

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**Statewide Regulations Meeting**  
**November 10–17, 2017 | Anchorage, Alaska**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

The Board of Game (board) convened the Statewide Regulations meeting on Friday, November 10, 2017 in Anchorage at the Lakefront Hotel. Seven board members were present: Chairman Ted Spraker, Vice-Chairman Nate Turner, Stosh Hoffman, Teresa Sager Albaugh, Karen Linnell, Larry Van Daele, and Tom Lamal.

The meeting opened with introductions and board member ethics disclosure statements, followed by agency reports (see list of reports on page 9). Public testimony began Friday, November 10, 2017 at 3:25 pm, and concluded Monday at 3:15 pm. The board heard from 90 testifiers, 16 of who were advisory committee representatives (see RC 48 – public testimony list).

In addition to public testimony, the board held a town hall meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 4:30 to listen to additional comments and concerns by the public related to proposal 64 dealing with domestic and wild sheep and goat populations. The meeting summary (RC 94) and the audio are available on the Statewide Regulations meeting information website provided below.

Board deliberations began Monday afternoon, following public testimony. The board took action on 70 proposals, adopting 15, and deferring six to future meetings. Board action for each proposal is provided below. Actions are recorded as: C = carried; CA = carried as amended; F = Failed; D = deferred; and NA = no action.

The meeting material and audio are available on the meeting website at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=11-10-2017&meeting=anchorage](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=11-10-2017&meeting=anchorage).

**Definitions**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Monday, November 13 at 3:39:08 PM.*

- F (0-7)    1. Modify the definition of bag limit.
- F (1-6)    2. Modify the definition of youth hunt, allow youth hunters to obtain their own harvest ticket, and remove the hunter education requirement for youth hunters.
- F (0-7)    3. Modify the definition of regulatory year.
- CA (6-1)   4. Change the definition of edible meat for large game birds. *The board amended the proposal to remove heart and gizzards from the definition of edible meat, and clarified the definition includes the meat of the wings excluding the metacarpus (the tip section of the wing).*
- C (7-0)    5. Change the definition of a moose antler point/tine.

## **Unlawful Methods**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section begins Tuesday, November 14 at 08:35:40 AM.*

- F (1-6) 6. Allow the incidental take of up to two furbearers per year during an open season for other furbearers.
- F (1-6) 7. Allow the use of bow and arrow to harvest beaver under a trapping license statewide. *(Deliberations on this proposal also occurred on November 15 at 08:31:33 AM.)*
- NA (7-0) 8. Remove the same day airborne restrictions for taking wolf and wolverine with a trapping license. *The board took no action because it is inconsistent with Alaska Statute 16.05.783.*
- F (2-5) 9. Modify the land and shoot requirements for harvesting coyotes. *(Vote: 2-5)*
- NA (4-3) 10. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for taking big game. *The board took no action due to their discussion on proposals 11 and 12.*
- CA (5-2) 11. Modify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting. *The board amended the proposal to retain only the last sentence which reads “this prohibition does not intend to prohibit any flight maneuvers that are necessary to make an informed and safe landing in the field.”*
- F (3-4) 12. Remove the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.
- CA (7-0) 13. Clarify the regulation that prohibits the use of a “cellular or satellite telephone” to take game. *The board amended the proposal by adopting RC 80, Option 3 as amended, and Option 2, paragraph G as amended. The adopted language prohibits the use of any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, or communicates wirelessly, and is used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device. The board clarified the use of live cameras is prohibited. The language also prohibits wireless communication to take a specific animal until after 3:00 a.m., following the day after the use of the device, (excluding Delta Bison); and it defines “wireless communication” to mean “electronic communication of any form that is transmitted through the air without requiring any cable or wires between two or more devices.” The board clarified wireless communication devices can be used for targeted moose hunts, RC 92. Deliberations on this proposal also occurred on November 17 at 08:50:19 AM.*
- F (0-7) 16. Allow the use of high-powered air guns during regular firearms and muzzleloader big game hunting seasons.
- C (7-0) 17. Prohibit the use of airbows for taking big game.

F (0-7) 164. Allow the use of crossbows in archery hunts for hunters 60 years of age and older.

F (0-7) 14. Prohibit the taking of bears in dens.

NA (7-0) 15. Remove the exception for taking cub bears and female bears with cubs. *The board took no action due to their action and discussion on proposal 14.*

### **Cultural & Subsistence Uses**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Tuesday, November 14 at 02:50:56 PM.*

C (7-0) 53. Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds statewide.

F (0-7) 54. Modify the Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system.

F (1-6) 55. Combine the regulations allowing the take of big game for religious ceremonies and ceremony potlatches.

D (6-1) 56. Modify the community subsistence harvest permit conditions. *The board deferred the proposal to the February 2018 meeting.*

D (6-1) 57. Change the definition of “community” or “group” for community subsistence harvest hunts. *The board deferred the proposal to the February 2018 meeting.*

D (6-1) 58. Modify the salvage requirements for moose and caribou taken under community subsistence harvest hunts. *The board deferred the proposal to the February 2018 meeting.*

D (6-1) 59. Consider all customary and traditional uses as eligibility criteria for Tier II and community subsistence harvest hunts. *The board deferred the proposal to the February 2018 meeting.*

### **Falconry**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Wednesday, November 15 at 09:22:10 AM.*

C (5-2) 18. Remove the West Nile Virus testing requirement for raptors.

