

RECORD RETENTION LOG

Log #	Date/Time	Submitted by	Topic or Title
1	11/6/09	Boards.	- Workbook
2	11/2/09	Wildlife	- Dept Comments
3	11/2/09	Kawerak	- Proposals 6, 13, 14, 15
4	10/27	Northern Norton Sound AC	- Draft Minutes
5	10/27	Joint Unit 23 WACs ^{WACs}	- Minutes
6	10/27	Southern Norton Sound AC	- Minutes
7	10/27	Kotzebue AC	- Minutes
8	10/31	Kristy Tibbles	- Proposal Req. Non Reg. Act.
9	11/11/09	Noatak/Kivalina ACs	- Minutes
10	11/11/09	Upper Kobuk/Lower Kobuk ACs	- Joint AC Min.
11	11/13/09	Div. Subsistence	Brown Bear Rpt. TP163
12	11/13/09	ROBERT SUNDOWN	YUKON DELTA MWR.
13	11/13/09	Tagulik Hepa N. Slope Borough	Proposal Comments
14	11/13/09	Greg Roetzka, N13227 (Hunt Fish Trap Research)	Greg Roetzka
15	11	Matthew Cully	Comments on GMU 22 prop.
16	11.13.09	LOWER Kookwin AC	DRAFT minutes.
17	12.13.09	GATES OF THE ARCTIC N.P.	BOG POSITIONS
18	11.13.09	STONY HOLENA AC	COMMENT PROP. 35
19	11.13.09	GATES OF THE ARCTIC RAC	BOG POSITIONS
20	11.13.09	FASRBANKS AC	- comments for BOG

RECORD RETENTION LOG

21	11-13-09	MUSTANUSKA Valley fish & game AC	Comments positions on minutes/ BOG Prop.
22	11-13-09	SEB ^{IFB} BOARD SUPPORT	INDEX OF ON-TIME AC & PUBLIC COMMENT
23	11-13-09	Mike Quinn/Karen Olanna	Muskox horn craft
24	11-13-09	Lt. Bernard Chestnut,	ACK for statement Mtg.
25	11-13-09	Allen Pirrrette,	Legislation. re= Dalton Hwy. Corridor
26	11-13-09	Douglas Carl,	ACK re: Preference Point System
27	11-14-09	APNA: Comments on Proposals	Bobby Fithian APNA
28	11-14-09	Legal Memo re: NPS Authority	Bobby Fithian, APNA
29	11-14-09	BRIAN SIMPSON	-SELF TESTIMONY
30	11/14/09	Robert Sundown	Proposal 4 Amendment
31	11-14-09	ICEVAE SOLIDNA AC	minutes
32	"	Kawarak, Inc	Proposals GMU22 + 23
33	"	Bob Hannon	Proposal 11
34	"	Div. of Subsistence	Revised re Proposal 35
35	"	WC	Prop 4A
36	"	WC	Prop 1A
37	11-15-09	WC	Prop 24A
38	11-15-09	WC	Prop 19A
39	11-15-09	WC	Agenda Change Request
40	11-16-09	^{how?} RESERVED	MISC. Business agenda
41	11-16-09	WC	Prop 19A Rev
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Log #	Date/Time	Submitted by	Topic or Title

RC 3



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October 29, 2009

Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

RECEIVED
NOV 02 2009
BOARDS

Dear Board of Game:

The Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association considered the wildlife proposals and hereby submit the following comments in regards to several proposals.

Proposal 6: Wolf *Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association opposes this proposal. There is a growing population of wolves on the Seward Peninsula and low populations of their prey (reindeer, moose, caribou). Human harvest of their prey, the large mammals in the region, is important to family health, traditions and economy.*

Proposal 13: Brown bear *Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association supports this proposal. The brown bear population throughout GMU 22 is large. This proposal would extend the opportunity to legally hunt bear in the spring.*

Proposal 14: Caribou *Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association opposes this proposal as these areas include lands near Teller, the area south of Imuruk Basin and the area northwest of Brevig Mission. This area is closed to caribou hunting unless opened by Emergency order. There are active reindeer herds in these areas throughout the year.*

Proposal 15: Brown bear *Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association opposes this proposal. The brown bear population throughout GMU 22 is large. This proposal would reduce the opportunity to legally hunt bear in the fall. Although the state does not manage wildlife on federal land, we support mutual bear management on all lands.*

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward the meeting to be held in our region.

Sincerely,
KAWERAK REINDEER HERDERS ASSOCIATION

Tom Gray
Tom Gray, President
CC: Donnie Olson

Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 3:00 pm, 2009
Kawerak New Board Room, Nome

Draft Minutes

AC members present: Chuck Okbaok, Teller; William Jones, Shishmaref; Charles Saccheus, Elim, Jack Fagerstrom, Golovin; Raymond Seetook, Sr., Wales, Tom Gray, White Mountain/Nome; and also from Nome, Roy Ashenfelter, Nate Perkins, Dan Stang, Charlie Lean, and Mike Quinn. Bob Hannon was travelling for work. Also missing were Adem Boeckman, Lance Cannon, and Vernon Rock of Brevig Mission.

Present for DFG were Tony Gorn and Letty Hughes, WC, Nome; James Magdanz, Division of Subsistence, Kotzebue; Susan Bucknell, Boards Coordinator, Kotzebue. Brian Miller, AWT; Mike Wade, USFWS, Nome; Ken Adkisson, NPS, Nome; Marci Johnson, NPS wildlife biologist, by phone from Kotzebue. Julie Raymond-Yakobian, Kawerak; Rose Fosdick, Kawerak and Reindeer Herders Association; Tim Smith; Carl Merchant;

Chairman Roy Ashenfelter called the meeting to order about 3:10 p.m. The agenda was amended, to link wildlife reports with relevant proposals, instead of reports first. Potential BOG schedule changes, and annual reauthorizations, were added to the agenda. Minutes of last meeting were approved with no changes.

Proposal 14 No Action 11/0 Mike Q./Chuck moved and seconded
Tony said that "22 D remainder" refers to different areas for different species, and the caribou hunt area was confused with the moose hunt area. Department recommendation is to take no action, because the proposer wanted the proposal withdrawn.

Proposal 9 Passed 11/0 Mike Q. and Charlie Lean moved and seconded
Tony said the department's preliminary position is "no recommendation". Mike Quinn asked Jim Magdanz and Brian Miller for their divisions' positions on this. Jim said Division of Subsistence concurs with Wildlife Conservation on this one; Brian didn't have the Wildlife Troopers recommendation yet.

Tony asked Mike Wade for the federal perspective. Mike said that in Bering Land Bridge National Park and in Lake Clark National Park, there's a rule on the books that you can't shoot until 3:00 am the next day. Tony said in July and August most of the caribou in Unit 22 are in 22E, much of which is park land; if we change this, the language will have to honor the federal regulations on parkland.

Roy asked if there are issues with the current same-day airborne. Tony said the department has no way to track the harvest but he feels probably less than ten a year are taken this way. Roy asked if this is because few people have planes on skis; so what about in summer when you could land on the beaches? Tony and Mike Wade agreed it may sound easy, but there are a lot of challenges involved. The group discussed the regulation, that you have to be 300 feet from the plane and you can't harrass the animals.

Chuck asked if this would affect reindeer herders? -because Teller is trying to regrow their reindeer herd, and they've lost some reindeer to caribou hunters. This sparked considerable discussion. Tom Gray said the herders association wants to keep certain areas closed

until certain dates, to protect reindeer herds. Several people thought this proposal wouldn't increase reindeer take very much. People can reach them by snowmachine anyway; it's the dates and seasons on caribou that protect reindeer. Tim Smith said regulations already allow people to fly and hunt in all these areas; the proposal only removes the requirement to camp overnight. He said this is the time of year it's most needed.

Tony asked about user conflict issues. Tom mentioned the possibility to have this sunset; if a guide started working the upper Kuzitrin hard, there could be conflict with subsistence hunters.

Charlie Lean said we have a widely spread herd, he doesn't mind spreading out the hunting, make it a little easier for others closer to town. Charles Saccheus asked for clarification about chartering a plane to get dropped off to hunt. He said the caribou are 50 miles outside of Koyuk and there's no way to get to them.

Proposal 7 Fails 0/11 Mike/Chuck moved and seconded

Letty said the department recommends not adopting this for several reasons: Nowhere else in the state goes past March 31. Wolverines are more vulnerable in April, with the females moving in and out of dens, males more active and transients moving around more. There's not a lot of refugia in the hills. The department doesn't have a good population estimate, and this could increase harvest. Dan Stang said it could increase a lot, it could be devastation for the wolverines. Jack and others agreed there'd be increased take from people out on snowmachines.

Roy at this point said that draft minutes will be circulated for approval prior to the BOG meeting. He asked advisory committee members to respond to the draft minutes, and if they don't respond, that will be taken as approval.

Proposal 6 Fails unanimously Charlie/Mike moved and seconded

Charlie asked about the population trend in 22. His impression is that wolves are numerous. He saw skeletons of two young wolves apparently eaten by the pack, which to him indicates they are pushing carrying capacity.

There was discussion if wolves really do migrate with caribou herds.

Dan said around Council he's seeing and taking more wolves, and wolves are taking more moose and muskox.

Proposal 33 Fails 0/11 Charlie L./Nate, moved and seconded

Proposal 34 Fails 0/11 Mike/Chuck moved and seconded

Mike Q. asked Magdanz to introduce this one. Jim said that under this proposal, meat from diseased animals would not be defined as "edible meat" if reported to the department within 48 hours. One problem is that changing a definition belongs at a statewide BOG meeting, not a regional meeting. Jim noted that the 48 hour provision was an amendment being discussed by the department.

Mike Q. said currently you have to choose before you pull the trigger. Tim said this makes every hunter a pathologist. Brian Miller said DPS opposes this; to prosecute a wanton waste case requires showing intent and this proposal would make enforcement very difficult.

Nate asked about reporting inedible meat now? Magdanz said currently you have to salvage it. Charlie Lean said when he used to work at DFG, and people would bring flawed meat,

the department would say okay, because they showed their intent. Charlie said this proposal was not specific enough.

Jim Magdanz told of photos from Kotzebue of a caribou shoulder with an enormous abscess inside which wasn't obvious to the hunter when he shot it. Mike Wade told of getting bad caribou that looked to be healthy when he shot it. He packed it out, but his wife wouldn't eat it.

Proposal 11 Fails 1/9/1 Mike/Chuck moved and seconded

Tony explained that the department's concern is how many moose are taken, not who gets them. One area of the state has something like this, with simultaneous guided and non-guided hunts.

Mike Quinn said Proposal 11 is about Bob Hannon and the November hunt, when locals are not hunting. There's 10 nonresident permits. Bob's a local guide, a local business and the money stays in the community. Bob works by word-of-mouth and a little advertising. Another guide is using a booking agent who gets a hundred applicants, and that guide now gets all ten permits every year. Mike said the other guide doesn't live in Alaska. This proposal would require the client to have a signed contract with a guide before permits are applied for.

People liked the idea that this proposal would level the playing field. Tom Gray said he's licensed in that area, but he can't compete with booking agents, so this would be good for him. He thinks it's not fair for the region if all the permits go to one out-of-state guide. The state needs to straighten this out.

People discussed the wording. **Amendment** passed "*in addition a guide may sign off on only as many contracts as permits are available.*" DFG staff pointed out again that currently, guides aren't required for moose in 22B.

People agreed they don't want to require guides, they just want to level the playing field among guides. There was considerable discussion of possible ways to amend the proposal. An amendment by Dan Stang, seconded by Tom Grey passed, to remove the first sentence of the proposal. Tony suggested again the idea of two separate drawing hunts, if people want to support the proposal. Jim Magdanz asked what's to prevent a client and guide having an informal agreement, and if the client is drawn, he hooks up with the guide. The proposal eventually failed for being too complicated. Mike Quinn said Bob Hannon and Tom Gray can go to the BOG and try to work something out.

Wildlife Reports, NPS

Marci Johnson reported on the Park Service project collaring muskox in Krusenstern National Monument and Bering Land Bridge National Park. They see larger animals and better dentition in the Seward Peninsula animals. In March they'll be putting out more collars, and start getting GPS info out to the public soon. They hope to collect jaws from hunters. The collars will all come off in 2012 or 2013.

Proposal 8 Fails 1/9 Mike/Chuck, moved and seconded

Department recommendation is no action, as they have this authority under discretionary hunt conditions. Tony said discussion at previous AC meetings and muskox cooperators meetings ranged from complete trophy destruction to none at all. Currently the RX099 hunt, on the Nome road system, requires submitting muskox with boss horns within 72 hours, for the

department to cut the horns. For the rest of Unit 22, trophy destruction is required if the horns leave the unit.

There was discussion that trophy destruction formerly meant cutting the tips, now it will be "at or above the eye", if the horns leave the unit.

Mike described a sculpture he saw made of muskox horns, which would have had to be destroyed to leave the unit. He said anything you do to horns, even cutting them from the head, is trophy destruction. The new requirement takes more than half the horn. He's concerned about subsistence hunters who want to use horns for anything other than taxidermy.

Charlie asked if the department takes other data when they cut the horns- isn't that one issue, concern about misidentification and reporting? Mike Wade asked the reason for the department retaining the cut pieces.

Tony Gorn said there is unprecedented hunting opportunity and people are using subsistence registration permits to get trophy mounts.

Tom asked, if he boiled and removed a whole horn, would that be legal under Mike's proposal? Other questions included; if a horn is separated from the skull, or if the skull is sawn in half, is trophy value destroyed? Does department personnel need to do the actual destruction of the trophy value?

Jim Magdanz reviewed a 1998 BOG finding that there's no pattern of trophy use of these animals. He's not sure whether the 1998 finding discusses "craft" - maybe the BOG needs to address crafts in regulation. If subsistence need is less than allowable harvest, there can be a trophy hunt - which there already is in some areas, for the "mature bulls" population.

Roy pointed out that last spring this AC approved the new trophy destruction rules, and usually the AC likes to see how changes work through a cycle before changing things again.

Proposal 16 Passes 6/5 Charlie Lean/Chuck, moved and seconded

Tony said current code requires up to 10% of muskox drawing permits in 22E be issued to non-residents; this removes the "up to".

There was discussion of how many animals are allocated and how many are taken. Committee members felt that because there are animals allocated but not taken, more should be made available in the drawing permit hunt, which has a success rate close to 100%.

Jim Magdanz reviewed that the amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) was originally set at 100. The harvest history has been more like 60. In 2007, the SP Muskox Cooperators Group recommended ANS of 250; the Board of Game in Bethel adopted a new ANS of 150 muskox. The BOG recognized that the harvest history occurred under the limitations of Tier II hunt restrictions. If subsistence harvests continue to be low under Tier I regulations, the BOG might lower the amount necessary for subsistence.

Roy Ashenfelter said his memory from the cooperators meeting is that residents of 22E wanted more muskox killed. William Jones said that is still true. William Jones and Raymond Seetook said that Shishmaref and Wales generally prefer caribou, reindeer and moose over muskox.

Tom Grey asked Tony if he has the authority to adjust the number of animals for the drawing hunt? Tony said he does, up to 60 animals. Tim Smith warned against increasing harvest now that bears are learning how to kill muskox.

RC.4

Charlie Lean said the proposer wants to guarantee more animals for non-residents and for himself as a guide. It's an allocation between residents and non-residents, and he's not going to support it. The current wording is strong enough and the area manager does his best to approach 10%.

Tom Grey said proposals 16 and 17 won't really affect the hunt as Tony manages it. The way to fix the muskox issue is a whole different proposal that addresses the twenty animals in the drawing permit.

Proposal 17 Passes 6/5 at 20% rate.

Tony said the BOG will ask him why the AC is supporting nonresident over resident hunters? Tom said the message is to increase the number of drawing permits. Tony said that this proposal doesn't change the number of permits.

Dan Stang said the intention of the proposer is to increase the number of non-resident hunters because he makes far more money from them. Chuck said it would be good if the guides were from within the area, to keep more money in the unit.

Tony said he's aware of one outfit guiding in 22E, it's a Shishmaref guy and a Fairbanks guy.

Tom Grey said he's licensed to guide in 22B East, 22B West, and 22E.

Charlie pointed out the front page photo in the Anchorage Daily News today, and story in the sports section, about Seward Peninsula muskox. He said he can't figure out why the AC would favor non-residents over residents.

Discussion included that if residents weren't taking these animals, non-residents should be able to.

Muskox Management Issues

Tony referred to a handout showing that since 2006, bull/cow ratios have declined from about 70 per 100 to about 30 or 35 per 100. Tony said that he was surprised how much and how fast big bulls declined. In response to a question from Nate, Tony said there's not nearly as much data on muskox populations as for moose or caribou. He's not sure what the ratio of bulls needs to be. They counted 71 mature bulls last year, and the harvest limit is 36, so that needs to be watched closely.

There was considerable discussion of population levels and sustainable harvest levels. Tony said before the last two years, harvest was about half what it is now. Most bulls harvested are mature bulls. There were comments that one reason people harvest mature bulls is they're easier to identify, and hunters want to make sure they don't shoot a cow. Tony said the department promotes harvest of three year old bulls, and he will spend as much time as anyone wants with hunters on muskox identification.

Proposal 12 Failed 3/8 Jack moved and Chuck seconded.

(The committee eventually supported, 9/1/1, a motion requesting Tony to increase the winter harvest to 8 moose, with the winter permits available in Golovin and White Mountain.)

Jack spoke on the reasons for the proposal. Very few people from Golovin have taken moose in the fall; they can't compete on the river because you need a jet unit for the river, and Golovin people live on a bay and don't use jet units. Jack said, we need protein. We used to get reindeer, but that's not available now. We want moose available for the winter hunt.

Tony said this proposal has three parts. The department opposes the season date changes. Moving the season dates back would exploit the big bulls moving around, going into the rut. 22C and 22D on the road system are closed then, so hunters would move down to 22B west, unless you shifted dates in all three areas. That's not possible in 22C because of very low bull/cow ratios, and very low large bull component; sliding the season would whack the few large bulls remaining.

Tom Gray suggested making "two brow tines or less" legal, to regulate size. Tony said the compromise is to move some bulls from fall to winter hunt. Jack said the winter quota used to be eight, now it's only five. Food and everything costs more in a village.

There was considerable discussion about having permits for that area be available only in White Mountain and Golovin.

Residency discussion: Dan Stang remarked on a large group of people in Council who live in the Lower 48, summer in Council, and maintain Alaska residency. He said the state needs to get on top of its residency laws. Brian Miller said people have asked him about this; it comes down to what's prosecutable. You can be gone 364 days a year, set up residence in other states, but as long as you don't vote or take benefits from elsewhere, and you retain a residence in Alaska, you can claim Alaska residency. There was discussion of why the requirements for resident hunting licenses aren't more like the requirements to vote, or get PFDs. (The committee talked about this again near the end of the meeting.)

Returning to the discussion on **Proposal 12**, Tony said he can change the permit quota ratio, and location where permits are given out, without BOG action, but with AC guidance. *A vote at this point showed 3 in favor/ 8 opposed to Proposal 12.*

Jack asked Tony for 8 winter permits, as a new permit for 22B west to be issued in White Mountain and Golovin. There was discussion if individuals can hold more than one permit at a time, and if "one moose per household" would apply.

Nate said this pulls three moose out of the fall hunt, reduces it to 15?

At this point a motion on Jack's request to Tony carried 8/3.

There was additional discussion and clarification. Jack offered that only the winter hunt permits should be picked up in Golovin/White Mountain, but not the fall permits. People asked whether that eight is a hard number, even if the quota changes, or is it a per cent of the quota? Tony said that several years back, this AC set the numbers at 18/5, for fall and winter, and now they can change it to 15/8. If the population drops, he'll come back to the AC for guidance.

Tony pointed out that since 2001, Golovin and White Mountain take 80% of the winter harvest, but they've taken only two bull moose, total, in the fall hunts since 2001.

New motion: Winter hunt of eight moose, permits to be issued in Golovin/White Mountain, no changes to fall hunt except the number. This passes 9/1/1.

Proposal 15 Failed 0/11 Mike/Jack, moved and seconded
People agreed with Mike and Nate that there's no reason to discuss this.

Proposal 10 Failed 0/11 Mike/Jack, moved and seconded

Letty said this revisits a 2007 proposal. The department recommendation is do not adopt. because in late May and early June bears are vulnerable to hunting where they congregate on the herring run. Harvest in 22A almost tripled after regulations were liberalized; we don't want to

increase the take more without knowing what the increased harvest is doing already. Tony said that 22A is the only part of Unit 22 that doesn't have a drawing permit mechanism to control the harvest.

Tom Gray said there was a real increase in harvest after the BOG authorized two bears a year. He opposes this until we know what's going on with the population.

Charlie Lean said that ice also interfered with the herring spawn, keeping the bears from congregating.

Mike Quinn asked why the department opposes this proposal when there's an extended date in other parts of the unit which also have herring spawn.

People wondered why Southern Norton Sound AC didn't support this proposal. Susan said one point from SNSAC was whether taking more big boars is having an unintended effect on the bear population.

Jack said he thinks that removing large boars that kill cubs is a concern, and there's very large bears in that particular area. A Boone-and-Crockett bear was taken right outside of Unalakleet recently.

Mike Wade said 10 or 15 years back he did bear surveys for BLM, at night, during the herring season, and he agreed there were lots of big bears in that area.

Proposal 13 Carried 11/0 Chuck/Mike moved and seconded

Letty said there are other areas, 22B for example, with low recruitment on moose; the department doesn't want to shift the hunt away from those areas. With more snow in early May, more hunters would be out. Our moose are above management objectives, we've even got an antlerless hunt. Last year we took more bears than ever before, and more bears from that area than ever before. It all adds up to a department recommendation to not adopt.

Mike Q. asked people to look at the proposal on its merits. Even if moose are doing okay, what about muskox? Maybe the record bear harvest reflects high bear populations. There's a lot of bear problems.

Charlie said the graph shows harvest peaks early in the season, then tapers down. Is this just creaming the easy bears? If the season opens earlier, maybe that peak would just move earlier in the season, rather than be extended. Bear recruitment seems to be high, with multiple cubs. There were seven bears on the Pilgrim River weir at one time this summer.

Nate said as an AC member conveying information from the public, there's a lot of frustration with the season in 22C. The purpose of the proposal is to take out more bears.

Tim Smith said he also sees a lot of bears, sows with three cubs, but not a lot of adult males. He doesn't think this proposal will do what they want it to.

Tom Gray said most bear harvest is young boars or females. It would be good to align the dates of the bear hunts between subunits.

There were other comments mostly in support of the proposal.

Annual Reauthorizations

Tony asked the committee if they wanted to act now on the annual reauthorizations for the spring BOG:

Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption for Unit 22: Passed 10/1

Mike Q. and Chuck moved and seconded to reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption for Unit 22. Nate said he sees no reason not to support it.

RC4:

Tom Gray said he's always opposed this, because when you charge \$25, you know who's interested in hunting; that's useful information for management, otherwise they have only harvest data. Mike Q. wants to keep the exemption, so anyone with a hunting license can legally take a brown bear if the opportunity arises.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season

Passed 8/3

Mike Q. and Chuck moved and seconded to reauthorize the antlerless moose season. The committee recognized that this doesn't mandate an antlerless moose season in 22, just leaves it in Tony's management toolbox.

Tony said they'll census 22C this spring and determine a cow hunt from that information, also from calf weights and other factors.

There was concern about the effects of recent heavy snow years, and of bears, on the moose population. Also the highly variable weight of moose calves. Tim said that younger bulls breeding will produce smaller calves. Tony said the lower harvest this year has got his attention.

Residency requirements to get Alaska hunting license

Dan Stang asked if anyone wanted to discuss the residency requirements, to bring something before the BOG. People thought it might be a legislative matter, but agreed to start by asking the BOG for clarification about residency requirements for hunting licenses. See earlier discussion under Proposal 12.

Next meeting; Monday, November 23, 2:00 pm, to comment on BOF proposals and potential BOG schedule changes.

Prospective changes to BOG schedule

Susan Bucknell asked if everybody picked up the Q&As about the proposed changes; the BOG is considering going to a three-year cycle, with one proposal deadline and one proposal book each year. Under that schedule, the Arctic regional BOG meeting might occur later in the winter. People were encouraged to attend a presentation on this during the BOG meeting in Nome. At the November 23 NNSAC meeting, they can submit comments for the statewide BOG meeting. Mike Quinn said that the federal system has gone to a two-year cycle for wildlife proposals, and that the two systems should be aligned.

Meeting adjourned about 9:00 p.m.

Joint Meeting of the Unit 23 Fish and Game Advisory Committees
Wednesday, August 26, 2009
Northwest Arctic Borough Chambers - Kotzebue, Alaska

~Draft Meeting Minutes~

The Joint Unit 23 Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 11:30 by Pete Schaeffer, Chairman of the Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee. Participating Advisory Committees were: Kotzebue Sound, Noatak/Kivalina, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk, and Northern Seward Peninsula

Roll call was taken. Attendees were:

- Kotzebue Sound AC – Pete Schaeffer, John Goodwin, Alex Whiting, Pierre Lonewolf, and Eugene Smith
- Noatak/Kivalina- Janet Mills and Enoch Mitchell
- Upper Kobuk- Louie Commack
- Lower Kobuk- Raymond Stoney, Bobby Wells, William Zibell, Lee Ballot, Vern Cleveland Sr., and Larry Westlake Sr.
- Northern Seward Peninsula- Clyde Ramoth, Percy Ballot, and George Sheldon

A quorum was established only for the Kotzebue Sound and the Lower Kobuk Advisory Committees.

Introduction of Guests:

- Jim Dau and Charlotte Westing with the Division of Wildlife Conservation
- Jim Menard, Division of Commercial Fisheries
- Eric Lorring, Department of Public Safety
- Kristy Tibbles and LeAn Wortman with Boards Support Section via teleconference from Juneau
- LeeAnne Ayres, Refuge Manager, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
- George Helfrich, National Park Service
- Ken Adkisson , Subsistence Program Coordinator NPS/WEAR

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential Board of Game proposals to be submitted for the Arctic/Western regional meeting; review wildlife population and harvest data; review pertinent Board of Fisheries proposals, and to receive an update on the Unit 23 user conflict working group.

The agenda was approved with the addition of discussing the problems with aircraft under the Unit 23 user conflict update.

Board of Game Proposals

Caribou

Jim Dau explained that the Department of Fish and Game is not planning to submit any proposal on caribou hunting in Unit 23 for consideration by Board of Game. He said the public may submit one to increase the nonresident caribou bag limit to greater than one.

Noatak Controlled Use Area

Jim Dau circulated a proposal that was generated by the Unit 23 work group concerning the Noatak Controlled Use Area (CUA). He summarized that the proposal would change the dates to 8/15 – 9/30 (instead of 8/25 – 9/15) and that it does not at all change the existing area of the CUA.

Enoch Mitchell commented that at the Noatak AC meeting, the dates were changed because of the caribou movement.

The Unit 23 Advisory Committee members voted unanimously to support the proposal submitted by the Unit 23 work group concerning the Noatak CUA, as described by Jim Dau.

Without any objection, Chairman Pete Schaefer requested the minutes from this Joint AC meeting be provided to the Board of Game for their review at Fall meeting in Nome.

Orientation for pilots

Jim Dau distributed a proposal requesting a mandatory orientation for pilots who transport hunters that is being submitted to the board by the Unit 23 working group. He explained that anyone who flies an airplane to transport hunters and game would be required to go through a one-time orientation. Topics for the orientation may include meat salvage and other issues that have been raised in the past; mostly, it's a way to tell pilots how they can avoid conflict with subsistence hunters and to avoid caribou migration. Jim reiterated that it is for all of Unit 23 and applies to any pilot who hunts or transports; it is not directed at those who transport hunters by boats.

There was some discussion about the methodology and timing for providing the orientation. Jim indicated that it is not known how the orientation will be given; it could be via internet, DVD; or in person. He expressed some concern that there may be a large number of pilots wanting the course by ADF&G staff so he intends to emphasize the need for an internet delivery. He also said the BLM and NPS indicated at a past meeting that they may be able to provide some help with the orientation. Jim commented that the board implemented an orientation requirement in 2005 at the

meeting in Kotzebue and it is likely the existing orientation would be modified to apply to pilots.

There was discussion about the problem of low flying aircraft and how to report it; and the need for radio collaring caribou for data collection and the location of hunting camps.

Jim shared with the group that the Unit 23 working group asked Big Game Commercial Services Board to close a loophole for transporters concerning advertising and charging fees. He said the BGCSB is receptive to changing it.

The Unit 23 Advisory Committee members voted unanimously to support the proposal submitted by the Unit 23 work group concerning the orientation requirement for pilots who are either hunting or transporting hunters as described by Jim Dau.

Eliminating Lead Shot

Another issue Jim brought to the group's attention for a potential proposal was the elimination for lead shot for all hunting in Unit 23 as it is in Unit 26A. The AC members discussed and inquired about several issues including financial impact and support for changing to steel shot, the types of calibers that can use lead/steel shot, the dangers of using lead shot; the problems in the lower 48 states; and whether it's already illegal or not. Jim Dau said it's illegal to use lead for waterfowl hunting, but it's not illegal for hunting upland game.

The committee members did not take any action on this topic.

Black Bear

Charlotte Westing, Area Biologist for the Division of Wildlife Conservation, presented information about black bear and explained that black bear are difficult to monitor and survey so the data on black bears is lacking. Currently, the only information received on black bear is through household surveys. The members provided information to Charlotte about the numbers of black bear they see in their areas. Charlotte said there are some proposal options the group may want to consider such as implementing a harvest reporting system through a registration hunt, reducing the harvest, or reducing the season.

The advisory committee members discussed the options and decided not to take any action.

Moose

Charlotte explained the process for the registration moose hunt (RM880) that permits must be picked up in person in Unit 23 from June 1 - July 15, well before the hunting season starts.

This was a change by the board that came into effect in 2004. She explained there has been a decrease in the number of Alaskans pursuing moose in the area plus they are receiving more harvest information through the reporting requirements. Charlotte said the moose population was low, but now it is stable. Jim Dau said he was uncertain if this was due to a lower number of hunters or to a natural process. Charlotte explained her intentions to survey the Upper Noatak and then the Kobuk areas in the near future.

Salvage Requirements

Jim Dau explained there would be a proposal submitted to the board concerning salvage requirements as a result of the large number of caribou being shot and left in the field last spring near Pt. Hope. Jim explained that in current law, if you shoot an animal, you are required to salvage the whole thing except for bloodshot meat; there is no allowance for sick animals or if they have abscesses. He said the North Slope Borough feels there is an oversight in the law. The proposal will add a clause that if meat is inedible because of disease, it can be left in the field. It relies on the hunter to decide what is edible and what isn't.

The committee members discussed the issue and shared information about their traditions and hunting practices. Louie Commack with the Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee explained that people in his area have been eating liver, tongue, nose, leg; to him it's wasting meat to not salvage those parts of an animal. Eugene Smith with the Kotzebue AC suggested adding language to require a sample be given to the department if the meat is bad.

Jim Dau commented that if hunters feel they have to leave meat in the field because of its condition, he wants to know the details of what, where and why. He recommends getting a photo of it or sending in a piece of meat to the department.

Some members felt the proposed change will open up loopholes that nonresidents may take advantage of to leave meat in the field.

The committee members took no action on the proposal.

Brown Bear

Charlotte said the Red Dog area was surveyed for brown bear in 2008. It was last surveyed before the mine was underway. The survey will help show whether the mine has had any impact on brown bears. At this time, she said results are being analyzed, but preliminary information indicates there hasn't been a decline. She said there are a lot of bears in that area.

The committee members discussed the information and had various questions for Charlotte. There was a little discussion about different salvage requirements for brown bear subsistence and general hunts.

Caribou Surveys

Jim Dau distributed a handout which included a graph that indicated 2003 was the highest count; the last census was in 2007. He said from 2003 to 2007 the Western Arctic Herd declined about 6% annually. The department photographed the caribou last month and Jim is hoping he can complete the count before the board meeting. He said the population looked better than he expected when they photographed the herd.

The AC members had various questions about the herd and expressed some concern for the size. Jim explained that under the current management plan, the herd will be censused more frequently as it declines. He said as soon as the current decline was noticed, the department moved up the timing of survey. He said if the 2009 census is again low, the department will probably try to do a survey in another year. He also said that if there was a serious decline, the department would petition the board, or use the department's emergency authority to restrict hunting.

Jim explained to the group that he would like to collect caribou jaws for information and that he needs help from hunters who are taking caribou. Jim asked for suggestions about how to get hunters to turn in the jaws. He said he is willing to pay in some way to hunters who turn in jaws. The Kotzebue Advisory Committee was a little leery about it because people could abuse it. Jim said he would like to get 200 jaws/year of cows and 200 jaws/year for bulls; he needs both sides of the jaws, and they can't be cooked. He needs to know the sex of the animal, roughly when it was taken, and where it was taken, for Units 22, 23 and 26A.

One AC member suggested Jim look into the hunting program for elders. Another member suggested Jim break it down for how many jaws per community and explain that it's a good way for the public to contribute to the management of the herd.

Musk ox

Charlotte explained there are two main populations in Unit 23. She said that due to a severe winter, unfortunately the department was not able to complete a census, but the National Park Service was because they conduct their surveys later in the Spring with their capture effort. She said they are seeing some early indication that the population may be declining. Currently there is a Tier II hunt on this population north and west of Noatak River.

For the Seward Peninsula, Unit 23 Southwest, the musk ox population has continued to grow and be healthy. There is a registration hunt for the Unit 23 Southwest area (near Buckland and Deering area) and any resident of Alaska can come to Kotzebue, Buckland or Deering to pick up a permit. It has a 16 animal harvest quota; of which 8 can be cows. The season for bulls opens August 1 and the season for cows opens January 1. The season will be closed if the quota is met early.

Jim talked to the group about the process for completing and scoring the Tier II applications. He said it's getting competitive among people from the villages and that there is a problem that the subsistence hunters don't think of applying for hunts early on.

Sheep

The National Park Service was conducting a sheep survey and ADF&G was able to help. They do not yet have the results. The sheep in De Long area were also looked at by the department.

Unit 23 workgroup and user conflicts

One of the AC members raised a question about the membership of the workgroup so there was some discussion with Jim about who participated and who was able to vote on the various issues.

Jim gave an update on the workgroup and said the last meeting was the end of April. The Big Game Commercial Services Board has been asked to address transporter regulations and that legislation may be needed. Pete was tasked with talking to Representative Reggie Joule. The department and the Division of Occupational Licensing are working together to merge harvest data with the contract information so it can be looked at together. The Department of Natural Resources is doing a major review of the way the state regulates guide use areas; they are looking at adopting a competitive bid process for allocating guide use areas, but they also have to consider potential impacts so it's not a straight bid process. The way it is now, all applicants for guide-outfitter areas are approved with little consideration. DNR may also reduce the number of areas shared by guides.

Also, Jim said sensitive areas may be identified that commercial operators should avoid. Hazel Smith talked with several IRAs; it was difficult and they couldn't gather much info.

There was more discussion about the process of reporting problems with guides and transporters. Jim said the process has changed from the past and the BGCSB is more receptive to listening to the public.

Fish Proposals

Jim Menard with the Division of Commercial Fisheries talked about sheefish waste and mentioned there was no proposal this cycle, but there may be a proposal during the next cycle if there is a wastage problem.

He brought to the group's attention a rod and reel proposal that will be before the Board of Fisheries, proposal #68. The proposal was submitted by the Kotzebue Advisory Committee. The Seward Peninsula already has a regulation on the books allowing rod

and reel for subsistence. Then you don't have to have a sport fish license to use a rod for subsistence. The proposed change is for subsistence fishing from Wales to Pt. Hope.

In southern Kotzebue Sound management area, hook and line attached to a rod or pole is legal gear from Wales to Cape Espenberg.

The Board of Fisheries has required subsistence salmon permits in northern Norton Sound where hook and line is legal subsistence gear. As of now, southern Norton Sound does not have hook and line as legal subsistence gear and no subsistence permits are required.

The question came up that if this makes it legal to subsistence fish with a rod, does it open it up to other residents to do the same thing? One member replied that for non-locals, everything remains the same. Generally, anyone else who comes up to fish are guaranteed to have a sport fish license.

There was unanimous support by the group for proposal, #68.

The meeting was adjourned.

Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 pm

Native Village of Unalakleet Conference Room

Draft Minutes

Chairman Milton Cheemuk called the meeting to order at 7:05.

AC members present were Frank Kavairlook, Koyuk; Clarence Towarak, Jeff Erickson and Art Ivanoff for Unalakleet, Milton Cheemuk of St. Michael and Peter Martin, Sr. of Stebbins. Excused were Leo, at a funeral, Myron and Dwayne, because of work, Paul because of travel.

Also present, Wes Jones, Fisheries Biologist for NSEDC, Unalakleet; Letty Hughes, Wildlife Biologist, DFG Nome.

By phone, Tony Gorn DFG/WC, Nome; Susan Bucknell, Boards Coordinator, Kotzebue.

Agenda was amended to add NPFMC report, more complete discussion on Council makeup, and setting up a separate account at NSEDC for AC travel support.

Minutes from February 18 and January 18, 2009 were approved with the request to correct the spelling of Middy Johnson's name.

Wildlife Reports, Letty Hughes, DFG

Moose: Letty reported on number of permits issued and moose harvested in 22A.

Peter Martin, Sr. asked about the consequences for being late with moose permit reports. Letty said you have three days to report. Art said the media should remind people. Tony said the reporting is to prevent overharvest. Originally the Unalakleet registration hunt was treated like other state hunts. Some letters went out warning people, then Tony got the Unalakleet hunt off the automatic letters system, for now anyway.

Jeff asked how long they'd be bound by the harvest quota of 14 moose? Tony said that's a 4% harvest rate, he recommends keeping that rate until the next census. He said taking three over the limit this year isn't so bad; having the quota in place keeps harvest within limits. At a 4% harvest rate, we should see growth and bull/cow ratio improved. Jeff said he's still seeing a good number of cows with calves on the river.

Wes said he likes the conservative approach -when's the next survey? Tony said that this spring they'll fly 22B and C. Next year, 22D, and the following year, 22A. If they get decent weather early this year or next, maybe they could do 22A after the other subunits, but for the next two years 22A is the secondary goal.

Brown bear: Letty said that brown bear harvest in Unit 22 was 105 last year, the highest on record. In 2000 the harvest was 104 bears. Brown bear harvest in 22A was 42 bears last year.

Jeff asked if the department collects size data from these bears? If there's an increase in big boars getting knocked down, resulting in more bears? Bears are everywhere, getting in cabins, in town, on the trails.

Tony said sealing data provides skull size and age from teeth. Tony acknowledged big bears regulate little bears; he said that advisory committees all over the state ask about this. They just don't have the census data.

There was discussion that around Nome, Golovin, White Mountain, bears are all over the place. Is that due to poor fishing, a weird berry season, rather than an actual increase in bears? In 22A it was an off-year for pinks, but otherwise things were okay, plenty of food for bears. Tony said he will take a look at 22A skull size data. Since 2007, the BOG allowed 2 bear a year in your area; maybe that's had the opposite effect intended.

Proposal 6) *Shorten the hunting season and reduce the bag limit for wolf in Unit 22.*

In response to a question from Milton, Letty said the rationale is that pelts are not prime, and it's getting into pupping season. Jeff said Defenders of Wildlife is the biggest anti-hunting group. Department recommendation out of Nome will be do not adopt, because wolves are increasing and few are taken: 23 last year, averaging 9-10 a year. Art said he opposes; it doesn't work for the community, and don't want outsiders taking hunting rights. Others agree. Frank said that Leo opposes it. Because harvest varies year to year, don't need the limit of ten. Frank moved and Clarence seconded; proposal failed unanimously. Then the committee voted Proposal 33 down also.

Proposal 8) *Modify the trophy destruction requirement for musk ox in Unit 22.*

Letty said this proposal asks that trophy destruction be done only if removing from the unit. The department is concerned about preventing overharvest of mature bulls. If the ratio keeps dropping, we'll have a biological situation with our muskox.

