

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Notice is given that the Alaska Board of Game proposes to adopt, amend, or repeal regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code dealing with the use or taking of game in the areas designated below, including the following regulations:

1. Regulatory topics scheduled for the Central and Southwest Region meeting, January 21-29, 2022.

For Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17:

- A. TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS for furbearers including: Beaver, coyote, marten, muskrat, otter, wolf, and wolverine.
- B. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS for all species including: Moose, muskox, caribou, bison, black bear, brown bear, Dall sheep, goat, wolf, wolverine, and small game including Alaska hare, beaver, Emperor geese, grouse and ptarmigan. In addition, the potential for identifying general, Tier I or Tier II hunting for each population, and the reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts. *(Note: Any changes made to the Mulchatna caribou hunts may also apply to Units 18 and 19.)*
- C. LICENSES, HARVEST TICKETS, HARVEST REPORTS, TAGS, FEES, AND PERMITS including: Discretionary and required permit hunting and trapping conditions and procedures; permits for hunting black and brown bear with the use of bait or scent lures; community subsistence harvest hunt permit conditions and area for harvesting moose and caribou; restrictions for Unit 13 Tier I and Tier II permit holders to hunt moose and caribou in other locations of the state; priority for subsistence hunting under Tier II permits; and brown bear tag fee exemptions. *(Note: Any changes made to the Community Subsistence Harvest Hunt regulations for the Copper Basin Area may also apply to Unit 12.)*
- D. METHODS AND MEANS FOR TAKING BIG GAME, GAME, FUR ANIMALS, AND FURBEARERS, including: Lawful methods of taking big game and game including the use of muzzle-loading and black powder weapons, snowmachines for taking wolf and wolverine, the same day airborne take of bear, and restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles and airboats for taking moose. Lawful methods of taking furbearers and fur animals including requirements for trap identification; restrictions for trapping near trails, trailheads, and dwellings; and taking beaver with the use of firearm, bow and arrow, submerged traps and snares, the same day airborne, and by disturbing dens.
- E. POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, AND USE OF GAME including: Salvage and sealing requirements including Alaska and snowshoe hares, sheep, goat, deer, beaver, and moose taken under community subsistence harvest hunt permits;
- F. RESTRICTED AREAS including: Areas closed to hunting including with airboats on the Tokositna River; areas closed to trapping including near dwellings, trails, trailheads, the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area, and the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge; management areas; and controlled use areas including the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area.
- G. INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS including: Big game prey population and harvest objectives including Mulchatna and Unimak caribou herds; and predation control areas implementation plans including reauthorizing existing

programs and establishing new programs including plans for moose in Units 16 and 13, and for the Mulchatna, Northern and Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herds in units 9, 10, 17, and 19.

H. CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USES OF GAME POPULATIONS AND AMOUNTS REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE including: Findings and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for Nushagak Peninsula and Unimak Island caribou in Units 9, 10, and 17.

2. Regulatory topics scheduled for the Statewide Regulations meeting, March 4 – 12, 2022.

5 AAC Chapter 92, Statewide Provisions:

- A. METHODS AND MEANS FOR TAKING BIG GAME, GAME, FUR ANIMALS, AND FURBEARERS, including: Lawful methods of taking big game and game including restrictions on the use of cellular and satellite devices, bow sights and range finders; aircraft, archery equipment, crossbows, air rifles, muzzleloaders, non-expanding bullets, mechanical powered body suits, deer urine, artificial light, and with the use of dogs; methods and means disability exemptions; and lawful methods of taking furbearers and fur animals including with the use of bird parts as bait, the use of dogs; and with the use of wireless communications and bow and arrow.
- B. PERMITS, PERMIT HUNT CONDITIONS, AND PROCEDURES including: Discretionary and required hunting permit conditions and procedures; special provisions for drawing hunts for sheep, goat, brown bear, and moose; permit allocation for residents and nonresidents including second degree of kindred relatives; permits for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures; nonresident guide requirements; restrictions for registration and drawing permit application and permit issuance including the transfer of permits in the event of a death and reissuing permits for military personnel; establishing protocols for issuing “any bull” moose permits in selective harvest hunts; requiring crossbow hunter certification at time of application; permit point system for drawing hunts; party permit hunts; and permits for falconry including the capture of raptors. Also in this section: Permits for possessing live game including emu, feral game, swine, and certain dog breeds; possession of wolf and wild cat hybrids; the release of feral or stray cats to the wild; bag limits for recipients of auction tags; and permits for selling skins, skulls, and trophies.
- C. POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, AND USE OF GAME including: Restrictions on feeding of game; using game as animal food or bait; sealing of horns and antlers; sealing and salvage of meat, furs, hides; game taken by domestic pets; and restrictions to bag limit including wounded game and white animals.
- D. LICENSES, HARVEST TICKETS, HARVEST REPORTS, TAGS, AND FEES including: Harvest ticket and license requirements for youth hunters, wounding game, and game taken by domestic dogs and cats; and taking of game by proxy including moose and muskox.
- E. INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS including: Control of predation by wolves.
- F. REGULATORY DEFINITIONS including: “bows,” “crossbows,” “primitive weapons,” “hunting gear,” “deleterious exotic wildlife,” “feral,” “full-curl horn,” and “edible meat.”

