

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Increase the “up to number” for drawing permits (DL029) for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island in Unit 3 as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Unit 3 Kuiu Island NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT A GUIDE: 1 bear by drawing permit only; up to [50] 75 permits may be issued; the season will be closed by emergency order when the harvest guideline has been reached | | Sept. 1—June 30 |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At its fall 2010 meeting in Ketchikan, the Board of Game (board) adopted a proposal requiring nonresident black bear hunters who do not enlist the services of a registered hunting guide to obtain a drawing permit prior to hunting black bears in Units 1–3. Implementation of the new regulation was delayed until fall 2012 to allow guides time to adjust and the Department of Fish and Game (department) time to implement the new drawing permit requirement for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide.

During deliberations on the original proposal, the board asked the department to provide estimates of black bear numbers, bear densities, and to determine sustainable harvest levels for geographical areas of concern and/or areas that were believed to constitute discrete management areas. The board then used department figures to establish the allowable number of bears to be taken by nonresidents without a guide and guided hunters within each of ten distinct geographic areas identified by the department. Based on the department’s estimates of sustainable harvest levels within each geographic area, the board established the number of drawing permits available for nonresident hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island at 40 permits. In order to provide the department with some flexibility regarding the exact number of drawing permits to be issued on an annual basis, the board authorized the department to issue “up to” a maximum of 50 drawing permits annually on Kuiu Island (DL029).

From regulatory year (RY) 2012 to RY2016, the department offered 40 drawing permits annually for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island. After five years, the department evaluated hunt statistics associated with the drawing permit requirement, including the level of hunter participation, effort, success rate, and total harvest of black bears taken annually on the island. Based on hunt data obtained during the initial five years of implementation, beginning with the fall 2017 season, the department increased the number of

drawing permits available to nonresidents hunting black bear without a guide on Kuiu Island up to the maximum allowable 50 permits.

Given that the maximum number of allowable drawing permits established by the board has been reached on Kuiu (DL029), the department requests that the board increase the number of permits that may be issued to nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island from the current 50 to 75 permits annually. Such action will allow the department to provide additional hunting opportunity should it determine a harvestable surplus of bears exists on the island.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-066)
