pass areas obvious enough to satisfy the stipulation of being "enforceable" areas. This simply means that a wildlife trooper would recognize that there are boundaries and trappers, pet owners and family groups would know without uncertainty where all users can go and avoid set traps. Our concept is to include exceptions for possible small size (to be determined) non-lethal leg-hold traps and game management special concerns in specific areas that affect residents of Seward and Moose Pass.

We submit our proposal with the understanding that it is amendable and can be adjusted before the Board of Game meeting to include our concerns and those of trappers and game managers that we may have overlooked. We haven't considered any other options for solving this trapping issue to be realistic, but we have rejected offers to make informal agreements with the Alaska Trappers Association. We believe we need formal arrangements as based on our proposal. Unless this proposal is established, we anticipate that user conflicts will continue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Luttrell (EG-C14-271)  
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**PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Prohibit the taking of big game from boats in Units 7 and 15 in coastal or estuarine waters, with an exception for persons with disabilities as follows:

The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080: from a boat **in coastal or estuarine waters in Units 7 and 15; however a person with physical disabilities as defined in AS 16.05.940, may hunt from a boat under authority of a permit issued by the department.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Black bear harvest in Unit 15C is at the upper end of sustainable limits and big game, particularly mountain goats and black bear in Units 7 and 15, are being shot at from boats and animals are being wounded and lost.

**PROPOSED BY:** Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-206)  
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**PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.** Create a management area for Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C as follows:

The following management areas are subject to special restrictions:

**(1)The Kachemak Bay Management Area:**

**(A) the area consists of the land as designated as the Kachemak Bay State Park**

**(B) the area is open to hunting under regulations governing Unit 15(C), except as follows:**

**i. Restrictions will be considered under an open public process and submitted to the board to be included in this Special Management Area.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This is a place holder to create a special management area consisting of the statutory boundaries designated as the Kachemak Bay State Park 41.21.131. This proposal creates a special management area to create consistent long range guidance to assist involved agencies in cooperatively managing the area of overlap of their legislative mandated responsibilities within the Kachemak Bay State Park (KBSP) AS 41.21.130-143 and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (KBCHA) AS 16.20.590.

This special management area will be designed to address and promote the significance of this accessible habitat with its wildlife and resources; to uphold the goals and policies pertaining to management, activities, biological considerations and the importance of wildlife in these parks from both management plans of the KBSP and KBCHA and; and for the safety of the tens of thousands of multiple users who visit this Park each year.

Recent surveys by the ADF&G quantified wildlife's economic importance to Alaska and the United States citizens. These surveys produced data to measure direct and indirect spending, jobs, and associated economic activity of wildlife participants who contribute to our economic health. Strong healthy wildlife populations are economic generators to local municipalities and state coffers spent by all citizens who share the wildlife resource. This area has unique essential significance to the State of Alaska requiring management under the guidance and cooperation of a special management area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens Advisory Board (EG-C14-289)

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