

2016

Bethel

Fish & Game Advisory Committee

MEETING PACKET

Tuesday December 27, 2016

Bethel ADF&G Office, 6:30pm

Teleconference: 1-800-504-8071 code: 5432709



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**Draft Agenda for
Bethel Advisory Committee Meeting
December 27, 2016 at 6:30pm
Bethel ADF&G Office**

Call to Order:

Roll Call/Establish Quorum:

Invocation:

Introduction of Guests:

Elections:

1. Expired Terms/Vacant Seats
Henry Hunter
Jon Lavalle
Wade Renfro
Thad Tikiun
Gary Vanasse (vacant-deceased)
2. Clarification & Selection of Alternates

Comments:

- Chair's Comments:
- Concerns/Comments of Public:
- Concerns/Comments of AC members:

(Note: If concern/comment needs more than 5 minutes, item should be placed on the agenda to be presented later in the meeting)

Approval of Agenda:

Approval Of Minutes:

- **March 3, 2016**

Staff Reports:

1. Fisheries Reports: (State/Federal)
2. Wildlife Reports: (State/Federal)

Board Of Game Arctic/Western Region Proposals (Comments due December 22, 2016)

GMU 18:

- i. Proposal 21 – Open a winter season for moose in Unit 18.*
- ii. Proposal 22 – Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder.*
- iii. Proposal 23 – Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Remainder of Unit 18.*
- iv. Proposal 24 – Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18.*
- v. Proposal 25 – Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 & 19.*
- vi. Potential ACR Generated Proposal - Change RM 615 (Unit 18 Kuskokwim Moose) season management window from Sept 1-10 to Sept 1-30.*

**Draft Agenda for
Bethel Advisory Committee Meeting
December 27, 2016 at 6:30pm
Bethel ADF&G Office**

Regional/Multi-Unit Proposals:

- i. Proposal 5 – Change “general season” to “subsistence” for Arctic/Western Region black bear hunts (GMU’s 12 and 18-25).*
- ii. Proposal 6 – Clarify resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and nonresident general hunting seasons for caribou in Arctic/Interior/Western Regions (GMU’s 12 and 18-26).*
- iii. Proposal 8 – Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Arctic/Western Region until harvest and population objectives are met.*
- iv. Proposal 17–Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds in GMU’s 12 and 18-26.*
- v. Proposal 18 - Reauthorize resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in GMU’s 18, 22, 23 and 26A.*
- vi. Proposal 19 – Remove the bag limit restrictions for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred in GMU’s 12 and 18-26.*

Other/Miscellaneous Business:

- i.. State/Federal Memorandum of Understanding.*
- ii. Bethel AC Rep for pending Board meetings.*

Next Meeting Date: _____

Adjourn

Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee Roster

Chair: Greg Roczicka
 Vice Chair: Glen Watson
 Secretary: John LaValle

Updated: 12/14/2016

Officer Elections Held: 11/2015

AC Member Name <i>Interest</i>	Email	Term Started	Term Expires
Robert Lekander <i>Undesignated</i>		4/2014	6/2016
Thad Tikiun <i>Undesignated</i>	tjtikiun@yahoo.com	4/2014	6/2017
Greg Roczicka <i>Subsistence</i>	groczicka@nativecouncil.org	4/2014	6/2018
Glen Watson Sr <i>Undesignated</i>	amukan@yahoo.com	4/2014	6/2017
Jaime Kassman <i>*Completing K. Carter's term</i>		4/2016	6/2017
Henry Hunter <i>Undesignated</i>		4/2014	6/2016
John LaValle <i>Trapping</i>	jonjlavalle@gmail.com	4/2014	6/2016
Henry Kohl <i>Watchable Wildlife</i>	hkohl@kusko.net	4/2014	6/2018
Louie Andrew <i>Commercial</i>		4/2014	6/2016
Jerry White	jerrywhite99559@gmail.com	11/2015	6/2018
Vacant		11/2015	6/2018
Rafe Johnson <i>Alternate</i>	rafejohnson@hotmail.com	4/2014	6/2016
<i>Vacant Alternate</i>			

Bethel Advisory Committee seats: 11 total, 2 alternates
 Quorum: **6**

2017 Board of Game and Board of Fisheries Meetings

Board of Game (BOG)

Jan. 6-9, 2017: Arctic & Western Region (*Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A*), Bethel, AK

Feb. 17-25, 2017: Interior & Northeast Arctic Region (*Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C*), Fairbanks, AK

Board of Fisheries (BOF)

Feb. 23-March 8, 2017: Upper Cook Inlet Finfish, Anchorage, AK

- Added to meeting: IN THE **KUSKOKWIM RIVER** SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHERY: Consider amending regulations for when 4-inch mesh set gillnets may be used during the early season king salmon subsistence fishery closure (*newly assigned Proposal 279 which was a board generated proposal at the 2016 Work Session, October 2016*).

March 20-24, 2017: Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues, Anchorage, AK

- Added to meeting: IN THE **KUSKOKWIM AREA** SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHERY: Consider
 - Creating a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim Area (*Proposal 275, previously postponed at the 2016 Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish meeting as Proposal 95*).
 - Establishing a permit system in the Kuskokwim Area for regulating the king salmon subsistence fishery (*Proposal 276, previously postponed at the 2016 Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish meeting as Proposal 222*).

March 3, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Bethel Advisory Committee

Date 3/3/16

Location of Meeting Bethel Fish and Game Building

- I. Call to Order: Time by [name of chair/acting chair]
6:42 pm by Greg Roczicka
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: [include role here by name ie: officer; designated seat; at large member?]
Greg Roczicka Chair
Jon LaValle Secretary
Henry Kohl
Thad Tikiun
Gary Vanasse
Jaimie Kassman alternate
Jerry White

Members Absent:

Glen Watson Sr.

Henry Hunter

Louie Andrew

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6

Motion By Gary Vanasse to appoint Jaimie Kassman to fill Kevin Carters previous seat, Second by Henry Kohl, motion carries

List of User Groups Present:

- III. Approval of Agenda: amended agenda approved by Henry Kohl motion to approve second by thad tikiun
Motion to approve agenda as amended by Gary Vanasse Second by Henry Kohl
Motion passes
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From [meeting date]
- V. Henry Kohl motion to approve second by thad tikiun
- VI. Fish and Game Staff Present:
Patrick Jones
Phillip Perry
Dave Runfola
Aaron Potter

March 3, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

VII. Guests Present:
 Marc Cloward Alaska Wildlife Troopers
 Spencer Reardon USFWS

VIII. Old Business:

IX. New Business:
 Update from Greg on BOF meetings

Alaska Board of Game Statewide Meeting, March 18-28, 2016, Fairbanks			
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
BOG	5		Modify the definition of edible meat for all game birds
OPPOSE	0	8	Motion to support LaValle second by White Could make wings for trapping illegal
BOG	50		Remove the requirement for evidence of sex for hunts with bag limits of only one sex
oppose	0	8	Motion to support Henry Kohl Second Thad Tikiun It is not a burden to keep the evidence of sex attached
BOG	51		Modify bag limits for nonresidents accompanied by a resident relative
BOG	52		Clarify the requirements regarding retrieval and salvage of wounded game
BOG	53		Remove the restriction that wounded game counts against the annual bag limit
BOG	54		Establish an additional statewide bag limit for big game species
oppose		8	Motion to support Kohl 2 nd Thad Too much room for cheating
BOG	55		Change the statewide brown bear bag limit to one bear every regulatory year
BOG	56		Prohibit the transport of hide and skull of black or brown bear from the field until edible meat has been salvaged
BOG	57		Allow the sale of brown bear hides and/or skulls
support	8	0	Motion to support Kohl 2 nd LaValle
BOG	58		Prohibit the use of chocolate at bear bait stations
oppose	0	8	Motion to support Lavalle 2 nd white
BOG	59		Clarify and restrict the use of liquids at bear bait stations
oppose	0	8	Motion to support LaValle 2 nd White
BOG	60		Allow use of Northern Pike designated as invasive species as bait