- G. GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS AND MANAGEMENT AREAS including changes to boundaries for Units 1C, 4, 19C, and 21; and legal activities and methods of use within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.
- H. GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS including: Requirements for hunter education and orientation including requirements for proxy hunters and possessing or presenting proof of completion.
- I. ADDITIONAL TOPICS: In addition to items described above for the Statewide Regulation Meeting, the Board of Game will address the following topics for other units which were approved through the agenda change request process, or in the case of antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fees, must be authorized annually: Annual reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions for all units statewide excluding Units in the Central & Southwest Region; seasons and bag limits for muskox in Unit 26 (Proposal 193), caribou in Units 10, 20 and 25 (Proposals 196 and 269); moose in Units 20 and 22 (Proposals 265 and 270); and sheep in Unit 19 (Proposal 267). Also, proposals scheduled for the Central & Southwest Region meeting in January 2022, may be deferred by the board to the March 2022 meeting for final action.

The board will also take action on non-regulatory items during each meeting such as resolutions, findings, letters, and delegations. Miscellaneous actions occur typically at the end of the meeting under miscellaneous business, but action may occur earlier in the meeting.

The proposed regulation changes are available on the Board of Game meeting information websites at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or from the ADF&G Boards Support Section Office at (907) 465-4110. Additional information will be added to the meeting websites as it becomes available for each meeting.

You may comment on the proposed regulations including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes by submitting written comments, limited to no more than 100 single sided or 50 double sided pages. Written comments can be submitted to the Board of Game online at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov; by fax to (907) 465-6094; or by email to dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov (PDF format only). Comments can also be mailed to the Alaska Board of Game, ADF&G Boards Support Section at P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526.

Comments must include a first and last name, community of residence, and the proposal numbers for which the comments pertain. Comments without this information will not be part of the board meeting workbook, indexed, or cross referenced with proposals, but they will be compiled and posted on the meeting information website. Written comments that are submitted are public records and are subject to public inspection.

The deadlines for receiving comments are January 7, 2022, for the Central and Southwest Region meeting, and February 18, 2022 for the Statewide Regulations meeting. Submission of written comments after the announced deadlines is limited to ten single-sided or five double-sided pages in length from any one individual or group and will be provided to the board members at the beginning of the meeting. During the meeting, written comments may be submitted by hand delivery; via email to dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov (attachments only); or faxed to 907-465-6094. As a practical matter, comments submitted after the deadlines are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier.

The Board of Game shall consider all factual, substantive, and relevant comments in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Alaska Statute 44.62.210. Comments having disparaging statements or personal attacks will be withheld or redacted.

The public hearing portion of the meetings is scheduled at the beginning of each meeting following staff reports and will continue until everyone who has signed up and is present when called has been given the opportunity to be heard. However, state advisory committee representatives may elect to provide testimony at a later portion of the meetings. Additional public hearings may be held throughout the meetings just before consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at the meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to three to five minutes, or less for the public and 10 to 15 minutes or less for fish and game advisory committee and regional advisory council representatives. Everyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should provide written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan. During its 2020/2021 meeting cycle, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic the board postponed its regulatory meetings to 2021/2022. In 2021/2022 meeting cycle, it is the intent to conduct the postponed meetings in-person. Individuals wishing to attend in-person meetings are advised ADF&G will employ a COVID-19 mitigation plan. The plan will allow for a range of mitigation measures depending on the status of COVID-19 in the state and meeting community. The plan involves participant registration and agreement to abide by mitigation measures at the meeting. A registration portal is posted on each board meeting website at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo.

Please monitor the board meeting websites for additional information, and updated COVID-19 mitigation plans for each meeting. ADF&G Boards Support Section will communicate expectations with interested participants leading up to and during the meetings.

TENTATIVE BOARD OF GAME MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

Central & Southwest Region Meeting

January 21-29, 2022

**Best Western Lake Lucille Inn
1800 W. Lake Lucille Drive
Wasilla, Alaska**

Statewide Regulations Region Meeting

March 4-12, 2022

**Pike's Waterfront Lodge
1850 Hoselton Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska**

Any changes to meeting location, dates, or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release and posted on the board's website. Please watch for these announcements or call (907) 465-4046. Please carefully review the **PROPOSAL INDEX and the additional proposal listing on the above-mentioned websites** for all specific proposal issues to be addressed by the board.

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence and general hunting or trapping regulations is hereby informed that, by publishing this legal notice the Board of Game may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE**

PUBLIC OR STAFF. Pursuant to AS 44.62.200, the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the hunting and trapping regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258 including reexamining customary and traditional use findings and determinations for amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses. After the public hearings, the Board of Game may adopt these or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or amend, reject, supplement, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.**

If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodations in order to participate in this process, please contact ADF&G, Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4046 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05, AS 16.30.

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 16.05.255; AS 16.05.256; AS 16.05.258; AS 16.05.330; AS 16.05.340; AS 16.05.346; AS 16.05.405; AS 16.05.407; AS 16.05.780; AS 16.05.783, and AS 16.30.010 – .030.

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE: December 15, 2021

/S/

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game
465-6098