F (2-5) 19. Change the nonresident season for taking passage raptors.

F (2-5) 20. Limit nonresident falconers to take raptors every four or five years.

CA (5-2) 21. Require raptors taken under nonresident capture permits be implanted with microchips. *The board amended the proposal to require microchips for all raptors exported permanently from the state, including propagated birds.*

F (0-7) 22. Allow the take of up to five eyas goshawks by nonresidents.

C (7-0) 23. Update the falconry manual.

## **Hunting Permits & Harvest Tickets**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Wednesday, November 15 at 11:19:40 AM.*

- CA (7-0) 24. Define the term “equipment” for bear baiting. *The board amended the definition of “equipment” for the purposes of bear baiting to mean “barrels, tree stands, game cameras, and other items associated with a bear bait station. Tree stands may be left in the field year-round with permission of the landowner or land manager.”*
- F (0-7) 25. Require harvest tickets for all brown bear hunts statewide.
- F (0-7) 26. Animals harvested under auction and raffle permits will not count against the regular bag limit.
- C (7-0) 27. Modify the required permit hunt procedures for applying for drawing permits.
- NA (7-0) 28. Modify the Board of Game nonresident drawing permit allocation policy. *The board took no action due to the intent to address the policy under miscellaneous business at the end of the meeting.*
- NA (7-0) 29. Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident relatives within the second degree of kindred. *The board took no action because the request was adopted by the board in February 2017.*
- F (1-6) 30. Allow nonresident hunters to harvest brown bear, sheep or goat on behalf of their Alaska resident second degree of kindred relative’s permit. *(Deliberations on this proposal also occurred on 11/16 at 08:39:10 AM.)*
- F (1-6) 31. Establish a preference point system for drawing hunts.
- F (1-6) 32. Establish a bonus point system for bison and muskox drawing hunts.
- F (1-5-1) 33. Establish a ten percent nonresident moose drawing permit allocation.
- D (7-0) 34. In drawing hunts with a separate allocation for residents and nonresidents, all nonresident permits will be issued from the nonresident allocation. *The board deferred the proposal to the Southcentral Region meeting scheduled for March 2019.*
- F (0-7) 35. Allow nonresidents and residents to apply as a party for hunts having separate permits for residents and nonresidents.
- F (1-6) 36. Change nonresident general sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts with a ten percent permit allocation cap.
- F (1-6) 37. Limit nonresident sheep harvest to no more than ten percent of total harvest per subunit.

- F (0-7) 38. Implement a sliding scale bag limit for Dall sheep hunting for residents.
- F (0-7) 39. Implement a sliding scale bag limit for Dall sheep hunting for residents and nonresidents.
- F (0-7) 40. Allow nonresidents that have successfully harvested a Dall sheep in the last three years to apply for Dall sheep permits annually.
- NA (7-0) 64. Eliminate domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goats (*Capra hircus*) from the “Clean List” and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat. *The board took no action based on discussion which included comments about board authority for removing domestic sheep and goats from the clean list, the impact on domestic sheep and goat owners, an expectation for continued research and testing, public outreach and education, and a continuation of an expanded working group to identify solutions. ADF&G will provide the board with a status report at an upcoming meeting.*
- F (2-5) 41. Exempt rural subsistence hunters from the requirements for obtaining a waterfowl conservation tag.
- F (2-4-1) 42. Remove the nonresident guide requirement for moose and black bear hunts.
- C (5-2) 43. Allow the taking of Emperor geese by proxy hunting.
- F (1-6) 44. Allow the take of moose by proxy in moose hunts having antler restrictions.

### **Possession & Transportation**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Thursday, November 16 at 02:13:05 PM.*

- F (0-7) 45. Require antlers be sealed for all antler restricted hunts.
- F (0-7) 46. Modify the transfer of possession regulations as it pertains to guided and transported hunters.
- F (1-6) 47. Modify the transfer of possession regulations.
- F (0-7) 48. Modify the transfer of possession regulations to include reporting requirements.
- CA (7-0) 49. Require a permit before brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached can be sold. *The board amended the proposal to require a permanent mark on the hide and skull, the permit number be included in the advertisement for sale, and a report be required when the bear is sold.*

### **Intensive Management & Predation Control Areas**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Thursday, November 16 at 04:02:02 PM.*

- NA (7-0) 50. Provide clarification for allowing guides to register additional guide use areas for taking predators, and to restrict the take of predators in those guide use areas. *The board took no action because the request is inconsistent with Alaska Statute 08.54.750.*
- NA (7-0) 51. Change the implementation date for removing additional guide use areas under intensive management. *The board took no action because the proposal does not require a regulatory change; ADF&G has ability to implement administratively.*
- F (2-5) 52. Prohibit nonresident hunting of moose and caribou under intensive management until harvest and population objectives are met.

