

PROPOSAL 9

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

Lengthen the spring and fall brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 9 as follows:

Reinstate the previous season dates of a 21-day season for both spring a fall hunts on alternating years.

Season dates for even years 2026, 2028.... 5/10-5/31 and odd years 2025, 2027... 10/1-10/21.

This will help alleviate the compressed air travel schedule, allow local residents the opportunity to make more revenue and allow hunters more time to be more selective on the trophy they pursue.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Season length for brown bears in Unit 9. While state website statistics are not complete, however a trend showing an increase of harvest of sows is up. This trend does not show a healthy population trend moving forward. With the shortening of the season more pressure is placed upon hunters that are going for once in a lifetime hunt to fill their tag and are more likely to shoot a legal bear instead of genetically selecting a mature boar that doesn't harm the overall population like a sow does. Since the season change, sow harvest has gone up 11% to 1/3 of the overall take.

An equal however different issue with the short season is the strain and safety issues it creates with an equal number of hunters in a compressed season does on all logistical operations. The number of flights and need for qualified pilots to get personnel, supplies and fuel to one of the most remote areas of Alaska in and out of the field cannot keep up with demand.

Subsequently the revenue generated for these remote villages and business has been impacted as well with only a two-week window for residents that stand to make money to help live in an expensive and logistically challenging portion of our great state.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Anthony Marchini

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