March 3, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Alaska Board of Game Statewide Meeting, March 18-28, 2016, Fairbanks			
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
support	7 4	1 4	Motion to support Kohl, 2 nd Lavalle Motion to amend To allow use of pike statewide.Henry Kohl 2 nd by White Could help salmon populations statewide with less pike in the rivers
BOG	61		Allow the use of game as bait
BOG	62		Remove the requirement to remove all contaminated soil from bear bait stations
Support	8	0	Motion to support Kassman 2 nd LaValle
BOG	64		Allow harvest of brown/grizzly bear at black bear bait stations
No action			Motion to support LaValle 2 nd Kohl
BOG	66		Allow the use of felt soles
oppose	0	8	Motion to support Kohl 2 nd white
BOG	67		Prohibit hunting and trapping from highway right-of-ways
oppose	0	7	Motion to support Kohl 2 nd Kassman 1 abstain Henry kohl
BOG	69		Prohibit hunting with domestic dog
oppose	0	8	Motion to support Kohl 2 nd white
BOG	70		Restrict the use of aircraft for spotting or locating big game species while hunting
oppose	0	8	Motion to support Kohl 2 nd LaValle
BOG	71		Clarify same day airborne prohibitions
support	6	2	Motion to support Lavalle 2 nd Henry Cons puts the burdon of proof on the pilot Pros closes the loophole
BOG	72		Establish minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunts
support	7	1	Motion to support LaValle 2 nd kassman
BOG	73		Establish minimum caliber ammunition for caribou hunts
oppose	0	8	Motion to support LaValle 2 nd kassman
BOG	74		Establish minimum caliber ammunition for black and brown bear hunts
support	5	3	Motion to support LaValle 2 nd kassman
BOG	77		Allow the use of artificial light for taking furbearers
oppose	0	8	Motion to support White 2 nd LaValle
BOG	78		Remove all requirements for identification tags on traps and snares
support	7	1	Motion to support LaValle 2 nd Kasman
BOG	79		Require traps to be checked every 24 hours
oppose	0	8	Motion to support LaValle 2 nd kassman
BOG	80		Move trapping away from cities with a population of 1,000 or more
oppose	0	8	Motion to support LaValle 2 nd Kassman

March 3, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Alaska Board of Game Statewide Meeting, March 18-28, 2016, Fairbanks			
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
BOG	81	Define the term underwater for the purposes of allowing furbearers to be harvested with underwater traps or snares	
support	7	1	Motion to support LaValle 2 nd White
BOG	103	Require Tier I subsistence permit holders to report harvest information	
support	0	8	Motion to support Kohl 2 nd Kassman
BOG	104	Require hunters to submit a subsistence hunt report	
support	0	8	Motion to support Kohl 2 nd Kassman
BOG	105	Modify the qualification under the Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system	
support	0	8	Motion to support Kohl 2 nd Kassman
BOG	126	Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18	
support	8	0	Motion to support White 2 nd kassman
BOG	131	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A	
support	8	0	Motion to support Lavalle 2 nd tikiun

Next meeting between april 20-25
Adjournment: 10:05

Minutes Recorded By: Jon LaValle
Minutes Approved By: _____
Date: _____

Bethel Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18 as follows:

The current moose regulation says: Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River drainage, one antlered bull by permit available in person in Goodnews Bay and Platinum, August 1–25. Season closes by emergency order when 20 bulls are taken. Permit number RM620, open season from September 1–30.

Add: by emergency order by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and/or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announcing the opening of a 21-day winter moose hunting season in Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River Drainage by permit only, permit number RMXXX. The permits will be available in person only at Goodnews Bay and Platinum. The hunt will open on January 1–31, with a bag limit of one moose, with a quota of ten moose to be harvested. Once ten moose are harvested ADF&G will close the winter hunt by emergency order. Hunters who harvested a moose during the regulatory year are not eligible to participate in this hunt. All hunters are required to possess a valid Alaska hunting license and one state registration permit, permit number RMXXX.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Native Village of Goodnews Bay hereby proposes a winter hunt of moose in Unit 18, in Goodnews River drainage. During the open season, from September 1–30, not all hunters are successful in their fall hunt since most of the moose are within inaccessible area(s) where there are thick brushes or are too far inland, away from the river. The main transportation is the boat during the hunt and at fall time, when there is lack of rain, the river gets really low thus hampering the hunters’ ability to go further upriver where most of the moose are. Not all hunters have jet outboards that they can utilize and by the time the season closes these hunters are left out and without much needed moose meat for their families over the winter. The winter hunt will not have a great effect on the population of moose in our area since the population of moose increases each year regardless of our hunt each year. We are seeing more cows with twin calves and with this trend we feel that the winter hunt is sustainable. Subsistence is our fabric of our lives and we cannot live on fish alone.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Goodnews Bay (EG-F16-049)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder as follows:

Add an additional nonresident season to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Have a nonresident winter moose season added to the Unit 18 remainder area. The area currently has an extremely high moose population that is still growing extremely fast despite the liberal season and limits for residents. This would create an opportunity to get a winter meat moose for people who have recently moved into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. Being that it is a winter season and most of the bulls

Bethel Area Proposals

have dropped antlers early on in the season, nonresident sport hunting is a non-issue. I would suggest an additional nonresident season added to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

PROPOSED BY: Jon LaValle (EG-F16-053)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.045(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(16)

...

Remainder of Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 moose; of which only 1 may be an antlered bull; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 1—Sept. 30
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2 antlerless moose; or	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
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2 moose	Dec. 1—Mar. 15
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
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...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current antlerless hunts were adopted at the January 2014 Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue and were reauthorized for regulatory year (RY) 2016 at the March 2016 Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2017.

Implementation of antlerless hunts began in 2007 and has continued each year due to increased moose abundance, productivity, and population growth along the Yukon River drainage in Unit

18. Based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, the Department of Fish & Game proposes continued antlerless moose hunt in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Bethel Area Proposals

Within the areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of 12,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 37:100 to 69:100, and twinning rates close to 50% for all areas. Population growth continues to be strong in this portion of Unit 18 and anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high. The population is expected to continue to grow as animals move into under-utilized habitat.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized, we expect harvest to be similar to the past three years and well within sustained yield for this robust population. Allowing antlerless harvest will benefit hunters through increased opportunity, and any increases in harvest may help slow the growth rate of the population in this portion of Unit 18.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-126)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18 as follows:

Simply add Unit 18 to the list of units that can take a brown bear at a black bear bait station. In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, **18**, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, 21D, 24C, 24D, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear. Hunters who take brown bears over bait in these areas are required to salvage the edible meat in addition to the hide and skull. Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears (registration permits and locking-tags may be required in some areas, contact the Department of Fish & Game for details).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game to allow brown bear taken over black bear baits in Unit 18. We have a harvestable number of brown bear in the unit. Brown bears are more frequently breaking into fish camps during times of limited salmon harvest. Would allow a better opportunity to harvest some brown bears in the heavily wooded river corridor and area of highest bear/human interaction takes place. There is precedence in other units throughout the state.

PROPOSED BY: Jaimie Kassman (EG-F16-108)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 25 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 83.

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 as follows:

Units 18, 19A, and 19B - Nonresidents:

One bull caribou by drawing permit September 1-30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of the drafting of this proposal, ADF&G states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by drawing should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit up to 50 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only

Bethel Area Proposals

issue 20 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities. This proposal is submitted for both the Arctic and Western (Unit 18) and the Interior and Eastern Arctic (Unit 19A & B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F16-010)

Bethel Area Proposals

Note: Proposal 160 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Arctic/Western Region meeting scheduled for January 2017.

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the moose season in Unit 18, Kuskokwim Area to September 30 as follows:

Game Management Unit 18 - Kuskokwim Area

Resident Open Season: September 1 – September [10] 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulatory hunt period for RM615 is limited to ten days only, resulting in lost opportunity and failure to meet harvestable surplus goals due to mixture of state and federal land management status in portions of Game Management Unit 18 with high bull/cow ratios (80:100 in some areas) that could be targeted to provide and sustain significantly higher harvest levels.

Within certain tributaries of the Kuskokwim in Unit 18 bull/cow ratios are extremely high – over 80:100 in some areas. The federal season window in this area is September 1-30, and in 2016 the dates of September 1 – 15 were implemented. Due to the large amount of state managed lands along and within the riparian corridors however, these moose – comprised of the same subpopulations – are essentially inaccessible in many cases. Additionally, the whole patchwork issue of state or federal lands creates an entirely unnecessary, unjustified, and burdensome situation for subsistence hunters.

In 2016, despite having a 15 day season and very favorable high water conditions, only about half of the minimum federal quota of 90 moose were taken (the federal refuge staff biologist estimated 110 as their 2016 quota sustainable for 30:100 bull/cow ratios). Having concurrent seasons within this lands management patchwork could allow for the combining, and increase, of both state and federal quotas; allowing extension of the season and expansion of the harvest in the targeted tributary areas referenced above. With this 30 day window, managers could then identify recognizable geographical boundaries that would allow certain tributaries to remain open longer for additional harvest, while the mainstem Kuskokwim could be closed when harvest in that section was deemed sufficient within sustained yield conservation standards.

Implementing this regulation would also greatly simplify matters for managers and hunters alike, as they would not have to wonder or worry whether they were on state or federally managed lands.

