

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southeast Region Meeting
The Landing Hotel, Ketchikan, Alaska
January 20-24, 2023

Meeting Summary

The Board of Game (board) convened the Southeast Region meeting on Friday, January 20, 2023 in Ketchikan, Alaska at the Landing Hotel. 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 5. Public testimony began Friday, January 20, 2023 at 2:20 p.m. and concluded Saturday, January 21 at approximately 2:50 p.m. The board heard from 38 testifiers which included 11 advisory committee representatives, and one regional advisory council representative. (See Record Copy #22 for the complete list).

Board deliberations began Saturday afternoon following the conclusion of public testimony. The board considered 55 proposals, adopting 17. Board action for each proposal is provided below as: C = carried; CA = carried as amended; F = failed; or NA = no action.

The board meeting concluded one day early on January 23, 2023 at approximately 5:22 p.m.

The meeting material and audio are available on the meeting website at:

www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=01-20-2023&meeting=ketchikan

Regionwide & Multiple Units

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 21, at 03:18:18 PM.

- F **Proposal 1:** Require certified hunter safety education to hunt in Units 1 – 5.
- C **Proposal 2:** Require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units.
- F **Proposal 3:** Remove the requirement for residents to seal black bear skulls harvested in Units 1 – 4.
- F **Proposal 4:** Change the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 to one bear every two years.
- CA **Proposal 5:** Change the waterfowl season in Units 1 - 4 by creating a split season. *The board amended the proposal with a split season to be open September 1 – November 30, closed from December 1 – December 15, and opened again from December 16 – December 31.*
- C **Proposal 6:** Lengthen river otter trapping seasons in Units 1 - 4 to align with Unit 5.
- F **Proposal 7:** Extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 - 4 and 5.
- F **Proposal 8:** Extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2.
- F **Proposal 9:** Extend the wolverine trapping season to March 15 in Units 1 – 5.

Sitka Area – Unit 4

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 22, at 9:31:19 AM, following the management area overview presented by ADF&G.

- CA **Proposal 10:** Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder. *The board reconsidered the proposal on January 23, at 1:33:04 PM. The amended proposal reduces the nonresident bag limit for all of Unit 4, to 2 bucks ,and retains the existing resident bag limits.*
- NA **Proposal 11:** Decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4, Remainder. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 10.*
- F **Proposal 12:** Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting.
- F **Proposal 13:** Change the RB088 hunt boundary in Unit 4 to include Northeast Chichagof, and increase the allowable harvest for brown bear.
- F **Proposal 14:** Change the brown bear hunt area for RB088 in Unit 4 to include all of Lisianski Inlet drainage.

Petersburg & Wrangell Area – Units 1B & 3

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 22, at 11:23:40 AM, following the management area overview presented by ADF&G.

- C **Proposal 15:** Change the description of the Petersburg Road System Closed Area.
- C **Proposal 16:** Lengthen the deer season in Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island within the Petersburg Management Area.
- C **Proposal 17:** Establish a fall drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3.
- F **Proposal 18:** Establish a fall, drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Islands in Unit 3.
- F **Proposal 19:** Change the hunt structure for elk on Etolin Island in Unit 3.
- F **Proposal 20:** Split Etolin Island in Unit 3 into two hunt areas for elk.
- F **Proposal 21:** Eliminate the regulation that excludes broken, damaged, or altered antlers from the definition of spike-fork antlers for Units 1B, 1C and 3.
- NA **Proposal 22:** Eliminate the restriction for using motorized vehicles for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B. *The board took no action because the requested change falls under the authority of ADF&G and USFS*
- NA **Proposal 23:** Allow the use of electric bikes for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B. *The board took no action because the requested change falls under the authority of ADF&G and USFS.*
- F **Proposal 24:** Open the Petersburg Creek drainage of Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 to black bear hunting.
- F **Proposal 25:** Allow black bear hunting in the Petersburg Creek Drainage area, with season dates to align with Unit 3.
- NA **Proposal 26:** Reduce the permit allocation and bag limit for nonresident, nonguided black bear hunters on Kuiu and Kupreanof Islands in Unit 3. *The board took no action because the Department of Fish and Game has authority to reduce the harvest.*
- F **Proposal 27:** Require 100-yard trapping setbacks along hiking trails and drivable surfaces on Wrangell Island in Unit 3.

Juneau, Haines, Skagway & Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D & 5

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 22, at 4:28:06 PM, following the management area overview presented by ADF&G.

