

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Change the opening date for bear baiting in Unit 18 as follows:

For Unit 18:

Registering bear bait stations start date March 15;

Bait may be placed at the site starting April 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to change the start date for bear baiting in Unit 18. Register bait site starting March 15 and deploying bait starting April 1.

Travel conditions in mid-April are too dangerous to deploy bait most years. By the time the river is safe for boating, it is the middle of May and very little time is left before the fur quality on bear start to diminish. Brown bears tend to take long to start hitting the bait and very little real opportunity exist to harvest a brown bear over bait because of travel conditions and time it takes the bears to find the bait. Being able to put bait out earlier would be a lot safer and might increase the chance of a hunter getting a high-quality fur and or a good opportunity at a brown bear. The number of people hunting bears over bait is small and this change would not affect the overall harvest of bear in the unit significantly.

PROPOSED BY: Sam Hancock

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