Kenai Peninsula Proposals



Shortens the general moose season in Unit 15 (Archery only Sept 1-7 and general season Sept 8-21)

Department Position: Neutral

Proposed by: Public

Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Kenai/Soldotna (A) 7-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-11 Cooper Landing 0-5 Seward 0-6

Department Amendments

- General Season Dates Sept 1-25 (current Aug 20-Sept 20)
- Archery only season Aug 24-31 (current Aug 10-17)
- Adjust Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15A, closure would apply until 12:01 a.m. Sept. 16 (currently 12:01 a.m. Sept 11).



Amendments Continued

- Adjust Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C, Closure would apply Sept 16-19 and Sept 22-25 (currently Sept 11-14 and Sept 17-20)
- Establish an Antlerless moose hunt in Unit 15C outside of DM549 hunt boundary (up to 50 permits issued, legal animal: cow not accompanied by a calf, or a calf not accompanied by a cow), season dates would match DM549

General Season Dates Sept 1-25

- Allows additional time for antler development
- Adds 5 days at the end of the season when hunter success rates are generally higher
- Aligns the closing date with Units 14A, 14B, and 16 general moose seasons
- Archery only, Kenai Controlled Use Area, Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area date adjustments are suggested to retain the current length of time they would apply

Establish an antlerless hunt in 15C

- Most current population estimate Feb 2013 2554-3855 (IM pop objective 2500-3500)
- 2014 Total legal moose harvest in 15C was 146 (IM harvest objective 200-350)
- Young and Boertji (2011) show moose populations continued to grow with a 1.1% cow harvest (which equates to about 23 cows in 15C)



Prop. 156



Moose Numbers in CA 20, 21, 24 Unit 15C



Moose

Prop. 156





Shortens the general moose season in Unit 15 (Archery only Sept 1-7 and general season Sept 8-21)

Department Position: Neutral

Proposed by: Public

Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Kenai/Soldotna (A) 7-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-11 Cooper Landing 0-5 Seward 0-6

Changes the general moose season dates in Unit 15 to Sept. 1-30

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Central Peninsula 6-4 Homer (A) 14-0 Seldovia 5-0 Seward (A) 7-0



- This would establish different season dates for Units 7 and 15
- Extending to the end of Sept may interfere with the onset of the primary rut

Changes the general moose season dates in Unit 15 to Sept. 1-30

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Central Peninsula 6-4 Homer (A) 14-0 Seldovia 5-0 Seward (A) 7-0



Opens a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C with season dates Sept 1-20

Department Position: Neutral Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Homer (A) 8-6

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10 Kenai/Soldotna 0-9

- Nonresident harvest in 15C average of 9 bulls (SF-50")/year from 2006-2010
- Nonresident season was closed in 2011 due to new restrictions on residents and the adoption of an IM plan that included Predator Control
- The department has not implemented a predator control program in 15C due to recent population estimates



Opens a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C with season dates Sept 1-20

Department Position: Neutral Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Homer (A) 8-6

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10 Kenai/Soldotna 0-9

Opens a nonresident moose drawing hunt in Unit 15. After discussion with the author his intent was to allow nonresident moose harvest in 15A and 15C by harvest ticket

Department Position: Neutral
Proposed by: Public
Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10

- Nonresident harvest in 15C average of 9 bulls (SF-50")/year from 2006-2010
- Nonresident harvest in 15A average of 6 bulls (SF-50")/year from 2006-2010
- The moose population in 15C is within IM objectives while the pop in 15A is below IM objectives
- The department has not implemented a predator control program in 15C while predator control has resulted in 3 wolves killed in Unit 15A since 2014.

- Should the board consider a draw hunt for nonresidents the department recommends subunit draw permits with up to 50 permits per unit in 15A and 15C
- Alternatively the board may wish to consider reopening a nonresident general hunt for 50" or 4 brow tine bulls.

