

This proposal was submitted as an Agenda Change Request and accepted by the Board of Game during the 2015 Southeast Region meeting. The board has scheduled it for the Central/Southwest Meeting, February 2015.

PROPOSAL 211 - 5 AAC 85.015(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.
Modify the season dates for hunting black bear in Unit 6D as follows:

Open Season: September **25** [15] - June 10

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

The black bear population in Unit 6D doesn't appear sustainable under current regulation. This is evidenced by declining harvest, reduction in age and size of bears harvested, sow harvest above state average, and for reasons unknown the last two years cub production appears low. Sow harvest has exceeded 50% on fall hunts in recent years. Some form of regulation change to reduce bear harvest is warranted. Based on 2009-2013 this should reduce harvest by 34 bears annually, 18 of them being sows. September 25th was chosen as most bears have left salmon streams by then when they are most vulnerable.

Actual black bear population in Unit 6D is not known. It is clearly declining. I just recently received new data compiled by ADF&G that shows a significant drop in harvest (partly due to weather) and a high sow harvest. I remain concerned about increased sow harvest and believe some action to conserve sows is needed and the sooner the better. The 2011 record snowfall and a blueberry crop failure in 2012 may have had an effect on survival rates.

PROPOSED BY: David Pinguoch

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