This effect of this registration hunt regarding reduced hunting and harvest effort on tributary moose populations in Unit 18 was entirely unforeseen when the current regulation was adopted. It remained unanticipated and unforeseen by users and management alike. The informative data reflecting the magnitude of the situation was simply and essentially non-existent or available until late into and following the 2016 fall hunt; 5+ months past the Arctic/Western region's April 2016 proposal decline. With the continued increase in the Unit 18 moose populations most of the Kuskokwim harvest now occurs along the main river corridor, and eastern tributary populations remain comparatively "unhunted" due to that easier access along the main stem, lower and westerly/tundra tributaries.

Bethel Area Proposals

If the problem is not solved, forty-fifty (or more) surplus moose a year will continue to go unharvested. Integration of state/federal hunt actions for shared/mutual goals will remain as much or more confusing for subsistence users, and highly cumbersome for managers. The situation as it is now “foreseen”, will only amplify, with expectation to persist, until additional opportunity is accommodated and a resulting increase in harvest for these areas is achieved.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council

(HQ-2016-ACR 12)

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Change “general season” to “subsistence” for Arctic/Western Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
Units 12, 18, 19, 20 outside the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,	No closed season. [GENERAL SEASON] <u>Subsistence</u>	No closed season. (General hunt only)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents taking black bears. Black bears in all these units have a positive finding of customary and traditional use, with one exception, and that is the bears that are within the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-083)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 6 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 53.

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for caribou in Interior/Northeast Arctic and the Arctic/Western Regions as follows:

	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
...		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway within the Tok River drainage	Sept. 1—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
1 bull		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage		
1 bull by registration	Aug. 10—Sept. 30	No open season.

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

permit only; up to
100 bulls may be taken
in combination with
Unit 20(D), in that portion
south of the Tanana River

Subsistence

Remainder of Unit 12

1 caribou may be taken by
registration permit only during
a winter season to be announced
by emergency order

(Winter season to be
announced)

No open season.

Subsistence

...

Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit
only; however, no more
than 1 bull may be taken and no
more than 1 caribou may be
taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

(14)

Unit 19(A), that portion within the
Lime Village Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit
only; however, no more than 1 bull
may be taken and no more than
1 caribou may be taken from
Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units 19(A) and 19(B) within the
Nonresident Closed Area

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit
only; however, no more than 1 bull
may be taken and no more than 1
caribou may be taken from Aug.
1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

Subsistence

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

<p>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Remainder of Units 19(A) and 19(B)</p>		<p>No open season.</p>
<p>RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31</p>	<p>Aug. 1—Mar. 15 <u>Subsistence</u></p>	
<p>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Unit 19(C) 1 bull</p>	<p>Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u></p>	<p>No open season. Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u></p>
<p>Unit 19(D), except the drainages of The Nixon Fork River 1 bull; or</p>	<p>Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u></p>	<p>Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u></p>
<p>1 caribou; or</p>	<p>Nov. 1—Jan. 31 <u>Subsistence</u></p>	
<p>5 caribou may be taken during the winter season to be announced; however, the commissioner may close the season and immediately reopen, by emergency order, a season during which the bag limit is less than 5 caribou</p>	<p>(Season to be announced) (Subsistence hunt only)</p>	<p>No open season.</p>
<p>Remainder of Unit 19(D) 1 bull</p>	<p>Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u></p>	<p>Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u></p>
<p>20(F), those portions south of the Yukon River, and north and east of a line formed by the Richardson Highway from the Unit 20(D) boundary to its Intersection with the Steese Highway, north along the Steese Highway to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then north along the Dalton Highway to the Yukon River, and Unit 20(D) that</p>		

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Remainder of Unit 20(B) **that lays outside the Fairbanks non-Subsistence area**

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

1 bull

Unit 20(C)

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 20(D), that portion south of the Tanana River

No open season.

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; up to 100 bulls may be taken in combination with Unit 12 in that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by registration permit only, during a season for up to three days that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during the period Oct. 20—Nov. 30; or

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 20(F) south of the Yukon River and west of the Dalton Highway

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence
[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

1 bull

Unit 20(F), north of the Yukon River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 caribou		Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
(16)		
Unit 21(A) 1 bull	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(B), that portion north of the Yukon River and downstream from Ukawutni Creek	No open season.	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 21(B) 1 caribou	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(C), that portion within the Dulbi River drainage and that portion within the Melozitna River drainage downstream from Big Creek	No open season.	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 21(C) 1 caribou	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(D), that portion north of the Yukon River and east of the Koyukuk River 2 caribou;	(Winter season to be announced)	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 21(D)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 caribou per day; as follows:		
up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;	July 1—Oct. 14 <u>Subsistence</u>	
	Feb. 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken	Sept. 1—Mar. 31 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; however, calves may not be taken		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(E)	Aug. 10—Sept. 30	Aug. 10—Sept. 30

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

1 caribou; however, 2 additional caribou may be taken during a winter season to be announced

(17)

Unit 22(A), that portion north of the Golsovia River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Unit 22(B), that portion west of Golovnin Bay, and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers to the mouth of the Libby River, and excluding all portions of the Niukluk River drainage upstream from and including the Libby River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1—Sept. 30, a season

Subsistence

(Winter season to be announced)

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

General season

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1—Aug. 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15—Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Remainder of Unit 22(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be Taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1—Aug. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken; during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Kuzitrin River drainage (excluding the Pilgrim River drainage) and the Agiapuk River drainage, including the Tributaries

RESIDENT HUNTERS

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Unit 22(E), that portion east of and including the Sanaguich River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Remainder of Unit 22

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

5 caribou per day; however
calves may not be taken;
cow caribou may not be
taken Apr. 1—Aug. 31; bull
caribou may not be taken
Oct. 15—Jan. 31

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken; during the period Aug.
1—Sept. 30

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

(18)

Unit 23, that portion north of
and including the Singoalik
River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

(19)

Unit 24(A), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, and that portion of Unit 25(D) drained by the west fork Of the Dall River west of 150 W. long.

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31

Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

General season

Remainder of Unit 24(A), and
Remainder of Unit 24(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:
up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Unit 24(B), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, upstream from and including that portion of the Kanuti-Kiloitna River drainage, bounded by the southeast bank of the Kodosin-Nolitna Creek, then downstream along the east bank of the Kanuti-Kilolitna River to its confluence with the Kanuti River

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31

Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

General season

Units 24(C) and 24(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

	Feb. 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken	Sept. 1—Mar. 31 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; however, calves may not be taken		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
(20)		
Units 25(A), those portions east of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River extending from its confluence with the Chandalar River upstream to Guilbeau Pass, Unit 25(B), and Unit 25(D), excluding the drainage of the west fork of the Dall River west of 150_ W. long.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou	July 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Remainder of Unit 25(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from May 16—June 30	July 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Remainder of Unit 25(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from M ay 16—June 3	July 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken		July 1—June 30 <u>General season</u>

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

from May 16—June 30

Unit 25(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21

General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

Subsistence

Dec. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21

General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

General season

(21)

Unit 26(A), that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from the Anaktuvuk River, and drainages of the Chukchi Sea south and west of, and including the Utukok River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

July 15—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 26(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—July 15
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however, no
more than 3 cows per day; cows
accompanied by calves and
calves may not be taken;

July 16—Oct. 15
Subsistence

3 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

Oct. 16—Dec. 31
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however,
no more than 3 cows per day;
calves may not be taken;

Jan. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

Mar. 16—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

July 15—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion north of
69° 30' N. lat. and west of the
east bank of the Kuparuk River
to a point at 70° 10' N. lat., 149°
04' W. long., then west
approximately 22 miles to 70°
10' N. lat. and 149° 56' W. long.,
then following the east bank of
the Kalubik River to the Arctic
Ocean

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; however,
cow caribou may not be taken
May 16—June 30

July 1—June 30
Subsistence

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30

General season

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1—Oct. 10

July 1—Oct. 10

Subsistence

May 16—June 30

Subsistence

July 1—Oct. 10

General season

May 16—June 30

General season

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and east of the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1—May 15

July 1—July 30

Subsistence

July 1—June 30

General season

Remainder of Unit 26(B)

5 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

July 1—Apr. 30

General season

(22)

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however, only bull caribou may be taken June 23—June 30

July 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

June 23—June 30

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on caribou populations that have a positive customary & traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and season on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

(EG-F16-085)

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Arctic/Western Region until harvest and population objectives are met as follows:

Nonresident hunting shall not be allowed for any prey species in the Arctic/Western Region under an intensive management (IM) predation control plan until the minimum intensive management population and harvest objectives for that prey species have been reached.

This solution will benefit resident hunters and the prey populations the Board of Game and the Department of Fish & Game are trying to increase for Alaskan consumptive uses.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident hunting opportunity in areas under IM predation control plans. IM predation control implementation plans to restore the abundance of prey species as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals are intended to benefit resident Alaskans. Resident Hunters of Alaska supports IM efforts to achieve these goals.

