

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southcentral Region Meeting
Soldotna Sports Center | Soldotna, Alaska
March 17 - 22, 2023

Meeting Summary

The Board of Game (board) convened the Southcentral Region meeting on Friday, March 17, 2023 in Soldotna, Alaska at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex. Seven board members were present: Chairman Jerry Burnett, Vice-Chairman Stosh Hoffman, Allen Barrette, Lynn Keogh, Jake Fletcher, James Cooney, and Ruth Cusack.

The meeting opened with introductions and board member ethics disclosure statements, followed by agency reports. The list of agency reports is provided on page 10. Public testimony began Friday, March 17, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. and concluded Sunday, March 19, at approximately 2:40 p.m. The board heard from 91 testifiers which included 12 advisory committee representatives. (See Record Copy #93 for the complete list).

Board deliberations began Sunday afternoon following the conclusion of public testimony. The board considered 144 proposals, adopting 47 including 16 proposals to reauthorize antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions for other regions. Board action for each proposal is provided as: C = carried; CA = carried as amended; D = deferred; F = failed; or NA = no action.

The board meeting concluded on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at approximately 2:30 p.m.

The meeting material and audio are available on the meeting website at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-17-2023&meeting=kenai.

Regionwide & Multiple Units

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 19, at 03:17:14 PM.

- F **Proposal 55:** Reduce resident cow permits and nonresident bull permits for Southcentral Region units.
- F **Proposal 56:** Prohibit taking of big game from boats in Units 6, 7, and 15.
- F **Proposal 57:** Allow the use of dogs to track and retrieve dead or wounded fur animals in Units 6 - 8, 14C, and 15.
- F **Proposal 58:** Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southcentral Region units.
- F **Proposal 200:** Create a moose hunt in the Southcentral Region for seniors over the age 65 with ADF&G Permanent ID.

Cordova Area – Unit 6

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 19, at 4:47:18 PM, following the management area overview presented by ADF&G.

- F **Proposal 59:** Change the RG231 to an archery only hunt for goat in Unit 6 for certified bowhunters.

- F **Proposal 60:** Create an archery only deer hunt in Unit 6 for resident and nonresident certified bowhunters only.
- F **Proposal 61:** Lower the resident and nonresident general season bag limit for deer in Unit 6.
- C **Proposal 62:** Re-establish an antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.
- F **Proposal 63:** Lengthen the brown bear season in Unit 6D, excluding Montague Island.
- F **Proposal 64:** Change the minimum jaw spread for trapping land otter in Unit 6.

Kodiak Area Proposals – Unit 8

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 20, at 10:14:19 AM, following the management area overview presented by ADF&G.

- F **Proposal 65:** Establish a fall, registration goat hunt for residents and nonresidents in Unit 8, that portion of the Aliulik Peninsula.
- F **Proposal 66:** Create an archery only, resident goat hunt within the Unit 8, RG480 hunt area.
- F **Proposal 67:** Decrease the number of tags for the DG478 and DG479 goat hunts in Unit 8, to guarantee allocation of the weapons restricted, late season registration hunt.
- CA **Proposal 68:** Modify the Unit 8, caribou hunting season from a general season harvest ticket to a registration hunt. *The board amended the proposal to change the nonresident bag limit to bull-only, and retain the any caribou bag limit for residents.*
- F **Proposal 69:** Exclude Kodiak Island from the hunt area for elk in Unit 8 Remainder.
- CA **Proposal 70:** Modify the Unit 8, Raspberry Island hunting season and bag limit by changing the antlerless elk drawing hunt to an antlerless registration hunt. *The board amended the proposal to eliminate the nonresident registration hunt from the proposal.*
- F **Proposal 71:** Establish a drawing permit hunt for elk, open to take by bow and arrow only in Unit 8, Southwest Afognak.
- F **Proposal 72:** Establish a drawing permit hunt for elk, open to take by bow and arrow only in Unit 8, Raspberry Island.
- CA **Proposal 209:** Reallocate four permits each, from elk drawing permit hunts DE715, DE717, DE721, and DE723 to resident registration hunts, with 8 permits available for pick up in Ouzinkie and 8 in Port Lions. *The board amended the proposal to limit registration permits to one per individual. Note: The proposal was reconsidered on 3/22 at 12:34:19 PM.*
- CA **Proposal 73:** Reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 8, Remainder. *The board amended the proposal to change the nonresident bag limit to 1 buck, and retain the current resident bag limit.*
- F **Proposal 74:** Require that meat must be left on the bone when hunting deer in Unit 8.
- F **Proposal 75:** Count brown bear wounded by hunters in Unit 8 against the bag limit of one bear every four calendar years.
- F **Proposal 76:** Lengthen the brown bear registration hunt seasons for RB230 and RB260 in Unit 8.
- F **Proposal 77:** Eliminate brown bear permits the following season, when a female bear is taken in Unit 8.
- F **Proposal 78:** Require all hunters to apply for Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits.

