GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT 9
PROPOSALS

Proposals 125 - 135
PROPOSAL 125
Public

Effect of Proposal
Change Tier II season dates for portion of Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (NAP) to increase hunting opportunity in Unit 9.

Recommendation
- Support amended season dates
- Neutral on extension to entire range

Lake Iliamna AC: No Recommendation
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
## Proposed Changes

### Current Regulations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9C</td>
<td>Aug 10 – Sep 20</td>
<td>1 caribou/TC505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 1 – Feb 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9E</td>
<td>Aug 10 – Sep 20</td>
<td>1 caribou/TC505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 1 – Apr 30</td>
<td></td>
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### Proposed Regulations:

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1 caribou/TC505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 1 – Apr 30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ugashik and Dago drainages only</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9E</td>
<td>Aug 10 – Sep 20</td>
<td>1 caribou/TC505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remainder Unit 9E</td>
<td>Aug 10 – Sep 20</td>
<td>1 caribou/TC505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 1 – Apr 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposal 125
Background

- The NAP continues to recover from lows during the mid-2000s to a current estimate of approximately 3,600 animals.
- The department opened a Tier II drawing hunt in 2016 for subsistence hunters.
  - ANS is 1,200 caribou
Background (continued)

- Reported harvest was 83 caribou of 200 permits issued in RY16.
- Caribou tend to remain far inland to Bering Sea coastal villages until after the current fall season has closed.
- The department has issued emergency orders to extend the fall season during the last two years.
- The population can currently sustain a harvest up to an estimated surplus of 150 including bulls and cow harvest (approximately 4% of population).
  - Allow continued population increase.
  - Potential additional harvest is not a biological concern.
Proposal 125

- Hunting was restricted in 1994 and 1999 to reduce harvest.
- Hunting was closed in 2005.

NAP Reported Harvest

ANS 1,200 – 1,900
Proposal 125

NAP Vital Ratios

Bull Ratio Objective

Ratios


- Bulls: 100 cows
- Calves: 100 cows
## Proposed Changes

### Proposed Regulations:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Season 1</th>
<th>Season 2</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 9C</td>
<td>Aug 10 – Sep 20</td>
<td>Nov 1 – Feb 28</td>
<td>1 caribou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 9E, Ugashik and Dago drainages only</td>
<td>Sep 1 – Oct 10</td>
<td>Nov 1 – Apr 30</td>
<td>1 caribou/TC505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remainder Unit 9E</td>
<td>Aug 10 – Sep 20</td>
<td>Nov 1 – Apr 30</td>
<td>1 caribou/TC505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AMENDMENTS proposed by ADF&G:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Season 1</th>
<th>Season 2</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 9C</td>
<td>Aug 10 – Oct 10</td>
<td>Nov 1 – Feb 28</td>
<td>1 caribou/TC505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 9E</td>
<td>Aug 10 – Oct 10</td>
<td>Nov 1 – Apr 30</td>
<td>1 caribou/TC505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposal 125
PROPOSAL 125

Effect of Proposal

Change Tier II season dates for portion of Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (NAP) to increase hunting opportunity in Unit 9.

Recommendation

- Support amended season dates
- Neutral on extension to entire range

Lake Iliamna AC: No recommendation
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
PROPOSAL 126

ADF&G

Effect of Proposal

Provide the department with the means to proactively manage the growing Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP) by increasing harvest commensurate with population levels.

Recommendation

Support

Lake Iliamna AC: No Recommendation
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
Proposed Changes

Current Regulations

Residents only:
- If the harvestable portion is 99 or less → 1 caribou by Tier II.
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 99 and less than 151 → 1 caribou by registration permit.

Residents and nonresidents:
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 150: 1 caribou (unspecified hunt type).

Proposed Regulations (in addition to above)

Residents and nonresidents:
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 150 and less than 249: 2 caribou.
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 250 and less than 449: 3 caribou.
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 450 and less than 549: 4 caribou.
- If the harvestable portion is greater than 550: 5 caribou.
Background

- SAP began unexpected decline during 2000s.
  - Hunting restricted and ultimately closed by 2008.

