

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF GAME
WINTER MEETING - STATEWIDE ISSUES
JAN. 17-21, 1998
BETHEL, AK**

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This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the board's actions.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.XXX. NEW REGULATION. Create a new classification called Personal Use to define a group who's game uses fall somewhere between subsistence and trophy use. Establish separate seasons for this group. Require the salvage of all edible meat and alteration of hides, antlers or skulls to eliminate any trophy value.

DISCUSSION: This would greatly complicated present regulations if more categories are added to present categories. Enforcement could be complicated, and the board believes it will confuse users to create another classification in hunting regulations.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.XXX. NEW REGULATION. Require all big game herds be managed at or near maximum range carrying capacity.

DISCUSSION: If adopted, this regulation would bring confusion in interpretation of terms or definitions. This proposal also conflicts with the intensive management statute.

PROPOSAL NO. 3

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.XXX. INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS. Establish guidelines for the board to use to identify big game prey populations that are important for providing high levels of consumptive use, set population objectives and harvest objectives, determine whether an identified big game prey population is depleted or its productivity is reduced, and determine whether a proposed reduction in the allowable take is significant.

AMENDMENT: See Proposal 3A; amended and adopted as substitute language.

DISCUSSION: Board discussed the terms "estimated harvestable surplus" and "average historic harvest." The board reviewed the options under "accessibility" and decided to leave the criterion undefined in order

to give the board more flexibility to make decisions in each region. The department will provide, at each regional meeting, a list of ungulates the board will consider for intensive management. Under this approach, the definition of harvestable surplus will need to be determined before application. The board discussed whether to use current harvestable surplus or past harvestable surplus. It also decided that people might inadvertently be kept from access to animals by defining accessibility with the parameters of a human population capable of utilizing at least 50 percent of the estimated harvestable surplus. The board also considered whether to use a percent scale instead of a low limit number for harvest size. Substitute language in proposal 3A (attached) was approved by the board.

PROPOSAL NO. 4

ACTION: Deferred to March 1998

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.990. DEFINITIONS. Adopt definitions for the terms: "harvestable surplus," harvest objective" and "population objective."

DISCUSSION: Deferring the proposal to the board's March 1998 meeting will give opportunity for all parties, including the public and the legislature, to explore and provide input at that time.

PROPOSAL NO. 5

ACTION: PASSED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.005(2)(3)(4). POLICY FOR CHANGING BOARD AGENDA. Update the regulation language to reflect the department change of the Division of Boards to the Boards Support Section and the title of the Deputy Director to Executive Director.

DISCUSSION: This is a department proposal and is a housekeeping measure.

PROPOSAL NO. 6

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.011(F). TAKING OF GAME BY PROXY. Require the proxy to deliver all parts of harvested game to the beneficiary within five days of filling the permit. If unsuccessful, the proxy is required to return the harvest tag and hunting license within ten days of the close of the season.

DISCUSSION: It is clear to the board that this proposal is asking for something that is in the regulations already. The issue raised by this proposal has already been resolved by previous board action.

PROPOSAL NO. 7

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.XXX. NEW REGULATION. Allow the department to issue special moose hunting permits to resident disabled veterans that are 100% unemployable and who qualify for special disability provisions. Impose a fee of \$5 for each permit.

DISCUSSION: Proposal is allocative in nature; advisory committee comment does not support.

PROPOSAL NO. 8

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.XXX. DISABILITY EXEMPTION PERMITS. Allow the department to issue special use permits for disabled residents. An application form will be developed by the department to include a signed statement from a licensed physician explaining the nature and limitations of the disability, and the regulatory exemption needed. The department may grant the exemption but should consider whether it would fundamentally alter a program, incur undue administrative burdens, or have unreasonable impact on conservation, development or utilization of game.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Law advised this proposal is not needed.

PROPOSAL NO. 9

ACTION: Deferred to March 1998

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.016. MUSK OXEN TAG FEES. Reduce the musk oxen tag fee for subsistence hunting in Units 22, 23, 26B and C to \$25.

DISCUSSION: The board decided to defer this proposal to the March 1998 Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks so it can be considered with other muskoxen proposals at that time. The statutory guidance splits on this issue: permits must be issued in the order received, however under Tier II you may not discriminate by issuing permits as first come, first served. The board must decide how these two statutes work together. The board asked the department to contact users so it can hear back from the users in March.