- F **Proposal 79:** Transfer under-subscribed nonresident brown bear permits for Unit 8 to the resident allocation.
- F **Proposal 80:** Adjust the allocation for Unit 8 brown bear permit hunts, DB101 - DB193.
- F **Proposal 81:** Require all snares set on the Kodiak Road system to include breakaway mechanisms.

Anchorage Area – Unit 14C

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 20, at 04:11:36 PM, following the management area overview presented by ADF&G.

- C **Proposal 82:** Expand the Unit 14C northeast sheep drawing hunt areas to include the East Fork Eklutna hunt area.
- F **Proposal 83:** Reopen the late rifle hunt for sheep in Unit 14C and redistribute the existing permits to not increase the total take of rams.
- F **Proposal 84:** Create a new archery only, drawing hunt for sheep in Unit 14C, that portion within the Eklutna River drainage area.
- F **Proposal 208:** Modify the nonresident drawing permit allocation for Dall sheep in Unit 14C. *Proposal 208 was further discussed on March 22, under reconsideration.*
- F **Proposal 85:** Create an archery only drawing hunt for goat in Unit 14C, within the drainage of the West Fork of Eklutna River.
- C **Proposal 86:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.
- C **Proposal 87:** Establish a general moose season open for take by bow and arrow only, in Unit 14C Remainder.
- F **Proposal 88:** Change the registration moose hunt, RM445, in the Chugach State Park Management Area in Unit 14C to an archery only hunt.
- CA **Proposal 203:** Establish a moose drawing hunt within Unit 14C in Kincaid Park for hunters that meet the 70% disability standard with mobility impairments. *The board amended the proposal to strike “muzzleloaders” and add archery equipment and crossbows only.*
- C **Proposal 89:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C.
- F **Proposal 90:** Establish a primitive weapons hunt or any weapons hunt for black bear in the West Fork of Eagle River Drainage in Unit 14C.
- F **Proposal 91:** Add bow and arrow to the legal means of take for the DL455 black bear hunt in Unit 14C, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.
- C **Proposal 92:** Add bow and arrow to the legal means of take for the DL457 black bear hunt in Unit 14C, McHugh Creek area.
- NA **Proposal 93:** Allow certified bowhunters to participate in DL455 and DL457 black bear hunts in Unit 14C, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and McHugh Creek areas. *The board took no action due to the discussion and action on Proposal 91.*
- F **Proposal 94:** Open a black bear archery drawing hunt in the McHugh Creek hunt area in the Unit 14C, Anchorage Management Area.

- NA **Proposal 95:** Open a resident only, limited registration black bear archery hunt in McHugh Creek hunt area in the Unit 14C Anchorage Management Area. *The board took no action due to the discussion and action on proposal 94.*
- NA **Proposal 96:** Establish a black bear archery hunt in Unit 14C, the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson management area for hunters who also draw an archery moose tag. *The board took no action due to the discussion and action on proposal 91.*
- F **Proposal 97:** Establish a primitive weapons hunt or any weapons hunt for brown bear in the West Fork of Eagle River Drainage in Unit 14C.
- F **Proposal 98:** Open a hunt for brown bear within the Rainbow Creek drainage in Unit 14C.
- CA **Proposal 99:** Open an archery drawing hunt for brown bear in Unit 14C, the McHugh Creek area for residents and nonresidents. *The board amended the proposal dates to 10/1-31, with up to 5 permits to be issued, by shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow only.*
- NA **Proposal 100:** Establish an archery only drawing hunt for brown bear in Unit 14C, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson area, with a bag limit of one bear every four regulatory years. *The board took no action due to the discussion and action on Proposal 91.*
- F **Proposal 101:** Extend the general season for brown bear, open for take by bow and arrow only, in Unit 14C Remainder.
- C **Proposal 102:** Lengthen the season for brown bear in Unit 14C Remainder.
- F **Proposal 103:** Establish a bear bait hunt in Unit 14C, the McHugh Creek drainage area for black and brown bear.
- F **Proposal 104:** Close Chugach State Park and Glacier Creek drainage in Unit 14C to lynx hunting and trapping.

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 21, at 08:53:49 AM, following the management area overview presented by ADF&G.

