

ACR #1 – Require antler destruction of moose taken in Unit 18.

SUBMITTED BY: Melvin Paukan

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

5 AAC 92.151. Destruction of trophy value of game required in specific areas.

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

Saw off a portion of harvested antler.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

Upon harvested moose or at time of kill, antler must be sawed off.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

They may be unforeseen events taking place in Unit 18.

- 1) To correct an error in regulation.**
- 2) To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.**

Unforeseen effect of illegal taking of moose / head hunters / waste meat / illegal sale.

- 3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**
- 4) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?**

Yes.

- 5) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?**

Yes

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

More illegal harvest and waste of criminal activity.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

Illegal activity has been going on the past two years.

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

If nothing is done now, there will be more illegal activity, which may get worse.

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

I am a subsistence hunter in Unit 18.

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

What I've heard this was brought to the board two years ago.

ACR #2– Establish a guide concession pilot program for sheep hunting in Unit 19C.

SUBMITTED BY: Big Game Commercial Services Board

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

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

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

The Big Game Commercial Service Board (BGCSB) is requesting an Agenda Change Request (ACR) under 5 AAC 92.005 (2)(c) to correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when the regulation to establish Unit 19C as the guide concession pilot program that was adopted by the Board of Game in March 2025.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

This ACR is requesting that Game Management Unit 19C be established as the pilot program for the Big Game Guide Concession Program that has been established in statute by the Alaska Legislature in 2024 and 2025.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1) To correct an error in regulation.

Proposal 190 was accepted by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) as an ACR for consideration at the Statewide regulations meeting scheduled for March 2025. This proposal refers to a letter to the BOG from the Game Management Unit 19C Dall Sheep Working Group that held two meetings to provide recommendations to the BOG. This letter can be found online at the BOG website.

Proposal 190 was passed by the BOG and was submitted in its entirety to the Dept. of Law for review prior to being submitted to the Lt. Governor for signature. One section of Proposal 190, the Game Management Unit 19C Guide Concession Pilot Program clause that was adopted by the BOG, was rejected by the Dept. of Law because there failed to be testimony or written comment on the record that there was consultation with the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) about this Pilot Program as required by statute.

There have been numerous meetings and discussions among the BGCSB, DNR, and ADF&G about implementing a guide concession program over multiple years prior to Proposal 190 being presented to the BOG. The substance of the discussions by the BGCSB and DNR was inadvertently left out of BOG discussions and deliberations concerning Proposal 190. The BGCSB requests the BOG to accept this ACR to correct the oversight that happened during the adoption of Proposal 190 in March of 2025.

- 2) To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.
- 3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?
- 4) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?
- 5) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?

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

The Board of Game will not be in compliance with implementing the state statute.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

The request does not ask the BOG to make a new allocative decision as this was already decided by the BOG at the March 2025 meeting on Proposal 190.

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

Although not a new allocative decision for the BOG as stated above, the new information is that the Department of Law did not submit the regulation to the Lt. Governor to become enacted.

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

The Big Game Commercial Services Board is one of the entities required by statute to provide consultation to the Board of Game on the establishment of the guide concession areas.

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

The issue was considered at the Board of Game Statewide Regulations meeting in March 2025 as a component of Proposal 190.

ACR #3 – Remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

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

There are conflicting and redundant regulations within 5 AAC 92.095 regarding the methods of take allowed for beaver, statewide. 5 AAC 92.095(a)(3) prohibits the take of beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare; 5 AAC 92.095(a)(3)(A) makes an exception to allow the use of firearms in Units 1-5, 8, 18, 22, and 23. 5 AAC 92.095(a)(3)(B) makes an exception to allow firearms or bow and arrows to be used statewide. 5 AAC 92.095(a)(10) restricts the take of beaver in Units 11, 13, and 16 from September 25 through November 9, in the remainder of Unit 20(B), and 20(D) from September 25 through October 31 and from April 16 through May 31, and in Units 7 and 15 from October 15 through November 9 and from April 1 through April 30 to underwater traps and snares only. The trapping season in Units 7 and 15 now opens November 10, so the restriction from October 15 through November 9 is no longer necessary. Lastly, 5 AAC 92.095(a)(18) restricts the take of beaver in Unit 22 from June 11 through September 15 by firearm only.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

The department requests the board reduce confusion by removing conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1) To correct an error in regulation.

5 AAC 92.095(a)(3)(B) appears to be an error introduced in 2022, specifically the allowance of the use of firearms statewide. The same error was printed in the Alaska Trapping Regulations book and disseminated to the public each year since 2022.

