



Alaska Board of Game

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME Statewide Regulations Meeting Fairbanks, Alaska March 18-26, 2016

Meeting Summary

The Board of Game (board) convened the Statewide Regulations meeting on Friday, March 18, 2016, at Pike's Waterfront Lodge in Fairbanks, Alaska. All seven board members were present: Chairman Ted Spraker, Vice-Chairman Nate Turner, Stosh Hoffman, Teresa Sager Albaugh, Pete Probasco, Dave Brown, and Kip Fanning.

After the introductions and board member ethics disclosure statements, the board received the following reports from the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

- National Park Service Update - Burt Frost, Regional Director
- USF&WS Proposed Rule regarding non-subsistence take of wildlife and public participation and closure procedures on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges - Sarena Selbo, Deputy Chief for Refuges in Alaska and Brian Glaspell, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager
- Unit 15 Intensive Management Planning – Lem Butler, ADF&G
- Investigation of brown bear predatory behavior in Unit 13 using camera collars and stable isotopes – Chris Brockman, ADF&G
- Statewide Sheep Sealing Protocol – Tony Kavalok, ADF&G

Public testimony began Friday, March 18, ending Monday, March 21. The board listened to 112 testimonies (see RC 124), of which 24 represented advisory committees. Deliberations on proposals followed public testimony on the afternoon of March 21.

The board took action on 143 proposals, adopting 58 and deferring four to future meetings. Actions are recorded as: C = Carried; F = Failed; CA = Carried as Amended; NA = No Action; and D = Deferred. The meeting audio, and all other meeting materials are available online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-18-2016&meeting=fairbanks. To listen to the board discussion, the audio tracking information is referenced for each section unless otherwise specified.

Definitions

*The board deliberations on this section began March 21; see the audio log at 3:11:42.
Deliberations on proposal 3 were continued March 25; see audio log at 3:07:27.*

- C 143. Include Eurasian Collared Doves in the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife
- F 5. Modify the definition of edible meat for all game birds
- F 1. Remove hovercraft and airboats from the definition of motorized land vehicles
- F 2. Modify the definition of ATV
- F 3. Establish a definition for general hunt
- F 4. Amend the definition of bag limit
- CA 6. Modify the definition of a moose antler. *The board amended the proposal to replace “projection” with “point or tine”.*
- F 7. Clarify the definition of antler point

Crossbow & Archery

The board deliberations on this section began March 21; see the audio log at 4:55:52.

- C 8. Allow the use of lighted sight pins in restricted weapons hunts
- C 9. Update the definition of barbed arrows to take into account improvements in technology
- F 10. Modify the requirements for crossbow
- CA 12. Modify the current definition of a legal crossbow for taking big game. *The board amended the proposal to retain “bolt” and strike “the arrow”.*
- F 13. Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts for hunters 65 years of age or older
- F 11. Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts
- D 14. Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts. *The board deferred proposal 14 to the Interior and Arctic/Western Region meetings scheduled for January and February 2017.*
- CA 15. Require certification for all big game hunters in Alaska using crossbows. *The board amended the proposal to delay the effective date until 7/1/2018.*
- NA 16. Require successful completion of a crossbow education course for those hunting with crossbows. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal #15.*
- C 17. Provide an exemption for bowhunter education requirements
- C 18. Prohibit the use of slingbows

Miscellaneous Topics

The board deliberations on this section began March 22; see the audio log at 0:03:48.

- F 19. Establish a regulation for board-generated proposals
- NA 20. Clarify the meaning of “specific location” of wildlife. *The board took no action at the request of ADF&G, the author of the proposal.*

Western/Arctic Region Proposals

The board deliberations on this section began the morning of March 22; see the audio log at 0:35:11. Deliberations on this section continue in the afternoon, starting with proposal 86; see the audio log at 0:23:02.

- C 134. Increase the bag limits for Mulchatna caribou in Units 17, 18, 19A & 19B, and 9A & 9C. *The board adopted a positive finding for Customary and Traditional uses of caribou in Unit 18. ANS will be discussed at a future meeting.*
- CA 140. Change the hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou in Unit 22. *The board amended the proposal to close the season for taking cows in Unit 22 on 3/31 and to require a registration permit.*
- C 135. Increase the number of nonresident drawing permits for brown bear in the Remainder of Unit 22
- C/D 85. Remove the exception for harvest tickets and reports for caribou. *The board deferred a portion of the proposal (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A) to the Arctic/Western Region meeting scheduled for January 2017. The adopted proposal applies only to Units 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C.*
- D 86. Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for sheep. *The board deferred the proposal to the Arctic/Western Region meeting scheduled for January 2017.*

Sheep Hunting

The board deliberations on this section began the afternoon of March 22; see the audio log at 0:48:04. Deliberations continued on March 23, starting with proposal 36; see the audio log at 0:00:57.

