

PROPOSAL 69

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

Allow brown bears to be taken over bait in Unit 21C as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.044(1), (13) to include Unit 21C, to allow the opportunity to take grizzly with the use of bait or scent by permit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To allow the taking of grizzly bears over bait. Unit 21C is mostly bounded by Units 21D, 24D, and 24C which allow the use of bait to taking grizzly bears by permit. We would like to align Unit 21C, with most of the other units for uniformity and have an opportunity besides spot and stalk. Unit 21C has a lot of vegetation not suitable for spot and stalk. Allowing an opportunity to take grizzly bears over bait would help in achieving meeting subsistence needs, amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 20-25 bears. Current harvest of grizzly bears (6-10 bears annually for Unit 21) for subsistence is well below the ANS of 20-25 bears. We see no biological issues if this were passed.

Re: ADF&G Brown Bear Management report from 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2014 (current report we have access to): *“For Units 21B, 21C, and 21D we achieved the management objective to manage for a brown bear population that will sustain a 3-year mean annual harvest of at least 25 bears, with at least 50% males in the reported harvest. The 3-year (RY11–RY13) mean annual reported and unreported harvest of 17.3 bears was below the harvest objective of 25 bears, and the population was probably increasing. With the current conservative population estimate of 350–400 bears, a sustainable annual harvest of at least 18–24 brown bears can probably be supported (5–6% of the population). Because males continued to be harvested at more than twice the rate of females and the average age of harvested bears was relatively high, the population was most likely maintaining a high level of reproductive potential with a gradually maturing age-class structure”*

Harper, P., and L. A. McCarthy, editors. 2015. Brown bear management report of survey-inventory activities 1 July 2012–30 June 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report ADF&G/DWC/SMR-2015-1, Juneau.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-118)
