

# **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS BOARD OF GAME October 23-28, 1998**

**DESIGNATED REPORTER: Margaret Edens**

*This summary of actions is for information purposes only and not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret reasons for Board actions.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PROPOSAL NO. 1**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 85.020(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Establish a drawing permit system for brown bear hunting in Unit 4. One bear every four years by drawing permit only; department to specify permit hunt areas and adjust permit hunt areas to reduce harvest of females.

**DISCUSSION:** The Board heard testimony about hunter crowding and the increasing numbers of guides in Game Management Unit 4. The board voted to establish the Unit 4 Brown Bear Committee. The purpose of the committee is to review brown bear hunting and related issues for Unit 4 and to suggest management strategies for Board consideration at its Southeast Regional meeting in the year 2000. The committee objectives are to review bear population data, appropriate harvest levels, appropriate guide and hunter use levels, and educational needs and methods for reducing unwarranted bear mortality and harassment. Committee members could include two Board of Game members, an ADF&G area biologist, Subsistence Division representative, a member of the Federal Southeast Regional Subsistence Council, a Forest Service representative, a member of the Southeast Guide Association and Admiralty Bear Association, a tourism representative, a member of the Tinglit-Haida Central Council and member of Territorial Sportsmen.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PROPOSAL NO. 2**

**ACTION: Carried**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 85.020. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEARS. Housekeeping proposal to clarify the boundary of the brown bear hunt in the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area.

**DISCUSSION:** The department reported that the current definition of this hunt area opens up a portion of the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area west of Port Frederick which was not the intent of the board when it adopted this proposal in 1996. The board agreed this housekeeping proposal would specify that the only portion of the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area that is open Sept. 15 – Sept. 30 is in the immediate vicinity of Hoonah. The board concluded it was not the original intent to open that area and that passage of this proposal would clarify the regulation.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 3**

**ACTION: Carried as amended**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 85.035. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR ELK. Increase the number of drawing permits for elk in Unit 3.

**AMENDMENT:** Add an archery-only hunt Sept. 15 – Sept. 30.

**DISCUSSION:** The department gave history of the introduction of elk to Southeast Alaska and its management plan for elk. The department reported that the management plan calls for a hunting season when the population can support a harvest of 20 bulls. In the summer of 1997, elk in Unit 3 reached a population of 250 animals and the department believes a harvest of no more than 20 bulls is appropriate. The department acknowledged the elk population is growing steadily. The board voted to increase the number of drawing permits from 30 to 70. The board also voted to include an archery-only hunt Sept. 15 – Sept. 30 to allow additional hunting opportunity. Anyone applying for the archery-only hunt must show proof of bowhunter certification.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 4**

**ACTION: Carried as amended**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 85.040(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT. Open an archery-only hunt for goats in Unit 1C.

**AMENDMENT:**

Units and Bag limits	No open season	No open season
----------------------	----------------	----------------

Unit 1C, that portion draining into Stephens Passage [AND TAKU INLET] between Eagle Glacier and River and Point Salisbury [TAKU GLACIER]

Unit 1C, that portion draining into Stephens Passage and Taku Inlet Between Point Salisbury and Taku Glacier

Oct. 1 – Nov. 30  
(General hunt only)

Oct. 1 – Nov. 30

1 goat by registration permit  
by bow and arrow only

**DISCUSSION:** The department reported there are an estimated 150 goats in Unit 1C and the population could support a small harvest but not a general hunt. The board agreed an archery-only hunt would provide hunting opportunity without restricting other types of hunting use. The board also agreed that to allow a bow and arrow hunt at this time would give the department an opportunity to look at how to manage future general hunts. The department stated they will set a harvest objective and close the season when that determined number of goats are taken. Completion of the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) is required.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 5**

**ACTION: Carried as amended**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 85.065(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Change waterfowl hunting seasons in Unit 4 to October 8 - January 22 to allow hunters to harvest certain waterfowl species that do not arrive in the Sitka area until December.

**AMENDMENT:**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Non resident Open Season
(4) Migratory game birds (except by falconry)		
(A) Ducks (except Sea ducks) Units 1-4, except that portion Of Baranof Island south and west of A line that follows the crest of the Island from Nismeni Point (57° 34' N. lat., 135° 25' W. long) to the entrance of Gut Bay (56° 44' N. Lat., 134° 38' W. long.), Including the drainages into Gut Bay And including Kurzof and other adjacent Islands	Sept. 1 – Dec. 16 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1-Dec. 16
7 per day and 21 in possession; however, not more than 1 per day and 3 in possession may be canvasbacks		
Unit 4, that portion Of Baranof Island south and west of a line that follows the crest of the island from Nismeni Point (57° 34' N. lat., 135° 25' W. long) to the entrance of Gut Bay (56° 44' N. lat., 134° 38, W. long.), Including the drainages into Gut Bay And including Kruzof and other adjacent Islands	Oct. 8 – Jan. 22	Oct. 8 – Jan. 22
7 per day and 21 in possession;		

however, not more than 1 per  
day and 3 in possession may  
be canvasbacks

**DISCUSSION:** The board reported that the US Fish and Wildlife Service considers Units 1-4 as a single zone and state and federal seasons must be the same. The department of law reported this proposal could not be adopted unless it fits within federal limitations. To accommodate area hunters the board requested the department work with Fish and Wildlife Service to separate Unit 4. The board asked for a delayed review so the department can take the request to the Flyway Council.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 6**

**ACTION: Deferred to Spring 1999**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 85.065(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend the bag limits for sea ducks in Units 1– 5 to adjust Alaska’s sea duck bag limits to reflect the growing concern about certain species.