Opens a nonresident moose drawing hunt in Unit 15. After discussion with the author his intent was to allow nonresident moose harvest in 15A and 15C by harvest ticket

Department Position: Neutral
Proposed by: Public
Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10

Open a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C or implement predator control

Department Position: Neutral Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10 Cooper Landing 0-5

- Nonresident harvest in 15C average of 9 bulls (50" or 4 brow tines)/year from 2006-2010
- Nonresident season was closed in 2011 due to new restrictions on residents and the adoption of an IM plan that included Predator Control
- The department has not implemented a predator control program in 15C due to recent population estimates
- Moose harvest in 15C is below IM objectives but has been increasing (44 in 2011, 43 in 2012, 98 in 2013, 146 in 2014) and the department believes the unit can sustain additional harvest opportunities as outlined in the amendments of proposal 156

Open a nonresident moose season in Unit 15C or implement predator control

Department Position: Neutral Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10 Cooper Landing 0-5

Change the bag limit for moose in Units 7 and 15 to a bull with 50" antlers and at least three brow tines on one side. After discussion with the author his intent was 50" antlers **or** at least 3 brow tines on one side

Department Position: Neutral

Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Central Peninsula (A) 10-0 Cooper Landing 3-2 Oppose

Seldovia 0-5 Seward 0-4 Kenai/Soldotna 0-9

- This proposal eliminates spike bulls from the harvest
- Also returns the bag limit to 50" or 3 brow tines on one side
- Spike bull harvest was 62 in 2013 and 76 in 2014
- Current bull:cow ratios are above management objectives
- From 2006-2010, 12% (256/2,206) of the harvest, an average of 24 bulls/year, had 3 or more brow tines and were smaller than 50"

Change the bag limit for moose in Units 7 and 15 to a bull with 50" antlers and at least three brow tines on one side.
After discussion with the author his intent was 50" antlers or at least 3 brow tines on one side

Department Position: Neutral

Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Central Peninsula (A) 10-0 Cooper Landing 3-2 Oppose

Seldovia 0-5 Seward 0-4 Kenai/Soldotna 0-9

Eliminates all weapon restricted hunts in Unit 15

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 10-0

Prop. 162

- The only weapon restricted hunt in Units 7 and 15 is the Aug 10-17 archery only moose hunt in Units 15A and 15B
- Archery only harvest was 33% of the annual average general harvest in the last 2 years in Units 15A and 15B

Eliminates all weapon restricted hunts in Unit 15

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 10-0

Eliminates the archery only season for moose in Units 15A and 15B

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 10-0 Homer 8-5-1 Seldovia 5-0 Seward 6-1

- The archery only moose hunt in Units 15A and 15B is Aug 10-17
- Archery only harvest was 33% of the annual average general harvest in the last 2 years in Units 15A and 15B

Eliminates the archery only season for moose in Units 15A and 15B

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 10-0 Homer 8-5-1 Seldovia 5-0 Seward 6-1

Creates a seven day archery seasons for moose following the general seasons in Units 7 and 15

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Alaskan Bowhunters AssociationAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10 Cooper Landing 1-4 Homer 1-14 Seward 0-7 Kenai/Soldotna 2-6-1

- Given closing dates of the general season prior to this board meeting there would be an archery only season Sept 21-27
- If the board extends the current season ending date it would potentially extend the archery season into the primary rut period for moose

Creates a seven day archery seasons for moose following the general seasons in Units 7 and 15

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Alaskan Bowhunters AssociationAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10 Cooper Landing 1-4 Homer 1-14 Seward 0-7 Kenai/Soldotna 2-6-1
Includes Unit 15C in the Aug 10-17 archery only season for moose

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Kenai/Soldotna (A) 6-1-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10

Prop. 165

Background

Currently the archery only moose season of Aug 10-17 applies only to Units 15A and 15B

Includes Unit 15C in the Aug 10-17 archery only season for moose

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Kenai/Soldotna (A) 6-1-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10

Changes the season dates of the DM549 antlerless hunt in Unit 15C to November 1-30

