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CENTRAL BERING SEA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Roster

Chairman: David Abraham Bill
Vice Chair:
Secretary: Stan Atchak

Updated: 04/2017

| AC MEMBER NAME | COMMUNITY | TERM EXPIRES | INTERESTS* |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Stan Atachak | Chevak | 6/16 | |
| <i>Richard B. Slats, Alternate</i> | | 6/19 | |
| Tommy Kusaiak | Chefornak | 6/16 | |
| <i>Vacant, Alternate</i> | | 6/19 | |
| Peter Julius | Goodnews Bay | 6/16 | |
| <i>Vacant, Alternate</i> | | 6/19 | |
| David Carl | Kipnuk | 6/16 | |
| <i>Jimmie Paul, Alternate</i> | | 6/16 | |
| Benjamin Lozano | Kongiganak | 6/19 | |
| <i>John A. Phillip, Alt.</i> | | 6/19 | |
| Own Beaver | Kwigillingok | 6/17 | |
| <i>Vacant, Alt.</i> | | 6/20 | |
| Edward Kiokun | Mekoryuk | 6/19 | |
| <i>Howard Amos, Alternate</i> | | 6/19 | |
| Joseph M. John Sr. | Newtok | 6/17 | |
| <i>Stanley Tom, Alternate</i> | | 6/17 | |
| Stanley Anthony | Nightmute | 6/19 | |
| <i>John White, Alternate</i> | | 6/19 | |
| Vacant | Platinum | 6/20 | |
| <i>Vacant, Alternate</i> | | 6/20 | |
| Annie C. Cleveland | Quinhagak | 6/17 | |
| <i>Vacant, Alternate</i> | | 6/17 | |
| David A. Bill | Toksook Bay | 6/17 | |
| <i>George Nevak, Alternate</i> | | 6/17 | |
| George B. Hooper | Tununak | 06/18 | |
| <i>James James, Alternate</i> | | 06/18 | |
| <i>Anthony T. Angaiak, Alternate</i> | | 06/18 | |
| Willie Atti | Undesignated | 06/19 | |
| Leo Moses, Jr. | | 06/19 | |

*Interests: 1. Trapping; 2. Sport Fishing; 3. Subsistence; 4. Hunting; 5. Commercial Fishing; 6. Photography; 7. Guiding; 8. Processing; 9. Personal Use; 10. Outdoorsperson; 11. Assoc./Corp.; 12. Conservationist

Central Bering Sea Advisory Committee seats: 15 total (1 Chevak, 1 Chefornak, 1 Goodnews Bay, 1 Kipnuk, 1 Kongiganak, 1 Kwigillingok, 1 Mekoryuk, 1 Newtok, 1 Nightmute, 1 Platinum, 1 Quinhagak, 1 Toksook Bay, 1 Tununak, 2 Undesignated)

Quorum: 8



Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

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www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
2017/2018 Cycle
Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations**

| Meeting Dates | Topic | Location | Comment Deadline |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
| November 9, 2017 (1 day) | Work Session | Anchorage Lake Front Anchorage | October 27, 2017 |
| November 10-17, 2017 (8 days) | Statewide Regulations Statewide Provisions (5 AAC Chapter 92) and Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose (5 AAC Chapter 98) | Anchorage Lake Front Anchorage | October 27, 2017 |
| February 16-23, 2018 (8 days) | Central/Southwest Region Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17. | Dillingham To be announced | February 2, 2018 |

Total Meeting Days: 17

Agenda Change Request Deadline: Monday, September 11, 2017

(The Board of Game will meet via teleconference to consider Agenda Change Requests.)

Proposal Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2017



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Long-Term Meeting Cycle

The Board of Game (board) meetings generally occur from January through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule that cycle every three years. When the regional regulations are before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species (Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Intensive Management Plans
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas, Controlled Use Areas, and Areas Closed to Hunting and Trapping
- Changes specific to Units or Regions under 5 AAC Chapter 92

Proposals pertaining to reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, are taken up annually. Changes having statewide applicability to 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98.005 listed on the following page are considered once every three years at Statewide Regulations meetings.

The proposal deadline is May 1 every preceding year. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the deadline is the Friday before. Boards Support issues a “Call for Proposals” generally in December or January prior to the May 1 deadline which will also specify which regulations are open for proposed changes.

| Topic & Meeting Schedule |
|--|
| <p>Southeast Region – Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025</i></p> |
| <p>Southcentral Region – Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025</i></p> |
| <p>Central and Southwest Region – Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023/2024</i></p> |
| <p>Arctic and Western Region – Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A <i>Meeting Cycle: 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026</i></p> |
| <p>Interior and Northeast Region – Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C <i>Meeting Cycle: 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026</i></p> |
| <p>Statewide Regulations (see next page) <i>Meeting Cycle: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023/2024</i></p> |

The three-year schedule was adopted at the January 2015 Work Session.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Fisheries
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ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
2017/2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

Prince William Sound Finfish; Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish; Statewide
Dungeness Crab, Shrimp and other Miscellaneous Shellfish (Except Southeast and Yakutat)

Proposal deadline: Tuesday, April 11, 2017

| Meeting Dates | Topics | Location | Comment Deadline |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|
| October 17–19, 2017 [3 days] | Work Session ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern | Anchorage Egan Center | October 3, 2017 |
| December 1–5, 2017 [5 days] | Prince William Sound/Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish | Valdez Valdez Convention & Civic Center | November 17, 2017 |
| January 11–23, 2018 [13 days] | Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish | Sitka Harrigan Centennial Hall | December 28, 2017 |
| March 6–9, 2018 [4 days] | Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp and other Miscellaneous Shellfish (Except Southeast and Yakutat) | Anchorage Egan Center | February 23, 2018 |

Total Meeting Days: 25

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 17, 2017 [60 days prior to fall work session]

Meeting schedule is tentative and may change.

Rev. July 2017



ADF&G • Boards Support Section

www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES 2018/2019 Cycle Tentative Meeting Schedule

Bristol Bay Finfish; Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Finfish; Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, and Chignik Finfish; Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 10, 2018

| Meeting Dates | Topics | Location | Comment Deadline |
|--|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| October 17-18, 2018 [2 days] | Work Session ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern | Anchorage The Lakefront | Oct. 3, 2018 |
| November 28- December 4, 2018 [7 days] | Bristol Bay Finfish | Dillingham TBD | Nov. 14, 2018 |
| January 15-19, 2019 [5 days] | Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish | Anchorage Sheraton Hotel | Jan. 2, 2019 |
| February 21-27, 2019 [7 days] | Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish | Anchorage Sheraton Hotel | Feb. 7, 2019 |
| March 8-11, 2019 [4 days] | Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues | Anchorage Sheraton Hotel | February 20, 2019 |

Total Meeting Days: 25

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 17, 2018 [60 days prior to fall worksession]

Amended August 28, 2017

MEETING MINUTES

10/25-26/2017

+Central Bering Sea Fish and Game Advisory Committee
10/25/16
Fish and Game Office Bethel Alaska

- I. Call to Order: 2:08 pm by Annie Cleveland
Owen Beaver: Invocation
- II. Roll Call:
Members Present: David Bill, Annie Cleveland, Willi Atti, Owen Beaver, Leo Moses Jr., Benjamin Lozano, Tommy Kusaia, Edward Kiokun
Second day: Stan Atchak, Leo Moses Jr. present,
Members Absent: Stan Atchak, James James, Joseph Moses John, David Carl, James Nicolai
Number Needed for Quorum on AC:
List of User Groups Present:
- III. Approval of Agenda:
Willi Atti: motion to accept agenda as revised.
Ben Lozano: seconded
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: 10/5/15 minutes have been pre-approved
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present:
Carmen Daggett (Boards)
Phillip Perry (DWC)
Lisa Olsen (Subsistence)
Aaron Poetter (Fisheries)
- VI. Guests Present:
Janessa Esquible, Ornie Reich, Anna Rose McArthur, John Active (Translator)
- VII. Public Comments/Concerns
Owen Beaver: Gold mining on the Kuskokwim by Bartletts
- VIII. Old Business:
- IX. New Business:

MEETING MINUTES

10/25-26/2017

| |
|--|
| STATEWIDE (EXCEPT SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT) KING AND TANNER CRAB AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES MARCH 20–24, 2017 ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES |
|--|

| BOF | 244 | Align sport crab fishery regulations and repeal methods and means and general provisions for shellfish for the North Slope, Kuskokwim–Goodnews, and Yukon areas. | |
|---|-----|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action | 0 | 9 | <p>Edward Kiokun: Our elders tell us to release the female and small crabs and I really don't like that idea, I don't like the idea of taking the female and small crabs; there is not enough information behind this I don't want to support this.</p> <p>-Want more data on numbers of crab taken for subsistence and commercial fishing and want more background information.</p> <p>Aaron Poetter: This is aligning current regulations. It is not going to hurt anything.</p> <p>David Bill: We have heard that before that it isn't going to hurt anything. It seems to me that we have to have another meeting with this one. I know what I have seen on Nelson Island, we need to have more understanding.</p> <p>Leo Moses:</p> <p>Edward Kiokun: Does this make this more lenient towards sports fisherman?</p> <p>Aaron Poetter: Explains harvest surveys and there has been little to no sport fishing in the area.</p> <p>Edward Kiokun: This proposal allows less regulation and permits for sport fishing. Explains it allows small crab and female crabs, we approving that. I don't like the idea to support this proposal. I think we shouldn't support this at all. It troubles me that it goes against our traditional laws taking female crab.</p> <p>Annie Cleveland: Once you approve it for sport fishing to come to your area, one year one will come next year two of them will come. When they are coming like that you cannot control their activity. They claim they have their own fishing spot.</p> <p>David Bill: We have to table this to understand it completely.</p> <p>Mrs. Kusaiak: It is becoming easier for outsiders to come to our area, they will come to our areas.</p> <p>Ben Lozano: I made a motion to oppose this proposal.</p> <p>Edward Kiokun: Seconded</p> |

MEETING MINUTES

10/25-26/2017

BOF 275 Create a tier II subsistence king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River R

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action | 0 | 9 | <p>Lisa Olsen: Explains Tier II fisheries</p> <p>Willi Atti: Explains if the proposal passes we will have to use this Tier II system. We have to understand what this means for rural areas.</p> <p>Tommy Kusiak: If this proposal passes will have paperwork, we as natives will have to fill out paperwork, people on the Kuskokwim will raise an uproar.</p> <p>Willi Atti: This proposal was heard in Fairbanks.</p> <p>Owen Beaver: I am not happy with this proposal. We don't really approve of this it is different than our way of life.</p> <p>Tommy Kusiak: We have to understand completely before this before we decide. Fisherman on the Kuskokwim are not for this permit system on the Kuskokwim river system, if we make a mistake there will be trouble, then their will be more attitude if this proposal passes.</p> <p>Willi Atti: We have to think through this proposal these proposals are just proposals. If this proposal passes we will have to fill out applications just to fish. We have to write down how important subsistence fishing is to. The one with the most points will be able to fish. I won't be able to because I didn't have enough points. This will be part of what this proposal is.</p> <p>Tommy Kusiak: We work on these proposals here and they take them and look at them in Juneau.</p> <p>Owen Beaver: Explains how things got changed before because of changing net sizes, and the hardship created from changing mesh sizes.</p> <p>Mrs. Kusaiaik: Asks about when this fishery would come about.</p> <p>Leo Moses: Suggests</p> <p>David Bill: There was one guy who fished with a permit who got 75 fish, he got 75 fish in one day.</p> <p>Willi Atti: If this passes, and we start using Tier II and use it when salmon numbers are down, it will have permits, and then if it passes anyone can fill out an application, and they will make us again certain people. Right now they way we live we allow our neighbors to fish. Use shorter periods of time so we can fish with shorter periods, and allow people to fish when the tides go in. Not completely close the river even for short periods as subsistence fishers. You should have minds too you should say what you think.</p> <p>David Carl: Expressed concerns over paying for permits and applications.</p> <p>Carmen Daggett: Explained how Tier II permits</p> <p>Mrs. Kusaiaik:</p> <p>David Bill: We have our own law, hunters and fishers hunt for other families and taking care of others. Expressed concerns over paying for these permits now and in the future. These are the things we are afraid of.</p> <p>Owen Beaver: I agree with David Bill about our elders teach us. When you start something, you keep on taking.</p> <p>Willie Atti: We are representing our villages. My suggestion would be to oppose this proposal. This didn't come from a group of people, my suggestion would be to oppose this proposal. We might want to consider another alternative. The way this proposal is written it would categorize people in our own communities to allow some people fish and some people not. I think we should make our own proposal, and divide the river, into different sections.</p> <p>Willie Atti: Motioned to oppose proposal 245.</p> <p>Tommy Kusaiaik: Seconded</p> |
|---|---|---|---|

MEETING MINUTES

10/25-26/2017

BOF 276 Establish a permit system for regulating the king salmon subsistence fishery during times of low king salmon runs.

| | | | |
|---|---|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action | 0 | 11 | <p>David Bill: I think it is a scare tactic.</p> <p>Lisa Olson: Explains proposal for 276.</p> <p>David Carl: Inquires about which fish will be affected. If this is just for Kuskokwim River people below that area.</p> <p>Lisa Olsen :Explains that the management area begins by Eek.</p> <p>Ben Lozano: There are two markers, we didn't have any lines when my grandparents there are lines. We have to be fishing where we are told to go fish nowadays. People don't know where the lines are.</p> <p>Owen Beaver: That is the trouble that is coming up, in the older days Eek Island across at Pugamuit. They are extending it without the knowledge of the local people.</p> <p>Willie Atti: We talked about getting permits, people don't like permits either as community or as households. Fish and Game they wrote this proposal, while we were talking awhile about the permit system. I heard you were against this. It was alright if this didn't happen.</p> <p>David Bill: Wants to know where the river begins and ends. We need to find out where the river ends.</p> <p>Lisa Olsen: Section one starts at the Yukon Delta and extends to the Johnson River.</p> <p>Aaron Poetter: Explains the boundaries of the management area, this just applies to the area.</p> <p>David Bill: Hooper Bay is in the Yukon management area. That would leave Newtok by itself.</p> <p>Aaron Poetter: Newtok is in the Kuskokwim management area.</p> <p>AC Members: Reviewed the management area.</p> <p>Willi Atti: When we talk about the permits earlier we were talking about that we didn't like it. Even if the community got permits individuals would not get permits, only a certain number of people would get permits. Should we oppose it?</p> <p>Lisa Olsen: Expresses group numbers.</p> <p>David Bill: Inquires about group numbers.</p> <p>Lisa Olsen: All Alaskans would be eligible to participate.</p> <p>David Bill: Inquires about permits on the river.</p> <p>Edward Kiokun: Inquires about subsistence only.</p> <p>Owen Beaver: We don't buy stamps for duck stamps and geese stamps.</p> <p>Willi Atti:</p> <p>Edward Kiokun: Although this does not affect me directly or any other coastal areas. Though the intentions are good from the state. I see this as a way to regulate our subsistence lifestyle. The intentions are good, then again it is a chance for the State of Alaska to regulate subsistence use with certain numbers. They could extend that out to the coast eventually.</p> <p>Annie Cleveland: We have unwritten rules from our ancestors how to fish and how to, I know how many fish will last me a year. I got all of the fish in two drifts from the river. These are the regulations from my forefathers, I don't like the state to tell me how many I should get and how much and from where. In this proposal is no good I don't like it.</p> <p>Willi Atti: Motion to oppose 276</p> <p>Annie Cleveland: Seconded</p> |
|---|---|----|--|

MEETING MINUTES

10/25-26/2017

BOF

- Support as Amended
- Oppose
- No Support Action

0
Neutral

Willie Atti: The target fish are for sheefish and whitefish, what if you caught king salmon during that period.