Art and Jeff asked if this isn't a Northern Norton Sound issue. Letty said there are reports of muskox moving in; sometime down the road Southern Norton Sound may have a muskox hunt. Jeff said that very few hunters in Unalakleet are looking for big rack, they want the best meat. Shishmaref also would go after a fat cow over a big bull.

The department recommendation is to take no action. Tony said, everywhere else in the state there's a \$25 tag fee, except Unit 22. Under Tier II, which was more regulated, they just clipped tip of horns. With new opportunity to hunt muskox, some want to leave with a trophy. He pointed out a graph showing that if you shoot the biggest bulls over time, bull/cow ratios really tank. The department recommendation is No Action, because the department already has the authority. But if the BOG takes action on this proposal, this could become a biological concern.

Jeff asked, if trophy destruction is already in effect, why's it still a popular trophy hunt? Tony said we were cutting tips of horns - taxidermists would add fake tips. Also, some muskox were taken down to NAC and shipped out; some people were not obeying rules. Or a hunter could leave the horns in the field and his buddy could "find" them.

Jeff said that people will continue to bend rules; those most affected are local craftspeople and subsistence users. Tony said on the Nome road system it's now a mandatory permit condition that anyone killing a muskox with box horns must bring it in to Fish and Game within 72 hours. He said that troopers will make cases and there will be real consequences. Peter asked about Northern Norton Sound's position on this proposal. Tony said he can't speculate but at the last NNS meeting, they endorsed department trophy destruction.

Jeff moved and Frank seconded to take no action -unanimous.

Jeff asked about muskox in 22A. Tony asked people to call him when they see muskox. He said he saw a mixed sex group of 24 muskox in the headwaters of Shaktoolik River. Tony said the the SSN AC can play a huge role in deciding when to start hunting. Seward Peninsula muskox censuses haven't looked at 22A, but this year he's adding the north third of the subunit.

Proposal 9) *Modify the same day airborne restrictions for taking caribou in Unit 22.*

Letty said it's legal now if 300 feet from plane, between January 1 - April 15. This proposal would make that year-round. Jeff said he opposes it because the more airplanes are allowed in hunting, the worse it is for animals because of harassment. Clarence moved, Frank seconded; proposal failed unanimously.

Proposal 10) *Lengthen the brown bear season in Unit 22A.*

Letty said currently the season is August 1 to May 31; this proposal would extend it to June 15th. Department recommendation is Do Not Adopt. In late May, early June, bears really congregate for herring, it's a conservation concern.

Milton said he doesn't support it. Art mentioned saving moose calves. Peter Martin said he supports it because there's a lot of bears.

Letty said there's been a big increase in harvest, 42 bears taken last year in this area. Two bears per year, that's a lot of opportunity. We don't know what the bear population is, we don't know what increased harvest is doing.

Pete and Art mentioned protecting reindeer. Jeff asked about data. People discussed how many more bears would be taken if this passed, and the breakdown of current harvest, resident, non-resident, or local. Art asked how many reindeer are taken by brown bears. Tony said they don't have the numbers. He agreed a few bears can kill a lot of calves. But 22A bears have a big resource along the coast with the herring.

Letty reviewed recent harvest data; harvest has doubled very quickly. In two years, harvest increased by 88%. Everyone recognizes there lots of bears, but the season is very liberal, with no drawing permit, and two bears a year. Moved and seconded by Art and Peter, proposal failed unanimously.

Proposal 11) *Implement guide client requirements for moose permit hunts in Unit 22B.*

Letty said the department has no recommendation on this, it's an allocation issue. Usually these agreements are for brown bear, sheep; nowhere in state is it for moose.

Frank said we can't support hunting like this; the village doesn't benefit. Frank said he talked to elders and the council in Koyuk, about who gets meat from Hannon -they don't support the proposal. Frank said it also gave him pause that one guide could submit for all the permits available. Art moved and Peter seconded; proposal failed unanimously.

Proposal 33) See discussion under Proposal 6. Jeff moved, Frank seconded; proposal failed unanimously.

Select rep to attend Alaska Board of Game meeting, November 13-16, in Nome:

Peter Martin selected, with Frank as alternate. Art requested funding for two representatives, to send Frank also, since Koyuk is at the other end of the committee area, with different issues.

Susan will inquire about that.

(break, 8:40 p.m.)

Fisheries

Unalakleet weir project: Wes Jones said there may be funding for the Unalakleet weir project through the federal Office of Subsistence Management. Art and Peter said SNSAC should engage in the process and go before the FSB to support the weir project. The committee supported this idea.

Wes said the final vote on funding will be in January. He thought there's a good chance it will be approved but it's not a done deal. Milton asked what else will be on the agenda at the January FSB meeting? Susan will get that info to the committee.

NPFMC report: Art said that since June 2008 SNSAC has been attending NPFMC meetings, funded by NSEDC. Art wants to see the Magnuson-Stevens Act amended to add native members on Council. The Seward Peninsula and Western Interior RACs supports this. AFN is going to look at it. Arctic said we need seats on the Council to conserve resources, not just the bottom line. Several letters have been submitted to the Council about this.

Separate accounts: Art suggested setting up an account for NSEDC money for SNSAC travel to Council or other meetings.

Next meeting date: SNSAC will meet by teleconference to address Board of Fisheries proposals. The committee agreed on November 19, if Commfish and Sportfish are available. Clarence excused himself for November 19th.

Art requested more information about the BOF/Council meeting on December 8th.

Art said he'd like to see the whole advisory committee process sharpened up a bit. He attended the RAC and he was impressed. They meet twice a year and it really works for the villages.

Adjourn, 9:30 p.m.

Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee Tuesday, November 3, 2009
7:00 pm, Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers

Draft Minutes

Chairman Pete Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Quorum established with Pete Schaeffer, Al Nanouk, Allen Upicksoun, Alex Whiting, Victor Karmun and Mike Kramer. Eugene Smith arrived shortly. Excused were Pierre Lonewolf, for work-related travel, and John Goodwin at the Ice Seal meeting.

Present for DFG:

Charlotte Westing and Jim Dau, Wildlife Conservation

Jim Magdanz, Division of Subsistence

Susan Bucknell, Boards Support

Also present, Marci Johnson, NPS; Tina Moran, FWS; Charlie Gregg, NWA Borough; Caleb Pungowiyi

The agenda was amended to add c) Annual Reauthorizations, under Wildlife; and to add b) NPS Caribou Study under New Business.

Wildlife

Charlotte Westing suggested linking reports with the relevant BOG proposals. She said they'd wrapped up fall composition counts of moose on the northern Seward Peninsula, working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They saw good bull/cow ratios, low cow/calf ratios. The population seems pretty stable but not growing. Eugene asked if they saw much mortality? Jim Dau said, no dead moose, but a muskox and a couple caribou.

Jim Dau said the WACH caribou count will be available by February or March.

Proposal 23 Fails 0/7

Charlotte reviewed that the hunt went to one bear a year in 2000, and in 2002 the dates expanded to include August. She said the data from last year's bear survey isn't final, but there's no indication of a decline. The proposal would only be in the Noatak National Preserve, which would add to the complicated patchwork of regulations.

Alex said that when the Kotzebue AC wanted one bear a year, it was not intensive management, it was just based on bear populations and what's sustainable. He said the proposal unfairly characterizes the AC action; we were using our own reasoning, not riding the state train on intensive management.

There was more discussion of bear harvest and bear populations.

Alex moved and Mike seconded to reject the proposal.

Proposal 24 Passes 7/0

Charlotte said this is to change the dates for the DB767 non-resident drawing hunt on the northern Seward Peninsula. If adopted, the department would want it to be Unit-wide. It won't increase the number of permits, just lengthen the season.

Alex said he didn't think there are user conflicts that late in the season.

Moved by Alex and seconded by Eugene.

Proposal 18 Fails 0/7

Charlotte reviewed that hunters would lose three months in the fall, and all of April; the bag limit would go from 20 to 10. She said there's not much harvest in the fall, but up to 20% of the wolves are taken in April. From all indications the department sees, there's no reason to restrict harvest.

Because in Unit 23, most wolves are taken under a combination hunting and trapping license, the bag limit change wouldn't affect people with the combo license, because the trapping bag limit is unrestricted. But the season date changes would affect people with the combination license.

Eugene moved and Allen seconded, to reject the proposal.

Proposal 33 Fails 0/7

Proposal 20 Fails 0/7

Proposal 25 Fails 0/7

Proposal 26 Fails 0/7

Proposal 27 Fails 0/7

Proposal 28 Fails 0/7

Jim Dau started with Proposal 26 as a vehicle to introduce all four proposals. He said the option to increase the bag limit in remote areas has been discussed and rejected at Unit 23 Working Group meetings in various villages. He reviewed the history that there was no change in the number of non-resident hunters when the limit went from five down to two, but when it went down to one, non-resident hunters were reduced by 40%.

Alex said we need to support the board's action in reducing the limit. Victor said we don't know what the herd is doing. Pete said we'd better act conservatively until we know.

Moved by Alex and seconded by Eugene to oppose all four proposals.

Proposal 21 Passes 7/0

Proposal 22 Passes 7/0

Jim Dau said these both lengthen the dates. They don't change that it restricts use of aircraft for hunting only, and they don't change the area.

Jim Magdanz pointed out that Proposal 22 changes the language from "public airports" to "publicly owned airports". There was no agreement on what that meant.

Proposal 19 Passes 7/0

Jim Dau said this would require the orientation for anyone who uses a plane to transport hunters. Troopers could check for the card showing they took it.

Victor asked if other units have anything similar? Jim said there's all sorts of mandatory orientation programs, but he's not aware of any specifically addressing user conflict.

Victor asked if it would be enforceable. Jim said troopers could cite a pilot, but probably wouldn't stop a hunt if the pilot didn't have the card.

Alex said, this makes it more definite. Mike asked about taking the test. Jim said they planned to offer it online, or people could come into the Kotzebue Fish and Game office. Perhaps the federal agencies could offer it too. There was discussion of how to deliver the orientation.

Alex said we need to support more information going out.

Moved by Eugene and seconded by Alex.

Proposal 34 No action

Jim Dau said that currently there's no direction to hunters on what to do with sick animals. Right now, you have to bring in the whole thing.

Charlie Gregg said he's leery of this. When hunters stay out more than four days, and the meat gets rank, they could just say it was diseased...

Allen said make it if you leave the meat, you leave the horns.

Alex said that the Arctic Advisory Committee doesn't have the same history of user conflict. That whole western coast between Point Hope and Barrow is pretty much just subsistence. I'd like to support them, but...

There was discussion how to relieve the burden of bringing in inedible meat without opening a door for waste; requiring people to bring a sample of diseased meat to the department, requiring the diseased carcass to be visible and flagged so troopers could check it. Allen said if a carcass is left out overnight it's just bones by morning.

F 25

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Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Charlie Gregg asked if the proposal could be amended to apply to Unit 26 only. Jim Dau said sure. Another point is that the proposal is for all species, and it could be amended to apply only for caribou.

Pete pointed out that the furor over the Point Hope case has quieted down some now.

Proposal 9 discussion

Jim said that originally the board authorized same-day airborne for both Unit 22 and 23, so this might come around again for 23. Victor asked if it might spill over to moose and other animals. Jim said probably not.

Jim Magdanz said that the Northern Norton Sound AC supports this, partly to disperse hunting from the road system. Also, they don't believe there will be much take.

Al Nanouk said Unit 22 doesn't have much caribou. This will benefit commercial operators.

There was discussion of the history of same day airborne regulations and policy. Eugene said that this committee opposed this long ago. Jim Dau said at that time people petitioned the BOG to take it up out of cycle, and the board did, removing the same day airborne for 23 and keeping it for 22.

Reauthorizations

Brown bear tag fee exemption **Passed 7/0**

Charlotte said this means residents only need a hunting license to take a bear, for either the subsistence or the general hunt.

Eugene moved and Alex seconded.

Antlerless moose season **Passed 7/0**

Charlotte said the RM880 permit includes an antlerless season beginning November 1st. The department feels that harvest is low, and this provides a good opportunity.

F 151

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Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Eugene moved and Mike Kramer seconded to support reauthorization.

There was discussion of the RM880. Charlotte said it's working, and reporting is getting better every year.

Alex suggested doing better outreach because some people still miss out on getting the permit. Charlotte said the problem is keeping vendors in the villages so people can get the permit in villages. She said the federal system honors either state permit.

New Business Board of Game schedule changes:

Susan reviewed the changes under consideration.

Caleb asked if the BOG could juggle areas, because the Arctic and Western region together is such a big meeting area, from Bethel to Barrow.

Alex said three years is a long time between cycles. Pete reviewed ways to make changes if necessary, like agenda change requests and emergency proposals.

How would the four regions fit into a three-year cycle? Susan pointed out the chart on the back page of the Q and A handout.

New Business NPS Caribou Study

Pete Schaeffer asked Marci Johnson about the upcoming caribou study on the Seward Peninsula. Pete said there are significant concerns about how the collaring is going to happen. He said that in years past, Fish and Game had changed its methodology in response to concerns of residents. He said the committee learned of this study after the fact, like the NPS wolverine study also, and the sheep study, where there were sheep deaths they weren't told about.

Pete said at the next meeting the committee would like to hear about the study and how these things get decided. Pete said that the committee has gotten accustomed to being part of the process.

Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee Tuesday, November 3, 2009

RC7

7

Next Meeting Committee members agreed on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, to discuss BOF proposals, if Comm Fish and Sport Fish staff are available. Susan will contact them.

Pete asked Marci to pass that date on to Kyle Jolie, regarding getting information to the AC about the caribou study.

Meeting adjourned about 8:30 p.m.

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL,
GOVERNOR

RC 8

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME


Boards Support Section

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4110
FAX: (907) 465-6094

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 5, 2009

TO: Members of the Board of Game

FROM: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game 

SUBJECT: Proposal requesting non-regulatory action

Board members,

I want to bring to your attention the enclosed three proposals that were submitted to the Board of Game for the Arctic/Western region board meeting. The proposals were not included in the proposal book because they do not require a change in the regulations. The requested actions involve permit distribution which can already be addressed by the Department of Fish and Game through discretionary authority.

The proposals are included in the meeting materials for your review. The authors of the proposals were notified that their requests would be provided to the board at the meeting and they were invited to submit additional comments if they felt it were necessary.

RC 8

**BOARD OF GAME
REGULATION PROPOSAL**

RECEIVED
JUL 22 2009
BOARDS

Hunting
Non-Resident
Unit 22D Remainder
and Unit 22E

1) Alaska Administrative Code: Regulation booklet page:
 5AAC 85.045 100

2) What is the problem you would like the Board to address?

The non-resident moose allocation for units 22D Remainder and 22E are divided into two separate registration hunts RM842 and RM853 which have identical seasons and harvest limits. The boundary between 22E and 22D Remainder follows the continental divide and these moose tend to travel south during the fall for the rut and form up in wintering herds primarily in unit 22D Remainder and then they tend to disperse all over the area and across the continental divide into state owned lands adjacent to the divide within unit 22E in the summer.

Federal lands within unit 22E are closed to moose hunting by non-residents which covers virtually the remainder of 22E outside the lands managed for non-resident moose hunting under the authority of RM853. The primary moose population in this vast area is concentrated in the Serpentine River drainage and is a separate population.

The area of unit 22E covered by RM853 has very few access points and the terrain is unfavorable in most places to access by small aircraft or riverboat. The actual areas to hunt falls mainly along the continental divide which makes hunting under two different management permits cumbersome at best. The portion within 22E most accessed is the limited portion accessible from the cat trail extending into 22E from the Kougarak Road outside of Federal lands which prohibit the use of ATVs.

Having two separate permits and hunts for the same moose population which tends to be harvested at a higher rate in unit 22D Remainder than unit 22E should either be combined into one hunt with a total harvest equal to the existing harvest maximum, or have each hunts' totals adjusted to allow for a higher harvest in unit 22D Remainder. This total number of ten bulls un-necessarily restricts hunting opportunity in the sub unit of 22D Remainder and exaggerates the need in unit 22E.

3) What will happen if this problem is not solved?

Continued under utilization of this important resource. Non-resident hunting services provide a major economic boost to the local economy. The large "trophy" bulls harvested by non-residents are at their most prime during this time of year and difficult to access by the local residents. The meat and fat from the bulls harvested is carefully cared for and distributed locally for which there is a high demand from families and elders.

Most local hunters from the surrounding villages hunt moose by river access in the fall and snow machine access in the winter. The non-resident season is limited to 1 to 14 September and is concentrated away from areas commonly accessed and hunted by the local communities.

HQ-09F-G-001

RC 8

The same animals when harvested after October 1st when they are easier and more affordable to access by local hunters tend to be very lean and lack the nutritional quality and fat most sought after in rural areas.

The same moose population is being hunted under two hunt systems and could result in the cancelation of hunts in mid season due to the inflexible nature of the permits' administrative boundaries. These hunts are the culmination of tremendous planning, logistical effort and expense. Every effort is expended to insure that each hunt is viable and not in conflict with best management goals for the resource itself.

4) What solution do you prefer?

This proposal offers two solutions to choose from to solve the problem addressed.

The preferred solution is:

Combine the two existing registration hunts:

5AAC 85.045 RM842 Non-resident moose
Season closed by emergency order when (10) bulls are taken.

5AAC 85.045 RM853 Non-resident moose
Season closed by emergency order when (10) bulls are taken.

Into one registration hunt with a combined harvest limit:

5AAC 85.045 RM842 Non-resident moose
Season closed by emergency order when 20 bulls are taken.

The alternate solution is to maintain the two existing hunts (RM842 in sub unit 22D Remainder and RM853 in unit 22E) and change the total bull harvest limit distribution in the following manner:

5AAC 85.045 RM842 Non-resident moose
Season closed by emergency order when 14 (10) bulls are taken.

5AAC 85.045 RM853 Non-resident moose
Season closed by emergency order when 06 (10) bulls are taken.

5) Does your proposal address improving the quality of the resource harvested or products produced?

This proposal is neutral on the quality of the resource harvested. The antler size restrictions and harvestable surplus issues have already been set in the regulations. This proposal would be greatly beneficial to the products or services produced.

Rural Alaska and the entire US economy is in a difficult period. One industry that remains viable in rural Alaska is the provision of quality hunting services to non-resident hunters. Tremendous effort has been expended to provide quality services in this remote corner of Alaska. The issues of caring for the resource itself, the issues of eliminating user conflicts and addressing subsistence needs, the care of the meat and fat harvested and distributed where it is greatly needed and appreciated have all been worked out. The hunting services industry, when it is practiced in an ethical and viable manner should be protected as a priority, not merely as an after thought.

H Q-09F-G-001

The main goal of the solutions offered through this proposal is to minimize the potential destructiveness from an emergency closure in the middle of the hunting season due only to administrative boundaries and better distribute the hunting opportunity.

6a) Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted?

1. Non-resident hunters, who contribute a disproportionate amount of the funds spent on managing game, would have less chance of their hunt being cancelled in the middle of the season with a more balanced allocation of the harvestable surplus of moose.
2. Hunting service providers would have a more dependable season and not face the potential of a catastrophic economic disaster of a prematurely closed season. This type of disaster would have no conservation based need, merely an administrative regulation driven issue that can be addressed through this solution.
3. The ADF&G hunt manager would have one less hunt to manage and be able to maintain the same management goals for the particular moose population being regulated.

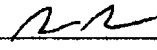
6b) Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted?

1. The total harvest would not be increased from the same population if either solution were adopted.
2. User conflicts, which are currently non-existent, would not develop or increase because of the solution proposed as it does not change hunting dates or change modes of access or areas to be hunted.

7) List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them?

1. Increasing the harvest total in unit 22D Remainder. Rejected because the goal of this proposal is not to increase the overall moose harvest. The goal is to modify the existing regulations to improve the hunting experience for the hunter, improve the business dependability for the service provider and decrease the overall management work load for the local ADF&G.

2. Return non-resident moose hunting in both units to harvest ticket hunts. Although there never was a legitimate justification to create a registration hunt in unit 22D Remainder for non-residents, the purpose of this proposal is to enhance the current regulations and avoid controversial arguments on this subject.

Submitted by: 
Brian Simpson
P.O. Box 61210
Fairbanks, AK 99706
907-452-3822 W/H
Email: noainc@mosquionet.com

RC8

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM
PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526

BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Area <input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence <input type="checkbox"/> Sport <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Use <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial JOINT BOARD REGULATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Council <input type="checkbox"/> Rural		BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS Game Management Unit (GMU) <u>23</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hunting <input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence <input type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonresident <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
--	--	--	--

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal packets along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 85.020 (21) Regulation Book Page No. 104

2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address?
THE CURRENT NUMBER OF PERMITS AVAILABLE FOR DB 777 IS TOO CONSERVATIVE, IT NEEDS TO BE INCREASED.

3. What will happen if this problem is not solved?
SOME HUNTERS WILL MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST A TOP QUALITY GRIZZLY BEAR AND WE WILL NOT BE DOING ALL WE CAN TO ASSIST THE RECOVERY OF THE MOOSE POPULATION

4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?
INCREASE THE CURRENT NUMBER OF PERMITS AVAILABLE FOR DB 777 FROM 2 PERMITS TO 4 PERMITS

5. Does your proposal address improving the quality of the resource harvested or products produced? If so, how?
IT WOULD INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR NON RESIDENT HUNTERS TO HARVEST A QUALITY GRIZZLY BEAR & CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN OUR LOCAL VILLAGE

6. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt others:

A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted?
INCREASING THE HARVEST OF GRIZZLY BEARS IN THIS AREA WILL HELP THE RECOVERY OF THE MOOSE POPULATION ON THE SEWARD PENINSULA.

B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted?
NO ONE

7. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them. DO NOT WRITE HERE
HQ-09F-G-020

Submitted By: Bob Hannon
Name / Signature
Individual or Group

P.O. Box 53022 Koyuk AK 99753
Address City, State ZIP Code

907 963 3221 907 963 3221 hannon2439@starband.net
Home Phone Work Phone Email

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM

P.O. Box 25526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526

BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS

- Fishing Area
- Subsistence Personal Use
- Sport Commercial

JOINT BOARD REGULATIONS

- Advisory Committee Regional Council Rural

BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS

- Game Management Unit (GMU) 23
- Hunting Trapping
 - Subsistence Other
 - Resident Nonresident

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All the answers will be printed in the proposal packets along with the proposer's name (addresses and phone nos. will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC _____ Regulation Book Page No. 109

2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address?

LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF MOOSE PERMITS FOR NON-RESIDENT GUIDED HUNTERS WITH FEDERAL CONCESSION PERMITS IN AN AREA WHERE MOOSE NUMBERS ARE GETTING STRONGER. PERMIT NUMBERS NEED TO BE INCREASED IN THE MOATAK.

3. What will happen if this problem is not solved?

NON RESIDENT BOOKING HUNTS WITH GUIDES IN UNIT 23 ON FEDERAL LANDS WITH KNOW CONTINUES TO BE UNABLE TO OBTAIN A PERMIT FOR THIS SPECIFIC HUNT.

4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

ONE BULL WITH 50" ANTELS OR 4 OR MORE BRAN FINES OR AT LEAST ONE SIDE BY DEERING PERMIT. 12 PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED FOR DM 871 - ? - MIDDLE MOATAK AREA.

5. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt others:

A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted?

NON RESIDENT HUNTERS WISHING TO HAVE A GUIDED HUNT

B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted?

NO ONE

6. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them.

ALL NON RESIDENTS NEED A GUIDE OR ALASKAN RELATIVE IN ORDER TO HUNT MOOSE IN UNIT 23. PROBABLY WOULDN'T FEEL.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

HQ-09F-6-032

Submitted By: Name DAVE LEONARD

Individual or Group

Address: BOX 7 BETHEL AK Zip Code 99726 Phone 907 252 4952

Noatak/Kivalina Advisory Committee Teleconference Meeting

RC9

Friday, October 30, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

draft minutes, 3 pages

Present at Noatak IRA office:

AC members Enoch Mitchell, Eli Mitchell, Melford Booth, Thurston Booth. Also Joe Luther and Hilda Booth.

Present at Kotzebue Fish and Game office, AC member Janet Mills. Also DFG staff Charlotte Westing, WC area biologist; Jim Dau, WC biologist; Susan Bucknell, Boards Support coordinator.

Quorum established about 7:10 p.m.

Susan Bucknell gave a heads up about the proposed Board of Game schedule changes.

BOG Proposals

Proposal 23 Fails 0/5

Charlotte reviewed the hunt history. She said harvest rates vary but average about 50 a year. Ages from skull sizes and teeth show no trend of decline. Proposal 23 doesn't differentiate between the subsistence hunt and the general harvest hunt. This proposal would change hunt conditions only inside the national park, adding to how complicated the regulations are. Mostly it's only locals who take more than one bear every four years.

The committee said there's lots of bears around there, and make it one a year for everybody.

Proposal 24 Carries unanimously

Charlotte said this wouldn't change the number of permits, just extend the season.

Committee comment; it's just 21 days more.

Proposal 18 Carried 4/0/1

Charlotte explained that under this proposal, August through October, plus the month of April, would no longer be open for wolf hunting. Also the bag limit would drop from 20 to 10. She said harvest in Unit 23 is variable, overall about 60 a year, which is a conservative level. Wolf population seems to be pretty high, with no reason to reduce hunting.

Up to 20% of wolves are taken in April. Most wolves are taken under a combination hunting and trapping license, in Unit 23. Because trapping regulations have no bag limit, it's a moot point for most people to lower the hunting bag limit.

Janet asked if regulations are the same for resident and nonresident? And how is the wolf population doing? Charlotte said all indications are wolves are doing well.

Charlotte pointed out that trapping doesn't open until November, so this would limit take for everyone in the fall. Those with just hunting licenses would see their bag limit reduced to ten wolves.

Eli asked, if we have the combo licenses, we won't be affected? Charlotte said Right, the bag limit won't change, but you'd have a shorter season. Now it's open from August 1 to April 30.

Eli said the AC members in Noatak all supported Proposal 18. Janet abstained; Carried 4/0/1.

Jim Dau asked if Noatak people ever take wolves in September or October when they're out hunting game? -No. Charlotte pointed out they'd be losing April, is that okay? -Yes.

Charlotte clarified that if Proposal 18 goes through, you could take wolves in April under trapping regs. But if Proposal 33 goes through, you'd lose April under the trapping regulations. Janet said, maybe support 18 and oppose 33? Jim Dau said that would keep the spring season for trapping. Charlotte said a lot of people only get the hunting license, so they'd be restricted by 18. She reviewed that regulations allow "trapping" by rifle.

The Noatak committee discussed 18 and 33. Eli said that the majority supports 18. He verified that under 33 they'd lose the month of April, but would 33 affect the harvest limit? Charlotte said No, there's no limit under trapping regs. Jim Dau asked if Noatak people take wolves during April? Eli said not really.
Proposal 33 Carried

Proposal 20 Fails

Charlotte explained the department concern that this is into pupping season. Committee had little discussion.

Jim Dau discussed with the committee if they wanted to look at caribou proposals 25 - 28 separately or together.

Proposal 26 Fails

Hilda commented about hunters up in the hills looking like caribou through binoculars.

Proposal 25 Fails

Jim Dau reviewed that when the non-resident bag limit used to be 5 caribou, 98% took only two, or one, or zero. When the BOG reduced it down to two, the number of non-resident hunters didn't change. When it went down to one caribou a year, non-resident hunters decreased by 40%.

Enoch said that the bull populations seemed low this year, that might affect it. Jim said other villages said the same thing. Janet said, a lot of us didn't get caribou; I still need two, to last the year.

Proposal 27 Fails

Proposal 28 Fails

Proposal 21 and 22 Carried

Jim Dau said this changes only the dates for airplanes. Noatak discussed if this will deal with caribou herd movement being intercepted by hunters.

Proposal 19 Carries

Jim Dau said Proposal 19 comes from the Unit 23 Working Group. It would require all pilots to complete a one-time orientation about meat care, local hunting practices, and avoiding conflict; like don't circle caribou near the river, don't circle boats, -they're still working on the details. Perhaps something about loading migration corridors with lots and lots of hunters.

Hunters wouldn't be required to take the orientation and get the card, just pilots. It would be offered as a printed packet, on-line, and in the Fish and Game office in Kotzebue -possibly by the federal agencies, too.

Proposal 34 No Action

Jim explained that now the regulations say you can leave "bloodshot" meat, but don't say anything about if you shoot a diseased caribou. The proposal asks to modify the definition of edible meat. Jim said at a meeting in Point Hope people asked if this will worsen the problem of antler hunters leaving meat in the field. Now, you legally have to bring in the meat, even if it's got problems.

Noatak discussed the wording of the proposal. Jim said the proposal adds "meat that is inedible because of disease in the harvested animal". Hilda said that would give opportunity for waste by antler hunters. People asked if it applied to everybody, resident and non-resident? Comment: Non-residents would take advantage of this and just take the horns.

AC Representative to Nome BOG meeting: Chair Enoch Mitchell will go for the AC. Eli Mitchell will be the second person, the Northwest Arctic Borough will do his travel.

Reauthorize Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption Carries

Reauthorize Antlerless Moose Season Carries

Charlotte said the take of cows is pretty low, maybe 5-10 a year. It's a valuable opportunity with a small harvest. Enoch asked if the moose population is pretty low? Charlotte explained that moose densities are naturally low in the unit and that the moose population appears stable. We've had this hunt for a long time, so this is the status quo. We're not worried about hurting the population, and this is a small harvest that can really make a difference for a few people.

Caribou Jaws Enoch asked Jim if he's getting caribou jaws? Jim said, not much, a lot of people didn't get a lot of caribou this year. He's received a few from Noorvik, and they got some off the banks at Onion Portage. He hopes to get jaws from 200 female and 200 male caribou. From the teeth, they determine ages. From the marrow, they can assess the health of the animal. From the jaw size, they can detect changes to the population before the herd begins to decline. He needs to know what month they were taken, and if male or female.

Jim said they'll pay to ship jaws to Kotzebue, and they could contribute something in return, such as gas to a culture camp. He asked people to save jaws for him, and said if people get enough, he'll just fly up and collect them.

Adjourn about 8:30.

Upper Kobuk and Lower Kobuk Fish and Game Advisory Committees RC10
Joint Teleconference Meeting
Monday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Draft Minutes, 3 pages

Meeting convened about 7:30 with quorums for both committees:

Upper Kobuk: Alex Sheldon and Henry Horner in Kobuk; Frank Downey, Morgan Johnson and Marvin Joe Cleveland in Ambler.

Lower Kobuk: Raymond Stoney, Larry Westlake, Sr. and Glenn Miller in Kiana; Verne Cleveland in Noorvik and Bobby Wells of Noorvik calling in from Anchorage. DFG staff in Kotzebue: Charlotte Westing and Jim Dau, WC biologists; Susan Bucknell, Boards Support committee coordinator.

Board of Game Proposals

Charlotte Westing introduced proposals 23, 24, 18, 20, 33.

Members were polled individually on each proposal.

Proposal 23 Fails 0/10 Moved by Frank, seconded by Verne.

Charlotte Westing reviewed the history of brown bear regulations for the area and explained what the proposal would do. Raymond Stoney asked about the bear population. Raymond said he's noticed a slow decline over the last ten years or so. Glenn asked who was proposing it and where did they live? He works at Red Dog; seems to be a lot of bears up there. He thinks there's a lot in the Kobuk Valley too, but Raymond would know more.

Verne said one bear every four years won't work. Some Noorvik people get a bear ever year, that's what they live on. People asked how Noatak voted on this one -they failed it. Marvin said he'd go along with Noatak. Alex said he agrees, mentioned seeing a lot of bears, and said that's how we lose moose. Others also spoke in favor of leaving it at one a year.

Proposal 24 No Action

People asked what Buckland and Deering think about this. That committee didn't meet, so we don't know. Charlotte said that the department would recommend this be unit-wide if it passes. Larry said if you have an early fall, most of the bears are denned up by last week of October. He asked about who proposed it. Raymond Stoney said that most of the commercial operators are gone by the last week of October. He said that Bob Hannon would know if there's bears or not.

Proposal 18 Fails 0/10

Verne said keep it the same. Bobby asked if there's enough wolves to keep the limit at 20? Jim said the biology says yes. Moved by Marvin, seconded by Henry; committees voted unanimously to leave it the same.

Proposal 20 Fails 0/10

Larry said he's opposed; May is the month they have pups. Moved by Frank, second by Henry.

Proposal 33 Fails 0/10

One person commented that with climate change, there's no snow until late in the fall but springs are getting longer. Someone asked about the bag limit on trapping. Moved by Frank and seconded by Bobby, to keep it the same.

Proposals 25, 26, 27, 28 Failed 0/10

Jim Dau introduced the caribou proposals. Verne said keep it the same for another year. There was discussion if this would affect local hunters taking people out to hunt. Someone said one caribou is a lot to carry home for an out-of-state hunter, and some don't do even that.

Proposal 21 and 22 Carried 10/0

Raymond asked if this would affect subsistence users? Jim said if they use an airplane it would. Frank said when the first caribou are not allowed to come through, that affects the Upper Kobuk too. When the airplanes hold them back, that affects us up here.

Verne moved and Raymond seconded to support the extended dates.

Proposal 19 Carries 10/0

Jim said this would require pilots to take an orientation and get a certificate. Any new pilot a transporter hired would have to take it. Raymond asked about transporting by boat? -no, just for airplanes. Bobby said education is good. Moved by Bobby, seconded by Frank.

Larry asked if the orientation could include the height of airplanes? Jim said it could recommend, but the BOG can't regulate that. Larry said a couple years ago they were really hit on that, planes kept circling caribou. Jim said they want suggestions from the ACs, like plane altitudes, areas, densities. Frank said it would be good to have input. He mentioned the price of fuel for hunting, in the Upper Kobuk villages. Jim mentioned areas. Frank suggested a no-fly zone on the north side of the river in the fall; they should fly on the south side. Jim said they could recommend to stay above 2,000 when on the north side of the Kobuk but that only the FAA controls airspace. Larry said include the dates when it's in effect. He said they had a problem in Kiana this fall. It was hard to get tail numbers.

Jim said if this passes, he'll be in contact with them to get ideas.

Raymond asked if it could be in effect by next fall? Jim said possibly, it takes time to set up. Raymond said, let's push for that.

Annual Reauthorizations:

Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption Passed 10/0

Charlotte said many areas of the state require a \$25 tag to take a brown bear.

Frank said it sounds good to just have the license and not need to buy the tag. There were questions about the residency requirement - it takes a year to qualify. And who is watching this? Charlotte gave the numbers for Alaska Fish and Wildlife Safeguard, 1-800-478-3377, Trooper Loring's number, 1-800-789-3222, and Jim and Charlotte at Kotzebue DFG office, 1-800-478-3420.

Henry moved and Marvin seconded to keep it the way it is.

Antlerless Moose Season Passed 10/0

Charlotte said the moose are doing okay and they think the population is generally stable. They don't feel there's much antlerless harvest, and it provides opportunity. Moved by Verne, seconded by Raymond. Larry asked if this includes the September hunt? No, September hunt is just for bulls.

Larry said he would support this. Lot of times you don't get a bull, and a barren cow is good meat that time of year.

AC representatives to Nome BOG:

Raymond Stoney for Lower Kobuk AC

Frank Downey for Upper Kobuk AC

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 1st, 2009, 5:30 p.m. by teleconference. Agenda items will include Statewide BOG proposals, regional BOF proposals, and suggestions for the pilot orientation if Proposal 19 passes.

Adjourn about 9:00 p.m.

RC11

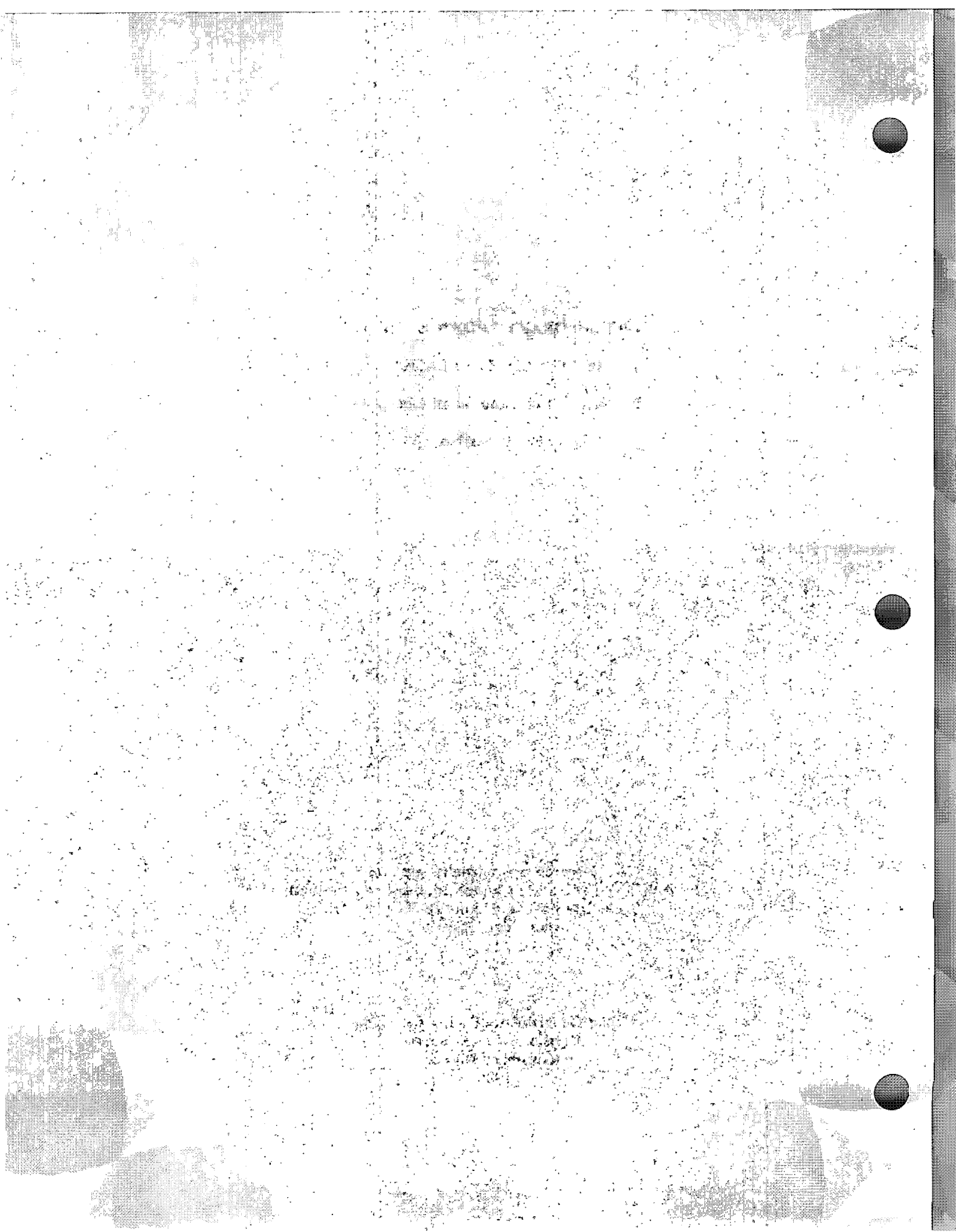
**CONTEMPORARY BROWN BEAR USE
IN NORTHWEST ALASKA**

By Hannah Loon and Susan Georgette

Technical Paper No. 163

**This research was partially supported
by ANILCA Federal Aid Funds administered through
the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Anchorage, Alaska**

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Subsistence
Kotzebue, Alaska
1989**



ABSTRACT

This report describes subsistence uses of brown bear by residents of northwest Alaska. The project focused on the Kotzebue Sound region (Game Management Unit 23), though research was also undertaken to a more limited extent in the Norton Sound area (GMU 22). Study communities included Buckland, Kivalina, Kotzebue, Noatak, Nome, Noorvik, Selawik, Shaktoolik, Shungnak, Unalakleet, and White Mountain.

