

August 4, 2010

Summary

The Board of Game met by teleconference on Wednesday August 4, 2010 to consider a request from the Department of Fish and Game for an emergency regulation on brown bear hunting in Unit 26B. The request was considered under the Joint Board Petition Policy (5 AAC 96.625(f)) based on an unexpected resource situation.

Seven of seven board members were present. A live audio stream of the meeting was available on the internet from the Board of Game website and arrangements were also made for members of the public to listen by phone. The board did not take public testimony.

The Department of Fish and Game presented information that the muskoxen population in northeastern Alaska had recently declined by 67 percent, creating a situation that required an immediate response to prevent the population from once again becoming extirpated. The Board recognized that additional harvest of brown bears would help prevent extirpation of the muskoxen population and that there was insufficient time to follow the normal regulatory process for permanent regulations. Thus, the Board adopted a finding of emergency and adopted an emergency regulation to liberalize both resident and nonresident brown bear hunting in Unit 26B. Specifically, the changes were to open the seasons 15 days early (August 10 instead of August 25) and convert the resident drawing permit hunt to a general season hunt. The Board clarified its intention to make the change permanent.

The Board also received an update from the Department of Law on the Manning v. State case involving Nelchina caribou hunting in Unit 13, specifically that the state Superior Court issued a ruling on August 4, 2010 prohibiting the state from issuing additional permits as authorized by the Board of Game on July 28, 2010. The board voted to send a letter to Attorney General Daniel Sullivan encouraging the state to appeal the Superior Court's rulings in this case.

The Board confirmed its intention to hold a meeting in Anchorage starting October 8, 2010 to consider public and department proposals on the topic of Nelchina Caribou hunting in Unit 13. The board also agreed to reschedule the bear trapping topics for the central and interior regions from the November meeting to the October meeting.
