



Alaska Board of Game

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME April 14, 2020 – Teleconference Spring Season Bear Hunts

Meeting Summary

The Board of Game (board) held a special meeting by teleconference on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Seven board members were present: Chairman Ted Spraker, Stosh Hoffman, Larry Van Daele, Tom Lamal, Jerry Burnett, Al Barrette and Orville Huntington. Meeting materials including the audio recording are available on the Board of Game meeting information webpage at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=04-14-2020&meeting=tele.

The special meeting was called by Chairman Spraker and Vice-Chairman Hoffman in response to requests from bear hunters who are unable to hunt this spring due to travel restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 virus. Chairman Spraker stated their intent for calling the meeting was to help mitigate the loss of spring bear hunting opportunity and not an effort to recoup the economic loss for those businesses involved with spring bear hunting.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Spraker stated that if travel restrictions continue into the fall, it will not be possible for the board or department to mitigate additional hunting opportunity because it would involve thousands of hunters and be impossible to manage. He also commented that the topics of spring musk ox and bison permit hunts were not included on this meeting agenda because those hunters had longer seasons allowing ample opportunity to hunt.

The board voted unanimously to generate two regulatory proposals to allow the following:

- 1.) Transfer of spring season, drawing permit hunts for black and brown bear across the state to a future year. This will apply to spring drawing permits for black bear hunts in Units 1-3 and 14C (JBER), and brown and grizzly bear in Units 4, 8, 10, 14C, 22, and 26B; and
- 2.) Open spring season, registration brown bear hunts for Unit 9, in 2021, since spring bear hunting in this Unit occurs on an alternating schedule which is open in 2020 and closed in 2021.

The board scheduled the proposals for a teleconferenced meeting set for Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. The deadline for written public comment was set for Wednesday, May 27, 2020. Oral testimony will not be taken. The Department of Fish and Game will provide details about the proposals public review and comment, prior to the comment deadline.

The board further discussed allowing muskox and bison permit holders to transfer their permits to a future year but did not act to add those permit hunts to the June 3 meeting agenda.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.