We would like to see the Board of Game adopt regulations that match the intent of our IM law. No nonresident hunting should be allowed in any area of the Arctic/Western for a prey species that is under a formal IM predation control plan to increase populations for the benefit of resident consumptive uses when the minimum IM population and harvest objectives for that prey species has not been reached.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-097)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered proposal 86.

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 92.990(26). Definitions. Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds as follows:

"Edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); **for all game birds, the meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs;** [IN THE CASE OF SMALL GAME BIRDS, EXCEPT FOR CRANES, GEESE AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST; IN THE CASE OF CRANES, GEESE, AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST AND MEAT OF THE FEMUR AND TIBIA-FIBULA (LEGS AND THIGHS);] however, "edible meat" of big game or small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Define edible meat for all game birds in Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C to reduce or eliminate wanton waste of migratory birds.

During the spring 2015 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) meeting wanton waste language was adopted similar language for the spring/summer subsistence harvest season defining edible meat “human consumption” as: the meat from the breast, back, thighs, and legs. We would like to place the wings, gizzard and heart in the category of “human use” which would allow these part to be used by humans for non-edible purposes, e.g., trapping. However, the head, neck, feet, other internal organs and skin are optional.

The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee would like the fall hunt to be as consistent as possible with the spring/summer subsistence regulations proposed by the AMBCC for the 2016 season. This is the customary and traditional practices in our region and all the included areas addressed in this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-092)



Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

(4) Units... 26;

...

(8) Unit 22;

(9) Unit 23;

...

(13) Unit 18;

...

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

...

(4) Unit 18;

...

(7) Unit 22;

(8) Unit 23;

...

(10) Unit 26(A).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. We recommend continuing resident tag fee exemptions for the general season and subsistence season hunts in the Arctic/Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for 4 years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 14 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for nine years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for four years. Tag fee exemptions are desired to allow: 1) incremental increase in annual harvest, 2) opportunistic harvest by resident hunters, and 3) harvest by a wide range of users. Increased harvest is allowable because portions of these units have high bear populations.

General season brown bear harvest rates are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest. In Units 18 and 26A, tag exemptions were authorized for regulatory year 2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 14-year tag-free period for residents has had an average annual harvest of 50 brown bears (range 41–63 bears). In Unit 23, general harvests have been increasing slowly since 1961 primarily in response to increases in human population rather than regulatory changes, although harvests are annually quite variable due to effects of weather on hunting conditions. Harvest data for Unit 23 show no trend in the sex ratio, age or size of bears harvested under all types of hunts.

Subsistence Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) registration permit, 2) tag fee exemption, 3) salvaging meat for human consumption, 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A, 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence hunt area, and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and front claws must be removed and retained by the Department of

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

Fish & Game (ADF&G) at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by ADF&G for subsistence hunts.

In all units, subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest. In Unit 18, we estimate one to three bears are taken annually in subsistence hunts. In Unit 22, subsistence harvest by permit is quite low, averaging less than one bear per year (less than 1% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 23, subsistence permit harvest is less than five bears annually since 1992 (less than 10% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 26A, between one and five bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-134)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 19 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 49.

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred as follows:

This new regulation does not solve any issues in the Arctic, Western, Interior or Eastern Arctic Regions and Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C should be excluded from this regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The new regulation, 5 AAC 92.130, adopted during the 2016 Statewide Regulation meeting is strictly allocative in nature and lacks a conservation basis. The regulation from the proposal reads as follows:

A guide required species under AS 16.05.407(a) taken by a nonresident personally accompanied by a resident relative under AS 16.05.407(a)(2) will count as the bag limit of both the nonresident and the resident relative who accompanies the nonresident.

This regulation was adopted without viable data on the number of nonresident second degree of kindred hunters and their harvest from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) for the Arctic, Western, Interior and Eastern Arctic Region units. ADF&G presented data that was admittedly limited and inaccurate, and this data was used as a basis for carrying the amended proposal 51 during the 2016 board meeting cycle.

The Alaska legislature took deliberate steps to provide for the second degree of kindred exemption. This was presumably done to allow residents to share their hunting experiences with close family, rather than to require residents to act as guides who are not allowed to take game while with a client.

This regulation allocates additional harvest to nonresident hunters by preventing a resident from harvesting game and as such is punitive to resident hunters. Additionally, the board recognized at the time that this regulation was based on choosing what was more valuable, a guided nonresident or a resident sharing a hunt with a family member, but unfortunately chose to side with the guiding industry.

PROPOSED BY: Kyle Jones (EG-F16-080)

Additional Proposals

Note: Proposal 156 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Arctic/Western Region meeting for January 2017.

PROPOSAL 156 - 5AAC 92.111 Intensive Management Plan I. Reauthorize the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Intensive Management Plan as follows:

(a) **Plans established.** Intensive management plans for the following areas are established in this section:

...

(c) Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area is entirely deleted and replaced by the following.

(c) **Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area: the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area is established to increase the Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) within Units 9(B), 17(B), 17(C), 19(A), and 19(B) to aid in achieving intensive management objectives; the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area encompasses approximately 39,683 square miles; multiple predator control areas may be utilized within the management area; however the combined active control areas will be limited to a total of 10,000 square miles, which is 25 percent of the management area;**

(1) **This is a continuing control program that was first authorized by the board in 2011 for wolf control; it is designed to increase the caribou herd's population size and human harvest by reducing wolf predation on caribou and is expected to make a contribution to achieving the intensive management (IM) objectives in Units 9(B), 17(B), 17(C), 19(A), and 19(B)**

(2) **Caribou and wolf objectives are as follows:**

(A) **the intensive management objective for the MCH as established in 5 AAC 92.108 is 30,000–80,000 caribou; these objectives were based on historic information regarding population numbers, habitat limitations, human use, and sustainable harvests;**

(B) **The caribou harvest objective for the MCH as established in 5 AAC 92.108 is 2,400–8,000;**

(C) **the wolf population objective for the MCH Predation Management Area is to annually reduce the number of wolves in predator control areas to a level that results in increased calf survival and recruitment;**

(3) **Board findings concerning populations and human use are as follows:**

(A) **the population and harvest for the MCH are below IM objectives throughout the range;**

Additional Proposals

- (B) wolves are a major predator of caribou in the range of the MCH and are an important factor in failing to achieve these objectives;
 - (C) a reduction of wolf predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achieving the objectives;
 - (D) reducing wolf predation is likely to be effective and feasible using recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;
 - (E) reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns, and;
 - (F) reducing predation is in the best interests of subsistence users.
- (4) Authorized methods and means are as follows:
- (A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the MCH Predation Management Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including the use of motorized vehicles as provided in 5AAC 92.080;
 - (B) notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, the commissioner may issue public aerial permits or public land and shoot permits as a method for wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;
- (5) Time frame is as follows:
- (A) through July 1, 2024, the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves in the MCH Predation Management Area;
 - (B) annually, the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of caribou and wolf populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary, to achieve the objectives of the plan;
- 6) The commissioner will review, modify or suspend program activities as follows:
- (A) when the mid-point of the IM population or harvest objectives for the MCH are achieved;
 - (B) if after three years, the harvest of wolves is not sufficient to make progress towards the intensive management population objectives for wolves;

Additional Proposals

- (C) **if after three years, there is no detectable increase in the total number of caribou in the control area;**
- (D) **if after three years, fall calf-to-cow ratios show no appreciable increase;**
- (E) **if after three years, any measure consistent with significant levels of nutritional stress in the caribou population are identified;**
- (F) **when the caribou population and harvest objectives within the MCH Predation Management Area have been met.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) Intensive Management (IM) Plan will expire on June 30, 2017, but the IM objectives for the MCH have not been achieved. To comply with protocol for IM plans, the department is introducing new regulatory language and will present a feasibility assessment of the program during the January 2018 Board of Game meeting. This proposal will also allow the board to modify the IM objectives and provide guidance to the department if warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-2016-6)

Additional Proposals

Note: Proposal 157 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Arctic/Western Region meeting for January 2017.

PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 85.065(a)(4)(G) Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game; and 99.025(12) Customary and traditional uses of small game. Set a customary and traditional use finding, and establish seasons and bag limits for Emperor geese as follows:

5 AAC 85.065(a)(4)(G) is repealed and readopted to read:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(G) Emperor geese		
Units 1-7, 11-16, 19-21, and 24-26	No open season.	No open season.
Units 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 17, 18, 22, and 23		
1 goose by registration permit only	Sept. 1—Dec. 16	No open season
Units 8, 10 (except Unimak Is.)		
1 goose by registration permit only	Oct. 8—Jan. 22	No open season

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY? The hunting season for emperor geese has been closed since 1986 due to low population estimates. A 2016 population model that integrated 30 years of survey data produced a population estimate of 150,000-170,000 geese; approximately twice the size than was previously known. The new estimate indicates that the population has recovered to a harvestable level. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) collaborated with the Pacific Flyway Council to revise the Flyway Management Plan for emperor geese, which includes new harvest guidelines for a fall hunt and specifies a quota of 1,000 birds per year. The revised plan also included a new population objective and population monitoring method, and a harvest strategy that guided regulations for this hunt. In October 2016, a Federal framework change under the new guidelines to open a hunt of emperor geese in 2017 was approved by the federal SRC.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (HQ-2016-ACR 7)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Staff Comment
Arctic/Western Region Alaska Board of Game Meeting
Bethel, Alaska
January 6-9, 2017



The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, January 6-9, 2017 in Bethel, Alaska, and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

PROPOSAL 5 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Change “general season” to “subsistence” for Arctic/Western Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal would change the label and classification of “General hunt only” in the Alaska Administrative Code to “Subsistence hunt only” in the Arctic/Western region for black bear populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The result would be that the majority of resident hunting for black bears in the Arctic/Western region would be classified as subsistence hunting.

Note: Unit 26A appears to have been inadvertently omitted from the printed proposal. It is likely the intent of the proposal was to include Unit 26A.

ADF&G Staff Comments

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Units 9, 11-13, Remainder of Unit 16, Units 18, 19(B), 19(C), 20 – 24, 25(A), 25(B), and 26	No closed season. (General hunt only)	No closed season.
3 bears		

Note: The current “General hunt only” label is incorrect and will be updated following the Arctic/Western Regional meeting.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, the majority of hunting for black bears in the Arctic/Western region would be classified as subsistence hunting.

The current hunts allow for both subsistence and nonsubsistence uses but the board has not made findings on customary and traditional (C&T) patterns of use for these game populations. To address the proposal as written, the board would need to first address customary and traditional uses for black bear populations in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26. The board would also need to address amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for black bears in order to determine appropriate hunt type (Tier I, Tier II, or hunts that are open to all users). The board would need to revisit hunting patterns for all black bear populations in the Arctic/Western Region to ensure the patterns are customary and traditional – i.e., “subsistence” – hunting patterns. The department does not intend to change hunt administration. The effect on hunters in the field is unknown, pending board action on C&T and ANS findings.

Findings such as 2016-214-BOG *Board of Game Bear Conservation, Harvest, and Management Policy* may need to be revised to incorporate the new classification of all hunts on Arctic/Western Region black bear populations with positive customary and traditional use findings as subsistence hunts, rather than for nonsubsistence uses.

BACKGROUND: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as Proposal 5, and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as Proposal 54.

Under AS 16.05.258(a), except in nonsubsistence areas, the board is directed to identify game populations, or portions of populations, that are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence. The board applies the *Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game Subsistence Procedures* (5 AAC 99.010), in place since the early 1980s, to identify game populations with customary and traditional uses (C&T) by Alaska residents. Harvest and use patterns for game populations are

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described and evaluated based on eight criteria to determine which, if any, are customary and traditional subsistence use patterns. For populations that support C&T uses, the board must identify the “amount reasonably necessary” for subsistence uses, called an “ANS finding.” The board has made no C&T findings for black bear populations in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26.

When there is a single set of regulations for residents for a game population with a harvestable surplus above the ANS, these regulations generally indicate that the open season is for “general and subsistence hunts” when a positive C&T finding has been made or when no C&T finding has been made. This practice provides for subsistence uses (as required by AS 16.05.258(b)) and other, nonsubsistence uses. If there is a negative C&T finding for a game population, or when hunting for that population takes place in a nonsubsistence area, or resident opportunity is limited through drawing permits, the resident open season is labeled “General hunt only.”

When making C&T findings, the board has recognized that Alaska residents harvest and use wildlife resources in a range of patterns, not all of which conform to the eight criteria that characterize subsistence use patterns. Participation in a hunt on a game population with a positive C&T finding by Alaskan residents does not by itself mean that the only use is a subsistence use. Subsistence use patterns by Alaskans may exist side-by-side with nonsubsistence use patterns by Alaskans. For example, a use pattern that involves considerable travel and expense is likely not consistent with Criterion 3, and harvest of game in an area with little to no use of other resources from that area (that is, not part of a broader range of uses) may not be consistent with Criterion 8.

Resident seasons listed in the Alaska Administrative Code currently have one of three labels: “General hunt only”, “Subsistence hunt only”, or they lack a label (i.e., the space for a label is left blank). The lack of a label for resident seasons means the season is the same for general hunting and subsistence hunting. Nonresident hunts also lack a label because the labels only apply to resident hunts.

The following guidelines have generally been applied when labeling hunts in the Alaska Administrative Code, but the regulations do not always conform to these guidelines:

- “General hunt only” is applied to resident hunts in areas designated as nonsubsistence areas by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game and to hunts outside of nonsubsistence areas that have a negative customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for the game population.
- “Subsistence hunt only” is applied to resident hunts if the hunt occurs outside nonsubsistence areas on a game population with a positive C&T finding and the harvestable portion of the population is not great enough to allow for nonsubsistence harvests and uses.

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- No label. These hunts generally include all types of resource use, subsistence and nonsubsistence, and do not differentiate between the various types of use.

The board discussed this topic extensively at the statewide meeting in March 2016. The board elected to maintain the status quo and directed the department and the Department of Law to make appropriate updates to 5 AAC 85 to ensure hunts are labeled accurately according to the above guidelines. This proposal has brought to light the fact that a labeling error exists in 5 AAC 85 for black bears in the Arctic/Western Region. Following the Arctic/Western Regional meeting the department will update 5 AAC 85 to remove the label for all resident black bear hunts within the Arctic/Western Region, because all resident hunts in these units provide for both subsistence and nonsubsistence use.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board **TAKE NO ACTION** on this proposal because the Department of Law has been working with the department, following guidance by the board, to make appropriate updates to 5 AAC 85 to ensure the hunts are labeled accurately. Following the board’s direction from the 2016 statewide meeting, the department will update 5 AAC 85 to remove the label for all resident black bear hunts within the Arctic/Western region because absent a negative C&T finding the hunts provide for both general and subsistence uses. Additionally, adopting the proposal would be inconsistent with prior Board of Game actions that recognize that not all uses of game populations by Alaska residents are customary and traditional subsistence uses. Game populations may have multiple Alaska resident use patterns, some consistent with a C&T pattern as identified by the Board and some consistent with a nonsubsistence use pattern. Although all Alaskans are eligible to participate in hunts classified as subsistence hunts (unless restrictions on participation are necessary for conservation reasons), participation in a hunt on a game population with a positive C&T finding by Alaskan residents does not by itself mean that the only use is a subsistence use.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal may result in additional costs to the department to prepare C&T and ANS analyses for all Arctic/Western Region black bear populations and to staff and schedule the additional board meetings necessary to implement AS 16.05.258.

PROPOSAL 6 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting season for caribou in the Arctic/Western Region.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal would add labels and classifications of all caribou hunts open to residents in the Arctic/Western Region as “Subsistence” and all caribou hunts open to nonresidents as “General season.”

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WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no labels on any of the caribou hunts in the Arctic/Western Region. Alaska residents take caribou for a variety of uses.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted all resident hunting for caribou in the Arctic/Western Region would be classified as subsistence hunting.

BACKGROUND: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as Proposal 6 and for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as Proposal 53.

Under AS 16.05.258(a), except in nonsubsistence areas, the board is directed to identify game populations, or portions of populations, that are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence. The board applies the *Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game Subsistence Procedures* (5 AAC 99.010), in place since the early 1980s, to identify game populations with customary and traditional uses (C&T) by Alaska residents. Harvest and use patterns for game populations are described and evaluated based on eight criteria to determine which, if any, are customary and traditional subsistence use patterns. For populations that support C&T uses, the board must identify the “amount reasonably necessary” for subsistence uses, called an “ANS finding.”

The board has made positive customary and traditional use findings (C&T findings) for caribou in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. There are no caribou populations in the Arctic/Western region with negative C&T findings.

When there is a single set of regulations for residents for a game population with a harvestable surplus above the ANS, these regulations generally indicate that the open season is for “general and subsistence hunts” when a positive C&T finding has been made or when no C&T finding has been made. This practice provides for subsistence uses (as required by AS 16.05.258(b)) and other, nonsubsistence uses. If there is a negative C&T finding for a game population, or when hunting for that population takes place in a nonsubsistence area, or resident opportunity is limited through drawing permits, the resident open season is labeled “General hunt only.”

