

BOARD OF GAME TESTIMONY

RC16

My name is Len Malmquist, and I live in Soldotna, Alaska. I have been hunting for over 55 years now. I am the President of the Kenai Peninsula Archers, a volunteer Bow Hunter Education Instructor for Fish and Game, Kenai Director for the Alaskan Bow Hunters Association, and a member of the Bow Hunters and Kenai Peninsula Chapters of Safari Club International.

Proposal #143: I partially agree with Proposal 143. The moose population has increased with the stricter harvest requirements established to boost bull/cow ratios. Anyone in the field will see increased numbers of small paddle bulls. But, the calf population is not increasing due to sever predation by Brown Bears, Black Bears, Wolves, dogs, and cars. Predator control must be the highest priority if the herds are to be increased. Prior to returning to previous hunting regulations, we should allow more time for the moose population to increase, increase the bull/cow ratio even higher, continue with aggressive predator control, and maintain the existing requirement for 50 inch horns, or 4 brow tines. **But, I propose that spike/fork harvest of moose only be allowed during the Archery Only Season.** Archers do not take a lot of moose, but the archery hunting population is increasing and this would allow greater opportunity to harvest. During the past three years, I have taught and certified over 100 archers each year. I agree that the archery season as proposed would be acceptable.

Proposal #147. I oppose this proposal, as aggressive predator control is essential to increased moose calf, and other species, survival. Fish and Game requested to institute aerial wolf control, but they have done nothing so far. Wolf populations need to be properly balanced with prey populations.

Proposal #148. I support his proposal, as biologists have indicated that the cow population will support the proposal, and it will help balance habitat use by having fewer utilizing the available food sources.

Proposal #149. I support this proposal also. My comments on Proposal 148 apply equally to this proposal. As an aside, the cow populations in towns and

neighborhoods could be controlled with increased Archery efforts in these areas. Archery equipment does not have the same potential as any firearm(s) use.

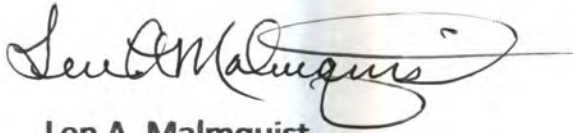
Proposal #152. I support this proposal as essential to the regrowth of the moose population. Recent Brown Bear studies show that there is a very robust population of Brown Bears on the Kenai Peninsula. The State of Alaska Constitution allows for the sustained use of state resources. Additional hunting opportunities will provide fiscal benefits, increased public safety (and hopefully less Defense of Life and Property kills), fewer negative human/bear encounters, and decrease in predation on the moose population. The current attitude of the Kenai Wildlife Refuge needs to be addressed. They seem to ignore biology and management objectives of the State of Alaska – to the detriment of ALL ALASKANS.

Proposals #154, 155 and 156. I strongly support all of these proposals. The Brown Bear population on the Kenai Peninsula has increased to the point that Black Bear hunters, using bait stations, have little or no opportunity to harvest a Black Bear due to the high number of Brown Bears coming into these sites. The sheer number of Brown Bears at bait sites is creating safety issues for the legal hunters on these sites. I know two people who had to take aggressive action to halt a Brown Bear from climbing into the tree stand with the hunters.

Proposal #158. I support this proposal as current hunting measures are not reducing the population of Black Bears as intended. Part of this is due to the high number of Brown Bears on baiting sites. Part of this is due to the fact that the Kenai Refuge creates, intentionally, roadblocks to hunters who are trying to harvest a game animal for the freezer. And, as stated before, the number of predators needs to be balanced if the Kenai Peninsula moose population is expected to grow to historical sizes. It was not too many years ago that the Peninsula had a large population of moose – who provide vital subsistence for many on the Peninsula.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on proposed game hunting changes. Alaska is unique in the fact that citizens are allowed to propose and comment on changes to the hunting regulations. Thank you also for your commitment to this

vital process. The biological data and comments from the public must produce a large workload. Every hunter in Alaska is indebted to your time and efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Len A. Malmquist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Len A. Malmquist

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