

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Bruce Dale, Director
Region II, Cordova Area Office
PO Box 669
Cordova, AK 99574-0669



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sam Cotten, Commissioner
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 31, 2015

CONTACT: Charlotte Westing
Area Wildlife Biologist
Cordova, (907) 424-3215
charlotte.westing@alaska.gov

Reminder: Registration Permit Required for Black Bear Hunting in Prince William Sound Subunit 6D

(Cordova) – Prince William Sound hunters are reminded that beginning September 10, black bear harvests in Game Management Subunit 6D will be managed through a registration hunt. The new management system, approved by the Alaska Board of Game last spring, will remain in effect indefinitely.

Concerns over a prolonged black bear population decline in Prince William Sound prompted the board's decision to control harvests through a registration hunt. Harvests in Subunit 6D, which encompasses coastal areas surrounding Whittier, Valdez and Cordova, nearly tripled from the late 1990s to 2007. After that, the number of black bears taken by hunters declined steadily until 2012 and 2013 when harvests plunged 25 percent and 47 percent, respectively, below the previous regulatory year. At the same time, the number of females taken in recent years has increased.

"The percentage of females in the harvest has increased to over 40 percent the last three regulatory years and has exceeded management objectives each year since 2006," said Cordova Area Wildlife Biologist Charlotte Westing. "We need hunters to conserve black bears by avoiding harvesting sows and selectively taking mature boars only."

Under the new management system, Subunit 6D hunters must have a valid RL065 registration permit in possession while hunting or transporting black bears. Successful hunters are required to report taking a black bear within five days of harvest. Hunting will close for the regulatory year by emergency order once the maximum allowable harvest of 200 bears is taken.

Permits can be obtained at Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices in Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Palmer and Glennallen, or online at https://secure.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=interperm.issue_permit_greeting.

To learn more about the RL065 registration permit hunt, contact Charlotte Westing at (907) 424-3215 or visit http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=blackbearhunting.hunt_details&huntfile_id=15579®year=2015

Selective harvest tips are provided on the Division of Wildlife Conservation webpages at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=blackbearhunting.selecting>.

###