When making C&T findings, the board has recognized that Alaska residents harvest and use wildlife resources in a range of patterns, not all of which conform to the eight criteria that characterize subsistence use patterns. Participation in a hunt on a game population with a positive C&T finding by Alaskan residents does not by itself mean that the only use is a subsistence use. Subsistence use patterns by Alaskans may exist side by side with nonsubsistence use patterns by Alaskans. For example, a use pattern that involves considerable travel and expense is likely not consistent with Criterion 3, and harvest of game in an area with little to no use of other resources from that area (that is, not part of a broader range of uses) may not be consistent with Criterion 8.

Resident seasons listed in the Alaska Administrative Code currently have one of three labels: “General hunt only”, “Subsistence hunt only”, or they lack a label (i.e., the space for a label is left blank). The lack of a label for resident seasons means the season is the same for general

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hunting and subsistence hunting. Nonresident hunts also lack a label because the labels only apply to resident hunts.

The following guidelines have generally been applied when labeling hunts in the Alaska Administrative Code, but the regulations do not always conform to these guidelines:

- “General hunt only” is applied to resident hunts in areas designated as nonsubsistence areas by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game and to hunts outside of nonsubsistence areas that have a negative customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for the game population.
- “Subsistence hunt only” is applied to resident hunts if the hunt occurs outside nonsubsistence areas on a game population with a positive C&T finding and the harvestable portion of the population is not great enough to allow for nonsubsistence harvests and uses.
- No label. These hunts generally include all types of resource use, subsistence and nonsubsistence, and do not differentiate between the various types of use.

The board discussed this topic extensively at the statewide meeting in March 2016. The board elected to maintain the status quo and directed the department and the Department of Law to make appropriate updates to 5 AAC 85 to ensure hunts are labeled accurately according to the above guidelines.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department recommends the board **TAKE NO ACTION** on this proposal because caribou in the Arctic/Western region have a positive C&T finding and the hunts provide for both subsistence and nonsubsistence uses. Therefore no label is the correct designation. Additionally, adopting the proposal would be inconsistent with prior Board of Game actions that recognize that not all uses of game populations by Alaska residents are customary and traditional subsistence uses. Game populations may have multiple Alaska resident use patterns, some consistent with a C&T pattern as identified by the Board and some consistent with a nonsubsistence use pattern. Although all Alaskans are eligible to participate in hunts classified as subsistence hunts (unless restrictions on participation are necessary for conservation reasons), participation in a hunt on a game population with a positive C&T finding by Alaskan residents does not by itself mean that the only use is a subsistence use.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal may result in additional costs to the department to prepare C&T and ANS analyses for all Arctic/Western Region caribou populations, and to staff and schedule the additional board meetings necessary to implement AS 16.05.258

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PROPOSAL 8 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Arctic/Western Region until harvest and population objectives are met.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would prevent nonresidents from hunting any prey species in the Arctic/Western Region that is managed under an intensive management plan until the intensive management population and harvest objectives have been reached.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The board has not adopted any intensive management plans in the Arctic/Western Region so no current regulations would be affected.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, in the case of future IM plans, hunting would be limited in areas that have intensive management plans to residents-only until the minimum intensive management population and harvest objectives for that prey species have been reached.

BACKGROUND: Intensive management programs have been considered for the Arctic/Western Region, but no programs have been adopted into regulation.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters. This proposal was also submitted for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting which would indicate that the proponent would prefer to have the regulation implemented statewide.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 17 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26). Definitions. Modify the definition of edible meat for all game birds.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would modify the definition of edible meat for all game birds as follows:

"edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); for all game birds, the meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs; [IN THE CASE OF SMALL GAME BIRDS, EXCEPT FOR CRANES, GEESE AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST; IN THE CASE OF CRANES, GEESE, AND SWAN, THE MEAT

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OF THE BREAST AND MEAT OF THE FEMUR AND TIBIA-FIBULA (LEGS AND THIGHS);] however, "edible meat" of big game or small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably...

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26) "edible meat" means, ... in the case of small game birds, except for cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast; in the case of cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast and meat of the femur and tibia-fibula (legs and thighs); ...

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would require hunters to salvage the meat of the breast, back, thighs, and legs of all harvested game birds.

BACKGROUND: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as Proposal 17 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as Proposal 47.

Effective July 1, 2014, the board created a different definition of edible meat for cranes, geese, and swans in order to require more meat to be salvaged from these large migratory waterfowl.

Under the current definition of edible meat the majority of meat is required to be salvaged, and many hunters voluntarily salvage the meat of the legs of smaller game birds.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal as there are no biological concerns.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 18 – 5AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal would reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bears in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Brown bear tag fees are not required for residents in drawing, registration, or subsistence permit hunts in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Resident hunters would not be required to purchase a resident locking tag for drawing or registration permit brown bear hunts in Units 18, 22, 23, 26A. Similarly, hunters participating in subsistence registration permit hunts would not be required to purchase a brown bear locking tag to harvest a bear, although possession of the subsistence registration permit would still be required.

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BACKGROUND: The Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. Brown bear drawing and registration permit hunts have had fees exempted in Unit 18 for 5 years, Unit 22 for 15 years, Unit 23 for 10 years, and Unit 26A for 5 years. Exemptions have been implemented to allow: 1) incremental increases in harvest, 2) additional opportunity for residents, and 3) harvest for a wide range of uses. Increased harvest is allowable because portions of these units have high bear populations. These harvests are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest.

In subsistence brown bear registration permit hunts, reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where requirements include: 1) a registration permit; 2) a tag fee exemption; 3) salvaging meat for human consumption; 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A; 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence registration permit hunt area; and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and the front claws must be removed and retained by the department at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by the department for subsistence registration permit hunts. In all units, subsistence brown bear registration permit harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest.

Table 131-1: Customary and traditional uses of brown bear populations, Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A

Game Management Unit	Findin g	Amount reasonably necessary
Unit 18	Positive	20–30
Units 21 and 22	Positive	20–25
Units 23, 24, and 26	Positive	25–35

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Brown bear numbers are stable or increasing and the increased harvests that result from the tag fee exemption do not present a conservation concern.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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PROPOSAL 19 – 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred.

PROPOSED BY: Kyle Jones

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would remove the link between resident and nonresident-relative bag limits in which the harvest of brown/grizzly bears, mountain goats, and sheep by a nonresident relative counts against the bag limit of the accompanying resident hunter.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Beginning July 1, 2018, a brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep taken by a nonresident hunter personally accompanied by a resident relative under AS 16.05.407(a)(2) will count as the bag limit of both the nonresident and the resident relative who accompanies the nonresident.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, resident hunters would be able to hunt with nonresident relatives without having the nonresident harvest count against their resident bag limit.

BACKGROUND: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as Proposal 19 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as Proposal 49.

The board has adopted regulations to allocate hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters and, in some cases, has made additional allocations for guided nonresident hunters and nonresidents hunting with resident relatives. When allocating hunting opportunity, the board has followed the guidelines in the board's policy (2007-173-BOG).

The board adopted this regulation during the March 2016 meeting. In Region V, this regulation would affect grizzly bear hunters in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A, and sheep hunters in Unit 26A. Since the regulation has not been implemented yet, we have not had the opportunity to evaluate the regulatory change for Region V affected hunts.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters; however, because the board adopted this regulation during the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting, the department recommends that the board consider this topic on a statewide basis.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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PROPOSAL 21 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18 Goodnews hunt area.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Goodnews Bay

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to add a resident only 21-day, winter hunt for antlered bulls to the Goodnews area with a season that is “to be announced” during the month of January and a quota of 10 bull moose.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current resident moose hunting season in Unit 18, that portion south of and including the Goodnews River drainage, is September 1–September 30 with a bag limit of 1 antlered bull by registration permit only. There is no open moose season for nonresidents in this area.

There is a positive C&T finding for moose in Unit 18, and an ANS of 200–400.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would provide additional opportunity for residents to harvest moose in the Goodnews River drainage by allowing a 21-day, winter season using a registration permit hunt structure and a season that is “to be announced” during the month of January.

BACKGROUND: Hunting was closed in this portion of Unit 18 from RY2004–RY2007. A minimum threshold of 100 moose was established, and the Board of Game authorized a registration moose hunt open to residents only in RY2007 when the moose population was approximately 130 moose. The harvest quota was 10 antlered bulls from RY2008–RY2010 and increased to 20 antlered bulls from RY2011–RY2015 with a harvest ranging from 9–18 bulls during this time period. Most of the Goodnews Bay hunt area is local Native corporation land, or Federal lands associated with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

A spring moose trend count survey completed in 2012 found 203 moose in the Goodnews survey area. The current harvest quota of 20 antlered bulls is approximately an 8–10% harvest rate.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal, but recommends that the board allow the department to retain its discretion on when to offer the winter hunt until additional population information can be collected to ensure harvest patterns are sustainable from the area. If this proposal is adopted, the department would also like to retain its discretion to set fall and winter quotas based on current population information.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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PROPOSAL 22– 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting season and bag limits for moose. Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder as follows:

Establish a nonresident season in Unit 18 remainder area from December 1–March 15.

