

97-111-BOG

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game to include Game Management Unit 22,  
except 22C, into the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area**

At its October 1997 meeting in Nome, the Board of Game reviewed public testimony and reports from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Conservation and Subsistence Division staff regarding the population status and harvest data for brown bear in Game Management Unit 22. Through the information available the Board finds that there is a long-standing pattern of subsistence use in this area in the harvest of these animals for their meat and fur for non-trophy purposes. The Board finds that 20-25 bears per year is the amount necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity to satisfy subsistence needs in Game Management Units 21 and 22.

Subunit 22C is excluded from the management area since it includes a large population base who hunt brown bear primarily for their trophy value, consider them a nuisance, or prefer to use them in a nonconsumptive fashion as commonly practiced by broader user populations. Exclusion of Unit 22C does not constitute an undue burden or hardship on Unit 22C residents who wish to harvest a brown bear for subsistence purposes since neighboring subunits are readily accessible and utilized by them. This is directly reflected in the harvest data of 1991-95, which show that of the 74 bears harvested by Unit 22C residents in that 5-year time frame, only 18 were taken in Game Management Unit 22C.

DATE: 10/30/97  
Nome, Alaska

  
Larry Holmes, Chair  
Alaska Board of Game

VOTE: 6-0-1