- CA **Proposal 105:** Limit hunters to one big game registration permit at a time in Units 7 and 15. *The board amended the proposal to limit possession of one permit per species, per season, for those hunts with limited number of permits.*
- F **Proposal 106:** Modify the restrictions for using ATVs to hunt moose in Unit 15C.
- NA **Proposal 107:** Allow an exemption for disabled Veterans to hunt in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C using motorized vehicles. *The board took no action due to the discussion and action on Proposal 106.*
- F **Proposal 108:** Make all sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 registration hunts.
- F **Proposal 109:** Close sheep hunting on the Kenai Peninsula, Unit 15.
- F **Proposal 110:** Create an archery only registration hunt and youth hunt for sheep in Unit 7 Remainder.
- F **Proposal 111:** Create an archery only, registration sheep hunt for residents and nonresidents in Units 7 and 15 Remainder.
- F **Proposal 112:** Establish a general sheep hunting season, open for take by bow and arrow only in Unit 15 Remainder.

- F **Proposal 113:** Establish a general sheep season open for take by bow and arrow only, in Unit 7 Remainder.
- F **Proposal 114:** Change the RG331 goat hunt in Unit 7 to an archery only hunt.
- F **Proposal 115:** Divide all Unit 15C goat drawing hunts into two seasons.
- C **Proposal 116:** Change the regulation to clarify goat hunters in Unit 15C are restricted from taking goat on the Kenai Peninsula for five years if a nanny is harvested.
- NA **Proposal 117:** Implement the penalty for taking nannies in the RG364, 365 and 374 goat hunts in Unit 15C. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 116.*
- F **Proposal 118:** Change the general season, resident bag limit for moose in Unit 15 to include bulls with fork antlers.
- F **Proposal 119:** Create an archery only moose hunt in Unit 7 Remainder for both residents and nonresidents.
- F **Proposal 120:** Open an archery, fall moose hunt in Unit 15.
- CA **Proposal 121:** Establish an early archery only moose hunt in Unit 15C to align with Units 15A and 15B. *The board amended the proposal to exclude nonresidents and to be applicable to the nonsubsistence area only.*
- NA **Proposal 122:** Establish an early, archery only registration moose hunt in Unit 15C to align with Units 15A and 15B. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- NA **Proposal 123:** Establish an archery only, fall moose hunt in Unit 15C. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- NA **Proposal 124:** Establish a general moose season open for take by bow and arrow only, in Unit 15C Remainder. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- NA **Proposal 125:** Establish a fall archery hunt for moose in Unit 15C to align with Units 15A and 15B. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- NA **Proposal 126:** Establish an early archery moose hunt in Unit 15C. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- CA **Proposal 127:** Extend the TM549 moose hunting season in Unit 15C, Southwest of Point Pogibshi. *The board amended the proposal to extend the late season to 11/30.*
- C **Proposal 128:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C.
- C **Proposal 129:** Expand the hunt area boundaries for the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 15C.
- C **Proposal 130:** Renew and update the Unit 15C Intensive Management Plan.
- C **Proposal 131:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.
- CA **Proposal 132:** Remove the antler sealing requirement for moose harvested on Kalgin Island and from the TM549 Tier II subsistence area. *The board amended the proposal to remove the sealing requirement for all of Units 7 and 15.*
- NA **Proposal 133:** Prohibit the taking of black bear from boats in Unit 15C. *The board took no action based on the action and discussion on the previous proposals.*
- C **Proposal 134:** Extend the brown bear season in Units 7 and 15.