Division of Subsistence researchers gathered information primarily with key respondent interviews. Supplemental information was obtained from Department harvest records, previous Subsistence Division fieldwork, and existing literature. The research took place in October and November 1987 with additional fieldwork in March and April 1988.

This study found that northwest Alaska communities exhibited different harvest and use patterns for brown bear. In GMU 23, the use of brown bear for food and raw material was prevalent in all the inland study communities. Coastal communities, in contrast, rarely used brown bear for food because bears in these areas feed on sea mammal carcasses along the shore, giving the meat an unpleasant flavor. Subsistence use of brown bear was not widespread in GMU 22. Of the communities for which the researchers had information, only White Mountain and Golovin used brown bear for food.

In 1987, an estimated 35-48 brown bears were harvested for food by subsistence hunters in GMU 23 communities. Local residents harvested additional bears for trophies and in defense of life and property. No estimate was made of the subsistence brown bear harvest in GMU 22 because few communities used brown bear for food, and information for some communities was not available.

Few brown bears harvested by subsistence hunters were reported to the Department. In 1987, an estimated 14-19 percent of the brown bear harvest in the

GMU 23 study communities was reported. Of the bears killed in the past decade by interviewed hunters, only three percent were reported. Because bear hunting in villages is frequently carried out under traditional hunting practices, often in violation of state regulations, hunters are reluctant to report their kills.

Northwest Alaska residents hunt brown bears primarily in spring and fall, and rarely in summer or winter. Of the several strategies used to hunt brown bear, the most common is to take them opportunistically. Brown bear hunting in some communities occurs at night along spawning streams where bears come to feed.

Brown bear meat is preserved in a variety of ways, including dried, half-dried, frozen, and aged. Bear fat is particularly prized as both a food and a medicine. Bear hides are used for bedding and for clothing.

Northwest Alaskans have an extensive array of traditional laws and lore regarding human and bear interactions. These laws cover hunting strategies, butchering processes, personal conduct, methods of defense, and appropriate attitudes. For example, because brown bears are believed to have keen hearing, Iñupiaq hunters do not openly discuss their bear hunts. The lore offers examples of severe consequences to the hunter and his family if these laws are not heeded.

The final chapter in this report discusses the incongruity between current brown bear regulations and the customary and traditional bear hunting practices in contemporary northwest Alaska. The current state regulations presume the primary use of a brown bear is for a trophy hide or mount, while subsistence hunters' rules presume the primary use of a brown bear is as a source of food and raw material. These differences in perspective are culturally based. A healthy bear population and few allocative conflicts in northwest Alaska today make this a good time to evaluate subsistence brown bear hunting regulations.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

by Hannah Loon

This project would not have been possible without the assistance of the local hunters and elderly women who shared their invaluable knowledge of the uses of brown bear during their lifetimes. I have many people to thank. As we are taught to do in our culture, I will give thanks and respect to the elders first:

Edna Commack of Shungnak
Napolean and Mildred Black of Shungnak
Wilson, Sr., and Daisy Tickett of Shungnak
Wesley Woods of Shungnak

Johnny Foster of Selawik
Magdeline Tikik of Selawik
William Foster of Selawik
Nellie Russell of Selawik

Evelyn Barr of Noorvik

Nellie Wood of Noatak

Agnes Komakhok of White Mountain
Percy Abloinga of White Mountain
Tom Brown of White Mountain

John Aulluiye of Unalakleet
Stanton Katchatag of Unalakleet
Herbert Panipchuk of Unalakleet

I know some of the interview questions dealt with sensitive topics for hunters, and I appreciate their time and patience in sharing their thoughts and concerns about current brown bear hunting practices and regulations. Also, I would like to thank the local city councils and IRA councils and their staff for their willing support of this project.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Bob Wolfe, the Division's research director, for his technical support; Susan Georgette, who taught me how to "give it a stab" on projects such as this; and Jim Magdanz, who patiently trained me on the computer as the work progressed.



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In 1987, the Alaska Board of Game determined that residents of Game Management Units (GMUs) 22 and 23 in northwest Alaska qualified for subsistence uses of brown bear. However, the Board did not discuss specific regulations pertaining to subsistence brown bear hunting, requesting that the local advisory committees and regional council develop proposals for subsistence brown bear hunting to submit to the Board of Game.

Current hunting regulations in northwest Alaska allow a subsistence hunter to harvest one bear every four regulatory years. Department staff in Kotzebue suspects that brown bear harvests occur more frequently, and are often not reported. Because contemporary brown bear harvest and use have not been well-documented in northwest Alaska, this research project was conceived as a way to provide information on brown bear uses in northwest Alaska to assist the advisory committees in developing regulatory proposals and the Board of Game in considering these proposals.

PURPOSE OF STUDY

The purpose of this study is to provide information to local advisory committees and the Alaska Board of Game on contemporary brown bear uses by residents of northwest Alaska (GMUs 22 and 23). This includes information on:

1. the communities that harvest brown bear;
2. the uses of brown bear for food, medicine, tools, shelter, and other purposes;
3. harvest seasons and methods;
4. levels of harvest; and

5. traditional Iñupiaq laws and beliefs associated with brown bears.

METHODOLOGY

Data for this project were gathered through a literature review and with key respondent interviews. Most of the research took place in October and November 1987, with supplementary fieldwork in March and April 1988. Division of Subsistence staff member Hannah Loon, a lifetime resident in the region and Iñupiaq speaker, conducted the research with the occasional assistance of Susan Georgette, also with the Subsistence Division. The project focused on communities in GMU 23, though research was also undertaken to a more limited extent in GMU 22. Figure 1 depicts the study area and the GMU boundaries.

Literature Review

Prior to fieldwork, existing literature was reviewed for information on brown bear use in northwest Alaska. Fairly detailed information on some aspects of brown bear use in upper Kobuk River communities is included in Anderson, Bane, Nelson, Anderson, and Sheldon (1977). Limited information is also available in Uhl and Uhl (1977) on the Cape Krusenstern area; Burch (1985) on Kivalina; Thomas (1982) on Shaktoolik; Eisler (1978) on the western Seward Peninsula; Uhl and Uhl (1979) on Noatak; and Stoker (1983) on Wales, Kivalina, and Point Hope. Unpublished field notes from Division of Subsistence research in Golovin, Koyuk, and Shishmaref contain some information on brown bear use in these communities. Information on brown bear harvests by Kotzebue residents was collected by the Division of Subsistence in a 1987 stratified household survey (Georgette and Loon in prep.). The Division of Wildlife Conservation maintains records of reported brown bear harvests throughout the state.

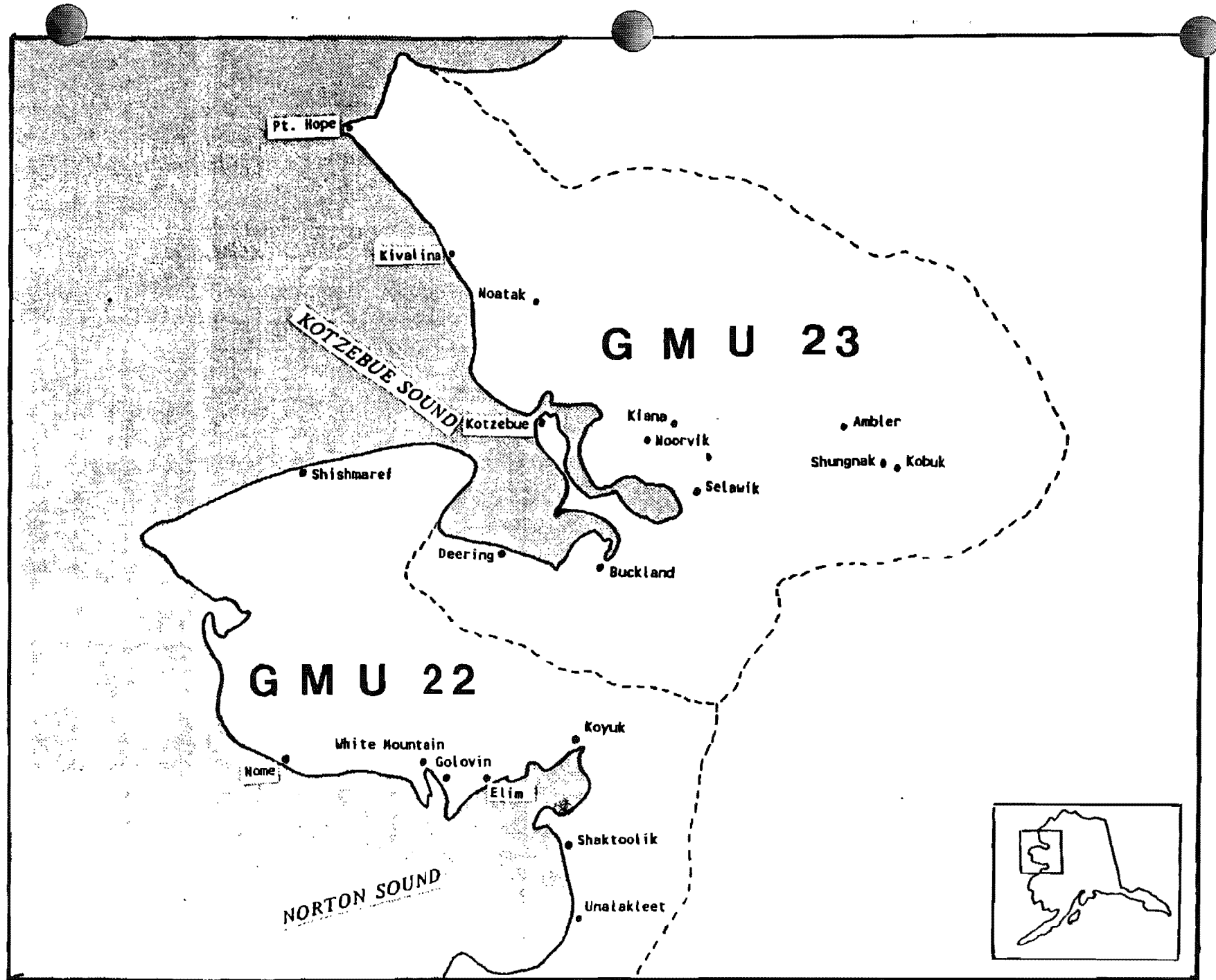


Figure 1. Communities in the study area and Game Management Unit (GMU) boundaries.

Additional information on brown bear use in northwest Alaska is available in the transcripts of tape recordings of the NANA Region Elders' Conferences. These tapes are held by the Northwest Arctic Borough School District in Kotzebue.

Key Respondent Interviews

Before conducting key respondent interviews, the researchers first determined which communities in northwest Alaska currently use brown bear. For GMU 23, this involved telephoning a person or persons knowledgeable about brown bear hunting in each community. Because northwest Alaska villages are small (600 people or less) and families are related, village residents are typically quite familiar with the activities of other villagers, and thus can be reliable sources on the community's hunting practices. For GMU 22, the researchers relied on the knowledge of Department staff and other individuals in local organizations in Nome to determine which communities most likely hunt brown bears for subsistence. Some of the GMU 22 communities selected for this study were chosen because the Department had little information on the uses of brown bear in these villages.

Because of limited time and personnel, fieldwork was not conducted in all villages using brown bear. Villages similar in size, language, hunting patterns, and geographic location were clustered, and the researchers visited at least one village in each cluster. Table I summarizes the clusters and the village(s) visited in each.

Using their own knowledge, the researchers compiled a list of people to interview in each study community. This list was reviewed by key respondents for changes and additions. The listed individuals included respected hunters in the community and women experienced in processing subsistence foods. In small, culturally homogeneous villages, virtually any adult resident can identify the community's knowledgeable brown bear hunters. These hunters, in turn, reliably represent the norm

TABLE 1. VILLAGE CLUSTERS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

CLUSTER	VILLAGE(S) VISITED
Ambler, Kobuk, and Shungnak	Shungnak
Noorvik and Kiana	Noorvik
Selawik	Selawik
Buckland and Deering ¹	Buckland
Noatak, Kivalina, and Pt. Hope ¹	Noatak and Kivalina
Kotzebue	Kotzebue
Golovin and White Mountain	White Mountain
Shaktoolik and Unalakleet	Shaktoolik and Unalakleet
Nome	Nome

¹ Although Deering and Pt. Hope were not study communities in this project, information on their brown bear use collected in subsequent fieldwork was included in this report.

for the village because of the community's cultural homogeneity. The key respondent method worked particularly well in research on brown bears because typically only a small number of men in each community hunts bears, distributing their harvest to other local households. Brown bear hunting is a more specialized activity than, for instance, caribou or moose hunting.

The regional centers of Nome and Kotzebue were more problematic. Their large, heterogeneous populations made it difficult to draw general conclusions from a handful of respondents. In Kotzebue, the researchers combined Department sealing records, data from a 1987 Division of Subsistence stratified survey of Kotzebue's harvest levels, and estimates from key respondents to arrive at the community's estimated brown bear harvest. Non-quantified information on Kotzebue's bear use was obtained through key respondent interviews and through the personal observations of Department staff.

In Nome, the researchers interviewed several Department staff, two Native leaders, a Bureau of Indian Affairs employee, a Native hunter, the chairman of the local Fish and Game Advisory Committee, an elderly Native woman, and one of three Nome residents who sealed a bear in fall 1987. Although this sample was small in proportion to the entire Nome population, the interviewed individuals were knowledgeable residents familiar with different segments of the Nome population. The researchers were able to

make some generalizations based on these interviews, but did not attempt to estimate Nome's brown bear harvest based on this sample.

The researchers prepared questionnaires to use in the key respondent interviews (Appendix A). Separate questionnaires were used for men and women because each had knowledge of different topics pertaining to brown bear. The questionnaire for men gathered information on uses of brown bear, harvest quantities, harvest areas, hunting methods, and traditional seasons. Questions for women focused on the preparation and preservation of brown bear and on its uses for medicine, crafts, tools, and the like. Both questionnaires focused on brown bear use during the past ten years (1978-1987), though information offered by respondents for earlier times was also recorded. Notes were usually taken by hand during the interviews, but in some cases, particularly with elders, a tape recorder was used. Interviews were conducted in Iñupiaq when appropriate. Between field trips, the researchers entered the field notes into a computerized data base.

In October and November 1987, the researchers spent 21 days conducting interviews with key respondents in the study communities. Kotzebue key respondents were interviewed as time permitted between December 1987 and April 1988. Visits to communities took place on the following occasions:

Buckland	October 28-30, 1987
Kivalina	November 5-6, 1987
Noatak	November 3-4, 1987
Nome	November 20, 1987
Noorvik	October 14-16, 1987
Selawik	October 12-14, 1987
Shaktoolik	November 17-18, 1987
Shungnak	October 7-9, 1987
Unalakleet	November 18-19, 1987
White Mountain	November 16-17, 1987

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN INTERVIEWED BY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Buckland	5	1	6
Kivalina	5	0	5
Kotzebue	4	0	4
Noatak	5	1	6
Nome	8	1	9
Noorvik	5	1	6
Selawik	4	2	6
Shaktoolik	3	0	3
Shungnak	4	3	7
Unalakleet	3	1	4
White Mountain	5	1	6
TOTAL	51	11	62

Sample

Active bear hunters in selected communities of GMUs 22 and 23 comprised the biggest portion of the study's sample. An active hunter was defined as a person who hunts each year for big game animals. The researchers used their own knowledge and that of village councils and other village residents to identify which active hunters hunt brown bears. A second, smaller sample consisted of retired hunters who have hunted bears in the past, but no longer do so because of their age or health. These hunters were typically quite elderly. A third sample comprised women who were familiar with the uses of bear for medicinal purposes, clothing, tools, shelter, and food. Retired hunters and women were identified using the same method as above. A total of 62 individuals were interviewed: 51 men (46 active and 5 retired hunters) and 11 women. Table 2 lists the number of men and women interviewed in each community.

Because the samples were not statistically selected, it was impossible to quantify the collected information as representing a percentage of respondents or communities. Such an analysis would have been misleading. However, because most study

communities were small and homogeneous, the samples yielded information representative of the accepted practices and beliefs in the communities today. The existing rapport between the researchers and many of the sampled individuals enabled the interviewees to talk honestly about their bear hunting practices, which in many cases violated state regulations.

CHAPTER 2

BROWN BEAR HARVEST AND USE PATTERNS

This research found that the study communities exhibited different harvest and use patterns for brown bear. While obtaining food was the primary purpose of brown bear harvests in some communities, other communities rarely eat brown bear today and in some cases regard these animals primarily as a nuisance. Trophy hunting of brown bear was rare in the villages, but more common in the regional centers of Nome and Kotzebue.

In GMU 23, the use of brown bear for food was prevalent in all the inland study communities. These included Noatak, Noorvik, Shungnak, Selawik, and Buckland. Although research was not conducted in Kiana, Ambler, or Kobuk, the researchers believe these communities have brown bear use patterns similar to the other Kobuk River villages of Noorvik and Shungnak as a result of shared culture, history, geography, and kinship.

Among these inland study communities, however, the extent of brown bear use for food varied. For instance, one Noatak resident said, "We all eat brown bear," while in Buckland interviewed hunters said only some villagers eat bear meat. In any case, only a few men in each village actually hunt brown bear, distributing their harvest to other households who enjoy bear meat.

Subsistence hunters in these GMU 23 inland communities value both the meat and the hide of brown bears. Hunters therefore prefer to take brown bears when both the meat and the hide are in good condition. One Noorvik resident, however, said that hunters who walk a long distance before shooting a bear often leave the hide at the kill site rather than pack it out. A Noatak hunter said he has participated in several brown bear hunts in which only the meat -- and not the hides -- was retrieved.

In contrast to the inland communities, the coastal communities of Deering, Kivalina, and Point Hope only occasionally use brown bear for food. Hunters in these communities said brown bears in coastal areas frequently feed on carcasses of sea mammals washed up along the shore, giving the meat an unpleasant odor and undesirable taste. Kivalina respondents, however, said they occasionally take brown bears for food when the animals are upriver feeding on fish and berries. One Kivalina hunter killed a brown bear several years ago for a Selawik woman residing in Kivalina who craved bear meat. In Deering, a few families said they eat bear meat, but this did not seem to be a pervasive community pattern. A Point Hope hunter said residents of his village occasionally kill a small brown bear for food, but this is very rare.

Because people from a variety of geographical and cultural backgrounds live in Kotzebue, the regional center displayed a mixture of brown bear harvest patterns. Some residents' bear use resembled those of the inland study communities, others resembled coastal communities such as Kivalina, and still others were rooted in the Euro-American trophy hunting tradition.

In GMU 22, the researchers used fieldwork, key respondent interviews, and existing literature to determine which communities use brown bear for food. Previous Division research in Shishmaref (Sobelman 1985) and Brevig Mission (Magdanz and Olanna 1986) indicated that these communities rarely harvest brown bear for food. The other western Seward Peninsula communities of Wales and Teller are believed to have similar patterns as a result of shared geography and family ties. Fieldwork during this study revealed that the Norton Sound communities of Shaktoolik and Unalakleet rarely use brown bear for food in contemporary times and generally consider brown bears a nuisance. This finding was consistent with the work of Thomas (1982:235) in Shaktoolik. In contrast, White Mountain, another Norton Sound community, continues to use brown bear for food. Previous Division research showed this is also the case for Golovin (James Magdanz pers. comm., 1987; Thomas 1980). Division field notes

(Thomas 1979) indicated that Koyuk residents no longer take brown bears for food, though they have in the past. The researchers had insufficient information for the GMU 22 communities of Elim, St. Michael, or Stebbins to determine their bear use.

None of the respondents interviewed in Nome knew of any Nome residents who hunted brown bear for food. One respondent said he once brought home a hindquarter of bear meat to taste, but many people advised him not to eat it because of the danger of trichinosis. Another respondent also cited trichinosis as the major reason people did not eat brown bear. One respondent said hunters sometimes bring home small quantities of bear meat, but in general bear meat was not used for food in the Nome area. A Nome hunter originally from White Mountain said he used to hunt bears for food while visiting his home village, but has not done so in more than ten years.

In summary, the harvest of brown bear for food and raw material in GMU 23 was widespread in the inland communities of Noatak, Buckland, Selawik, and along the Kobuk River. The coastal communities of Deering, Kivalina, and Point Hope seldom used brown bear for food because the bears' diet of sea mammal carcasses gives the meat an unpleasant flavor. From time to time, however, coastal hunters take brown bears for food in upriver areas. The regional center of Kotzebue displayed a mixed pattern of brown bear use that included both harvest for food and harvest for the hide only. Of the GMU 22 communities for which the researchers had information, only White Mountain and Golovin regularly use brown bear for food today. The other GMU 22 communities rarely hunt brown bear for food, though some have in the past, especially during periods of food scarcity.

The researchers caution that contemporary subsistence practices are not fixed, and that a hunter's or a community's use of a species varies from year to year and from decade to decade, depending on the circumstances. In the 1980s, some communities take brown bears every year for food, while in others the harvest is much less frequent. But

it is not possible to say for any northwest Alaska community that brown bear is *never* used for food because each community offered circumstances in which this occurred.

In the 1980s, brown bear -- compared with caribou or moose -- was not a substantial component of the diet in any northwest Alaska community. In past years, however, when other big game was not available, brown bear likely played a vital seasonal role in the subsistence diet. This may again be the case if moose and caribou populations declined.

HARVEST LEVELS

Because much of northwest Alaska's brown bear harvest is not reported to the state as required, the Department's records are an incomplete count of the region's actual bear harvest. To supplement these records, the researchers asked interviewed hunters how many brown bears they had taken for food and in defense of life and property (DLP) over the past ten years (1978-1987). Although precise harvest numbers can be difficult to obtain in retrospective questioning, the researchers observed that interviewed hunters appeared conscientious in estimating their harvests. Furthermore, because the number of brown bears killed by each hunter is small compared to animals such as caribou or waterfowl, hunters seemed able to accurately recall their harvests. Table 3 presents harvest totals for interviewed hunters in each study community (n equals the number of interviewed hunters).

Because not all bear hunters were interviewed, Table 3 does not represent the entire bear harvest by local residents during the ten-year period. Nevertheless, these harvest numbers demonstrate that hunters in some study communities regularly harvest brown bears for food, though few do so each year. One Noatak hunter in his 30s said he has killed a brown bear every year for the past decade, and in one year killed two, but this was more the exception than the rule among respondents.

TABLE 3. BROWN BEAR HARVESTS BY INTERVIEWED HUNTERS
IN STUDY COMMUNITIES, 1978-1987

COMMUNITY	NUMBER HARVESTED FOR FOOD BY SAMPLE 1978-1987	NUMBER HARVESTED DLP BY SAMPLE 1978-1987
Buckland (n=5)	11-12	0
Kivalina (n=5)	3-4	0
Kotzebue (n=4)	6	0
Noatak (n=5)	25-26	1
Noorvik (n=5)	13	1
Selawik (n=4)	24	1
Shaktoolik (n=3)	0	5
Shungnak (n=4)	9-10	1
Unalakleet (n=3)	2	*
White Mountain (n=5)	15	0

* Not available

The harvest numbers in Table 3 also show that interviewed hunters in most study communities took bears for food far more often than in defense of life and property (DLP). Many hunters said they have not taken any DLP bears in the past decade, and some said they have never taken a DLP bear in their lives.

It is worth noting that a village hunter's concept of a DLP bear might diverge from the Department's. For instance, in communities where brown bear meat is eaten hunters said they had rarely, if ever, taken a bear in defense of life or property. These hunters might view a nearby bear as an opportunity for food rather than as a threat. Although they might shoot a bear near a camp or a village as a safety measure, these hunters would likely use the meat for food and not regard the kill as a DLP, even if the bear were not taken in accordance with regulations.

Other study communities, however, viewed brown bears differently. Some respondents in Unalakleet, for instance, said they could not imagine using a brown bear for food. All interviewed people in Unalakleet said local residents generally consider bears a nuisance and frequently shoot them on sight, disposing of the carcass so it will not be found. Two Unalakleet respondents felt that the state protected bears at the

TABLE 4. ESTIMATES BY INTERVIEWED HUNTERS OF 1987 BROWN BEAR HARVESTS IN STUDY COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY	1985 POPULATION	ESTIMATED 1987 COMMUNITY HARVEST FOR FOOD	ESTIMATED 1987 PER CAPITA HARVEST FOR FOOD (LBS)
Buckland	248	3-5	3.4-5.6
Kivalina	285	0	0
Kotzebue	2,633	8-10	0.8-1.1
Noatak	330	2-5	1.7-4.2
Noorvik	529	4	2.1
Selawik	589	5-6	2.4-2.8
Shaktoolik	163	0	0
Shungnak	226	5-6	6.2-7.4
Unalakleet	759	0	0
White Mountain	164	5	8.5

expense of local people. Some residents of Shaktoolik, Nome, Deering, Kivalina, and Point Hope similarly expressed the view that bears were a nuisance. Reindeer herders also commonly held this view.

Unalakleet and Shaktoolik hunters have not always viewed bears as a nuisance. One Shaktoolik hunter said people ate brown bear 30-40 years ago before moose arrived in the area. Hunters in Unalakleet reported the same. Another Unalakleet hunter said bears were more palatable before walrus carcasses washed up along the shore in such large numbers. In both communities, hunters felt bears were more common now than in the past.

The researchers also asked interviewed hunters to estimate their community's brown bear harvest in 1987. Respondents' estimates varied somewhat, so the range of responses is presented (Table 4). In calculating the per capita harvest, a live weight of 279 pounds was used. This was the average spring weight for both sexes of brown bear in the southwest Brooks Range in GMU 23 (Ballard, Roney, Larsen, and Ayres 1988:39-42). In fall, bears usually weigh more.

Because Kotzebue's population is large and diverse, the community's estimated bear harvest was derived not only from key respondent estimates but also from 1987

Department sealing records and from a Division of Subsistence survey of Kotzebue's 1986 harvest levels. This survey data showed a harvest of nine brown bears by Kotzebue residents; the percentage of these used for food is not known. Sealing records from 1986 showed a Kotzebue harvest of four bears, though the percentage used for food is likewise not known. Key respondents' estimates ranged from 8-10 on the number of brown bears taken for food by Kotzebue residents in 1987.

A few examples of brown bear hunts by Kotzebue residents might be insightful in understanding the regional center's hunting pattern. In one instance, a non-Native man hunted with a Native Shungnak man in the upper Selawik River, where they found and killed a bear. The non-Native kept the hide, and the meat was taken to Shungnak and distributed to local households. In another, similar, case, a non-Native Kotzebue resident hunted with a Native man in the Noatak drainage. The hunt was successful. The non-Native kept the hide, and distributed the meat to Kotzebue households. Another non-Native hunter brought back the four quarters from his kill, keeping one for himself and giving the rest to other households and to the senior citizens' center. In a fourth example, a young Native hunter killed a bear, and brought home only the hide. His friends and family questioned him about the meat until he went back to the kill site to retrieve it. In 1989, a non-Native National Guard member killed a bear in an airplane-accessible area on the North Slope coast. Interested only in the hide, this hunter retrieved some of the meat to give to a friend for dogfood. And finally, a resident of a Kotzebue Sound camp said spring brown bears are killed by camp residents who desire fresh meat. The researchers do not know what percentage of bear kills any of these examples represent.

Measured by per capita harvest, White Mountain (GMU 22) and Shungnak (GMU 23) ranked as the largest harvesters of brown bear among the study communities (Table 4). Following these were Buckland, Noatak, Selawik, and Noorvik. With its large population and relatively small harvest, Kotzebue had one of the lowest per capita bear

**TABLE 5. ESTIMATES OF 1987 BROWN BEAR HARVESTS FOR FOOD
IN GMU 23 COMMUNITIES**

COMMUNITY	1985 POPULATION	ESTIMATED 1987 COMMUNITY HARVEST FOR FOOD
Ambler	255	5-7
Buckland	248	3-5
Deering	153	0
Kiana	392	2-3
Kivalina	285	0
Kobuk	65	1-2
Kotzebue	2,633	8-10
Noatak	330	2-5
Noorvik	529	4
Point Hope	597	0
Selawik	589	5-6
Shungnak	226	5-6
TOTAL	6,302	35-48

harvests. Kivalina, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet respondents knew of no brown bear harvests for food in their communities in 1987. Bear harvests undoubtedly vary from year to year due to weather, traveling conditions, and the availability of bears. The researchers do not know how the 1987 harvest compares with other years, but nothing indicated it was unusual.

To estimate the total subsistence brown bear harvest in GMU 23, per capita harvest estimates of study communities were applied to similar communities not studied. Thus, Shungnak estimates were applied to Ambler and Kobuk, and Noorvik estimates were applied to Kiana. (In later field research for a different project, the researchers asked Deering and Point Hope hunters how many bears were taken for food in their communities in 1987.) Table 5 shows these extrapolated harvest estimates. The results point to a 1987 subsistence harvest of 35-48 brown bears in GMU 23. Similar extrapolations were not done for GMU 22 because few communities in that unit used brown bear for food, and information for some communities was not available.

In addition to the food harvest, GMU 23 residents killed some brown bears perceived as a nuisance or threat. One Kivalina respondent said three such bears were shot by his community in 1987. A Point Hope resident said one nuisance bear was shot in 1987 near Point Hope. Reindeer herders in Buckland and Deering also shoot nuisance bears. The number of bears similarly killed during the study year in GMU 23 is not known. However, based on the field interviews, the researchers suspect it was considerably less than the subsistence harvest, and most likely in the range of 8-10.

Some GMU 23 residents harvested brown bears for the hide or the trophy only. Trophy hunting was most common among non-Natives in the region, whose hunting tradition values trophy animals. Although the researchers do not know how many bears were taken by local trophy hunters, this harvest was probably not large. Department staff believes trophy hunters usually comply with the bag limit of one every four years and usually seal their bears. In 1987, only eight bears were sealed by GMU 23 residents, and not all of these were necessarily attributable to trophy hunters.

Another source of data on brown bear harvests is the Department's sealing records. These usually underrepresent the harvest, however, because much subsistence bear hunting is carried out under traditional hunting practices, often in violation of state regulations. Village hunters consequently do not always seal their bears. Table 6 compares sealing records with the estimated 1987 brown bear harvest in GMU 23 study communities. Table 7 compares the 1978-1987 bear harvest of interviewed hunters with the number of bears sealed by those hunters during the same period. The number of bears sealed each year from 1978-1987 by residents of each GMU 23 community is shown in Table 8.

These tables illustrate the low rate at which GMU 23 residents report their bear harvests. In 1987, 14-19 percent of the estimated bear harvest in GMU 23 study communities was reported to the Department (Table 6). According to Table 7, only three percent of bears killed in the past decade by interviewed hunters were reported.

TABLE 6. COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED BROWN BEAR HARVESTS WITH ADF&G SEALING RECORDS, 1987, FOR GMU 23 STUDY COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY	ESTIMATED 1987 COMMUNITY HARVEST FOR FOOD	NUMBER SEALED 1987
Buckland	3-5	0
Kivalina	0	0
Kotzebue	8-10	4
Noatak	2-5	1
Noorvik	4	0
Selawik	5-6	0
Shungnak	5-6	0
TOTAL	27-36	5

Table 8 shows that no one in Shungnak or Selawik has sealed a bear in the past ten years, even though these communities have been among the highest harvesters of brown bear in the region.

The proportion of bears taken by residents and non-residents in GMU 23 shifts significantly when the estimated harvest is used instead of sealing records. Sealing records show that 34 brown bears were taken in GMU 23 in 1987, of which eight (24 percent) were taken by GMU 23 residents, nine (26 percent) by other Alaska residents, and 17 (50 percent) by non-residents. If GMU 23 residents actually harvested 35-48 bears, or an average of 42, the total harvest for the unit increases to approximately 68 bears. (This assumes non-local Alaska residents and non-residents report their bear harvests, which Department staff believes is the case.) Of an estimated harvest of 68 bears, GMU 23 residents took 42 (62 percent), other Alaska residents took nine (13 percent), and non-residents took 17 (25 percent). If DLP and trophy harvests by local residents were included, the percentage harvested by GMU 23 residents would be somewhat higher. Out-of-state hunters, therefore, might have taken one-fourth of the GMU 23 1987 brown bear harvest, proportionally less than the one-half indicated by sealing records. Table 9 summarizes these findings.

TABLE 7. COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED BROWN BEAR HARVESTS WITH ADF&G SEALING RECORDS, 1978-1987, FOR SELECTED HUNTERS IN GMU 23

	NUMBER HARVESTED 1978-1987	NUMBER SEALED 1978-1987
BUCKLAND		
Hunter 1	2	1
Hunter 2	2-3	0
Hunter 3	3	1
Hunter 4	1	1
Hunter 5	3	0
KIVALINA		
Hunter 1	0	0
Hunter 2	0	0
Hunter 3	0	0
Hunter 4	3-4	0
KOTZEBUE		
Hunter 1	1	0
Hunter 2	1	0
Hunter 3	2	0
Hunter 4	2	0
NOATAK		
Hunter 1	0	0
Hunter 2	5-6	0
Hunter 3	3	0
Hunter 4	16	0
Hunter 5	2	0
NOORVIK		
Hunter 1	10	0
Hunter 2	*	0
Hunter 3	0	0
Hunter 4	3	0
Hunter 5	1	0
SELAWIK		
Hunter 1	0	0
Hunter 2	20	0
Hunter 3	3	0
Hunter 4	2	0
SHUNGNAK		
Hunter 1	1	0
Hunter 2	1	0
Hunter 3	3	0
Hunter 4	1	0
Hunter 5	4-5	0
TOTALS	95-99	3

* Not available

TABLE 8. NUMBER OF BROWN BEARS SEALED IN GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT 23, 1978-1987, BY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	TOTALS
Ambler	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	7
Buckland	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
Deering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kiana	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	8
Kivalina	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Kobuk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kotzebue	1	5	3	0	3	10	7	10	4	4	47
Noatak	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	5
Noorvik	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Point Hope	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Selawik	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shungnak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	6	3	1	11	14	12	14	7	8	78

SOURCE: Sealing Records, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**TABLE 9. PERCENT OF BROWN BEAR HARVEST BY RESIDENCY OF HUNTER:
ADF&G SEALING RECORDS VS. ESTIMATED HARVESTS, 1987**

	SEALING RECORDS		KEY RESPONDENT ESTIMATES	
	NUMBER OF BROWN BEARS HARVESTED	PERCENT OF TOTAL HARVEST	NUMBER OF BROWN BEARS HARVESTED	PERCENT OF TOTAL HARVEST
GMU 23 Resident	8	24	42	62
Other Alaska Resident	9	26	9	13
Non-Resident	17	50	17	25
TOTAL	34	100	68	100

In summary, GMU 23 residents harvested an estimated 35-48 brown bears for food and raw material in 1987. In addition, GMU 23 residents killed some nuisance bears and some trophy bears. The researchers did not attempt to quantify GMU 22's harvest because few communities in that unit used brown bear for food.

Only a small proportion of the estimated brown bear harvest in GMU 23 was reported to the Department. Based on the study's findings, 14-19 percent of the brown bears killed by GMU 23 residents in 1987 were sealed. Over a ten-year period, only three percent of the brown bears harvested by interviewed hunters were sealed. Although sealing records indicate that non-Alaskans took 50 percent of the GMU 23 brown bear harvest in 1987, estimates from this study show that non-Alaskans took 25 percent of the harvest with GMU 23 residents accounting for approximately 62 percent of the unit's brown bear harvest.

POPULATION STATUS

The Division of Wildlife Conservation has little definitive information on brown bear abundance in northwest Alaska. In a cooperative study, the National Park Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game found a density of one brown bear per 19.4 square miles in the upper Wulik and Kelly River areas of northwest Alaska in 1987

(Ballard et al. 1988:ii). This was considered high for an arctic ecosystem, though the area censused was believed to be among the best bear habitat in GMU 23 (Larsen 1988). Department biologists believe other parts of the unit probably support fewer bears. Informal observations by Department staff suggest a stable and healthy brown bear population in GMU 23. Tentative rough estimates indicate a GMU 23 brown bear population of 860-1,075 (Larsen 1988). Less information is available on the GMU 22 brown bear population, though the Department recently initiated a bear population study on the Seward Peninsula similar to the one on the upper Wulik and Kelly rivers.

Observations of interviewed hunters also point to a healthy brown bear population in northwest Alaska. In White Mountain, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet, elders said brown bears were rarely seen in the past near the villages, but today are regularly sighted close to communities. In a Subsistence Division study of Shaktoolik, Thomas (1982:237) wrote: "One older woman recalled that when she was a child, the sighting of a bear was a rare event, whereas in a recent year a Shaktoolik resident counted 22 bears when floating down the Shaktoolik River in the fall."

In Shungnak, interviewed hunters reported an increasing number of bears near their community. Most interviewed hunters in Selawik agreed that bears have been increasing, although one saw "less this year." In Noorvik, interviewed hunters have also observed an increasing bear population in recent years. A Noatak elder said brown bears are now seen in camps along the Kotzebue Sound coast where they have rarely been seen before; the same was said in Noorvik about the Kobuk River delta. Another Noatak hunter thought the bear population has tripled or quadrupled since 1940. A Kotzebue hunter said the local brown bear population is "without doubt, historically high." The researchers have heard similar comments from hunters throughout northwest Alaska. Residents of GMU 23 frequently express a preference for fewer bears because they are concerned about the safety of children and women and about damage to cabins, camps, and food caches.

TRADITIONAL HUNTING SEASONS

Brown bear hunting in northwest Alaska occurs predominantly in spring and fall, with minor variations among study communities and among individual hunters. For instance, spring bear hunting begins earlier in inland areas than on the coast, where winter conditions persist later into the year. Some Buckland hunters do not hunt bears in fall because the animals feed on sea mammal carcasses along the coast at this time. Other Buckland men, however, hunt fall bears but only in upriver areas. Figure 2 summarizes the harvest months for brown bear in the study communities.

For most northwest Alaska residents, the fat is the most prized brown bear product. Local hunters, therefore, time their bear harvests to correspond with periods when bears are fat and their meat is of high quality. One Kiana elder, Jenny Jackson, said (NANA Region Elders' Conference 1983), "[Bears] are caught for the oil, especially for the people upriver -- even around here -- who do not have seals." Local subsistence hunters also consider the quality of the bear hide in timing their hunts, but usually the hide is in good condition at the same time a bear is fat.

Northwest Alaska hunters harvest brown bears as soon as the animals emerge from their dens in spring. Bears are still fat at this time, before gradually becoming lean. Most interviewed hunters said subsistence brown bear harvests occur from the time the bears emerge from their dens until snowmachine travel is no longer possible. One Kotzebue Sound camp resident said brown bears are sometimes shot in June by seal hunters camped along the coast who desire fresh meat. In a previous Division research project (Thomas 1980), a Golovin resident said, "The season should open by April 1 as the bears are best when they first come out. The big ones way inland even come out in March sometimes."

FIGURE 2. BROWN BEAR SEASONAL ROUND FOR STUDY COMMUNITIES IN GMUs 22 and 23.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Buckland			■■■ ■■■■ ■■■						■■■■ ■■■■			
Kotzebue			■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■						■■■■ ■■■■			
Noatak			■■ ■■■■ ■■■					■■ ■■■■				
Noorvik			■■■ ■■■■ ■■■						■■■■ ■■■■			
Selawik			■■■ ■■■■ ■■■						■■■■ ■■■■			
Shungnak			■■■ ■■■■ ■■■					■ ■■■■ ■■■■				
White Mountain			■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■							■■■■		

■ Frequent Harvest
 ■ Occasional Harvest

Local residents also harvest brown bears in fall that have been feeding on berries, roots, fish, or caribou. These give the meat a good flavor. Many hunters prefer to take bears in late fall just before hibernation because the animals are fat at this time.

Northwest Alaskans today rarely hunt brown bears in winter (November to early March) or summer (late June to mid-August). Hunters said summer bears are lean and their hides are in poor shape. In addition, local people said bears are often dangerous at this time of year because they are hungry, and so people avoid hunting them.

In the past, the northwest Iñupiaq hunted denning bears in winter. Hunters knew from experience that bears in dens did not fight. Before firearms were available, a sleepy bear in a den was probably easier to kill with a spear than an alert bear roaming in search of food in summer or fall. Denning bears were probably also a good source of winter meat in years when other game was not available. Although some elders have hunted denning bears in past years, this practice is rare in northwest Alaska today.

