

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**

The Alaska Board of Game proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with the use and taking of game. Regulations subject to board action are in 5 AAC 84, 85, 92, 98, and 99 for the Southeast, Southcentral, and Central/Southwest Regions including statewide reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions. The board will also address additional topics for other Game Management Units and statewide provisions as described below:

The following subject matter areas to be addressed for the Southeast Region, Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, the Southcentral Region, Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15, and the Central/Southwest Region, Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17, are:

- A. TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS for furbearers, including but not limited to: beaver, coyote, mink, marten, otter, muskrat, squirrel, fisher, marmot, fox, weasel, lynx, black bear, wolverine, and wolves.
- B. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS for all species including, but not limited to: bison, elk, moose, goat, caribou, black bear, brown bear, deer, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverine, lynx, fur animals, small game including waterfowl and ptarmigan, unclassified game, and deleterious exotic wildlife. In addition, the potential for Tier I or Tier II subsistence hunting for each population; the reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts; establishing separate deer hunts for elderly and disabled in Unit 1-5; the definition of legal moose antlers for Units 1 and 3; the restriction to bag limit for wounded bear in Units 1-5 and 8; harvest guideline levels for wolves in Unit 2; and brown bear harvest management strategy in Unit 7 and 15.
- C. LICENSES, HARVEST TICKETS, HARVEST REPORTS, TAGS, FEES, AND PERMITS including, but not limited to: discretionary and required permit hunt conditions and procedures; discretionary trapping permit conditions and procedures including requirements for trap identification, tags, and time limits for checking traps; special provisions for moose, brown bear, Dall sheep, and mountain goat permit hunts; permits for hunting black bear and brown bear with the use of bait or scent lures; second degree kindred permit allocation and harvest ticket transfer; harvest reporting of migratory birds; certification for big game hunters using crossbows; community subsistence harvest hunt areas and permit conditions in portions of Units 11 and 12 and in Unit 13; and Tier I subsistence permits and Tier II permit scoring for moose and caribou in Unit 13.
- D. HUNTING AND TRAPPING METHODS AND MEANS including, but not limited to: lawful methods of taking game and big game including repeal of the restriction for using felt sole waders while hunting; same-day airborne taking of wolves and coyotes; use of boats and motorized vehicles for hunting; and the use of dogs for taking birds; and lawful methods of taking furbearers including the take of beaver with firearms.
- E. POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, AND USE OF GAME including, but not limited to: Restrictions to bag limits; evidence of sex and identity; destruction of trophy value; sealing and salvage requirements including beaver in Unit 17, requirements for bear taken over bait

stations; and purchase and sale of game and parts of game including the sale of brown bear hides and skulls in Unit 17.

- F. RESTRICTED AREAS including, but not limited to: areas closed to hunting and trapping including the Petersburg Closed Area, Wrangell Road System Closed Area, a new closed area for taking ptarmigan along roads in Unit 13; closed areas to trapping in Units 7 and 15; management areas including the Petersburg Management Area, and new management areas for Kachemak Bay and Hatcher's Pass. In addition, the Board of Game will consider recommending expansion of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge boundaries.
- G. INTENSIVE / PREDATOR MANAGEMENT for all prey populations and populations having a positive finding as identified big game prey populations including predation control areas and implementation plans for Units 13 and 16; populations and harvest objectives including deer in Units 1-5 and moose in Unit 13; and related findings.
- H. CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USES OF GAME POPULATIONS including but not limited to: customary and traditional use findings and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses (ANS) of game including deer in Units 1 and 5; and methods for determining ANS in Unit 13.
- I. ADDITIONAL TOPICS: In addition to items described above, the Board of Game will also address the following topics which were approved through the agenda change request and deferred proposal process or, in the case of antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fees, must be authorized annually: seasons, bag limits, restrictions, and permit conditions for Dall sheep in Units 12, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, and 26 (proposals 111-115, 121-124, and 203); caribou in Units 18, 19, 23, and 26 (proposals 47 and 202); and musk ox in Unit 18 (proposal 205), annual reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions for all Units statewide; license requirements for taking raptors (proposal 204); and pursuit of wounded game (proposal 201).

The proposed regulation changes and other informational documents are available on the Board of Game website at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo) or through the ADF&G Boards Support Section Office at (907) 465-4110. Included with the informational documents will be a comprehensive report on sheep hunting and results from the sheep hunter survey.

You may comment on the proposed regulations, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes by submitting written comments limited to no more than 100 single sided or 50 double sided pages to the Alaska Board of Game, Boards Support Section at P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526, or by fax to (907) 465-6094, or on-line at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.forms>. Comments submitted on-line having attachments can be emailed to [dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov). **The deadline for receiving comments is two weeks prior to the meeting during which the topic will be considered.** The comment deadline for each meeting is specified below.

Written comments may be submitted to the Board of Game at any time before the proposal is taken up by the board in deliberations, but as a practical matter, written comments should be submitted to the Boards Support Section office at the above address or fax number by the two-

week comment deadline to ensure inclusion in the board workbooks. During the meeting written comments from any one individual or group may be submitted by hand delivery if 20 copies are provided. Written comments that are submitted are public record and are subject to public inspection.

Unless otherwise specified for a particular meeting in a published notice, written public comments over 100 single sided or 50 double sided pages in length from any one individual or group related to proposals at any one meeting will not be accepted. Written comments limited to 10 single sided or 5 double sided pages in length from any one individual or group will be accepted after the two-week deadline, but will not be inserted in the board member workbooks until the beginning of the meeting.