- F 21. Modify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting
- F 22. Modify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting. *The board reconsidered this proposal on March 23; see audio log at 2:21:49.*
- F 23. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting
- NA 24. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting. *The board took no action due to action on proposal 23.*
- NA 25. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting. *The board took no action due to action on proposal 23.*

- NA 26. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting. *The board took no action due to action on proposal 23.*
- F 27. Amend the definition of legal Dall sheep ram
- F 28. Modify seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep statewide
- C 29. Define the term broken as it applies to the definition of full-curl horn of male (ram) Dall sheep
- C 30. Establish a nonresident bag limit for sheep of one every four years
- F 31. Allow one sheep or goat draw permit per hunter every three years
- F 32. Change all sheep hunts to drawing or registration permit hunts
- F 33. Extend the sheep hunting season statewide; provide a timeframe for resident-only and nonresident-only hunting; and establish a statewide registration season
- F 34. Extend the sheep hunting season statewide; provide a timeframe for resident-only hunting; establish a statewide registration season; and limit methods and means
- F 35. Establish statewide sheep hunting seasons for residents and nonresidents based on last names
- F 36. Modify resident and nonresident sheep hunting seasons
- NA 37. Modify resident and nonresident sheep hunting seasons. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 36.*
- NA 38. Modify resident and nonresident sheep hunting seasons. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 36.*
- NA 39. Shorten the nonresident sheep hunting season statewide. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 36.*
- F 40. Restrict nonresident sheep hunting to a limited number of drawing opportunities
- F 138. Change nonresident, general sheep hunts on state and BLM lands to drawing permit hunts
- F 41. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation
- NA 42. Change nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts with a 12% allocation cap. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 41.*
- NA 43. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 41.*
- NA 44. Allocate ten percent or less of sheep permits to nonresidents. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 41.*
- NA 45. Establish nonresident sheep permit allocation of ten percent. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 41.*
- F 46. Establish a statewide archery season for sheep, August 1–9

- CA 47. Establish a statewide youth hunting season for Dall sheep, August 1–5. *The board amended the proposal to apply to general season hunts only, open to both residents and nonresidents which is consistent with the definition for “youth hunt” under 5 AAC 92.990(87).*
- F 48. Review and potentially modify sheep hunting opportunities statewide
- F 49. Restrict the bag limit for Dall sheep in certain areas

Use of Game, Possession, & Transportation

The board deliberations on this section began March 23; see the audio log at 3:07:53. Deliberations on 51 were continued March 26; see audio log at 4:01:31.

- F 50. Remove the requirement for evidence of sex for hunts with bag limits of only one sex
- CA 51. Modify bag limits for nonresidents accompanied by a resident relative. *The board amended the proposal to strike the second part of the proposal. It retained the bag limit for the nonresident hunter accompanied by resident relative to count towards the bag limit of the resident. The board delayed the implementation date for up to two years.*
- C 52. Clarify the requirements regarding retrieval and salvage of wounded game
- F 53. Remove the restriction that wounded game counts against the annual bag limit
- F 54. Establish an additional statewide bag limit for big game species
- F 55. Change the statewide brown bear bag limit to one bear every regulatory year
- C 56. Prohibit the transport of hide and skull of black or brown bear from the field until edible meat has been salvaged
- C 57. Allow the sale of brown bear hides and/or skulls

Bear Baiting

The board deliberations on this section began March 23; see the audio log at 5:25:17. Deliberations continued on March 24, starting with proposal 63; see the audio log at 0:01:35. Deliberations on proposal 59 were continued March 26; see audio log at 4:13:29.