2) To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

Exceptions and requirements for taking beaver under trapping regulations have been restricted and alternately relaxed across the state, which has resulted in numerous regulations that are confusing.

3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?

No.

- 4) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?

No.

- 5) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?

No.

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

Primarily, conflicting and unnecessary regulatory language will remain in the codified regulations. The current language for the take of beaver statewide is confusing to both the public and the department and may result in inadvertent violations by trappers.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This ACR is intended to address unexpected conflicts in current regulations for the take of beavers in multiple Game Management Units.

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

The issue does not fit well at a statewide meeting because of the numerous game management units listed, and the numerous regulations involved make it difficult to consolidate during any one regular cycle meeting. There is a risk of continuing the confusion and conflicting regulations if this is done piecemeal over multiple cycles and years.

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

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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

This ACR has not been considered before.

ACR #4 – Open a resident only general season hunt for sheep in Unit 19C.

SUBMITTED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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

5 AAC 85.055. Seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

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

At the March, 2025, Statewide Board of Game Meeting, when the board was deliberating Proposal 190 that would shut down resident sheep hunting opportunity in Unit 19C for the 2025 fall season and in 2026 put resident and nonresident sheep hunters on a draw permit system, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) told the board that there was a harvestable surplus of sheep in Unit 19C for residents under a general season hunt, and that they had no conservation concerns over continued resident general sheep hunting opportunity in the unit, even though the sheep population was in decline.

The board had already closed Unit 19C in 2023 to all nonresident sheep hunting opportunity due to conservation concerns that arose after the board allowed unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity that resulted in nonresident guided hunters taking 90 percent of the sheep harvest in 2022 from the declining sheep population.

At that time, and previously, the board stated that the problem was “too many guides” in the unit, not their allowance of unlimited sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents who are required to hire a guide. Whether the problem was too many guides, or too many nonresident sheep hunters, the board’s conservation concerns related to what they believed was an overharvest of sheep in Unit 19C by nonresident guided hunters. Resident sheep hunters never posed a sheep conservation concern.

The board’s decision in 2025 to shut down the resident sheep season in 19C, and make it a draw hunt for both residents and nonresidents starting in 2026, had a caveat that general sheep hunting opportunity in 19C for residents and nonresidents would only be allowed in the future if there were limits on guides via a Guide Concession Program (GCP) the legislature authorized during the 2025 session, which could be implemented as a test program in a unit of the board’s choosing.

Why are resident sheep hunters bearing the burden of this closure and subsequent draw hunts when the Department says there are no sheep conservation concerns with continued resident general sheep hunting opportunity, and the board has determined that the problem was too many guides? Why is resident general sheep hunting opportunity in the future dependent on limiting guides? What the board is really alluding is that if guides are not limited in 19C there will continue to be an overharvest of sheep from a declining sheep population by nonresident guided hunters.

The only sheep hunters in Unit 19C that need to be on a draw permit system before guides are limited are nonresidents.

Unit 19C Guide Concession Program & Timeline

The board passed a proposal in March of 2025 that would implement a GCP in Unit 19C, however, the Department of Law stated that the way the board adopted that proposal was not legal, and a new proposal must come forth in 2026 to designate Unit 19C as the first area where a test GCP will be implemented.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) needs to hire additional staff to administer the GCP, but there are several hurdles that must first be overcome before DNR can even begin hiring staff and drafting the initial GCP in coordination with the Big Game Commercial Services Board, the Board of Game, and the Department. Realistically, we are likely looking at a minimum of three to four years before the program would be in place and implemented.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

A general sheep season for residents in Unit 19C should again be allowed. There is a harvestable surplus of rams in Unit 19C for a general season resident sheep hunt according to the Department, which poses no sheep conservation concerns at this time.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

A biologically allowable resource harvest (resident general season sheep hunt) would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future under a general season hunt.

- 1) To correct an error in regulation.**
- 2) To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.**
- 3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**

No

- 4) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?**

No

- 5) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?**

Yes

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

Resident sheep hunters will be denied general season sheep hunting opportunity for a sheep population with a harvestable surplus.

With only 20 permits available for residents, it's likely only half of the draw permit winners will even participate. This restricted opportunity precludes residents from harvesting a ram from a population with a harvestable surplus.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

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 ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

The Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee represents local constituents and provides a state-sanctioned forum for the public to make recommendations on fish and wildlife management decisions.

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

This ACR has not been considered before.