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Advisory Announcement

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GMU 1D RB050 Closed to Brown Bear Hunting

(Juneau) – An emergency order (01-17-21) has been issued to close the RB050 brown bear hunting season in Unit 1D at **11:59 P.M., on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.**

During 2020, forty-nine brown bears (24F: 23M: 2 Unk) were killed in GMU 1D including 19 harvested by hunters (9F: 10M) and 30 non-hunt kills (15F: 13M: 2 Unk) (agency kills, defense of life and property, and vehicle collisions). This record high mortality level resulted in an estimated 16-20% reduction in the population and prompted the development of a new brown bear management plan for GMU 1D which the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) presented (via Zoom) at the March 4, 2021, meeting of the Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The goal of this new plan is to recover the brown bear population and preserve future sustainable hunting opportunity. The plan does that by temporarily reducing hunting mortality through a harvest cap and by seeking to reduce human-bear conflict that results in bear mortalities through educational outreach by ADF&G and our partners. We anticipate this plan being in effect for about five years.

Beginning in spring 2021 ADF&G limited hunter harvest of brown bears in GMU 1D to five total brown bears including no more than two females in a calendar year.

Because other human caused mortality (DLP, etc.) reduces the population, hunting will also be closed when total brown bear mortality for the calendar year reaches seven total bears or two female bears. Human-caused mortality in excess of seven bears may be deducted from the hunting harvest quota for the following hunting season (i.e., the next calendar year).

As of October 19, 2021, a total of five brown bears have been harvested (two males in the spring season, and two males, one female in the fall season). One additional brown bear was killed in defense of life and property in May for a total mortality of six bears. Because the harvest guideline level of five brown bears has been met and due to the vulnerability of brown bears in this area to overharvest, this emergency order is being issued.

Hunters are encouraged to target male brown bears to help preserve future hunting opportunity. For additional information concerning brown bear hunting in Game Management Unit 1D contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at (907) 465-4329. #####