- F 58. Prohibit the use of chocolate at bear bait stations
- F 59. Clarify and restrict the use of liquids at bear bait stations.
- NA 62. Remove the requirement to remove all contaminated soil from bear bait stations. *The board took no action because it is not currently required.*
- F 60. Allow use of Northern Pike designated as invasive species as bait
- CA 61. Allow the use of game as bait. *The board amended the proposal with new language to clarify the intent to allow the use of furbearer carcasses as bear bait. (See the ADF&G report under RC 4, Tab 9, page 14.)*

- CA 63. Amend bear baiting regulations to require specific locations to be given at the time of registration and to update the nomenclature of the signs required. *The board amended the proposal by removing the gps requirements at time of registration for Units 1-5.*
- F 64. Allow harvest of brown/grizzly bear at black bear bait stations
- C 65. Remove the requirement to salvage brown bear meat at bait stations

Unlawful Methods of Taking Game

The board deliberations on this section began March 24; see the audio log at 0:53:31.

- F 66. Allow the use of felt soles
- F 67. Prohibit hunting and trapping from highway right-of-ways
- C 68. Prohibit the use of forward looking infrared (FLIR) devices
- F 69. Prohibit hunting with domestic dog
- F 70. Restrict the use of aircraft for spotting or locating big game species while hunting
- C 71. Clarify same day airborne prohibitions
- F 72. Establish minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunts
- NA 73. Establish minimum caliber ammunition for caribou hunts. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 72.*
- NA 74. Establish minimum caliber ammunition for black and brown bear hunts. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 72.*
- NA 75. Allow use of blackpowder cartridge rifles and crossbows in bison hunts. *The board took no action because ADFG will implement under discretionary authority.*
- F 76. Adopt minimum caliber requirements for use of high-power air rifles to take big game.
- F 77. Allow the use of artificial light for taking furbearers
- C 78. Remove all requirements for identification tags on traps and snares
- F 79. Require traps to be checked every 24 hours
- F 80. Move trapping away from cities with a population of 1,000 or more
- CA 81. Define the term underwater for the purposes of allowing furbearers to be harvested with underwater traps or snares. *The board amended the proposal to clarify the snare must be placed below the waterline and the restraining portion of the trap or snare must be in the water.*

Licenses, Tags, Harvest Tickets & Reports

The board deliberations on this section began March 24; see the audio log at 3:40:52. Deliberations on proposal 84 were continued March 26; see audio log at 4:18:12.

- C 82. Amend the requirement to fix a big game locking tag
- F 83. Eliminate the use of harvest tickets in any hunt requiring a metal locking tag
- F 84. Clarify the inspection requirements for licenses, harvest tickets, and permits.

Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Policy

The board deliberations on this section began March 24; see the audio log at 4:23:41.

- F 87. Prohibit the Board of Game from adopting regulations restricting the use of off-road vehicles for declining quality of an outdoor experience.

Miscellaneous Permits

The board deliberations on this section began March 24; see the audio log at 4:43:15.

- F 88. Add sugar gliders to the list of animals allowed to be sold and possessed without a permit
- NA 89. Add sugar gliders to the list of animals allowed to be sold and possessed without a permit. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 9*
- D 90. Eliminate domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goats (*Capra hircus*) from the “Clean List” and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat. *The board deferred proposal 90 to the 2017/2018 Statewide Regulations meeting.*
- F 91. Include cow in the definition of feral game
- F 92. Modify the allocation provisions for nonresident falconry permits
- NA 93. For nonresidents, allow the take of eyas raptors, increase the allocation for falconry permits, and lengthen the season. *The board took no action due to action taken on proposal 92.*
- F 94. Require the implementation of state wildlife plans before issuing permits for education or telemetry

Hunting Permits

The board deliberations on this section began March 25; see the audio log at 0:02:24.

- C 95. Include targeted permits with the list of those that the Failure To Report penalty can be applied to
- CA 97. Establish a point system for drawing hunts. *The board amended proposal 97 with substitute language (RC 93) allowing applicants the ability to apply for six hunts for most species. For moose, applicants may apply for up to six moose hunts, only three of which may be bull hunts. All six may be antlerless. Applicants*

may apply for the same hunt number as many times as is allowed for that species, but not more than six times on all individual and party applications combined.

