



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
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Memorandum

To: Board of Game Comments
Boards Support Section
Juneau, Alaska

RC 010

From: Lt. Paul L. Fussey
Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Subject: Proposal 201. 5AAC 92.220(i). Salvage of game meat, furs and hides.

To the Members of the Board of Game:

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers appreciate the opportunity to comment on proposal 201 for the Alaska Board of Game's Southeast Region meeting to be held in Juneau, Alaska on January 9-13, 2015.

Proposal 201: Salvage of game meat, furs and hides. **SUPPORT**

In the past year, two high profile cases have shown light on the current wording of 5AAC 92.220(i) and what is deemed to be reasonable to retrieve wounded game. The reasonable definition is becoming harder for the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to enforce due to the recent cases and the broader definitions.

In August 2013 three individuals chased down a moose with an airboat, herding it and stopping several times to shoot at it with a bow and arrow, the chase ended when the moose ran into deep water. These actions were videoed by another hunter in the area and report to the local wildlife troopers. This case showed what is reasonable for one individual is not reasonable for another.

The second case involves an individual using an airplane, radio communications, and same day airborne to retrieve a wounded moose. These cases highlight the inherent difficulty the troopers have of proving an animal was not wounded before the methods were used to retrieve the wounded animals.

These cases were reported by other individuals to the troopers, further highlighting the differing public opinions of what is considered reasonable. The public needs clear and concise regulations and definitions to eliminate any confusion regarding lawful efforts.

The big game guiding industry operates under the more stringent definition under 12 AAC 75.340 (d) (1) use every LAWFUL means at the licensee's disposal to bag a wounded animal while it is in danger of escaping, or, in a serious emergency while human life or well-being is endangered. Big game guides operate under stringent guidelines and by applying lawful means instead of reasonable means eliminates confusion in the field.

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers understand some methods are already prohibited under hunting regulations; however, for the purpose of retrieving wounded game, exceptions have been added over the years to 5AAC 92.085 and 5AAC 92.080 that allow for the use of methods and means beyond what is allowed for hunting. Examples would be the use of a one leashed tracking dog, under the direct control of the handler, may be used to track wounded big game or artificial light may be used to aid in tracking, recovering, and dispatching a wounded game animal without the use of a motorized vessel.

Changing the regulation would allow troopers and the public a clearer understanding of what is a lawful or unlawful means to retrieve a wounded animal. If the regulation remains as it is currently written the Alaska Wildlife Troopers believe more resource users may find themselves defining what was reasonable in courts.

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers supports Proposal 201 and encourages passage of the proposal by the Board of Game.