PROPOSAL NO. 10

ACTION: PASSED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.018. WATERFOWL CONSERVATION TAG. Require a person to complete a registration in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program and carry proof of the registration while hunting migratory birds. Expand the regulations to include non-waterfowl birds in addition to waterfowl.

DISCUSSION: The department described the current system and the amendments to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This proposal is necessary to comply with federal requirements. Subsistence harvesters will not be impacted by the passage of this proposal and hunters already have to buy a duck stamp in order to hunt birds.

PROPOSAL NO. 11

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.027. PERMIT FOR EXPORTING BIG GAME TROPHIES. Repeal the requirement for Big Game Trophy Export Tags.

AMENDMENT: The language is amended to read: 5 AAC 92.135. TRANSFER OF POSSESSION....(c) Upon request from a peace officer of the state or federal fish and wildlife agent, any

person giving, shipping or receiving game or parts of game shall allow inspection of the game or parts of game.

DISCUSSION: Passage of proposal as amended removes cumbersome technicality to take hide out of state.

PROPOSAL NO. 12

ACTION: PASSED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029. PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Prohibit the possession, import, export, purchase, sale or trade, or issuance of a permit by the department for any of the above purposes, for any hybrid of a game animal.

DISCUSSION: A housekeeping measure that will clarify other portions of the regulations.

PROPOSAL NO. 13

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. In Alaska, allow the possession, breeding or sale of any animal currently allowed in any of the other United States or the provinces of Canada.

DISCUSSION: The board expressed its need to look at exotic animals imported to the state on case-by-case basis. All comments by members are in opposition to the proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 14

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow the possession, breeding or sale of emus in the State of Alaska without a permit.

DISCUSSION: Based on action taken on proposal 15.

PROPOSAL NO. 15

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow the possession, import, export, purchase, sale or trade of live emus and any product from the bird in the State of Alaska without a permit.

DISCUSSION: The board is concerned that imported or foreign birds are able to carry and spread disease to wild ducks and geese within the state. At the 1994 Board of Game meeting a similar proposal failed because the board believed that emus have the potential to carry disease and risks would be involved if they were brought into the state.

PROPOSAL NO. 16

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow the importation of live emus into the State of Alaska.

DISCUSSION: Based on the action taken on proposal 15.

PROPOSAL NO. 17

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow the importation of emus in the State of Alaska. Require a check-up before entry.

DISCUSSION: Based on the action taken on proposal 15.

PROPOSAL NO. 18

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow African Pygmy Hedgehog in the State of Alaska with a certificate from a veterinarian.

AMENDMENT: To hold an African Pygmy Hedgehog in Alaska, certification is required that the animal has come from stock bred in United States and is certified to be disease and parasite free by a licensed DMV.

DISCUSSION: The board believes the animal is incapable of surviving in the wilds of Alaska so it would not be a threat to any wild animals. It also is not related to any animals in Alaska. The board discussed potential disease, and amended the language to address this concern.

PROPOSAL NO. 19

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow domestic skunks in the State of Alaska.

DISCUSSION: Skunks can cause decline in nesting birds as their predators. Skunks most common vectors of rabies and there is a conflict with criteria 4 of the regulation. The department is in opposition to adding skunks to the clean list.

PROPOSAL NO. 20

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow sugar gliders in the State of Alaska.

DISCUSSION: The board noted the lack of certifiable information about sugar gliders and declined adding the animal to the clean list.

PROPOSAL NO. 21

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow the importation of sugar gliders into the State of Alaska.

DISCUSSION: Based on action taken on proposal 20.

PROPOSAL NO. 22

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow the importation of Dama wallaby into the State of Alaska.

DISCUSSION: The board noted the lack of certifiable information about Dama wallaby and declined adding the animal to the clean list.

PROPOSAL NO. 23

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.029(b). PERMIT FOR POSSESSING LIVE GAME. Allow the importation of Bennett wallaby into the State of Alaska.

DISCUSSION: The board noted the lack of certifiable information about Bennett wallaby and declined adding the animal to the clean list.

PROPOSAL NO. 24

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.050(4)(B)(i). REQUIRED PERMIT HUNT CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES. Set the deadline for purchasing license and tags to just prior to the permit being issued, rather than at the time of permit application. Provide a space on the permit application for license and tag numbers, if already purchased.

