

This is a summary of changes adopted by the Alaska Board of Game for regulatory year 2018-2019. This is not a comprehensive list of all the detailed changes. It is your responsibility to read the Alaska Hunting Regulations carefully for complete information. These regulations do not become effective until July 1, 2018, hunting or trapping seasons that are currently open or that open prior to July 1, 2018 are not affected unless specified (such as spring bear seasons and bear baiting).

HUNTING

BEAR BAITING CHANGES

EFFECTIVE FALL 2018 (in areas with a fall black bear baiting season) AND SPRING 2019

Unit 14A, allowed the take of brown bears at bait stations during the open black bear baiting season with a bear baiting permit, and allowed brown bears to be taken at a bait station the same day the hunter has flown, provided the bear is at the bait station and that the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane.

BROWN BEAR

Unit 9, registration brown bear hunts RB368 and RB369 shortened season dates to Oct. 7-21 and shortened registration brown bear hunt RB370 to May 10 - 25.

Unit 11, lengthened the resident and nonresident spring brown bear season by two weeks, season dates are now Aug. 10 - June 30.

Unit 14A, changed the bag limit to one bear every regulatory year from one bear every four regulatory years.

Unit 16, shortened the season to Aug. 10 - June 15 and increased the bag limit to 2 brown bears in 16A.

CARIBOU

Unit 9C south of the north bank of the Naknek River and Unit 9E, TC505 lengthened the fall season dates to Aug. 10 - Oct. 10 and in the portion in Unit 9C, lengthen the winter season dates to Nov. 1 - last day of Feb.

Unit 9C north of the north bank of the Naknek River and south of the Alagnak River drainage, changed the winter “may be announced” season to Aug. 1 - Mar. 31 and allow it to be managed using existing Mulchatna caribou registration permit RC503.

Unit 9D, allowed the department to increase the bag limit for Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd incrementally based on the harvestable portion of the herd, which will allow additional harvest without board action.

Unit 13 (Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest hunt CC001), required the meat of all caribou harvested in this hunt to remain naturally attached to the bone until removed from the field or processed for human consumption.

Unit 13, established a resident only youth drawing hunt, with a bag limit of one caribou, season dates Aug. 1-Aug. 5. Also established a nonresident drawing hunt, to be held when the population is above population objectives, with a bag limit of one bull and season dates Aug. 20-Sept. 20. Hunts will first be advertised in the winter 2018 drawing application period and held in the fall of 2019.

Unit 17, allowed snowmachines to be used to position individual caribou for harvest, and allow caribou to be harvested from a stationary snowmachine.

Units 20 and 25, Fortymile caribou herd, lengthened the youth hunt to Aug. 1 - Aug. 21, lengthened the fall season dates for residents to Aug. 1 - Sept. 30, lengthened the fall season dates for nonresidents to Aug. 10 - Sept. 30, and increase the resident bag limit to up to 3 caribou, and lengthened the winter season to Oct. 21 - Mar. 31.

MOOSE

Unit 9B, lengthened the fall any bull registration hunt RM272 by 5 days, season dates are now Sept. 1-Sept. 20.

Units 11, 12, and 13 (Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest hunt CM300), required the meat of all moose harvested in this hunt to remain naturally attached to the bone until removed from the field or processed for human consumption.

Unit 14A, increased the number of antlerless moose permits that may be awarded from 1,000 to 2,000.

Unit 14B, authorized a resident only any bull drawing hunt with season dates Aug. 25-Sept. 25. Hunt will first be advertised in the winter 2018 drawing application period and held in the fall of 2019.

Unit 14A all moose hunts within the Palmer Wasilla Management Area, and Unit 14B targeted hunt, allowed moose hunting by crossbow in hunts currently open to bow and arrow and muzzleloader or bow and arrow and shotgun.

Unit 16B, increased the number of drawing permits available for DM540 and YM540.

Unit 17A, allowed the harvest of antlerless moose during the fall season, and extended the fall season by 5 days, season dates are now Aug. 25-Sept. 25.

PTARMIGAN

Unit 9, shortened the season by approximately two months, new season dates are Aug. 10 - Last day of Feb., bag limit was reduced to 10 per day, 20 in possession.

