

Possession & Transportation

PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 92.171. **Sealing of horns and antlers.** Require antlers be sealed for all antler restricted hunts as follows:

All moose hunters in areas where there are antler restrictions must have horns sealed and measured by ADF&G or authorized representative within (x) days of harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Regulations imposed on the Kenai Peninsula for sealing of moose horns has led to the realization that many moose taken under the existing antler size restrictions are sublegal. There is no reason to believe that the incidence of sublegal moose is any less in other parts of the state with similar antler restrictions. Regulations should be uniform within the state.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-106)

PROPOSAL 46 – 5 AAC 92.135. **Transfer of possession.** Modify the transfer of possession regulations as it pertains to guided and transported hunters as follows:

Add a section (d) to 5 AAC 92.135: (d) When a licensed guide or transporter, who is under contract by a person (hunter), possesses game taken by that person (hunter), for the purpose of transportation, that game will be considered to remain in the possession of that person (hunter).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Guides and transporters who are contracted by their clients should not be burdened with such a formality. Innumerable issues arise from the field to one's home or holding facility that can be extremely challenging, time-sensitive, and in many cases have safety concerns which are much more urgent than filling out paper work that is repetitive and ridiculous. Guides and transporters are very burdened with such a formality of filling out all of these forms, in duplicate sometimes multiple times. It is totally unnecessary and serves no real purpose. All of the information required under 5 AAC 92.135 is already in the possession of the guide or transporter and can be supplied to anybody that needs to know. Most of it is on the state-required hunt record or transporter form. This regulation in its current form is a deterrent to proper care of meat. One of the main reasons that a guide or transporter transports the meat while the client remains in the field is to insure quality meat care. It is brought out to hang in a dry cooled meat locker or some other facility to insure it is well taken care of. In this situation, the guide or transporter is acting as an agent of the hunter. 5 AAC 92.135 is a regulation that can turn a person who is attempting to act in a totally legal and reasonable manner into a criminal. Common sense needs to be used.

This was not the original intent of this regulation. 5 AAC 92.135 (b) says, "Upon receipt of game or a part of game, the recipient shall then be responsible to salvage the edible meat for human consumption." It was intended to allow people to permanently transfer possession of game and provided an avenue to do so and the meat still be tracked. It was not to require all of this paperwork to be filled out in duplicate in order for it to be transported an hour away, by your guide or transporter to be stored in a meat locker until you get there 15 minutes later.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-039)

PROPOSAL 47 – 5 AAC 92.135. Transfer of possession. Modify the transfer of possession regulations as follows:

5AAC 92.135. Transfer of possession.

(a) Unless the person who took the game is accompanying the person possessing the game, until all salvage is completed as required under this chapter, a person who gives or receives game or a part of game shall immediately furnish, upon demand by a peace officer a statement signed by [BOTH] **either** [PARTIES] **party** describing the following:

- (1) The names and addresses of each person who gave or received the game;
- (2) When and where the game was taken;
- (3) What game or part of game was transferred; and
- (4) The hunting license number of the person who took the game.

(b) Upon receipt of game or a part of game, the recipient shall then be responsible to salvage the edible meat for human consumption.

(c) A person giving, shipping, or receiving game or parts of game shall allow inspection of that game or parts of game upon request from a peace officer of the state or a federal fish and wildlife agent.

(d) This statement may be created at the time of the request.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Transporting meat can be logistically complicated especially with big game animals such as moose in remote areas. Having to fill out or edit a form that requires the signature of both the hunter and the transferee every time a quarter or chunk of meat is ferried to a different spot, is overly burdensome to the hunter and transferee, and sometimes isn't even possible if both persons aren't present. Most hunters try to do their best, but often it is hard to dot every "i" and cross every "t". This should not count against hunters when they are doing their best to salvage meat in a timely fashion, especially with the technological advances in communication that we have today.

As recently as 2008/2009, the hunting regulations stated that the transfer of possession statement could be created at the time of contact, and didn't require the signature of both persons. Unless we go back to something similar to what it was then, many well intentioned hunters who are complying with the intent of the law to salvage the meat will be subject to needless paper work infractions. We also considered having a temporary sealing certificate and/or a hunt record work as a transfer of possession for guided hunters, but felt this is an issue for all hunters, not just guides and nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association (EG-F17-041)

Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to impose regulations upon guides.

PROPOSAL 48 – 5 AAC 92.135. Transfer of possession. Modify the transfer of possession regulations to include reporting requirements as follows:

We would like the Board of Game to consider other options as well, but here is one solution:

Amend 5 AAC 92.135 to include a new subsection:

(d) if the meat from a guided hunter is transferred, a record must be kept by the guide of all transfers and turned into the Department of Fish & Game within 30 days of the close of the season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Guided nonresident transfer of possession of game meat.

The guide industry has stated that nearly a quarter million pounds of meat from guided hunters is “shared” with Alaskan residents each year. Currently, our Alaska Wildlife Troopers and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) have no way of knowing where that quarter-million pounds of meat ends up and what kind of condition it was in when it was received by the end beneficiary.

Some guides require their clients to sign a contract agreement that prohibits the client from taking the meat home, and nonresident aliens have strict laws in most countries that prohibit importation of wild game meat. Guided clients have no active role in the process of meat “sharing” and once they sign a transfer of possession form, the obligation to take care of the meat and where that meat ends up is for the guide to take care of. Often multiple transfers of possession take place after a guided hunter transfers the meat to a guide.

We know how difficult it can be to get a moose or caribou out of the field and to the location where the meat will be processed. Guides are dealing with multiple moose and caribou taken by their clients, and there are numerous reports of spoiled meat from guided hunters being dropped off in villages or to processors. No matter how often or how infrequently that occurs, we need a better way to track where the meat from guided hunters ends up and if it was taken care of properly.

A quarter million pounds of meat is a lot of wild game meat. The public, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, the department and the Board of Game (board), should insist that commercial hunting of our wildlife resources requires clear records on the transfer of game meat by guides.

This is especially important when the board considers proposals allowing nonresident hunting of wildlife populations that are not within the intensive management harvest or population objectives, under the guise of a win-win scenario whereby guides will take those nonresident hunters into areas not typically accessible by local hunters, and all the meat from those guided hunts will be “shared” with villages.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(EG-F17-080)

PROPOSAL 49 – 5 AAC 92.031. Permit for selling skins, skulls, and trophies; and 92.200. Purchase and sale of game. Require a permit before brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached can be sold as follows:

5 AAC 92.031 is amended by adding a new section to read:

(g) A person may sell, advertise, or otherwise offer for sale a brown bear skull or hide with claws attached of a brown bear harvested in an area where the bag limit is two bears per regulatory year only after obtaining a permit from the department.

5 AAC 92.200(b)(1) is amended to read:

(1) any part of a brown bear, except an article of handicraft made from the fur of a brown bear; [,] and except skulls and hides with claws attached of brown bears harvested in areas where the bag limit is two bears per regulatory year **by permit issued under 5 AAC 92.031**;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2016 the Board of Game (board) passed a regulation allowing all brown bears harvested in areas where the bag limit is two brown bears per year to be sold. There is currently no method for the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to track the sale of those bears. Adopting this proposal will allow ADF&G to track and quantify the interest in selling brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached.

There are concerns about the potential to commercialize the harvest of brown bears, and there is interest in knowing the magnitude of this use. The board may also need to distinguish between uses to make allocation decisions in the future. There are concerns about the current inability to determine that hides and skulls that are sold were taken in areas with a two brown bear bag limit.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-030)
