

ADF&G Disabled Hunter Permits – Applicant Information

What This Permit Allows

Under 5 AAC 92.085 (9) and (12) ADF&G may issue a permit to hunters who are at least 70% physically disabled authorizing them to: 1) take big game from a boat in Game Management Units (GMU) 1-5 (Southeast Alaska) and 2) shoot black bears from a boat in GMU 6D (Prince William Sound).

- ❖ Disabled Hunters Permit holders may shoot from a motor-driven boat as long as the motor is completely off and progress from the motor's power has ceased, according to 5 AAC 92.080(4).
- ❖ An able-bodied companion may assist the permittee in recovering game taken by the permittee, but that companion may not shoot from the boat.
- ❖ Disabled hunters also qualify for Methods and Means Exemptions, Proxy Hunting Permits, or Veterans Disabled Hunting Licenses. For more information contact your local ADF&G office.

Who Qualifies for Disabled Hunter Permits?

Resident and nonresident hunters with temporary or permanent physical disabilities meeting the following definition of a person with physical disabilities in AS 16.05.940(25):

“a person who presents to the department either written proof that the person receives at least 70 percent disability compensation from a government agency for a physical disability or an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state stating that the person is at least 70 percent physically disabled;”

** To be consistent with disability ratings issued by government agencies Alaska physicians rating a patient's percentage of physical disability should base their rating on the patient's ability to perform life functions, rather than on their ability to hunt.

How to Apply for a Disabled Hunter Permit

1. Paper **Disabled Hunter Permit Application** forms and digital versions of the application in pdf format are available on our website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=huntlicense.proxy>, from area offices, and from the Permits Section at HQ (465-4148).
2. Disabled hunters need to complete and sign the application form.
3. Documentation that proves the hunter is at least 70 percent physically disabled must be submitted with the application. That documentation can be either:
 - a. written proof that the person receives at least 70 percent disability compensation from a government agency for a physical disability, or
 - b. an affidavit (included on the application form) signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in Alaska stating that the hunter is at least 70 percent disabled. Only medical doctors licensed in Alaska may sign these affidavits. We cannot accept signatures of physician's assistants or nurses licensed in Alaska or doctors licensed in other states.

4. Submit the application and proof of physical disability to the local ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation office. Permits will be issued to qualified applicants by that office.

For Division of Wildlife Conservation Staff

How to Issue a Disabled Hunter Permit

1. Review the application to make sure it includes all the requested information, documentation of disability, and signatures. If a letter from a government agency is submitted, it must state that the hunter is at least 70 percent physically disabled.
2. Determine the permit number. Each area office that issues these permits is assigned a unique permit numbering format and should maintain a log of sequential permit numbers they have issued. HQ Permits Section will provide a log sheet. Permit numbers should follow the format in this example for Sitka. DH-SIT-001, DH-SIT-002, DH-SIT-003 ... Prefixes for each office are:

Ketchikan – DH-KTN-	Douglas – DH-DGL-
Craig – DH-CRG-	Cordova – DH-CDV-
Petersburg – DH-PSG-	Anchorage – DH-ANC-
Sitka – DH-SIT-	Palmer – DH-PAL-
3. Determine an appropriate expiration date for the permit. If the hunter's disability is permanent, Check **Does Not Expire** and suggest they get the card laminated. If the disability is temporary (i.e. an injury that is disabling, but will heal), the permit will expire on December 31 of the year in which it was issued. If a temporarily disabled hunter's disability extends into the new calendar year, they may obtain a new temporary permit by submitting a new application with current proof of disability.
4. Copy information from the application to the permit card. Pre-printed wallet-sized card stock permits are available from HQ Permits Section (465-4148).
5. Fill in the "For Department Use Only" section in the upper right corner of the application.
6. **This step is very important.** Photocopy and scan both the **application and permit** so we have copies of each. File the originals at your office and e-mail a scanned copies to HQ Permits Section at dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov. HQ Permits Section will maintain an electronic database of all applications and Disabled Hunter Permits issued by ADF&G.
7. Hand the permit to the hunter. Explain what it allows them to do (shoot big game from a boat in GMU 1-5 and black bears in GMU 6D) and that they may have a companion along to help retrieve game, but that person may not shoot from the boat. (*Duplicates permits to replace lost or damaged permits may be issued. Duplicate permits will have the same permit number and expiration date as the original. The expiration date of a permit may not be extended. If the disability extends beyond the permit expiration date, the hunter must apply for a new permit including proof of continued disability.*)
8. Any questions – call HQ Permits Section at 465-4148.