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Homer 12-1-1 Seldovia 5-0

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10

Background

- The season dates for DM549 were Oct 20 Nov 19 (1995 and 1996), Nov 1-30 (1997 and 1998), and then Aug 20-Sept 20 (1999-present)
- Dates were changed to coincide with the general season dates due to recommendations by local residents
- Season dates of Nov 1-30 would likely expose migrating moose to harvest (not a concern given the current pop. status of moose in Unit 15C)
- Allows harvest with snow cover during most winters
- Separating general season and antlerless harvest dates would likely aid enforcement efforts

Changes the season dates of the DM549 antlerless hunt in Unit 15C to November 1-30

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Homer 12-1-1 Seldovia 5-0

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-10

Creates a hunt within 1 mile of the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C for cow or calf moose

Department Position: Neutral Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Homer (A) 12-2-0 Kenai/Soldotna (A) 8-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 1-8

Background

- This would be restricted to shotgun or muzzleloader Nov 15-Feb 20
- Up to 100 permits issued
- Would target moose likely to be hit by vehicles
- Hunt would open at discretion of the department
- 5 year average roadkill for moose on the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C is 49 moose/year
- The department of transportation has worked to clear the right of way recently in 15C and it has improved visibility
- The department believes there are opportunities to harvest additional antlerless moose in Unit 15C (see proposal 156)

Prop. 167



Creates a hunt within 1 mile of the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C for cow or calf moose

Department Position: Neutral Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Homer (A) 12-2-0 Kenai/Soldotna (A) 8-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 1-8

Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt (DM549) in a portion of Unit 15C Department Position: Support Proposed by: ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

*Central Peninsula 8-3 Cooper Landing 5-0 *Homer 13-0-1 *Seldovia 5-0 Seward 5-1 *Kenai/Soldotna 8-0 Oppose

Background

- This hunt allows for up to 100 permits to be issued for a cow not accompanied by a calf
- The last survey flown in the area bounded by this hunt was in 2013 in which 191 moose were counted including 22 bulls, 52 calves, and 117 cows
- We have issued 50 permits during the past 13 years with an average annual harvest of 22 cows



Homer Area Cow Hunt (DM549)



Homer Bench Cow Moose Harvest



Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt (DM549) in a portion of Unit 15C Department Position: Support Proposed by: ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

*Central Peninsula 8-3 Cooper Landing 5-0 *Homer 13-0-1 *Seldovia 5-0 Seward 5-1 *Kenai/Soldotna 8-0 Oppose

Create a resident archery only sheep hunt in Units 7, 14, and 15 with season dates of Aug 1-9

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Alaskan Bowhunters AssociationAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-8-1 Homer 0-14

Background

- The majority of area encompassed by Units 7 and 15 currently has a general sheep season
- During the last 5 years (2010-2014) the average general season annual harvest has been 8 full curl rams
- An additional average of 2 rams has been taken in drawing hunts

Sheep population size trend and harvest in GMUs 7&15 1968 - 2014



Create a resident archery only sheep hunt in Units 7, 14, and 15 with season dates of Aug 1-9

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Alaskan Bowhunters AssociationAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-8-1 Homer 0-14

Modify the current harvest management strategy for Kenai Peninsula brown bears, Units 7 and 15

Department Position: Opposed Proposed by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-9 Seward 1-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-7-1

Prop. 170

Background

• See proposal 171



Modify the current harvest management strategy for Kenai Peninsula brown bears, Units 7 and 15

Department Position: Opposed Proposed by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-9 Seward 1-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-7-1

Modify the brown bear harvest management strategy in Units 7 and 15

Department Position: Take No Action Proposed by: ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Cooper Landing 4-0-1 Seward 5-2 Kenai/Soldotna 6-0-2

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-7-1

Human-caused brown bear mortalities in GMUs 7 & 15, 1961-2014



60

Adult Female Brown Bear Mortality (≥5 years old) in GMUs 7 & 15, 1975-2014









Modify the brown bear harvest management strategy in Units 7 and 15

Department Position: Take No Action Proposed by: ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Cooper Landing 4-0-1 Seward 5-2 Kenai/Soldotna 6-0-2

