
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Revision to Staff Comments for Proposal 6
Statewide Proposals – Alaska Board of Game Meeting
Anchorage, Alaska – November 10-17, 2017



The following ADF&G comment was revised 11/3/2017. The original comment is available on the Board of Game Statewide Regulations Meeting information webpage at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=11-10-2017&meeting=anchorage.

PROPOSAL 6 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow the incidental take of up to two furbearers per year during an open season for other furbearers.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Allow 2 total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations regarding trapping can be found in 5 AAC 92.095 and in the current trapping regulations.

If a non-target furbearer is caught during the closed season for that species, it is the property of the state and must be transported immediately to the nearest ADF&G or Alaska Wildlife Troopers office and surrendered.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would allow licensed trappers to legally keep closed season furbearer and other species incidentally even if there is no season or bag limit for the species that was incidentally caught. This would also allow licensed trappers to target “incidental” species such as wolverine, lynx, wolf, and likely others during closed seasons for those species due to the value and opportunity provided by allowing for trappers to retain incidental furbearer catch.

BACKGROUND: There has been interest from trappers in the past to allow for the possession of incidental caught furbearers due to the time and effort involved in handling and processing

non-target catch. Understandably, the current regulations require trappers to turnover non-target furbearers to the state as they are the property of the state if taken during the closed season for these species. These non-target catches are typically processed and sold at the department's fur auctions every winter in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not present a biological concern. If the board adopts this proposal, the department will collect information on the incidental take when the hides are sealed.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional cost for the department.