### **Hunter Education**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Friday, November 17 at 08:33:56 AM.*

- F (0-7) 60. Require hunter education for hunters 12 years of age or older, and those under 12 to be accompanied by someone who has successfully completed the course.

### **Permits for Possessing Live Game**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Friday, November 17 at 08:57:37 AM.*

- F (2-5) 61. Add Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec to the list of animals allowed to be possessed without a permit.
- F (0-7) 62. Allow the release of sterilized, feral cats into the wild.
- NA (7-0) 63. Prohibit the release of feral or stray domesticated cats into the wild. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 62 and their discussion on both proposals.*

### **Miscellaneous Topics**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Friday, November 17 at 09:43:07 AM.*

- F (2-5) 65. Close an area ¼ mile on either side of the Taylor Highway to hunting during caribou season, and limit the number of permits.
- C (7-0) 66. Update the Board of Game's policy for accepting agenda change requests to make it more consistent with the Joint Board Petition Policy.
- CA (7-0) 67. To comply with recent statutory changes, review and update regulations with minimum hunting age requirements. *The board amended the proposal with*

*substitute language (RC 91) and deferred portions to the Central/Southwest region meeting scheduled for February 2018.*

NA (7-0) 68. Create a new regulation to allow season openings and increased hunting opportunities in-season by emergency order. *The board took no action because the authority already exists for ADF&G.*

F (0-7) 69. For all antler restricted hunts, require hunters to view an educational video for identifying legal moose.

### **Miscellaneous Actions**

*The audio for board deliberations on this section began Friday, November 17 at 02:01:52 PM.*

1. The board agreed to send a letter (RC 69) requesting an attorney general opinion on the authority of the board and ADF&G to enforce community subsistence harvest permit conditions. *This discussion occurred Monday, November 13 at 03:11:41. (Vote: 7-0.)*
2. Member Larry Van Daele will represent the board on the Big Game Commercial Services Board.
3. The board approved a joint resolution (RC 93, page 9-11) supporting fish and wildlife enforcement in Alaska. The resolution will be considered by the Board of Fisheries, and if adopted, copies will be sent to the Commissioners of ADF&G and DPS, Governor Walker, and the leaders of the House and Senate. *(Vote: 7-0)*
4. The board adopted a revised policy on nonresident hunting allocation (RC 93 as amended) which will replace policy #2007-173-BOG. *(Vote: 5-1; 1 member absent)*
5. The board selected Kodiak as the location for the March 2019 Southcentral Region meeting. *(Vote: 4-3)*
6. The board discussed a request for a letter of support for the taking and use of golden eagles for falconry. The motion to write the letter failed. *(Vote: 1-6)*
7. The board provided direction for the acceptance of proposals and public comments as follows:

#### **Proposals**

- Proposals requesting non-regulatory changes including administrative, ADF&G discretionary authority, and board findings and policies, will be included in proposal books.
- Proposals requesting changes the board lacks authority to adopt due to Alaska statutory provisions will be included at the end of the proposal book, with a header explaining the reason the board cannot take action. The board suggested ADF&G provide a brief “analysis and recommendation” on these types of proposals.
- Proposals that partially make the call for proposals but also include a request the board cannot act upon will include a header explaining the reason the board cannot take action

for that portion of the proposal, with strikethrough lines through the wording the board cannot adopt.

- Requests that clearly do not make the call for proposals or are submitted late will not be included in the proposal book; the author will be contacted with a written explanation for the reason not included.
- Proposals with defamatory wording will be redacted or denied.
- Information will be provided on the proposal submission website to explain the above mentioned guidelines.

#### Public Comments

- Public comments must include first name, last name, city and state, and proposal numbers. Those without will not be accepted.
- Large numbers of comments on the same proposal/topic will be grouped together, listed, and provided on the website, they will not be printed in the board workbook.
- Comments having defamatory wording will be redacted or denied.
- Information should be provided on the comment submission website to explain requirements for comment submission.



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**List of Oral Reports**

**Friday, November 10, 2017**

1. Agency Updates/Reports (*Audio tracking info – 09:21:39*)
  - Commissioner Sam Cotten , ADF&G
  - Bruce Dale, Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G
  - Hazel Nelson, Division of Subsistence
  - Kristy Tibbles, Boards Support Section
  - Chris McGee, Office of Subsistence Management
  - Major Bernard Chastain, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
  - Bert Frost, National Park Service
  - Mitch Ellis and Carol Damberg, US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Karen Mouritsen, Bureau of Land Management
2. Summary of the Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae (*M.Ovi*) Study and Preliminary Data, Robert Gerlach, VMD – (*1:33:50 PM; see RC 34*)
3. Update on federal rules related to wildlife management, Sara Taylor, US Sen. Dan Sullivan Office ( *11:34:11 AM; see RC 18*))
4. Overview of permit process for selling skins, skulls and trophies, Natalie Weber, ADF&G (*02:54:28 PM*)
5. Report on compensation to vendors that seal fur – Bruce Dale, ADF&G (*03:04:11 PM*)

**Tuesday, November 14**

Chairman Anthony Christianson for the Federal Subsistence Board addressed the board. (*01:32:18*)