PROPOSED BY: Jon LaValle

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would create additional nonresident hunting opportunity by creating a winter nonresident moose season from December 1–March 15 in Unit 18 remainder. The proponent did not recommend a bag limit.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current nonresident moose season in the remainder of Unit 18 is September 1–September 30 with a bag limit of 1 antlered bull. The resident season is August 1–March 15 with a total bag limit of 2 moose. From August 1–September 30, resident hunters are only allowed to harvest 1 antlered bull and are prohibited from taking a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf. Resident hunters may take 2 antlerless moose from October 1–November 30 and/or 2 moose from December 1–March 15.

There is a positive C&T finding for moose in Unit 18, and an ANS of 200–400.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would create a new winter nonresident moose season with December 1–March 15 season dates.

BACKGROUND: The Yukon River moose population includes approximately 12,000 moose in several combined survey areas. Population surveys indicate that calf:cow ratios range between 37– 69 calves:100 cows, and twinning rates range from 20–40%. Anecdotal evidence suggests calf survival rates remain high.

Most of Unit 18 is either private lands or part of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge; guides and transporters are required to secure land use agreements with local landowners and/or land managers. Nonresident moose harvest increased from 19 in RY2011 to 109 in RY2015. Resident harvest remained relatively stable during the same time period with harvest reports indicating that 498 moose were taken during RY2011 and 548 moose were taken during RY2015. The average annual harvest was 511 moose per year.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. If the board adopts this proposal, the department recommends the board establish a bag limit of “one antlerless moose” for nonresidents. This bag limit satisfies the proponent’s desire to provide an opportunity for winter moose meat without the unintended consequences of creating a unique winter bull hunt for nonresidents. Large numbers of bulls retain their antlers during December and January in Unit 18, which could make the hunt desirable for some nonresident hunters. The “antlerless moose bag limit” is not expected to result in a harvest that would create a biological concern.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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PROPOSAL 23.5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in the remainder of Unit 18.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Antlerless hunting during fall and winter seasons is allowed for resident hunters in the “Remainder of Unit 18”. There are three components to antlerless seasons:

- 1) during August 1–September 30 the bag limit is 2 moose; however, only one antlered bull may be taken and taking calves or cows accompanied by calves is prohibited;
- 2) during October 1–November 30 the bag limit is 2 antlerless moose with no additional restrictions; and
- 3) during December 1–March 15 the bag limit is 2 moose with no additional restrictions.

There is a positive C&T finding for moose in Unit 18, and an ANS of 200–400.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The antlerless hunts in the remainder of Unit 18 would be reauthorized for RY2016. Hunters would have the same seasons and bag limits as RY2015 (see Current Regulations above).

BACKGROUND: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The hunt area in the remainder of Unit 18 supports a moose population that has increased to an all-time high level, reaching an estimated minimum population of 12,000 moose. In all areas surveyed, moose populations have twinning rates at or above 40%. Reported harvest during the past three years has averaged 395 bulls and 160 cows.

Harvests increased approximately 16% in RY2015 (n=669) compared to the previous 3-year average harvest (n=576). In RY2015, the harvest ticket reports from the remainder of Unit 18 included 60 antlerless moose (cows) taken in the fall hunt, along with the harvest of 96 antlerless moose (cows) taken in a winter hunt. The combined harvest for the current the remainder of Unit 18 represented in this reauthorization is well within sustained yield, and the population trajectory has not been affected by antlerless harvests.

The Remainder of Unit 18 has under-utilized moose habitat and is expected to support a growing moose population. Continuing antlerless moose harvest opportunity will benefit hunters and may also help slow the growth rate of the population.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to maintain antlerless hunts in areas where moose populations are increasing.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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PROPOSAL 24– 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18.

PROPOSED BY: Jaimie Kassman

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal allows brown bears to be taken over bait in Unit 18.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

- Hunters can take 1 brown bear every regulatory year in Unit 18 September 1–May31.
- Resident locking tags are not required to hunt brown bears in Unit 18.

There is a positive C&T for brown bears in Unit 18, and an ANS of 20–30. The board has not made a C&T determination on black bear populations in Unit 18.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would allow brown bear baiting opportunity in Unit 18, with the exception of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed lands (approximately 65% of Unit 18) where brown bear baiting is prohibited by federal regulation.

BACKGROUND: Brown bear harvest in Unit 18 has been relatively stable since the early 2000s. Between RY2006 and RY2015 harvest ranged from 5 to 39 bears with an average annual harvest of 29 (68% male) bears (Table 24-1). Bear baiting activity in Unit 18 has increased over the past 10 years, with 0–9 registered bait stations during the period of 2006–2015. Since 2006, hunters harvested 78% of the total Unit 18 brown bear harvest during the fall season. Based on the trends in harvest for other areas where brown bear baiting is authorized, an increase in brown bear harvest may occur after brown bear baiting is authorized, but harvest is expected to stabilize at pre-baiting levels after the initial increase.

The bear population in Unit 18 has not been surveyed, but observations by department staff and the public indicate that the population is distributed throughout the unit and abundant on major tributaries. Harvest density is generally low and not believed to be a factor influencing bear numbers.

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Table 24-1. Chronology of brown bear harvest in Unit 18 and the number of registered bear baiting stations, regulatory years 2006 through 2015.

Regulatory Year	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Total</u>	Number of Registered Bear Baiting Stations
2006	18	4	22	0
2007	26	7	33	0
2008	24	7	31	4
2009	20	6	26	3
2010	23	12	35	2
2011	31	8	39	4
2012	25	7	32	9
2013	16	6	22	7
2014	23	4	27	7
2015	20	3	23	9
<i>Average</i>	<i>22.6</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>4.5</i>

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it has not identified a biological concern for the brown bear population in Unit 18, and adoption of this proposal is not expected to increase brown bear harvest significantly.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 25 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would open a nonresident draw hunt for Mulchatna caribou in Units 18, 19A, and 19B. The bag limit would be one bull caribou, and the open season would be September 1–30. The author recommends a maximum of 50 permits could be issued, but suggests that the department only issue 20 permits initially.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

- Registration permits RC501, RC503, and RC504 are used to manage caribou hunting for Mulchatna herd caribou (MCH) which includes Units 18 and 19A, 19B, 9A, 9B, a portion of 9C, and Unit 17.
 - Season dates for the RC503 hunt area that includes Units 18, 19A, 19B, 9A and the portion of 9C north of the Alagnak River drainage are August 1–March 15, with a bag limit of 2 caribou.
 - Season dates for the RC503 hunt area that includes Unit 9B and all but a small portion of Unit 17 are August 1–March 31, with a bag limit of 2 caribou.
 - Season dates for the RC504 hunt area that includes a portion of Unit 9C north of

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the north bank of the Naknek River and south of the Alagnak River drainage “may be announced” depending on caribou abundance in this area. The bag limit is 1 caribou.

- Season dates for the RC501 hunt area including a small portion of Unit 17A and a small portion of 17C “may be announced” depending on the abundance of caribou in this area. The bag limit is 2 caribou.
- There is currently no nonresident season in regulation for the Mulchatna caribou herd.
- The Mulchatna caribou population has a positive finding for intensive management, with a population objective of 30,000–80,000 and an annual harvest objective of 2,400–8,000. There is an intensive management plan in regulation for this herd; however, the current plan does not include Unit 18.
- There is a positive C&T finding for the Mulchatna caribou herd in Units 9A, 9B, 17, 18, 19A south of the Kuskokwim River, and 19B, and an ANS of 2,100–2,400 caribou in all units combined.
- There are positive C&T findings for other caribou herds (Big River, Rainy Pass, Kilbuck, Andreafsky, Tonzona, Beaver Mountains, Sunshine Mountains) in various units and subunits affected by this proposal (16B, 18, 19), with various ANSs for each herd.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal were adopted a portion of the area managed for the MCH would be included in the nonresident draw hunt.

BACKGROUND: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as Proposal 25 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as Proposal 83.

The MCH has gone through a dramatic change in abundance over the past 20 years with an estimated population of 200,000 animals in 1996 to approximately 27,000 today. Population models indicate that the harvestable surplus lies in the range of 800–1200 caribou with a likely point estimate near 1,000 caribou.

With that change in abundance, management of this herd has changed as well. Season dates during the high level of abundance extended to April 15, but were shortened to March 15 in 2006 as this herd was declining to fewer than 50,000 animals. During the peak years, the bag limits also reflected a more liberal management strategy with up to 5 caribou allowed annually for residents, and a bag limit of 2 caribou for nonresidents. As the herd declined during the mid-2000s, bag limits were lowered, season length shortened, and the nonresident season was closed by board action following the 2008 hunting season.