Current state hunting regulations provide for a spring and a fall subsistence brown bear season in northwest Alaska (Table 10). Although much local bear hunting probably occurs within these established seasons, some spring bear hunting in GMU 23

TABLE 10. 1988 SUBSISTENCE HUNTING SEASONS
FOR BROWN BEAR IN GMUS 22 AND 23.

GMU	SEASON
22(A)	September 1-October 31 April 15-May 25
22(C)	September 1-October 31 May 10-May 25
22(B),(D),(E)	September 1-October 31 April 15-May 25
23	September 1-October 10 April 15-May 25

occurs before the opening date, especially in years when bears emerge early from their dens. In coastal areas, bear hunting extends into June. Some bear hunting in inland areas takes place in late August prior to the fall season.

HUNTING AREAS

In 1985 and 1986, the Division of Subsistence in cooperation with Maniilaq Association documented the hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering areas of ten villages in GMU 23 (Schroeder, Andersen, and Hildreth 1987a). The project mapped areas that community members have used over their lifetimes to harvest a variety of resource categories, including bear. This information was compiled in an atlas (1:250,000 scale) available at the Department's Kotzebue office and at other local offices throughout northwest Alaska (Schroeder, Andersen, and Hildreth 1987b). Figures 3 and 4 summarize this information. Because harvest areas for brown bear and black bear were not mapped separately, the areas shown in the figures include both species. Figure 3 depicts the hunting areas for Buckland, Noatak, and the upper Kobuk River communities (Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk). Figure 4 depicts the hunting areas for Selawik and the lower Kobuk River communities (Noorvik and Kiana). Mapped information is not available for Kotzebue.

Anderson et al. (1977:345-346) described general hunting areas used by the upper Kobuk River communities. In spring, hunters travel widely in search of tracks when bears first emerge from their dens. In fall, hunters watch for bears along salmon spawning creeks and in areas of heavy berry concentrations. At this time, some hunters travel to the headwaters of the Kobuk River to hunt bears. Older hunters often had favored locations they visited each fall to hunt bears.

The present study found that hunters in the study communities travel varying distances to harvest brown bears. Some bears are killed near villages or camps, while

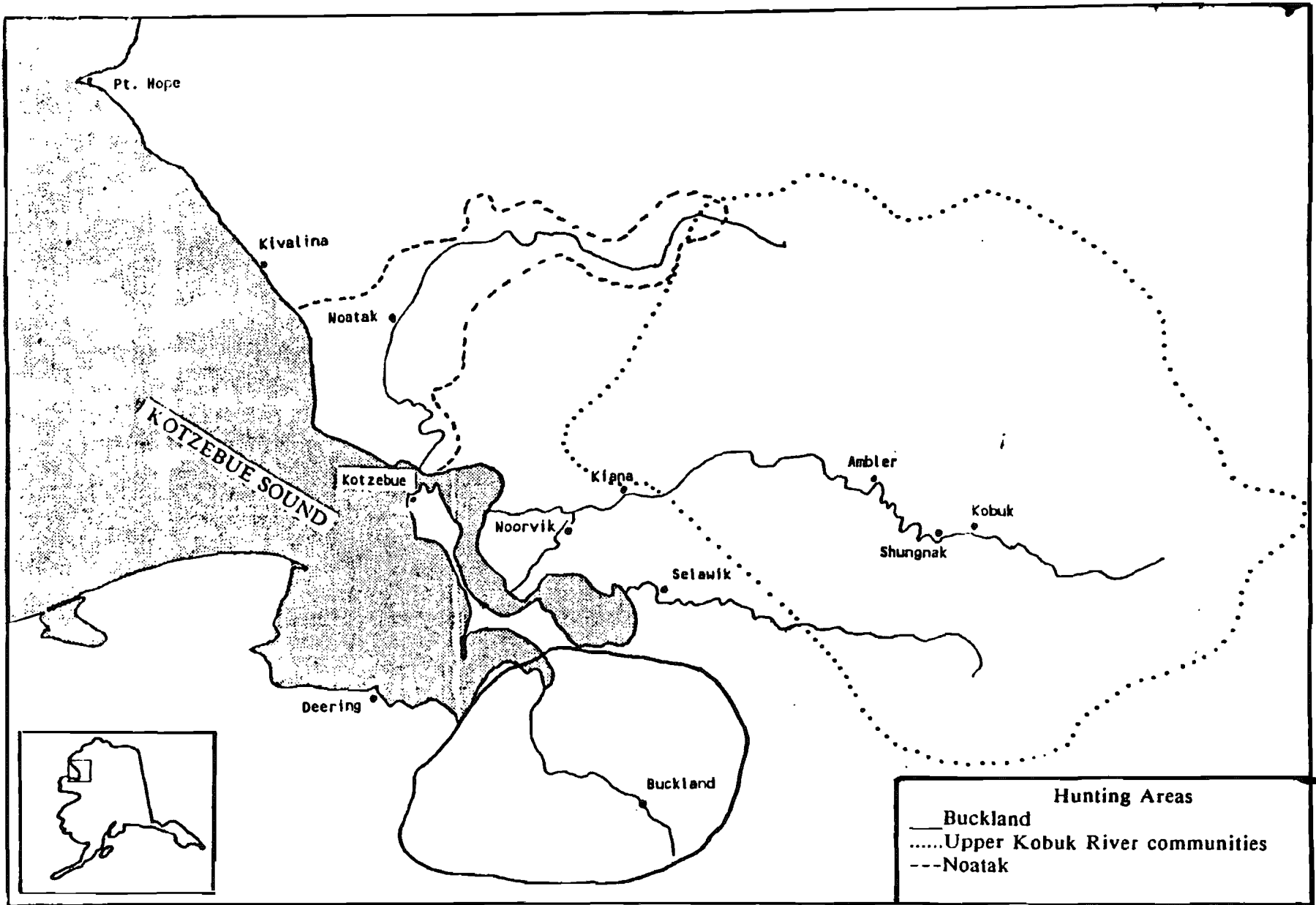


Figure 3. Bear Hunting Areas For Buckland, Noatak, and Upper Kobuk Communities.

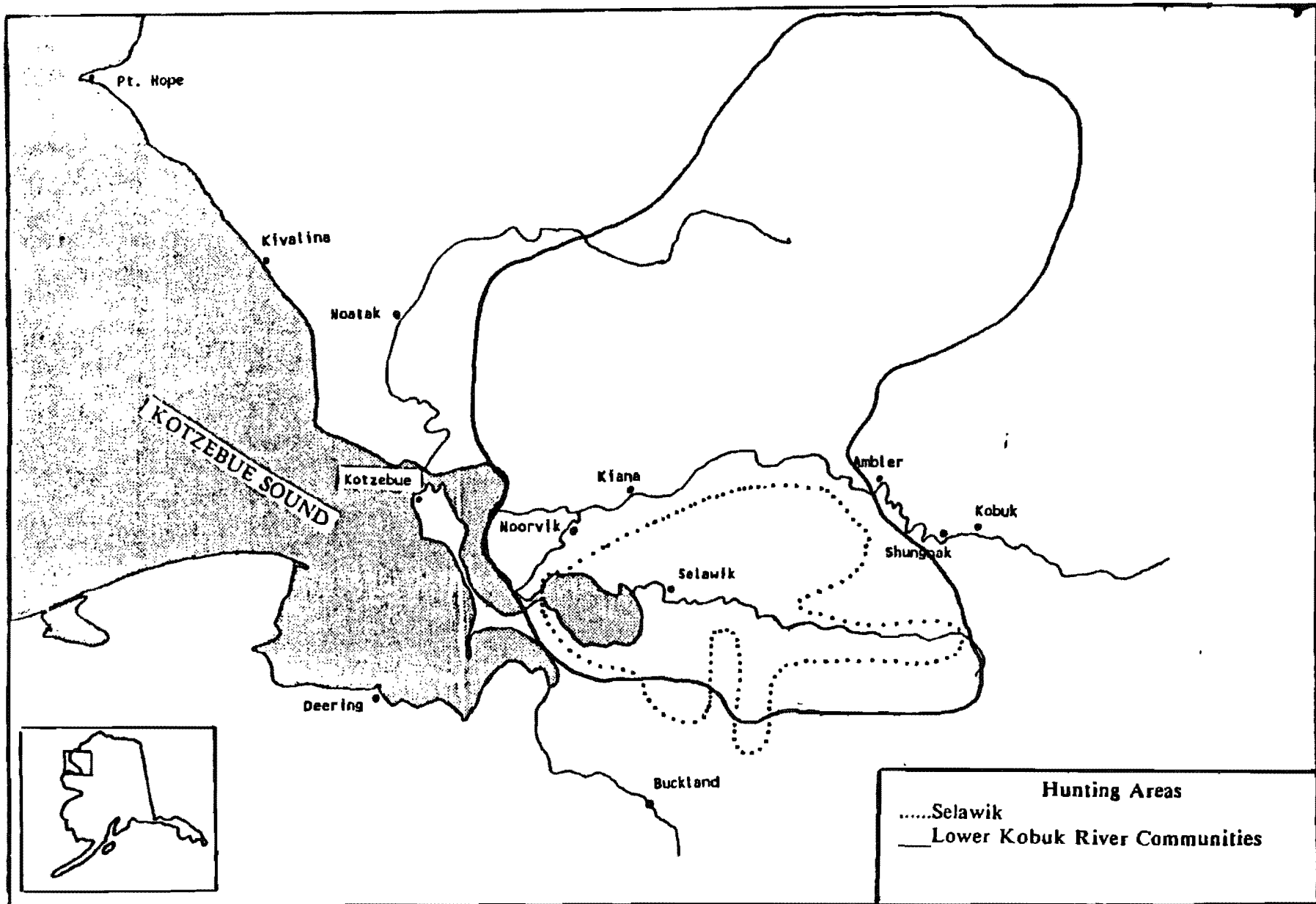


Figure 4. Bear Hunting Areas for Selawik and Lower Kobuk River Communities.

others are taken further away as hunters travel for other purposes. Residents of communities near the coast such as Buckland, Kivalina, and White Mountain usually only kill inland bears for subsistence purposes because these have not been feeding on sea mammal carcasses. Noatak men seldom hunt bears in the upper Noatak because the bears' diet of squirrels in this area gives the meat a poor flavor. Interviewed hunters in the study communities reported taking brown bears in the following areas.

BUCKLAND

Sugar Mountain
Buckland River
Munz Mountain
Bear Creek
Mountains near Buckland
Head of Selawik River

KIVALINA

Kivalina River

NOATAK

Two miles behind the village
Noatak River
Mountains near Noatak

NOORVIK

Near Kiana
Between Selawik and Noorvik
Salmon River above Kiana

SELAWIK

Mountains between Upper Kobuk and Selawik
Selawik River
Mountains at head of Selawik River
Fish River
Singiagruk
Hills between Kiana and Selawik
Tagragvik River
Old camps near Selawik

SHUNGNAK

Rabbit Mountain
Kobuk River
Mauneluk River
Bornite
Around Shungnak
Mountains near Kobuk River

WHITE MOUNTAIN

Fish River north of White Mountain
Niukluk River between Council and White Mountain
Between White Mountain and Solomon

HUNTING METHODS

Brown bear hunting methods vary among individuals and communities and with the season and traveling conditions. Many interviewed hunters said they usually take bears opportunistically, and seldom hunt specifically for them. Other hunters, however, use strategies designed specifically to catch brown bears, especially in fall. Men are usually, if not always, the sole participants in bear hunting.

Before the introduction of firearms, the northwest Alaska Iñupiaq hunted bears with spears and arrows. Several written accounts of this hunting method exist, including Anderson et al. (1977:343-344) and Thomas (1982:236-237). A Shungnak elder, Wilson Tickett, Sr., described this hunting method in a story about *Siqiññaaluuraq*, a respected Shungnak hunter of the past (NANA Region Elders' Conference 1983):

When he goes hunting for bears, he shoots the bear with his arrow. He doesn't hide around like some do. He just watches the bear moving...The bear sees the man and moves around. The man has a long pole about six or eight feet. When the bear starts running towards him and gets close, he throws the sharpened pole at the bear. He aims at the throat where the soft spot is. When the pole hits the spot, he puts his pole in the ground. And keeps it that way until the bear dies.

Interviewed hunters from Shungnak and Selawik said that in earlier times hunters staked dens found in late fall. In winter, a hunting group traveled to the staked den by dogteam, pulled out the bear, and killed it with a spear or gun. Anderson et al. (1977:345) related a story by Charlie Lee, a now deceased Shungnak elder, of a similar winter hunt in the upper Noatak valley. After discovering the den of a hibernating bear, Charlie poked a rod through the snow into the den until it rested on something soft and moved up and down slightly. A rifle was fired alongside the rod into the den, killing the bear. As Charlie climbed into the den, the other hunters with him stood

ready with rifles. He tied a rope around the dead bear and had the men pull it out, then killed three full-grown cubs also in the den.

Only one interviewed man (from Noatak) reported hunting denning bears during the decade covered by this study (1978-1987). Some interviewed hunters said they have not taught their sons to take denning bears because hunting with a rifle in spring and fall is more effective. Before firearms were available, it was probably easier to kill denning bears than to kill them with a spear in other seasons.

Several methods are commonly used today for hunting brown bears. According to one retired Shungnak hunter, when bear tracks are found near a den in spring, hunters urge the bear from its den by spitting on a willow and tossing it near the den's entrance. Sometimes the hunter throws his gloves at the entrance instead. The bear smells the human scent and exits, looking for the intruder. It stands up and looks sideways. In the meantime, the hunter hides behind the den and quickly shoots the bear.

In Noatak, men routinely hunt brown bears at night in the fall. Hunters select places along rivers or sloughs where bears regularly come to feed on salmon or other fish. They wait in darkness, sitting very close to where a bear might appear. When a bear is heard nearby, hunters flash a light to see where to aim and immediately shoot the bear. This technique can be quite dangerous and unnerving, and requires other hunters for backup in case the bear charges. One elderly Noatak man said he quit hunting this way after one particularly frightening incident. Two Noatak hunters--one in his 30s and one in his 50s--told the researchers they hunt bears this way every fall.

Upper Kobuk River men also hunted bears at night along spawning creeks. Lawrence Gray, an elder from Shungnak, told the following story (NANA Region Elders' Conference 1983):

The men also go to the spawning creeks to hunt for the bear. The old men told us they would teach us how to hunt. In fall at dusk they brought us over there [to a spawning creek]. The creek...was narrow,

maybe about twelve feet wide. At some parts it was wider, but it was very shallow. They told Homer and I to camp there. The men told us to sit right in the middle of these paths, they told us that we are going to spend the night here....There were many spruce trees there. The men...left us....Pretty soon it got really dark so we could not see very far except the creek directly below us....Just at midnight or near that time we heard the bear coming out...

When the men are sitting out in the night to wait for the bear, they would be armed with a gun. In front of the barrel, they would tie a piece of white cloth or something so you can see where you are aiming. They let me tie a piece of white cloth to the front. This will let you see where you aim even though it is dark outside.

The bear came really close to me but I couldn't see it. I could only see a dark thing in front. I shot at it and it went toward us and I shot again. I listened to the bear, as the old man had instructed me earlier. The bear moved around and then it died. This is how they hunted the bear in the spawning creeks.

In addition to these specialized techniques, men use more general hunting methods to catch brown bears such as tracking them in snow, stalking their dens, or shooting them when sighted near camps or during travels for other purposes. Spring brown bear hunting takes place with snowmachines, while in fall boats are used.

In Buckland, Noatak, Kotzebue, Selawik, and Shungnak, several interviewed hunters said they prefer to hunt small bears because the meat is tender. A Shungnak hunter said residents of his village do not care for the meat of big, old bears, though the fat is sometimes still good. One man in Buckland preferred large bears.

In summary, northwest Alaska residents use several strategies to hunt brown bears for subsistence purposes. The most common method is to shoot bears opportunistically as hunters travel in spring and fall. Sometimes hunters track bears on snow during these seasons. At other times, hunters seek bears in places where they are known to feed, such as spawning creeks and thick berry patches. Denning bears were hunted in the past, but this is uncommon today. However, hunters sometimes urge spring bears from their dens, or sneak up to bears sleeping outside their dens. Local hunters generally prefer small bears for subsistence use.

TRADITIONAL IÑUPIAQ HUNTING LAWS

When hunting brown bear, Iñupiaq hunters follow certain prescribed practices to show the bear respect. Interviewed hunters from Shungnak, Selawik, and Noorvik said hunting success usually depends on following these traditional laws.

Iñupiaq hunters believe bears have good hearing even during hibernation, and hunters therefore should not talk about their intentions to hunt these animals. A hunter should not brag about how many bears he has caught, nor should he talk about the bear in a threatening manner. To avoid harm to himself or his family, a hunter should not "act big." Interviewed hunters and elders in this study repeatedly emphasized these rules of behavior.

During a 1983 NANA Region Elders' Conference, Grace Outwater from Kiana said, "They say the bears can hear. They say every animal can hear. When a bear is sleeping in the winter, it hears better. They always told us not to talk badly about the animals. [The animals] sense these things."

Lawrence Gray, a Shungnak elder, said, "Men are not supposed to talk wisely like, 'I can get one.' They shouldn't talk like that. A person will not even say, 'I want to eat bear meat.' The man has to only go out and hunt." Gray told a story of what happens when a hunter does not follow these traditional Iñupiaq laws (NANA Region Elders' Conference 1983):

These animals are not to be made fun of....My in-law told me about the time when a bear attacked him. In fall time when they saw a grizzly bear they were in kayaks. My son-in-law said that he has room for a bear in the kayak. After he said that, he and the other men docked their kayaks. They started to go toward the bear....They went to it and tried to kill it but just wounded it and the bear ran into the brush and the men followed it. They all went in separate directions....Not too long after they were in the brush the bear stood up suddenly in front of the guy who said that he has room in his kayak. The bear met him and played around with him instead of killing him instantly. The bear wanted him to know that he can hear what the man said. The bear cut up his stomach with his paw but the man was still alive. The only way the man escaped the mauling was that he begged the bear to let him go.

Right there the bear proved to the men that he can hear what they say. The bear is never to be challenged because they can hear....The bear can sense smart remarks from hunters....The hunter should not say that it is no sweat to kill a bear....You have to be careful about what you say but, still, you can go out and hunt. Just remember not to make fun of the animals.

Northwest Alaska elders offer additional instructions for bear hunting. Minnie Morris of Noorvik said (NANA Region Elders' Conference 1983), "My father told us that after you have shot a bear, when it goes down you should not go directly to it but throw something at it to see if it will get up. Going directly to it is very dangerous." According to Anderson et al. (1977:347), Kobuk River hunters touch a bear's eye with a gun barrel to make sure it is dead. Bears sometimes fool hunters and pretend to be dead until the men get close. Although its hearing is keen, a bear's eyesight is poor, and hunters can sneak up to one if the wind is not blowing in the bear's direction. Interviewed hunters also reported that bears do not fight in their dens.

When an Iñupiaq hunter kills a brown bear, the first thing he does during butchering is remove the hyoid bone (*qupilgua*) beneath the bear's tongue. This remains a widespread practice among northwest Alaska's subsistence hunters. In Shungnak, Selawik, and Noorvik, the *qupilgua* is placed between willow branches. Noatak hunters remove the bone and discard it. Interviewed hunters in Buckland said they place the bone on a tussock. In Kotzebue recently, a non-Native bear hunter told Department staff that he buried the hyoid bone at the request of a local resident who had agreed to take the bear meat under this condition. These actions ensure that the spirit of the bear has gone elsewhere, and retaliation to the hunter is avoided.

During butchering, the hunter handles the bear meat carefully. The head was traditionally given to the eldest member of the community, or hung on a tree or pole. One hunter said he has frequently seen bear skulls hanging in camps, though this practice is not as common as it once was. However, subsistence hunters usually still leave bear skulls in the field as they have in the past. When bear meat is served at home, family members should not make comments about the meal.

Interviewed hunters in Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, or Nome had little to say about traditional practices pertaining to brown bears. One White Mountain hunter said he leaves the head of the bear on the tundra facing west.

In summary, Iñupiaq hunters in northwest Alaska believe bears have good hearing regardless of the distance, and hunters must therefore speak carefully about these animals. Knowledgeable hunters advise that the bear's hyoid bone be removed during butchering, and disposed of properly. The head is traditionally left in the field or in camps. Normally, when hunters follow these practices, they believe they will not have bad luck, their camps will not be bothered, and they will not feel threatened by bears in the future.

SHARING

Sharing has always been an integral part of hunting by northwest Alaskans, valued by the Iñupiaq for survival reasons and out of respect for other community members. All interviewed hunters in this study shared their brown bear harvests, in the same way that all wild food is shared among the region's residents.

When a bear is killed, the carcass is usually divided among the hunting group. A hunter commonly keeps only a small amount of the bear meat and fat for his family's personal use. The rest is given to elders, widows, sick people, and neighbors in the community.

Brown bear is shared in many ways. A Shungnak man said if a hunter camped along the river kills a bear, it is customary to give other campers along the river a piece of meat and fat. A Kotzebue hunter similarly said that when a bear is killed along the Noatak River, a piece of bear meat with fat is given to any boat that stops by. Another Kotzebue hunter, who does not care for bear meat, kills bears as opportunity allows to

give to sick people and to others who like the meat. In spring camps at *Sisualik*, hunters announce bear kills over the CB radio, inviting everyone to come get fresh meat.

Brown bear meat and fat are also shared among villages and with other regions of the state. For example, an elderly Noorvik man received brown bear fat from a Shungnak woman. A Selawik woman brought bear fat to her sister in Anchorage who longed for Eskimo food.

Brown bear hides are not divided among the hunting group in the same way as the meat. Instead, hunters usually give the entire hide to the eldest hunter in the group or to the person who shot the bear, or else decide among themselves who should keep it.

PRESERVATION AND PREPARATION

In the past, the danger of starvation required the Iñupiaq people to preserve seasonally available wild food for future use. Brown bear was one of the meats preserved. Women interviewed in Shungnak and Noorvik said bear meat was dried in late fall. In Selawik and White Mountain, women said they half-dried the meat, then boiled it before eating. Hunters in Selawik and Unalakleet said people used to dig holes in the ground and store bear meat in permafrost near the kill site. Later, the hunters retrieved the meat with dogteams. An elderly Kotzebue man said hunters used to build a cache to store the carcass when a bear was taken in late fall. The cache prevented wolverines from taking the meat. After freeze-up, the hunters retrieved the carcass with dogteams. Long ago, taboos prevented women and female children from eating bear meat, but this is no longer practiced today. Bear meat was traditionally not fed to dogs because it made dogs vicious.

Today bear meat is usually brought back to the village as soon as the animal is killed. With refrigeration available, women can now freeze bear meat at any time of year, although drying, aging, and other forms of traditional preservation are still used.

Most interviewed women agreed that bear meat tastes better when aged in a cool place. Bear fat is also aged, then cooked before being eaten. If the fat is fresh, it must be boiled a long time to be safe to eat. Some examples from the study communities on the preparation of bear meat and fat are presented below.

A Shungnak woman cleans the intestines of the bear and hangs them to dry. She freezes meal-sized portions of the meat. She fries meat with large amounts of fat, then removes the meat and allows the fat to harden on the surface of the broth. The fat is then stored in jars or cans. Most of the meat and bones are boiled. The feet (*isigaanich*), when boiled, are particularly well-liked. The kidneys are also boiled.

A Selawik woman learned to prepare bear from her late aunt. She scrapes the bear's stomach and intestines of their contents and cleans them with water. The intestines are woven around a Y-shaped stick and baked on an open fire. A pan is set under the roasting intestines to collect the dripping oil. The stomach can be roasted in the same method. In fall, she often half-dries the bear meat. She boils bear feet and other parts, and stores Eskimo potatoes (*masru*) and bearberries (*tinnik*) in bear fat. Another Selawik woman substitutes processed bear fat for butter. Her grandchildren eat bear fat with bread or oatmeal.

A Noorvik woman freezes brown bear meat, preferably after it has aged outside in a cool place. She fries bear meat with large amounts of fat, then stores bearberries in the bear fat for future use.

A Buckland woman said her children like bear meat when harvested in the right season. She cooks it as soup or in a meat-and-gravy style. She fries the fat, storing this oil in cans.

In White Mountain, an elderly woman stored bear fat in jars with Eskimo potatoes. She used to half-dry the meat, though no longer cares much for bear meat since her husband's death. She occasionally roasts bear meat if she shares a meal with someone. A retired bear hunter in White Mountain enjoys eating bear fat for lunch.

In Shungnak, Noatak, and White Mountain, some interviewed residents said they boil -- rather than fry -- bear fat to process it. A Noatak woman said all parts of the bear are edible by boiling including the paws. Nearly all those interviewed said dried fish and meat are eaten with bear fat similar to the way seal oil is used.

Elders advise hunters not to eat bear liver. During a 1983 NANA Region Elders' Conference, Robert Mulluk, Sr., said, "When a person has killed a bear and is very hungry for this, he should not eat the liver. *Masraun* told me this a long time back. One time when he was hunting he caught a bear and he gutted it and took the liver and baked or cooked it somehow and ate it. After he ate this, he barely escaped death..."

In Noatak, hunters have recently become concerned about the safety of eating bear meat. They worry that the drugs used to immobilize bears during research by the Department and the National Park Service remain in the meat, making it risky to eat. Despite assurances from state and federal agencies, Noatak hunters' fear persists. Some have stopped eating bear meat. They report having found bears dead from unknown causes which they attribute to the drugs.

MEDICINAL USES

In addition to providing food, brown bears have been a source of medicine to the northwest Iñupiaq for centuries. In the study communities of Shungnak, Selawik, Buckland, Noatak, Noorvik, White Mountain, and Kotzebue, bear fat remains a highly valued remedy, particularly among elders, for curing illnesses and sores. Some interviewed hunters said they search for bears when an old person is sick and no bear fat is available.

Interviewed Shungnak residents said bear fat cures bad colds, itchy throats, and coughs when small amounts are taken internally or when applied to the chest. Cooked bear meat with fat stimulates the appetite of ill people who cannot eat or drink. In

Selawik, where several elderly people recently died of pneumonia, one woman recovered from the flu by taking small amounts of unprocessed bear fat. She melted the fat slowly in her mouth. She also used bear fat as an appetite stimulant.

A Noorvik man hunted brown bear one spring for medicinal reasons. He said he uses the hide of the bear as a quick, relaxing remedy when he feels weak. He simply lies on the hide for a few minutes and recovers his strength. He said dying elders are forbidden to use bear hides because they will live longer and suffer more. He advised that sick people should never be given large pieces of bear fat because they may become more ill. They should be given only a small amount. It is customary to apply a small amount of bear oil to the lips of a dying person upon request. A tribal doctor in Noorvik highly recommends feeding sick people small amounts of prepared bear meat for an appetite stimulant.

A Buckland woman, also a tribal doctor, recommends bear fat as a cure for persistent sores. In this case, the fat is used as an ointment. This woman agreed that dying people can recover when bear fat is given to them. In addition, bear fat keeps a person warm. In White Mountain, one woman's late husband used brown bear bile for medicine. He dried the bile, then shaved a small piece to eat when suffering from stomach problems. An interviewed Kotzebue resident described a similar practice.

A Noatak woman remembered a story from the upper Kobuk River communities where a hunter boasted about the number of bears he had caught. One day a brown bear mauled the man, tearing off most of his scalp. Hunters killed and skinned the bear, putting the raw hide on the man's wounds. The next morning the injured man felt better.

According to Arthur Douglas, an Ambler elder, bear fat was used to cure boils (Mauneluk Association 1976:29). When a boil was soft and ready to burst, a cross was cut on it. A specially prepared flat stick was used to pull out the pus, then twisted until

the core of the boil was taken out. Bear fat was spread thinly over the affected area until the remaining pus had drained out.

CRAFTS AND OTHER USES

Since early times, northwest Alaskans have utilized non-edible bear parts as basic necessities for hunting, traveling, and camping. In contemporary times, bear hides and other parts continue to be used by the Iñupiaq as described below.

Elders in Shungnak and Selawik said the narrow bone of the bear's foreleg was used in the past for spearheads and snares. In White Mountain and Noatak, elders said the knee joints of brown bears were made into scraping tools. Bear teeth and nails were carved into fishhooks for grayling. An upper Kobuk River elder said (NANA Region Elders' Conference 1979), "Long ago, I have seen people harvesting many fish with fishhooks made of beaver and porcupine teeth. The fishhooks made of teeth were used when ivory was not available. Larger fishhooks were made of black bear or grizzly bear teeth."

In the past, brown bear hides were made into ropes and snowshoe bindings. Elders said rope made of bear hide was tougher and lasted longer than rope of caribou or bearded seal skin. Early people preferred bear hides for dog harnesses because the dogs did not chew them. Clothing such as skin boots and ruffs were also made from bear hides. Interviewed individuals said bear hides provided warm bedding, and did not shed hair like caribou skins. Hunters and travelers commonly carried bear hides to use for mattresses and as doors in sod houses.

Bear hides continue to be used today for bedding and rugs both at home and at camp. Hunters often carry bear hides in their sleds as survival gear when traveling in winter. If hunters are unable to return to the village that day, they spend a warm night in their sleds on the hides.

In Shungnak, Noorvik, and Selawik, interviewed residents said brown bear hides are used for parka ruffs and for crafts such as Eskimo masks. One Noorvik woman said the hide is cut into strips and sewn into the sides of a mukluk (*natiguaq*). In Noatak, the hide is also used in mukluks. Bear claws are used for necklaces.

In White Mountain, bear teeth were still being used for fishhooks. During one interview, an elderly woman, who was preparing to go fishing, had a hook made of bear teeth specially designed to catch pike through the ice.

In summary, northwest Alaskans have traditionally found many uses for bear hides and other non-edible parts. In the past, bear hides, bones, teeth, and claws were used for spearheads, fishhooks, rope, snowshoe bindings, dog harnesses, scraping tools, doors, mattresses, ruffs, and mukluks. Today bear hides are used primarily for mattresses, rugs, ruffs, mukluks, and Eskimo masks. Bear claws are used for necklaces. In White Mountain, fishhooks made of bear teeth were still in use.

TRADITIONAL IÑUPIAQ KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS

Through generations of hunting and traveling, the northwest Alaska Iñupiaq have acquired extensive knowledge of brown bear habits and behavior. These animals are the most feared and respected, and have a prominent physical and symbolic role in northwest Iñupiaq life. Many important Iñupiaq beliefs about brown bears have evolved, some of which were discussed in the section on traditional hunting laws. Interviewed elders were asked to describe other Iñupiaq beliefs about brown bear. Selected responses are presented below.

A Selawik woman knew a legend about a brown bear that adopted a child, who then became a bear the Iñupiaq knew. Brown bears like to adopt children. The Selawik woman had always been instructed not to let children cry when on the tundra gathering berries or plants for fear a brown bear might adopt them.

An elderly Shungnak man said brown bears sometimes transform themselves into other animals or objects when shot at. Several years ago, when a Shungnak man shot a brown bear, the bear became a rock, and later the man died. When brown bears change into other animals or objects, it foretells death for the hunter or members of his family. A Buckland man said an empty bear den is also a sign of death for a hunter or his family members.

Residents of Selawik and the Kobuk River villages believe bears are left-handed. In a 1983 NANA Region Elders' Conference, Lawrence Gray from Shungnak said, "The bear is a left-handed animal. When a person is being attacked by a bear, he should always stay or go toward the bear's right hand side. The left hand is dangerous....Earlier someone mentioned a person being ripped. The bear only clawed with his left hand and cut the man up. He did not use his jaws. That is how he will fight. A person shall always defend himself toward the bear's right hand." Anderson et al. (1977:298) similarly report that older hunters in the upper Kobuk advise shooting attacking bears in the left shoulder or foreleg because bears are unable to fight without the use of their left arm.

The Iñupiaq believe that bears will not bother a person who is humble and who does not hurt or fool with a bear. However, they also know these animals can be dangerous. Selawik and Shungnak elders said bears understand when people speak to them. If a person is in a situation where a bear is very close, the person should tell the bear not to harm him and should humbly say he is not a good meal. To avoid harm, the person should stay very still until the bear is out of sight.

Alfred Wells, a Noorvik elder, also advises not to run from bears. He told this story at a 1983 NANA Region Elders' Conference:

On his way home, he met a bear and he did not have any kind of weapon but he kept on walking towards it. When the bear stood up, *Aqsrvatnaq* looked at it eye to eye. They stared at each other eye to eye for at least half an hour. *Aqsrvatnaq* did not try to run away and the bear did not try to go either, then finally the bear started to go. After he went for

quite a while he looked back and ran toward *Aqsravatnaq* as if to attack him. I guess the bear wanted the man to run away but *Aqsravatnaq* did not budge. He just stood there. The bear did this twice and since the man did not run away from the bear, the bear finally left him for good. This is one of the many advices of the old people and we should remember them because we may use them one day.

A Shungnak resident said bears are shy animals. If a woman is approached by a brown bear, she is advised to expose her breast, causing the bear to turn away.

Bears are often attracted to food caches or drying racks. A bear can easily destroy a carefully preserved season's catch, making people disappointed or angry. A Kiana elder, Jennie Jackson, said (NANA Region Elders' Conference 1983), "My grandfather, *Sapiqsuaq*, always told us not to be stingy and be hurt...when the bears eat what we dry or store away because someday when a hunter is out he may kill a bear and you can have that meat instead."

A Selawik man told a story about a hunter, *Yaayyii*, who shot a large brown bear:

The bullet did not kill the bear. As the bear charged, *Yaayyii* said, "Don't take me! Take this!" *Yaayyii* threw his gun to the bear who bit it and walked away.

Yaayyii wanted his gun and yelled, "Don't take it far away! Leave it there!"

The bear dropped the gun in the creek. *Yaayyii* later retrieved it.

Yaayyii's grave is along the Selawik River. Hunters try to maintain the grave marker, but brown bears always knock it down. Perhaps *Yaayyii* hunted too many brown bears.

The belief that fooling with or hurting bears leads to harm makes some local residents uncomfortable with the Division of Wildlife Conservation's ongoing bear research in northwest Alaska. In this research, bears are darted from helicopters, then weighed, sexed, measured, tattooed, and in some cases radio-collared. A Noatak resident felt that handling bears like this made them more dangerous. Another hunter believed that collared bears carry a retaliatory attitude (*uumitchaun*), and are a greater threat. The researchers have heard villagers express concern about the safety of biologists and their families after engaging in what villagers believe is disrespectful behavior.

Traditional Iñupiaq knowledge and beliefs about brown bears persist today. In conducting interviews for this study, the researchers found many village residents uncomfortable with the mere mention of *aktaq* (brown bear). After describing the study, the researchers subsequently referred to the brown bear as "that animal" to ease people's discomfort.

CHAPTER 3

DISCUSSION

This study found that northwest Alaska communities exhibited different harvest and use patterns for brown bear. In GMU 23, the use of brown bear for food and raw material was prevalent in all the inland study communities (Noatak, Noorvik, Shungnak, Selawik, and Buckland). Similar use patterns most likely occur in the other Kobuk River communities of Kiana, Ambler, and Kobuk.

In contrast, the GMU 23 coastal communities of Deering, Kivalina, and Point Hope only occasionally use brown bear for food. Bears in these areas feed on sea mammal carcasses along the shore, giving the meat an undesirable taste. Still, a few families in Deering eat bear meat, and hunters in Kivalina and Point Hope occasionally take brown bears for food if found feeding upriver on fish and berries. The regional center of Kotzebue displayed mixed brown bear harvest patterns as a result of the heterogeneous backgrounds of its residents.

In GMU 22, use of brown bear for food was less widespread than in GMU 23. Of the communities for which the researchers had information, only White Mountain and Golovin continue to use bear meat regularly today. Many communities, however, used brown bear for food in the past. Little evidence was found of contemporary brown bear use for food in Nome.

Most study communities using brown bear for food took from two to six bears in 1987. Harvest levels undoubtedly vary from year to year due to weather, traveling conditions, and the number of bears available. The researchers do not know how the 1987 harvest compares with other years, though nothing indicated it was other than an average harvest.

An estimated 35-48 brown bears were harvested for food in GMU 23 in 1987, many of which were not reported to the Department. In the GMU 23 study

communities, only 14-19 percent of the 1987 brown bear harvest was reported. No estimates were made of the subsistence brown bear harvest in GMU 22 because few communities used brown bear for food, and information for some communities was not available.

Northwest Alaska residents kill brown bears primarily in spring and fall, and rarely in summer or winter. Several strategies are used to hunt brown bears, including tracking them on snow, stalking them near their dens, and waiting in the dark near their feeding areas along spawning streams. However, brown bears are most frequently taken opportunistically when a hunter comes across one or sights one near camp. Because brown bears are believed to have good hearing, Iñupiaq hunters do not openly discuss their bear hunts.

Brown bear meat is preserved in a variety of ways, including dried, half-dried, frozen, and aged. Bear fat is particularly prized as both a food and a medicine. Bear hides are used for bedding and for clothing such as ruffs and skin boots.

With centuries of hunting experience, northwest Alaskans have an intimate knowledge of brown bear behavior, and an extensive array of traditional laws and lore regarding human and bear interactions. These laws cover hunting strategies, butchering processes, personal conduct, methods of defense, and appropriate attitudes. The lore offers examples of severe consequences to the hunter and his family if these laws are not heeded.

Most northwest Alaska hunters think the region's brown bear population is high. The Department reports the GMU 23 brown bear population to be stable and healthy (Larsen 1988). A recent study in a portion of GMU 23 found a brown bear density considered high for an arctic ecosystem, but this area was among the best bear habitat in the unit (Larsen 1988). Local residents frequently express concern about the growing number of bears in the region and the hazard they pose to children, cabins, camps, and food caches.

Brown bear hunting regulations in northwest Alaska are established by the state. In 1988, they allowed hunters in GMUs 22 and 23 to harvest one brown bear every four regulatory years. Residents must purchase a \$25 tag before killing a brown bear. Hunters must salvage the skull and the hide of the bear and have them sealed by a department representative within 30 days. Unlike most other big game species, which have strict requirements on meat salvage, discarded brown bear meat is not considered waste in the current regulations.

Upon request, Department biologists in Kotzebue fly to communities to seal bears as a service to village residents. By sealing hides and skulls, biologists obtain standard data on the size, age, and sex of bears. Although harvest numbers are essential, biologists debate the necessity of obtaining some of the other information sealing provides.

Legal seasons in northwest Alaska range from six to nine weeks in fall (September-October) and from two to six weeks in spring (April-May) depending on the unit. Except for unit 22(A), non-residents can hunt brown bear by drawing permit only. Appendix B has the relevant excerpts from state regulations.

Perhaps more than for any other species, current brown bear regulations are incongruous with customary and traditional hunting practices in contemporary northwest Alaska communities. Consequently, many village residents hunt "discreetly," as one Noatak man described. A Buckland hunter said people no longer talk about their brown bear harvests out of fear of arrest or citation. The incongruity between regulations and practices is evident in bag limits, seasons, salvage and sealing requirements, and tag fees. A discussion of these regulations and how they conflict with local practices is presented below.

1. *Bag limits.* Some northwest Alaska hunters typically harvest brown bears every year during the course of their spring and fall subsistence pursuits. Others kill bears less frequently or not at all. In most villages, only a small number of men actually

harvests bears, and these men share their harvests throughout the community. In this type of system, an individual limit of one bear every four regulatory years does not match normal practice. This bag limit is perceived by village hunters as arbitrary and irrelevant, and is generally unobserved, particularly when bears are abundant.

2. *Seasons.* Spring and fall are the seasons preferred by northwest Alaskans for hunting brown bears. Hunters frequently take bears as soon as they emerge from their dens which, in inland areas, can be as early as March or as late as May. Hunters also begin hunting bears again in late August--the beginning of the arctic fall--through October. Brown bear hunting may shift several weeks in either direction from one year to the next because of the annual variations in the onset of the seasons. These traditional hunting times do not correspond with the current open seasons, which in GMU 23 run from April 15 to May 25 and from September 1 to October 10. A season running continuously from the fall through the spring would enable hunters to harvest bears as soon as they emerge in spring, and would more satisfactorily accommodate traditional hunting practices.

