

ACR 4—Reduce the bag limit for black bear in subunit 15C from three bears per regulatory year to one bear per regulatory year and similar language for Units 1-5 and 8 where a wounded bear counts against the hunter’s bag limit.

SUBMITTED BY: Dave Mastolier

MEETING ACR SUBMITTED FOR: Statewide Regulations in March 2016.

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD. 5AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Decreasing black bear population numbers south of Kachemak Bay in subunit 15C from Bear Cove around the Peninsula to upper Nuka passage.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Reduce the bag limit from 3 bears/regulatory year to 1 bear/regulatory year in the described area. I would also like the board to adopt similar language to units 1-5 and 8 for black bears where a wounded bear counts against the hunters bag limit for the regulatory year, “wounded” means there is a sign of blood or other sign that the bear has been hit by a hunting projectile.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

- a) **for a conservation purpose or reason:** The current regulations have resulted in a population decline and if continued will lead to a dramatic decline, a loss of hunter opportunity, and a declining economic return for the local economy.
- b) **to correct an error in regulation:** Not applicable
- c) **to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:** The current regulations of 3 bears/year in Units 7 and 15 were adopted at the time harvest opportunities were decreased in PWS. While nonresidents were only allowed one bear south of Kachemak Bay, the three bear limit was a marketing tool for transporters and more Alaska residents chose to hunt the coastal areas of the Kenai Peninsula than was anticipated as hunting success declined in the Sound and hunters switched locations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PRBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? If regulations are not changed before the 2019 Board meeting, black bear populations in this area will dramatically decline and hunter opportunity will be lost. Additionally transporters, guides, and local businesses that benefit from black bear hunting and viewing will be economically impacted.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. This ACR is not allocative in nature as loss or decline of this resource will equally affect all user groups.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGUALR CYCLE. Not applicable

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. I was previously a transporter/guide in this area (late 80's-2012). I have been out of the business for three years and am currently a hunter, bear viewer, and local resident. I am generally concerned about the decline in bear numbers. I enjoy taking my family to the described area for bear hunting and viewing opportunities but have seen a dramatic decline in bear numbers.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS APROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING. To my knowledge this ACR has not been considered before. The current 3 bear bag limit went into effect in 2011.