

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Establish a season, daily and seasonal bag limit, and salvage requirement for Alaska hare in Unit 17 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
Snowshoe and Alaska hares		
Units 1–5	Sept. 1 – Apr. 30	Sept. 1 – Apr. 30
Units 6–26, except 14(A) and 14(C) and Alaska hares in Units 9, <u>17</u> , 18, 22, and 23 No limit	No closed season	No closed season
Unit 9 and <u>17</u> , Alaska hares only 1 per day, 4 total	Nov. 1 – Jan. 30	Nov. 1 – Jan. 30
Unit 18, 22, and 23, Alaska hares only 2 per day, 6 total		
Unit 14(A) 5 per day	No closed season (General hunt only)	No closed season
Unit 14(C) 5 per day	Day after Labor Day– April. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day– Apr. 30

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

(a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 84-5AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

...

(7) the hide or meat of Alaska hares taken in Units 9, 17, 18, 22, and 23;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently there are season dates, daily and annual bag limit, and salvage requirement for Alaska hare throughout the species range in Alaska (Units 9, 18, 22, and 23) except Unit 17. Given the ongoing research, continued low abundance, and public concern about this species it is important to consider a cohesive and comprehensive management framework for this species across the entire range within Alaska. Many rural residents have reported seeing far fewer Alaska hares in the past 1-2 decades throughout their local areas, and reconnaissance of Alaska hares by ADF&G staff in Unit 17 have yielded few observations. The Board of Game has made positive customary and traditional use findings for Alaska hares throughout their range in Alaska.

The current Alaska hare salvage requirement is described as human use. We recommend this categorization also be used in Unit 17. The human use requirement would be met as long as some portion of the carcass is used for human consumption, trapping, sewing, dog training, dog food, etc. This proposal would simply prohibit the harvest of an Alaska hare with no attempt to recover, eat, or in any way attempt to use part or all of the carcass. Trappers would be allowed to use a whole or portion of a carcass for trapping bait.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-037)