3. *Salvage and sealing requirements.* Some GMU 23 residents retrieve both the meat and the hide of their brown bear harvests, while others retrieve only one or the other. Some subsistence hunters traditionally leave the head in the field at the kill site or at camp as a sign of respect. Requiring hunters to salvage the skull conflicts with this practice. In addition, requiring the salvage of the hide and skull does not accommodate hunters who hunt for the meat and fat only. Requiring hunters to transport the hide and skull back to the village and notify the Department for sealing places an additional burden on subsistence hunters. From the subsistence hunter's perspective, *not* requiring the salvage of the bear meat is objectionable.

4. *Tag fees.* Many Iñupiaq residents in GMU 23 communities have strongly held beliefs about the proper manner in which to treat brown bears. Perhaps foremost among these is the prohibition on speaking openly about brown bears. Hunters should not "act

big," brag about their bear hunting abilities, or even speak of their intentions to hunt. Brown bears are believed to have keen hearing, and to retaliate against hunters who violate these rules. Requiring local hunters to purchase a tag before hunting brown bear, and thereby deliberately make their intentions known, is incompatible with traditional Iñupiaq hunting practices. The concept that a person must pay extra to hunt a particular species, even if that animal is being taken for food, is peculiar and unfamiliar to many Iñupiaq hunters.

The incongruity between current hunting regulations and traditional hunting practices in northwest Alaska is primarily due to differences in how brown bear is used. These differences are culturally based, that is, they are learned differences which derive from the social values of the hunter's community. The current state regulations, rooted in the Euro-American hunting tradition, presume that the primary use of a brown bear is for a trophy hide or mount. The Iñupiaq rules presume that the primary use of a brown bear is as a source of food and raw material.

The attitudes and assumptions built into the hunting regulations are inappropriate for most northwest Alaska hunters and contribute to non-compliance with legal seasons and bag limits. Hunters tend not to report their harvests when their traditional practices for taking wildlife are in substantial conflict with existing state regulations, as is the case with brown bear hunting in northwest Alaska today. This impedes the state's ability to obtain adequate harvest data and to understand current use patterns for effective brown bear management. Hunters would be more likely to report their bear harvests if regulations accommodated their hunting practices and the reporting procedure was simple. An abundant bear population in northwest Alaska today and an absence of acrimonious allocative conflicts make this a particularly auspicious time for evaluating the regulations under which local residents hunt brown bears.

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APPENDIX A
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HUNTERS
GRIZZLY BEAR USE

Interview No.

Date

The existing regulation allows any hunter to harvest one brown bear every four years. The Alaska State Board of Game, who makes decisions regarding this regulation is considering changes. My job is to find out if brown bear is hunted in this community. If so, how do the residents use brown bear? All the interviewees names will not be used. Codes are used. If there are certain questions you wish not to answer, I will respect that. These questions are for the past ten years.

1. Do you hunt for brown bear?

2. How often do you hunt them? (Every year, twice a year, three times in the past ten years, etc.)

3. What areas or place have you used to hunt for brown bear in the last ten years?

4. Do you specifically hunt for brown bear? Or, do you take it when you see it?

5. By what means do you take brown bear? Do people hunt denning bears? If not, why not?

6. What months do you normally hunt for brown bear?
7. Can you remember how many brown bears you have taken in the last ten years? Were any of those taken to protect your property or life? If so, how many?
8. How is brown bear shared when taken?
9. Can you guess how many brown bears the village took in the past year? Is that more or less than usual?
10. What parts of the bear do you normally use? What do you use them for?
11. What are the traditional laws which the hunters must follow when hunting or butchering the bear?
12. It's said that a person shouldn't talk about his plans to hunt brown bear—is it true? Why?
13. It's said that if the qupilgva is not removed from the brown bear's jaw, something will happen to member of the immediate family, is it true? Why?

14. Has your use of brown bear changed over the past ten years? If so, how?
15. Are there any suggestions or concerns you have about the brown bear?
16. How is the brown bear population doing in this area: growing, declining, lean, healthy, or acting differently?
17. With whom else should I talk?
18. The present regulation allows a hunter to get one bear every four years. You must get a \$25 brown bear tag before the hunting takes place. How do you feel about this regulation?

SEX _____ AGE _____ RESIDENCY _____

MARTIAL STATUS NO. OF CHILDREN AGE OF OLDEST CHILD

Prepared by Loon and Georgette for Brown Bear Research.
Kotzebue Subsistence Division 1987

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WOMEN
GRIZZLY BEAR USE

Interview No.

Date

I am writing a project on brown bear use in your community. I have interviewed hunters. More informatiton is needed from the women. It would help, if you can provide information how you and those before you have used the brown bear.

1. How is brown bear normally prepared?

2. Does brown bear meat and fat taste differently at different times of the year?

3. How is brown bear shared?

4. Is there a preference for males over females, or younger over older bears, for food or fur?

5. What parts of the brown bear are edible?

6. What parts of the brown bear are used for medicine?

7. What parts of the brown bear are used for tools?
8. What is the fur mainly used for?
9. What parts of the bear are used for decorations (belt) by women?
10. What are some of the restrictions that Inupiaq people follow regarding the brown bear?
11. Can you think of any spiritual significances regarding the brown bear?
12. What age group (elders, young people) mostly eat bear?
13. With whom else should I talk?

SEX _____ AGE _____ RESIDENCY _____

MARITAL STATUS _____ NO. OF CHILDREN _____ AGE OF OLDEST CHILD _____

Prepared by Loon and Georgette for Brown Bear Research.
Kotzebue Subsistence Division 1987

APPENDIX B

1988 BROWN BEAR HUNTING REGULATIONS: GMUS 22 AND 23

RESIDENT BIG GAME TAGS AND FEES

(Tags are valid only from January 1 through December 31)

ear, brown or grizzlyeach 25.00
(Not required in Unit 20(E))

No license is required of an Alaskan resident under 16 years of age, for hunting or trapping. Licenses and big game tags are required of all nonresidents, regardless of age, for hunting and trapping. However, all residents, regardless of age, intending to hunt brown/grizzly bear, are required to possess a resident brown/grizzly bear tag. Brown/grizzly bear tags expire on December 31 of the year for which they are issued.

(c) No resident may take a brown or grizzly bear (except as provided in 5 AAC 92.014), or a musk ox, without possessing a numbered, non-transferable, appropriate tag, issued to that person. The tag must be affixed to the animal immediately and must remain affixed until the animal is prepared for storage, consumed or exported.

5 AAC 92.165. SEALING OF BEAR SKINS AND SKULLS. (a) No person may possess, transport, or export from Alaska, the untanned skin or skull of a bear unless the skin and skull have been sealed by an authorized representative of the department within 30 days after the taking, or a shorter time if requested by the department. The seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process has begun. A brown bear taken in Unit 8 or 12 may not be transported from the unit where taken until it has been sealed. A brown bear taken in Subunit 20(E) may not be transported from that subunit, except to Tok, until it has been sealed.

(b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, a person who kills a bear must personally present the skin and skull to an authorized representative of the department for sealing within 30 days after the taking, or a shorter time if requested by the department, and must sign the sealing certificate at the time of sealing.

(c) A person who takes a bear but is unable to present the skin and skull in person must complete and sign a temporary sealing form and ensure that the completed temporary sealing form, along with the bear skin and skull, are presented to an authorized representative of the department for sealing within 30 days after the taking.

(d) If a person kills a bear while on a guided hunt or while hunting with a resident relative under AS 16.05.407, both the hunter and the guide or resident relative who accompanied the hunter must sign the sealing certificate. If a temporary sealing form is used, both the hunter and the guide or resident relative must sign the temporary sealing form.

A person who possesses a bear shall keep the skin and skull together until a representative of the department has removed a rudimentary premolar tooth from the skull and sealed both the skull and the skin. The department

may require that the skull of the bear be skinned and that the skin and skull not be frozen at the time of sealing.

(f) No person may falsify any information required on the sealing certificate or temporary sealing form provided by the department.

(g) As used in this section, "bear" means brown and grizzly bear in all units, and black bears of all color phases taken in Units 1-7, 11-16, and 20. The term "temporary sealing form" means a form available at department offices for providing information regarding date and location of bear kill, species of bear, name and address of the hunter, name of the guide, and other information requested by the department on the form. The term "sealing certificate" means a form used by the department for recording information when sealing a bear.

5 AAC 92.220. SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES.

(a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 78-5 AAC 88, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

(2) the hide and skull of a brown/grizzly bear;

5 AAC 92.260. TAKING CUB BEARS AND FEMALE BEARS WITH CUBS PROHIBITED. No person may take a cub bear or a female bear accompanied by a cub bear.

5 AAC 92.200. PURCHASE AND SALE OF GAME. (a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, the purchase, sale, or barter of game or parts of game is permitted.

(b) Except as provided in AS 16.05.930(e) (relating to the barter of subsistence taken game), no person may purchase, sell, or barter the following:

(2) any part of any bear; or an unsealed beaver, land otter, lynx, wolf, wolverine, or marten from Units 1-5, 7 and 15;

Units and Bag Limits by Species	Subsistence Open Seasons	Resident Open Seasons	Nonresident Open Seasons
Unit 22(A) One bear every four regulatory years.	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25
Unit 22(C) SUBSISTENCE AND RESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years. NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years by drawing permit only. 20 permits will be issued for this hunt in combination with remainder of Unit 22.	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 May 10—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 May 10—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 May 10—May 25
Remainder of Unit 22 SUBSISTENCE AND RESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years. NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years by drawing permit only. 20 permits will be issued for this hunt in combination with the hunt in Unit 22(C).	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25
Unit 23 SUBSISTENCE AND RESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years. NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years by drawing permit only. 25 permits will be issued.	Sept. 1—Oct. 10 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 10 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 10 Apr. 15—May 25

APPENDIX B

1988 BROWN BEAR HUNTING REGULATIONS: GMUS 22 AND 23

RESIDENT BIG GAME TAGS AND FEES

Tags are valid only from January 1 through December 31)

Resident brown or grizzly tag each 25.00
(Not required in Unit 20(E))

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(c) A person who takes a bear but is unable to present the skin and skull in person must complete and sign a temporary sealing form and ensure that the completed temporary sealing form, along with the bear skin and skull, are presented to an authorized representative of the department for sealing within 30 days after the taking.

(d) If a person kills a bear while on a guided hunt or while hunting with a resident relative under AS 16.05.407, both the hunter and the guide or resident relative who accompanied the hunter must sign the sealing certificate. If a temporary sealing form is used, both the hunter and the guide or resident relative must sign the temporary sealing form.

(e) A person who possesses a bear shall keep the skin and skull together until a representative of the department has removed a rudimentary premolar tooth from the skull and sealed both the skull and the skin. The department

may require that the skull of the bear be skinned and that the skin and skull not be frozen at the time of sealing.

(f) No person may falsify any information required on the sealing certificate or temporary sealing form provided by the department.

(g) As used in this section, "bear" means brown and grizzly bear in all units, and black bears of all color phases taken in Units 1-7, 11-16, and 20. The term "temporary sealing form" means a form available at department offices for providing information regarding date and location of bear kill, species of bear, name and address of the hunter, name of the guide, and other information requested by the department on the form. The term "sealing certificate" means a form used by the department for recording information when sealing a bear.

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- (2) any part of any bear; or an unsealed beaver, land otter, lynx, wolf, wolverine, or marten from Units 1-5, 7 and 15;

Units and Bag Limits by Species	Subsistence Open Seasons	Resident Open Seasons	Nonresident Open Seasons
Unit 22(A) One bear every four regulatory years.	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25
Unit 22(C) SUBSISTENCE AND RESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years. NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years by drawing permit only. 20 permits will be issued for this hunt in combination with remainder of Unit 22.	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 May 10—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 May 10—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 May 10—May 25
Remainder of Unit 22 SUBSISTENCE AND RESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years. NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years by drawing permit only. 20 permits will be issued for this hunt in combination with the hunt in Unit 22(C).	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 31 Apr. 15—May 25
Unit 23 SUBSISTENCE AND RESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years. NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: One bear every four regulatory years by drawing permit only. 25 permits will be issued.	Sept. 1—Oct. 10 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 10 Apr. 15—May 25	Sept. 1—Oct. 10 Apr. 15—May 25

APPENDIX B

1988 BROWN BEAR HUNTING REGULATIONS: GMUS 22 AND 23

RESIDENT BIG GAME TAGS AND FEES

Tags are valid only from January 1 through December 31)

Resident brown or grizzly tag each 25.00 (Not required in Unit 20(E))

No license is required of an Alaskan resident under 16 years of age, for hunting or trapping. Licenses and big game tags are required of all nonresidents, regardless of age, for hunting and trapping. However, all residents, regardless of age, intending to hunt brown/grizzly bear, are required to possess a resident brown/grizzly bear tag. Brown/grizzly bear tags expire on December 31 of the year for which they are issued.

(c) No resident may take a brown or grizzly bear (except as provided in 5 AAC 92.014), or a musk ox, without possessing a numbered, non-transferable, appropriate tag, issued to that person. The tag must be affixed to the animal immediately and must remain affixed until the animal is prepared for storage, consumed or exported.

5 AAC 92.165. SEALING OF BEAR SKINS AND SKULLS. (a) No person may possess, transport, or export from Alaska, the untanned skin or skull of a bear unless the skin and skull have been sealed by an authorized representative of the department within 30 days after the taking, or a shorter time if requested by the department. The seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process has begun. A brown bear taken in Unit 8 or 12 may not be transported from the unit where taken until it has been sealed. A brown bear taken in Subunit 20(E) may not be transported from that subunit, except to Tok, until it has been sealed.

(b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, a person who kills a bear must personally present the skin and skull to an authorized representative of the department for sealing within 30 days after the taking, or a shorter time if requested by the department, and must sign the sealing certificate at the time of sealing.

(c) A person who takes a bear but is unable to present the skin and skull in person must complete and sign a temporary sealing form and ensure that the completed temporary sealing form, along with the bear skin and skull, are presented to an authorized representative of the department for sealing within 30 days after the taking.

(d) If a person kills a bear while on a guided hunt or while hunting with a resident relative under AS 16.05.407, both the hunter and the guide or resident relative who accompanied the hunter must sign the sealing certificate. If a temporary sealing form is used, both the hunter and the guide or resident relative must sign the temporary sealing form.

(e) A person who possesses a bear shall keep the skin and skull together until a representative of the department has removed a rudimentary premolar tooth from the skull and sealed both the skull and the skin. The department

may require that the skull of the bear be skinned and that the skin and skull not be frozen at the time of sealing.

(f) No person may falsify any information required on the sealing certificate or temporary sealing form provided by the department.

(g) As used in this section, "bear" means brown and grizzly bear in all units, and black bears of all color phases taken in Units 1-7, 11-16, and 20. The term "temporary sealing form" means a form available at department offices for providing information regarding date and location of bear kill, species of bear, name and address of the hunter, name of the guide, and other information requested by the department on the form. The term "sealing certificate" means a form used by the department for recording information when sealing a bear.

5 AAC 92.220. SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES.

(a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 78-5 AAC 88, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

- (2) the hide and skull of a brown/grizzly bear;

5 AAC 92.260. TAKING CUB BEARS AND FEMALE BEARS WITH CUBS PROHIBITED. No person may take a cub bear or a female bear accompanied by a cub bear.

5 AAC 92.200. PURCHASE AND SALE OF GAME. (a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, the purchase, sale, or barter of game or parts of game is permitted.

(b) Except as provided in AS 16.05.930(e) (relating to the barter of subsistence taken game), no person may purchase, sell, or barter the following:

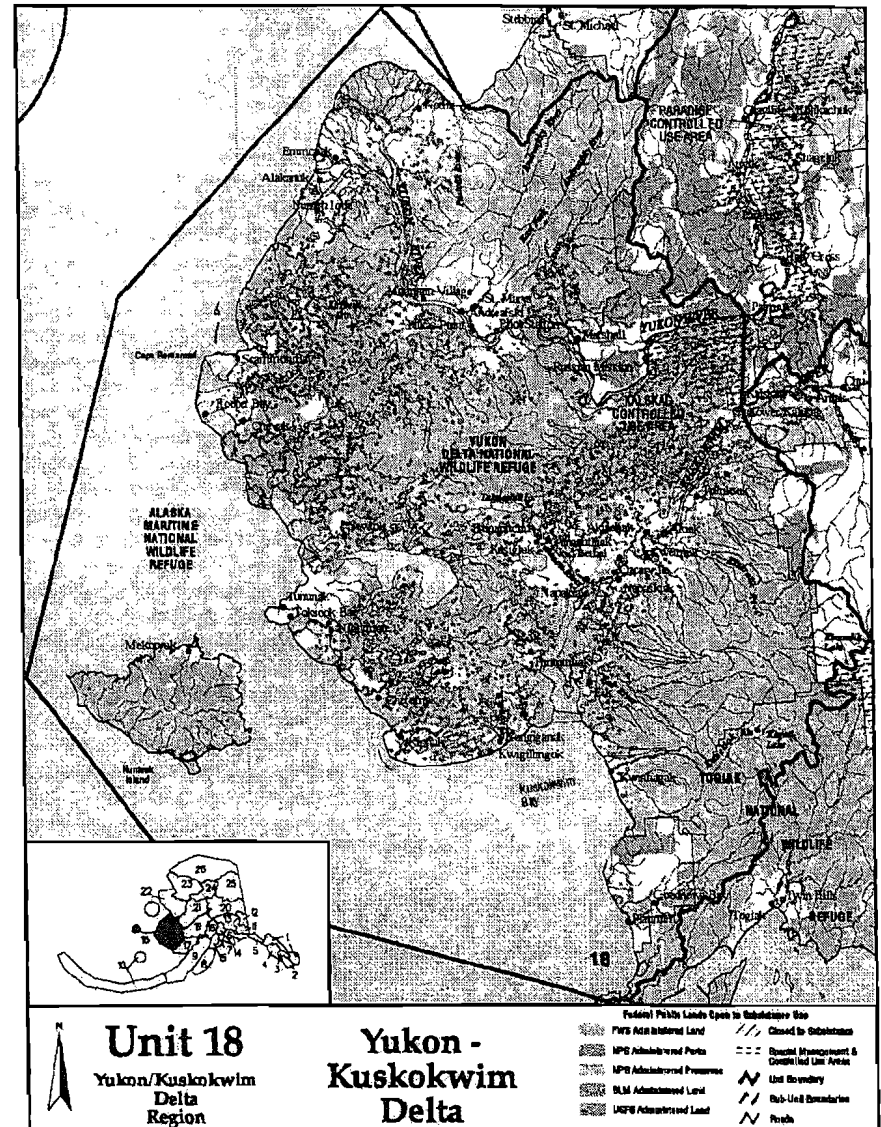
- (2) any part of any bear; or an unsealed beaver, land otter, lynx, wolf, wolverine, or marten from Units 1-5, 7 and 15;

Units and Bag Limits by Species	Subsistence Open Seasons	Resident Open Seasons	Nonresident Open Seasons
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Unit 18 Proposal Comments

Robert Sundown
Subsistence Resource Specialist
LEO/Pilot

Yukon Delta NWR
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Bethel Alaska



Proposals Affecting Yukon Delta NWR

- **Proposal 2:** Extend Kuskokwim moose hunt 10 additional days
- **Proposal 3:** Add a 5 day winter season for moose on the Kuskokwim
- **Proposal 4:** Change Western boundary for the Kuskokwim area moose season
- **Proposal 5:** Change SE boundary for the Lower Yukon area moose season

Proposals We Do Not Support

- **Proposal 2 ; Proposal 3:** Both expand hunting opportunity for moose in the Kuskokwim area
- Both are opposed by Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
- Both are opposed by local staff of ADF&G and the Yukon Delta NWR
- Both proposals are not biologically sound

Proposals We Do Support

- Proposal 4: Modifies Kuskokwim Western boundary (as amended by LKF&G AC)
- Proposal 5: Modifies Lower Yukon South East boundary

Proposal 4: Adding Contrast



Current Regulation

“Easterly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake then to the Easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border, and North of and Including the Eek River drainage”

Proposal 4: Adding Contrast



Proposed Regulation

“That portion East of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowitz river to the closest point on Dall lake, then to the East bank of the Johnson River at Nunavakanukakslak Lake, continuing upriver 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 to the Border of Unit 18, and North of and including the Eek River Drainage”

Proposal 4 Differences

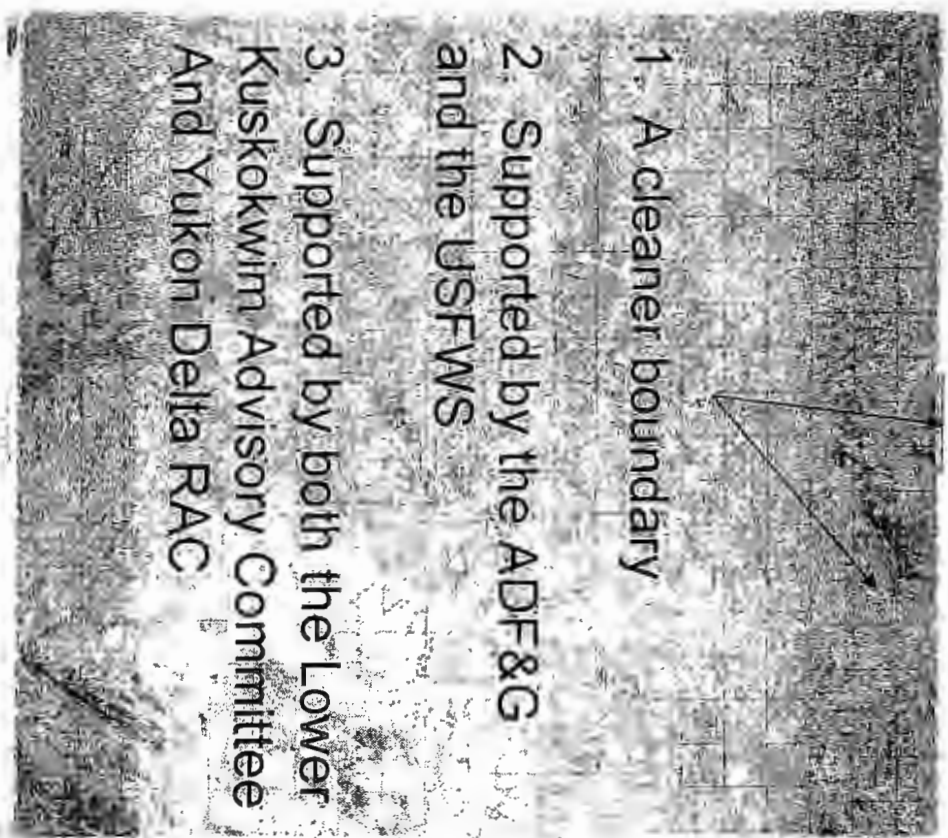
Current Regulation

1. Assigns Yukon origin moose to the Kuskokwim area
2. Border is difficult to find for public
3. Is difficult to enforce

Proposed Regulation

1. Is a geographic mid-point
2. Is easier for the public to find
3. Is easier to enforce
4. Increased harvest opportunity for public from a population not of biological concern

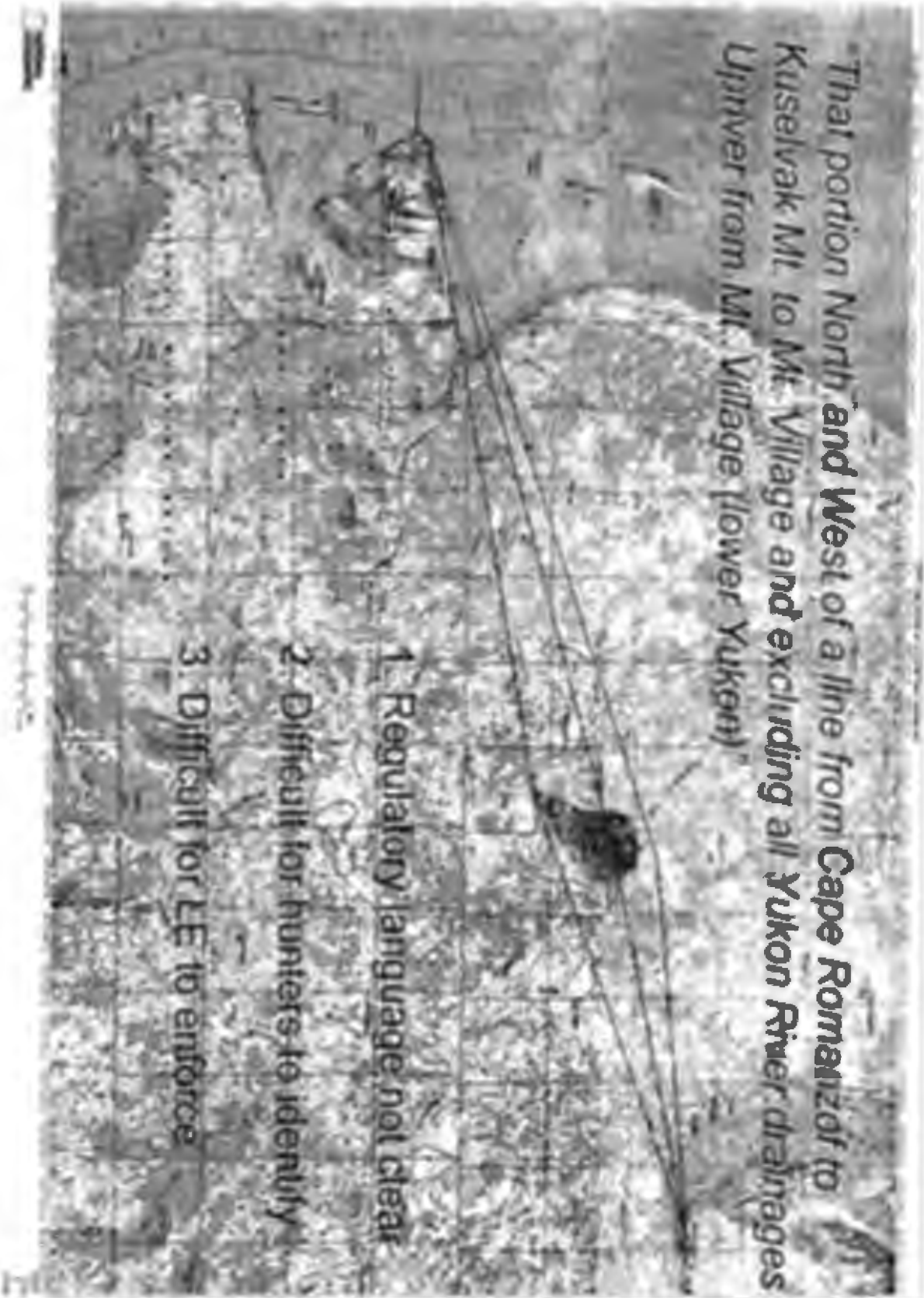
Proposal 4 is...



Proposal 5: Current Regulation

That portion North and West of a line from Cape Romalozof to Kuselvak Mt. to Mt. Village and excluding all Yukon River drainages Upriver from Mt. Village (lower Yukon)

1. Regulatory language not clear
2. Difficult for hunters to identify
3. Difficult for LE to enforce



Proposal 5: Proposed Language

That portion North and West of the Kastunak River including the North bank from the mouth of the river upstream to the old village of Chakaktolik. West of a line from the Chakaktolik to Mountain Village, an excluding all Yakut River drainages upriver from Mountain Village

1 Geographic boundary

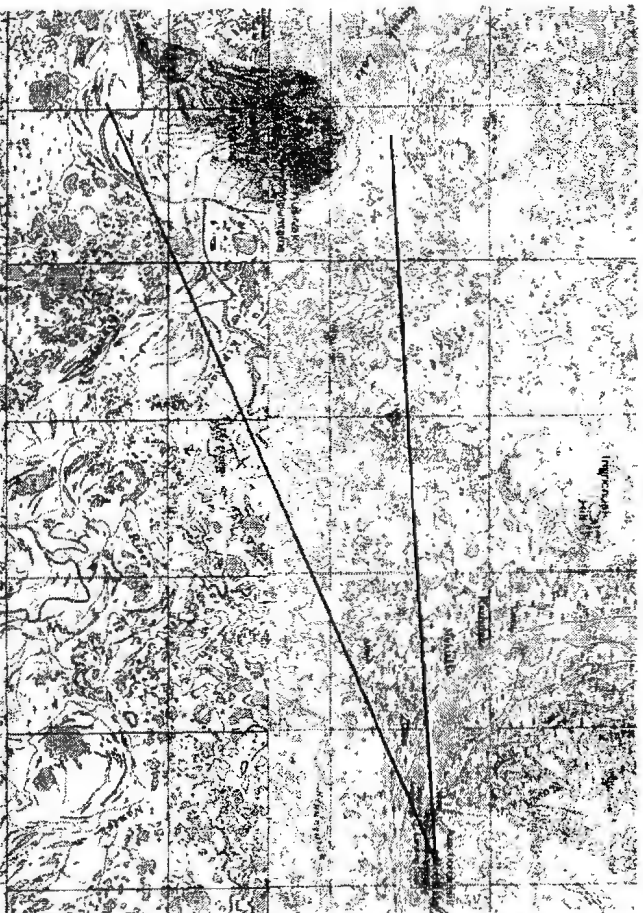
2 Easier for hunters to ID

3 Easier for LE to ID

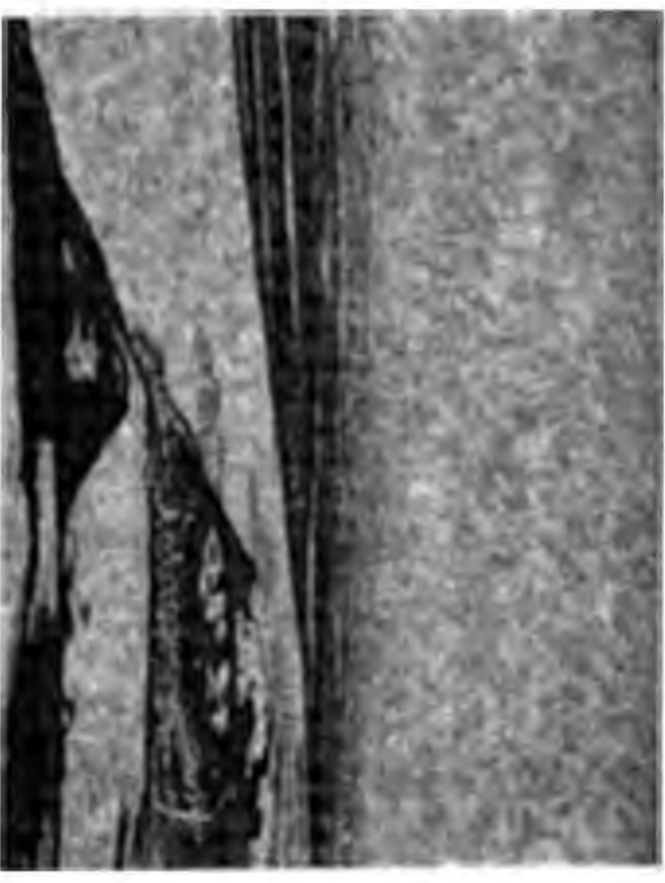
4 Adds opportunity for Alaskan hunters

The Current View

Map geographic outline

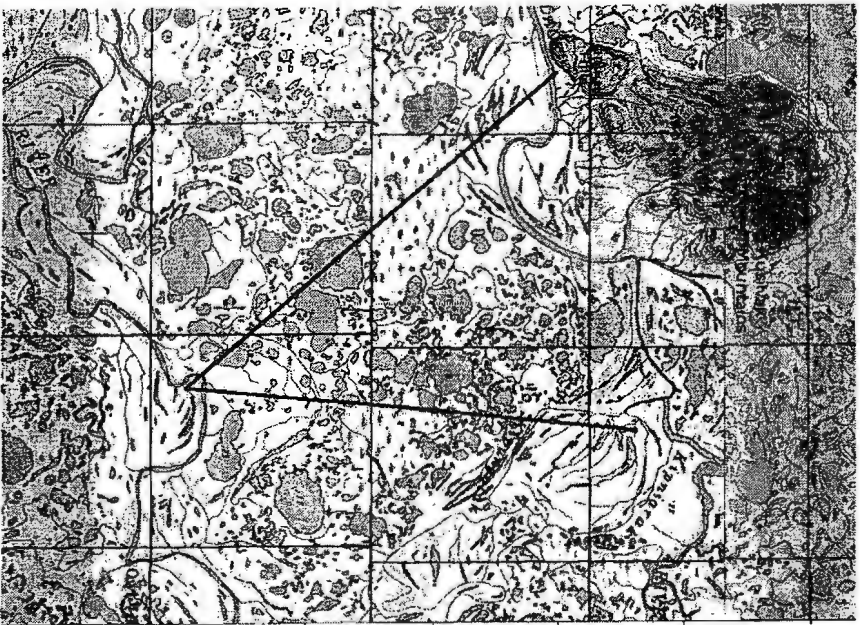


Photographic view West



Is the Proposed Language Better?

Geographic Outline



The Lower Kashunak



Summary

- Proposals 4 & 5 add contrast to difficult landscapes for both hunters and LE
- Proposals 4 & 5 are supported by both the USFWS and ADF&G
- Proposals 4 & 5 are supported by the Lower Yukon AC and Yukon Delta RAC
- Proposals 4 & 5 add hunting opportunity for Alaskans on abundant Yukon moose

RCT

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

Department of Wildlife Management

P.O. Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723

Phone: Central Office (907) 852-2611 ext. 350
or: (907) 852-0350
FAX: (907) 852 0351 or 8948
Arctic Research Facility: (907) 852-0352



Taqulik Hepa, Director

Chairman Judkins
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau AK, 99811-5526

November 12, 2009

Dear Chairman Judkins and Board of Game members:

Please accept my Department's comments in opposition and in favor of the following proposals.

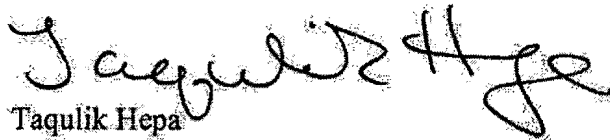
We oppose Proposal's 29 and 33 which would unnecessarily reduce the hunting and trapping seasons for wolf in Unit 26A and Units 22, 23 and 26A, respectively. The authors of the proposals are not aware that wolf pelts are still prime well into late April and early May.

We are in favor of proposals 31 and 32 which liberalize that bag limit and season for brown bear, respectively. Over the past few years we have received an increase in the number of local concerns regarding brown bear human interactions. Numerous camps and cabins have been damaged; one of my Department's field camps was destroyed, and we were forced to abandon the field season; further, brown bears ate the contents of approximately 6,000 Lesser Snow Goose nests from one nesting colony this past summer. Increasing the season and bag limits would allow hunters to salvage the meat and hide from problem bears rather than turning them over to the State under a defense of life and property situation.

We are in favor of proposal 34. We had intended to testify at the BOG meeting because we recognized there is controversy surrounding this proposal until we read Mr. Saxby's letter to the BOG explaining that the board has no authority to alter the definition of edible meat because it is a statute. We will pursue legislative avenues to change this definition. The Advisory Councils' intent of this proposal was to allow hunters to legally

follow their traditional practices which dictate that diseased meat is to be left in the field. This practice does not happen often but in some instances hunters do leave diseased parts of a carcass in the field.

Respectfully submitted,


Taqulik Hepa

26-LS0822\R

HOUSE BILL NO. 227

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
BY REPRESENTATIVE HERRON**

Introduced: 4/10/09

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

**"An Act establishing state fish and game reserves; creating the Holitna River Basin
Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve; and providing for an effective date."**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** AS 16.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Article 6. Fish and Game Reserves.

Sec. 16.20.700. Purpose. The purpose of AS 16.20.700 - 16.20.720 is to promote management activities to rebuild or enhance fish and wildlife populations and habitats to maintain historical and sustainable harvest levels for continued high levels of human consumptive use of these resources.

Sec. 16.20.710. Regulations. The Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game, where appropriate, shall adopt regulations identifying areas each considers advisable for conservation and protection purposes to carry out the purpose of AS 16.20.700.

Sec. 16.20.720. Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve established.

(a) All state-owned surface and subsurface land and water and all land acquired in the future by the state within the watershed of the Holitna River and Hoholitna River is designated as the Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve.

(b) The Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve is established to

(1) ensure management and protection of fish and wildlife populations and habitat to perpetuate subsistence, commercial, and sport use of the area's fish and wildlife;

(2) implement maximum use and benefit, sustained yield, and common use principles by using effective management techniques for conserving and developing the area's natural resources to regain or maintain historical harvest levels with human consumptive use of these resources as a priority;

(3) maintain and enhance healthy and abundant fish and wildlife populations commonly used for consumption by humans to provide high levels of human consumptive use in keeping with amounts determined by the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game to be reasonably necessary to provide for subsistence uses and with other population and use goals or objectives set by the appropriate board;

(4) to establish long term scientific research & management study areas to determine the effectiveness of management activities undertaken pursuant to this section, in providing for current and future human harvest needs.

(c) In order to fulfill the purposes of this section, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Fish and Game, the Board of Fisheries, and the Board of Game shall manage the fish and game resources of the area to provide for high levels of human harvest and, as necessary, shall

(1) control predation and adjust predator and prey population ratios through whatever methods or means are considered appropriate to particular circumstances;

(2) conduct management actions designed to further the purposes of this section so long as the appropriate board has not found, based upon substantial evidence, that the challenged management actions are counterproductive or ineffective in maintaining or enhancing healthy and abundant fish or wildlife populations commonly used for consumption by humans for food to provide for high levels of human consumptive use;

(3) use the information the department or the appropriate board considers to be the most credible for conducting management activities, including historic information, scientific information, and traditional environmental knowledge;

(d) The Department of Natural Resources may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned land within the Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve but may acquire privately owned land by purchase, exchange, or other means for inclusion in the reserve.

(e) Public access to the Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve by boat, aircraft, dog team, snow machine, all-terrain vehicle, or other means consistent with the purposes of this section may not be prohibited but may be regulated by agreement between the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources as necessary to meet the purposes of this section.

(f) Access to and from private property within the Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve shall be guaranteed through access corridors established through agreement among the Department of Fish and Game, Department of Natural Resources, and a private property owner.

(g) Entry upon the Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve for purposes of exploration and development of oil and gas resources is subject to approval by the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources, and may not be permitted unless a person fully demonstrates that exploration and development is compatible with the purpose of this section.

(h) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources shall exercise each department's respective authority over the Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Reserve through a management plan prepared by the Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources.

* **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Sec. 16.20.730: A Reserve is a geographic area set aside by the State of Alaska wherein the State will promote management activities to rebuild or enhance fish and wildlife populations and habitats to maintain historical and sustainable harvest levels for continued high levels of human consumptive use of these resources.

HB #227 - Holitna Basin Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Reserve (HHFTR) Legislation
Development Recap and Activity Summary (thru October 2009)

January, 2006: Proposal #45 to designate the Holitna drainage as a new Game Management Sub-unit (as 19E) deliberated at Board of Game (BOG) Statewide regulatory meeting. In response to an option suggested by Orutsararmiut Native Council in consultation with Sleetmute residents, to make the area a game reserve, the BOG incorporated this concept; and reissued as new proposal #158, to be published for further public review, comment, and deliberation at the Region III regulatory meeting in March.

March, 2006: Board of Game action passes the proposal with records of support from AVCP, Lower Kuskokwim, Central Kuskokwim, and Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committees. Makes title change from "Game Reserve" to "Hunting and Trapping Reserve". Requested sponsors to further develop draft legislative language in consultation with Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) & BOG Dept. of Law (DOL) representatives.

April, 2006: Companion proposal #157 submitted (per proposal cycle deadline) to Board of Fisheries (BOF) by Sleetmute Traditional Council and Orutsararmiut Native Council to add fisheries component.