- CA **Proposal 28:** Change the hunt boundary from Little Sheep Creek to Sheep Creek, for the RG014 goat hunt in Unit 1C. *The board amended the boundary change as offered in the ADF&G comments shown in figure 28.2*
- F **Proposal 29:** Expand the hunt area of the RG014 archery goat hunt in Unit 1C.
- F **Proposal 30:** Open a fall archery goat hunt in Unit 1C, the southern end of the Chilkat Peninsula.
- C **Proposal 31:** Lengthen the resident, registration goat hunt in Unit 1C, the Southern end of the Chilkat Range.
- CA **Proposal 32:** Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1D from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1D. *The board amended the proposal to also change the nonresident bag limit to billies only.*
- F **Proposal 33:** Increase the brown bear bag limit in that portion of Unit 1C of the Chilkat Peninsula mainland north of Point Couverden and south of Sullivan Island for resident hunters, from one bear every four regulatory years to one bear every regulatory year.
- NA **Proposal 34:** Increase the brown bear bag limit in that portion of Unit 1C of the Chilkat Peninsula mainland north of Point Couverden and south of Sullivan Island for resident hunters, from one bear every four regulatory years to one bear every regulatory year. *The board took no action due to the action on proposal 33.*
- C **Proposal 35:** Extend the bear baiting season for Unit 1D.
- F **Proposal 36:** Reduce the bag limit for grouse for drainages that cross the Juneau-Douglas Road system in Unit 1C.
- F **Proposal 37:** Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan for drainages that cross the Juneau Douglas Road system in Unit 1C.
- C **Proposal 38:** Amend the youth hunt for Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge.
- CA **Proposal 39:** Amend the hunter education requirement for the Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge. *The board amended the proposal to require accompanying adults to have successfully completed a certified hunter education course.*
- F **Proposal 40:** Allow the take of deleterious exotic wildlife in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.
- C **Proposal 41:** Eliminate the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C.

Ketchikan Area & Prince of Wales Island – Units 1A & 2

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 23, at 11:31:31 AM, following the management area overview presented by ADF&G.

- C **Proposal 42:** Extend the deer season to December 31, in Unit 1A Remainder.
- F **Proposal 44:** Extend the goat season in Unit 1A Remainder.
- C **Proposal 43:** Increase the resident bag limit to two goats in Unit 1A.

- F **Proposal 45:** Raise the population objective from 150-200 wolves to 250-350 wolves in Unit 2, and raise the threshold for closing the season from 100 to 200 wolves.
- C **Proposal 46:** Lengthen the hunting season for wolves in Unit 2, to open September 1.
- F **Proposal 47:** Require wolf harvest information be reported within 48 hours of recovery and sealing within 14 days in Unit 2.
- F **Proposal 48:** Change the methodology for setting the population objective for wolves in Unit 2.
- F **Proposal 49:** Utilize the lower confidence interval of the wolf population for estimating the population in Unit 2.
- F **Proposal 50:** Establish a population estimate and harvest limit based on Prince of Wales Island wolf population that excludes extrapolation from outer islands in Unit 2.
- F **Proposal 51:** Establish a percentage of the Unit 2 wolf population that can be harvested on a sustainable basis, develop a harvest quota each season, require in-season reporting, provide the harvest to the public in real time, and allow three days' notice before closing the season by emergency order.
- F **Proposal 52:** Establish a harvest quota for wolves, between 20% and 35% of the estimated wolf population in Unit 2.
- F **Proposal 53:** Establish an estimated unreported mortality rate for Unit 2 wolves to be used for establishing the harvest quota.
- F **Proposal 54:** Identify an area in Unit 2 for protected status for wolves.
- NA **Proposal 202:** Set the season length for taking wolves in Unit 2, without closing it early due to emergency order. *The board took no action due to lack of authority.*

Miscellaneous Actions

The audio for board discussions on this section begins January 23, at 04:59:13 P.M. The miscellaneous business agenda can be found in Record Copy 30.

The board confirmed having a one-day Work Session scheduled for January 25, 2024 in Kotzebue preceding the Western Arctic/Western region meeting.

The board agreed to send a letter to the National Park Service to provide comment on the 2023 proposed rule regarding hunting and trapping on National Park Preserves in Alaska.

The board chair asked members to consider establishing a working group or committee to address user conflict related trapping issues along trails and high public use areas, to be further discussed at the March 2023 board meeting.

The board voted to schedule a board proposal regarding elk hunting in Unit 8, for the March 2023 meeting. The proposal is based on Proposal 199, which as written, is outside the board's authority.

The board discussed the public request in Proposal 201 to create a sea otter management plan, to begin the process of creating a state hunting season for sea otters. Sea otters are federally managed under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the state's ability to take action is limited.

**Oral Reports Provided at the January 20-24, 2023
Southeast Region Board of Game Meeting**

Friday, January 21, 2023

1. Agency Updates/Reports
2. Southeast Region Overview for the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Tom Schumacher, ADF&G
3. Sitka Black-Tailed Deer Research by the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Dan Eacker, ADF&G
4. Brown Bear Research in Southeast Alaska by the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Anthony Crupi, ADF&G
5. Wolf Research in Southeast Alaska by the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Gretchen Roffler, ADF&G

Reports to be Provided during Deliberations

Sitka Area – Unit 4

- Management Area Overview (Unit 4) – Steve Bethune, ADF&G

Petersburg & Wrangell Area – Units 1B & 3

- Management Area Overview – Frank Robbins, ADF&G

Juneau, Haines, Skagway & Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D and 5

- Management Area Overview – Roy Churchwell and Carl Koch, ADF&G

Ketchikan Area and Prince of Wales Island – Units 1A & 2

- Management Area Overview– Ross Dorendorf and Tessa Hasbrouck, ADF&G
- A History of Wolf Management in Unit 2 – Tom Schumacher and Tessa Hasbrouck