- Caribou population increasing since IM wolf removal program in RY2007–08.
  - Exceeded 2,500 caribou (objective is 3,000 – 4,000).
    - Minimum counts and model-based prediction of population size.

- High bull and calf ratios (49 and 38 per 100 cows, respectively 2016).
Background (continued)

- Harvestable surplus determined annually by population modeling.
  - Harvest rate currently 3%, increase as necessary to stabilize herd.

- The population can sustain additional harvest and continue population growth.
  - Given continued adequate bull:cow ratio and calf survival.
SAP Harvest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hunters</th>
<th>Success (%)</th>
<th>% Bull</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average: 60% success rate, 92% % Bull

ANS is 100 – 150 caribou
SAP Calf Ratio

Bulls : 100 Cows
Calves : 100 Cows

SAP Bull Ratio

Bulls : 100 Cows

Objective

PROPOSAL 126
Considerations

- Current regulations limit us to a one caribou bag limit beyond a harvestable surplus of 150 caribou.
  - Bag limit not adequate as the population rebounds.
  - This is a good problem to have;
    ✓ 10 years of improvement
Effect of Proposal

Provide the department with the means to proactively manage the growing SAP caribou population by increasing harvest commensurate with population levels.

Recommendation

Support
PROPOSAL 127
Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal
The RC504 portion of Unit 9C would become part of the RC503 Mulchatna caribou permit area, with season dates of August 1–March 15.

Recommendation
○ Neutral on allocation

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
Proposed Changes

**Current Regulations:**

9A and that portion of 9C w/in the Alagnak River drainage  
Aug. 1 – Mar. 15  
2 caribou/RC503

That portion of 9C north of the north bank of the Naknek River and south of the Alagnak River drainage.  
“May be announced”  
1 caribou/RC504

**Proposed Regulations:**

Unit 9A and 9C north of the north bank of the Naknek River.  
Aug. 1 – Mar. 15  
2 caribou/RC503
Background

- RC504 area was established in 2004 to protect the declining NAP when a portion of the NAP crossed the Naknek River into MCH range.
  - This has not occurred for years and NAP is increasing.

- Proposal would simplify regulations and increase opportunity without compromising NAP.
PROPOSAL 127
Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal
The RC504 portion of Unit 9C would become part of the RC503 Mulchatna caribou permit area, with season dates of August 1–March 31.

Recommendation
• Neutral on allocation

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
PROPOSAL 128

Public

Effect of Proposal
Remove season and bag limit restrictions for bull caribou on Adak Island.

Recommendation
Opposed

Lake Iliamna AC: No recommendation
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No recommendation
Proposed Changes

Current Regulations:
Unit 10 Adak Island
No closed season
except Jan. 1 – Aug. 9
and Aug. 10 – Dec. 31
No bag limit
no bulls
no more than 2 bulls

Proposed Regulations:
Unit 10 Adak Island
No closed season
No bag limit

Proposal 128
Background

- Caribou on Adak Island were introduced in the 1950s, kept in check by heavy harvest from the U.S. Navy until 1994.
  - No predators

- After the Navy shipped out, caribou increased to approximately 3,000 animals by 2005.

- Alaska Airlines began scheduled flights in 2004.
  - Increased number of hunters seeking trophy bulls
  - Also apparently increased resident population of the island
Background

- Current regulations were implemented in 2007 to encourage cow harvest:
  - Control population size
  - Maintain the potential for trophy-sized bulls as incentive for hunters

- USFWS survey in 2012 estimated 2,500–2,880 caribou.

- Harvest strategy seems to be limiting herd size as intended.
Adak Island Reported Harvest

Hunter Success and % Females

PROPOSAL 128
PROPOSAL 128
Public

Effect of Proposal
Remove season and bag limit restrictions for bull caribou on Adak Island.

Recommendation
Opposed

Lake Iliamna AC: No recommendation
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No recommendation
PROPOSAL 129
Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal
Add five days to the moose season in Unit 9B.