August, 2006: Draft language for Holitna Reserve sent to DWC & BOG-DOL for review and comment.

- Representative Kapsner/Nelson & Senator Hoffman agree to support legislation when language ready.

September, 2006: BOF proposal #157 supported/endorsed by Kuskokwim Salmon Mgmt. Working Group.

October, 2006: DNR issues Final Best Interest Finding that denies coal bed methane exploration permits in the Holitna Basin after two year review period stating "...the possible adverse impact to the high fish & wildlife values and related human uses are too great to be mitigated with the project as proposed..."

- Support resolution (#06-10-04) passes unanimous at annual AVCP Convention

- BOG formally receives/reviews draft language at special regulatory meeting in Anchorage and reaffirms support of proposed legislative effort. Requests sponsors to continue working with DWC and BOG-DOL to further refine statutory language prior to legislative introduction.

November, 2006: Calista Corporation provides letter of support for draft language as currently written.

December, 2006: Lower & Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committees reaffirm support. Draft language sent to legislative counsel for bill formatting by Representative Nelson.

January, 2007: Draft bill re-circulated for additional review and comment from DWC, BOG-DOL, BOF and public.

February, 2007: Board of Fish tables proposal (#157) to their October, 2007 work session and refers to a Habitat Committee created from Bristol Bay area proposal #121, addressing Tularik Creek Refuge/Reserve (connected to Pebble Mine development project).

- BOG Chair provides final comments on draft language from BOG-DOL to sponsors and offers open invitation for additional BOG support if needed.

- Final BOG/legal comments incorporated into draft bill and presented to Representative Nelson for introduction.

March, 2007: Notified by Representative Nelson that due to legislative protocol she should not be the primary bill sponsor. Though the area is part of her constituents Customary & Traditional hunting area, it is not physically within her voting district. All information to date forwarded to Rep Woody Salmon's office and Rep. Nelson remains committed to work as co-sponsor in helping with its passage. Efforts to solicit support and introduction from Rep. Salmon produce no response. Due to these conditions, along with related (though unbecoming) baggage of pending ballot initiatives, Sleetmute/ONC sponsors confer and agree to hold off introduction until a later date.

October, 2007: BOF takes no further action on proposal as agenda item at fall work session, though noting it remains a "live" issue, with any further action pending bill introduction and recommendation from their habitat committee.

February/March, 2009: Discussions reinitiated with (new) Rep. Herron who stated willingness to pursue introduction and support for HHFTR intent and passage. Activity update to Board of Game spring meeting.

April, 2009: Rep. Herron reports discussion w/ Rep. Salmon who stated no problem w/ Herron as primary sponsor. HB #227 filed w/ intent that refinement, co-sponsor & other support work be pursued for action in 2010 session.

August, 2009: Meeting with co-sponsor, Rep Herron, legislative staffers & state DOL/ADFG rep's to discuss and identify potential problem areas for amendment. Initial substitute language drafted and circulated for further review.

Sept./October, 2009: Update meetings w/ Sleetmute/Napaimute Traditional Councils, Calista Corp & AVCP;

- Schedule for support action thru BOF work session at Habitat Committee & January 2010 BOF-AYK meeting;
- Current language presented at special hearing of House Resource Committee in Bethel (by request/invitation).

Holitna River Basin Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Reserve (HB #227)

- Executive Summary -

Introduction:

The Holitna River drainage is an extremely productive area in Western Alaska that has been a major contributor for providing a large diversity of subsistence and other harvest opportunity ever since statehood. It is the largest drainage feeding the Kuskokwim Watershed that is prime habitat for moose, bear, caribou and furbearers, along with being an important rearing & staging area for several species of migratory waterfowl. It is the largest contributor for all species of salmon (that includes a unique category of river spawning & rearing sockeye) within the Kuskokwim drainage - which accounts for approximately 50% of the total subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon for the entire state of Alaska combined. It is unique in the respect that its productive habitat encompasses a wide area, rather than being confined to a relatively narrow riparian corridor, as is more commonly found in the majority of other rivers throughout the region.

Although provided for in AS 16.05.251 & 255 giving the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries authority for "setting aside reserve areas, refuges and sanctuaries...subject to the approval of the legislature;" the only areas created to date under 16.020., Articles 1-5 are for refuges, sanctuaries, ranges & critical habitat areas. No "reserve" has ever yet been actually designated. In essence - a blank slate as to identifying the purpose and intent for what a "reserve" is... Though some limited active management programs are currently being conducted with the support of the present gubernatorial administration, with past history as any indication, these cannot be counted upon to continue into or through future administrations.

There are several areas within the state that may be noted as essential "Breadbasket Areas" which exemplify high quality habitat and productivity contributions to entire GMU sub-regions that could qualify for such an elevated level of management protections: Game Management Unit 20E, portions of GMU 13 or the Kenai Peninsula, the Koyukuk, Copper, Mulchatna or Noatak River drainages may be similarly considered in future to add to the Reserve concept being established here for the Holitna River basin.

Statement of Purpose/Intent:

To fulfill the stated management intent of the Kuskokwim Area Plan adopted by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources in March, 1988 that "The emphasis of state land management for the Holitna management unit is protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and support for continued subsistence, commercial and sport use of these resources." The Holitna River Basin Hunting and Trapping Reserve is hereby created pursuant to the State's Intensive Management law and Sustainable Fisheries Policy, with the explicit intent to fully implement and promote those concepts embodied in the State's established principles of development and conservation of its resources for maximum common use, benefit, enjoyment and welfare of the people; sustained yield for all those who are similarly situated with regard to the subject matter and purpose to be served of recognizing subsistence and consumptive use harvest as a priority; and in maintaining healthy and abundant fish and game population objectives important to providing established amounts necessary for identified population goals and harvest objectives that provide for high levels of human consumptive use.

Matthew Culley
BOG Meeting: 13 November 2009
Nome, Alaska

Comments:

Nome Area – Unit 22

6. As a trapper and hunter I've seen numerous harvested wolves during the proposed month to be closed. The fur quality of these animals has always been in excellent condition. The winters up here, and winter conditions make it very difficult to be active in the country during the Months of January thru mid March. April is the sometimes the only month when snow machine travel is possible for any attempted hunt of these animals.

I am not in favor of this proposal.

7. Again, as a trapper I'll comment from my experience. Wolverine are usually trapped via a conibear style trap, which can be set (and usually is) in an elevated condition so that snow conditions and storms rarely effect it's ability to remain active. These sets can be checked at convenience when weather conditions are safe. Also, I've noticed in the spring time is when wolverine run in pairs and would be most vulnerable to over harvest with the increased season. While the Seward Peninsula does seem to have a high population of wolverine, compared to other parts of the state, wolverine are still not in great abundance, and their reproduction is not that of rabbits. I believe that the current hunting and trapping seasons are adequate, and any furthering of the season will be detrimental to the sustainable wolverine populations.

I am not in favor of this proposal.

8. In my opinion it seems the majority of musk ox horn purchasers are knife makers, who in majority only want the boss of the horns for knife handles. While I agree there is value to the other parts of the horns, including the tips. I believe that many non-22 Unit hunters would abuse this change and just say "I left my horns." With the intentions of later retrieving their horns, and their "trophy". I like the addition of a mandatory destruction, for all subsistence harvested horns. Maybe not as massive as the new requirements, but still mandatory on all horns. Then there is no question, and no worries on when those horns leave the Unit.

I am not in favor of this proposal.

9. Seems like a means that benefits airplane pilots over other hunts.

I have no real opinion on this proposal.

10. I have no opinion on this proposal.

11. I have no opinion on this proposal.

12. I have no opinion on this proposal.

13. I absolutely agree with this proposal. Snow conditions make it almost impossible to hunt this unit on most years on the opening of the current season. The only means, typically, is the hunt the roadway and locate a bear close to the roads. The population in 22 C is high enough that quite a few hunters take bears each year in such a manner. By keeping the Unit to 1 bear per 4 regulatory years it will keep the hunters who harvest in 22C active in other Units in other years.

I agree with this proposal.

14. I have no opinion on this proposal.

15. I have no opinion on this proposal.

16. & 17. I strongly disagree with this proposal! I feel that there should never be any guarantee of Alaska's wildlife resource to any non-resident hunter. Never should a non-resident get preference over a Resident of Alaska and our resources. This proposal has a feel of a money grab from a guide looking at non-residents with deep pockets. The current system allows non-residents to apply, just like any current resident with the same chance of being drawn, yet limits them to a max of 10% of available tags to ensure the Residents of this Great State have a chance to harvest their resource. I believe that 10% is a more than generous number for one of the rarest trophies on the planet. If the non-residents feel it is not, Alaska is a big place, feel free to move on up and become a resident.

I strongly disagree with proposal 16 and 17!

RC 15

Matthew Culley
BOG Meeting: 13 November 2009
Nome, Alaska

Comments:

Nome Area – Unit 22

6. As a trapper and hunter I've seen numerous harvested wolves during the proposed month to be closed. The fur quality of these animals has always been in excellent condition. The winters up here, and winter conditions make it very difficult to be active in the country during the Months of January thru mid March. April is the sometimes the only month when snow machine travel is possible for any attempted hunt of these animals.

I am not in favor of this proposal.

7. Again, as a trapper I'll comment from my experience. Wolverine are usually trapped via a conibear style trap, which can be set (and usually is) in an elevated condition so that snow conditions and storms rarely effect it's ability to remain active. These sets can be checked at convenience when weather conditions are safe. Also, I've noticed in the spring time is when wolverine run in pairs and would be most vulnerable to over harvest with the increased season. While the Seward Peninsula does seem to have a high population of wolverine, compared to other parts of the state, wolverine are still not in great abundance, and their reproduction is not that of rabbits. I believe that the current hunting and trapping seasons are adequate, and any furthering of the season will be detrimental to the sustainable wolverine populations.

I am not in favor of this proposal.

8. In my opinion it seems the majority of musk ox horn purchasers are knife makers, who in majority only want the boss of the horns for knife handles. While I agree there is value to the other parts of the horns, including the tips. I believe that many non-22 Unit hunters would abuse this change and just say "I left my horns." With the intentions of later retrieving their horns, and their "trophy". I like the addition of a mandatory destruction, for all subsistence harvested horns. Maybe not as massive as the new requirements, but still mandatory on all horns. Then there is no question, and no worries on when those horns leave the Unit.

I am not in favor of this proposal.

9. Seems like a means that benefits airplane pilots over other hunts.

I have no real opinion on this proposal.

10. I have no opinion on this proposal.

11. I have no opinion on this proposal.

12. I have no opinion on this proposal.

13. I absolutely agree with this proposal. Snow conditions make it almost impossible to hunt this unit on most years on the opening of the current season. The only means, typically, is the hunt the roadway and locate a bear close to the roads. The population in 22 C is high enough that quite a few hunters take bears each year in such a manner. By keeping the Unit to 1 bear per 4 regulatory years it will keep the hunters who harvest in 22C active in other Units in other years.

I agree with this proposal.

14. I have no opinion on this proposal.

15. I have no opinion on this proposal.

16. & 17. I strongly disagree with this proposal! I feel that there should never be any guarantee of Alaska's wildlife resource to any non-resident hunter. Never should a non-resident get preference over a Resident of Alaska and our resources. This proposal has a feel of a money grab from a guide looking at non-residents with deep pockets. The current system allows non-residents to apply, just like any current resident with the same chance of being drawn, yet limits them to a max of 10% of available tags to ensure the Residents of this Great State have a chance to harvest their resource. I believe that 10% is a more than generous number for one of the rarest trophies on the planet. If the non-residents feel it is not, Alaska is a big place, feel free to move on up and become a resident.

I strongly disagree with proposal 16 and 17!

RC 16

**Lower Kuskowkim Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting
November 4, 2009, Bethel, AK**

Draft Minutes:

- Call to order at 1:09 p.m., by James Charles, chair.
- Present are James Charles, by phone; Daniel Waska, John Nicholas, Richard Larson, Zacharia Chaliak Sr, Jackson Williams, Mike Riley, David Alexei, Sr., and Jacob Black. A quorum is reached. Frank Berezkin is excused for travel. Peter Gregory is excused.
- Agenda is amended to allow for two reports from ADF&G Subsistence Division
- February 3, 2009 minutes are tabled; a draft version was not available at the meeting.

New Business

- **Elections**
 - A motion is made by Jacob Black and seconded by Chris Riley to elect John Nicholas, Daniel Waska, Richard Larson and James Charles to the advisory committee. Motion passes, 10-0.
- **Proposed New Board Cycle:**
 - Andrew deValpine, SW Region coordinator for ADFG Boards, informed the committee of the proposed changes to the Board of Game cycle..
- Lily Ray, ADF&G Subsistence division, reported on baseline studies to be undertaken in relation to the Donlin Creek mining project. She explained methodology and information to be gathered. (See Power Point handout).
- **Board of Game proposals**
 - Amy Marsh, ADFG subsistence division, presented data on Adequate Numbers for Subsistence (ANS) in combination with discussion of Proposal 35.
 - Proposal 35 is a request to the Board of Game to revise ANS. The AC can decide on a number, but the department does not make a recommendation.
 - Timothy Andrew, representing Association of Village Council Presidents, and speaking from the floor, said this issue has been

several years on the process, that the people need numbers – data – and that ADFG has not provided it. The Board cannot make blind decisions.

- Amy shows the number as 80-100 moose which, she says, is not a quota, but rather is an amount that would assure that a reasonable opportunity is provided. The Lower Yukon data are from household surveys in 1980. Specific data are limited and are 20 years old.
- However, there are recent numbers from some villages that show higher harvest numbers than the ANS targets – Emmonak harvested 25 moose in 1980 and 135 in 2008.
- There are no data for 27 communities. The Emmonak data are from the Bering Sea IERP baseline data project. Showed that 95 percent of the people in Emmonak are eating moose at 124.7 pounds per capita. Moose accounted for 24.1 percent of total subsistence harvest by weight.
- With this data, researchers can tell where moose is harvested and when.
- Phillip of ADFG says the information they get is as detailed as what is put on the moose ticket. If the hunter puts down he caught the moose on the coast, that's what is recorded. If he says what bend of the river, it is more precise and gets recorded that way. The department does not call hunters back for clarifying detail.
- John Nicholas commented that there is a lot of moose now, and there have been moose in his village (Kasigluk) and around the village. This year he saw one, but an airplane chased it away.
- Jackson moves to adopt proposal 35; John Nicholas seconds.
 - Discussion – Timothy Andrew says it doesn't sound as if the department will recommend numbers. Anybody can recommend numbers, but it has to be scientific or it won't hold water. If we recommend 1000 moose, sport hunters will sue. We've pushed for this since 2007. Somebody should've been moved to get numbers. Right now, it's totally arbitrary. The board could adopt whatever it wants and it may not be necessary, and we could sue. Then a judge decides, and tells Fish and Game to come up with a number, and it goes around and around. If the Board does not get a number that is defensible, it will defer again, sport hunters will come in and harvest more, and we will want

more too. I don't know what to do. There is no clear recommendation. We have limited information.

- Jacob – for that reason I propose we table it until we get accurate numbers for this year. So I don't want to pass this proposal.
- James – in Yup'ik]
- Jacob – in Yup'ik
- Zacharia – in Yup'ik.
- Tim proposes a recommendation
- Break called at 3:05 p.m.
- Called back to order at 3:20 p.m.
- Jackson -- Motion to amend the proposal and recommend a low of 360 moose and a high of 840. Jacob seconds.
- More discussion in Yup'ik – James, then Jackson, then James.
- Vote is 8-0 in favor of the amended proposal.
- **Proposal 1**, to modify resident season dates for moose in the Goodnews River drainage area –
 - James advises that the Regional Advisory Council supported this proposal.
 - Zacharia moves to adopt; second by Mike Reilly. Question called. Motion dcarreis, 8-0.
- **Proposal 2**, lengthen the season dates for resident moose hunting in Unit 18.
 - ADFG does not support the proposal.
 - Larson moves to adopt, seconded by Jackson.
 - Discussion in Yup'ik – James, Zacharia.
 - Jackson calls the question.
 - Vote is 8-0 in opposition – motion fails.
- **Proposal 3**, open a winter moose season for residents in Unit 18, Lower Kuskokwim.
 - Phillip explains this would be an additional season for what was the moratorium area. Department recommends not to adopt. There was a short season in the area and 109 moose were harvested. If opened, there may be more harvest that desired.
 - James – the RAC did not support this proposal
 - Jackson moves to adopt, seconded by Zacharia.
 - Vote – 8-0 opposed, motion fails.

- **Proposition 4**, change boundary for Kuskokwim area moose permit hunt.
 - Discussion: Zacharia moves to adopt; seconded by Daniel Waska.
 - Robert Sundown, USFWS Subsistence specialist, explains in Yup'ik the federal side.
 - John Nicholas – in Yup'ik.
 - Tim Andrew, re the Federal proposal, in Yup'ik.
 - James, Zacharia, James – in Yup'ik.
 - James – what if the LKAC adopts with an amendment to align dates with federal dates?
 - Patrick (ADFG) – The federal line would open more areas to hunting. If they amend and adopt, the federal season would be longer. It would also make the state and federal regulations the same – less confusing. The federal language liberates more area and lines up.
 - Motion made by Jackson to amend the proposal to align Proposal 4 with the federal proposal. Seconded by John Nicholas. Amendment passes, 8-0.
 -
- Proposition 5 -- James explains in Yup'ik, asks for a motion. Mike Reilly moves to adopt, seconded by Jackson.
 - Discussion: Question called – motion passes 8-0.
- Phillip Perry brings up another issue to consider for the January Board of Game meeting – changes in Units 18 and 19 boundaries. The proposal is submitted by Bob Aloysius. Suggests the LKAC may want to meet later by teleconference to discuss it. Comments are due in mid-January.
 - Discussion – Tim asks why the change, suggests it may cause confusion.
 - Phillip agrees that it may in the first year, but that long-term it may help.
 - Zacharia asks a question in Yup'ik.; James responds in Yup'ik. James gives explanation in Yup'ik.
- **Select representative for Nome Board of Game meeting**
 - Jackson moves that James Charles be chosen as representative. Seconded by Zachariah. Vote is 8-0 in favor.

- Jacob moves to select Jackson Williams as an alternate, in case of weather. Seconded by John Nicholas. Vote is 7-1 in favor, one abstention.

- **Comments from the AC members or public**

- No comments from AC
- Gabe Guest from Kasigluk: in Yup'ik, complained about the method for counting Moose.
- James explained that this had been talked about at the last AC meeting.
- John Nicholas spoke about airplanes chasing moose away from hunters and that he did not like it. He also said he (?) was fined for having a loaded rifle.
 - Phillip explained the fine was not for having a loaded rifle but likely was for another reason, perhaps for not having a plug, which was a restriction put in place for waterfowl season after Sept. 1.
 - Phillip said if the plane was a trooper plane it would be easily identifiable.
 - James translates.

- **Meeting adjourns at 5 p.m.**

RC17

**GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK
SUBSISTENCE RESOURCE COMMISSION
c/o 4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, AK. 99709
(907) 455-0631 or FAX (907) 455-0601**

ATTENTION: Scott Crass and/or Kristy Tibbles

Board Support Section, ADF&G:

The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission met in Fairbanks, Alaska on November 4/5, 2009 and took the positions indicated in the attached letter to the Board of Game. Please note that both the Chair—Pollock Simon, Sr., and Vice-Chair, Jack Reakoff, signed the position letters. There is a minor difference in language relating to SRC opposition to proposals 26-28; otherwise they are identical and all SRC positions are consistent.

Thank you,
David J. Krupa
Subsistence Program Manager
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
907-455-0631
907-455-0601 (fax)

Pollock Simon, Sr. (Chairperson), Jack Reakoff (Vice-Chairperson), Levi Cleveland, Taqulik Hepa, Tim Fickus, Rachel Riley, Chris Zwolinski, James Nageak, Louie Commack, and alternate Elmer Ward.

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PAGE 02/02

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To:907 968 2250

P.2/3

BC 17

**GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK
SUBSISTENCE RESOURCE COMMISSION**
c/o 4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, AK, 99709
(907) 466-0831 or FAX (907) 466-0801

November 10, 2009

Mr. Cliff Judkins, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

ADF&G Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Judkins:

The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) met in Fairbanks, Alaska, on November 4/5, 2009. The SRC took the following positions regarding proposals submitted to the Board of Game for the fall meeting in Nome, Alaska November 13-16, 2009:

Proposals 26-28; liberalize non-resident caribou bag limits in Unit 23,
SRC Vote: Oppose

Nonresident hunters typically attempt to harvest large bulls and their harvest has potential to skew healthy bull/cow ratios in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

Proposals 18, 29, & 33; changes to wolf hunting seasons and bag limits in Unit 23 (18), Unit 26A (29) Units 22, 23, 26A (33).

SRC Vote: Oppose


Justification: Current regulations are reflective of traditional hunting and trapping of wolves for the units included in the proposals.

Proposals 31 & 32; increase bag limit and lengthen subsistence season on brown bear in 26A.

SRC Vote: Support

Justification: Local communities are experiencing an increase in bear encounters in camps and town. Only certain local residents hunt bear and if the population is increasing, additional harvest opportunity should be available for subsistence.

Sincerely,



Pollock Simon Sr., Gates of the Arctic SRC Chair

FROM : REAKOFF

FAX NO. : 907 678 2007

Nov. 13 2009 09:52AM P2

RC 17

**GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK
SUBSISTENCE RESOURCE COMMISSION
c/o 4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, AK. 99709
(907) 455-0631 or FAX (907) 455-0601**

November 10, 2009

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Alaska Board of Game

■■■■■ ■■ ■■ ■
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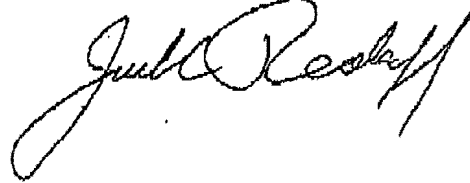
Nov. 13 2009 09:53AM P3

EC 17

Sincerely,

Pollock Simon Sr., Gates of the Arctic SRC Chair

Jack Reakoff, Gates SRC vice-chair



- Cc: Regional Advisory Councils:
- Southeast
- Southcentral
- Kodiak/Aleutians
- Bristol Bay
- Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
- Western Interior
- Seward Peninsula
- Northwest Arctic
- Eastern Interior
- North Slope

Sue Masica, Alaska Region NPS Director

All NPS Subsistence Resource Commissions

Pollock Simon, Sr. (Chairperson), Jack Reakoff (Vice-Chairperson), Lovi Cleveland, Taquik Hapa, Tim Fickus, Rachel Riley, Chris Zwolinski, James Nagesak, Louie Cammack, and alternate Ethar Ward.

12/18

Fall, 2009 Board of Game Meeting

Stony Holitna Advisory Committee, (SHAC) Comment on Proposal 35

SHAC does Not Support Proposal 35.

This proposal was originally written to revise the ANS for GMU 18 only, and it should stay that way.

SHAC included a "No Action" comment in Spring, 2008, and a "Support" comment in Spring, 2009, where it strongly recommended that the proposal be amended, "**so there was no reference to any GMU except GMU 18.**" SHAC comments for both meetings reflect strong concern for potential effects of this proposal on GMU 19. SHAC's concern was well founded, when one reads proposal 35.

GMU 19A&B are an Intensive Management Area, (IMA). Eastern 19A is Closed to moose hunting, and western 19A has a Tier II hunt. The IMA and present hunting regulations are in place because moose stocks are low. "Reasonable opportunity" does not exist and can't be provided.

Since there is no allowable harvest for moose in the Closed portion of 19A - there are no animals to allocate.

The western/downriver 19A Tier II hunt provides limited opportunity.

The ANS for GMU 19 should not be revised.

The real issue is not related to the subsistence statute, (AS 16.05.258 but to the IM Statute, **(AS 16.05.255(e), wherein "...to achieve human consumptive goals of the board" is mentioned.** This is where "what communities need" is addressed, as the ANS pertains to the board's responsibility to **"determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses", AS 16.05.258(b),** which does not represent what communities need, but of what is available, and how much should be allocated to subsistence uses.

It was proposal 7 at the Fall, 2007 BOG meeting, proposal 7 at the Spring, 2008 meeting, and proposal 230 at the Spring, 2009 meeting.

The wording within proposals 7 and 230 mentions that Unit 18 hunters also hunt in the neighboring Units of 17, 19, and 21E.

Now - as proposal 35, it recommends revision of the ANS for GMUs 18,19 and 21, though wording within the proposal is similar to the former 7s and 230.

Attached -

GMU 19 ANS Breakdown

Spring, 2008 RC 59 Western Regional F&G Advisory Council meeting Agenda
and comments

Spring, 2008 BOG SHAC comments

Spring, 2009 BOG SHAC comments

GMU 19 ANS Breakdown

The **Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)** for Unit 19 is 430-740 moose, including 30-40 in the LMVA, 175-225 in Unit 19(A), and 20-24 in Unit 19(B).

Although it is not in regulation, the ANS estimate for Unit 19(D-East) made during discussions of the McGrath wolf predation control program is 130- 150 moose.

If the ANS #s from subunits 19A,B,D(east)- are added up and subtracted from the total GMU 19 ANS - it leaves 75-301 moose necessary for subsistence opportunity in Units 19(C) and Unit 19(D) Remainder. These are largely inaccessible areas.

These current ANS numbers mean that at the current 3% harvestable surplus rate, we would need a minimum of 6500 moose in Units 19A and 19B combined, to accommodate a hunt other than a tier II hunt.

Current ANS #s were set at Spring, 2006 BOG Meeting (LVMA is the Lime Village Management Area)

ANS for GMU 19 is 430-740 moose

- 19A 175-225
- LVMA 30-40
- 19B 20-24
- 19D (East) 130-150 (not in regulations)
- 19C & 19D (remainder) 75-301

Since there is no allowable harvest in the Closure area – there are no animals to allocate. The ANS can't be revised in GMU 19A.

The real issue of concern is not related to the subsistence statute (AS 16.05.258), but the Intensive Management statute (AS 16.05.255(e)) **wherein"... to achieve human consumptive use goals of the board" is mentioned.**

This is where "what communities need" is addressed, as the ANS pertains to the board's responsibility to **"determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses", AS 16.05.258(b)**, which does not represent what communities need, but of what is available, how much should be allocated to subsistence uses.

RC-19

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SUSTINENCE RESOURCE COMMISSION
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(907) 456-0601 or FAX (907) 456-0601**

November 10, 2009

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Sincerely,



Pollock Simon Sr., Gates of the Arctic SRC Chair

RC 19

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RC 19

Sincerely,

Pollock Simon Sr., Gates of the Arctic SRC Chair

Jack Reakoff, Gates SRC vice-chair



Cc: Regional Advisory Councils:

- Southeast
- Southcentral
- Kodiak/Aleutians
- Bristol Bay
- Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
- Western Interior
- Seward Peninsula
- Northwest Arctic
- Eastern Interior
- North Slope

Sue Masica, Alaska Region NPS Director

All NPS Subsistence Resource Commissions

Pollock Simon, Sr. (Chairperson), Jack Reakoff (Vice-Chairperson), Levi Cleveland, Taquik Hepa, Tim Fickus, Rachel Riley, Chris Zwolinski, James Nageak, Louie Comnack, and alternate Ermer Ward.

RC - 20

Fairbanks AC Comments on Proposals for the Nov. 13-16 Board of Game Meeting

These comments were provided to the FAC by the Game Sub-Committee, reviewed electronically and then discussed at the regular AC meeting on November 11, 2009. There were 14 (fourteen) members present. The vote on these recommendations was 13 (In favor), 0 (Opposed), 0 (Abstained), 2 (Absent).

All of these comments were supported unanimously by the Sub-Committee.

- Proposal #4 This change represents an increase in opportunity to harvest and we urge the Board to SUPPORT.
- Proposal #5 Same comment as for #4 (SUPPORT)
- Proposal #6 The FAC supports predator – prey biologically driven decisions by the Board. There is absolutely no biological reason for making a change based on “what it used to be”. We urge the Board to OPPOSE this proposal.
- Proposal#8 The FAC does not support the concept of antler destruction for management purposes. Especially in drawing hunts, the antlers, horns, and other “trophy” parts should belong to the hunter to do with as he/she sees fit. If antler destruction from animals taken in registration hunts where the main use of the animal is for food has some well defined biological basis, the Board could consider it. We urge the Board to amend this proposal to include the difference between drawing hunts and other hunts. No Recommendation on the specific proposal.
- Proposal#9 The FAC does not see the need to amend the Unit 22 caribou harvest to include Same Day Airborne. We urge the Board to OPPOSE.
- Proposal#10 Call it global cooling or whatever, the Spring weather has hindered the harvest of brown bear in 22A for several years. We urge the Board to SUPPORT the change in season to end on June 15.
- Proposal#13 Comment same as for 22A, we urge the Board to SUPPORT the change in 22C to make the season May 1 to May 31.
- Proposal#16 The FAC wants the maximum number of animals to be harvested. Replacing “up to” with “shall” takes away the flexibility to assign permits if there are not enough applicants in a particular category of hunters. We urge the Board to OPPOSE this change.
- Proposal#17 Similar to #16, there is little benefit to Alaskan hunters to increase the number of permits for non-residents. We believe that there are a sufficient number of Alaskan hunters interested at this time. We urge the Board to OPPOSE this change.
- Proposal#18 All of the statistics quoted do not support a biological advantage in changing the season and bag limit. We urge the Board to OPPOSE these changes.

- Proposal#19 Past history with hunter/pilot orientations has been non effective and energy intensive and seldom had the desired results. We urge the Board to OPPOSE adding this new condition.
- Proposal#21 The need to separate hunters by access type in the Noatak drainage has never been supported by a conservation or biological concern. The Board should repeal the Noatak CUA. We OPPOSE extending the "separate" seasons.
- Proposa#23 The dates and timing of legislative actions have no effect on the health and condition of brown bear populations. The concept that "we used to do it that way" is not a reason to change. We urge the Board to OPPOSE these changes.
- Proposal#27 In other areas with high caribou populations, non-residents have had a 2 (two) caribou bag limit. We OPPOSE any bag limit higher than 2.
- Proposal#29 There is no evidence that the present season is "excessively long" as stated by the proposer. Lacking any conservation concern or biological reason, we urge the Board to OPPOSE this change.
- Proposal#30 The FAC urges the Board to SUPPORT the changes in sub-unit seasons adding 26A-C for harvest of mink by trappers.
- Proposal#33 The FAC urges the Board to OPPOSE the change in season for wolf trapping. There is no species conservation concern or biological reason for the change. The longer season provides more opportunity. Recall, all trapping is a subsistence activity.
- Proposal#34 This proposal is not needed and especially in the GMU's listed by the proposal. The nearly unlimited bag limit (so many caribou per day) means that no local hunter could ever go without food because of the requirement to bring meat in from the field. The precedent for moose and caribou in GMU's with "one" as a bag limit has never resulted in a hunter being allowed to leave an animal in the field OR to get another harvest tag. We urge the Board to OPPOSE this change. (The full AC did Vote on this proposal. The vote was 0 in favor, 12 Opposed, 0 abstaining, 3 absent.)
- Proposal#35 The FAC does not oppose the Board considering new ANS for moose as requested by this proposal. We do feel, however, that the proposal should indicate whether an increase or decrease is "proposed". We have NO RECOMMENDATION for the Board and will wait to review the findings from the Subsistence Division. We note that the ANS from the Federal Subsistence Board are not shown in the proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments as an RC for the BOG meeting.

Prep. By: M. Tinker, Chair, Game-Subcommittee

RCZ

Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee
October 23, 2009, 7 – 10 PM, MTA Building, Palmer
Meeting Minutes

- 7:00 PM: Call meeting to order
- Roll Call: quorum present (at least 8 members)?

Ken	Barber	present
Brian	Campbell	present
Mark	Chryson (secretary)	excused
Andy	Couch	present
Stephen	Darilek (vice-chair)	excused
Bennett	Durgeloh	present
Gerrit	Dykstra	present
Bill	Folsom	present
Melvin	Grove	present
Glen	Holt	present
Rob	Kuchenoff	excused
John	Otcheck	excused
Max	Sager	present
Guiseppe	Rossi	present
Tony	Russ (chair)	present
Ken	Federico	present
Troy	Vincent	present

A quorum is present for the meeting to continue.

Howard Delo (BOF)
Ben Mullagen (Stoltz aide)

Two Fish & Game Troopers
Sgt. Massey -Rod Arno (AOC)
and
Fred Burk

BOG Cycle A. Work on Proposals to send in every 4 years. The Proposal deadline is Nov. 6, 2009 on Statewide Proposals. Another deadline is January 15, 2010.

Next Meeting is Wednesday, November 4th....the November 25h,... then December 9th, 16th, and 23rd.... The A cycle proposals will be out by then for review.

Brian Campbell will schedule the Wasilla High School auditorium Wednesday, January 13, 2010 as the tentative date for elections (7pm to 10pm).

We need a list of who is up for election and their term ends. Tony will send that to us.

Howard Delo, BOF, emphasized that proposal deadlines for upper cook inlet proposals are due by April 9th, 2010. The BOF for the Upper Cook Inlet fishery meeting is scheduled for March 2011, in Anchorage.

See proposals 170, 171 & 172 - Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. The BOF decided that now might be a good time to make changes to the sustainable Salmon Fisheries policy. The BOF is NOT interested in a total rewrite. Delo commented that a "tweaking of the escapement goals and thresholds" is hoped for and anticipated.

Howard Delo is the chair of the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Committee. The Committee wants clearly worded concerns.

...There was talk about who and when fish *escapement* prediction and regulations will be instituted. *We are given to understand that there should be No allocations made out of cycle, however...the Yentna River sockeye was an out of cycle change allocated fish to the Central Cook Inlet Coastal District by the Dept. (in favor of commercial fishing)....The AC's need to become quite active.*

...The BOF can write Regulations but they can't tell the Dept. how to spend their funds.

SGT. Massey commented that doesn't always work. The DA often lowers set fines @ trial by the JUDGE in court.

...The AC should pressure the court to uphold F&G laws and fines....Specific to spikes only moose Massey suggested that a legal spike should be a 3".

The BOF mood is if you submit a proposal w/good biological data to support it the BOF will fairly support it.

We talked about the Little Susitna River horse power restrictions, and about the DEC study the last two years to determine water quality, erosion, safety, pollution of the water etc.

The AOC & Fairbanks AC proposals to open up the Dalton Highway Corridor to additional recreational uses. Some of the suggestions were increased use and opportunity for snowmobiles and rifle hunts.

Alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org Rod Arno suggested that we might like to take up golf since there is likely to be more and more access closure on Federal lands restricting our ability to hunt and fish all in the face of increased local use and demand for fish & game resources. (GOLF???)

Andy Coach: Fisheries Update

Yentna Sockeye situation. Some talk about an emergency petition. The chance to "Spell out what the Dept. has done and what the BOF & Dept. have done and what BOF has been directed F&G to do."

The Deshka River.....

The Deshka has a Biological Escapement *Goal (BEG)* set for it, one of the very few in the Mat-Su where one is known. The low BE is 13,000 for the Deshka. Andy says when we get 30K up it we don't harvest those fish. Last summer 12K went up while the river was close to King fishing. If the escapement was met it was at the lowest acceptable level. Suggestion discussed to lower the BE may be to 9,000 for the Deshka.

Glen was in favor of creating BE goals for more of the smaller creek and river systems, not for decreasing the larger BE goal for our most (so far) prolific system. All the sport fishing pressure was on the other much smaller King salmon systems because the Deshka was closed.

Talked about moving the Little Susitna Weir down stream. The Dept. *should move the weir downstream if there is to be any* in season management on the system.

The Mat-Su Borough has (had) a study using the Sport Fish Study to crunch numbers on the economics. MSB study claims the economic value of our sport fishing is worth \$30 Million which is apparently more than the commercial value of those fish. 3% of the sockeye salmon are harvested by non-commercial users.

Andy is interested in F&G establishing a late season coho salmon run to provide additional economic value in the Valley. Use could be made of one race-way at the Eklutna hatchery. Value for sport fishing, guides, subsistence, resource diversity, opportunity other things also mention. AC seemed very interested in this idea.

Sgt. Massey believes thjat the CIRI/Tyonkek Power Plant using gas is going to have an additional impact on existing F&G populations by opening up more area to use for those resources.

November 18th & 19th is the Salmon Symposium registration by Nov. 1 at the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Bldg. in Wasilla, call 276-3133 RSVP.

Some talk of hydro development on creeks that are tributary to the Kenai & Skilak lakes.

Bill Folsom is interested in charging additional tag fees up to 1/2 cost fee to hunt special seasons or special hunts for muzzle loaders, archery etc. as a way to generate revenue for Wildlife Programs and enhancement. A letter to the "Outdoor Heritage Caucus" (?) through this org to initiate this kind of proposal to create a bill for the legislature to urge new fees for special hunts etc. for additional enhancement monies. Bill will write a

proposal to initiate additional licenses and tags at half-fee for special hunts and or seasons.

There was some talk of the boondoggle that low income licensing is creating and how the fish & game programs are being ripped off by misuse of the program. A discussion was had about how to tighten up on the way the program is administered.

Talk about abuse of online permits, registration permits, duplicate permits, color of permits, enforcement and tracking issues etc. Abuse of the system in obtaining too many permits.

Proposal was made: Send a letter to DNR in support of the Maud Rd. Shooting Range. Andy > Joseppi. (13-0 yes) in favor motioned carried.

Proposal 34: Health of animal in the field. Motion to vote on the proposal. Bill > Kenny second. (0-12-1) Motion to approve the proposal was defeated. ...it shouldn't be up to the person in the field to determine the health of an animal after it is killed... ...be more careful... ...if you shoot it that means you thought it was healthy enough to take...

Proposals 6, 18, 29, 33 (lump)
Shorten the wolf season in GMU 22, in GMU 23, in GMU 26A, and wolf trapping seasons in GMU 22, 23, 26A. Motion to approve: Bennet > Kenny second. (0-13-0)
Motion to approve the proposal was defeated. Leave the wolf seasons here alone.

Proposals 15 & 23 Brown bear season modification. Motion to approve the proposal was defeated. Leave the brown bear seasons the way they are. Andy > Kenny second (0-13-0) against.

Proposal 31 to approve increase in bag limit of subsistence brown bear hunting in GMU 26A to 2 bears.
Proposal was mixed (barely denied) (4-5-4) Bill > Andy second. 4 in favor, 5 opposed and 4 abstained.
We don't know all the details of this proposal....

Proposal 25, 26, 27, 28. Proposal to increase caribou harvest limit for non-residents. Andy > Kenny second. Motion was denied (0-13-0) Voted against it...due to waste of meat and shameless trophy shooting.

Proposal 7. Proposed to extend hunting and trapping wolverine in GMU 22 D & E. Kenny > Gerrit second. Proposal was approved (12-0-1).

Proposal 13. to lengthen the Brown Bear season and bag limit in 22C was approved (13-0-0)
Troy V. > Kenny B. seconded.

Taken by Glen Holt, Scribe

**INDEX OF ON-TIME ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC COMMENT
BOARD OF GAME
NOVEMBER 13-16, 2009, NOME, AK**

This index of on-time advisory committee and public commits shows either SUPPORT or OPPOSITION for the individual proposals at this meeting. The center column indicates a comment was made but without a clear indication of support or opposition. The reference number (ACxx or PCxx) refers to the Advisory Committee comment number or Public Comment number. The full comment as submitted can be found in the Advisory Committee tab or Public Comment tab of the board book (Record Copy 1). The notation of "S/A" indicates support as amended.

