

On-Time Advisory Committee Comment Index

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THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY



AC001
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Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Kevin Taylor, Chair

7221 Setter Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-243-1983

April 14, 2020

Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
via email: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Re: April 14, 2020 teleconference meeting regarding bear hunting seasons.

Dear Board of Game Members:

Thank you for giving the Anchorage AC the opportunity to comment before your teleconference meeting on the resident and nonresident brown bear hunting season in GMU 9 and the transfer of 2020 spring season drawing permits to a future year for both brown and black bears.

We all have had to make adjustments to our lives because of the current pandemic. We understand why the 2020 nonresident bear season had to be cancelled this year. Many residents of the state can maintain social distancing principles and do have access to hunt GMU 9 this spring and we would like them to have the opportunity to do so. We are hopeful that the 2020 GMU 9 spring registration hunt will open as scheduled for residents that can participate while complying with all of the government mandates.

We also recognize the financial hardship the cancellation of the spring bear season has caused to a multitude of people and businesses. If a spring 2021 registration hunt is planned in GMU 9 we would like it to be for both residents and nonresidents as long as conservation goals can be met. This will allow commercial operators a reasonable expectation to recover revenue not earned in 2020 and also give the residents the opportunity to hunt. With the current travel mandates there are still many residents that will not be able to participate in the spring 2020 hunt as they cannot travel to the smaller communities in GMU 9. We would like them to have the opportunity to do so in 2021.

We are in agreement that transferring 2020 spring season drawing permits for bears to a future year is a viable solution as long as conservation goals can be met.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Taylor".

Kevin Taylor
Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Chair



**Fairbanks
Fish & Game Advisory Committee**

**Interior Region
Fish & Game Advisory Committees**

Kirk Schwalm
Chairman
PO Box 83825
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Central
Delta Junction
Eagle
Fairbanks
GASII
Koyukuk River
Lake Minchumina
McGrath

Middle Nenana River
Middle Yukon River
Minto-Nenana
Ruby
Stony Hillina
Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Upper Tanana Fortymile
Yukon Flats

To: Alaska Board of Game

April 9, 2020

Re: special meeting via teleconference on Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Sent via email to: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Chairman Spraker and members of the Alaska Board of Game;

The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC) met on April 8, 2020 via teleconference for a regularly scheduled meeting. Fifteen of fifteen members were present. The FAC discussed the upcoming special Board meeting and the two agenda items contained on in the April 8, 2020 notice. The FAC voted by unanimous consent to forward the following comments to the Board.

As to agenda item 1, the opening of a spring 2021 brown bear season in GMU 9, the FAC has two concerns. First, the FAC wants to stress that all current resident 2020 spring bear hunts must stay open. The FAC is opposed to trading the current, albeit limited, resident opportunity for future opportunity. Second, the FAC is currently without biological information from the Department. The FAC could only support such a hunt if the sound science of the Department indicated sufficient harvestable surplus for the hunt.

As to agenda item 2, to allow to allow the transfer of 2020 spring season drawing permits to a future year, the FAC discussed many aspects without reaching consensus in support tor opposition. Once the Board develops more detailed proposals the FAC will provide additional comments. The FAC plans to meet May 13, 2020.



In general, the FAC discussed how hunting is inherently unpredictable and subject to a variety of factors out of our control. Several members have personal stories of past years drawing permits being unused due to weather, injury, or other responsibilities beyond their control. None of these individuals were eligible for a “make up” permit. Some members also have concerns over the “make up” permits displacing future year opportunity of others.

On the other hand, the FAC acknowledges the toll the nonresident spring bear cancellation has had on guides. The FAC appreciates the guide industry’s willingness to do its part to flatten the curve and protect rural Alaska. Transferring permits to future years may save many guides from being forced to return deposits, and prevent the destruction of another sector of Alaska’s economy.

The FAC also discussed whether any change to the permit rules should apply to both residents and nonresidents equally or if there was an advantage to separate the groups. The FAC made no decision on this issue. Also, the FAC discussed potential problems with hunters who would not be able or willing to hunt in a future year, and if there would be a mechanism to reallocate those unused permits.

The FAC understands the hard decisions the Board has to make and appreciates the opportunity to provide its thoughts.

Kirk Schwalm
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee Chairman

Cc nissa.pilcher@alaska.gov.



April 10, 2020

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Game,

The Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee fully supports a special meeting via teleconference to generate proposals to be scheduled for Board action at a subsequent, special meeting.

In addition to proposing opening a spring 2021, resident and non-resident brown bear hunting season in GMU 9 and proposing to allow the transfer of 2020 spring season drawing permits to a future year for hunting black bears in GMU's 1-3, and brown and grizzly bear in GMU's 4,8,10,14C,22 and 26B, we would like to suggest the following be included in the special meeting:

- Give close consideration to those non-residents who may be holding a literal once in a lifetime bison tag. This hunt would have typically happened in March, but because of the current travel restrictions and health mandates related to COVID-19, that was not possible this year. As it stands, these few hunters have lost their chance of ever hunting or drawing that bison tag again.
- Extend bear baiting season until October 15th 2020 for both residents and non-residents. This is due to the fact that many will lose out on their bear baiting opportunity this spring and summer with the current travel restrictions and health mandates regarding COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Herb Mansavage
Chair, MatSu Fish & Game Advisory Committee