AMENDMENT: 5 AAC 92.010. HARVEST TICKETS AND REPORTS....(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a nonresident hunter who applies a tag purchased for another species of equal or greater value to a deer, moose, sheep or caribou as authorized in AS 16.05.340 is exempt from the requirement to possess a harvest tick or harvest report for the species taken.

DISCUSSION: Based on action on Proposal 25 as amended, the issue in the original proposal 24 was addressed. Passage of this proposal provides simplification to the regulation.

PROPOSAL NO. 25

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.050. REQUIRED PERMIT HUNT CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES. Require a hunting license number and either a big game tag number or big game tag application fee be

included with permit applications. Set standard tag application fees of \$25 for brown bear hunts, \$500 for residents applying for muskox hunts or \$500 for all nonresidents applying for big game hunts. Unsuccessful applicants will have these fees refunded and successful applicants will be refunded any fees in excess of the cost of the particular hunt, where applicable.

AMENDMENT: (1) The applicant or the applicant's agent shall complete the application form; a permit application that is incomplete, or that does not include, if required, an Alaska hunting license number; or that contains a false statement is void; ...

(3) the applicant must obtain or apply for an Alaska hunting license before the time of application....

DISCUSSION: The department submitted a report n RC 19 describing the effect of this proposal since its original passage in 1996. Passage of this amended proposal is considered a moderate approach to what the regulation required before. Problem that was created with the previous regulation is addressed by this amendment, especially with guides.

PROPOSAL NO. 26

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.110(b)(1)(A). CONTROL OF PREDATION BY WOLVES. Include a provision to require clear evidence of broad-based public support for the program.

DISCUSSION: Board discussed statutory language and the difference between board and governor duties.

PROPOSAL NO. 27

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.110(b)(1)(A). CONTROL OF PREDATION BY WOLVES. Require: an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act standards; proof of public acceptance of Alaskans in the form of a population survey conducted using a statistically valid peer reviewed methodology; and an economic analysis that considered social costs, existence values, and includes full-cost accounting.

DISCUSSION: The board does not have authority to address cost issues. This proposal appears scientific but actually puts obstacles in the way of management.

PROPOSAL NO. 28

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.110(b)(1)(A). CONTROL OF PREDATION BY WOLVES. Require scientific review by a minimum of six professional wildlife ecologists with no more than one employed in Alaska or the Yukon Territory of Canada.

DISCUSSION: The board does not see advantage in stipulating this request. The department relies on broadest scientific studies when dealing with Alaska's resources. Significant scientific research projects are submitted for peer review both in state and outside: a high level of scientific review is done before any material is approved, but a good deal of experts lie within the region this proposal is trying to exclude.

PROPOSAL NO. 29

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.110(b)(1)(A). CONTROL OF PREDATION BY WOLVES. Require scientific review by a minimum of six professional wildlife ecologists with no more than one employed in Alaska or the Yukon Territory of Canada.

DISCUSSION: Because of action taken on proposal 28.

PROPOSAL NO. 30

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.200(b)(2). PURCHASE AND SALE OF GAME. Allow the purchase, sale or barter of black bear hides that have been altered into a handicraft, article or garment.

AMENDMENT: Any part of a bear except an article of handicraft made from the fur of a black bear, an unsealed marten taken in Units 1-5, 7

DISCUSSION: In regulations, the skin, hide or pelt means the entire external covering of the animal. Wildlife protection had no enforcement concerns with the passage of this proposal. The board is concerned that commercial use of any part of an animal that provides incentive for people to take an animal for commercial purposes should be well-thought out. The board also discussed whether the proposal would increase illegal harvest, and amended it to address this concern, in part.

PROPOSAL NO. 31

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.200(b)(5). PURCHASE AND SALE OF GAME. Allow the sale of caribou antlers taken in Unit 23.

DISCUSSION: Based on action taken on Proposal 33A.

PROPOSAL NO. 32

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.200(b)(5). PURCHASE AND SALE OF GAME. Allow the sale of caribou antlers taken in Unit 23.

DISCUSSION: Based on action taken on Proposal 33A.

PROPOSAL NO. 33

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.200(b)(5). PURCHASE AND SALE OF GAME. Allow the sale of caribou antlers by residents of Unit 23, 21 years of age and older. Require all antlers sold be accompanied by a photocopy of the valid Alaska hunting license of the person selling the antlers.

