

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Allow the year-round take of brown bear in Unit 17 as follows:

Allow year-round harvest of bears in Unit 17. Legal harvest still requires sealing and reporting of bears but it is far less onerous on the harvester. Less burden on the shooters will encourage more complete reporting and better data for management needs.

Specifically: in Unit 17

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(15)		
Unit 17		
2 bears every regulatory year by registration permit only	<u>No closed season</u> [AUG. 20 – MAY 31] (Subsistence only)	No open seasons.
2 bears every regulatory year	<u>No closed season</u> [AUG. 20 – MAY 31]	<u>No closed season</u> [AUG. 20 – MAY 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Quite a few bears are shot in the "off season" in Unit 17 and not reported or sealed. Most of these might be considered defense of life and property (DLP) bears. However, people are generally subsistence fishing and conflict between bears and subsistence users prevent individuals from coming into Dillingham during this important season. The DLP process is extremely onerous and inconvenient, especially for those who live outside of hub communities. In other cases, the shooters fear prosecution or investigation and suspicion while just trying to put up fish, and gather food for the rest of the year. Therefore, shot bears are commonly disposed of without contacting ADF&G or wildlife troopers. There is a strong desire in many villages for reduction in bear numbers, especially in close proximity to their communities and subsistence sites. With a number of guides working in the unit, and with the intensive management program in the unit, there is a strong management need for ADF&G to have better bear harvest data.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? Partially, I tried to bring up the concept at the recent Nushagak Advisory Committee meeting but since development of proposals was not advertised or on the agenda, I was only allowed to briefly mention my idea. I was advised to submit a proposal and the advisory committee could review once it's in the proposal book. However, I did discuss this with area biologist who helped me with wording.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Dunaway

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