

# **Bear Baiting**

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**PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** Prohibit the use of chocolate at bear bait stations as follows:

The use of chocolate as bear bait is not allowed in all units.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like for all bear baiting to not allow the use of chocolate as bait. This is for all units. Studies have shown that chocolate has a dangerous effect on bears and may even kill cubs. It is easy to use other products without this one.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nicholas Humphreys (EG-C15-011)  
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**PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures; and 92.990. Definitions.** Clarify and restrict the use of liquids at bear bait stations as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.044(8) to read: only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait;

- (A) A person may not use liquid bait except for:**
  - (i) Pouring over or mixing with other absorbent bait that is contained in a receptacle such as a barrel, pail or drum.**
  - (ii) For this section absorbent bait means, bait that is dry in nature such as commercial dog food, breads, grains, or other biodegradable bait that absorbs liquid.**
  - (iii) Liquid means a biodegradable fluid that readily flows.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There have been several proposals dealing with removing “contaminated soil” from a bait site. We understand the language under the regulation does not define “contaminated soil,” but this is the very common term used by those with the Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT). We are then dealing with the word “bait” and its regulatory definition. Within that definition, it uses the words “place to attract.” So the permittee is responsible for removing all bait/attractants, to include soil that has been contaminated (AWT’s interpretation). We believe there is room to improve this regulation conundrum.

First we must realize a bear bait site can never really be cleaned up well enough after hunting has been completed to not continue to attract bears or other game. Especially long time well established sites.

Secondly we have put other conditions on permittees such as a person may not use bait or scent lures within one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, or the Alaska Railroad; one mile of a house or other permanent dwelling, except that bait may be used within one mile of a

cabin if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system, as identified by the department in the permit, from the bear baiting station; business; or school; or one mile of a developed campground or developed recreational facility; all of which are in place to protect other consumptive or non-consumptive users and to protect property.

Thirdly we know of no persons who have been injured by encountering non-active bear bait sites, or private property that has been damaged by a direct cause of an inactive bear bait site. We have submitted new language to be added to section 8 of this regulation, to address those using liquid bait and who have been doing so negligently.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C15-056)

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**PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

Allow use of Northern Pike designated as invasive species as bait as follows:

All bait must be biodegradable. The parts of fish and game that may be legally used as bait are heads, bones, guts, skin or other parts of legally taken game not required to be salvaged (see current Alaska Hunting Regulations, page 26). **All parts Northern Pike taken from areas where they are designated as an "invasive species" may be used as bait.** In Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used for bait.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern Pike are designated as an invasive species in southcentral Alaska. Pike not retained must be disposed of in a responsible manner to include returning dead pike to the water. Live pike may not be returned to the water. Bear baiting regulations state "All bait must be biodegradable. The parts of fish and game that may be legally used as bait are heads, bones, guts, skin or other parts of legally taken game not required to be salvaged (see current Alaska Hunting Regulations). In Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used for bait." The use of whole fish designated as an "invasive species" on black bear bait sites would provide a use for pike not retained for human consumption. Additionally it would provide incentive to fish for pike.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Lane (EG-C15-005)

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**PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 92.044(8). Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** Allow the use of game as bait as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.044(8) to read: only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if [FISH OR] game is used as bait, **it must be in accordance with 5 AAC 92.210 [ONLY THE HEAD, BONES, VISCERA, OR SKIN OF LEGALLY HARVESTED FISH AND GAME]; if legally harvested fish is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, and skin can be used,** except that in Units 7 and 15 fish or fish parts may not be used as bait.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The use of game for bait. Currently the regulation does not allow the use of furbearers such as beavers, muskrats or bear meat for bait where the meat does not have to be salvaged. This should be changed because we believe this was an oversight in the permit conditions. Many Alaskans have been using game like beaver for many years and bear baiting classes given by the Department of Fish and Game have recommended such practices.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C15-061)  
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**PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

Remove the requirement to remove all contaminated soil from bear bait stations as follows:

Specifically remove the black bear bait permit condition "must remove all contaminated soil."

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The discretionary condition for black bear bait sites "must remove all contaminated soil" is a source of unnecessary anxiety for hunters who have registered black bear bait stations. It is felt that it can be used by overzealous enforcement to persecute hunters by individuals of authority who personally oppose bear baiting. This condition was never mandated by the Board of Game.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-C15-094)  
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**PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

Amend bear baiting regulations to require specific locations to be given at the time of registration and to update the nomenclature of the signs required as follows:

**5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** (a) A person may not establish a bear bait station to hunt bear with the use of bait or scent lures without first obtaining a permit from the department under this section.

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions:

...  
(7) a person using bait or scent lures shall clearly identify the site with a sign reading **"bear bait station"** ["BLACK BEAR BAIT STATION" OR "BLACK AND BROWN BEAR BAIT STATION"] that also displays the person's hunting license number, and the permit number;

...  
(12) in Units 1–5, before a person establishes a black bear baiting station and places bait at the baiting station, that person shall, at the time of registration, provide to the department the location, in a global positioning system (GPS) format of latitude and longitude, of the baiting station on a form provided by the department.

...  
**(14) before a person establishes a bear baiting station and places bait at the baiting station that person shall, at the time of registration, provide to the**

**department the specific location of the baiting station on a form provided by the department.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The purpose of the sign is to warn the public that there is a bait station in the area, and there is some confusion from hunters as to what activities they can do at the bait site based solely on the title of the sign. Given that the reason behind the requiring the sign is to alert the public, we ask the board change this seemingly trivial title to more accurately state it is a bear bait station.

The department currently uses its discretionary authority to require specific locations of bait sites to be given in all areas of the state excluding Units 1–5. This authority is being questioned more frequently, and the use of bait is also increasing. Considering those two factors the department asks the board to specifically require the exact location of the bait site be given at the time of registration, before a permit is issued. The department considered asking for GPS coordinates to be required but is comfortable managing with just the specific location. Many baiters already provide the department with GPS coordinates even though it is not required, because of that the department does not feel this will be any additional burden on the public. Bait stations can only be registered in person at department offices where staff are available to help the public ensure the accuracy of their bait site locations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-C15-161)  
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**PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**  
Allow harvest of brown/grizzly bear at black bear bait stations as follows:

Statewide allow harvest of brown/grizzly bear at registered black bear bait stations, subject to the established seasons for brown/grizzly bear in each unit. No baiting of brown/grizzly bear in units that do not have black bear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There are only a few units statewide which have both brown/grizzly bear and black bear, that do not allow shooting brown/grizzly bear at registered black bear bait sites. Change the regulation to allow shooting brown/grizzly bear at established registered black bear bait sites statewide subject (of course) to established seasons for brown/grizzly bear. Black bear bait stations should not be allowed to be registered in units or subunits that have no black bear.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-C15-091)  
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**PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.** Remove the requirement to salvage brown bear meat at bait stations as follows:

Eliminate the requirement to salvage the meat of brown/grizzly bear when taken at a black bear bait site.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Salvage of brown/grizzly bear meat when taken at black bear bait stations makes no sense when salvage of brown/grizzly bear meat is not required otherwise (except when taken on in a subsistence hunt).

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-C15-093)

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