Prop. #	Proposal description	FAVOR	COMMENT	OPPOSE
1	Modify the resident season dates for moose in the Goodnews River drainage area.	USFWS w/AM PC 2 USFWS Office of Subsistence Management w/AM PC 4 Native Village of Goodnews Bay Traditional Village Council PC 8	Lower Yukon AC 2	
2	Lengthen the season dates for resident moose hunting in Unit 18.		Lower Yukon AC 2 USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4	USFWS PC 2
3	Open a winter moose season for residents in Unit 18, the Lower Yukon area.		Lower Yukon AC 2 USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4	USFWS PC 2
4	Change boundary for the Kuskokwim area moose permit hunt.	Lower Yukon AC 2 USFWS PC 2	USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4	
5	Change the boundary and extend season for moose hunting in the Lower Yukon area.	Lower Yukon AC 2 USFWS PC 2	USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4	
6	Shorten the hunting season and reduce the bag limit for wolf in Unit 22.	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 1		Kenai Soldotna AC 1 Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association PC 3 Larry Dalrymple PC 7 Brian Simpson PC 9

Prop. #	Proposal description	FAVOR	COMMENT	OPPOSE
7	Extend the wolverine hunting and trapping seasons for in 22.	Brian Simpson PC 9		
8	Modify the trophy destruction requirement for musk ox in Unit 22.			Kenai Soldotna AC 1 Larry Dalrymple PC 7
9	Modify the same day airborne restrictions for taking caribou in Unit 22.			Larry Dalrymple PC 7 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 11
10	Lengthen the brown bear season in Unit 22A.	Larry Dalrymple PC 7 Brian Simpson PC 9		
11	Implement guide client requirements for moose permit hunts in Unit 22B.	Brian Simpson PC 9		
12	Modify the resident moose permit hunt in Unit 22B.	Native Village of White Mountain PC 13		
13	Lengthen the resident and nonresident hunting season for brown bear in Unit 22C.	Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association PC 3 Brian Simpson PC 9		
14	Modify the hunting season for caribou bulls and cows in Unit 22D remainder.			Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association PC 3

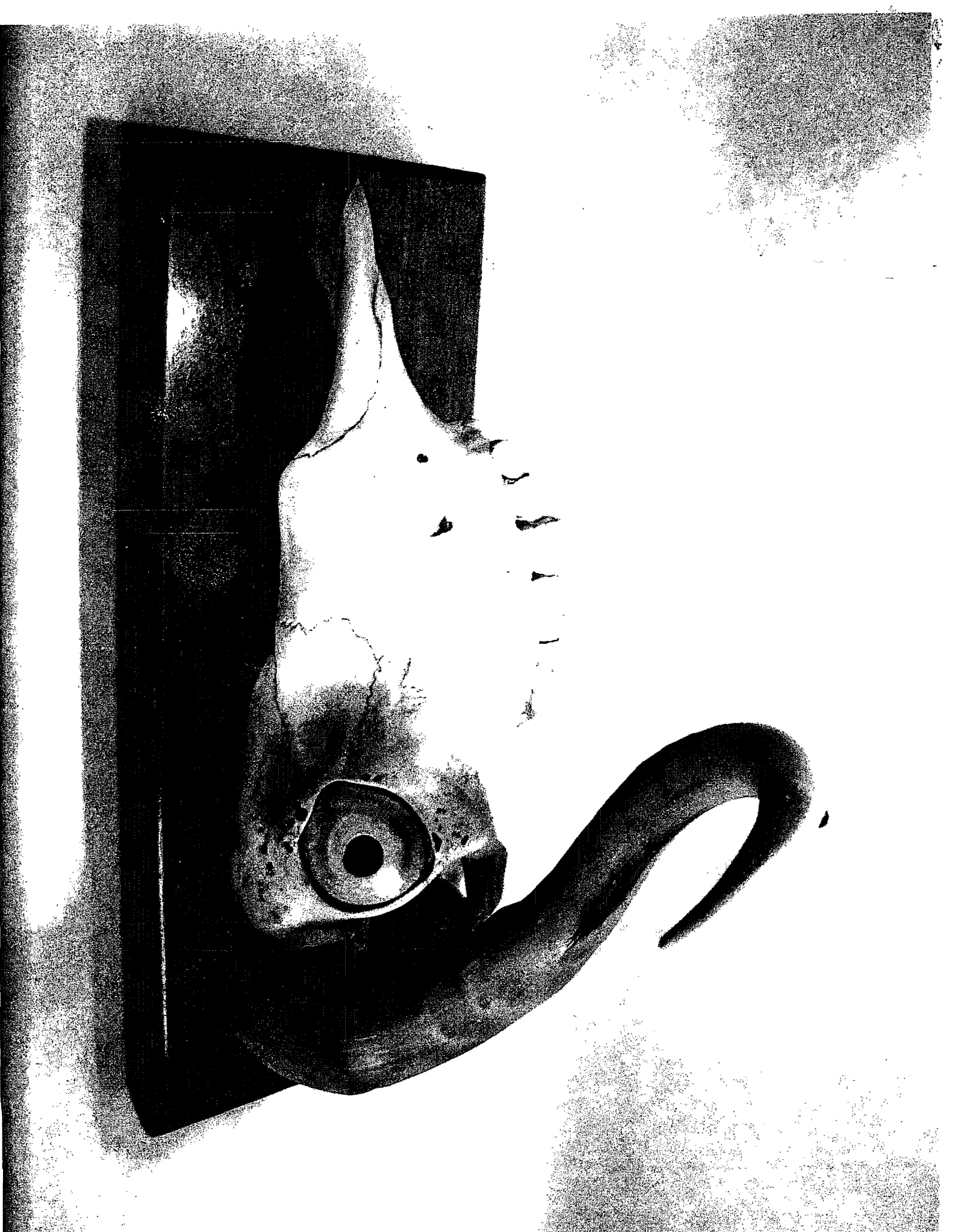
Prop. #	Proposal description	FAVOR	COMMENT	OPPOSE
15	Modify the season dates and bag limit for brown bear in the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve in Unit 22E.	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 1 National Wildlife Federation PC 5		Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association PC 3 Larry Dalrymple PC 7 Brian Simpson PC 9
16	Modify the nonresident permit allocation for musk ox in Unit 22E.	Brian Simpson PC 9		
17	Modify the nonresident permit allocation for musk ox in Unit 22E.	Brian Simpson PC 9		
18	Shorten the hunting season and reduce the bag limit for wolf in Unit 23.	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 1		Larry Dalrymple PC 7
19	Implement a mandatory orientation requirement for pilots who transport hunters or game in Unit 23.			Larry Dalrymple PC 7
20	Lengthen the wolf hunting season in Unit 23.			
21	Lengthen the aircraft closure period for the Noatak Controlled Use area.		USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4	Larry Dalrymple PC 7
22	Lengthen the aircraft closure period for the Noatak Controlled Use Area.	USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4		Larry Dalrymple PC 7

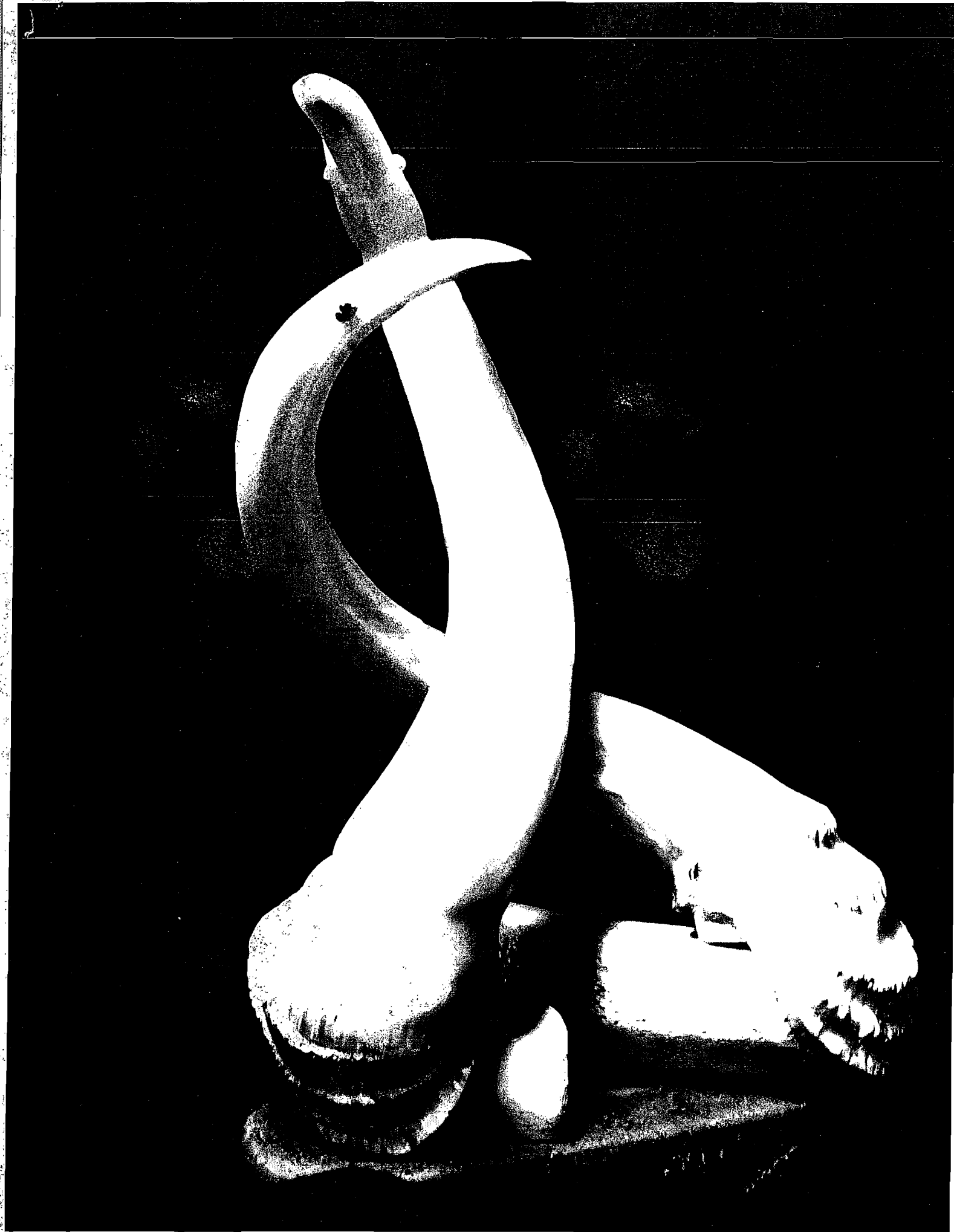
Prop. #	Proposal description	FAVOR	COMMENT	OPPOSE
23	Modify the season dates and bag limit for brown bear in the Noatak National Preserve in Unit 23.	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 1 National Wildlife Federation PC 5		Larry Dalrymple PC 7
24	Lengthen the nonresident brown bear season in Unit 23.			
25	Increase the nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 23.	Kenai Soldotna AC 1 National Rifle Association PC 6	USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4	
26	Increase the nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 23.	National Rifle Association PC 6	USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4	
27	Increase the nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 23.	National Rifle Association PC 6		Larry Dalrymple PC 7
28	Increase the nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 23	National Rifle Association PC 6	USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4	Larry Dalrymple PC 7
29	Shorten the hunting season for wolf in Unit 26A.	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 1		Kenai Soldotna AC 1 Larry Dalrymple PC 7
30	Extend mink and weasel trapping season in Unit 26A.			
31	Increase the bag limit for subsistence brown bear hunting in Unit 26A.			

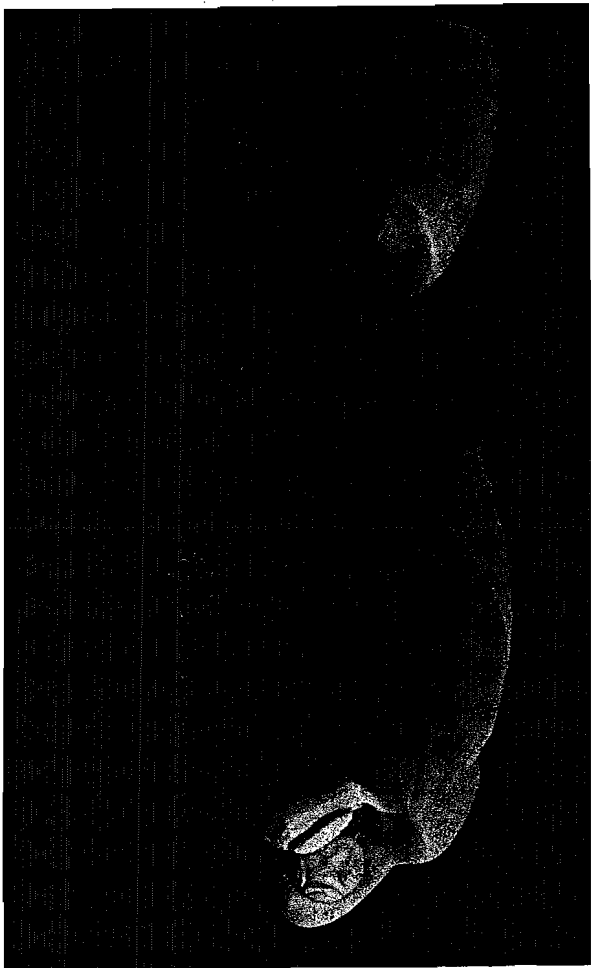
Prop. #	Proposal description	FAVOR	COMMENT	OPPOSE
32	Provide a year long season for subsistence brown bear hunting season in Unit 26A.			
33	Shorten the trapping season for wolf in Units 22, 23, and 26A.	Alaska Wildlife Alliance PC 1		Kenai Soldotna AC 1 Brian Simpson PC 9
34	Modify the definition of edible meat under the salvage requirement for Units 23 and 26A.	Mary Malcolm PC 12		Kenai Soldotna AC 1 Larry Dalrymple PC 7 Allen Avinger PC 10 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers PC 11
35	Revise the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for moose in Units 18, 19 and 21.	Lower Yukon AC 2	USFWS Office of Subsistence Management PC 4	

RC 23











State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

RC24

Sean Parnell, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

October 5, 2009

Chairman Judkins
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau Ak, 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

The following comments give a brief description of the position that the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers has on the proposals that are up for consideration at the fall 2009, Alaska Board of Game meeting in Nome.

In general, when the board considers seasons and or bag limit changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request that every effort possible be made to align the season dates and bag limits with adjacent game management units and/or sub units. This is mainly due to enforceability of multiple seasons in multiple locations as well as consistency of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals having to do with allocation or biological concerns, AWT is generally neutral in position.

AWT recognizes that regulations are developed by the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game through the public process to support management plans. Further, all management plans rely upon public compliance with regulations to achieve success. Enforcement is a crucial element needed to ensure long-term compliance with regulations by the public. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers request the board recognize that the division has limited resources and man power and any new regulation scheme or area restrictions may place an additional burden on AWT.

Comments on specific proposals AWT favors or opposes are included in this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time.

Bernard Chastain

Lieutenant, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Anchorage Headquarters

Proposal Analysis-

1. Proposals #4 and #5: Support

Alaska Wildlife Troopers support Proposals #4 and #5. These proposals seek to eliminate the confusion for hunters and law enforcement when attempting to determine the boundaries of the Kuskokwim hunt area. This proposal will clarify hunt boundaries. AWT supports regulations that make it easier for hunters to determine their hunt areas. AWT also supports proposals that make regulations clear and easy to understand, which in turn makes enforcement easier.

2. Proposal #9: Neutral

Alaska Wildlife Troopers are neutral on proposal #9. Proposal #9 seeks to open same day Caribou hunting in GMU 22.

3. Proposal#13: Support

Alaska Wildlife Troopers favor proposal #13 which seeks to align seasons for Brown Bear in GMU 22. This proposal will align GMU's 22B, 22C, 22D and 22D southwest. This will assist in enforcement of the brown bear season by having a season that ends on the same dates in adjoining GMU's.

4. Proposal #30: Support

Alaska Wildlife Troopers support Proposal #30 which seeks to align Trapping seasons for mink and weasel in GMU 26A with GMU's 22 and 23. This proposal will align seasons with adjoining GMU 23

5. Proposal #34: Oppose

Alaska Wildlife Troopers oppose proposal #34 which seeks to modify the definition of edible meat so that it does not include meat that has been made inedible because of diseases in the animal. Alaska Statute 16.30.010 speaks to wanton waste of big game animals. This statute states in part that:

“It is a Class A Misdemeanor for a person who kills a big game animal or a species of wild fowl to fail intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence to salvage for human consumption the edible meat of the animal or fowl”.

Wanton waste is arguably the most egregious and morally unethical hunting crime. If this proposal is passed to change the definition of edible meat, it will make wanton waste and fail to salvage statutes and regulations nearly unenforceable. This modified regulation, while written to only apply to GMU's 23 and 26A, will possibly apply to all hunters statewide; effectively making legal, leaving any animal the hunter does not want to salvage to rot in the field. A

Office of the Director

5700 East Tudor Road - Anchorage, Alaska 99507 - Voice (907) 269-5641 - Facsimile (907) 337-2059

possible legal defense of someone leaving game meat in the field anywhere in the state would be that hunters in other parts of the state can legally leave "diseased" meat. This will create an obvious double standard and leave a regulation loophole to be abused. Hunters will be left to decide for themselves when they have a diseased animal and how much, if any, they want to salvage. Who will decide when the animal is diseased? Hunters will have a different opinion on when an animal is considered diseased or not. Enforcement will be unable to return to each kill site to take meat samples and determine if the animal was diseased or not. Alaska Wildlife Troopers will lose the necessary tools needed to successfully prosecute criminals who leave meat in the field. Current state regulations require hunters to salvage meat from the field for human consumption. Any deviation from this requirement will support waste of game meat. AWT strongly opposes proposal #34.

Office of the Director

5700 East Tudor Road - Anchorage, Alaska 99507 - Voice (907) 269-5641 - Facsimile (907) 337-2059

RC 25

380 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907)452-6047
October 8, 2009

RECEIVED
OCT 13 2009
BOARDS

Dear Mr. Chairman Cliff Judkins:

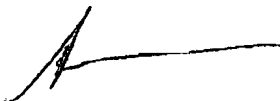
I would ask you to review the two legislative proposals I have enclosed to you concerning the James Dalton Highway Corridor.

I have proposed these amendments to our interior delegation for sponsorship. I have had great responses to these amendments from them. Also Representative Mike Kelly is willing to be the sponsor. The question was raised. What dose the Board of Game think of these amendments?, So I am formally asking that these two legislative amendments be on the November B.O.G. agenda. I would hope I could get a letter of support to present to the legislature this coming January.

I write this letter as an individual, only because our Fairbanks A.C. Which I am a member of does not meet till 21 October. You and The Board meet in November and I am confident our A.C. is in favor of this action. I will have the official vote after our first meeting for you. Also I will be presenting these amendments to other A.C. for support as well as the A.O.A.C. The Alaska Professional Bowhunters Ass. S.F.W. etc.

Please contact me if you have any question, or would like to have me at the November B.O.G. meeting.

Sincerely yours,



Allen F Barrette

Draft Proposal

Amendment to 19.40.210 (3)

Sec. 19.40.210. Prohibition of off-road vehicles.

Off-road vehicles are prohibited on land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway. However, this prohibition does not apply to

- (1) off-road vehicles necessary for oil and gas exploration, development, production, or transportation;
- (2) a person who holds a mining claim in the vicinity of the highway and who must use land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway to gain access to the mining claim; or
- (3) the use of a snow machine to travel across the highway corridor from land outside the corridor to access land outside the other side of the corridor; this paragraph does not permit the use of a snow machine for any purpose within the corridor if the use begins or ends within the corridor or within the right-of-way of the highway or if the use is for travel within the corridor that is parallel to the right-of-way of the highway; in this paragraph, "highway corridor" means land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway.

Amend (3) to: The use of a snow machine with in the 5 mile right of way of the highway is permitted from 1 Oct. To 31April

REASONS

First and foremost

***The Constitution of the State of Alaska Article 8 chapter2
The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.**

***Also 19.40.010 5(b) It is the sense of the legislature that the construction of the highway will not impair the natural wilderness adjacent to the highway and will not unreasonably interfere with subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering.**

This language says the highway should not unreasonable interfere with subsistence. But it dose clearly. By not allowing the use of snow machines that start or end with in the 5 mile corridor Trapping is subsistence in all areas that are subsistence areas. Not to have the use of a snow

machine is unreasonable and interferes with this active.

***Also 19.40.010(4) makes clear (4) it will benefit local and interstate commerce because the area north of the Yukon River is rich in natural resources but is inaccessible at the present time because of the lack of roads and this inaccessibility prohibits the successful use of the natural resources of this area.**

*** That the road should benefit the successful use of it's natural resources. Not only oil, gas, and mineral but also wildlife.**

Sec. 19.40.210. Prohibition of off-road vehicles.(3) the use of a snow machine to travel across the highway corridor from land outside the corridor to access land outside the other side of the corridor; this paragraph does not permit the use of a snow machine for any purpose within the corridor if the use begins or ends within the corridor or within the right-of-way of the highway or if the use is for travel within the corridor that is parallel to the right-of-way of the highway; in this paragraph, "highway corridor" means land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway

(There are approximately 663 year round residents in or near the 5 mile corridor. U.S. Census)

*** We believe in reviewing AS19.40 The James Dalton Hwy.. That the 29 year old statue should be reviewed and amended. The statue served a very viable purpose for many years. Mainly to protect the big game populations, and to limit the unnecessary traffic. As the highway was being build and the infrastructure was put in place.**

Now that we have record numbers caribou, very heathy harvestable populations of other big and small game and fur bearers . The highway is maintained year round. The pipeline is completely finished. Lets have the fore sight for the next 30years, and update this statue.

***All the local residents that resided with in the 5 mile corridor that leave their property to lets say to trap with a snow machine are in violation of the current statue. Also any persons that wish to maintain a trap line, or those who would like to access the many of the lakes that are in or out of the 5 mile corridor with a snow machine are in violation of AS19.40.210.**

***Give The Division Wildlife Conservation, and The Board of Game, another management tool.**

***Apparently we have law that say you may not use a snow machine if you start or end your travels in the 5 mile corridor. But if you do. A cation may be issued, but there is no penalty (Side note: A State Trooper in the recent past. Has enforced this statue. To all those reside outside the local area. But chose to turn a blind eye to those local resident doing the same thing**

CLOSING COMMENTS

We believe as the State has matured. So should this statue. We have a very competent Department of Transportation. Our Department Fish &Game is competent. All fur bearers have

customary and traditional findings. Making trapping a subsistence activity. Snow machines have been the traditional mode of transportation long before the James Dalton Hwy. was conceived. We would hope that the legislators would not keep a law in the books that is not enforced, or enforced discriminatorily. Has no penalty if enforced Just as AS19.40 The James Dalton Hwy. was justified using The Constitution of the State of Alaska Article 8 chapter 2. It applies even more so today as access is a very important issue in the State. We would hope the approx. 663 local residents and the 1011 (average) yearly total hunters for the area is not being interpreted "for maximum benefit for it's people

DRAFT PROPOSAL

Sec. 16.05.789. Prohibition on hunting adjacent to highway between Yukon River and Arctic Ocean.

(a) Hunting with firearms is prohibited north of the Yukon River in the area within five miles on either side of the highway between the Yukon River and the Arctic Ocean.

(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Change Statute to say:

Sec. 16.05.789. Prohibition on hunting adjacent to highway between Yukon River and Arctic Ocean.

A) Hunting with a firearm is prohibited for big game north of Cold Foot in the area within five miles on either side of the highway to the Arctic Ocean.

(B) Except hunting with a firearm is prohibited for big game north of Cold Foot to the Arctic Ocean from 1 October to 31 March with in 1/4 mile on either side Highway Right of Way.

C) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor..

REASON FOR THE CHANGE

The Constitution of the State of Alaska

***Article 8 - Natural Resources**

§ 1. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.

§ 2. General Authority

The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.

§ 3. Common Use

Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use.

§ 4. Sustained Yield

Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

* The Central Arctic Caribou Herd is under Intensive management

***5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations**

For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255 (e) - (g), the Board of Game (board) will

(1) consider the following criteria when identifying big game prey populations that are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use:

(A) harvest size: the average annual historic human harvest meets or exceeds values as follows:

(i) caribou: 100;

(ii) deer: 500;

(iii) moose: 100;

(B) accessibility to harvest;

(C) utilization for meat: a population that is used primarily for food; and

(D) level of hunter demand: as reflected by total hunter effort, number of applications for permits, or other indicators;

(2) consider the following criteria when establishing population objectives and harvest objectives for each identified big game prey population consistent with maintaining near maximum sustainable yield from the population:

(A) effects of weather, habitat capability, diseases, and parasites;

(B) maintenance of viable predator populations;

(C) maintenance of habitat conditions suitable for other species in the area;

(D) effects on subsistence users;

(E) cost, feasibility, and potential effectiveness of possible management actions;

(F) land ownership patterns within the range of the population;

(G) accessibility to harvest; and

(H) other factors considered relevant by the board;

(3) find that depletion of a big game prey population or reduction of the productivity of a big game prey population has occurred when

(A) the number of animals, estimated by the department, that can be removed by human harvest from a population, or portion of a population, on an annual basis without reducing the population below the population objective, preventing growth of the population toward the population objective at a rate set by the board, or altering a composition of the population in a biologically unacceptable manner is less than the harvest objective for the population; and

(B) the population size is less than the population objective for the population;

(4) determine whether a finding made under (3) of this section may result in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population;

(5) not consider as significant:

(A) any reduction in taking that continues to allow a level of harvest equal to or greater than the minimum harvest objective established by the board; or

(B) any reduction in taking that is intended or expected to be of a short-term and temporary nature and is necessary for the conservation of the population;

(6) utilize active management of habitat and predation as the major tools to reverse any significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population.

*

*** 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives**

For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255 (e) - (g), the Board of Game has made the following findings on whether the listed big game prey populations, or portions of those populations, are identified as important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use, and has established the following population and harvest objectives:

	Finding	Population	Harvest
Central Arctic	Positive	28,000 - 32,000	1,400 - 1,600

*As you can see from the above regulations the C.A.C.H. are under Intensive Management. We are in very unique situation were as we have a surplus of harvestable caribou. We are well below our I.M. Harvest Objectives. We still have to intensely manage by regulation. But we get to do so

by harvest more. What a wonderful situation. A major factor in contributing to low harvest is the restrictive 5 mile corridor.

Since this is statue there is no flexibility in management, as there is in a B.O.G. process. Who can keep a pluses on the herd, and make decision like methods and means, and access.

The James Dalton Hwy. 5 mile corridor has approx. 3,600sq.miles of land mass. That's about the same in size as Kodiak or Rhode Island. Was instituted to help protect. wildlife population. Especially the caribou which migrated to the road. To build the hwy. With infer structure in place to support commercial traffic year round. For the maintenance of the pipeline and oil&gas exploration. Also to allow public traffic 1June to 1 Sept. no further than Deitric Camp.

*Changing the ridged Statue today by far meets the State's Constitution ever more so today, and will be more inline with the critiera set forth in 5AAC 92.106 Intensive Management of big game.

*The real pending issue that's bring forth the change is the management of The Central Arctic Caribou population. To allow other consumptive users to use the area. That current users don't utillize.

* The Central Arctic Caribou Herd (C.A.C.H.) has increased from an estimated population of 5,000 caribou in 1978 to 67,000 in 2008. Which makes this one of the healthiest herds, and the fastest growing in the State.

* Currently the C.A.C.H. Management Plan has a goal of caribou population of at least 28,000 to 32,000, and a harvest objective of 1,400 caribou if population is >28,000.(Current population at 67,000)

*With the current Statues in place concerning the James Dalton Hwy. This hinders and ties the hands of Board of Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, and State Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and the public, from totally complying with the I.M. regulation 5 AAC 92.106., and taking a pro management agenda. Stabilizing the herd growth should be one of priorities, till some key questions can be answered. Like, How many caribou can the range support?.How will the C.A.C.H. effect the other 2 caribou herds in the area? How many caribou do we want? In order to do this more harvest is needed to stabilize the herd's growth

*Keep in mind the current C.A.C.M.P. has in place a harvest objective of 1,400 animals if the caribou population is at least>28,000 The population is at 67,000. We are harvesting on average annually 785 to 833 caribou.

*Very notable facts from data collected by the Division of Wildlife Conservation from the last 8 years,

1. 99% of all the caribou harvested are in the months April- Sept.
- 2) The yearly average number of bow hunters using the 5 mile corridor is 297
- 3) Yearly average of total harvest of caribou 785-833. (That includes subsistence) Nearly ½ of what the harvest objective is in the current plan.
- 4) Only have a yearly average total hunters of 1011. For the 3,600sq.mile corridor.

Now we have 67,000 caribou with about a 13% annually growth! Over double than the current population goal.

* Restrictive access is hindering the harvest of more caribou, and deterring other consumptive user from participating in the abundance in that road accessible area.

* Changing the statue would put the management of the game back in the authority of the Board of Game. Which is advised by the ADF&G, State Advisory Committees, and general public. On how to manage and regulate.

Tring to manage wildlife from a congressional authority is very time consuming. Both for the legislator who has to keep up with current wildlife science, and B.O.G, ADF&G, AC, State and National Orgs. and citizens. Who see a change is needed, but the bureaucracy of politics will in most instances take a minium of a year to make a change. But the B.O.G. has the ability to stay current with development of management, and if crisis come up they are able the react timely.

* Bow hunters will not loose any opportunity. 99% of all the caribou harvested are in the months Apr.-Sept.

* Current statue dose not allow for more logical harvest for by which the statue will allow for. For example. By just doubling the bag limit on caribou harvest will not work for a couple of reason.

1) Economics. Bow hunters on their best hunts would have a great deal of difficulties harvesting 4 caribou in and outing. Making those who can afford it to make multiple trips up the highway to fill remaining tags.

2) Logistics. Those who are wanting to use air services are really limit to the one some times two air charters in Happy Valley. They use mostly Super Cubs type planes. Which agin if the bag limit is to double 4 caribou. Multiple trips will be needed to salvage meat. Thus greatly increasing the expense of the hunt.

3) Geography Those who use boats or air boats are limited to running rivers. Not frozen ones.

* Access and the use of firearms at a more reasonable distant from the highway are limiting more consumptive uses from harvesting more caribou. The current Statue was a wonderful piece of legislation 29 years ago. But all that the statue was good for in the past is not the same today. We have a highway that is maintained year round. Pipeline has been built. Oil& gas exploration is continuing on. Caribou population is at it's highest recorded numbers.

Since our past legislators had the fore sight to build, protect, and explore. We should now get to reap the rewards as a State. With the confidence of the Board of Game at the helm, and the Division of Wildlife, State A.C.'s and the public to manage for abundance for the future

Closing comments

*Please keep in mind the beauty of this change takes nothing away from any current user group. Remember the C.A.C.M.P wich is under I.M... Has a goal of 28,000 to 32,000 caribou. We are at 67,000 and growing . A harvest objective of 1,400 to 1,600 and we are only harvesting 785 to 833

respectively.

Subsistence use lose no opportunity to harvest. Bow hunters will continue to be able to hunt with the current 5 mile corridor in place during their highest 5 months of harvest (April - September). Also keeping their hunt aesthetical enjoyable. With no motor vehicle or fire arm hunters around. Division of Wildlife Conservation will have more ability to manage better, the wildlife populations. Then also a whole new user group will have opportunity to access and use the natural resources at a time that has little to no other user participating in. The amendment may lessen hunting pressure on other caribou herds. The State has a well verse and seasoned Board of Game. With 29 more years of experience gained since the statue was made into law. On how to manage, take advice from the Division of Wildlife Conservation, The State Advisory Committees, and input from the public to make very sound regulation for all.

RC 26

907-465-6094

RECEIVED TIME JUL 28 9:29AM

Page 1 of 3
July 28, 2009

To: Kristy Tibbles - Executive Director - Board of Game
From: Douglas Carl

Good Morning Kristy,

I am requesting an ACR to revisit RC 15's, even though it is not in regulation yet. I realize this is an unusual request, but due to the potential enormous consequences of this action, I feel it must be addressed by the public and the Board of Game at the earliest possible time.

Hopefully the Board will see fit to revisit RC 15's at the Fall 2009 Arctic and Western Regions meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Carl

Box 1570

Petersburg, AK 99833

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM
PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526

BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Area <input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence <input type="checkbox"/> Sport JOINT BOARD REGULATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Council <input type="checkbox"/> Rural		BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS Game Management Unit (GMU) <u>STATEWIDE</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hunting <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping <input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonresident	
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Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal packets along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC RC 155 FROM SPRING BOG MEETINGS IN ANCHORAGE Regulation Book Page No. _____

2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address? Please rescind RC 155, which institutes a bonus point system for big game hunting in Alaska.

3. What will happen if this problem is not solved? (See page 3)

4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO.

5. Does your proposal address improving the quality of the resource harvested or products produced? If so, how? No.

6. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt others:
 A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted? All resident hunters, but especially young resident hunters.
 B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted? Non-resident hunters

7. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them. **DO NOT WRITE HERE**

Submitted By: DOUGLAS CORL
 Name / Signature _____
 Individual or Group

Box 1570 PETERSBURG, AK. 99833
 Address _____ City, State _____ ZIP Code _____

772-9279 518-0364 dougcorl@aptalaska.net
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Email _____

3. What will happen if this problem is not solved?

CORL
PAGE 3 of 3

Resident hunting opportunities will diminish as non-resident opportunities increase. As this new bonus point system stands right now, Alaska is going to be ^{way} more generous to non-residents than any other state in the union with similar setups.

Young resident hunters will be particularly impacted. Ten years after the system is up and running, a ten year old resident hunter, who at that age can apply for a drawing permit, will have his or her name thrown into the hat once. A nonresident who has applied for the prior ten years and has not been successful will have his or her name thrown into the hat 512 times!

There are many other problems with RC 155 - too many to list here - that have either not been thought through or even considered.

Once we institute this bonus point system, we will be stuck with it forever! We won't be able to abolish it because the people who are vested in it, applying year after year, will sue us if we try.

RC 27

Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc.

HC 60 Box 299C Copper Center, Alaska 99573

(907) 822-3755

November 13, 2009

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Fall 2009 Nome, Board of Game Written Comments

Dear Alaska Board of Game Members,

Please find below comments from the Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc. on proposals you will be considering at Nome during your Fall 2009 meeting.

Proposals within GMU 26A – Barrow

31&32: We Oppose: There is ample existing opportunity for harvest under State, Federal and DLP harvest guidelines.

29&33: We Oppose: As hunter conservationist's, we believe that every animal has a beating heart. We have a high level of respect for Alaska's wolf populations but we believe that they have to be controlled in a manner that allows for their prey species, which have important benefit to Alaskans through harvest for meat, economic, and aesthetic benefit, to be able to reap the benefit of the great habitats and ranges that Alaska provides for them. A well controlled wolf population which is held in a balance with optimum sustained yield of prey species, produces the very best management the for prey species, optimum human benefit, as well as the best longevity and health for our wolves by providing less fluctuation in relation to disease and starvation cycles. We encourage the Board and the Department to continue this course and expand achievement of this balance wherever possible.

Proposals within GMU 18 – Bethel

35: ANS for moose changes: APHA respects and supports the subsistence way of life. We are proud of this Alaskan heritage and many of our members participate in or live this way of life as well as try to reap some economic benefit from within the professional guide industry. However,

we urge caution and careful consideration regarding developing or changing ANS numbers. When ANS numbers are considered for fluctuating human, wildlife and fish populations, the equitable goal is generally a moving target, and easy to miss. This Board made changes to the GMU 19 ANS numbers just a few years ago. GMU 19 itself represents a delicate balance of the ANS numbers to provide harvestable surplus numbers for 19B&C which are sub-units designed, historically managed and still currently utilized for harvest of large adult bull moose. Additionally, we are not aware of any C&T finding for 19C. GMU 18 represents a great conservation achievement by the people of the region the Department and this Board. However, as the population continues to grow, we do not know the optimum sustainability of this herd. We continue to ask that precautions be made that will not allow for ANS numbers to be established at peak density periods that can result in *nothing greater than the most we have ever had* will be enough for equitable allocation. Congratulations to all parties involved with this great achievement.

Proposals within GMU 23 – Kotzebue

23, 18 & 33: Oppose: As hunter conservationist's, we believe that every animal has a beating heart. We have a high level of respect for Alaska's wolf populations but we believe that they have to be controlled in a manner that allows for their prey species, which have important benefit to Alaskans through harvest for meat, economic, and aesthetic benefit, to be able to reap the benefit of the great habitats and ranges that Alaska provides for them. A well controlled wolf population which is held in a balance with optimum sustained yield of prey species, produces the very best management the for prey species, optimum human benefit, as well as the best longevity and health for our wolves by providing less fluctuation in relation to disease and starvation cycles. We encourage the Board and the Department to continue this course and expand achievement of this balance wherever possible.

Additionally, we would like to refer you to RC . for your consideration regarding this proposal and similar issues before the Board. This memorandum represents the legal opinion of a former Deputy Undersecretary of the Interior, and Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife as well as possibly the most noted authority on ANILCA, counsel Bill Horn. We encourage you to read it and consider it's content.

24: Support: This is a common concern of our members who guide in this region and we support the proposal based on its given merits.

20: Support: Based on its given merit.

19, 21 & 22: Support: APHA has been an active participant in the GMU 23 Working Group and we support all consensus approved proposals from this great working group, including these

regarding the mandatory orientation of pilots and lengthening the aircraft restriction within the Noatak Controlled Use Area. We further encourage the Board and the Work group to include the specific Big Game Commercial Service Board ethics regulations related to use of an aircraft for spotting game with the intent to harvest.

We believe that there is a mandatory unwritten law that applies to the social license to do business in Alaska. This unwritten law mandates that anyone attempting to do business in rural Alaska related to harvest of natural resources needs to have a sincere respect for the people, the lands/waters and resources in the regions they operate in. Whether these resources be mineral, timber, fish or wildlife in nature. By the same token, this consideration has a reciprocal responsibility from the local peoples. This Board and the GMU 23 Working Group has done allot trying to encourage the maturity needed between the parties to relieve this conflict and we encourage you to continue this path, trying to turn Alaskans together with as limited amount of regulations and restrictions as possible.

25: Support: After much consideration APHA Supports the two bull annual harvest limit for non-resident hunters. As at least 10 thousand reported caribou are being harvested by local people annually, and the nonresident harvest is extremely small in comparison, we support the two bull limit. We were hoping that the working group could reach a consensus on identifying some of the hot-spots of conflict and continue the single bull limit in those regions. However, we believe that trying to identify annual caribou movement accurately is challenging at best and we are all still on the learning curve of this puzzle and may well always be.

Proposals Within GM 22 – Nome

9: Oppose: APHA does not support same day airborne hunting opportunity.

11: Support: We support this requirement that the Board has included within their drawing permit policy requiring the guide client agreement. We also in these type of cases where the history of effort has been from one local individual that the amount of permit applications be limited to the number of permits available. The reason is, that when a guide has lived in and provided jobs within and shared the harvest within the area that has a drawing permit program implemented within it most often eliminated he or she from the business due to their inability to successfully compete within the drawing permit process.

8, 16&17: Amend and Adopt: For the Boards consideration, the trophy destruction aspects of this hunt are a bit inflammatory. If a young lady or a young man or who-ever comes as a resident hunter from another part of the state and harvest 's a musk-oxen, she or he has to have the horns cut or destroyed and she or he gets labeled a trophy hunter over a local hunter who does not have the trophy destruction requirement and gets labeled a subsistence hunter. In many peoples mind

including mine, the so called trophy destruction requirement aspects of this hunt and other similar, are disrespectful to the great animal we have just harvested and two who-ever it is that we thank for blessing us with that animal. It is important that whether we want to recognize or not, as hunters, our roots and heritage as such are entwined in the same soils. The continuing of classifying us into difference concepts of user groups erodes the foundation and weakens all of our futures to continue our ways as life.

Regarding this particular hunt, It would seem logical to allow for the registration hunts in both C&D to be held for cows and young bulls while the drawing permit aspects would be for the mature bulls with neither hunt having the trophy destruction requirement.

We support the aspects of the verbiage change and the increase in non-resident allocation aspects of these proposals based upon their given merit and as a respect to the Pitman-Robertson funding which has helped so much with another great conservation success story.

10&13: Support: We support these proposals on their given merits.

15,6&33:

7: Support: Based on its given merits.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

End of APHA Comments.