13B and 13E, lengthened the season in Unit 13B and shortened the season in Unit 13E and aligned them at Aug. 10 - Feb. 15, bag limit remains 10 per day, 20 in possession.

ALASKA HARES

Unit 9, decreased the season to Nov. 1 - Jan. 31 and restricted the bag limit to one per day, four total, and required the salvage of the hide or meat for human use.

MISCELLANEOUS

Unit 13A, Sourdough Controlled Use Area, clarified the boundary of the Sourdough Controlled Use Area to specifically allow motorized vehicle use on the Gulkana River and in the Sourdough Creek Campground and boat launch.

Unit 14A, Hatcher Pass Youth Management Area, increased the minimum age of youth hunters to 17 or younger and the accompanying adult to 21 years old or older.

Unit 15A, Skilak Loop Management Area, increased the minimum age of youth hunters to 17 or younger and the accompanying adult to 21 years old or older.

Statewide, changed the definition of “community” or “group” for community subsistence harvest hunts to mean: a “community” or “group” is a mutual support network of people who routinely (at least several times each year) provide each other with physical, emotional, and nutritional assistance in a multi-generational and inter/intra familial manner to assure the long-term welfare of individuals, the group, and natural resources they depend on. A "community" or "group" shares a common interest in, and participation in uses of, an identified area and the wildlife populations in that area, that is consistent with the customary and traditional use pattern of that wildlife population and area as defined by the board.

Statewide, changed the definition of edible meat of cranes, geese, and swan, to the meat of the breast, back, the meat of the femur and tibia-fibula (legs and thighs), and the meat of the wings, excluding the metacarpals;

Statewide, clarified moose antler definitions as follows: changed the definition of “spike-fork antlers” to mean antlers of a bull moose with only one or two tines on at least one antler; male calves are not considered spike-fork bulls; spike-fork bulls can be either spike or fork on both sides, or spike and fork. Added a definition of “fork” to mean antlers of a bull moose with only two tines on at least one antler. And changed the definition of “point” to mean any antler projection that is at least one inch long, and that is longer than it is wide, measured one inch or more from the tip; an antler point or tine originating within two inches from the base, and less than three inches in length, will not be counted as a tine.

Statewide, created a definition for “wireless communication” to mean “electronic communication of any form that is transmitted through the air without requiring any cable or wires between two or more devices”.

Statewide, clarified the use of any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, or communicates wirelessly, and is used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device is prohibited.

Statewide, prohibited the use of live cameras to aid in the take of game.

Statewide, prohibited wireless communication to take a specific animal until after 3:00 a.m., following the day after the use of the device, this prohibition does not apply to Delta Bison and targeted moose hunts.

Statewide, prohibited the use of airbows for taking big game.

Statewide, for the purposes of bear baiting, defined “equipment” to mean barrels, tree stands, game cameras, and other items associated with a bear bait station. Tree stands may be left in the field year-round with permission of the landowner or such other person authorized to give permission.

Statewide, updated the Board of Game’s policy for accepting agenda change requests to be more consistent with the Joint Board Petition Policy. New deadline for submitting agenda change requests is November 1 of the regulatory year in which the meeting is scheduled to occur.

Statewide, clarified the restrictions on the use of aircraft for spotting sheep do not prohibit flight maneuvers that are necessary to make an informed and safe landing in the field.

Statewide, required a permit before brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached can be sold, skulls and hides will be permanently marked by the department as legal for sale, the permit number must be included in the advertisement for sale, and all sales must be reported to the department.

Statewide, removed the restriction that limited applicants from applying for more than 3 bull moose hunts.

Statewide, changed the minimum age for a resident hunting license to 18 to match statutes.

TRAPPING

BEAVER

Unit 16, allowed the harvest of beaver by firearms under a trapping license during the open trapping season.

WOLVERINE

Unit 11, lengthened the trapping season approximately one month, season dates are now Nov. 10-Last day of Feb.

Unit 13, lengthened the trapping season approximately two weeks, season dates are now Nov. 10-Feb. 15.

WATERFOWL

Emperor Goose, allowed the taking of Emperor geese by proxy.

INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT

Statewide, increased the minimum age of permittees in all programs from 16 to 18.

FALCONRY

Statewide, removed the West Nile Virus testing requirement for raptors.

Statewide, required all raptors leaving Alaska to be microchipped.