AMENDMENT: Substitute language in Proposal 33A adopted, which states: No person may purchase, sell or barter...the antler of a caribou taken in Unit 23 unless the antler has been naturally shed or made into an article of handicraft. The board also defined "handicraft" as: a finished product in which the shape or appearance of the natural material has been substantially changed by skillful use of the hands, such as by sewing, carving, etching scrimshawing, painting, or other means, and which has substantially greater monetary and aesthetic value than the unaltered natural material alone.

DISCUSSION: Amendment to the proposal clarifies the regulation so that naturally shed antlers can be sold, and clarifies what constitutes a "handicraft." Amendment was supported because residents from Unit 23 already believe it is legal to sell naturally shed antlers. It is not legal to sell antlers from caribou that has been caught. Advisory committees and the public want more time to talk about the general sale of antlers.

PROPOSAL NO. 34

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.200(b)(5). PURCHASE AND SALE OF GAME. Allow the sale of caribou antlers taken in Unit 23.

DISCUSSION: Based on action taken on proposal 33A.

PROPOSAL NO. 35

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.220(a)(1). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS AND HIDES. Require the salvage of meat for squirrels and marmots.

AMENDMENT: Under salvage of furbearers: If you take a beaver, muskrat, ground squirrels or marmots, you must salvage either the hide or the meat.

DISCUSSION: Ground squirrels are scavengers and tend to dwell around camps and can be annoying.

PROPOSAL NO. 36

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.220(a)(3) and (4). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS AND HIDES. Require black bear hides to be sealed year-round and edible meat be salvaged in all units where sealing is required.

DISCUSSION: People's perception about black bear meat depends largely on where they live. Have difficulty in making this a statewide regulation because different areas have different needs. People should not be compelled to eat meat that may not have good flavor.

PROPOSAL NO. 37

ACTION: Deferred to March 1998

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.220(h). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS AND HIDES. Waive the fines and equipment seizures for hunters who deliver their illegally taken animal to the Department of Fish and Game or Department of Public Safety, prior to any contact with a regulatory or enforcement officer. Require that the harvest ticket be forfeited for that regulatory year.

AMENDMENT: Substitute language: ... (i) shall comply with all provisions of 5 AAC 92.010, 92.050, 92.052, and 92.062 if hunting;... (iii) shall immediately report the taking to a department representative. (I) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for taking a game animal in violation of AS 16 or a regulation adopted under AS 16 that the person has complied with all requirements of this section.

DISCUSSION: The proposal was deferred, as amended, to the board's Spring 1998 meeting in Fairbanks to allow for more public comment and to get advisory committee input.

PROPOSAL NO. 38

ACTION: Deferred to Spring 1999

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.XXX. In Units 11 and 13, require all subsistence and sport taken sheep be sealed or a plug placed in the horns within ten days of the end of the hunt.

AMENDMENT: That in-unit sealing be required in Units 7 and 15 (not 11 and 13).

DISCUSSION: The board discussed enforcement of this regulation before amending it to apply to Units 7 and 15 instead of Units 11 and 13, as a pilot program. The board decided that passage of the proposal as amended without public input might be opposite of what the board is trying to achieve. Deferring proposal until Southcentral meeting gives the people most effected by this proposal the ability to comment.

PROPOSAL NO. 39

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.450(18). DESCRIPTION OF GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS. Establish subunit boundaries between the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers to set separate season opening dates for subsistence moose hunting.

DISCUSSION: There is no management reason to pass this proposal and is not necessary at this time to subdivide Unit 18. When dual management between the federal subsistence board and the state started, moose season in Unit 18 had two starting dates and residents of lower Yukon were not in agreement with the earlier start and asked for the subdividing of the game management unit. This stayed in place for about eight months but is no longer a problem.

PROPOSAL NO. 40

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.450(23)and(26). DESCRIPTION OF GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS. Change a portion of the boundary between Units 23 and 26A. The Singoalik River drainage will become part of Unit 26.

DISCUSSION: Proposers wrote and asked that their proposal be withdrawn. Proposal did not have public support.

PROPOSAL NO. 41

ACTION: PASSED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change the language in the regulations to add “including the transportation of hunters, hunting gear, and/or parts of game” along with “hunting.”