The Mulchatna caribou population has a positive finding for intensive management, with a population objective of 30,000–80,000 and an annual harvest objective of 2,400–8,000. Due to low population and harvest levels below these objectives, an intensive management plan was initially authorized by the board under 5 AAC 92.111 *Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area* in March 2011 for Units 9B, 17B, and 17C; this plan was modified in March 2012 to include Units 19A and 19B. This plan is implemented as a wolf predation control area in those portions of Units 17B and 17C that encompass the southern calving grounds of the Mulchatna herd and has been active each year. The goal of this program is to increase caribou

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calf survival and thereby recruitment by removing wolves which have been shown to be an important predator on neonate caribou calves in this area. Our most recent abundance estimate from June 2016 was just over 27,000 caribou.

The reported harvest of Mulchatna caribou during 2010–2015 in all units combined ranged from 101–494 caribou, averaging of 281 caribou per year. Harvests during this time period have come from all units within the MCH range; in more recent years, the majority of harvest has been taken in Unit 18. Both population size and harvest are below the objectives defined in 5 AAC 92.108, therefore the predation control program will remain active for the 2016 regulatory year.

In spring 2013 the board adopted a department proposal that required the use of a registration permit (RC503) to hunt Mulchatna caribou throughout this herd's range; this permit replaced the general season harvest ticket. The purpose of this change was to provide the department with better information for managing this herd to help with addressing management issues such as this proposal. Permit conditions require a 5-day reporting period after harvesting a caribou, and the permit is also subject to the failure to report (FTR) process that allows the department to impose penalties to those parties failing to report their effort and harvest. This increases the harvest reporting rate, which is important in assessing harvest and effort over time. However, harvest reporting continues to significantly underestimate harvests of Mulchatna caribou in Unit 18. For example, Bethel residents harvested an estimated total of 446 caribou in 2011, whereas the average reported harvest during the period 1998–2011 was 160 caribou.

The ANS for the MCH (2,100–2,400 caribou) was adopted by the board in 1992; however subsistence use in the Unit 18 portion of the range was not included in the ANS because the herd did not migrate into that unit when the ANS was developed. At the March 2016 Statewide meeting the board established a positive customary and traditional finding for MCH in Unit 18 but did not alter the ANS.

The positive C&T finding and ANS for the Kilbuck and Andreafsky caribou herds in Unit 18, which no longer exist, is 350–500 caribou.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of Mulchatna caribou in Units 18 and 19 but recommends this proposal be **DEFERRED** to the next regularly scheduled Central/Southwest Region Board meeting in spring 2018. Under AS 16.05.258(b), nonsubsistence uses of a game population with C&T uses are not permitted if the harvestable surplus is below the ANS.

The MCH spans multiple game management units and includes multiple ADF&G regions, but is managed across its range as a single caribou herd with the primary management responsibility resting with Region IV and the Dillingham office. The proponent indicates he will be submitting a proposal similar to this proposal at the Central/Southwest Region meeting in spring 2018 to allow for a nonresident draw permit hunt for caribou in Units 17 and 9. Our recommendation to

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defer this proposal to the spring 2018 meeting would allow us to address this nonresident draw permit concept for the entire range of the MCH, which adheres to the board and the department's intentions of having a uniform management approach for this herd. Additional advantages of this deferment would be that the department could gather another year of harvest information under the relatively new RC503 registration permit, and we could acquire another abundance estimate from our annual photo census in June of 2017. Both of these data are important in calculating harvestable surplus which is an important component when addressing ANS which will likely be part of this discussion.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal would not result in significant administrative costs to the department.

**Boards Support Section
Board of Fisheries
Glenn Haight, Executive Director**
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sam Cotten, Commissioner**
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

For Immediate Release: October 10, 2016

CONTACT: Glenn Haight, 907-465-6095

Request for Advisory Committee Input on Revisions to the Federal / State Subsistence MOU

In 2014, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Subsistence Board, its five participating federal agencies, the Boards of Game and Fisheries, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), expired after five years. The MOU served to guide boards and agencies in coordinating interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on federal public lands that is consistent with state and federal authorities. Staff within the various federal and state agencies have renewed an effort to re-establish the MOU and prepared an initial draft for review and comment by the federal Regional Advisory Councils and the State's Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

Accompanying this request is a draft MOU dated August 11, 2016, and a briefing document which describes the MOU. ADF&G is coordinating advisory committee input to this current version and seeking that input by November 18. Agencies will meet in December to offer further revisions that will be available for board, advisory committee, and RAC review at later meetings. Input received by advisory committees after November 18 will be forwarded to the agencies for further revisions.

Jill Klein, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, is coordinating the effort on behalf of ADF&G. Advisory committee input may be sent directly to Ms. Klein at jill.klein@alaska.gov, or to Boards Support staff who will transmit the information.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in improving the regulatory and management system for Alaska.

An Overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Coordinated Interagency Fish and Wildlife Management for Subsistence Uses on Federal Public Lands in Alaska

Between the

Federal Subsistence Board (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Secretarial Appointees)

and

State of Alaska

(Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game (State Boards))

The MOU is for the purpose of coordinating interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands that is consistent with State and Federal authorities.

We are renewing the MOU because it had an expiration date if there were no formally documented meetings regarding the MOU on an annual basis.

The MOU expired in November 2014. Prior to this, a renewal process took place in 2013, but was not completed. The Commissioner's office of the ADF&G through their work liaising with the Federal Subsistence Board reengaged the State Boards on the renewal of the MOU.

Both state and federal boards have supported this process and both State and Federal agencies created teams to work together on possible revisions to the MOU prior to signing.

The State and Federal agency teams are seeking State Advisory Committee (AC) and Regional Advisory Council (RAC) input on the draft MOU (*version date August 11, 2016*). There are most likely additional revisions that will take place, but we want to get input during this round of AC meetings.

Areas of input:

While all AC and RAC input is welcome and valued, in particular the working group is seeking input in the following areas.

-What areas (geographic, permitting, regulations, management, other) could there be better coordination among State and Federal agencies on the fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands in Alaska?

-What areas (geographic, permitting, regulation, management, other) are the agencies coordinating well and this should continue?

Outline of the MOU:

Section I. Preamble: This section covers State and Federal authorities over management of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands in Alaska. The language is from the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and laws and regulations of the State of Alaska.

Section II. Purpose: This section provides the foundation and direction for coordinated interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands.

Section III: Guiding Principles: This section guides coordination and covers topics such as:

- 1) Ensure conservation, provide continued uses, priority for subsistence, promote regulatory coordination, exchange information among many entities (listed in 1);
- 2) Confirm wildlife management activities remain within the authority of individual land management agencies;
- 3) Use best available information (western science and Traditional ecological knowledge or local knowledge);
- 4) Avoid duplication;
- 5) Involve users in planning;
- 6) Promote stability, minimize disruption; and
- 7) Promote clear, enforceable fishing, hunting and trapping regulations.

Section IV: The Federal Subsistence Board and State of Alaska mutually agree to:

- 1) Cooperate and coordinate research, monitoring, regulatory decisions and management actions towards conservation;
- 2) Share important data and information (both western science and TEK/LK);
- 3) Recognize the Federal priority for rural residents for subsistence and to allow for other uses when harvestable surpluses are sufficient;
- 4) Cooperative funding agreement may be necessary and important;
- 5) Seek resolution when there are differences interpreting data;
- 6) Develop information to clarify regulations for the public;
- 7) Establish protocols when necessary such as the Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon Fishery Management Protocol for coordinated salmon management, preseason planning, inseason salmon management, postseason evaluation and roles;
- 8) Have state and federal staff review data analyses associated with regulatory proposals, harvest assessment, monitoring studies, and subsistence resource management cooperatively with RACs, Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC), Tribes and others;
- 9) Designate liaisons at the State and Federal agencies for coordination and communication;
- 10) Provide adequate opportunity to review analyses associated with special actions and emergency orders and provide advance notice when possible before issuing special actions or emergency orders; don't delay if of immediate concern;

- 11) Cooperatively review and develop as needed, Federal and State management plans;
- 12) Use the State's harvest reporting system, unless separate Federal subsistence permits and harvest reports are needed;
- 13) Ensure meaningful involvement for all in regulatory processes that affect subsistence on Federal public lands.

Section V. General Provisions: This section is general language associated with MOUs and has been reviewed by the State Department of Law Natural Resources Section.

Of note is number 7 where an annual meeting will take place to review coordinated programs established under this MOU. There is no expiration date to the MOU now.

Appendix: Scope for Protocols

How protocols will be developed and who needs to sign them.