Each meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. on the first day of the meeting dates noted below. The public hearing portions for each meeting will begin after staff reports and continue until everyone who has signed up and is present when called has been given the opportunity to be heard. However, state advisory committee representatives may elect to provide testimony at a later portion of the meetings. Additional public hearings may be held throughout the meeting just before consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at each regulatory meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to three to five minutes, or less. Anyone interested in, or affected by, the subject matter contained in this legal notice should make written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

## **TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE**

### **Southeast Region Meeting**

**(Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)**

**January 9 – 13, 2015**

**Comment Deadline: December 26, 2014**

**Westmark Baranof Hotel, 127 North Franklin Street, Juneau, Alaska**

### **Central/Southwest Region Meeting**

**(Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A 14B, 16 & 17)**

**February 13-20, 2015**

**Comment Deadline: January 30, 2015**

**Best Western Lake Lucille Inn, 1800 W. Lake Lucille Drive, Wasilla, Alaska**

### **Southcentral Region Meeting**

**(Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15)**

**March 13-17, 2015**

**Comment Deadline: February 27, 2015**

**University of Alaska (UAA) Student Union  
3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, Alaska**

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110. Please carefully review the **PROPOSAL INDEX** and the listing of additional proposals available for the meetings for all specific proposal issues to be addressed by the board. Copies of the proposal indices are in the proposal book for each relevant meeting and available on-line at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo).

A live audio stream of the board meeting is intended to be available at each meeting and can be accessed on the Board of Game website at: [www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov) .

Anyone interested in or affected by subsistence and general hunting or trapping regulations is hereby informed that, by publishing this legal notice the Board of Game may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. **THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR STAFF.** Pursuant to AS 44.62.200, the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the hunting and trapping regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258 including reexamining customary and traditional use findings and determinations for amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence use. After the public hearing, the Board of Game may adopt these or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or amend, reject, supplement, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.**

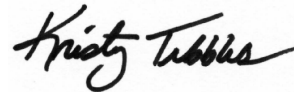
If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodations in order to participate in this process, please contact Frances Leach at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each meeting to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

**Statutory Authority:** AS 16.05, AS 16.30.

**Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific:** AS 16.05.255; AS 16.05.256; AS 16.05.258; AS 16.05.407; AS 16.05.346; AS 16.05.340; AS 16.30.010 – .030; AS 16.05.330, AS 16.05.780, and AS 16.05.783

**Fiscal Information:** The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE: December 3, 2014



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

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS NOTICE INFORMATION  
(AS 44.62.190(d))

1. Adopting agency: Alaska Board of Game
2. General subject of regulation: Hunting and trapping regulations for Southeast, Southcentral, Southwest, and Central Regions
3. Citation of regulations: 5 AAC 84, 85, 92, 98, and 99
4. Department of Law file numbers: JU2014200584, JU2014200586, and JU2014200587
5. Reason for the proposed action:
  - compliance with federal law
  - compliance with new or changed state statute
  - compliance with court order
  - development of program standards
  - other: Regularly scheduled topics for the Southeast, Southcentral, Southwest, and Central Regions at the Board of Game meetings and other miscellaneous provisions. Implement, interpret, or make specific the provisions of AS 16.05– AS 16.30
6. Appropriation/Allocation: Natural Resources and all RDUs
7. Cost of implementation to the state agency and available funding: It is not possible to estimate costs. However, this action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.
8. The name of the contact person for the regulations:

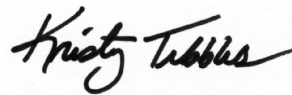
Name: Kristy Tibbles  
Title: Executive Director, Board Game  
Address: Boards Support Section  
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Telephone: (907) 465-4110  
E-mail: kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov

9. The origin of the proposed action:

staff of state agency  
 federal government  
 general public

10. Date: December 3, 2015

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_



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

## **Corrections and Additional Proposals**

### **Proposal Correction:**

**Proposal 131** - Lower the bag limit for goldeneye, was inadvertently placed under the Central/Southwest region meeting scheduled for February 13-20, 2015 in the 2014/15 Board of Game proposal book. Proposal 131 will be heard at the Southcentral region meeting scheduled for March 13-17, 2015.

### **Additional Proposals:**

The following proposals are in addition to those published in the 2014/2015 Board of Game proposal book. The full text of the proposals is available at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook>

### **Southeast Region Meeting, January 2015**

**Proposal 201** – Clarify the language for requiring hunters to retrieve and salvage of wounded game.

**Proposal 206** – Modify the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses for deer in Game Management Unit 1A.

### **Central/Southwest Region Meeting, February 2015**

**Proposal 198** - Modify the moose drawing hunt in Unit 13.

**Proposal 199** - Modify the intensive management plan for the Unit 13 wolf predation control area for Unit 13.

**Proposal 200** - Modify the moose population and harvest objectives for Unit 13.

**Proposal 204** - Remove requirement residents and nonresidents to have a trapping license to submit an application, take, transport, transfer to another state's falconry program, or possess a raptor for falconry, or for practicing falconry.

### **Southcentral Region Meeting, March 2015**

**Proposal 202** - Change the caribou regulation for all game management units (GMU) associated with the Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) and Teshekpuk caribou herd (TCH).

**Proposal 203** - Close all Dall sheep seasons in Unit 23 and Unit 26A west of the Etivluk River drainage (e.g., the Brooks Range west of Howard Pass). Retain hunt areas and hunt types

(general season and subsistence hunts by harvest ticket hunts and/or permit) so similar hunt regimes may be restored when the population recovers.

**Proposal 205** - Allow the immediate harvest of musk ox on stranded on ice flow in Unit 18.