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-7-1

Extend the brown bear season dates to June 30, allow taking of brown bears at black bear bait sites Apr 15 – June 30, eliminate the meat salvage requirement for brown bears taken at bait sites

Department Position: Neutral regarding the season dates, Opposed regarding salvage of meat (statewide issue)

Proposed by: Public

Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Seward 4-2

Oppose

Cooper Landing 0-5

Background

- Current season dates are Sept 1 May 31, with take over bait allowed Apr 15 – May 31
- 77% (40/52) of bears taken from Jan 1 May 31, 2014 were taken over bait
- 80% (32/40) of bears taken over bait were male
- With reduced limits we anticipate most of the annual allotment will be taken over bait
- The department is opposed to any changes in the salvage regulations. Salvage regulations were just aligned at last statewide meeting.

Extend the brown bear season dates to June 30, allow taking of brown bears at black bear bait sites Apr 15 – June 30, eliminate the meat salvage requirement for brown bears taken at bait sites

Department Position: Neutral regarding the season dates, Opposed regarding salvage of meat (statewide issue)

Proposed by: Public

Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Seward 4-2

Oppose

Cooper Landing 0-5

Remove the meat salvage requirement for brown bears taken over bait in the Southcentral Region

Department Position: Opposed

Proposed by: Anchorage Fish and Game AC
Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Homer 0-13-1

Background

- 77% (40/52) of bears taken from Jan 1 May 31, 2014 were taken over bait
- The department is opposed to any changes in the salvage regulations. Salvage regulations were just aligned at the last statewide meeting.

Remove the meat salvage requirement for brown bears taken over bait in the Southcentral Region

Department Position: Opposed

Proposed by: Anchorage Fish and Game AC
Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Homer 0-13-1

Remove meat salvage requirement for brown bears taken over bait in the Southcentral Region

Department Position: Opposed Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Homer 0-13-1
- 77% (40/52) of bears taken from Jan 1 May 31, 2014 were taken over bait
- The department is opposed to any changes in the salvage regulations

Remove meat salvage requirement for brown bears taken over bait in the Southcentral Region

Department Position: Opposed Proposed by: Public Advisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Homer 0-13-1

Proposal 175:

Shorten the Ptarmigan Hunting Season and Daily Bag Limit in GMU 15C North of Kachemak Bay





Willow Ptarmigan Average Territorial Male Density



77

Prop. 175

Prop. 175 Prop. 175

1. 76% Unit 15 wing collections – Taken in March

2. Nearly all from Caribou Hills



Prop. 175

Statewide Small Game Survey: Unit 15 Ptarmigan

1. 5th – statewide hunting EFFORT

2. 18th – statewide hunting HARVEST

3. Average harvest = 1 bird / day afield

Proposal 175:

Shorten the Ptarmigan Hunting Season and Daily Bag Limit in GMU 15C North of Kachemak Bay



Proposal 176:

Reduce the Daily Bag Limit for ptarmigan in GMU 15C North of Kachemak Bay



Change the beaver trapping season in Units 7 and 15 to Oct 20 – March 31

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 8-0

Prop. 177

- Current dates are Nov 10 Apr 30 with a 20 beaver limit
- Allows for potential open water trapping prior to main trapping season (Nov 10 for most species)
- If passed recommend underwater sets only to minimize bycatch
- Potential to catch otter before otter trapping season opens

Prop. 177

Beaver harvest in GMUs 7 & 15 1956/57 - 2013/14



GMUs 7 & 15 Average Beaver Harvest By Month 2009-2013



Change the beaver trapping season in Units 7 and 15 to Oct 20 - March 31

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 8-0

Requires trap identification in Units 7 and 15

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Cooper Landing 5-0 Seldovia 5-0 Homer 13-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-7 Seward 2-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8

