

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear hunting season in Unit 23 for residents to year-round as follows:

5 AAC 85.020 (21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Unit 23.

Create no closed season for brown/grizzly bears in Unit 23:

July 1-June 30 [AUG 1 - MAY 31].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To encourage hunting of brown/grizzly bears in Unit 23, assist with recovery of caribou and moose populations, and to increase safety of residents. Currently, there are opportunities to harvest brown bears at camps and near Kotzebue during the months of June and July that are passed on because the season is unnecessarily closed - since there is not currently a conservation issue being addressed with the two-month closure. Having an open season all year would allow for harvest of grizzly bears under general hunting license and not as a Defense of Life or Property (DLP.) The current bag limit is two bears per regulatory year.

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F23-031)