Submitted by Robert Fithian

RC28

LAW OFFICES

BIRCH, HORTON, BITTNER AND CHEROT

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

1155 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. • SUITE 1200 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20038 • TELEPHONE (202) 859-5800 • FACSIMILE (202) 659-1027

HAL R. HORTON (1944 - 1998)

RONALD G. BIRCH**
WILLIAM H. BITTNER
KATHRYN A. BLACK
SUZANNE CHEROT
ADAM W. COOK
JON M. DEVORE**
CHARLES R. EBERLEY*
GREGORY S. FISHER
JOSEPH H. FLACK

DOUGLAS S. FULLER*
MAX D. GARNER
DAVID KARL GROSS
TINA M. GROVER
WILLIAM P. HORN*
STEPHEN H. HUTCHINGS
DANIEL C. KENT
THOMAS F. KLINGNER
DAVID E. LAMPP**

STANLEY T. LEWIS
JAMES H. LISTER**
GREGORY A. MILLER
JENNIFER L. OWENS, Ph.D.
MICHAEL J. PARISE
TIMOTHY J. PETUMENOS
ELISABETH H. ROSS**
HOLLY C. SUOZZO
KATE N. WILLIAMS

OF COUNSEL:
JENNIFER C. ALEXANDER
KENNETH E. VASSAR

1127 WEST SEVENTH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3399
(907) 276-1550
FACSIMILE (907) 276-3680

* D.C. BAR
** D.C. AND ALASKA BAR
† MARYLAND BAR
◊ VIRGINIA BAR
ALL OTHERS ALASKA BAR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Fithian
Joe Klutsch

FROM: Bill Horn

DATE: June 11, 2009

RE: NPS Authority and Discretion to Cooperate on Active Wildlife Management

Some individuals and elements within the National Park Service (NPS) contend that federal law (e.g., the 1916 National Park Service Organic Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1 and elements of ANILCA, Pub. Law No. 96-487) bar NPS from engaging in active wildlife management measures, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), in park and preserve units in Alaska. Moreover, this federal law purportedly preempts the State of Alaska's traditional control of wildlife management and allows NPS to thwart State management activities. Both of these conclusions are wrong.

The following briefly reviews applicable statutes, the agency's broad discretion under those statutes, NPS policies interpreting the laws, and some history regarding changing policies demonstrating the inherent flexibility possessed by NPS. In the simplest terms, NPS has broad discretion and latitude enabling it to engage in active wildlife management and cooperate with ADFG regarding such management activities. If NPS chooses to object to active management, that is a matter of policy rather than the result of any statutory or Congressional prohibitions. A poorly disguised effort to hide behind a misreading of the law or a blanket policy choice to object to all such management would clearly violate the letter and spirit of the cooperative memorandum between NPS and ADFG.

Congress set forth the fundamental purpose of NPS units in the 1916 Organic Act: "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." 16 USC § 1. A less well known provision of the same statute specifies the Secretary "may also provide in his discretion for the destruction of such animals and such plant life as may be detrimental to the use of any said parks, monuments or reservations." 16. U.S.C. § 3. The latter authority was used extensively in the early days of the park system to kill or control predator species such as bears, mountain lions, and wolves in order to enhance populations of elk, deer, and moose. Federal courts have determined that "because the

Robert Fithian
Joe Klutsch
June 11, 2009
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Organic Act is silent as the specifics of park management, the Secretary has *especially broad discretion* on how to implement his statutory mandate.” (Emphasis added). Davis v. Latschar, 202 F.3d 359 app. at 365 (D.C. Cir. 2000) (citing Daingerfield Island Protective Society v. Babbitt, 49 F.3d 442, 446 (D.C. Cir. 1994) and Bicycle Trails Council of Marin v. Babbitt, 82 F.3d 1445, 1454 (9th Cir. 1996); see also Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance v. Dabney, 222 F.3d 819, 826-27 (10th Cir. 2000).

ANILCA is also replete with specific provisions indicating Congressional support for active management and cooperation with the State. Section 101(b) sets forth “the maintenance of sound populations of, and habitat for, wildlife species of inestimable value to the citizens of Alaska” as a statutory purpose. 16 U.S.C. § 3101. Another purpose is protection of “resources related to subsistence needs.” Id. And it recognizes the value of “management of fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized scientific principles . . . to provide opportunity for rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to continue to do so.” Id. at (c). This language, acknowledging the need for sound populations of wildlife and management to assure the availability of wildlife of value to Alaskans is not an anti-management mandate.

In the same vein, all of the sections establishing or enlarging NPS units include standard purposes language “to protect habitat for, and populations of fish and wildlife.” See §§ 201(1), 201 (7), 201(8); 202(2). In marked contrast, all of the Refuge units are to be managed to maintain “natural diversity” of wildlife populations. See Title III, §§ 302,303. It is a well established principle of statutory construction that omissions should be understood as exclusions. Sutherland Statutory Construction, § 47:23, Seventh Ed. 2007. Congress’ specific choice to exclude or omit the “natural diversity” direction for NPS units strongly implies that active wildlife management is an available option within park and preserves in Alaska. Furthermore, NPS has the latitude to interpret the statute in this permissible manner and have that interpretation sustained by the federal courts. Chevron USA, Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., 467 U.S. 837 (1984).

It is worth noting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has exercised greater cooperation with ADFG. The federal wildlife professionals clearly recognize that excessive predation is a factor contributing to suppressed ungulate populations and that active steps can contribute to restoration of these populations of “inestimable value to the citizens of Alaska.” 16 U.S.C. § 3101.

Title XIII of ANILCA contains two other key provisions. Section 1313 directs that Preserve units shall be open to hunting under applicable State and Federal law. 16 U.S.C. § 3201. The next provision, section 1314, assures that the State’s traditional primacy over resident fish and wildlife is not to be enlarged or diminished by the Act. 16 U.S.C. § 3202.

There is little doubt that federal authority to manage public lands set aside as NPS units derives from the Property Clause of the U.S. Constitution. See Kleppe v. New Mexico, 426 U.S.

Robert Fithian
Joe Klutsch
June 11, 2009
Page 3 of 4

529 (1979). Control over lands does give NPS the final say over habitat management or manipulation activities that would physically impact these federal properties. However, the same is not true regarding resident species of wildlife. There primacy remains vested in the State of Alaska to pursue conservation of resident wildlife within its borders. Hughes v. Oklahoma, 441 U.S. 322, 336 (1979).

There is also little doubt that internal NPS policies have an anti-management, preservation oriented bent. See NPS Management Policies 2006, §§ 4.1, 4.4. Nonetheless, even these policies include recognition, and authorization, for active wildlife management. See § 4.4.2.1. The policies also acknowledge the special circumstances in Alaska that arise from both its unique setting as well as ANILCA. See § 8.9

It is critical to recognize though these policies do not supersede ANILCA nor are they binding on NPS: the policies do not bar NPS from cooperating with Alaska on active management measures. The agency retains express authority to deviate from the policies as it sees fit and may waive or modify any of the provisions. NPS Management Policies 2006 at p. 4. Should NPS depart from these policies to honor both the letter and spirit of ANILCA, anti-management third parties have no right to enforce the policies against NPS: the policies are not "judicially enforceable at the behest of members of the public who question the agency's management." The Wilderness Society v. Norton, 434 F. 3d 584, 596 (D.C. Cir. 2006); see also River Runners for Wilderness v. Stephen P. Martin, 2007 WL 4200677 at 6 (D. Ariz. 2007).

These internal policies, reflecting the present interpretation of the 1916 Organic Act, have undergone substantial changes over the years. In the early years of the agency, NPS interpreted the statute to give it wide latitude to engage in active wildlife management. Suppression of populations of bears, lions, and wolves was deemed to be authorized by the 1916 Act. NPS spent decades systematically culling Yellowstone's bison herd to keep it at a prescribed population level. No one argued successfully that these active wildlife management measures were inconsistent with the Organic Act.

Change occurred in the 1960's when NPS determined on its own to follow the Leopold Report and adopt a new policy for general park management – to engage in minimal management to restore or maintain vignettes of pre-European North America. This 180 degree turn in policy was considered to be within the broad discretion conferred on NPS by the 1916 Act. And this general goal still infuses present NPS Management Policies.

At the bottom line, NPS has ample discretion under its Organic Act to cooperate with ADFG on active wildlife management measures within parks and preserves in Alaska. The letter and spirit of ANILCA push NPS in this direction as well. Consequently, if NPS opts to oppose such measures it is doing so as a matter of discretion and must be fully accountable for the choices it makes.

RC29

Musk Ox Harvest

Fall 2008/Winter 2009 Season

DX 097 Total permits issued 21 (including Governor's Permit)

Non-resident permits issued 2 Resident permits issued 19

Permits resulting in a harvest:

Non-Resident 2 Resident 14

Resident permits issued and not hunted 05

Fall 2007/Winter 2008 Season

DX 097 Total permits issued 20

Non-resident permits issued 1 Resident permits issued 19

Permits resulting in a harvest:

Non-Resident 1 Resident 12

Resident permits issued and not hunted 07

Fall 2006/Winter 2007 Season

DX 097 Total permits issued 11

Non-resident permits issued 1 Resident permits issued 10

Permits resulting in a harvest:

Non-Resident 01 Resident 07

Resident permits issued and not hunted 03

Fall 2005/Winter 2006 Season

DX 097 Total permits issued 10

Non-resident permits issued 0 Resident permits issued 10

Permits resulting in a harvest:

Non-Resident 0 Resident 08

Resident permits issued and not hunted 02

Fall 2004/Winter 2005 Season

DX 097 Total permits issued 10

Non-resident permits issued 0 Resident permits issued 10

Permits resulting in a harvest:

Non-Resident 0 Resident 08

Resident permits issued and not hunted 02

Fall 2003/Winter 2004 Season

DX 097 Total permits issued 07

Non-resident permits issued 0 Resident permits issued 07

Permits resulting in a harvest:

Non-Resident 0 Resident 03

Resident permits issued and not hunted 04

Fall 2002/Winter 2003 Season

DX 097 Total permits issued 07

Non-resident permits issued 0 Resident permits issued 07

Permits resulting in a harvest:

Non-Resident 0 Resident 04

Resident permits issued and not hunted 03

RC 29

Non-resident moose allocation for units 22D Remainder and 22E
Not Numbered

SUPPORT this proposal, request the BOG direct the ADF&G to combine both hunt, RM842 and RM853 into one harvest total.

I submitted a proposal with two proposed solutions concerning combining the harvest totals for RM 842 and RM 853 into one total of 20 bulls, instead of the current two separate totals of 10 bulls each.

The BOG Support staff indicated that this request does not require regulatory change, but rather is a request that the BOG give direction to the ADF&G on this proposal and therefore would not assign the proposal a number or place it in the proposal booklet.

There are several distinct moose populations within Unit 22 with varying degrees of abundance. The moose population in sub-unit 22D Remainder and 22E are healthy and the region is remote for access from major population centers in Unit 22. Therefore, you will note that the hunting seasons in both of these sub units are much longer (and except for non-resident harvest) and are managed with a general hunt harvest ticket rather than a registration hunt.

Non-resident moose hunting opportunity is regulated within sub unit 22D Remainder through RM 842 and in sub unit 22E through RM 853. The boundaries of RM 842 include two distinct geographical areas with two distinct moose populations. The moose north of the Imuruk Basin and Tisuk Channel are distinct from the moose south of this natural divide. Both populations are managed under one Registration hunt.

The moose within sub-unit 22E are also largely in two distinct populations, one population amongst the drainages flowing north and west from the continental divide (which is the common border of both sub-units and the two registration hunts in question) and the other population along the main Serpentine River and its' headwaters.

Although RM 853 regulates the entire sub-unit in theory, in fact the northern and eastern portions of the sub-unit are within federal lands and this includes the main Serpentine River moose population. Federal regulations deny non-residents moose hunting opportunity in sub-unit 22E, which limits the area RM853 covers to the moose population adjacent to the moose within 22D Remainder, which together, are one distinct moose population.

The moose population occupying the country north of the Imuruk Basin, including the drainages flowing north and west of the continental divide, are one population which winters in large herds in the middle of 22D Remainder and seasonally disperses north and west throughout 22D Remainder and into the drainages flowing off the continental divide into 22E.

Managing this population with two different Registration hunts with two different harvest totals could well be accomplished with one Registration hunt with one harvest total. Fall hunting season access is very limited and the overall surplus that is available for non-resident hunting would not be increased.

I understand the ADF&G would like to see an increased bull harvest in unit 22E. I do not disagree with the department; rather, the harvest of this population of bull moose that migrate seasonally between both adjacent units is neither increased nor decreased by

this proposal. It addresses the issue of access for the only time of year (Sept 1 to 14) wherein non-residents can harvest moose in both units.

These are very remote areas and the logistical planning and access is very important for both the success of non-resident hunters, but more importantly the successful care and salvage of edible meat and perishable portion of trophies.

If the BOG were to direct the ADF&G and the department were to implement this proposal it would not conflict with the departments' management goals and enhance the logistics of the hunts and care for the resource.

As the primary provider of big game services to non-residents in the region this directive is very important to successful logistical planning and implementation of operations in the area. The moose registration hunts are managed on an emergency closure order basis, and an early closure would be disastrous to hunts in progress in the field. We already plan the number of hunts well below the annual quota limitations.

Your support in enacting this proposal would enhance sound management and quality hunting opportunity within what the BOG and ADF&G have found to be the non-resident allocation of the harvestable surplus.

Supporting Data:

Map of Area

Original copy of the unnumbered proposal

Proposal 4 Preferred Amendment

RC30

“That portion East of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowitz river to the closest point on Dall lake, then to the East bank of the Johnson River at the North end Nunavakanukakslak Lake, continuing ½ mile South and East of the East bank upriver to the confluence of the East Bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver ½ mile South and East of the East bank to the outlet at Arhymot Lake then following the South bank East to the Border of Unit 18, and North of and including the Eek River Drainage”

RC31

Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2009

Roll Call: Burnett, Dykman, Bucy, Harding, Shadura II, Crawford, Beard, Brandt, Carmichael, Hunt, Payne, Bernecker present. Corr, Lucking, and Mandurano absent.

Crawford asked committee members to give update on their summer.

Acknowledged Jeff Selinger, Jeff Fox, Robert Begich from ADF&G.

Fish and Game Biologists will give update.

Crawford read a letter to support Proposal 13.

Dave Atcheson spoke to the proposal. One of a kind fishery for Chinook salmon. Brought in conjunction with the Pebble Mine Project, to preserve the fishery. Recommendation to protect the habitat in this fishery. Asking the BOF to recommend to the Legislature to protect this fishery.

Shadura II this is an unusual way to request action on this proposal.

Concern regarding the vagueness on this proposal and what the intent of the author.

Discussion by AC members on this proposal.

Carmichael: Use of the word refuge could in the future close this area down to everyone that uses the resource in this area.

Crawford: Dave could you bring specific points on the intent of this proposal back to the AC before we make a decision.

Game proposal 34 – Regarding diseased or tainted game. Harding moved to support Proposal 34 to the table, Peggy seconded. Discussion that there already regulations that address this issue, this is a redundant proposal asking for special consideration to a certain area. 0/12/0

Carmichael made a motion for Chair Crawford to write a letter in regards to Proposal 34, Harding seconded, motion passes with unanimous consent.

Shadura II asked Selinger to give a report on the DLP's for this year.

Selinger gave a report DLP's this year. 19 to 20 DLP's.

Beard asked if unreported DLP's have increased.

Selinger is not really sure. There are always bears shot and not reported.

More adult female mortality. Settled on 10 female mortalities. 8 Females so far. When they hit 10 the season will close. Explanation of bear season and regulations regarding harvest.

Break at 7:30PM – 7:45PM

Jeff Fox from ADF&G, harvest for this year was 3mil, commercial 2 mil, sport .5 mil. Kasilof went over goal. King season was restricted by the BOF for 2 periods, Regular periods were fished everywhere additional periods in Kasilof, restricted periods for drifters and Northern district. Chinook harvest was 7,000, one of the lowest harvests they've had. Forecast for 2010 for Kenai is worse than this year.

Beard asked to explain how a forecast is done. Fox gave a brief explanation of how they figure a forecast.

Crawford overall how was the commercial catch?

Fox the commercial catch was poor. Estimate on personal use 200,000 fish, sport catch about the same.

Robert Begich from ADF&G gave an update on Sport fish escapements.

ACR 3, comments from ADF&G are still working on them. Comments from Dept., were not written well.

The comments from ADF&G are supposed to be out October 1, 2009. BOF Workshop is October 13, 2009.

Shadura II made a motion to support ACR 3, Dykeman seconded. Questions directed at the Department. Burden of conservation is not being shared. 2/10/0

Game Proposals

Harding moved to support proposal 25, Bucy seconded. Discussion on 2 caribou for nonresidents, losing hunts because of lower limit. Economic Impact. Burnett called the question, 10/2/0.

Harding moved to support proposal 29, Carmichael seconded. 0/12/0 Biological justification, wolf numbers are fine.

Harding moved to support proposal 6, Bucy seconded. No Biological justification, wolf numbers are fine. 0/12/0

Harding moved to support proposal 33, Carmichael seconded. No biological justification. 0/12/0

Harding moved to support proposal 19, Payne seconded. Education of pilots for guided hunts. 2/0/10

Harding moved to support proposal 8, Dykeman seconded. Prejudice proposal. 0/12/0

Crawford asked to represent AC in Nome for Board of Game seeing no objection he will represent Kenai/Soldotna AC in Nome.

Alaska Outdoor Council, caribou hunt in 13, violates equal access law.

No meeting date set yet. Waiting for information on Proposal 13 from Dave Atcheson, and from the Alaska Outdoor Council regarding caribou hunt in Unit 13.

Brandt moves to adjourn, Burnett seconded.

RC 3



KAWERAK , INC. • P.O. Box 948 • Nome, AK 99762

TEL: (907) 443-5231 • FAX: (907) 443-4452

October 29, 2009

Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Board of Game:

On behalf of the Kawerak board of directors, I submit the following comments in regards to proposals which may impact our region, GMU 22 and two proposals for consideration in GMU 23 in regards to a shared caribou resource.

Proposal 6: Wolf

Kawerak opposes this proposal. There is a growing population of wolves on the Seward Peninsula and low populations of their prey (reindeer, moose, caribou). Human harvest of their prey, the large mammals in the region, is important to family health, traditions and economy.

Proposal 7: Wolverine

Kawerak opposes this proposal due to the low population of wolverines in this region.

Proposal 8: Musk ox

Kawerak opposes this proposal as we are not supportive of hunters who kill for trophy horns.

Proposal 9: Caribou

Kawerak opposes this proposal, we are opposed to same day airborne hunting.

Proposal 10: Brown bear

Kawerak supports this proposal. The brown bear population throughout GMU 22 is large. This proposal would extend the opportunity to legally hunt bear in the spring after breakup.

Proposal 11: Moose

Kawerak supports this proposal which would implement guide/client requirements.

Proposal 12: Moose

Kawerak supports this proposal because harvesting moose later in the season would allow local hunters a better opportunity and cooler temperatures would cause less spoilage when meat is curing.

Proposal 13:

Kawerak supports this proposal. The brown bear population throughout GMU 22 is large. This proposal would extend the opportunity to legally hunt bear in the spring.

Proposal 14: Caribou

Kawerak opposes this proposal as these areas include lands near Teller, the area south of Imuruk Basin and the area northwest of Brevig Mission. This area is closed to caribou hunting unless opened by Emergency order. There are active reindeer herds in these areas throughout the year.

Proposal 15: Brown bear

Kawerak opposes this proposal. The brown bear population throughout GMU 22 is large. This proposal would reduce the opportunity to legally hunt bear in the fall.

Proposal 16: Musk ox

Kawerak opposes this proposal. The number of nonresident permits for Musk Ox would likely increase and reduce the opportunity for harvest by local residents.

Proposal 17: Musk ox

Kawerak opposes this proposal. The number of nonresident permits for bull Musk Ox would likely increase and reduce the opportunity for harvest by local residents.

GMU 23 Kotzebue Area

Proposal 19: Mandatory orientation requirement for pilots who transport hunters in GMU 23.

Kawerak supports this proposal. The proposal is written by Unit 23 Working Group, composed of advisory committees, RACs, guides, transporters, federal, state agencies, tribal government, native corporations and Northwest Arctic Borough.

Proposal 22: Lengthen the aircraft closure period in Noatak Controlled Use Area from three weeks to six weeks

Kawerak supports this proposal. The proposal is written by Unit 23 Working Group, composed of advisory committees, RACs, guides, transporters, federal, state agencies, tribal government, native corporations and Northwest Arctic Borough.

Thank you for taking our comments in consideration as you deliberate in Nome in a few weeks. We look forward to having the board members in our region and community.

Sincerely,
KAWERAK, INC.

151 Loretta Bullard

Loretta Bullard, President

CC: Senator Donnie Olson

RL 33

November 10, 2009

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Arctic and Western Region Meeting
Nome, Alaska

Dear Members of the Board,

My name is Bob Hannon; I am a guide/outfitter from the village of Koyuk.
I would like to address Proposal # 11

I am asking the board to require applicants that apply for a **DM845** moose permit to have a signed Guide-Client Contract prior to applying for the permit.

Furthermore I am asking that the guide who signs the Guide-Client Contract be a guide who is assigned to the necessary area in 22-B at the time the contract is signed and is a guide in good standing with the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

In addition each qualified guide would be limited to entering into no more Guide-Client Contracts for this hunt than there are permits available. i.e. 8 permits available would limit each guide to 8 Guide-Client Contracts.

HISTORY

I have hunted late season moose on the Seward Peninsula since 1984. I have developed an outfitting business that is known for producing quality hunts and taking extra special care of the meat that results from our trophy harvest.

In 2001 when declining moose populations forced the Board to reduce the nonresident season in 22-B East it was my proposal that the Board adopted. The new regulation eliminated nonresidents entirely from the August and September hunts that are so important to the residents of Koyuk and limited nonresidents to a general season hunt in November and December. This system worked fine until another outfitter moved into the area and more than doubled the previous nonresident moose harvest.

In 2005 the Board adopted the current permit hunt **DM845**, which allocate 8 nonresident permits to area 22-B East. This new permit system has been a nightmare for me, my clients drew 2 permits in 2007 and 0 permits in 2008 meanwhile in 2008 a nonresident outfitter draws 8 permits, shoots 6 or 7 moose and leaves thousands of pounds of moose meat & caribou meat along with capes and antlers in a deserted building. These animals were harvested in November and were left in an open structure for more than 3 months were ravens and foxes had access to the meat.

Hopefully the State Troopers and the Big Game Commercial Services Board will deal with this nonresident outfitter but the Board needs to take action to try to avoid this type of incident from happening again. I know that my proposal is not the complete answer but it is the best solution I can come up with.


There is no history of nonresidents participating in this hunt on a nonguided basis so I don't know if it is necessary to allocate a portion of the permits to nonresidents nonguided but if the Board feels that this is necessary I would ask the Board to use the 2 additional permits that are available. That would mean that **DM845** would have 8 permits available Guide Required and 2 permits available nonguided required.

My proposal would also require that a guide who enters into a Guide-Client Contract for the purpose of applying for a **DM845** permit must be in good standing with the Big Game Commercial Services Board and would have to be assigned to GUOA 22-06 prior to signing the contract.

The final part of my proposal would limit those guides who are qualified in the area 22-06 from entering into no more Guide-Client Contracts for this hunt than there are permits available. This requirement would serve two purposes, first it would prevent one outfitter from flooding the drawing with applications and secondly it would allow all the outfitters involved to give their potential clients an accurate idea of what their chances are of drawing the permit.

I thank the Board for their time and hope you can come up with a workable solution.

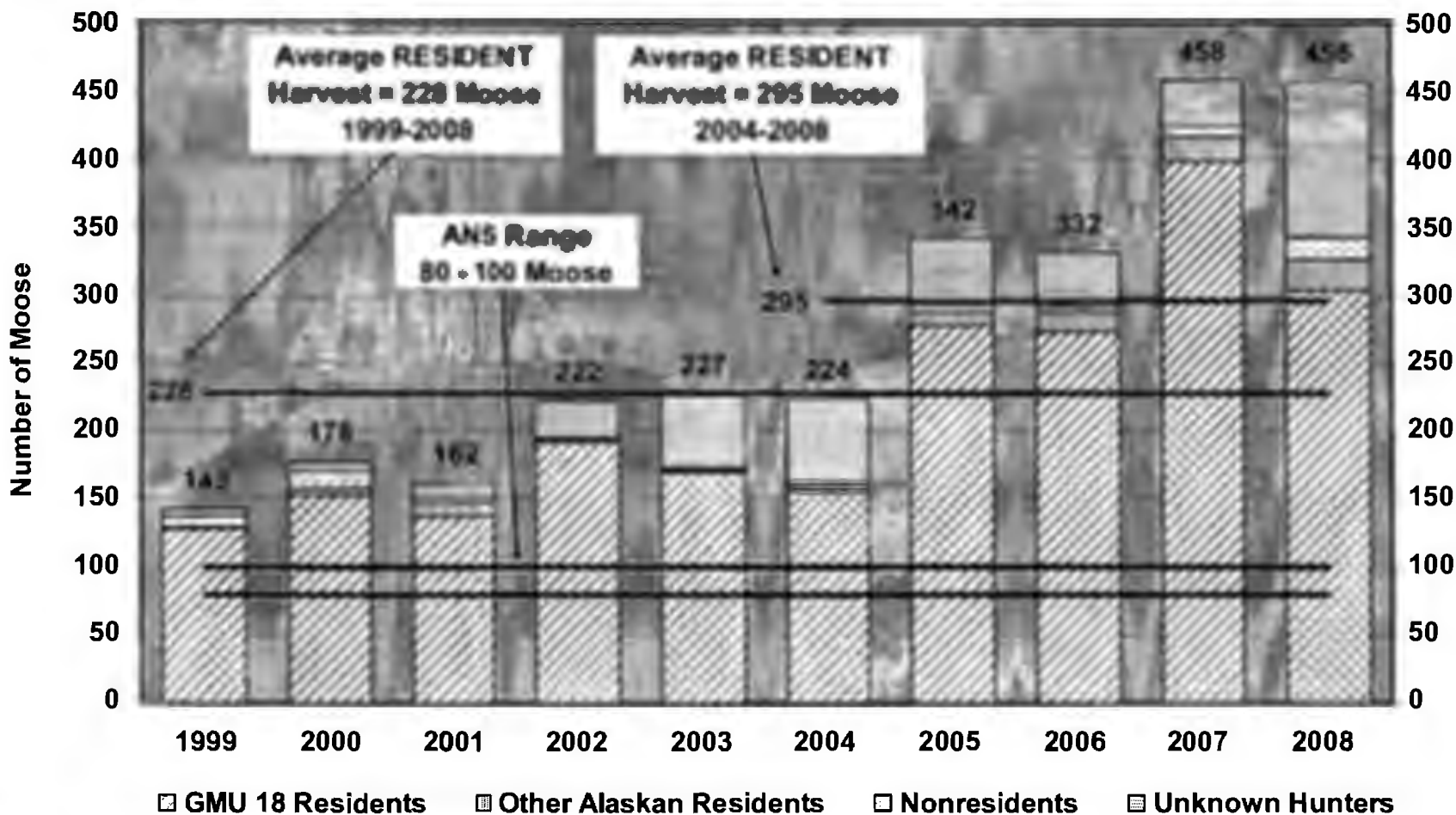
Respectfully,



Bob Hannon

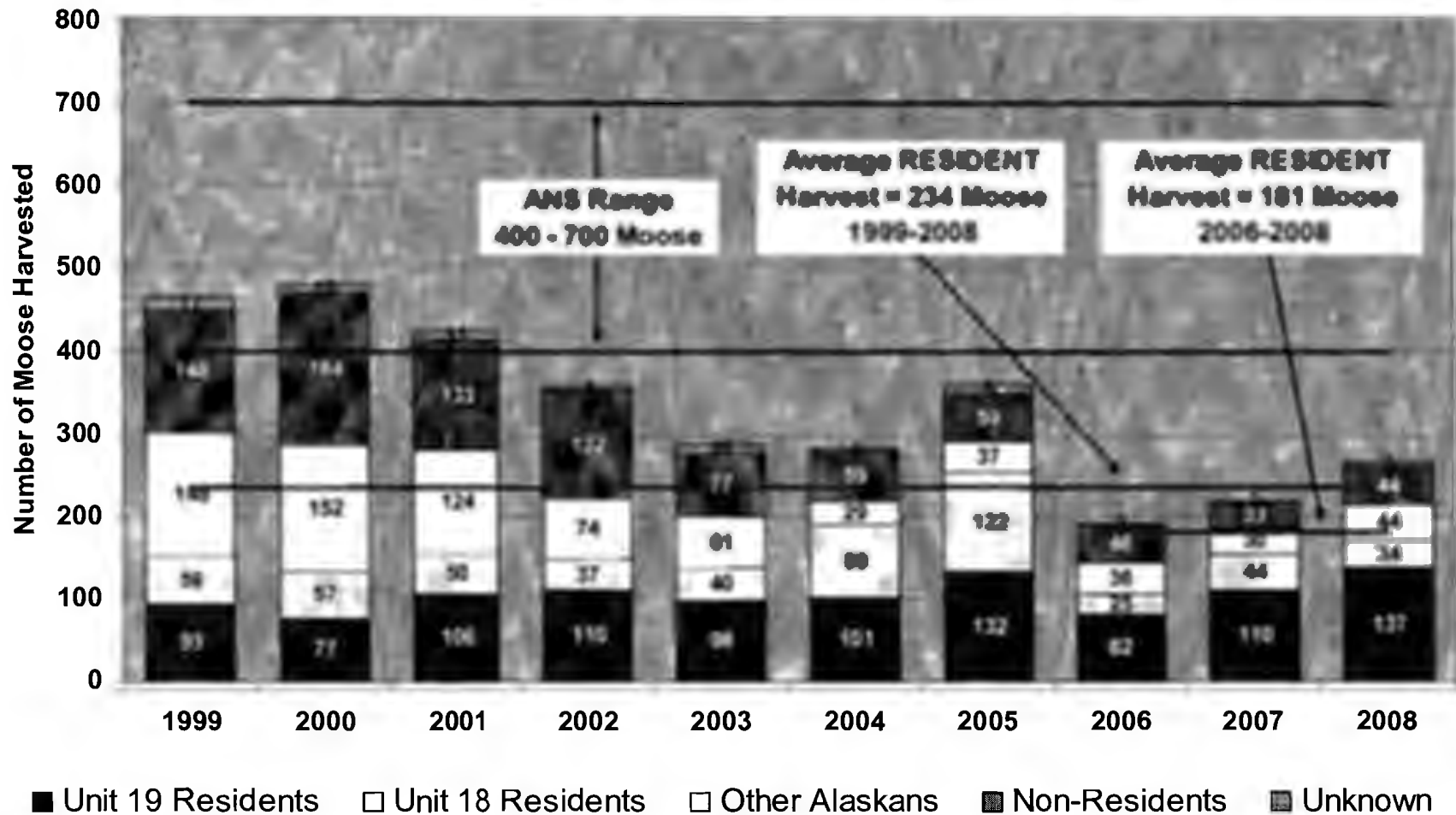
Unit 18 Moose Harvests, 1999-2008

(Source: ADF&G Harvest Ticket Database)



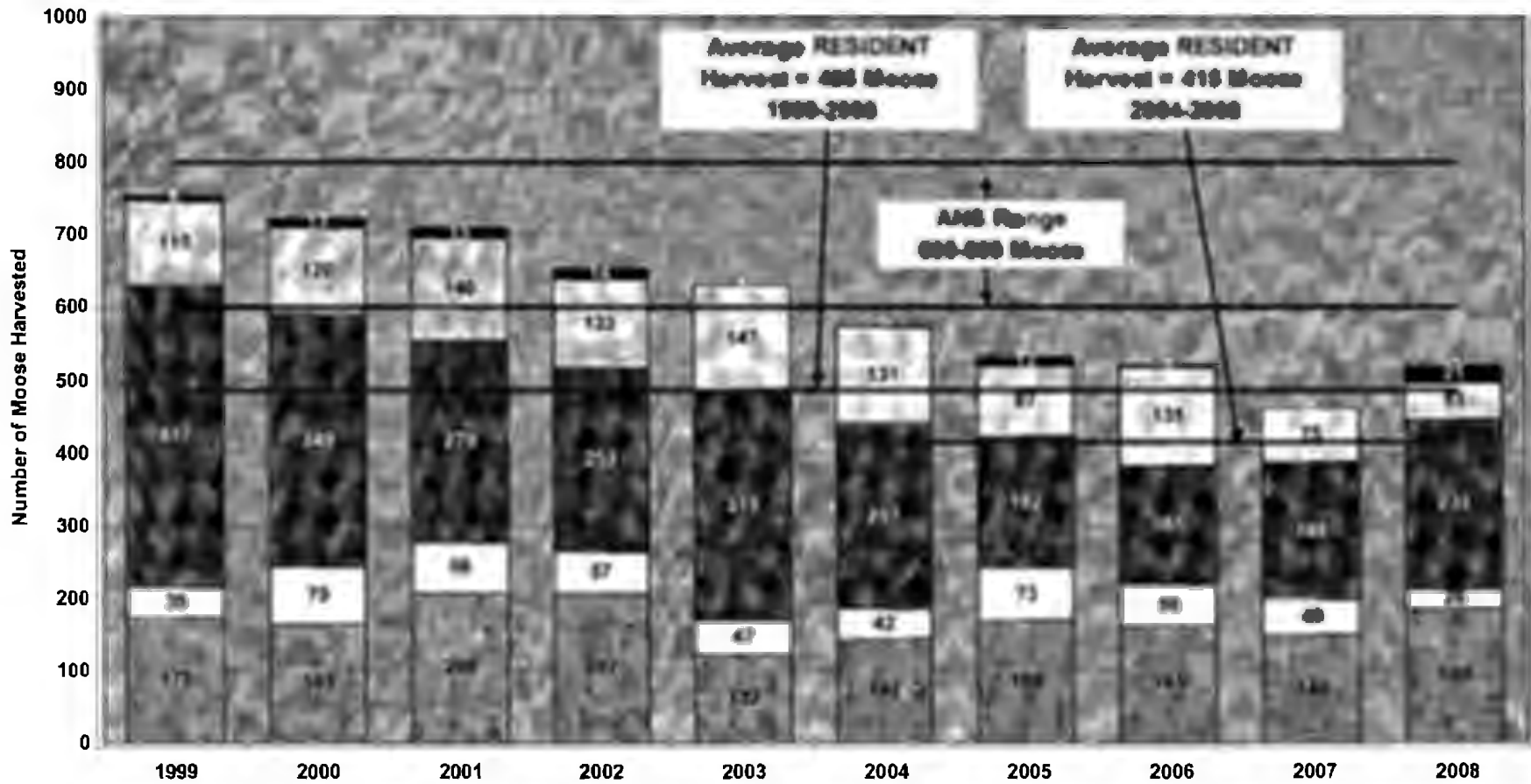
Unit 19 Moose Harvest, 1999-2008

(Source: ADF&G Harvest Ticket Database)



Unit 21 Moose Harvest, 1999-2008

(Source: ADF&G Harvest Ticket Database)



Unit 21 Residents
 Unit 18 Residents
 Other Alaskans
 Non-Residents
 Unknown



DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

PROPOSAL 4A

RC35

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<p>(16) Unit 18 <u>Kuskokwim Area</u>, that portion easterly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the <u>east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60° 59.41' Latitude; W 162° 22.14' Longitude), continuing upriver along a line ½ mile south and east of, and paralleling a 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 lake south bank easterly [EASTERN MOST POINT OF TAKSLESLUK LAKE THEN ALONG THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER DRAINAGE BOUNDARY]</u> to the Unit 18 border and north of and including the Eek River drainage.</p>	Sept. 1 - Sept. 10	No open season.
...		
Remainder of Unit 18		
1 antlered bull per regulatory year	Aug. 10 - Sept. 30 Dec. 20 - Jan. 10	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30

PROPOSAL 1A

RC36

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 18, that portion south of and including the Goodnews River drainage 1 antlered bull by registration permit only	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 30</u> [AUG. 25 – SEPT. 20]	No open season.

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

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(21)

Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every regulatory year
by registration permit

Aug. 1 - May 31
(Subsistence hunt
only)

1 bear every regulatory
year

Aug. 1 - May 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every
regulatory year by
drawing permit only; up
to 68 permits
may be issued

Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
[SEPT. 1 - OCT. 10]
Apr. 15 - May 31

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

() In Unit 23, a pilot who transports parts of big game with an aircraft must have, in possession, a certificate of successful completion of a department-approved education course regarding big game hunting and meat transportation in this Unit; however, this provision does not apply to the transportation of parts of big game between publicly owned airports;

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Sean Parnell, GOVERNOR

333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518
PHONE: (907) 267-2147
FAX: (907) 267-2477

RC39

TO: Kristy Tibbles

FROM: Dale Rabe, Deputy Director

DATE: November 12, 2009

SUBJECT: Agenda Change Requests

During development of proposals for the upcoming Statewide Board of Game meeting in January 2010, the Department of Fish and Game identified four housekeeping issues from last March's Region II BOG meeting that should be considered for regulatory action by the Board. Consequently, the department is formally requesting an agenda change for the January 2010 meeting to address 5 AAC 92.125, 5 AAC 92.044, and 5 AAC 92.108 for the following reasons.

1. During the March 2009 BOG meeting, the Board voted to allow the use of helicopters and foot-snaring techniques to assist in the Unit 16B black bear control efforts. The department agreed to disallow the use of helicopters during (and five days prior to) the moose hunting season (August 15-September 25). Later the department further shortened the helicopter use period (by permit condition) to August 5 to eliminate conflicts with caribou and sheep hunters in the northern reaches of Unit 16B. However, no such dates were put into regulation by the Board. If the Board desires to make this regulatory change, it will require a revision to 5 AAC 92.125 (d)(4)(D)(iii).
2. Additionally, at the March 2009 BOG meeting, the Board voted to limit the foot-snaring activities to April 15 to August 15. This was a good idea, as foot-snaring of black bears by the public was somewhat new and the shorter season allowed the department to monitor the results of such a technique more carefully. Given the low incidence of non-target capture, the efficiency of black bear take, and the lack of conflicts among user groups, the department would like to see the Unit 16B black bear foot-snare permit season extend from April 15 to October 15. If the Board desires to make this regulatory change, it will require a revision to 5 AAC 92.125 (d)(4)(D)(vi).
3. During the March 2009 BOG meeting, the Board voted to allow licensed guides and their assistants to register a total of 10 Unit 16B black bear bait stations in aggregate. While intended to increase black bear take, this regulation actually had the potential to decrease take, in that a guide with five assistants could register fewer stations than under the previous regulations. The original proposal had requested that the licensed guide could register a total of 10 bait stations simultaneously, and that each assistant guide could register an additional two stations. If the Board desires to make this regulatory change, it will require a revision to 5 AAC 92.044 (b)(11).
4. During the March 2009 meeting in Anchorage, the Board requested a proposal for a new predation control plan in Units 9C and E to benefit the North Alaska Peninsula Herd. During development of this proposal, the department felt a revision of the population objective for the herd might be necessary. If the Board desires to make this regulatory change, it will require a revision to 5 AAC 92.108.

RC 40

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Arctic/Western Region Meeting
November 13-16, 2009
Nome, Alaska**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AGENDA

Agenda Change Requests

- Unit 16 Bear control & Unit 9 IM Objectives– ADF&G (RC 39)
- Bonus Point System – Doug Corl (RC 1)
- Bear Baiting – DPS (RC 1)

Letters

- Letter from Al Barrett concerning proposed legislation concerning the Dalton Highway Corridor (RC 1)
- Letter to DNR re: Guide Concession Areas
- Letter/Resolution re: Holitna Reserve (Legislation)

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

() In Unit 23, a pilot may not transport parts of big game with an aircraft without having, in actual possession, a certificate of successful completion of a department-approved education course regarding big game hunting and meat transportation in this Unit; however, this provision does not apply to the transportation of parts of big game between state maintained airports;