

**PROPOSAL 12**

**5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.**

Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting as follows:

It is proposed to open:

“Mitchell Bay Area: Kootznahoo Inlet, Kanalku Bay, Favorite Bay and all land within 660 feet of mean high tide within that area; area open to the taking of brown bears”.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area: Kootznahoo Inlet, Kanalku Bay, Favorite Bay and all land within 660 feet of mean high tide within that area; area currently closed to taking brown bears. We ask that the area be opened due to recent food security concerns brought forward by Angoon community members to the Federal Subsistence Board. The request to close Unit 4 Admiralty Island, west side to the taking of Sitka Black Tail deer by non-qualified subsistence users; reasons stated was the number and access to Sitka black-tailed deer.

It is known and accepted that brown bear prey on deer and fawns each year. Having a large area and complete bay complex immediately adjacent to and just north of the village and City of Angoon where brown bear hunting is closed could be a factor limiting deer numbers available for human harvest. This area also has a landfill that creates human/bear conflicts that could likely be reduced by opening the area around the village to hunting.

Unit 4 brown bear under the direction of ADF&G and the Brown Bear Management Strategy (BBMS) is very well managed at a 4% harvest level and has been under the harvest thresholds for over eight years. If there are private lands within this Controlled Use Area, access to that land should be controlled by the landowner and not the State of Alaska dictating the closed area. There is no biological reason that this area needs to be closed to the taking of brown bear

**PROPOSED BY:** Zach Decker

(EG-F22-047)

\*\*\*\*\*