- Adopt same wording as was adopted in Units 1-5 requiring permanent identification on all traps and snares.
- This is primarily an enforcement issue
- Since this requirement is slightly different than requirements on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, trappers may need to remark traps they use on Refuge lands
- May require the department to develop a data base to store trapper identification data

Requires trap identification in Units 7 and 15

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Cooper Landing 5-0 Seldovia 5-0 Homer 13-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-7 Seward 2-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8

Establish a trapper identification numbering system for Units 7 and 15

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Homer 13-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-7

- Companion proposal to proposal 178.
 Department will establish an identification system for trappers not wishing to use their name and address.
- This is primarily an enforcement issue
- If proposal 178 is supported the department will need to establish a trapper identification database

Establish a trapper identification numbering system for Units 7 and 15

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Homer 13-1

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-7

Prohibit Trapping near roads, private lands, and most public trails, trail heads and campgrounds in the Cooper Landing Area including portions of Kenai Lake and the "organic" dump

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Cooper Landing 5-0

Oppose

Seward 0-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8



- Historically there has been user conflicts in this area with local residents, trappers, and pets being caught in traps
- The department has been involved with public meetings addressing this issue where some compromises were noted but not agreed upon
- Discussion included voluntary setbacks by trappers in some of the higher use areas

Prohibit Trapping near roads, private lands, and most public trails, trail heads and campgrounds in the Cooper Landing Area including portions of Kenai Lake and the "organic" dump

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Cooper Landing 5-0

Oppose

Seward 0-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8

Prohibit Trapping near roads, private lands, and most public trails, trail heads, and campgrounds from Tern Lake to Seward

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Cooper Landing 3-0-2

Oppose

Seward 1-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8



- This is an extension of proposal 180
- The areas described in this proposal were not directly addressed at the Cooper Landing public meetings
- The department has received fewer complaints of user conflict in these areas compared to the Cooper Landing area described in proposal 180

Prohibit Trapping near roads, private lands, and most public trails, trail heads, and campgrounds from Tern Lake to Seward

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: PublicAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Cooper Landing 3-0-2

Oppose

Seward 1-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8

Prohibit shooting big game from a boat in coastal or estuarine waters in Units 7 and 15 except by persons with a disability

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Seldovia (A) 5-0 Homer 14-0

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-8 Seward 0-7 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8

- Hunting from a boat is currently legal if the motor has been shut off and forward progress from the motor has ceased
- Other parts of the state have regulations that prohibit shooting big game from a boat 5AAC 92.085 (9) and (12)
- Some concerns have been expressed regarding wounding loss by hunters shooting from a boat on anchor or adrift
- A boat was used for transport for 47% (1220/2573) of bears taken in Units 7 and 15 in the last 5 years
- A boat was used for transport for 71% (886/1250) of bears taken in Unit 15C
- In the 3 goat areas of concern (346, 365, 363) 57% (114/197) of transport was by boat

Prohibit shooting big game from a boat in coastal or estuarine waters in Units 7 and 15 except by persons with a disability

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Homer Fish and Game ACAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Seldovia (A) 5-0 Homer 14-0

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-8 Seward 0-7 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8

Create a special management area for Kachemak Bay State Park in Unit 15C

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens Advisory BoardAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-8 Seldovia 0-5 Seward 0-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8

- Numerous agencies have regulatory authority within and adjacent to the suggested area
 - 1. Alaska State Parks
 - 2. Kachemak Bay State Park
 - 3. Department of Natural Resources
 - 4. US Coast Guard
 - 5. City of Homer
 - 6. Seldovia Village Tribe, Seldovia Native Association Inc.
 - 7. Nanwalek Village IRA, English Bay Corporation8.Native Village of Port Graham, Port Graham Corporation
- The board of game process already allows for public input regarding issues in this area



Create a special management area for Kachemak Bay State Park in Unit 15C

Department Position: NeutralProposed by: Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens Advisory BoardAdvisory Committee Votes:

Support

Oppose

Central Peninsula 0-8 Seldovia 0-5 Seward 0-5 Kenai/Soldotna 0-8