Recommendation
- Support to simplify regulations
- Neutral for increasing season length

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
## Proposed Changes

### Current Regulations:
- **Unit 9B, residents**: Sep. 1 – 15
  - 1 bull
  - Dec. 15 – Jan. 15
  - 1 antlered bull
- **Nonresidents**: Sep. 5 – 15

### Proposed Regulations:
- **Unit 9B, residents**: Sep. 1 – **20**
  - 1 bull
  - Dec. 15 – Jan. 15
  - 1 antlered bull
- **Nonresidents**: Sep. 5 – 15
Background

- The current fall season dates took effect in 1990 and the first year of registration permits was 2011

- Small increase in bull harvest is sustainable
  - 2012 GSPE survey in Unit 9B estimated 1,160 moose (~3% harvest rate)
  - Latest survey showed over 50 bulls:100 cows

- Align Unit 9B season dates with 9C (same registration hunt)
PROPOSAL 129
Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal
Add five days to the moose season in Unit 9B.

Recommendation
- Support to simplify regulations
- Neutral for increasing season length

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
PROPOSAL 130
Public

Effect of Proposal
Allow hunters to obtain registration permits for moose hunting in Unit 9B online, and/or at regional offices in the state.

Recommendation
Take no action – requesting Board guidance.

Lake Iliamna AC  Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC  Support (8-0)
Proposed Changes

Current regulations (hunt condition):
- Registration permits are available in villages throughout Unit 9B and King Salmon (Unit 9C) beginning August 16, and the hunt opens September 1.
- Permits are not available online.
- The permit hunt conditions limiting availability of registration permits in Unit 9B and 9C are done under the department’s discretionary authority.

Proposed regulations (hunt condition):
- Provide **online availability** for registration permits.
Background

- Registration permits for moose were initiated in 2011 in Unit 9.

- Moose working group (2010) consensus recommendations pertaining to permits:
  1. Department staff issue registration permits in villages and towns of Units 9B and 9C, but not outside of Unit 9;
  2. Offer village council offices and vendors the opportunity to issue registration permits in Unit 9B;
  3. HAVE PERMITS AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR ALL HUNTERS.

- Ultimately, permits were only issued in villages and towns.
Considerations

- Hunters in Unit 9 villages are accustomed to getting permits online:
  - Caribou, brown bear, licenses, Tier II, drawing
  - Moose hunts in Units 9A, 9D and 9E

- No online option for moose can be quite inconvenient for local hunters:
  - Need permit during non-business hours
  - Can’t make it when ADF&G is in town
  - The one person issuing permits leaves town
  - Hunters end up with non-valid harvest ticket
Moose Harvest by Residency Unit 9B

- Local
- Other AK Resident
- Nonresident

Moose Harvested

PROPOSAL 130
Considerations

- In October 2017 the Naknek-Kvichak and Lake Iliamna Advisory Committees voted unanimously to SUPPORT online registration for all Unit 9 moose hunters.
  - Department to monitor and report any increase in non-local moose harvest in Units 9B and 9C to AC’s.
  - Continue visiting villages to issue permits.
PROPOSAL 130

Public

Effect of Proposal
Allow hunters to obtain registration permits for moose hunting in Unit 9B online, and/or at area offices in the state.

Recommendation
Take no action – requesting Board guidance

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
PROPOSAL 131

Public

Effect of Proposal

Allow resident hunters to take one brown bear per year in Unit 9.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation aspects
- Opposed to increase in harvest

Lake Iliamna AC: Oppose (0-5)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Oppose (0-8)
## Current Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 9, Residents</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RB525</td>
<td>July 1–June 30</td>
<td>1 bear/year; near-village hunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9B, Residents</th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RB369, RB370</td>
<td>Sep 20–Oct 21</td>
<td>Biennially; 1 bear per 4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 10–31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB505</td>
<td>Sep 1–May 31</td>
<td>1 bear/year; subsistence hunt only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RB368, RB370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RB502, 9E only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 9, Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9B, Residents</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>RB505</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Residents</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RB502, 9E only</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background

- Biennial hunts established in 1976 with 2-week spring and fall seasons
  - Response to overharvested and depleted bear population

- Unit 9 bear harvest is on declining trend since 2000
  - 11% decline in hunter success rate in registration hunts (2011 through 2015).

