

Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2013-XXX-BOG
Board Direction Concerning the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy
January 15, 2013

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other wildlife users:

The Board directed the department to clarify the strategy with the following changes during the January 2013 meeting in Sitka:

- Base the bear population estimate on NE Chichagof Island on the most recent research data.
- Obtain a population estimate on South Admiralty Island.
- Wounding loss will not be included in the harvest mortality guidelines.
- Defense of Life and Property kills will be included in the estimate of total mortality.
- The department will develop minimum skull size for harvested females for use as a future tool to restrict guided hunter harvest of female brown bears, if and when necessary. The board intends for the department to inform the board of the department's intent to implement skull size guidelines before implementing them.

The Board acknowledges that the direction provided concerning these changes is the purview of the department under its discretionary and fiscal authority. The department will attempt to make the changes as directed, but may choose to exercise its authority in the future and make changes necessary to provide additional opportunity and cost savings.

The Board recognizes the need to have full cooperation by the USFS and private land owners in order for skull minimums to be successfully implemented. The Board will therefore send a letter to the USFS and private land owner leadership describing its intent and desire for the agency and NGOs to cooperate and work with the department.