

This proposal was considered by the Board of Game at the 2012 Statewide Regulations meeting. The board deferred it to the Interior Region meeting scheduled for March, 2012.

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Establish a codified location for permitted black bear bait stations and establish seasons for all of Alaska.

(b) (xx) Bear baiting permits are valid for the following seasons.

(A) In Units 1-5 spring black bear baiting permits will be valid April 15 - June 15 as long as there is an open black bear hunting season and unless baiting has been prohibited in an area by the Board of Game.

(B) In Units 6-26 spring black bear baiting permits will be valid April 1 - June 30 as long as there is an open black bear hunting season and unless baiting has been prohibited in an area by the Board.

(C) In Units 6-26 fall black bear baiting permits will be valid August 1 - October 15 as long as there is an open black bear hunting season and the board has authorized a fall baiting season.

ISSUE: This regulation may be better served as a new 5AAC number of its' own. Although the board has recently passed modifications to black bear bait seasons in several Units there does not appear to be a place in codified regulations for these season dates. Black bear baiting seasons were traditionally set by ADF&G as a discretionary permit condition. In recent years the public has taken interest in black bear baiting seasons and presented several proposals to the board. Most of these proposals were presented as modifications to 5AAC 85.015 although bait seasons are not hunting seasons but permit dates. The board has passed several of these proposals in the last four years but it appears they have not been included in regulation. These modifications to regulation, presented by the public and passed by the board should be included somewhere in regulation.

This regulation will align spring and fall bear baiting season in most of Alaska. Spring seasons will be standardized in Southeast Alaska and in Greater Alaska. Fall seasons will also be standardized. Since fall baiting seasons are somewhat unusual in Alaska the board must authorize seasons in specific areas. All four areas where fall baiting is allowed currently have very different seasons.

This Proposal consists of several consensus items from a black bear resource users' group held at the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. All of these suggestions were approved by ALL members of the group. We have not included any items or suggestions that were not supported by all members of the group.

The intent of this group is to clarify and remove complicated or excessively restrictive regulations and ADF&G discretionary provisions pertaining to black bear hunting in Alaska statewide but especially greater Alaska. Over the years bear hunting and baiting regulations have accumulated many unnecessary restrictions. We realize Southeast Alaska has unique issues pertaining to black bear hunting. Many of our suggestions are intended to be statewide. If

Southeast is intended to be excluded we will state a specific area for the regulation (Unit 6-26, etc.).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to be confused by the disparity between codified regulations and “requirements” in the annual “handy-dandy” version of the regulations. The public will continue to come to the Board with proposals that do not have a proper place in regulation. Baiting seasons will be variable and confusing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunters that choose to hunt bears with the use of bait.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: The Greater Alaska Black Bear Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG051911494