Lisa Olsen: Explained that the board might require that king salmon be released.

Leo Moses: What if it was for subsistence.

Lisa Olsen: The board could say even if you caught it for subsistence you would let the king salmon go, because they are trying to conserve the king salmon.

Stanley Anthony: If we catch a small king salmon and it dies we don't leave it. When a fish gets caught in a 4" net we take it home and eat it.

Owen Beaver: When a fish stays in a net they get weaker and weaker and we take them. The small nets get tangled and we.

Willi Atti:

Tommy Kusaiaik: 4 inch mesh catches king salmon and chokes them, the salmon get caught they won't go very far they will, die. They cannot be used for salmon only for white fish. If I want to catch salmon I would use 6 inch. King salmon use larger nets. The four inch mesh are not good for the salmon here. Four inch mesh kills lots of different kinds of fish.

David Bill: When I fished in Bristol bay we used 8 inch mesh in Bristol Bay. Our superintendent, in the 8 inch mesh you kills the salmon before you get it in the boat. He said to use the 8.5" mesh, and the 8 " mesh killed the salmon because it damaged the hard parts on its head. Every fish has a sensitive part of the head. In some regulations said you have to throw away the dead fish. It is up to you how we vote on this one. When I worked for commercial fishing we never used anything smaller than 8.5" mesh.

David Carl: They used all that is in the land and is in the waters, in Bristol Bay and Nushagak, we caught up river near Dillingham, we had no restrictions to use four inch. People never complained how many fish there were. **Tommy Kusaiaik:** Take the four inch mesh size off. There are not a lot of fish in the tributaries, if we make it bigger or large then we can use on the main river.

Willi Atti: I think it is fine if we change the mesh size.

Stanley Anthony: I think it is a good idea to have larger mesh. I know because I fish some times large get snagged in the net and die. If we made the mesh bigger size it would be better smaller mesh kills fish.

David Carl: We met once I hunt black fish, we use blackfish nets with very small fish. When we were trying to catch fish and mink that got stuck in them died. Small mesh nets small fish that is what we understand. If we made the mesh size would be larger.

Willi Atti: Reiterates the killing of the king salmon and that they should be limited on the tributaries of the Kuskokwim river.

Aaron Tiernan: Any salmon bearing tributaries end of being closed to protect the spawning areas.

Willi Atti: Since the use of 4inch mesh is mainly to with fishing within the Kuskokwim river itself, because of the make up of this group, maybe this group may consider to be neutral on this proposal.

David Bill: We are not the only ones deciding on this. There are a lot of people on the Kuskokwim are against this.

Willi Atti: Inquires about when this would be only allowed until June 12. **Aaron Tiernan:** Explains the fishing time frame on the period in the early season.

Willi Atti: Would like to motion to remain neutral on this proposal.

Edward Kiokun: Seconded

Discussion:

Tommy Kusaiaik: We need to amend it to a larger size. Kuskokwim fisherman will. We should support Kuskokwim fisherman and oppose this.

MEETING MINUTES

10/25-26/2017

Alaska Board of Game Arctic/Western Meeting

January 6-9, 2017, Bethel

| Proposal Number | Proposal Description | | |
|--|--|---------------|--|
| Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action | Number Support | Number Oppose | Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal |
| 3 | Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for caribou | | |
| 5 | Change "general season" to "subsistence" for Arctic/Western Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings | | |
| 6 | 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 | | |
| 8 | Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Arctic/Western Region until harvest and population objectives are met | | |
| Supported | 8 | 0 | <p>-Owen Beaver sports hunters</p> <p>-David Bill: This is our way of life and I was raised and learned about sports hunters and fisherman, they always tell us to not let sport hunters, sports hunters take our fish and game. This is the warning of the past and we should try to continue this to the future, thank you Ms. Chair.</p> <p>Annie Cleveland: I like this proposal my cousin ran into a bunch of hunters when he was upriver, in the boat there was a caribou antlers but no meat, he told them first the meat, they should eat it. There are some people who come in and shoot moose or raindeer and caribou.</p> <p>Phil Perry: Explains Intensive Management in different parts of the regions.</p> <p>-Explains habitat improvement</p> <p>-Explains predator populations</p> <p>-Explains higher human harvests</p> <p>Willi Atti: Inquires about the reasoning behind intensive management and clarifies that Unit 18 is not under intensive management.</p> <p>Phil Perry: Explains that there are larger numbers of moose on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim and adjust the intensive management numbers.</p> <p>Motioned by Owen to support</p> <p>Seconded by Ben Lozano</p> <p>David Bill: agrees with the motion</p> |
| 17 | Change the definition of "edible meat" for game birds | | |
| Support as amended | 8 | 0 | <p>Willi Atti: Inquire about the Yupik words for edible meat, when we hunt and kill an animal we use all of the animal.</p> <p>Annie Cleveland: Explains the use of all of the bird from the head to the feet.</p> <p>Ben Lozano: Last year on TV on the outdoor channel I was watching people in the south Lower 48, they shoot all of these birds and they only take the breast. Where we come from here our grandparents said take everything and don't leave anything behind, everything is edible except for the guts.</p> <p>Willi Atti: Inquires about enforcement of the extension of the definition.</p> <p>Annie Cleveland: How do we change it so that you have to take the whole duck, so that no meat is wasted. All through my years I have never been told to eat certain parts and leave the rest. We didn't have any rules and regulations like that. I don't feel</p> |

MEETING MINUTES

10/25-26/2017

Alaska Board of Game Arctic/Western Meeting

January 6-9, 2017, Bethel

| Proposal Number | Proposal Description | | |
|---|--|---------------|--|
| Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action | Number Support | Number Oppose | Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal |
| | | | <p>comfortable with this one.</p> <p>Ben Lozano: If I see a bird coming are the breasts going to fall off, no the whole bird falls down. My grandparents told me eat everything, and that is how I was raised.</p> <p>Phillip Perry: Explains this is a minimum, this region this is a very relativant proposal.</p> <p>David Bill: We as native people we have laws for everything, not eating the meat is playing with food. If you are hunting anywhere, don't try to kill anything that you are not going to eat, so we don't do that. If you waste any food the animals will find out and they will find you and ask you. Women cooks everything on the bird.</p> <p>Edward Kiokun: We have different cultural collisons we have different cultures from the Lower 48 that takes the breasts and legs, and from our perspective we eat the whole bird. We are in the 21st century, we also think it is important to consider that we don't.</p> <p>Willi Atti: Would like to motion to eat the whole bird besides the guts</p> <p>Stanley Anthony: When we were growing up we were told to eat the whole bird. They made little parkas out of down and use the down for other things That is how we used to it, that is now how everyone does it these days. After the bird was cooked we ate everything off of the bone was eaten, but not now a days.</p> <p>Willie Atti: The proposal came from here. This proposal as is written, should say if a person is going to hunt migratory birds should keep the whole bird not only just the breasts.</p> <p>Willie Atti: Motioned amend the proposal to say: for all game birds that meat of the whole bird should be harvested besides the guts.</p> <p>Stanley Anthony: Seconded the motion</p> <p>Leo Moses: Agrees with using the amendment.</p> <p>Willie Atti: Explains the guts are the intestines and the lungs</p> |
| 18 | Reauthorize resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A | | |
| Support | 8 | 0 | <p>Ben Lozano: Motion to support</p> <p>Seconded by Willie Atti</p> |
| 21 | Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18 | | |
| Support | 8 | 0 | <p>Ben Lozano: The winter hunt would depend on the unfilled?</p> <p>Owen Beaver: Land claims have discrimination, and there was different history between marine mammals versus .</p> <p>Annie Cleveland: Explains the reason behind the proposal, because of the difference in the boat motors. I am comfortable with approving this one.</p> <p>Leo Moses: Motion to support</p> <p>Ben Lozano: Seconded</p> |
| 22 | Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder | | |
| Opposed | 0 | 8 | <p>Leo Moses: Inquires about whether they are subsistence hunting.</p> <p>Phil Perry: Explains the definition of non-resident, this would allow them to hunt in the winter time to shoot a cow.</p> <p>Leo Moses: Inquires about the availability of people coming up in the winter and hunting a cow moose.</p> <p>Phil: Explains I am fairly confident there would be a big demand.</p> <p>Leo Moses: I am not in favor of this proposal.</p> |

MEETING MINUTES

10/25-26/2017

Alaska Board of Game Arctic/Western Meeting

January 6-9, 2017, Bethel

| Proposal Number | Proposal Description | | |
|---|--|---------------|---|
| Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action | Number Support | Number Oppose | Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal |
| | | | Leo Moses Jr.: motions to oppose this proposal. Willie Atti: Seconded |
| 23 | Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 | | |
| Support | 8 | 0 | Leo Moses: Inquires about whether it is residents versus non-residents Leo Moses: motion to support Ben Lozano: seconded |
| 24 | Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18 | | |
| Opposed | 0 | 8 | Leo Moses: Would like to opposes this proposal. Willie Atti: It is not hunting to bait bears, we don't bait anything. Everything about this is in my mind, we don't hunt animals by baiting. If someone is a good hunter, he doesn't wait for bears, he goes out an hunts them. This proposal uses the word hunting, when you are hunting you don't use bait the person goes out and looks for game. Leo Moses: I wasn't raised to use bait. Leo Moses: Motion to oppose Willie Atti: Seconded |
| 25 | Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 | | |
| Opposed | 0 | 8 | Phillip Perry: Explains the state requests to consider this at the January 2018 meeting, during a different year. This is a herd that needs to get larger before non-residents were able to hunt them. Owen Beaver: Inquires if there are complaints about too many hunters in the area. Leo Moses: Motioned to oppose proposal 25 I am against this proposal, if this passes it will give lower 48 hunters to come up and hunt, not to open it to nonresidents. Right now the numbers of caribou in our are area are not lots. If they come from the Lower 48 they are rich and they hunt anyway they want. Ben Lozano: Seconded |

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: _____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____

BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS

Definitions

PROPOSAL 4 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26). **Definitions.** Change the definition of edible meat for large game birds as follows:

Regulation change:

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.

(26) "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); 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, **back, wings, gizzard, and heart** 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 lost as a result of boning or a close trimming of the bones, or viscera;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) is proposing that the definition of edible meat for large-sized migratory game birds in the fall/winter migratory bird hunting regulations be more consistent with that for the spring/summer subsistence migratory bird harvest regulations to reduce or prevent waste. The current definition of edible meat for swans, geese, and cranes to be salvaged for human consumption is the meat of the breast and meat of the legs and thighs. The AMBCC Native Caucus is proposing to further define edible meat for swans, geese and cranes to include breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart.

PROPOSED BY: Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
(EG-F17-048)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 4 – 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions. Modify the definition of edible meat of large game birds.

PROPOSED BY: Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal seeks to change the definition of edible meat for cranes, geese, and swans to include the meat of the back, wings, gizzard, and heart.

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 the meat of the femur and tibia-fibula (legs and thighs);...

5 AAC 92.990(a)(70) “Salvage” means to transport the edible meat, heart, liver, kidneys, head, skull, or hide, as required by statute or regulation, of a game animal or small game bird to the location where the edible meat, heart, liver, or kidneys will be consumed by humans or processed for human consumption in order to save or prevent the edible meat, heart, liver, or kidneys from waste, and the head, skull, or hide will be put to human use;

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted hunters will be required to salvage more meat from large game birds, and the new salvage requirements will match the existing salvage requirements for federal subsistence hunting in Alaska. Hunters will be required to salvage the meat of the breast, back, wings, gizzard, heart, and meat of the femur and tibia-fibula (legs and thighs) of cranes, geese, and swans.

BACKGROUND: While not a regulatory requirement, the department encourages the use of all edible meat beyond what is required to be salvaged. How a person uses different parts of small game birds can vary considerably. Salvage regulations have been applied to all game meat, including small game, on a statewide basis to establish minimum standards to ensure responsible use of game animals. Federal migratory bird subsistence harvest regulations were recently modified by adding a definition of “edible meat” that means meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard, and heart. Subsistence harvest and possession of migratory birds must be done using non-wasteful taking (akin to “salvage” by definition in 5 AAC 92.990(a)(70)).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal since it does not affect sustained yield management capabilities and does not address nor present a biological concern.

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

Unlawful Methods

PROPOSAL 6 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Allow the incidental take of up to two furbearers per year during an open season for other furbearers as follows:

Either:

"Allow two (2) total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year for any species that have a "no limit" bag limit. The incidental closed season catch must have been taken in traps set for a species that still has an open season.

Or:

"If a trapper incidentally takes a furbearer during a closed season in a trap that is set for a furbearer species that is still open, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) may issue a total of two (2) incidental take tags per licensed trapper per year only for species that have a "no limit" bag limit. The trapper must report these within 30 days to ADF&G for tagging, and sealing if required. The trapper may then keep the incidentally taken furbearer.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow two total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year. If all seasons are not aligned, there will be some incidental take of the closed species in traps set for species that are still open. You would still need to report to ADF&G within 30 days of take to get animal sealed or otherwise checked-in.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-045)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 6 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow the incidental take of up to two furbearers per year during an open season for other furbearers.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Allow 2 total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations regarding trapping can be found in 5 AAC 92.095 and in the current trapping regulations.

If a non-target furbearer is caught during the closed season for that species, it is the property of the state and must be transported immediately to the nearest ADF&G or Alaska Wildlife Troopers office and surrendered.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would allow licensed trappers to legally keep closed season furbearer and other species incidentally even if there is no season or bag limit for the species that was incidentally caught. This would also allow licensed trappers to target “incidental” species such as wolverine, lynx, wolf, and likely others during closed seasons for those species due to the value and opportunity provided by allowing for trappers to retain incidental furbearer catch.

BACKGROUND: There has been interest from trappers in the past to allow for the possession of incidental caught furbearers due to the time and effort involved in handling and processing non-target catch. Understandably, the current regulations require trappers to turnover non-target furbearers to the state as they are the property of the state if taken during the closed season for these species. These non-target catches are typically processed and sold at the department’s fur auctions every winter in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to the potential for abuse and the challenge of allowing for legal take of specific high-value furbearers when populations of those species are showing reduced numbers in specific game management units.

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

Note: Alaska Statute 16.05.783 only allows same day airborne taking of wolves and wolverine as part of a predator control program authorized by the Board of Game.

PROPOSAL 8 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods for taking furbearers; exceptions.

