

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Allow the use of night vision goggles and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers with a trapping license in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C as follows:

Allow the use of night vision goggles and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers under a trapping license in all of Region III.

5AAC 92.080(7)(C) artificial light, except that artificial light, **night vision goggles, and forward looking infrared devices** may be used

(i) for the purpose of taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season November 1 – March 31 in Units 7 and 9-26.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under current regulations, hunters and trappers can only use artificial light for furbearers in Units 7 and 9 - 26. Opportunity for harvest is lost because of the short “daylight” during the winter months in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region.

Adding the use of night vision goggles and forward looking infrared devices to the exceptions under unlawful methods would allow hunters and trappers many more hours each day besides what is defined as “daylight.” Region III has a very healthy population of furbearers, and the harvest would be sustainable and provide additional “reasonable opportunity” for harvest for personal use and subsistence.

This could be considered for a statewide proposal but we would like to use the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region as a test area. We anticipate that any additional harvest would not be a conservation issue and testing in one region before considering it statewide would provide an opportunity to look for abuses. This change would be expected to add some burden on the Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F23-219)
