



## Alaska Board of Game

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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
Arctic & Western Region  
(Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A)  
Bethel, Alaska  
January 6-9, 2017**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

The Board of Game (board) convened the four day Arctic/Western Region meeting on Friday, January 6, 2017 at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center, in Bethel, Alaska. Six board members were present: Chairman Ted Spraker, Vice-chairman Nate Turner, Stosh Hoffman, Teresa Sager Albaugh, Dave Brown, Karen Linnell.) The seventh seat was vacant during this meeting.

Following introductions and ethics disclosure statements, the board listened to oral reports from agency representatives (see list of oral reports in Record Copy (RC) 1). Public testimony began Friday, January 6, 2017. The board heard from 33 testifiers (RC 37), 13 of which were advisory committee representatives. Deliberations on proposals began Monday morning.

The Board took action on 50 proposals, adopting 22, and deferring two to future meetings. Board Actions are recorded as: C = Carried; F = Failed; CA = Carried as Amended; NA = No Action; and D = Deferred. The meeting audio and all other meeting materials are available online at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=01-06-2017&meeting=bethel](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=01-06-2017&meeting=bethel). To listen to the board discussion, the audio log information is provided for each section.

#### **Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals**

*The audio log for board deliberations on this section begins on January 7 at 3:46:48.*

- F 1 Evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for the Teshekpuk caribou herd
- C 2 Modify the hunt structure of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds
- F 3 Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for caribou
- F 4 Institute no-fly zones for caribou hunting in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, & 26A
- CA 157 Set a customary and traditional (C&T) use finding, and establish seasons and bag limits for Emperor geese. *The board established a positive C&T use finding for migratory birds including tundra swans for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A, and a positive finding for C&T use for Emperor Geese Statewide. The board adopted resident registration hunts with individual area quotas and reporting requirements for Units 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 22, and 23 and a nonresident drawing hunt in Units 8, 9, and 10 with an allocation of 25*

tags. The board requested a proposal to address C&T a finding for migratory birds statewide be submitted for the next Statewide Regulations meeting.

- F 5 Change “general season” to “subsistence” for Arctic/Western Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings
- F 6 Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for caribou in Interior/Northeast Arctic and the Arctic/Western Regions
- F 7 Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for Dall sheep in Unit 26A
- F 8 Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Arctic/Western Region until harvest and population objectives are met
- F 9 Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Arctic/Western Region
- NA 10 Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Arctic/Western Region. *The board took no action based on their action on proposal 9.*
- C 11 Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for sheep
- F 12 Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep harvest allocation cap and change all nonresident sheep hunts to draw permit hunts in the Arctic/Western Region
- F 13 Establish a 25% cap on nonresident harvest of Dall sheep and make all general hunts for nonresidents draw hunts in the Arctic/Western Region
- NA 14 Establish a nonresident sheep harvest cap of 12% for the Arctic/Western Region. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 13.*
- F 15 Restrict the harvest of Dall sheep in the Arctic/Western Region to one every five years
- F 16 Establish a 90/10 percent permit allocation for resident and nonresident drawing permits for sheep, moose, caribou, and brown bear
- F 17 Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds
- C 18 Reauthorize resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A
- F 19 Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred.
- F 20 Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts

### **Bethel Area Proposals – Unit 18**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on January 8 at 4:11:16. Prior to the proposal deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- C 160 Extend the moose hunting season in Unit 18, Kuskokwim Area to September 30

- C 21 Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18
- CA 22 Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder. *The board amended the proposal to set the bag limit as one antlerless moose.*
- C 23 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18
- C 24 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18. *The board amended the proposal to remove the salvage requirement for edible meat and retained salvage of hide and skull.*
- D 25 Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19. *The board deferred the proposal to the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2018.*

**Nome Area Proposals - Unit 22**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on January 9 at 0:24:43. Prior to the proposal deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- C 26 Lengthen the hunting season for moose in Unit 22A
- C 27 Lengthen the nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 22A
- CA 28 Eliminate the nonresident moose hunt in Units 22E and 22D remainder. *The board amended the proposal to eliminate only the nonresident season for Unit 22D Remainder.*
- NA 29 Open a hunting season for caribou in Unit 22A by emergency order only. *The board took no action because the season is already in regulation.*
- C 30 Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 22C
- CA 31 Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 22B. *The board amended the proposal to maintain a one bear bag limit for nonresidents. (The board reconsidered the proposals on at 7:38:17.)*
- F 32 Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 22A

**Piuraagvik (Barrow) Area Proposals – Unit 26A**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on January 9 at 2:19:17. Prior to the proposal deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- C 33 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in the western portion of Unit 26A
- F 34 Lengthen the hunting season for wolverine in Unit 26
- F 35 Lengthen the hunting seasons for wolf in Units 24-26

**Kotzebue Area Proposals - Unit 23**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on January 9 at 3:08:00. Prior to the proposal deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- CA 36 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 23. *The board amended the proposal to change it to one antlered bull.*

- C 37 Lengthen the nonresident fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 23
- NA 38 Lengthen the nonresident fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 23. *The board took no action based on the action on proposal 37.*
- NA 39 Lengthen the nonresident fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 23. *The board took no action based on the action on proposal 37.*
- C 40 Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 23
- NA 41 Require a guide-client agreement to apply for a nonresident brown bear drawing permit in Unit 23. *The board took no action because the regulation is already in place.*
- CA 42 Allow the use of bait for black and brown bear hunting in Unit 23. *The board amended the proposal to set the bear baiting season date as April 15 – June 30. The board clarified their intent to allow both black and brown bears to be taken at bait sites the same day as flown, provide you are at least 300 feet from the airplane.*
- F 43 Allow the use of snow machines to position and harvest brown bears and furbearers in Unit 23
- CA 44 Modify the area of the Noatak Controlled Use Area in Unit 23. *The board amended the proposal to change the boundary of the Noatak CUA to start at the mouth of the Agashashok River and end at the mouth of the Nimiuktuk River. (The board reconsidered this proposal at 7:49:33.)*
- F 45 Require big game hunting camps to be three miles apart within and near the Noatak Controlled Use Area

**Other Regions and Statewide**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on January 9 at 6:52:31.*

- CA 155 Review and modify the Unit 15C Intensive management objectives and plans. *The board amended the proposal with substitute language provided for in RC 32.*
- C 156 Reauthorize the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Intensive Management Plan
- D 158 Remove the West Nile Virus testing requirement for raptors. *The board deferred the proposal to the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for November 2017.*

**Miscellaneous Business**

The board took the following actions under miscellaneous business: *(Audio log 8:09:22)*

The board approved findings (RC 35 as amended) providing recommendations to ADF&G during the January 2017 Arctic & Western Region meeting.

The board reviewed RC 14, draft changes to the Agenda Change Request policy submitted by ADF&G. The board requested it be scheduled for further discussion at the February 2017 meeting.

In response to a public request, the board added two regulations to the Call for Proposals for the 2017 Statewide Regulations meeting: 5 AAC 92.008, Harvest guideline levels; and 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.

The board reviewed and gave consent to the written report by ADF&G to the legislature (RC 31) describing changes in allocations between residents and nonresident opportunity, as required of ADF&G per Alaska Statute 16.05.050(b).

The board discussed changing the location for the Central/Southwest Region meeting, from Wasilla to Dillingham. The board deferred the decision to the February 2017 meeting in Fairbanks, and requested information about venue and lodging for Dillingham be provided.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:46 p.m.