DISCUSSION: Changes in regulations will allow them to be clearer and enforceable. This department proposal is a housekeeping measure. Advisory committees providing comment are in favor of this housekeeping proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 42

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.990. DEFINITIONS. Define “disabled.”

DISCUSSION: Definition is in the statutes already.

PROPOSAL NO. 43

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.990(8). DEFINITIONS. Define a moose “brow tine” as “a tine emerging from the first branch or brow palm on the main beam of a moose antler and projecting forward; the brow palm is separated from the main palm by the first wide bay; a tine originating in or after this bay is not a brow tine.”

AMENDMENT: (8) “brow tine” means a tine emerging from the forward branch or brow palm [ON THE MAIN BEAM] of a moose antler and projecting forward; the brow palm is separated from the main palm by the first wide bay; a tine originating in or after this bay is not a brow tine;

DISCUSSION: Amendment will make definition clearer and make it more specific.

PROPOSAL NO. 44

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.990(40). DEFINITIONS. Define a point or tine as “an antler projection at least one inch long, and longer than it is wide, with the width measured one inch from the tip.” Eliminate “or more” from the current definition.

DISCUSSION: Antlers in velvet would nullify the present definition. Yearlings, with small antlers, have velvet still on antlers. Passage could also complicate the present selected harvest strategies!

PROPOSAL NO. 45

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5AAC92.990(45).DEFINITIONS. Include second degree kindred in defining relative.

DISCUSSION: Passing this proposal would not be consistent with the current regulation. Term has been defined already by the legislature. Issue like this is outside authority of the board to deal with.

PROPOSAL NO. 46

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.990(45). DEFINITIONS. Define “second degree kindred” to include aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

DISCUSSION: Same reasoning given on proposal 45.

PROPOSAL NO. 47

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.020(16). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Combine the fall and spring general hunts in Unit 18 with season dates of Sept. 10 - May 25.

AMENDMENT: Proposal 47A substitute language considered, with spring resident season changed to Apr. 20 - May 10, and nonresident from Apr. 20 - May 10.

DISCUSSION: Western Alaska Brown Bear Working Group is in opposition to the proposal because they believe the competition would then be between the sport hunters and the local subsistence hunters. The department did not have clear harvestable number at this time.

PROPOSAL NO. 48

ACTION: PASSED as amended

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.070(4). SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR UNCLASSIFIED GAME: CROWS. Allow the taking of crows with no bag limit only if the bird will be used for food or clothing, and prohibit the sale of crow.

AMENDMENT: Proposal 48A, for crow in Units 1-9 and 15: 5 per day; however, a bird may be taken only if used for food or clothing, and no bird or part of a bird may be sold or offered for sale. The amendment also incorporates language “or part of a bird” into the bag limit for cormorant and snowy owl.

DISCUSSION: The concern voiced by board members with this proposal as written was that the crows might just be killed and not put to any constructive use. Federal regulations prohibit the sale of any crow feathers.

PROPOSAL NO. 49

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.070(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR UNCLASSIFIED GAME: CROWS. Close all seasons in all units.

DISCUSSION: Based on action taken on proposal 48.

PROPOSAL NO. 50

ACTION: NO ACTION

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.070(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR UNCLASSIFIED GAME: CROWS. Close all seasons in all units.

DISCUSSION: Based on action taken on proposal 48.

PROPOSAL NO. 51

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 85.070. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR UNCLASSIFIED GAME. Allow population control of ravens only by professional biologists who are qualified to judge the proper population.

DISCUSSION: Ravens are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so federal action would be necessary.

PROPOSAL NO. 52

ACTION: FAILED

DESCRIPTION: 5 AAC 92.040. PERMIT FOR TAKING FUR BEARERS WITH MEAT and 5 AAC 92.210. GAME AS ANIMAL FOOD OR BAIT and 5 AAC 92.220. SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS AND HIDES. Allow illegally taken big game meat that is no longer suitable for human consumption to be salvaged by trappers for use as bait after the department has completed its investigation.

DISCUSSION: What this proposal is asking for is already in the current regulations.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Board of Game Findings 98-118-BOG: Regarding Customary and Traditional Use of Muskoxen in Northwestern Unit 23. The board passed a proposal at its Fall 1997 meeting in Nome concerning traditional use of muskoxen in northwestern Unit 23. Findings based on that decision were drafted and voted on at the winter meeting (attached).