- Severe snow winters of 2011–12 and 2012–13, snow remaining until June
  - Public reports of bears found dead in dens (2012)
  - Flooded, low-country dens observed in May and June (2012)

Background

- Noticeably fewer bears on the landscape, particularly large adults 2013–2017
  - Observations by staff conducting ungulate work over vast area
    - Calf mortality projects, ungulate captures, aerial surveys
- Concern by long-time guides over lack of adult bears
- Sows with multiple cubs increased in 2016
  - Triplets and even quads in 2016 and 2017
- 16% decline in hunter success rate in recent registration hunts (2011 through 2015)
- Recent and abrupt increase in age structure of harvested bears
## Unit 9 Brown Bear Registration Hunt Summary, 2011-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RY</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>No. Hunters</th>
<th>% Change in Hunters</th>
<th>No. Hunters</th>
<th>Bear Harvest</th>
<th>Hunter Success (%)</th>
<th>% Change in Success</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>507</td>
<td></td>
<td>356</td>
<td>70.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>437</td>
<td></td>
<td>245</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>-19</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>-35.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>380</td>
<td></td>
<td>237</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>387</td>
<td></td>
<td>238</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>8.9</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Fall+Spring</td>
<td>887</td>
<td></td>
<td>593</td>
<td>66.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Fall+Spring</td>
<td>824</td>
<td></td>
<td>483</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Fall+Spring</td>
<td>816</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>-15.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>RB525*</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>RB525*</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>33.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>RB525*</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>RB525*</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>RB525*</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>-52</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>-14.8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>962</td>
<td></td>
<td>615</td>
<td>63.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>926</td>
<td></td>
<td>517</td>
<td>55.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>-14.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Resident hunters only near-village hunt
Considerations

- Resident bear harvest in Unit 9 is limited by hunter participation (26%), not by bag limit of 1 bear per 4 years.
  - Resident hunters rarely take more than 1 bear in Unit 9 (only 1% of hunters in the last 2 decades)
  - Most residents don’t want or need additional brown bear

- RB525 “near-village” hunt is additional opportunity for residents only
  - Interest in hunt has waned

- Abrupt changes in age structure of harvest.
Pooled Harvest Data

Proportion of male brown bears in the harvest, Unit 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>F harvest Unit 9</th>
<th>M harvest Unit 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1968 - 1979</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980 - 1989</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 - 1999</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 - 2009</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 - 2015</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Bear Harvest

PROPOSAL 131
Average and Max age of Male Harvest in Unit 9 by Decade

- **Avg M age**: 35.0
- **Max M age**: 30.0
- **n**: 7,956

Average and Max age of Female Harvest in Unit 9 by Decade

- **Avg F age**: 30.0
- **Max F age**: 25.0
- **n**: 3,789

20% increase for Male harvest,
21% increase for Female harvest.
Proportion of Adult Females (> 4 yoa) in Female Harvest, Unit 9

- % Females > 4 yoa
- 32% increase
- n = 3,789

Proportion of Trophy Bears (males > 8 yoa) in Male Harvest, Unit 9

- % Males > 8 yoa
- 41% increase
- n = 7,956
Average skull size of brown bears killed in Unit 9

- Avg F skull size
- Avg M skull size

Percent male skulls >28 inches killed in Unit 9

% skull >/= 28 inches
Considerations

- Unit 9 brown bear population showing two important changes of concern:
  1. Long-term decline in harvest indicating a probable population decline;
  2. Abrupt increase in age of bears in harvest and field observations suggesting recent loss of cohort or 2 from natural mortality.

- Although increasing resident hunting opportunity would not increase bear harvest substantially, we recommend against any increase in harvest given population status.
PROPOSAL 131

Public

Effect of Proposal

Allow resident hunters to take one brown bear per year in Unit 9.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation aspects
- Opposed to increase in harvest

Lake Iliamna AC: Oppose (0-5)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Oppose (0-8)
PROPOSAL 132

Public

Effect of Proposal

Provide resident hunters with annual brown bear seasons (either registration or drawing), OR have resident-only hunting during first five days of current fall and spring seasons thereby reducing nonresident seasons by five days each.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation aspects
- Oppose increase in harvest