- NA 96. Establish a point system for drawing hunts. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 97.*
- NA 98. Establish a point system for drawing hunts with an allocation for nonresident and nonresident permits. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 97.*
- CA 99. To apply for a nonresident permit, a registered guide must provide an assigned verification code. *The board amended the proposal with substitute language (RC 117) to require nonresidents provide ADF&G the unique verification code (UVC) at the time drawing application, for all guide required species. The board also delayed the implementation date by one year.*
- F 108. Remove the nonresident guide requirement for those species not required by Alaska Statute
- F 101. Limit the amount of drawing permits awarded to nonresidents to a maximum of ten percent
- F 107. Establish a permit allocation of ten percent for nonresidents
- F 102. Modify provisions to require all nonresident drawing permits be awarded from the permits allocated to nonresidents
- F 103. Require Tier I subsistence permit holders to report harvest information
- NA 104. Require hunters to submit a subsistence hunt report. *The board took no action due to action on proposal 103.*
- F 105. Modify the qualification under the Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system
- C 106. Provide for changes in hunt type (Tier I and Tier II) to occur during the regulatory cycle.
- F 100. Modify the provision of surplus permits

AC Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose Seasons

The board deliberations on this section began March 25; see the audio log at 4:05:29.

- F 109. Add Units 7, 15, and 14C to the Seward Advisory Committee's jurisdiction for authorizing antlerless moose hunts
- F 110. Add Units 13 and 16 to the Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee's jurisdiction for authorizing antlerless moose hunts

Game Management Units

The board deliberations on this section began March 25; see the audio log at 4:30:01.

- C 111. Move Kalgin Island from Unit 16 to Unit 15
- F 112. Divide Unit 2 into two subunits

Antlerless Moose and Tag Fee Reauthorizations

The board deliberations on this section began March 25; see the audio log at 4:48:02.

- C 113. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 1C
- C 114. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 5A, Nunatak Bench
- C 115. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C
- C 116. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Units 7 and 14C
- C 117. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C
- C 118. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C
- C 119. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13
- C 120. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Units 14A and 14B
- C 121. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B
- C 122. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A
- C 123. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A
- C 124. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B
- C 125. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20D
- C 126. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18
- C 127. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 23
- C 128. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the western portion of Unit 26A
- C 129. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region
- C 130. Reauthorize resident grizzly bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska
- C 131. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A

Regional and Multiple Units

The board deliberations on this section began March 25; see the audio log at 4:53:23. Deliberations continued on March 26, starting with proposal 142; see audio log at 0:01:56.

- C 132. Modify the hunting season for snowy owls. *The board adopted a positive finding for customary and traditional use for Units 17, 18, 22, 23, and 26.*

- C 133. Modify the hunting season for cormorants *The board adopted a positive finding for customary and traditional use for Units 6, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 22, and 23.*
- C 142. Review and modify the Unit 13 predation control plan
- CA 136. Establish winter draw and registration hunts for moose in Unit 16B. *The board amended the proposal to extend the youth hunt season to January 31.*
- C 139. Change the nonresident registration goat hunts in Unit 14C, Lake George area, to drawing hunts
- CA 137. Modify the Intensive Management population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 20A. *The board amended the proposal with substitute language (RC 114) which changed the population objective to 10,000-15,000 and a harvest objective of 500-900.*
- C 141. Change the wolf hunting season dates near Denali National Park. *The board clarified the area applies to that shown on the map on page 3 in the ADF&G presentation.*

Miscellaneous Business

The board also addressed the following items:

1. The board approved findings related to the intent of proposal 207 which was adopted the previous year at the Southcentral Region meeting in March 2015 and restricted the use of aircraft for sheep hunting. The board also agreed the findings would be referenced in the codified regulation. *(See RCs 38, 112, and the audio log for March 23 at 3:04:29 and March 26 at 4:52:46).*
2. The board reviewed the draft letter to the US Fish & Wildlife Service commenting on the proposed rule regarding non-subsistence take of wildlife and public participation and closure procedures on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges. Members Nate Turner and Teresa Sager Albaugh were assigned to finalize the letter. *(See RC129; audio log March 26 at 5:04:04).*
3. The board considered a request for a special meeting from Ahtna, Incorporated concerning the community subsistence hunt for moose in the Copper Basin area. Board members did not offer a motion to schedule a special meeting to address the issue. Chairman Spraker suggested board members contact the Executive Director following adjournment if anyone felt a special meeting should be called to consider the issue. *(See RC121; audio log March 26 5:14:36).*
4. The board considered a request to place falconry regulations on a six-year cycle. A motion to change the schedule for falconry was offered but failed. *(See RC127; audio log March 26 5:30:57).*
5. The board adopted findings for providing recommendations to ADF&G during the Statewide Regulations meeting. *(See RC131; audio log March 26 5:42:30).*

The board adjourned March 26, 2016 at approximately 4:35 pm, two days prior to the scheduled end date.