

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REVIEWER LETTER

Dear Reviewer,

August 2014

The Alaska Board of Game will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its meetings scheduled for **January through March 2015**. The proposals generally concern changes to the hunting and trapping regulations for the Southeast, Central/Southwest, and Southcentral Regions. The board will also consider a number of sheep hunting proposals for the Interior Region which were deferred from the previous cycle. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff submitted these proposals. The proposals are published essentially as they were received.

The proposals are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXX] are deletions from the regulation text.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this book. Some regulations may have statewide application and affect other regions of the state so please read all the proposals presented in this book. Proposals are grouped by the meeting to which they pertain (see *Proposal Index* for each meeting). Within each meeting the proposals are then organized by area. The proposals are listed in tentative order for which they are intended to be considered during the meetings. The final order of proposals to be deliberated by the board, also known as the “roadmap,” will be made available approximately two weeks prior to each meeting. However, the roadmap may be changed up to and during the meeting.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, **the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.**

After reviewing the proposals, please send written comments to:

ATTN: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094
Online: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

Public comment, in combination with Advisory Committee comments ADF&G staff presentations, provide the Board of Game with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Written comments become public documents. The following are recommendations for providing written comments:

Timely Submission: Submit written comments by fax or mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting for which the topic will be considered (see tentative meeting schedule on page vi). Written comments received after the two-week period will be accepted but will not be included in board member workbooks until the beginning of each meeting. If you provide written comments during a board

meeting, submit 20 copies to Board Support Section staff, who will distribute your written comments to board members. If including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.

Length: Prior to the two-week deadline, the board will accept written comment of up to 100 single sided pages in length from any one individual or group related to proposals at any one meeting. After the two week deadline and during the meetings, written comment will be limited to 10 single sided pages in length.

List the Proposal Number: Written comments should indicate the proposal number(s) to which the comments apply. Written comments should specifically state “support” or “opposition” to the proposal(s). If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate “support as amended” and provide your preferred amendment in writing. This will help ensure written comments are correctly noted for the board members. You do not need to list the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) number.

Do Not Use Separate Pages When Commenting on Separate Proposals: If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

Provide an Explanation: Please briefly explain why you are in support of or opposition to the proposal. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved in each proposal, not a mere calculation of comments for or against a proposal. Advisory committees and other groups also need to explain the rationale behind recommendations. Minority viewpoints from an advisory committee should be noted in advisory committee minutes along with the majority recommendation. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pros and cons of each issue. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient.

Write Clearly: Comments will be scanned and photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins on all sides to allow room for insertion into the board workbooks. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly.

Advisory Committees: In addition to the above, please make sure the Advisory Committee meeting minutes reflect why the committee voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient. Detail the number of members in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and indicate represented interests such as subsistence, guides, trappers, hunters, wildlife viewers, etc.

Tentative agendas for each meeting are included in each regional section. Meeting information, documents, and a link to the audio is available through the Boards of Game website at: <http://boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov>. Board actions will also be posted on the website shortly after the meeting.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 at least two weeks prior to the schedule meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game
(907) 465-4110