Remove the same day airborne restrictions for taking wolf and wolverine with a trapping license as follows:

Allow shooting a wolf or wolverine during trapping season on the same day airborne as long a person is more than 300 feet from his airplane and has a trapping license.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the trapping regulations it is legal to shoot fox, coyotes and lynx on the same day airborne as long as the trapper is more than 300 feet from his airplane. But it is specifically NOT legal to shoot a wolf or wolverine unless it is already caught in a trap or snare. There are at least two scenarios in which a person operating under the authority of a trapping license might encounter a wolf or wolverine and wish to harvest that animal. In one case, a trapper has flown to a remote trap line and is checking his traps either by foot or snow machine and encounters a wolf or wolverine, perhaps the wolf or wolverine is even raiding the trappers traps of martin but the trapper cannot shoot the wolf or wolverine because he has been airborne that day. In the second case, the trapper is attempting to take furbearers specifically by predator calling. The trapper may fly out in the morning, land his plane in a suitable area and hike while setting up and predator calling every half mile or so. This is an enjoyable way to hunt that is becoming more popular (witness the sales of predator calls at Cabela’s and Bass Pro). If a fox, lynx or coyote comes in to the call it is legal to shoot but not a wolf or wolverine. This does not make much sense especially when the bag limit in essentially every unit except Units 14 and 16A is unlimited for both wolf and wolverine.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

(EG-F17-057)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 8 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods for taking furbearers. Remove the same day airborne restrictions for taking wolf and wolverine with a trapping license.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal seeks to allow wolves and wolverines to be shot the same day a person has flown, provided the person has a trapping license, there is an open trapping season, and the person is 300 feet or more from the airplane.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

AS 16.05.783(a) A person may not shoot or assist in shooting a free-ranging wolf or wolverine the same day that a person has been airborne...

5 AAC 92.090(3) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a fur animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred; this paragraph does not apply if the person is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking.

5 AAC 92.095(a)(8) a person who has been airborne may not use a firearm to take or assist in taking a wolf or wolverine until after 3:00 a.m. on the day following the day in which the flying occurred; or in taking a coyote, arctic fox, red fox, or lynx, unless that person is over 300 feet from the airplane at the time of the taking; this prohibition does not apply to a trapper using a firearm to dispatch an animal caught in a trap or snare;

5 AAC 92.990(a)(9) “big game” means black bear, brown bear, bison, caribou, Sitka black-tailed deer, elk, mountain goat, moose, muskox, Dall sheep, wolf, and wolverine; “big game”, for the purposes of a youth hunt, does not include bison or muskox;

5 AAC 92.990(a)(31) “fur animal” means a beaver, coyote, arctic fox, red fox, lynx, flying squirrel, ground squirrel, or red squirrel that has not been domestically raised; “fur animal” is a classification of animals subject to taking with a hunting license;

5 AAC 92.990(a)(32) “furbearer” means a beaver, black bear, coyote, arctic fox, red fox, lynx, fisher, marten, mink, least weasel, short-tailed weasel, muskrat, land otter, red squirrel, flying squirrel, ground squirrel, Alaskan marmot, hoary marmot, woodchuck, wolf, or wolverine; “furbearer” is a classification of animals subject to taking with a trapping license;

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted the proposal would allow wolves and wolverines to be shot the same day a person has flown, provided the person has a trapping license, there is an open trapping season, and the person is 300 feet or more from the airplane. This may put board regulations in conflict with AS 16.05.783.

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

BACKGROUND: AS 16.05.783 prohibits the shooting of free-ranging wolves and wolverines the same day a person has been airborne. 5 AAC 92.090(3) allows for fur animals to be taken the same day a person has been airborne, however it does not apply to wolves and wolverines because they are not fur animals. Wolves and wolverines are dual classified as big game and furbearers. 5 AAC 92.085, unlawful methods of taking big game, clearly states wolves and wolverines are not allowed to be taken during hunting seasons, with a hunting license, the same day a person has flown. This regulation is in alignment with the statute. 5 AAC 92.095, unlawful methods of taking furbearers, clearly states wolves and wolverines are only allowed to be taken by firearm during trapping seasons, with a trapping license, the same day a person has flown if the wolf or wolverine is caught in a trap or snare. Those trapping during the open trapping season may only shoot a free-ranging wolf or wolverine after 3:00 a.m. the day following the day in which the person was airborne. The provision that allows for trappers to dispatch wolves and wolverines that are caught in snares or traps is what keeps the regulation in alignment with the statute.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not address a biological concern; however there is a potential to create a regulation that is in direct conflict with an existing statute, so careful consultation with the Department of Law should occur prior to adopting this proposal.

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

PROPOSAL 13 – 5 AAC 92.080(7). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Clarify the regulation that prohibits the use of a “cellular or satellite telephone” to take game as follows:

Current regulation states that you may not use a “cellular or satellite telephone” to take game. Possible solutions might be that the use of cellular or satellite devices are exempted for certain use. Other possibilities might include re-affirming that cellular or satellite phones cannot be used for any reason to take game.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Clarify the use of cellular or satellite phones to take game animals. 5 AAC 92.080 prohibits certain methods of taking game. One method that is prohibited is the use of cellular or satellite phones. Technology has dramatically increased over the years. Cell phone capabilities, cell service and smart phones have all made it easier for hunters to use these devices for hunting utilizing various technologies. Examples of this technology are game cameras that are communicating with cell phones to let the hunter know an animal is in the area that they are hunting and devices connected by satellite when cell service is not available. This technology is becoming increasingly popular at bear bait sites, for general hunting and with trappers.

As technology changes, it is difficult to interpret the regulations for enforcement purposes. Additionally, regulations should be clear for the public so there is little room for interpretation. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers would like the Board of Game to clarify the use of cell phones and satellite communication devices for the purpose of hunting and taking game. This clarification will benefit both the hunters and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers enforcing the regulation.

Current regulation states that you may not use a “cellular or satellite telephone” to take game. The board should discuss the timeline and specific uses of these devices.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

(HQ-F17-018)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 13 – 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Clarify the legal use of cellular and satellite telephones.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal seeks clarification for when cell phone and satellite phones may be used by hunters to take game, and/or clarification of when those devices may not be used.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 92.080(7) with the aid of a pit, fire, artificial light, laser sight, electronically enhanced night vision, any forward looking infrared device, any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, and used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device, radio communication, cellular or satellite telephone, artificial salt lick, explosive, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, chemical (excluding scent lures), or a conventional steel trap with an inside jaw spread over nine inches, except that

- (A) a rangefinder may be used;
- (B) a killer style trap with a jaw spread of less than 13 inches may be used
- (C) artificial light may be used:
 - (i) for the purpose of taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season November 1 – March 31 in Units 7 and 9 – 26;
 - (ii) by a tracking dog handler with one leashed dog to aid in tracking and dispatching a wounded big game animal;
 - (iii) to aid in tracking, recovering, and dispatching a wounded game animal without the use of a motorized vehicle;
 - (iv) by a resident hunter taking black bear under customary and traditional use activities at a den site from October 15 through April 30 in Unit 19(A), that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage within Unit 19(D) upstream from the Selatna River drainage and the Black River drainage, and in Units 21(B), 21(C), 21(D), 24 and 25(D);
- (D) repealed 7/1/2008;
- (E) in a Unit 20(D) bison hunt, the use of ground based radio communications, including cellular or satellite telephones, to locate bison is allowed;

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted hunters would clearly know how and when they can and cannot use a cellular or satellite telephone.

BACKGROUND: Technology has advanced rapidly over the years, and wildlife regulations fail to keep up with it. One example is game cameras that are placed in the field and send photographs via text or email to cellular phones. Emails are also accessible on cellular phones, and since email is not a currently prohibited technology, the line between legal and not legal has been blurred. Similarly, hunters question whether or not they can call, text, or email each other

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

between cellular phones when not in the field for hunt planning. At face value, it appears to not be legal, however it appears to be near impossible to enforce. Each year hunters ask if using that technology is legal, and the appropriate entity to answer the question is the board. This is one of many technological advances the board has had in front of it in recent history.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because there is no biological concern; however it may lead to an indeterminate increase in harvest.

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

Hunting Permits & Harvest Tickets

PROPOSAL 24 – 5 AAC 92.044(10). Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Define the term “equipment” for bear baiting as follows:

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait

(10) a permittee must remove bait, litter, and equipment from the bait station site when hunting is completed; **for the purposes of this section "equipment" is defined as barrels, tree stands, game cameras, and other items that may be left in the field for use at a bear bait station. Tree stands may be left in the field year-round with permission of the landowner or land manager.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game needs to define "equipment" as tree stands, game cameras, and other equipment that may be left in the field as hunting equipment.

The Department of Natural Resources has decided that all hunters will need a permit to leave a stand or camera in the field for more than 14 days in the same location, requiring a fee. We are hoping for an administrative resolution but this proposal is a placeholder in case there is not one reached.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F17-103)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 24 –5 AAC 92.044(10). Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Define the term “equipment” for bear baiting.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal seeks to define “equipment” to clarify bear baiting regulations and what is and is not allowed to be left in the field when the bait season closes. The proposed definition is “barrels, tree stands, game cameras, and other items that may be left in the field for use at a bear bait station. Tree stands may be left in the field year-round with permission of the landowner or land manager.”

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 92.044(b)(10) a permittee must remove bait, litter, and equipment from the bait station site when hunting is completed;

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted the term “equipment” would be defined for the purposes of bear baiting, and tree stands would be allowed to be left in the field year-round with land owner or land manager permission.

BACKGROUND: All bait, litter, and equipment (including tree stands) associated with bear bait stations must currently be removed from the field the last day of the baiting season, if not sooner.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a regulation in place that requires all camps and associated equipment, including tree stands for bear baiting, may only remain in one place for 14 days at a time, and requires a fee be paid in advance. DNR has recently decided to inform bear baiters of this regulation. Because bear bait stations are permitted by DFG, bear hunters are currently not required to abide by the 14 day rule and not required to pay the associated fee. However, any bear hunters that choose to leave their tree stands up after baiting seasons will have to either remove the tree stands at the close of the baiting season, or move them every 14 days and pay the fee.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal because it does not address a biological concern.

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

PROPOSAL 25 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Require harvest tickets for all brown bear hunts statewide as follows:

Create a harvest ticket for brown bear and require it to hunt them statewide.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear/grizzlies are one of the premier game animals in Alaska and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) have no way of telling how many people actually hunt them every year. I think it is vital the ADF&G start keeping track of how many people hunt bears and how much effort is put in hunting them. With much milder winters we seem to have a growing bear population statewide. By tracking how many bears are being seen by hunters, how many are being harvested and how much effort is made to hunt them, ADF&G will have a lot better idea of what is going on out in the field and how to best manage them. We have a statewide requirement for black bear harvest tickets. I see no reason we shouldn't have one for brown bear.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

(EG-F17-069)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 25 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Require harvest tickets for all brown bear hunts statewide.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal seeks to require brown bear hunters have in possession a brown bear harvest ticket prior to hunting brown bears in hunts currently not managed by permit.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Only brown bear hunters in permit hunts are required to have a permit in their possession while hunting. Most brown bear hunts require only sealing if successful.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted all brown bear hunters not participating in permit hunts would be required to have a harvest ticket in their possession prior to hunting brown bears. In some places hunters would now be required to have a harvest ticket and metal locking tag in their possession prior to hunting brown bears. In the remaining areas, only the harvest ticket would be required. The harvest ticket would also allow the department to estimate hunter effort.

BACKGROUND: During the winter/spring board meetings of 2008 and 2009 the board adopted a proposal submitted by the department to require black bear hunters to have in their possession a harvest ticket. The board adopted the regulation, effective July 1, 2009, that all black bear hunters in Units 1-7, 11-17, 19D, and 20 must have a harvest ticket in their possession. The original thought was that harvest tickets would be required only in areas where sealing was required; however the board expanded that to include some areas where sealing is not required.

In many areas, brown bears are currently managed through analysis of harvest statistics. In areas where more information is required to manage, a permit of some sort is required.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not address a biological concern.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal is expected to result in minimal additional costs to the department from printing and distributing paper harvest tickets and from adapting the database and website to take into account the new harvest ticket.

PROPOSAL 31 – 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Establish a preference point system for drawing hunts as follows:

Review and change the actual computer methodology of drawing hunt permits to incorporate the concepts of fairness given below. Specifically incorporate the concept that no one could draw more than one hunt before all applicants had a chance to draw and some type of preference for those who failed to draw in any given year. Also incorporate a preference for Alaskan residents in the drawing hunts similar to what other states do for their residents. These concepts should not be difficult to incorporate into a computer program.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current drawing hunt permit methodology could be better. There are instances where one individual will be drawn for several hunts in a single year while other applicants do not get drawn at all. In some cases, recipients of multiple hunts cannot use all of the hunts they have been awarded because those hunts overlap. About ten (or so) years ago the Board of Game passed a provision for bonus or preference points for drawing hunts but that was ignored by ADF&G or dropped as being impractical. I believe the entire drawing hunt system should be reviewed and changed. It would not be difficult to be certain that no individual was drawn for more than one hunt until everyone had drawn and there were unsubscribed hunts remaining at which point second or even third computer runs could award additional hunts to applicants who had already drawn one or more hunts. In addition, a priority system should be established so that individuals who had failed to draw anything in previous years would have increased opportunity to draw in future years. Resident hunters should receive some percentage preference in the drawing hunts as is done in nearly all other states that have drawing permit hunts.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

(EG-F17-086)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 31 – 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Establish a preference point system for drawing hunts.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal asks for increased levels of fairness in the awarding of drawing permits including limiting the number of drawing permits a person could win and creating a preference for Alaska residents.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Drawing permits are by definition awarded by random lottery. Applicants cannot be awarded the same permit two years in a row, residents may only be awarded one bison permit every ten years, nonresidents may only be awarded one bison permit per lifetime, and all persons may only be awarded one drawing permit per species per year.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted no one could win a second hunt until everyone was awarded their first. Implementing this portion of the proposal would look like choice order across all species. The proposal would also provide some kind of priority to previous years' non-winners and give them an increased opportunity above those that won last year. It would need to be determined if this priority would be awarded to those who won their first choice species, or to those who won any of the hunts they applied for. The proposal would also create a weighted preference for residents, but it is not clear how.

BACKGROUND: Proposals for bonus points and preference points keep coming before the board. The board adopted preference points but did not implement them because the legislature did not increase the fees for drawing permits, which was needed to cover the cost of the change.

Preference point and bonus point systems are used by many states to allocate the distribution of permits. Preference points differ from bonus points in that a person with more preference points will be drawn before other applicants with fewer preference points. Bonus points also provide an increased chance of drawing a permit for some hunts, but do not guarantee selection before other applicants with fewer bonus points. These systems do not provide any benefit to those desiring to be awarded permits for highly desired hunts such as bison and Tok sheep.

A number of state fish and game agencies in the U. S. have preference or bonus point systems for allocating hunting opportunities that vary from moose in Maine to bighorn sheep in many western states. The degree to which the hunting public likes or dislikes these systems varies. Most are expensive and administratively complicated to maintain. All have fees to maintain the respective program apart from other license and tag fees that support wildlife management programs. In addition, changes to preference or bonus systems are problematic if the changes affect the value of previously collected points. For that reason it is also very difficult to ever return to a simple draw.

How much a hunter's probability of being drawn in a subsequent year will increase would

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depend on: (1) the number of applicants, (2) the number of preference points he or she has, and (3) the established rules.

State fish and game agencies that have bonus or preference point systems charge additional fees to maintain these systems.