Lake Iliamna AC: No recommendation
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Oppose (0-8)
## Current Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Stack</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 9, Residents</strong></td>
<td>RB525</td>
<td>July 1–June 30</td>
<td>1 bear/year, near-village hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9B Residents</strong></td>
<td>RB505</td>
<td>Sep 1–May 31</td>
<td>1 bear/year, subsistence hunt only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9B Residents and Nonresidents</strong></td>
<td>RB369, RB370</td>
<td>Sep 20–Oct 21, May 10–31</td>
<td>Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9E portion, Residents</strong></td>
<td>RB502</td>
<td>Sep 1 – May 31, Nov 1 – Dec 31</td>
<td>1 bear/year, subsistence hunt only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9A, 9C, 9D, 9E Residents and Nonresidents</strong></td>
<td>RB368, RB370</td>
<td>Oct 1 – 21, May 10–31</td>
<td>Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed Changes

9B, Residents
RB369, RB370
Sep 20–Oct 21
May 10–31
Annual season, 1 bear per 4 years

9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Residents
RB368, RB370
Oct 1–21
May 10–31
Annual season, 1 bear per 4 years
Proposed Changes

OR

During currently closed years:

9B, Residents
Registration or drawing permit: Sep 20–Oct 21, May 10–31
1 bear per 4 years

9A, 9C, 9D, 9E, Residents
Registration or drawing permit: Oct 1–21, May 10–31
1 bear per 4 years

close by EO when quota reached
# Proposed Changes

*OR*

(change first 5 days of each season to residents only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area, Status</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Quota</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>9B, Residents</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9B, Nonresidents</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 25 – Oct 21</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 15 – 31</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 6 – 21</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 15 – 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROPOSAL 132

- Option 1, Drawing or Registration hunts closed by EO.
- Setting quotas would be problematic but would probably result in season reduction.
- Require up to 4 drawing hunts for approximately 250 resident hunters for a recommended quota of around 40 bears.

- Closing registration hunts by emergency order not feasible for Alaska Peninsula bear hunters.
  - Vast area in which to contact hunters.
  - Hunters spent big bucks to get there.

- Proposed changes would add multiple layers of complexity to current regulations.
PROPOSAL 132

- Option 2, Residents-only season dates

- Changing existing season dates to resident-only for first 5 days would:
  - Probably reduce harvest because nonresident harvest is highest during that period
    - Nonresident harvest and success rate are higher than for residents
  - Reallocate harvest significantly between residents and nonresidents
PROPOSAL 132

Public

Effect of Proposal

Provide resident hunters with annual brown bear seasons (either registration or drawing), OR have resident-only hunting during first five days of current fall and spring seasons thereby reducing nonresident seasons by five days each.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation aspects
- Oppose increase in harvest

Lake Iliamna AC: No recommendation
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Oppose (0-8)
PROPOSAL 133

Public

Effect of Proposal

Reduce brown bear harvest in a portion of Unit 9E through use of drawing hunts.

Recommendation

- Neutral on allocation between residents and nonresidents
- Support a reduction in bear harvest in Unit 9E

Lake Iliamna AC: No recommendation
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No recommendation
# Current Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 9, Residents</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RB525</td>
<td>July 1–June 30</td>
<td>1 bear/year, near-village hunt</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th>9E Residents and Nonresidents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RB502 only</td>
<td>Sep 1–May 31</td>
<td>1 bear/year, subsistence hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 1–Dec 31</td>
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## Proposed Changes

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<th>9E portion, Nonresidents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cinder R. to Mud R., state lands only</td>
<td>Oct 1 – 21</td>
<td>Biennially, 1 bear per 4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 10–31</td>
<td>Drawing hunt, limit 5 permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mud R. to Meshik R., state lands only</td>
<td>Oct 1–21</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May 10–31</td>
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</table>

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</table>

Proposal 133
Harvest

- Harvest declined by 50% since 2005
- Proposal would reduce harvest from 20-30 bears per 2 years to 10 bears per 2 years.
Average and max age of male harvest in Unit 9E by decade

Average and max age of female harvest in Unit 9E by decade

n = 4,378

22% increase

n = 2,113

24% increase
Proportion of adult females (> 4 yoa) in female harvest, Unit 9E

- % females > 4 yoa
- n = 2,113
- 37% increase

Proportion of trophy males (> 8 yoa) in male harvest, Unit 9E

- % Males > 8 yoa
- n = 4,378
- 39% increase
Average skull size of brown bears harvested in Unit 9E

