

**PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Allow the harvest of beaver by firearms under a trapping license in Unit 16 as follows:

The Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee recommends adding Unit 16 to the units that allow for the harvest of beavers with a firearm under a trapping license. The regulatory language would duplicate that for Units 1–5 out of the current trapping regulations (see page 22): "Firearms may be used to harvest beaver in Unit 16."

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, under a trapping license a person may harvest a beaver with a firearm in Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 18, 19, 20A, 20C, 20E, 20F, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25. Currently this is not allowed in Unit 16. Of late, southcentral Alaska has experienced warmer and shorter winters, leading to unsafe ice during much of the Unit 16 beaver trapping season. Allowing for the harvest of beavers in Unit 16 with a firearm will aid trapper safety and increase harvest, providing some much needed income for trappers in an already depressed market. At this time there is no biologic concern for beavers in Unit 16.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-021)

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