To date, Alaska has addressed this issue by limiting individuals to one permit per 4 years, 10 years, or a lifetime.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. If the board chooses to adopt this proposal the department asks for a delayed implementation to prepare an assessment of proposed changes. The department would like the opportunity to bring forward any obstacles identified during the delay, and present them to the board and ask for guidance on how to proceed prior to the board adopting a regulation.

If pursued, the department would prefer starting small, with a few hunts, so that inevitable “bugs” in a new system can be more easily and efficiently identified and addressed.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal will result in significant costs to the department to develop the point system.

PROPOSAL 41 – 5 AAC 92.012. Licenses and tags. Exempt rural subsistence hunters from the requirements for obtaining a waterfowl conservation tag as follows:

The Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) would like the Alaska Board of Game to consider establishing an exemption from the regulation requiring all hunters under the age of 18 to purchase an Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Tag (State Duck Stamp). This would exempt rural Alaska subsistence hunters from having to purchase the waterfowl conservation tag in order to participate in the federal spring-summer subsistence harvest season for migratory birds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) requests that the board exercise its authority under Alaska Statute 16.05.340 to promulgate a regulation exempting people who live in eligible areas (as defined by 50 C.F.R. § 92.5(a)) and who engage in subsistence hunting of migratory birds from the requirement that they obtain a state waterfowl conservation tag, or duck stamp, for waterfowl hunting for the subsistence harvest season for migratory birds. In the alternative, the Native Caucus requests the board take any action within its power to exempt subsistence hunters from having to obtain a state duck stamp in order to participate in the subsistence harvest of migratory birds.

Under AS 16.05.340(a)(17)(B), the board can by regulation exempt the requirement of a waterfowl conservation tag for waterfowl hunting in areas of the state not likely to benefit from the programs described in AS 16.05.130(b)(2)-(4).

AS 16.05.130(b)(2)-(4) provides that money accruing to the state from waterfowl conservation tag fees from hunters may not be diverted to a purpose other than...

- (2) the acquisition, by lease or otherwise, of wetlands that are important for waterfowl and public use of waterfowl in the state;
- (3) waterfowl related projects approved by the Commissioner;
- (4) the administration of the waterfowl conservation program...

In 2014, Congress amended the Duck Stamp Act to exempt the customary and traditional subsistence harvest of migratory waterfowl in Alaska from the Act's requirements that all hunters purchase and carry federal duck stamps. Federal law now exempts rural Alaskan residents engaged in subsistence uses of migratory waterfowl from having to obtain a federal duck stamp. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 718a(a)(2)(D). Given the preemptive nature of federal law over the management and regulation of migratory birds, state laws and regulations should be consistent with those federal requirements, and should not require obtaining a state duck stamp in order to engage in subsistence uses of migratory waterfowl.

Furthermore, included areas within Alaska where subsistence migratory bird hunting is allowed under 50 C.F.R. § 92.5(a) will not benefit from the programs described in AS 16.05.130(b)(2)-(4).

Finally, requiring that subsistence users obtain a state duck stamp is inconsistent with the subsistence way of life and customary subsistence practices. Alaska native hunters have long

viewed the subsistence harvest of migratory birds and their eggs as a community tradition, as people often hunt or egg together as a family, and community members often hunt and egg for other community members who cannot. Migratory birds and their eggs are widely shared and distributed throughout the community, as well. Requiring the purchase of a duck stamp in order to participate is alien to these customary and traditional harvests.

Compliance with this requirement also places an extra administrative burden upon subsistence users, many of whom live in remote areas, and creates a financial hardship for those who can least afford it. The requirement is also inconsistent with customary and traditional practices.

Unless the board takes action, the customary and traditional harvest of migratory birds and their eggs will be deprived of an important part of its customary and traditional character, as hunters and egg gatherers find themselves subjected to a regulatory requirement that makes little sense in the context of this unique harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
(EG-F17-083)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 41 – 5 AAC 92.018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag. Exempt rural subsistence hunters from the requirements for obtaining a waterfowl conservation tag.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal seeks to exempt permanent residents of included areas (areas defined by 50 CFR 92.5(a)) from purchasing an Alaska waterfowl conservation tag (State duck stamp) to participate in migratory bird harvest during the spring- summer subsistence season occurring 2 April – 31 August.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

AS 16.05.130(b) Money accruing to the state from waterfowl conservation tag fees from hunters may not be diverted to a purpose other than

- (1) the conservation and enhancement of waterfowl;
- (2) the acquisition, by lease or otherwise, of wetlands that are important for waterfowl and public use of waterfowl in the state;
- (3) waterfowl related projects approved by the Commissioner;
- (4) the administration of the waterfowl conservation program;

AS 16.05.340(a)(17) Waterfowl conservation tag\$10

- (A) A person may not engage in waterfowl hunting without having the current year's waterfowl tag in the person's actual possession, unless that person
- i. qualifies for a \$5 license fee under (6) of this subsection;
 - ii. is a resident under 18 years of age;
 - iii. is 60 years of age or older and is a resident;
 - iv. is a disabled veteran eligible for a free license under AS 16.05.341.

- (A) the Board of Game shall by regulation exempt the requirement of a waterfowl conservation tag for waterfowl hunting in areas of the state not likely to benefit from programs described in AS 16.05.130(B)(2) – (4).

5 AAC 92.018. A person required to possess an Alaska waterfowl conservation tag or "stamp" under AS 16.05.340(a)(17) shall

- (1) register in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program and carry proof of that registration while hunting migratory birds; and
- (2) sign the tag across its face before hunting migratory birds.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The proposal is specific to permanent rural residents of included areas hunting in the spring-summer subsistence season. However, it seems AS 16.05.340(a)(17)(B) grants the board only the authority to exempt the state duck stamp in areas, not for certain people or during different time periods. As a result, if adopted, the proposal would exempt all residents and non-residents

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from the requirement to purchase an Alaska waterfowl conservation tag for waterfowl hunting during the spring-summer and fall-winter seasons in areas of Alaska deemed by the board under its authority granted by AS 16.05.340(a)(17)(B) not likely to benefit from programs described in AS 16.05.130(b)(2) — (4).

Also, the proposal by indirect effect would complicate the process of registration in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) for individuals not purchasing a waterfowl conservation tag to hunt waterfowl in the aforementioned exempted areas. The purchase of a State stamp is the only mechanism by which a hunter can register for HIP.

BACKGROUND: In 1984, the board in Resolution 84-35-GB (April 9, 1984) stated, "...the Board of Game urges the Alaska Legislature to enact a bill for a state waterfowl conservation stamp program that...ensures that derived revenues will be used for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of Alaska's waterfowl and wetland resources for the benefit of all Alaskans." In June of 1984, the Legislature of the State of Alaska amended the Alaska Statutes to establish a waterfowl conservation tag (State stamp) and fee (Ch. 71 SLA 1984). The established fee was \$5 to purchase a State stamp; on January 1, 2017 the fee increased to \$10 per stamp.

The intent of the State stamp program was to provide economic benefit to waterfowl and their habitats in Alaska; recognizing them as state, national and international public resources; and offer an opportunity for the public (e.g., waterfowl hunters, birders, stamp collectors) to contribute financial support to waterfowl conservation and management in Alaska. A State stamp program has been instituted in all 50 states in the United States.

The revenue according to statute (AS 16.05.130) from State stamp fees are to be used for (1) the conservation and enhancement of waterfowl; (2) the acquisition, by lease or otherwise, of wetlands that are important for waterfowl and public use of waterfowl in the state; (3) waterfowl related projects approved by the Commissioner; (4) the administration of the waterfowl conservation program; and (5) emergencies in the state as determined by the governor.

The purchase of the State stamp, with a few exceptions, is required by all persons (resident and non-resident) engaged in waterfowl hunting in Alaska. State stamp sales have provided average annual revenues of about \$50,000 (increased revenue is anticipated with the \$5 to \$10 increase in State stamp fee); which when matched with federal aid funds, contribute largely to the research, monitoring, and administration of the department's Statewide Waterfowl Program (SWP).

Federal regulation (50 CFR 20.20) requires hunters of migratory game birds in any state to identify themselves as such, provide personal information to the state, and carry proof of compliance, as part of the national HIP. This program is a hunter sampling method that state wildlife agencies and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service use to derive reliable annual estimates

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of hunting activity and waterfowl harvest throughout the United States. These estimates provide managers important information needed to make rigorous decisions affecting waterfowl hunting seasons, bag limits, and population management. Hunters in Alaska register for HIP by purchasing a State stamp. There is not currently a process or mechanism in place to register for HIP separate from the State stamp program.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not address a biological concern. The department recommends the board consider that the intent of the proposal likely exceeds the limits of authority granted to the board.

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

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PROPOSAL 43 – 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Allow the taking of emperor geese by proxy hunting as follows:

We request the Board of Game allow proxy hunting under this section for emperor geese statewide.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2017, the fall-winter hunt of emperor geese is opened to all Alaska residents following over 30 years of closure. The State of Alaska was allotted an annual statewide harvest quota of 1,000 birds under the federal framework. The Board of Game (board) divided the statewide quota into smaller individual quotas in each of seven hunt areas across the range of emperor geese. The fall-winter hunt is administered as a registration permit hunt that allows the harvest and possession of one emperor goose per hunter per season. Registration permits are dispensed on-demand and hunt areas will be closed by emergency order when quotas are achieved.

Despite the fall-winter hunt being opened to all Alaska residents, regulations do not contain a provision for individuals that are incapable of participating in the emperor goose hunt because of their age or physical disability. Current regulation would allow a hunter to gift their emperor goose to another individual, but at a cost of forfeiting their one bird allowed for the season.

The Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) requests the board permit proxy hunting of emperor geese. This would allow both a proxy hunter and beneficiary the opportunity to obtain an emperor goose. A resident hunter holding a valid hunting license may take specified game for another resident who is blind, physically disabled, or 65 years of age or older, as authorized by Alaska Statute 16.05.405 and 5 AAC 92.011.

PROPOSED BY: Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council

(EG-F17-047)

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PROPOSAL 43 – 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Allow the taking of emperor geese by proxy hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal seeks to allow a resident proxy hunter to harvest an emperor goose for a resident beneficiary unable to participate in the fall-winter hunt because they are blind, physically disabled, or 65 years of age or older.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation does not allow for proxy hunting of emperor geese.

5AAC 92.011

- (a) A resident hunter (the proxy) holding a valid resident hunting license may take specified game for another resident (the beneficiary) who is blind, physically disabled or 65 years of age or older, as authorized by AS 16.05.405 and 5 AAC 92.011.

...

- (k) Proxy hunting under this section is only allowed for
 - (1) caribou;
 - (2) deer; and
 - (3) moose in Tier II hunts, any-bull hunts, and antlerless moose hunts.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? A resident (beneficiary) that is incapable of participating in the fall-winter emperor goose hunt because of their age or physical impairment would have the option of participating in the emperor goose registration permit hunt via a resident (proxy) hunter.

BACKGROUND: In 2017, the fall-winter hunt of emperor geese is opened to Alaska residents; the first harvest of emperor geese in over 30 years. Federal regulations allow the State of Alaska an annual harvest quota of 1000 emperor geese. The board created seven hunt areas across the range of emperor geese and divided the 1000 bird quota into smaller quotas across each hunt area. Hunt areas will be closed by emergency order when area harvest quotas are met. The fall-winter hunt is administered as a registration permit hunt that allows a permit holder to harvest one emperor goose per season. Registration permits are free and available in unlimited number. In 2016, approximately 9,500 Alaska residents purchased a waterfowl conservation tag to hunt waterfowl in Alaska.

Federal regulation (50 CFR 20.40) allows a hunter to gift killed migratory birds to another person if properly tagged. Thus, a hunter with a permit may gift their one harvested emperor goose to a recipient that is unable to participate in the emperor goose hunt because they are blind, physically disabled or 65 years or older. But to do this, the hunter would forfeit their one emperor goose

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

allowed for the season. There is no provision in regulation (5 AAC 92.011) that allows a resident to act as proxy for a qualifying resident beneficiary to hunt emperor geese, so that both individuals have the opportunity to obtain an emperor goose during the hunt season.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not address a biological concern. If the proposal is adopted, the department recommends the board consider eliminating the trophy value of a proxy harvested emperor goose by amending 5 AAC 92.011(j) to stipulate removal of the head from the proxy and beneficiary's harvested emperor goose before leaving the kill site. By removing the head, hunters could remain in compliance with 50 CFR 20.43, which states that, "no person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory game bird preservation facility."

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

Cultural & Subsistence Uses

PROPOSAL 53 – 5 AAC 99.025(a)(12). Customary and traditional uses of game populations. Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds statewide as follows:

The proposal requests that the Board of Game (board) review the information provided in the customary and traditional use worksheet provided by ADF&G as well as other available information, including information from the public, to determine if populations of migratory game birds (ducks, geese, swans, snipe, and cranes) statewide support customary and traditional subsistence uses. If a positive determination is made, the regulation would read as follows:

5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations (a)

| SPECIES & UNIT | FINDING | AMOUNT REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE USES |
|--|------------------------|---|
| (12) Small Game | | |
| <u>(X) Migratory game birds</u> | <u>positive</u> | |

All units with a harvestable portion except within the nonsubsistence areas as defined in 5 AAC 99.015.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? AS 16.05.258 requires the board to identify game populations or portions of populations that support customary and traditional subsistence uses (a “C&T finding) and to adopt regulations that provide reasonable opportunities for Alaska residents to participate in these subsistence uses. 5 AAC 85.065(a)(4) provides hunting opportunities for migratory game birds, including ducks, sea ducks, geese, tundra swans, sandhill cranes, and common snipe. However, until January 2017 the board had only made a positive C&T finding for Canada geese in Unit 6. In January 2017, the board made a positive customary and traditional use determination for emperor geese throughout their Alaska range as well as for all migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans), sandhill cranes, and common snipe in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. The finding was based in part on a report prepared by ADF&G titled “Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet: Migratory Game Birds, featuring Emperor Geese” (RC 5, Tab 4 at the January 2017 meeting). The report provided background harvest and use information on uses of migratory game birds in Alaska organized around the eight criteria used by the Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries to identify customary and traditional uses (5 AAC 99.010(b)). Although the board expressed an interest in including all migratory game birds (ducks, geese, swans, snipe, and cranes) throughout their ranges in Alaska (excluding nonsubsistence areas) in their positive finding, the legal notice for the meeting limited action to emperor geese throughout their Alaska range and other migratory game birds only in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. After adopting the C&T finding, the board requested that ADF&G prepare a proposal to address a C&T finding for migratory game birds statewide to be considered at the statewide regulatory meeting in November 2017.

Making a C&T finding would not result in any changes to seasons, bag limits, or other state regulations governing the taking of migratory game birds.

Because of the broad scale of the proposed C&T finding, it is not recommended that the board establish an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (an “ANS finding”) for migratory game birds at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-006)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 53 – 5 AAC 99.025(a)(12). Customary and traditional uses of game population(s). Re-evaluate the customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds statewide.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Determine if there are customary and traditional (C&T) subsistence uses of migratory game birds in units that do not currently have findings.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are various state and federal regulations governing the hunting of migratory game birds, which include migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans), sandhill cranes, and common snipe. The department has prepared an in-depth customary and traditional use worksheet, Special Publication No. BOG 2017-10, which is posted on the Board of Game’s website for the November 2017 Statewide meeting. Detailed state and federal regulations can be found in the report. Current regulations include positive customary and traditional use findings for all migratory game birds in units 18, 22, 23, and 26A; emperor geese throughout their Alaska range (units 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 22, and 23); and Canada geese in Unit 6. The board has made no C&T findings for migratory game birds in other units.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Customary and traditional uses of migratory game birds throughout their ranges in Alaska would be acknowledged in regulation.