**DISCUSSION:** The board requested the department bring this proposal to the Spring 1999 meeting. The department agreed to put together a detailed proposal for public distribution to get statewide feedback. The board would also like input from other Pacific Flyway states and from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 7**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 92.220(a). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES. Eliminate mandatory salvage of spring black bear meat in Units 1 - 5.

**DISCUSSION:** The board heard testimony that coastal bear meat is not edible and, therefore, hunters should not be required to salvage the meat in Units 1–5. There was also testimony that to salvage meat is merely a value judgment. Some people argued that they should have the choice of salvaging meat. The board stated they heard no testimony that this regulation is an unreasonable burden.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 8**

**ACTION: No Action**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 92.220(a). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES. Eliminate mandatory salvage of spring black bear meat in Units 1 - 2.

**DISCUSSION:** No action, given action on proposal #7.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 9**

**ACTION: No Action**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 92.220(a). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES. Eliminate salvage of spring black bear meat in Units 1 and 2.

**DISCUSSION:** No action, given action on proposal #7.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 10**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 92.510(a)(2)(A). AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. This proposal would close brown bear hunting in a portion of Unit 1B during the time logging is taking place in that portion of the unit.

**DISCUSSION:** The department reported they have emergency order authority to close parts of a game management unit at any time for conservation purposes. The board agreed that rather than implement a regulation that might not go into effect soon enough or remain in effect for longer than necessary, it is preferable to use the emergency order provision to provide more efficiency and flexibility.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 11**

**ACTION: Carried**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 92.510. AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. Correct an error in the codified regulations that mistakenly refers to a similar location in Game Management Unit 4.

**DISCUSSION:** This is a housekeeping proposal to correct an error in the codified language that mistakenly refers to Salt Lake Bay. The department reported, and the board agreed, that by removing the word [BAY] from 5 AAC 92.510(6)(C) this would clarify which location in Unit 4 the regulation refers to.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 12**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Create a controlled use area in Game Management Unit 3 to restrict use of motorized vehicles for black bear hunting.

**DISCUSSION:** The board heard testimony from area guides that there are an increasing number of hunters on Kuiu Island. The department reported the rate of harvest has increased but data do not suggest biological necessity to impose a restriction on the use of motorized land vehicles on Kuiu Island. The board requested a report from the department, at its next Southeast regional meeting, on harvest trends on Kuiu Island.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 13**

**ACTION: Failed**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 92.540(1). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Create a controlled use area in Unit 4 to restrict use of motorized vehicles for brown bear hunting.

**DISCUSSION:** The department reported there is a Controlled Use Area on Northeast Chichagof. They also indicated their data do not suggest the number of number of motorized vehicles have an adverse effect on the brown bear population in Unit 4.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 14**

**ACTION: Carried**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 92.064. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO THE STAN PRICE STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY. Amend the existing regulations that would allow the department to limit the number of visitors from July 5 – August 25 to the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary.

**DISCUSSION:** The department reported there are as many as 60 visitors per day that visit the Sanctuary on July 8 and 9. The department would like to limit the number of visitors who come to the Sanctuary prior to July 10 because it is difficult to supervise 60 people and such a large number of people detract from the remote bear viewing experience. The department is also concerned that the presence of 60 people at once may deter bears from using the area. The board agreed with the department and the Forest Service the situation needs immediate attention.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL NO. 15**

**ACTION: Carried as amended**

**DESCRIPTION:** 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS. This proposal would establish regulations to identify those ungulate populations that are important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use, and establish population and harvest objectives.

**BOARD OF GAME FINDINGS FOR INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT (OCTOBER 1998).**

Deer Population	Finding of importance for high levels of human consumptive use		Population objective	Harvest objective	Board discussion
Unit 1A	positive				high harvest level; high hunter demand; important food source
Unit 1B		negative			low harvest; low hunter demand; boat access only
Unit 1C	positive				hunter demand high; easy access; deer used for meat
Unit 1D		negative			very few deer; poor habitat, no season since 1985
Unit 2	positive				easy access for locals, high hunter demand, pops. used for meat
Unit 3	positive				above harvest threshold, high hunter demand, high use of meat
Unit 4	positive				good access; high hunter demand; important for meat
Unit 5		negative			deer at low densities, poor habitat

Moose population	Finding for high levels of human consumptive use	Population objective	Harvest objective	Board discussion
Unit 1A	negative			small population, low growth potential
Unit 1B Stikine River	negative			low harvest rates, habitat declining
Unit 1B Thomas Bay	negative			small area, hunter success rates low
Unit 1C Berner's Bay	negative			small introduced herd, difficult access
Unit 1C Chilkat Range	negative			low harvest, limited habitat
Unit 1C Taku	negative			population declining, low harvest rates
Unit 1D	negative			low harvest, Tier II hunt, habitat declining
Unit 3	negative			very low harvest
Unit 5A Nunatak Bench	negative			low harvest rates, habitat factors
Unit 5A Yakutat Bench	negative			small herd, difficult access, low growth potential
Unit 5B Malaspina Forelands	negative			low harvest, remote area, difficult access

### OTHER ACTIONS:

The Board accepted an agenda change request requiring a permit to engage in aerial radio telemetry activities. The department will submit a proposal to the board for the Spring 1999 meeting in Anchorage.

The Board approved an agenda change request limiting the number of Tier II muskox permits to one per household on the Seward Peninsula.

For a copy of the Board of Game Findings, please call Margaret Edens at 465-4110.

98-127-BOG Resolution concerning commercial guiding activities in Alaska

98-128-BOG Findings on Elk Management in Region I