



State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Sean Parnell, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

October 3rd, 2011

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 November 2011 Alaska Board of Game meetings in Barrow.

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.

Thank you for your time.

Bernard Chastain

Lieutenant, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Anchorage Headquarters

Proposal Analysis-

Proposal 12-

Proposal 12 asks the board to consider allowing moose to be shot from a boat under power in GMU 18. Statewide, taking game from a boat under power is restricted. DPS has concerns about taking game from a boat under power for two reasons. First, DPS is concerned with increased wounding loss of game when taken from a vessel under power. The ability to make a clean shot and not wound an animal is important to assure that the animal is harvested and not wasted due to the inability to recover the animal. The board has passed regulations in the past which requires that a person void their harvest ticket if the animal has been wounded, even if the animal was not recovered. Second, DPS has concerns that a person attempting to shoot an animal while the boat is under power could result in increased firearm related hunting accidents. This type of hunting is inherently unsafe.

Proposal 18-

Proposal 18 asks the board to change the regulation governing incidental catch of game during trapping activities. In addition to comments voiced from ADF&G on this proposal, DPS would be opposed to any regulation that would require that a citation be issued or not issued regardless of the specific circumstances surrounding the case. DPS is given discretion to decide when the issuance of a citation is appropriate. While most cases of incidental catch would likely result in the trapper not being cited, in the most egregious situations, a citation may be issued.

A second part of proposal 18 addresses the regulatory year compared to the calendar year when enforcing this regulation. There is no need to further define the regulatory year in regulation beyond what is currently established.