BACKGROUND: At its January 2017 Arctic/Western region meeting in Bethel, the board considered Proposal 157 to open a hunting season for emperor geese. Since the board, when considering regulations to provide hunting opportunities, is required by state law at AS 16.05.258 to identify game populations, or portions of populations, that support customary and traditional subsistence uses (a “C&T finding”), and no findings for emperor geese or migratory birds were in regulation, the department presented a C&T worksheet, Special Publication BOG 2017-10, that addressed emperor geese specifically, and migratory birds in general. However, although the board expressed support for including all migratory birds in a positive C&T finding throughout their Alaska ranges (except in nonsubsistence areas), due to the scope of the meeting notice, the board could not address C&T uses of migratory birds other than emperor geese outside the Arctic/Western region (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A). The board requested the department submit a proposal to address C&T uses of migratory game birds on a statewide basis.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in these hunts or in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 55 – 5 AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. Combine the regulations allowing the take of big game for religious ceremonies and ceremony potlatches as follows:

Amend: 5 AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious **and ceremony potlatches**
[CEREMONIES]

(a) The hunting and taking of game species having a positive finding in 5 AAC 99.025, outside the seasons or bag limits established in 5 AAC 85, for use in this state as food in customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary, [OR] mortuary religious **or potlatch** ceremonies [WITHIN 12 MONTHS PRECEDING THE CEREMONY IS AUTHORIZED IF] consistent with sustained yield principles.

(b) The department shall publicize a list of game populations and areas, if any, for which the taking of game is inconsistent with sustained yield principles. It is the hunter's responsibility to contact the department to find out which game populations and areas are excluded from taking under this regulation.

(c) A written permit from the department is [not] required for taking **big** game under this section, [except that in nonsubsistence areas, described in 5 AAC 99.015, and the Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area defined in 5 AAC 92.074(d),] a ceremonial **or potlatch** harvest report form, provided by the department, must be obtained and jointly completed by the hunter and the tribal chief, village council president, clan leader, traditional Native head of family, or clan leader's designee for the village associated with the customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary, [or] mortuary religious ceremony, **or potlatch**.

(d) the department may limit the amount of big game to be harvested

(1) by unit or area

(2) by sex

(3) females with offspring

(4) amount of big game

(5) time frame

(i) reporting of harvested big game will be reported no later than 15 days after harvest or permit requirement.

(ii) permit must be in possession of hunter/hunters and upon request from a peace officer of the state or authorized department person. A permittee may not refuse to present it or any big game in possession.

[D] BEFORE GAME IS TAKEN UNDER THIS SECTION A TRIBAL CHIEF, VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, CLAN LEADER, TRADITIONAL NATIVE HEAD OF FAMILY, OR THE CHIEF'S, PRESIDENT'S, TRADITIONAL NATIVE HEAD OF FAMILY, OR CLAN LEADER'S DESIGNEE FOR THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONY, MUST NOTIFY THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE

DEPARTMENT THAT A HUNT FOR GAME WILL TAKE PLACE. THE NOTIFICATION MUST INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN AND THE LOCATION WHERE THE TAKING WILL OCCUR. THE TRIBAL CHIEF, VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, CLAN LEADER, TRADITIONAL NATIVE HEAD OF FAMILY, OR DESIGNEE MUST MAINTAIN RECORDS OF THE SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS AND THE DECEDENTS FOR THE CEREMONY, AND MAKE THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT UPON REQUEST. THE TRIBAL CHIEF, VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, CLAN LEADER, TRADITIONAL NATIVE HEAD OF FAMILY, OR DESIGNEE MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE LOCATION, SPECIES, SEX, AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN UNDER THIS SECTION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, BUT NOT MORE THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE TAKING OF GAME.]

(e) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for hunting or taking big game outside the season or bag limit restrictions established in 5 AAC 85 that

(1) the person is a resident of this state;

(2) **the person must possess a valid hunting license.**

[(2)] **(3)** the hunting or taking was authorized under this section and the meat was used in a customary and traditional Alaska Native funeral [OR] mortuary religious **potlatch** ceremony; and

[(3)] **(4)** if the person took big game, the requirements of (d) of this section have been met.

(f) This section does not authorize the taking of game in areas where hunting is prohibited or when prohibited by a federal law that preempts state laws on point.

(g) In this section, "traditional Native head of family" means a person who, according to an Alaska Native tradition, is viewed as a head of a family and is charged with duties similar to those of a tribal chief, village council president, or clan leader regarding traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary rites.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To centralize ceremony potlatches and religious ceremonies within the codified. The intent is to repeal 5 AAC 92.053, 92.017, and 92.055, and merge into 92.019, but these regulations were not on the Call for Proposals.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F17-096)

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

PROPOSAL 55 – 5 AAC 92.019 Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies.

Amend 5 AAC 92.019 to allow the taking of big game for potlatch ceremonies, in addition to the currently authorized Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies, and require permits for the taking of big game for all such ceremonies.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Add potlatches to the types of ceremonies for which the taking of big game is authorized outside established seasons and bag limits; require a permit for taking big game under this section; specify the conditions under which the department could limit the amount of big game to be harvested; remove the notification requirement for take for religious reasons (and replace it with a permit requirement); and specify a hunting license is required to take big game.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

- 92.017 Koyukon potlatch ceremony
- 92.019 Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies
- 92.034 Permit to take and use game for cultural purposes
- 92.053 Permit to take moose for Nuchalawoyya Potlatch
- 92.055 Stickdance permit

Current regulations (5 AAC 92.017, 5 AAC 92.019) allow the taking of big game for customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and mortuary religious ceremonies outside of established seasons and bag limits. 5 AAC 92.053 allows for the harvest of up to three moose for the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch held annually in Tanana. 5 AAC 92.055 allows for the harvest of up to three moose for the ceremony known as the Stickdance. 5 AAC 92.034 provides for the taking of game for cultural purposes.

Hunting and taking of big game having a positive customary and traditional use finding outside the regular seasons and bag limits for use in Alaska as food in customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary religious ceremonies is allowed within 12 months of the ceremony, if consistent with sustained yield (5 AAC 92.019). The department must publicize a list of game populations and areas, if any, where such taking would be inconsistent with sustained yield. It is the hunter's responsibility to contact the department to ascertain which game populations are on the list. The list can be found at the department's website at

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=huntlicense.cultural>.

A written permit is not required under 5 AAC 92.019. However, in any state nonsubsistence area, and in the Copper Basin community subsistence hunt area described at 5 AAC 99.074(d), a departmental ceremonial harvest report form must be obtained and jointly completed by the hunter and the Tribal chief, Village Council president, clan leader, traditional Native head of family, or clan leader's designee.

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Before game is taken, the Tribal chief, Village Council president, clan leader, traditional Native head of family, or clan leader's designee must notify the nearest department office that a hunt for game will take place. The notification must include the number of animals expected to be taken, and where the taking will occur. The Tribal chief, Village Council president, clan leader, traditional Native head of family, or clan leader's designee must maintain records of the successful hunters and the decedents for the ceremony, and make that information available to an authorized representative of the department upon request. The Tribal chief, Village Council president, clan leader, traditional Native head of family, or clan leader's designee must also notify the department of the location, species, sex, and number of animals taken as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after taking the game.

There is one other regulation authorizing take of game for religious ceremonies. The Koyukon Potlatch Ceremony regulation at 5 AAC 92.017 provides for the taking of big game outside regular hunting seasons and bag limits for the traditional Koyukon Potlatch Funerary or Mortuary Ceremony. A written permit is not required, but the Tribal chief, Village Council president, or the chief's or president's designee must maintain a list of the designated hunters who successfully harvested big game, and make the list available, after the hunt is completed, to an authorized representative of the department upon request. The Tribal chief, Village Council president, or the chief's or president's designee must also notify the department as soon as practicable, but not more than 15 days after the harvest, of the location of the kill and the species, sex, and number of big game animals taken.

There are also regulations for taking game for important community-based social or secular purposes. The department may issue a permit to take certain game species for the purpose of teaching and preserving historical or traditional Alaskan cultural practices, knowledge, and values under the regulation found at 5 AAC 92.034. The species are deer, moose, caribou, black bears, mountain goats, small game, furbearers, and any migratory bird for which a federal permit has been issued. A permit may not be issued if the taking of game could be reasonably accommodated under existing regulations.

The Nuchalawoyya Potlatch regulation (5 AAC 92.053) provides, upon application, subsistence permits for up to three moose per regulatory year. Permittees must report the sex and location of taking for each moose to the Fairbanks ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation office within three days after taking of each animal.

The Stickdance permit regulation (5 AAC 92.055) allows the taking of up to three moose per regulatory year for the ceremony known as Stickdance only under the terms of a permit issued by application.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Big game could be taken for unspecified potlatch ceremonies outside established seasons and bag limits. A permit would be required for such taking. A permit requirement would be added for the taking of big game for customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary and religious ceremonies.

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

Current regulations authorizing taking of big game for the Koyukon Potlatch Ceremony, the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch, and the Stickdance would remain in effect, although the proposer expressed the intent to centralize the potlatch permits in a single regulation and repeal the various individual regulations, if included in a Call for Proposals.

BACKGROUND: In 1979, the Alaska Supreme Court reversed a 1975 Alaska District Court conviction of a resident for taking a cow moose out of season for a funeral potlatch. In its finding, the Alaska Supreme Court noted that killing moose out of season for a funeral ceremony does not violate the establishment of religion clauses in either the United States or State of Alaska constitutions. Rather, it allows the observance of ancient traditions and ensures the governmental obligation of neutrality in recognizing religious differences, rather than suggesting involvement in religious institutions. The Supreme Court concluded that the state should adopt carefully-crafted regulations to provide an exemption for funeral potlatches— regulations that guard against abuses and aid in recordkeeping for sustainable management purposes. In 1987, the board adopted 5 AAC 92.019 described above, which limits harvests specifically for funerary and mortuary purposes because of their fundamentally sacred nature. 5 AAC 92.019 does not require designated hunters to procure a permit prior to the hunt; however, the Board did amend this regulation in 2003 to require a Tribal chief, Village Council president or their designee to notify the nearest department office prior to the hunt that a ceremonial hunt will take place [5 AAC 92.019(c)(d)].

The Koyukon Potlatch (5 AAC 92.017) became effective in 2003 and also does not require a permit; however, the requirement to notify ADF&G prior to the hunt is absent from this regulation.

The Stickdance permit, outlined in 5 AAC 92.055, provides for the harvest of wild resources out of season for the Lower Koyukon Athabascan Feast of the Dead held in Kaltag and Nulato along the Yukon River. The Stickdance is considered the conclusion of a funeral ceremony that began immediately after death. It has two primary purposes: 1) to lay the spirit of the deceased to rest so that it can move on from the vicinity of the community, and 2) to repay those who helped the family at the time of death. The Stickdance usually occurs in March or April and moose meat is one of the primary foods served at the feast. The Stickdance permit regulation was adopted by the Board in 1989 as a result of Proposal 57.

Ceremonies commonly called “potlatches” in English also are regularly given for other important community-based social or secular purposes among certain Alaska Native groups, and some regulatory mechanisms for the harvest of game species exist for these. The Nuchalawoyya Potlatch regulation (5 AAC 92.053) provides subsistence permits to applicants for up to three moose to be shared in this historical, annual celebration where traditional methods, skills, and values are passed from generation to generation. As such, the taking of moose for the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch as a customary and traditional use has a long history predating Alaska’s purchase by the United States. Hunting under the Nuchalawoyya Potlatch permit occurs annually in early June.

ADF&G STAFF COMMENTS

Under 5 AAC 92.034, the department may issue permits, upon application, for the taking and use of game for the purposes of teaching and preservation of historical or traditional Alaskan cultural practices, knowledge, or values. Examples of events for which permits were issued include the Old Minto Recovery Camp, the annual Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Meeting, and Fairbanks Native Association events, among others.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is NEUTRAL on the allocation of game and on the location of regulations in the Alaska Administrative Code. However, both 5 AAC 92.017 and 5 AAC 92.019 respond to a requirement set out by the Alaska Supreme Court in a 1979 ruling regarding customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary ceremonies (see above). Adding other, unspecified ceremonies to 5 AAC 92.019 and the two customary and traditional events that the board has recognized would continue to expand the taking of game out of season and in excess of established bag limits beyond the religious practices addressed in the court ruling.

COST ANALYSIS: There may be increased costs to private parties to obtain and return a permit. There may be no local department office, or no electronic means of obtaining a permit. Adoption of the proposal may slightly increase costs to the department to develop and distribute permits.

Note: This proposal was deferred from the 2017 Arctic/Western and Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meetings to the 2018 Central/Southwest Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 25 and Proposal 83.

PROPOSAL 147 – 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 of up to 50 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only 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 and B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F16-010)

Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts & Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemptions for Other Regions

PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 85.045(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the nonresident antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| (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 |
| 2 antlerless moose; or | Oct. 1–Nov. 30. |
| 2 moose | Dec. 1–Mar. 15 |

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 antlered bull; or | Sept. 1–Sept. 30 |
| 1 antlerless moose | Dec. 1–Mar. 15 |

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 nonresident antlerless hunt was adopted at the January 2017 Board of Game (board) meeting in Bethel. The board has previously reauthorized the resident antlerless moose season for regulatory year (RY) 2016 and RY2017. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2018.

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 and Game proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Within the areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of

17,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 65:100 to 75:100, and twinning rates from 20% 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 with high recruitment and adult survival.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized due to the early proposal deadline, we expect harvest to be similar to the past four 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
053)

(HQ-F17-

PROPOSAL 163 – 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the current 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 Region V (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for five years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 15 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for 10 years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for five 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 adopted in RY2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 15-year tag-free period (RY2000-RY2015) for Alaska residents has had an average annual harvest of 52 brown bears (range 42–65 bears). In Unit 23, general harvest has been stable since 1990, although annual harvest is 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 Fish and Game (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 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, an estimated 1–3 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-F17-055)

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ACR 03

During times of Kuskokwim River king salmon conservation allow use of set gillnets with 5 ½” mesh to harvest salmon other than king salmon and other non-salmon fish species for subsistence purposes (5 AAC 01.270).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 01.270 (n) (1) (B) Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

Most of the people along the Kuskokwim River drainages have opposed using 4” gill nets and have stated that it kills or cause Chinook salmon to suffocate and roll off the net before the owners pull them into their skiffs. This current regulation inadvertently cause chinook salmon and white fish species to decline. The current on the Kuskokwim River drainages within the last 10 years have changed causing erosion and buildup of sand bars in areas where we normally set nets and high water marks are over 100 feet. The changing current and buildup of sand bars where the people normally set their nets is causing hardship to those that are trying to put food on the table for their families. In the early part of May or after the river breakup, people along the Kuskokwim River drainages set nets to catch whitefish and chee fish before turning to all species of salmon that come up the Kuskokwim River and its drainages.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

A gillnet mesh size may not exceed 5 1/2 inches, 60 feet in length and may only be operated as a set gillnet; the gillnet operators may anchor their gillnets using commercial metal or aluminum anchors or make shift anchors out of wood regardless of where the high water mark is at the location of the individuals traditional set net site.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

- a) **for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:** People along the Kuskokwim River drainages have fished for white fish and chee fish right after the river ice breaks up. They only target those species until chinook and other salmon species migrate up the Kuskokwim River and drainages to their spawning ground. We all know that other salmon species, i. e. chum and sockeye salmon migrate along with chinooks to their spawning grounds and those two salmon can be targeted with the 5 ½ inch mesh gill nets in times of chinook salmon conservation. This will ensure that we do not over fish all species of white fish and decimate the next generation of chinook salmon that come up the Kuskokwim River and its drainages.
- b) **to correct an error in regulation:**
- c) **to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:**

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d)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

People will over fish white fish and other small fish that come up the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries which in the future will cause us not to fish for those species if this regulation is not changed and may do more harm to the next generation of Chinook that migrate up to their spawning grounds. People along the Kuskokwim River drainages will have to look elsewhere to set their gill nets where they do not generally set their nets. (We all know that there are sand bars all along the Kuskokwim River and drainages especially along the lower Kuskokwim River where people set nets and the current language does not meet the 100 feet requirement from an ordinary high water mark which in the past has been defined as: where vegetation starts along a river bank).