PROPOSAL 133
Considerations

- We agree with proponent; bear harvest should be reduced in Cinder-Meshik area
  - However, drawing hunts held small area rather than unit-wide adds much complexity
  - Hunts held on state lands only is overly burdensome to hunters
    - Difficult for enforcement

- Our concern for existing harvest level exists beyond proposed area to all of Unit 9E
  - Drawing hunts are one option to reduce harvest in 9E
  - A much simpler approach is to shorten seasons by 1 week, as we’ve done in the past
Proposal 133

- Unit 9E bear season was 2 weeks long during 11 of the last 28 open seasons

- The 2015 bear harvest in Unit 9E was at 1970s level.

- In 1976 biennial, two week seasons were implemented
  - Bear population was considered overharvested and depleted
    - Liberal seasons and bag limits since statehood

- We recommend returning to two week seasons until bear population recovers.
PROPOSAL 133

Public

Effect of Proposal
Reduce brown bear harvest in a portion of Unit 9E through use of drawing hunts.

Recommendation
• Neutral on allocation between residents and nonresidents
• Support a reduction in bear harvest in Unit 9E

Lake Iliamna AC: No recommendation
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No recommendation
PROPOSAL 134
Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal
Reduce season and bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 9.

Recommendation
Support

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
Proposed Changes

Current regulations:
Unit 9  August 10 – April 30  20 per day, 40 in possession

Proposed regulations:
Unit 9  August 10 – February 28  10 per day, 20 in possession
Background

- Ptarmigan in Unit 9 have declined severely since 2014.

- Low density observed from Lake Iliamna to Unimak Island, a land mass of approximately 25,000 square miles.

- The public has expressed ongoing concern over the decline.

- Contributions of ptarmigan wings from Unit 9 to the statewide wing collection program have declined significantly since 2015.
Background (continued)

- Possible causes:
  - Cold, rainy periods in June 2015 and 2016
    - These conditions have caused very high chick mortality in ptarmigan populations (research in Alaska).
  - Relatively snow-free winters recently
    - Can increase mortality from lack of concealment from predators and thermal cover.
  - Research in Alaska and Europe suggests ptarmigan populations can undergo additive mortality when hunted during the winter months.
    - During winter natural mortality is generally low.
  - Hunting during April contributes to adult mortality on breeding grounds.
PROPOSAL 134
Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Effect of Proposal
Reduce season and bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 9.

Recommendation
Support

Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (8-0)
PROPOSAL 135
ADF&G/DWC

Effect of Proposal
Close the hunting season for Alaska hares in Units 9C, 9D and 9E.

Recommendation
- Amend and adopt
- C & T finding?

Lake Iliamna AC: Amend & Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Amend & Support (8-0)
Proposed Changes

Current regulations:
Unit 9
No closed season
No bag limit

Proposed regulations:
Units 9C, 9D and 9E
No open season

Proposed amendment:
Unit 9
Nov. 1 – Jan. 30
1 per day/4 per year
Voluntary or mandatory reporting by phone

PROPOSAL 135
Background

- Once abundant in Unit 9, Alaska hare is now at low density and patchy distribution on the Alaska Peninsula.

- Very little is known about the Alaska hare:
  - Alaska hares are not highly productive - they have only one, relatively small litter of leverets per year;
  - Similar to more long-lived, K-selected species?

- We currently do not monitor Alaska hare populations and have no estimates of abundance.

- The low density in Unit 9 is of biological concern.
Background (continued)

- Reporting requirement by successful hunters would contribute information to research effort.

- Currently the department is reaching residents with educational information on Alaska hares.
  - Provided means to report observations to the Small Game Program.

- Efforts are underway by the department to implement abundance monitoring within the next 3-4 years.

- Recommend to close end of January (last day of month instead of first day).
PROPOSAL 135
ADF&G/DWC

Effect of Proposal
Close the hunting season for Alaska hares in Units 9C, 9D and 9E.

Recommendation
- Amend and adopt
- C & T finding?

Lake Iliamna AC: Amend & Support (5-0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Amend & Support (8-0)