PROPOSAL 50
5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.
Increase the “up to number” for drawing permits (DL030) for unguided nonresident black bear
hunters on Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units and Bag Limits</th>
<th>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</th>
<th>Nonresident Open Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 Kupreanof Island</td>
<td>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT A GUIDE</td>
<td>Sept. 1—June 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 bear by drawing permit only; up to [100] 125 permits may be issued</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 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 of Fish and Game
(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, the board established the annual number drawing permits
available for nonresident hunters without a guide on Kupreanof Island at 80 permits. To provide
the department with some flexibility regarding the exact number of drawing permits issued each
year, the board authorized the department to issue up to a maximum of 100 drawing permits
annually on Kupreanof Island (DL030).

From regulatory year (RY) 2012 to RY2016, the department offered 80 drawing permits
annually for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kupreanof 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 that evaluation, beginning with the fall 2017 season, the
department increased the number of drawing permits available to nonresidents hunting black bear
without a guide on Kupreanof Island up to the maximum allowable 100 permits.

Given that the maximum number of allowable drawing permits established by the board has been
reached on Kupreanof (DL030), the department requests that the board increase the “up to”
number of available permits for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kupreanof from the current 100 to 125 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-F18-067)