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This proposal does not try to allocate any user group any amount of fish or salmon species to catch.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

Subsistence user

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING.

This proposal to our knowledge has not been considered, all though, we have tried to change the current regulation to this current language in the last cycle.

SUBMITTED BY: Kwethluk Joint Group (Organized Village of Kwethluk, Kwethluk Indian Reorganization Act Council (Tribe), City of Kwethluk, Kwethluk City Council (Municipality) and Kwethluk Incorporated Board of Directors (Village Corporation)).

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ACR 04

Allow set gillnets to be operated for subsistence purposes within 30 feet of each other in that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River (5 AAC 01.270).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 01.270 (e) Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

All throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage there are a few eddies to set gillnets during spring to fall and under ice set nets during winter months where we see nets set less than the current regulation.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

In that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River, no part of the set gillnet located within a tributary to the Kuskokwim River may be set or operated within 30 feet of any part of another set gillnet.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

- a) **for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:**
- b) **to correct an error in regulation:**
- c) **to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:**
People along the Kuskokwim River drainages have set gillnets in eddies in spring to fall and under ice gear in winter which are usually less than 150 feet in length. In order to correct this, the department must adopt a revised regulation that meets the needs of set netters throughout the year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

Subsistence set netters throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage may be cited for not following the 150 feet requirement.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This proposal does not try to allocate any user group any amount of fish or salmon species to catch.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

Subsistence users

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STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING.

This proposal to our knowledge has not been considered.

SUBMITTED BY: Kwethluk Joint Group (Organized Village of Kwethluk, Kwethluk Indian Reorganization Act Council (Tribe), City of Kwethluk, Kwethluk City Council (Municipality) and Kwethluk Incorporated Board of Directors (Village Corporation)).

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ACR 05

Close sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage when other Kuskokwim River fisheries are closed to the taking of king salmon (5 AAC 71.010 and 5 AAC 07.365).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

Special Regulations for sport fishing on Kuskokwim River drainages

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

During times of Chinook Salmon conservation, there is no regulation where sport fishing is prohibited all throughout the Kuskokwim River as outlined in the Special Regulations for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Drainages.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

Kuskokwim River Drainage: (Downstream of a point located ¼ mile upstream of the confluence of the Kuskokwim River with the Holitna River, and all waters draining in to the Kuskokwim River Bay south of the Kuskokwim River): (include with current language)

King Salmon: During times of Chinook Salmon conservation, all waters draining into the Kuskokwim River will be closed to taking of Chinook Salmon unless the Chinook Salmon Conservation has been lifted for all rivers that drain into the Kuskokwim River.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

- a) **for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:** If one set of users are prohibited from taking Chinook salmon, all other users must also be prohibited.
- b) **to correct an error in regulation:**
- c) **to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

There will be an uproar all along the Kuskokwim River by the very people that depend on this salmon species among other species of fish.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This proposal does not try to allocate any user group any amount of fish or salmon species to catch.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

Subsistence users

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STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING.

This proposal to our knowledge has not been considered.

SUBMITTED BY: Kwethluk Joint Group (Organized Village of Kwethluk, Kwethluk Indian Reorganization Act Council (Tribe), City of Kwethluk, Kwethluk City Council (Municipality) and Kwethluk Incorporated Board of Directors (Village Corporation)).

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ACR 06

Close sport and subsistence hook and line fishing for king salmon in the Aniak River when other Kuskokwim River fisheries are closed to the taking of king salmon (5 AAC 01.295, 5 AAC 71.010 and 5 AAC 07.365).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 01.295 (1) Aniak River bag and possession limits

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

During times of Chinook Salmon conservation, there should be no preferential treatment, if the remainder of the Kuskokwim river drainages are closed to subsistence, the Aniak river should also be closed.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

(1)The bag and possession limit is as specified by species in 5 AAC 70.010, except that the bag and possession limit is for King salmon is two fish, with no size and annual limits; (include with current language) King Salmon: During times of Chinook Salmon conservation taking of Chinook Salmon is prohibited unless the Chinook Salmon Conservation has been lifted for all rivers that drain into the Kuskokwim River.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

- a) **for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:** If one set of users are prohibited from taking Chinook salmon, all other users must also be prohibited.
- b) **to correct an error in regulation:**
- c) **to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

There will be an uproar all along the Kuskokwim River by the very people that depend on this salmon species among other species of fish.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This proposal does not try to allocate any user group any amount of fish or salmon species to catch.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

Subsistence users

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STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING.

This proposal to our knowledge has not been considered.

SUBMITTED BY: Kwethluk Joint Group (Organized Village of Kwethluk, Kwethluk Indian Reorganization Act Council (Tribe), City of Kwethluk, Kwethluk City Council (Municipality) and Kwethluk Incorporated Board of Directors (Village Corporation)).

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ACR 07

Close all fishing in non-salmon spawning rivers of the Kuskokwim River within one mile of the confluence during times of king salmon conservation (5 AAC 01.275, 5 AAC 71.010 and 5 AAC 07.365).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC NEW: Closure of non-salmon spawning rivers on the Kuskokwim River starting from the Bay to the headwaters

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

There is no current regulation on non-salmon spawning rivers in times of Chinook salmon conservation on the Kuskokwim River.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

The Commissioner shall close non-salmon spawning rivers in times of chinook salmon conservation as follows with the following restrictions: Non salmon spawning rivers shall be closed starting from the mouth to 1 mile upstream. Set nets and drifting with any size gear are prohibited in times of chinook salmon conservation within the 1 mile buffer.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

- a) **for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:** For the residents of the Kuskokwim river to truly conserve chinook salmon for the future generations, the non-salmon spawning rivers must be closed 1 mile upstream from the mouth of these rivers.
- b) **to correct an error in regulation:**
- c) **to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

Residents of the lower river will not be in compliance with our Chinook salmon conservation efforts.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This proposal does not try to allocate any user group any amount of fish or salmon species to catch.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

Subsistence users

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STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING.

This proposal to our knowledge has not been considered, all though, we have tried to change the current regulation to this current language in the last cycle.

SUBMITTED BY: Kwethluk Joint Group (Organized Village of Kwethluk, Kwethluk Indian Reorganization Act Council (Tribe), City of Kwethluk, Kwethluk City Council (Municipality) and Kwethluk Incorporated Board of Directors (Village Corporation)).



**Federal Subsistence Management Program
2018-2020 Wildlife Proposals**

Comment period open through August 4, 2017



WP18-27

Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

2018 – 2020

Name: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Contact:

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road, M/S121
Anchorage, AK 99503

What regulation do you wish to change? Establish a Customary and Traditional Use Determination for muskox on Nunivak Island for the residents of Nunivak Island.

Existing Federal Regulations

Customary and Traditional Use Determination

Unit 18–Muskox

No Federal Subsistence Priority

Proposed Federal Regulations

Customary and Traditional Use Determination

Unit 18–Muskox

No Federal Subsistence Priority–Unit 18, that portion consisting of Nunivak Island – Residents of Nunivak Island

Why the regulation should be changed?

Residents of Nunivak Island have interacted with muskox on Nunivak Island ever since they were reintroduced and have hunted muskox under the established State regulations. Nunivak Island consists of predominantly Federal lands within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and residents of the rural community of Mekoryuk on Nunivak Island would like to be recognized by the Federal Subsistence Board for their customary and traditional use of muskox.

WP18-28

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE
2018-2020 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGULATIONS**

DATE: 6/15/2017

REQUESTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER:

Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

P. O. Box 270

Dillingham, AK 99576

PHONE NUMBER: 842-1063 **FAX NUMBER:** 842-5402

REGULATION AFFECTED:

Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:

Year: 2016-2018

Page: 86

1. What regulation do you want changed?

Moose

Add a winter hunt opportunity for Unit 18 – Goodnews River drainage, and south to the Unit18 boundary.

2. How would you like to see the regulation changed?

Moose

Unit 18 – Goodnews River drainage, and south to the Unit 18 boundary – 1 antlered bull by State registration permit available in person in Goodnews Bay and Platinum

A season may be announced between Dec. 1 and the last day of Feb.

3. Why should this regulation be changed?

The moose population in this area increased from less than 10 in 2002 to over 200 by 2012. A March 2017 GSPE survey estimated 505 ±160 moose (80% CI) in the affected area.

Sightability trials conducted during the survey indicated a 0.883 detection rate (or 1.2 sightability correction factor) suggesting the true population was 606 moose. During an Oct 2016 survey in southern Unit 18, 137 moose (73 cows, 34 bulls, and 31 calves) were classified resulting in ratios of 46.6 bulls and 42.5 calves per 100 cows.

The fall quota of 20 bulls has not been reached for several years. Permit distribution is limited to Goodnews Bay and Platinum making the risk of overharvest during a winter hunt low.

4. How will this change affect wildlife populations?

The proposed season will have very little or no effect on the population.

5. How will this change affect subsistence users?

Subsistence users would be provided an additional opportunity to harvest moose.

6. Additional information to support your proposal:

Access to moose during the fall hunt is limited.

WP18-29

Federal Subsistence Management Regulations: Wildlife Proposal

Moose- Unit 18 Remainder

Proposal Submission by:

Orutsararmiut Native Council
 P.O. Box 927
 Bethel, AK 99559
 P. 907-543-2608
 F. 907-543-2639

1. Regulation to be changed:

Current Regulation:

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 18, that portion of the Yukon River drainage upstream of Russian Mission and that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream of (but excluding) the Tuluksak River drainage- Resident of Unit 18, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag • Unit 18, that portion north of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kuzilvak Mountain to Mountain Village, and all drainages north of the Yukon River downstream from Marshall-Resident of Unit 18, St. Michael, Stebbins, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag • Unit 18 remainder- Residents of Unit 18 and Upper Kalskag | <p>Unit 18- that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance I not Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60*59.41' Latitude; W 162*22.14' Longitude), continuing upriver along line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of Unit 18 boarder and then north of and including the Eek River drainage- 1 antler bull by State registration permit; quotas will be announced annually by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager.</p> <p>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except by residents of Akiachak, Akiak, Atmautluak, Bethel, Eek, Kalskag, Kasigluk, Kwethluk, Lower Kalskag, Napakiak, Napaskaik, Nunapitchak, Oscarville, Tuluksak, and Tuntutuliak.</p> | <p>Sept. 1- 30</p> |
| | <p>Unit 18- south of and including the Kanektok River drainages to the</p> | <p>No Federal open season</p> |

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| | | |
|--|---|------------------|
| | Goodnews River drainage. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose. | |
| | Unit 18-Goodnews River drainage, and south to the Unit 18 boundary-1 antlered bull by State registration permit. Any needed closures will be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager after consultation with BLM, ADF&G, and the Chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. | Sept. 1-Sept. 30 |
| | Unit 18 remainder-2 moose, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may not be harvested from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30 | Aug. 1 – Mar. 31 |

2. The regulation ONC would like to see as written:

| | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 18, that portion of the Yukon River drainage upstream of Russian Mission and that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream of (but excluding) the Tuluksak River drainage- Resident of Unit 18, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag • Unit 18, that portion north of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kuzilvak Mountain to Mountain Village, and all drainages north of the Yukon River downstream from Marshall-Resident of Unit 18, St. Michael, Stebbins, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag • Unit 18 remainder- Residents of Unit 18 and Upper Kalskag | <p>Unit 18- that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance I not Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W 162°22.14' Longitude), continuing upriver along line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of Unit 18 boarder and then north of and including the Eek River drainage- 1 antler bull by State registration permit; quotas will be announced annually by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager.</p> <p>Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except by residents of Akiachak, Akiak, Atmautluak, Bethel, Eek, Kalskag, Kasigluk, Kwethluk, Lower Kalskag, Napakiak, Napaskaik, Nunapitchak, Oscarville, Tuluksak, and</p> | Sept. 1- 30 |
|---|---|-------------|

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| | Tuntutuliak. | |
| | Unit 18- south of and including the Kanektok River drainages to the Goodnews River drainage. Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose. | No Federal open season |
| | Unit 18-Goodnews River drainage, and south to the Unit 18 boundary-1 antlered bull by State registration permit. Any needed closures will be announced by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager after consultation with BLM, ADF&G, and the Chair of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. | Sept. 1-Sept. 30 |
| | Unit 18 remainder-2 moose, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may not be harvested from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30 | Aug. 1 – Mar. 31 Apr. 30 |

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

ONC requests to change the date from March 31st to April 30th, in order to allow subsistence hunters more access to moose in the Unit 18 remainder. This proposal seeks to extend the hunting season by one month from the current closing date. This proposal would allow subsistence hunters to hunt moose in an area that is currently experiencing increased moose population growth. Additionally, this regulation change will allow subsistence hunters to take advantage of the longer days, warmer temperatures, and adequate snow conditions.

Historic Evidence / Traditional Knowledge:

According the Unit 18, Moose Management Report of 2011-2013, conducted by Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), reports of moose sightings began during the mid-to-late 1940s, provided witness accounts by the Yukon River local elders. This population remained in low numbers due to heavy hunting pressures from the Kuskokwim River communities. According to ADF&G, moose population estimate history of 1988, there was zero moose reported in the area. In the 1990s, local residents supported a moose hunting moratorium. Another survey was conducted that showed the population had increased to 674 in 2002 (Harper & McCarthy, 2014). Twenty years later, in 2008, the population increased to 3,230 (ADF&G, 2017). Nine years later, in 2017, the ADF&G conducted a survey that counted 8,950 (ADF&G, 2017). Combining the moose population of the two remaining lower Yukon River census areas, Andreafski and Paimiut, the estimated moose population is at a minimum of 17,295 (Runfola, Brenner, & Koster, 2014).

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Currently, the estimated moose population for the Kuskokwim River portion is 1,378. Therefore, the Kuskokwim area still remains a very limited hunting seasons with minimal opportunity for harvest. Therefore, emphasizes the very importance of Unit 18 remainder hunting opportunity for subsistence Moose harvest for both Yukon and Kuskokwim River residents (ADF&G, 2017).

