

This proposal was considered by the Board of Game at the 2012 Statewide Regulations meeting. The board deferred it to the Interior Region meeting scheduled for March, 2012.

PROPOSAL 259 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports; 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls; and 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Streamline the reporting, sealing and salvage of black bears.

5AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

...

(l) For black bear, a person may not hunt black bear in Units 1-~~5~~[7, 11-17, 19(D), AND 20], except when a permit is required, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and has obtained a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket); **in Units 6-26 a person must first obtain a harvest report card (harvest tickets are not required).**

5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls. (a) Sealing is required for brown bear taken in any unit in the state, black bear of any color variation **need not be sealed unless sealing is required in designated areas for biological purposes by ADF&G area staff** [TAKEN IN UNITS 1 - 7, 11, 13 - 17, AND 20(B)], and a bear skin or skull before the skin or hide is sold. A seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process has commenced. A person may not possess or transport the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken in a unit where sealing is required, or export from the state the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken anywhere in the state, unless the skin and skull have been sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if requested by the department, except that

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. (a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

...

(3) statewide from January 1 through May 31, the hide[, SKULL,] and edible meat as defined in 5 AAC 92.990, from June 1 through December 31, **either** the hide **or meat must be salvaged, in addition, the** skull of a black bear taken in a game management unit in which sealing is required, [AND FROM JUNE 1 - DECEMBER 31, THE SKULL AND EITHER THE HIDE OR EDIBLE MEAT OF A BLACK BEAR TAKEN IN UNIT 20(B);]

ISSUE: These changes are intertwined enough that we decided they should all be included in a single proposal even though they address three separate regulations. There are currently areas of the state that require sealing but not harvest reports or tickets; harvest tickets/reports but not sealing; some require both; and some require neither. There are also varying salvage requirements. These changes will not eliminate all reporting and salvage differences across all regions and units but it will greatly simplify the requirements to the public. Public compliance with regulations and reporting will be increased due to simplified regulations. This regulation change will clean up the current disparity in salvage, sealing, and harvest ticket/reporting.

Reporting: Black bear hunting in greater Alaska (GMU 6-26) will require a harvest report card but not harvest tickets. Sealing will be required only in those areas in which ADF&G area staff need biological data that can only be obtained by sealing. Units 1-5 will not change.

Salvage: Salvage requirements will be standardized statewide to require salvage of meat, and hide January 1-May 31 and meat or hide June 1-December 31. Skulls only need to be salvaged in areas where sealing is required.

This Proposal consists of several consensus items from a black bear resource users' group held at the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. All of these suggestions were approved by ALL members of the group. We have not included any items or suggestions that were not supported by all members of the group.

The intent of this group is to clarify and remove complicated or excessively restrictive regulations and ADF&G discretionary provisions pertaining to black bear hunting in Alaska Statewide but especially Greater Alaska. Over the years bear hunting and baiting regulations have accumulated many unnecessary restrictions. We realize Southeast Alaska has unique issues pertaining to black bear hunting. Many of our suggestions are intended to be statewide. If Southeast is intended to be excluded we will state a specific area for the regulation (unit 6-26, etc.).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to be confused by the sealing/harvest ticket/none situation in greater Alaska. Hunters will be required to salvage poor quality hides while meat hunting in the late spring, summer and fall.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Possibly; a hunter that is not required to salvage a hide and skull may be able to take better care of bear meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunters will have less confusing regulations and more options as to the salvage of their animals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow the salvage of the meat OR hide year-round. Require sealing statewide but no harvest ticket/report.

PROPOSED BY: The Greater Alaska Black Bear Committee

LOG NUMBER: ADFGBOG259