- NA **Proposal 135:** Extend the brown bear season in Unit 15 from May 31 to June 30, to align with the black bear baiting season. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- NA **Proposal 136:** Extend the season for the brown bear registration hunts in Units 7 and 15 to June 15. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- NA **Proposal 137:** Extend the brown bear registration hunt (RB300) in Unit 7 to June 15. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- NA **Proposal 138:** Extend the brown bear season in Unit 15 to June 15. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- NA **Proposal 139:** Extend the brown bear season for the RB300 hunt in Units 7 and 15 to June 15. *The board took no action due to the discussion on the previous proposals.*
- F **Proposal 140:** Extend the season for brown bear under RB300 open for take by bow and arrow only, in Units 7 and 15.
- NA **Proposal 141:** Lengthen the bear baiting season in Unit 7. *The board took no action due to the action on proposal 134.*
- NA **Proposal 142:** Lengthen the brown bear baiting season in Unit 15. *The board took no action due to the action on proposal 134.*
- F **Proposal 143:** Restrict bear bait stations within a half mile of certain structures in Unit 15.
- D **Proposal 144:** Define "developed recreation facility" and "permanent dwelling" for bear baiting in Units 15 and 7. *The board deferred the proposal to the next Statewide Regulations meeting.*
- CA **Proposal 145:** Close *areas* to hunting and trapping within 1/4 mile of parts of the Sterling Highway in Units 7 and 15. *The board amended the proposal to make it unlawful to hunt or take game within the area.. Clarification about the hunt structure was provided March 22 at 2:30:50 PM.*
- CA **Proposal 146:** Establish trapping setbacks on specific trails within the Kachemak Bay State Park in Unit 15C. *The board amended the proposal to allow trapping within 100 yards of the trails if sets are elevated 3 feet from the hard ground; under-water, under ice, or enclosed.*
- F **Proposal 147:** Establish trapping setbacks along certain snow machine and Nordic ski trails in Unit 15C.
- F **Proposal 148:** Require 100-yard trapping setbacks from known multi-use trails in Unit 7.
- CA **Proposal 149:** Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of campgrounds in Unit 7. *The board amended the proposal to mirror the amendment on proposal 146 and reduced the setback distance to 50 yards. The board reconsidered this proposal on March 22 At 08:33:44 AM.*
- F **Proposal 150:** Establish trapping setbacks along certain roads and pullouts in Unit 7.
- F **Proposal 151:** Establish trapping setbacks along highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in Unit 7.
- F **Proposal 152:** Establish trapping setbacks along trails and trailheads in Unit 7.
- F **Proposal 153:** Establish trapping setbacks along Kenai Lake beaches in Unit 7.

- F **Proposal 154:** Require signs be posted at all active trapping access points in Unit 7.
- CA **Proposal 155:** Close Unit 15C to beaver trapping. *The board amended the proposal to shorten the beaver trapping season in Units 15 and 7 with a season start date of 11/10.*
- F **Proposal 156:** Close beaver trapping in the Anchor River and Deep Creek Drainages in Unit 15C for six years.
- NA **Proposal 157:** Shorten the beaver trapping season in Unit 7. *The board took no action due to the action on proposals 155 and 156.*
- CA **Proposal 158:** Shorten the coyote trapping season in Units 7 and 15. *The board amended the proposal to include wolves.*
- F **Proposal 159:** Lengthen the wolverine hunting season in Units 7 and 15.
- F **Proposal 160:** Limit beaver trapping to one set per lodge for Units 7 and 15, and require visual markers.
- NA **Proposal 161:** Direct ADF&G to conduct a feasibility study for transporting Sitka Blacktail deer to Unit 15C, south side of Kachemak Bay. *The board took no action due to the lack of authority.*
- F **Proposal 162:** Extend the ptarmigan season in a portion of Unit 15C to March 31.
- F **Proposal 163:** Rescind the bag limit restrictions for sea duck hunting in Unit 15C.
- F **Proposal 164:** Reduce the bag limit for goldeneye in Units 7 and 15.
- F **Proposal 165:** Reduce the bag limit for goldeneye in Unit 15C.
- F **Proposal 166:** Reduce the bag limit for bufflehead in Units 7 and 15.
- F **Proposal 167:** Reduce the bag limit for bufflehead in Unit 15C.
- F **Proposal 168:** Reduce the bag limit for harlequin duck for Units 7 and 15.
- F **Proposal 169:** Reduce the bag limit for harlequin in Unit 15C.
- C **Proposal 170:** Reduce the bag limit for long-tailed duck in Units 7 and 15.
- NA **Proposal 171:** Direct ADF&G to implement a method for accurate reporting of sea duck harvest for Units 6, 7 and 15. *The board took no action due to the lack of authority.*
- F **Proposal 172:** Require mandatory harvest reporting for sea ducks in Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C.

Proposals for Other Regions excluding Reauthorization Proposals

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 22, at 10:02:37 AM.

Central and Southwest Region:

- CA **Proposal 207:** Establish a Tier II hunt for Nelchina caribou in Unit 13. *The board amended the proposal to set the season dates as 8/10-9/20 and 10/21-3/31 and a 1 caribou bag limit for which up to 1,000 permits to be issued.*

Interior and Eastern Arctic Region

- CA **Proposal 204:** Close resident and nonresident hunting for Dall sheep in Unit 19C, for five years. *The board amended the proposal to close the nonresident and youth hunts for five years.*

- CA **Proposal 205:** Change the Unit 19C moose hunt for nonresidents from a registration permit to a drawing permit, with up to 20 permits available. *The board amended the proposal to set the max number of permits at 100 and retain the bag limit of 50” or 4 brow tines.*
- NA **Proposal 210:** Close the Unit 19C moose hunt for nonresidents, and beginning in 2024, allow nonresidents to hunt moose by drawing permit only. *The board took no action due to action on Proposal 205.*
- NA **Proposal 211:** Shorten the resident moose hunting season in Unit 19C, close the moose hunting season for nonresidents, and beginning in 2024, allow nonresidents to hunt moose by drawing permit only. *The board took no action due to action on Proposal 205.*
- C **Proposal 206:** Reauthorize the Unit 21E Intensive Management Plan.