Witnessed reports/concerns:

Moose are an a very important contributor to the subsistence diets of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta residents. According to Dave Runfola, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Subsistence, Bethel surveys that were conducted in 2011, reported a harvested a total of 279 Moose (150,481 lbs.) (Runfola, Brenner & Koster, 2014). These reports show that the subsistence users rely on the Unit 18 remainder winter hunts as an important contributor to their food security for the winter months.

According to hunter reports this year, it has been easier to access the moose in Unit 18 remainder winter hunts, on a reliable successful hunt than it is to obtain Caribou. As the current coarse terrain and lack of snowfall, many hunters have been choosing to go Moose hunting than going hunting for Caribou.

Various means and methods of transportation are utilized to harvest moose in Unit 18 remainder. Transportation methods includes the use of airplanes, snow machines, outboard motor boats and other forms of transportation. During the winter and early spring months, the use of snow machines and four-wheelers are used for transportation to hunt moose in the Unit 18 remainder.

Travel times may vary, depending on the weather and snow conditions. Some of hunters reported putting up camp to go hunting, because of the long distances needed to travel. Where some hunters reported to conduct a same day hunt, depending on the success of the hunt and ground conditions.

Many subsistence hunters have requested for the extension to harvest moose in Unit 18 remainder be extended to open till April 30th. Their major concern is needing the extra time to harvest a Moose. Due to the lack of snow, weather conditions, and coarse terrain conditions hunters have to wait for adequate snow levels to travel the far distances. There were many reports of subsistence hunters that weren't able to go hunting, because they missed the small window of adequate snowfall opportunity to harvest a moose.

Research:

According to the snowfall data, gathered from the *US Climate Data* website indicates the Bethel area average snows fall is 6-inches in the month of April. This amount is adequate for travel via snow machine or four-wheeler to access areas in Unit 18-remainder (US Climate Data, 2017).

In the month of April, daylight in Unit 18 begins to increase as the month progresses. On April 1, Unit 18 receives approximately 16-hours of daylight and on April 15, 18-hours of daylight (Alaska Channel, 2017). Hunters prefer the extended daylight when traveling the long distances to harvest a moose on the Yukon River. This allows them to rely on a day-trip versus having to camp overnight in winter conditions.

The average high temperature for the month of April in Bethel is 35 degrees Fahrenheit and the average low temperature is 19 degrees Fahrenheit (US Climate Data, 2017). These weather conditions allow a greater chance for snow fall to accumulate for longer periods of time on the ground. Creating adequate ground conditions to travel the long distance to harvest a Moose.

Conclusion:

1. ONC requests the open hunting season to be changed to April 30th. This change in regulation will allow subsistence hunters longer hunting seasons, the ease of access to the moose in Unit 18 remainder, and potential greater chances of successful hunts.

4. **What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?**

Moose populations in Unit 18 remainder will continue to remain high. This will allow more opportunity for moose hunters to harvest enough moose to curb the population and avoid a potential moose crash. Providing additional subsistence hunting opportunity would help decrease the population, protect the habitat from over grazing, and potential disease.

5. **Additional Information:**

How will this change affect subsistence users?

Extending the regulatory open moose hunting season to April 30th would provide additional hunting opportunity.

How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

This proposal would not have any impact on other uses due to the high moose population in the Unit 18-remainder portion.

2018–2020 Wildlife Proposals

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Work cited:

- Alaska Channel (2017). Sunrise & Sunset Planner. Retrieved June 15, 2017, from <http://www.alaska.org/weather/daylight-hours/bethel/april>
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game. (2017). Unit 18 Overview. Retrieved June 15, 2017, from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov>
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- Harper, P. & McCarthy, L.A. (2014). Moose management report of survey inventory activities 1 July 2011– 30 June 2013. *Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Species Management Report*. Chapter 20 (20). 1-17. Retrieved June 16, 2017, from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildliferesearch.smr20146>
- Runfola, D.M., Brenner A.R., & Kaster, D.S. (2014). Subsistence harvests of land mammals in Bethel, Alaska 2011. *ADF&G Division of Subsistence. Special Publication No. 2014-01*, 1-59. Retrieved June 16, 2017, from http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/specialpubs/SP2_SP2014-001.pdf
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WP18-30**Federal Subsistence Management Regulations: Wildlife Regulatory Proposal**

Willow Ptarmigan

Proposal Submission by:

Orutsararmiut Native Council
 P.O. Box 927
 Bethel, AK 99559
 P. 907-543-2608
 F. 907-543-2639

1. Regulation to be changed:

Current Regulation:

| | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Unit 18-Ptarmigan: | Harvest Limit | Open Season |
| All rural residents: | 50 ptarmigan per day, 100 in possession | Aug. 10- May 30 |

2. The regulation ONC would like to see as written:

Proposed New Regulation:

| | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| Unit 18-Ptarmigan: | Harvest Limit | Open Season |
| All rural residents: | 15 ptarmigan per day, 30 in possession | Aug. 10- March 31 |

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Historic Evidence/ Traditional Knowledge:

The most common and abundant species of ptarmigan in Unit 18 is the Willow ptarmigan. During a personal interview with a local elder, he addressed the ptarmigan use to be so abundant that the trees along the Kuskokwim River turned white (*W. Nick, personal communications, 2017*). The ptarmigan was so abundant during the migration they would consistently hit the wires in villages and people would harvest them. Ptarmigan use to flock together in the thousands allowing hunters to just pick off what they needed in one sitting. Ptarmigan were seen throughout the winter in the YK Delta, but more abundantly during migration season of February through March. Ptarmigan were abundantly seen throughout the year during all seasons: spring bird hunting season, fishing season, berry season, fall fishing season, moose hunting season, fall bird hunting season, lush and rabbit season, winter season, and back to spring season. Although, traditionally were mainly harvested during the migration season late winter to early-spring.

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Witnessed reports/ concern:

Ptarmigan are an important contributor to the diet of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta people before spring arrives. During the late winter prior to the major spring migratory birds, ptarmigan has been the first to migrate through this area. Over the recent years, many local hunters have witnessed and reported a significant decline in the abundance of ptarmigan. This year numerous hunters reported a huge decline in ptarmigan sightings across the YK Delta of extreme low numbers and flocks. They also reported having to drive farther distances to search for them, that many of the ptarmigan is mismatched color to their environment, and they witnessed a lot few small flocks with no sightings of big flocks that typically average 500-1000 birds. This has raised many concerns and questions about the current populations, harvest reports, and migration routing.

Research:

As more research is being conducted about the willow ptarmigan. They are certain through studies that ptarmigan has been declining with high natural mortality causes with an influence of human involvement of hunting. These reports and studies will be ready for review sometime in December. There are natural causes that factor into the decline of ptarmigan, such as color mismatch with their environment. Although, researchers are certain that the ptarmigan suffer a very high natural mortality rate through the summer and into the fall. The mortality rate tends to drop to a low level by January. These birds that survive through January are the main contributors to the active breeding season beginning of April and by mid-April (Carroll & Merizon, 2017; *Personal Interview, R. Merizon, 14 June 2017*).

Harvest change due to Chinook Salmon declines impact other species:

Even though these studies haven't been conducted yet. There still shows an increase in harvest among other fish and game throughout the YK Delta. Over the past 17 years, there has been a decline in Chinook Salmon harvest with low abundance returns. More regulations have been placed on the Chinook Salmon to the point of closing all fisheries for lengthy periods of time. The harvest on the Chinook Salmon has declined more drastically over the past five years, resulting in heavier harvest among other species and game.

Conclusion, utilizing precautionary management principles:

1. ONC requests a regulatory decrease in the harvest limits from 50 per day, 100 in possession to 15 per day, and 30 in possession. This will allow the ptarmigan to have a chance to bounce back in population and decrease the hunting pressure.

2. ONC request the regulatory change in the open season from May 30th to March 31st. This is to reduce hunting pressure on and during the active breeding season of April to mid-April.

4. Why should the regulation should be changed:

The regulation should be changed in hope to help increase the population abundance of the willow ptarmigan in the YK Delta area. Do to the increase of harvest pressure on the ptarmigan, lack of snow in the region, and decline in ptarmigan sightings. It would be a proactive approach to protecting the ptarmigan populations. By decreasing the bag and possession limits, the proposed regulation would add precautionary protections from the possibility of overharvesting ptarmigan.

5. Additional Information:

How will this change affect subsistence users?

This change will affect the subsistence users by reducing the harvest limits and hunting pressure on the ptarmigan. They would have to find other means of food source to supplement the decrease in ptarmigan harvests, as they did with the Chinook Salmon harvests. This approach is not preferred, but is do able by the consumers. In the understanding that a protection from overharvesting needs to be established. This change will ensure the needed biodiversity of ptarmigan to avoid other potential non-harvest related population crashes in the future.

How will this change affect other uses, such as sport, recreational and commercial?

Other users such as sport, recreational, and commercial will not be effected. The majority of harvest in Unit 18 is from federally qualified subsistence users whom are primarily subsistence hunters. As far as we know, there isn't any licensed guide or sport/recreational hunters utilizing this species.

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Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Work Cited

Carroll, C.J. & Merizon, R.A. (2017) Status of Grouse, Ptarmigan, and Hare in Alaska, 2015 and 2016. *Wildlife Management Report ADF&G /DWC/WMR-2017-1*. (30).

WP18-31

Federal Subsistence Management Regulations: Wildlife Regulatory Proposal

Caribou- Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH)

Proposal Submission by:

Orutsararmiut Native Council
 P.O. Box 927, Bethel, Alaska 99559
 Phone: (907)543-2608
 Fax: (907)543-2639

1. What regulation do you wish to change?

| | | |
|--|---|------------------|
| Unit 18-residents of Unit 18, Manokotak, St. Michael, Stebbins, Togiak, Twin Hills, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag | Unit 18 – that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River-2 caribou by State registration permit. | Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 |
| | Unit 18 – Remainder – 2 caribou by State registration permit. | Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 |

2. How should the new regulation read?

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Unit 18-residents of Unit 18, Manokotak, St. Michael, Stebbins, Togiak, Twin Hills, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag | Unit 18 – that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River-2 caribou by State registration permit. | Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 Feb. 28 |
| | Unit 18 – Remainder – 2 caribou by State registration permit. | Aug. 1 – Mar. 15 Feb. 28 |

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

Historic Evidence/Traditional Knowledge:

The Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) currently inhabits Units 9b, 17, 18, 19a and 19b. Populations have historically ranged from an estimated 1,000 animals in 1949 to an unprecedented population of 200,000 animals in 1996 (Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 2001). Since the significant peak in 1996, the MCH population started a precipitous decline to 27,242 animals today. According to a report provided to the Board of Game, by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), in January 2017, the population objective is 30,000–

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80,000 animals. The current harvest is 193 animals (Harvest objective: 2,400– 8,000) current calf to cow ratios is 27:100 (calf to cow ratio objective 30:100). The Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) is 2,100– 2,400 and the identified harvestable surplus of 1,200 would not meet the ANS (ADF&G, 2017).

According to Yale Environment, the caribou populations across the arctic are suggested to be extremely susceptible to changes in climate. That global warming plays a major role in affecting their food source and their preferred habitat. It is also suggested that Arctic caribou populations are in a steep decline due to warming temperatures (Stuzik, 2010). Furthermore, in their literature from University of Alaska, *Global Climate Change Threatens Reindeer and Caribou*, states that global warming will have a significant impact on Caribou and Reindeer. That indigenous people have depended on Caribou and Reindeer for thousands of years for food and clothing (Science Daily, 2004). These fluctuations in population has played a huge part in the subsistence harvests and needs.

Caribou are in important contributor of food and cultural items for the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. According to Dave Runfola, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Subsistence, the Bethel residents harvested an estimated 446 Caribou (total weight of 57,963 lbs.) (Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 2014). The harvest estimate of subsistence users is likely higher knowing subsistence harvest demands are greater by 75% of their hunting and fishing diet (Reitze & Reitze, 1975).

Witnessed reports/concerns:

Subsistence harvesters are concerned about the Caribou population will further decline if hunting continues with the current open season.

Hunters from this previous Caribou season have reported only seeing small herds that were scarce and scattered throughout the hunting grounds. Many have reported noticeable accounts that there is not as much Caribou in this area as there used to be. This year a hunter would be lucky if he/she was able to harvest just one Caribou. A few commented factors that contributed to this year's hunt that made it difficult were the environment conditions, weather conditions, and scarcity of Caribou. There were a large population of hunters that were not so fortunate this year to take time off from work or duties to go hunting. On the other hand, some hunters that went hunting during the short window of good snow conditions were successful in harvesting their allocated amount of Caribou.

One report from a hunter said that the Caribou herd seem a lot healthier this year. Although, in appearance many of them seem to be very skinny compared to any other previous years of hunting. In proof, the harvested Caribou didn't have much fat on either of them. He commented that a good probable cause would be from wolves constantly chasing and hunting them. In previous years, he noticed that the Caribou weren't as healthy and many of them were limping. During the big crash of Caribou roughly about 10 years ago, he noticed an outbreak of hoofrot (*Kohl, personal communications, June 16, 2017*). Hoofrot is a disease caused by bacterium, known as *Spherophorus necrophorous*, that causes Caribou to limp (ADFG, 2017).

Witness accounts of wolf predation on Caribou:

Daily hunters and trappers that passed through the caribou migration routes every day have reported seeing multiple Caribou kills by wolves. These kills weren't being eaten, but left untouched for weeks. Over the past 5 years, wolf number have increased in this particular migration area. For an example, one hunter reported that he would catch 5-10 wolves easily compared to previous years.

Environmental Conditions:

Hunters from the Kuskokwim area have reported hunting conditions to be very difficult due to the lack of snow. Many hunters reported having to hunt next to the hills, because they are concerned about destroying their snow-go's and running out of gas. Another relation with the lack of snow is the ground conditions. From the lack of snow fall there are many coarse bunches of grass throughout the terrain. The coarse terrain makes it difficult for hunters to follow the Caribou. Eventually, the Caribou out run the hunters to the point that they have only a lousy shot or they have gone too far of a distance to continue following.

Harvest Changes due to the Chinook Salmon crash of 2013:

Hunters from the Kuskokwim area have reported that there is so much hunting pressure on the caribou this year, but not as bad as the year the Chinook Salmon crash in 2013. Hunters have complained over the past years that there wasn't enough enforcement keeping an eye on the Caribou. During the hunting pressure after 2013-2014, people weren't respecting the bag limit and over harvesting the Caribou to sustain themselves throughout the winter. There were sightings, reports to tribal leaders, and conversations between people that witnessed this over hunting. Some of the reports were hunters witnessing other hunters taking down multiple accounts of Caribou and some take downs were an act of pure hunter's carelessness.

Research:

Recently with the political environment, both in federal and state, the wildlife research will likely decrease along with other publicly funded projects and programs. For the sake of our precious caribou resources, which has many different users spread across multiple game management units, it would be most advantageous to develop the following:

A Mulchatna Caribou Herd working group, such as the Western Arctic Caribou Herd working group. This working group will comprise of subsistence hunters, sport hunters, wildlife viewers, state and federal managers, and organizations of all GMU that rely on this Herd.

- This working group would direct research to be most beneficial for the Caribou. Such research will help in assessing population abundance, outreach, and proper regulatory changes when needed.
- A unified approach in establishing hunting seasons and harvest opportunities that will accommodate population stability and growth.
- Through this working group, we will be able to notify all users of changes, collect more harvest data and concerns, and allow adequate regulatory implementation.

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Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Conclusion:

1. ONC requests that the Mulchatna Herd needs further protection to rebuild the population to meet population and ANS objectives.
2. ONC requests that ADFG/USFWS provide for more protection for Mulchatna Caribou Herd, especially the cows and calves.
3. ONC requests the regulation change from March 15th to February 28th.

4. Additional information:

a) What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

This proposal main intent is to help rebuild the caribou to meet the population objectives and ANS objectives. This proposal will also provide an opportunity for cow's population number to increase allowing for more protection for their calves.

b) How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This proposal would decrease subsistence hunting opportunity by 15 days. There are many hunters that have addressed their concerns about the population and requested for this change to take place. By supporting our subsistence users and their concerns about the current populations, we can work together to obtain the main objective of increasing Caribou population.

c) How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The Mulchatna Caribou herd, throughout its entire range, is closed to sport, recreation, and commercial hunting activities. This proposal would not impact other uses at this time.

Work Cited:

Alaska Department of Fish & Game. (2001). Caribou Management Report of survey inventory activities 1 July 1998 – 30 June 2000. C. Healy, editor. Project 3.0. Juneau, Alaska

Alaska Department of Fish & Game. (2017). Bethel Area Proposals. Retrieved June 16, 2017, from <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov>

Alaska Department of Fish & Game. (2017). A field guide to common wildlife diseases and parasites in Alaska. Retrieved June 16, 2017, from http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=disease_general5

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Reitze Jr., A.W., & Reitze, G. L. (1975). Survival of the Yupik. *Environment*, 17(8), 2-3.

Struzick, E. (2010). A troubling decline in the caribou herds of the arctic. *Yale Environment*. Retrieved June 16, 2017, from http://e360.yale.edu/features/a_troubling_decline_in_the_caribou_herds_of_the_arctic

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WP18-21

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE
2018-2020 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGULATIONS

DATE: 2/28/2017

REQUESTER'S NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER:

*Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
Attn: Donald Mike
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121
Anchorage, AK 99503*

PHONE NUMBER: 907 786-3629

FAX NUMBER: 907 786-3898

REGULATION AFFECTED:

Federal Subsistence Regulations Booklet:

Year: 2016-2018

Page: 51, 80, 89

1. What regulation do you want changed?

Caribou

Unit 9A – 2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than one caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan.31.

Unit 9B – 2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1-Jan.31.

Unit 9C, that portion within the Alagnak River drainage – 2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken Aug. 1-Jan.31.

Unit 17A, all drainages west of Right Hand Point – 2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1-Jan.31.

Units 17B and that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes – 2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug.1-Jan.31.

Unit 19A north of the Kuskokwim River – 2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1-Jan.31.

Units 19A south of the Kuskokwim River and 19B (excluding Lime Village) – 2 caribou by State registration permit; no more than 1 caribou may be a bull, and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1-Jan.31.

2. How would you like to see the regulation changed?

Caribou

Unit 9A – 2 caribou by State registration permit.

Unit 9B – 2 caribou by State registration permit.

Unit 9C, that portion north of the Naknek River including the Alagnak River drainage – 2 caribou by State registration permit.

Unit 17A, all drainages west of Right Hand Point – 2 caribou by State registration permit.

Units 17B and that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes – 2 caribou by State registration permit.

Units 19A and 19B – 2 caribou by State registration permit.

3. Why should this regulation be changed?

This regulation should be changed because: 1) Mulchatna caribou composition surveys over the last 10 years show a steady increase in the bull to cow ratio with the October 2016 estimate at 38 bulls per 100 cows; and 2) it will align with recent changes made by the Alaska Board of Game.

4. How will this change affect wildlife populations?

This change would likely increase bull and overall caribou harvest slightly.

5. How will this change affect subsistence users?

Subsistence users will have an increased and more efficient opportunity to harvest caribou.

6. Additional information to support your proposal:

WP18-23

A call for proposals to change hunting and trapping regulations is issued in January of odd numbered years. The period during which proposals are accepted is 45 days; a proposal must be submitted during this time.

Include the following in your proposal submission:

1. Your name, organization, address, phone, fax, and E-mail address.

Gayla Hoseth

2. The regulation you wish to change, including management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”

Nushagak caribou C&T, p. 80

Existing regulation

| Customary and Traditional Use— Caribou | |
|---|---|
| <i>Unit 17, remainder</i> | <i>Residents of Units 9B, 17, Lime Village, and Stony River</i> |

3. The regulation as you would like to see it written.

Proposed regulation

| Customary and Traditional Use— Caribou | |
|---|---|
| <i>Units 17A and 17C—that portion of 17A and 17C consisting of the Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tuklung River and Tuklung Hills, west to Tvativak Bay</i> | <i>Residents of Units 9B, 9C, 9E, 17, Lime Village, and Stony River</i> |
| <i>Unit 17, remainder</i> | <i>Residents of Units 9B, 17, Lime Village, and Stony River</i> |

4. An explanation of why the regulatory change should be made.

Residents of Unit 9C and 9E has demonstrated their use of the resources during discussion at the BBRAC public meeting at the fall October 2016 public meeting.

- 1) revise the C&T for the existing *Unit 17 remainder* C&T area, or 2) create a new C&T area that includes only the Nushagak Peninsula, probably using the existing hunt area description to delineate the boundaries.

5. You should provide any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board in evaluating the proposed change.

The Nushagak Peninsula Herd is exceeding its carrying capacity for the Nushagak Peninsula, and from a recent photo census in 2016, an estimated 1230 animals were counted. The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd has been growing rapidly for several years, and harvest has been below average during the past several years. As a result, the population size exceeds its established management objectives and managers are concerned about the long term viability of the population.

Submit proposals:

► By mail or hand delivery
Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121
Anchorage, AK 99503

DRAFT

WP18-25

A call for proposals to change hunting and trapping regulations is issued in January of odd numbered years. The period during which proposals are accepted is 45 days; a proposal must be submitted during this time.

Include the following in your proposal submission:

1. Your name, organization, address, phone, fax, and E-mail address.

Kenneth Nukwak
PO Box 127
Manokotak, AK 99628

2. The regulation you wish to change, including management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”

Existing regulation (Winter season)

| | |
|--|---|
| Unit 17— Moose | |
| <i>Unit 17A—up to 2 moose; one antlered bull by State registration permit, one antlerless moose by State registration permit</i> | <i>Up to a 31-day season may be announced between Dec. 1 - last day of Feb.</i> |
| <i>Units 17B and 17C—one antlered bull by State registration permit</i> | <i>Dec. 1 - 31.</i> |

3. The regulation as you would like to see it written.

Proposed regulation (Winter season)

| | |
|--|---|
| Unit 17— Moose | |
| <i>Unit 17A—up to 2 moose; one antlered bull by State registration permit, one antlerless moose by State registration permit</i> | <i>Up to a 31-day season may be announced between Dec. 1-last day of Feb.</i> |
| <i>Unit 17C, that portion west of the Weary River—one antlered bull by State registration permit</i> | <i>Up to a 31-day season may be announced between Dec. 1 - last</i> |

2018–2020 Wildlife Proposals

Bristol Bay

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| | <i>day of Feb.</i> |
| <i>Units 17B and 17C remainder—one antlered bull by State registration permit</i> | <i>Dec. 1 - 31.</i> |

4. An explanation of why the regulatory change should be made.

I would like to see the winter moose hunt for that portion of Unit 17C west of the Weary River changed from the present fixed season dates of Dec. 1-Dec. 31, to a season that can be opened by Togiak wildlife refuge manager when snow conditions are most suitable for pursuing moose, similar to the winter hunt in Unit 17A.

I would like flexible season dates to allow for safe hunting and travel conditions, due to climate change.

5. You should provide any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board in evaluating the proposed change.

Submit proposals:

- **By mail or hand delivery**
 Federal Subsistence Board
 Office of Subsistence Management
 Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121
 Anchorage, AK 99503

- **On the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>**
 Search for docket number FWS-R7-SM-2016-0049.
 You may call the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456 or email subsistence@fws.gov with questions.

WP18-26

A call for proposals to change hunting and trapping regulations is issued in January of odd numbered years. The period during which proposals are accepted is 45 days; a proposal must be submitted during this time.

Include the following in your proposal submission:

1. Your name, organization, address, phone, fax, and E-mail address.

**Kenneth Nukwak
PO Box 127
Manokotak, AK 99628**

2. The regulation you wish to change, including management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state “new regulation.”

Unit 17C, moose, p. 81

Existing regulation (Fall season)

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Unit 17— Moose | |
| <i>Unit 17A—1 bull by State registration permit</i> | <i>Aug. 25 - Sep. 20</i> |
| <p><i>Units 17B and 17C—one bull</i></p> <p><i>During the period Aug. 20-Sep. 15—one bull by State registration permit;</i></p> <p><i>or</i></p> <p><i>During the period Sep. 1-15—one bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side with a State harvest ticket;</i></p> | <i>Aug. 20 - Sep. 15</i> |

3. The regulation as you would like to see it written.

Proposed regulation (Fall seasons)

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Unit 17— Moose | |
| <p><i>Unit 17C, that portion west of the Weary River—1 bull by State registration permit</i></p> <p><i>During the period Aug. 25-Sep. 20—one bull by State registration permit;</i></p> | <i>Aug. 25 - Sep. 20</i> |

2018–2020 Wildlife Proposals

Bristol Bay

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <p><i>or</i></p> <p><i>During the period Sep. 1-20—one bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side with a State harvest ticket;</i></p> | |
| <p><i>Units 17B and 17C remainder—one bull</i></p> <p><i>During the period Aug. 20-Sept. 15—one bull by State registration permit;</i></p> <p><i>or</i></p> <p><i>During the period Sep. 1-15—one bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side with a State harvest ticket;</i></p> | <p><i>Aug. 20 - Sep. 15</i></p> |

4. An explanation of why the regulatory change should be made.

I would like to see the fall moose hunt for that portion of Unit 17C west of the Weary River changed from the present season dates of Aug. 20-Sept. 15 to Aug. 25-Sept. 20.

We want to allow for more time during the early rut period to allow for safer and easier harvest location near the river because the terrain near Manokotak differs from the Nushagak River.

5. You should provide any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board in evaluating the proposed change.

Submit proposals:

- **By mail or hand delivery**
 Federal Subsistence Board
 Office of Subsistence Management
 Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121
 Anchorage, AK 99503

- **On the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>**
 Search for docket number FWS-R7-SM-2016-0049.
 You may call the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456 or email subsistence@fws.gov with questions.

WP18-51

Wildlife Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

Name: Eastern Interior Alaska Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

What regulation do you wish to change? Bear baiting restrictions §100.26(b)(14)(iii). We propose to align Federal and State bear baiting restrictions. Relevant State bear baiting restrictions are found in 5 AAC 92.085(4), 5 AAC 92.044(a), 5 AAC 92.044(b)(8), and 5 AAC 92.210.

Existing Federal Regulations

___.26(b) *Prohibited methods and means. Except for special provisions found at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section, the following methods and means of taking wildlife for subsistence uses are prohibited:*

* * * *

(14) *Using bait for taking ungulates, bear, wolf, or wolverine; except you may use bait to take wolves and wolverine with a trapping license, and you may use bait to take black bears and brown bears with a hunting license as authorized in Unit-specific regulations at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section. Baiting of black bears and brown bears is subject to the following restrictions:*

* * * *

(iii) *You may use only biodegradable materials for bait; you may use only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and wildlife for bait;*

Proposed Federal Regulations

___.26(b) *Prohibited methods and means. Except for special provisions found at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section, the following methods and means of taking wildlife for subsistence uses are prohibited:*

* * * *

(14) *Using bait for taking ungulates, bear, wolf, or wolverine; except you may use bait to take wolves and wolverine with a trapping license, and you may use bait to take black bears and brown bears with a hunting license as authorized in Unit-specific regulations at paragraphs (n)(1) through (26) of this section. Baiting of black bears and brown bears is subject to the following restrictions:*

* * * *

(iii) *You may use only biodegradable materials for bait; **if fish or game is used as bait, you may use only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and big game, the skinned carcasses of furbearers and fur animals, small game (including the meat, except the breast meat of birds), and unclassified game wildlife for bait may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish parts may not be used as bait. Scent lures may be used at registered bait stations;***

State Regulations

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

(a) A person may not establish a bear bait station to hunt bear with the use of bait or scent lures without first obtaining a permit from the department under this section.

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions:

** * * **

(8) only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or big game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait;

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions: The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

** * * **

(4) with the use of bait for ungulates and with the use of bait or scent lures for any bear, except that bears may be taken with the use of bait or scent lures as authorized by a permit issued under 5 AAC 92.044;

5 AAC 92.210. Game as animal food or bait. A person may not use game as food for a dog or furbearer, or as bait, except for the following:

(1) the hide, skin, viscera, head, or bones of game legally taken or killed by a motorized vehicle, after salvage as required under 5 AAC 92.220;

(2) parts of legally taken animals that are not required to be salvaged as edible meat, if the parts are moved from the kill site;

(3) the skinned carcass of a bear, furbearer, or fur animal, after salvage as required under 5 AAC 92.220;

(4) small game; however, the breast meat of small game birds may not be used as animal food or bait;

(5) unclassified game;

(6) deleterious exotic wildlife;

(7) game that died of natural causes, if the game is not moved from the location where it was found; for purposes of this paragraph, "natural causes" does not include death caused by a human;

(8) game furnished by the state, as authorized by a permit under 5 AAC 92.040.

Why the regulation should be changed? The current Federal bear baiting restrictions are much more restrictive than the State's and do not provide for a Federal subsistence priority. The Eastern Interior Council proposes to align Federal and State bear baiting restrictions in order to reduce regulatory complexity, reduce user confusion, and allow baiting with items (i.e. dogfood, anise, popcorn, baked goods, grease, syrup, etc.) that have traditionally been used as bear bait by Federally qualified subsistence users and are currently permitted under State regulations.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Advisory Committee Member Recognition Form

The Advisory Committee Recognition Program recognizes committee members who demonstrate high value to the AC and/or Board process. Please submit the following form for any AC member who you feel fits the designated criteria.

| NOMINATOR INFORMATION | |
|--|--|
| Your Name: | |
| Your Designation: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Committee: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADF&G Staff Division: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Fisheries | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Game | |

| NOMINEE INFORMATION | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Member Name: | Advisory Committee: |

| |
|---|
| EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD criteria: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service resulted in an action that improved the economic or community health of Alaska or a region, or the sustainability of Alaska's resources. The service was unique, innovative, and commendable in the face of diverse opinions, and difficult or unusual circumstances. The service demonstrated leadership in conducting AC functions. |
| Please outline how the nominee has demonstrated high value to the AC or Board process. Use additional sheets if necessary. |
| |

Submit nominations to:

Online: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.acrecognition>
 Mail: ADF&G Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 Fax: 907-465-6094
 Questions? Contact Boards Support at 907-465-4110