Antlerless Moose and Brown Bear Tag Fee Reauthorizations for Other Regions

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 21, at 06:37:34 PM, following the management area overview presented by ADF&G.

- C **Proposal 173:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13A.
- C **Proposal 174:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13C.
- C **Proposal 175:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13E.
- C **Proposal 176:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Units 14A and 14B.
- C **Proposal 177:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A.
- C **Proposal 178:** Reauthorize the resident antlerless moose season in Unit 18.
- C **Proposal 179:** Reauthorize a winter antlerless moose season during February in a portion of Unit 19D.
- C **Proposal 180:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A.
- C **Proposal 181:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B.
- C **Proposal 182:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D.
- C **Proposal 183:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20E.
- C **Proposal 184:** Reauthorize a winter antlerless moose season during March in a portion of Unit 21D.
- C **Proposal 185:** Reauthorize a winter antlerless moose season during part of February and March in Unit 21E.
- C **Proposal 186:** Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska.
- C **Proposal 187:** Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region.
- C **Proposal 188:** Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

Proposals Outside the Board of Game's Authority and Other Proposals

The Board of Game did not discuss any of the following proposals.

Proposal 189: Lower the costs for nonresident hunters and remove the hunting guide requirement.

Proposal 190: Include trapping license as part of the Alaska Resident Disabled Veteran License Program.

Proposal 191: A transporter shall transport hunters in Prince William Sound every year or Kodiak Island, but not both.

Proposal 192: Transported hunts in Unit 8 shall be from October 25 - November 30 and January 1 to May 15.

Proposal 193: No business entity or individual may operate more than one transporter vessel in Unit 8.

Proposal 194: Any individual that holds a federal exclusive guide use concession area is excluded from having any employed or contracted guide, second degree of kindred relative, or themselves apply for a drawing permit hunt in the area in which they hold the exclusive guide area.

Proposal 195: Any individual cannot hold more than one federal exclusive guide use concession Area for Units 8 or 9.

Proposal 196: Create a new migratory bird hunting zone consisting of the waters of Kachemak Bay and its drainages. P

Proposal 197: Divide Unit 15C into two subunits.

Proposal 198: Provide a number of tags to guides to take nonresidents hunting.

Proposal 199: Create a village registration elk hunt by designating eight permits each to be distributed in person in the communities of Ouzinkie and Port Lions.

Miscellaneous Actions

The audio for board discussions on this section begins March 22, at 02:05:10 P.M. The miscellaneous business agenda can be found in Record Copy 91.

The board considered a petition for emergency regulations regarding brown bear permits for Unimak Island (RC 87). The board did not find an emergency existed per the criteria in Joint Board Petition Policy, 5 AAC 96.625.

The board adopted findings (RC 92) providing direction to the Department of Fish and Game concerning the registration permits for elk in the Afognak area (DE721/723 hunt area) and Unit 8 Remainder (DE715/717 hunt area). The board amended the findings to clarify permits can be picked up three business days prior to the start of the hunt.

**Oral Reports Provided at the March 17-22, 2023
Southcentral Region Board of Game Meeting**

Friday, March 17, 2023

1. Agency Updates/Reports
2. Southcentral Region Overview for the Division of Wildlife Conservation – Cynthia Wardlow, ADF&G
3. Kenai Peninsula Moose Research and Post-Fire Monitoring – Dan Thompson and Thomas McDonough, ADF&G
4. State Guide Use Concession Program Update – Aaron Bloomquist, Big Game Commercial Services Board

Reports Provided during Deliberations in addition to Proposal Presentations

Cordova Area – Unit 6

- Management Area Overview (Unit 6) – Charlotte Westing, ADF&G

Kodiak Area – Unit 8

- Management Area Overview – Nate Svoboda, ADF&G

Anchorage – Unit 14C

- Management Area Overview – Dave Battle, ADF&G

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

- Management Area Overview– Nick Fowler, ADF&G

Other Regions

- Mulchatna Caribou Herd Intensive Management Update – Gino DeFrate and Todd Rinaldi, ADF&G
- Nelchina Caribou Herd and the Tier II Process– Caroline Brown, ADF&G