



Alaska Board of Game

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Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Pike's Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, AK March 6-14, 2020

Meeting Summary

The Board of Game (board) convened the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meeting on Friday, March 6, 2020 in Fairbanks at Pikes Waterfront Lodge. Seven board members were present: Chairman Ted Spraker, Vice-Chairman Stosh Hoffman, Larry Van Daele, Tom Lamal, Jerry Burnett, Orville Huntington, and Allen Barrette.

The meeting opened with introductions and board member ethics disclosure statements, followed by agency reports. The list of agency reports is provided on page 10. Public testimony began Friday, March 6 at 4:30 PM, and concluded Monday, March 9 at 1:35 PM. The board heard from 94 testifiers, of which 15 were advisory committee representatives (see RC 54).

Board deliberations began Saturday afternoon, following public testimony. The board considered 124 proposals, adopting 37, and deferring three to a future meeting. Board action for each proposal is provided below as: C = carried; A = amended; F = Failed; D = deferred; and NA = no action.

The meeting material and audio are available on the meeting website at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-06-2020&meeting=fairbanks

Regionwide & Multiple Units (13 proposals)

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 9, at 1:37:05 PM.

- NA** **Proposal 44:** Establish customary and traditional use findings for migratory birds and waterfowl in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25, and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunities. *The board took no action because customary and traditional use findings for migratory birds throughout their ranges in Alaska have already been determined.*
- C (7-0)** **Proposal 45:** Prohibit the use of moose, caribou and reindeer urine as scent lures in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region.
- F (0-7)** **Proposal 46:** Establish intensive management programs for bear across the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region.

- F (1-6) **Proposal 47:** Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region until harvest or population objectives are met.
- CA (7-0) **Proposal 48:** Extend the season for taking wolves in Units 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C. *The board amended the proposal to include Unit 12, and to set the season dates throughout the units as 8/1 – 4/30, excluding the Stampede Area in Unit 20C.*
- F (0-7) **Proposal 49:** For the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region, allow the use of crossbows in archery only hunt areas for hunters possessing permanent identification cards.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 50:** Establish registration archery only hunts for bull moose in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Units that have general moose seasons.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 51:** Remove the bag limit restriction of one sheep every four years for nonresidents over the age of 60 hunting in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region.
- F (2-5) **Proposal 52:** Change the nonresident general season sheep hunts in Units 20 Remainder and 19C to drawing permit hunts.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 53:** Establish an archery only registration permit hunt for Dall sheep in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region.
- C (7-0) **Proposal 54:** Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 55:** Allow the use of dogs for hunting for lynx in Units 12 and 20.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 56:** Establish minimum distance requirements for trapping around dwellings in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region.

Galena Area Proposals – Units 21B, 21C, 21D and 24

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 10, at 8:33 AM. The area overview provided by ADF&G was given March 9 starting at 4:31PM .

- F (3-4) **Proposal 57:** Allow residents to take game from a boat under power in Unit 21.
- F (3-4) **Proposal 58:** Establish a Controlled Use Area for the Kaiyuh Flats area in Unit 21D.
- F (1-6) **Proposal 59:** Change the winter any-moose season for residents in Unit 21D.
- C (7-0) **Proposal 60:** Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during March in a portion of Unit 21D.
- C (7-0) **Proposal 61:** Extend the resident moose season within the Kanuti Controlled Use Area of Unit 24B.
- F (1-6) **Proposal 62:** Allocate 90 percent of the Unit 21B, Upper Nowitna Corridor moose drawing permits to residents and award remaining available nonresident permits to resident.
- D (7-0) **Proposal 63:** Repeal the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area. *The board deferred proposals 63 and 64 to the March 2021 Statewide Regulations Meeting.*

- D (7-0) **Proposal 64:** Clarify the legal use of highway vehicles, snow machines and off-road vehicles in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) for hunting and trapping. Clarify the use of firearms, and transport of furbearers and trapping bait when trapping in the DHCMA. *The board deferred proposals 63 and 64 to the March 2021 Statewide Regulations Meeting.*
- F (0-7) **Proposal 65:** Establish a new resident, general season for caribou in Unit 20F.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 66:** Extend the resident caribou season and reduce the bag limit for Unit 24A Remainder.
- CA (7-0) **Proposal 67:** Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 21D. *The board amended the proposal to apply to all of Unit 21.*
- C (7-0) **Proposal 68:** Open a fall bear baiting season in Unit 21C.
- NA **Proposal 69:** Allow brown bears to be taken over bait in Unit 21C. *The board took no action due to their action on Proposal 68.*
- C (5-2) **Proposal 70:** Change the season start date for taking brown bear in Unit 24A to align with Unit 25A.
- F (1-6) **Proposal 71:** Allow brown bear to be taken over bait in Unit 24A.
- C (7-0) **Proposal 72:** Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 24B.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 73:** Eliminate the RB601 brown bear registration permit hunt for Units 21D and 24.
- CA (5-2) **Proposal 74:** Establish a registration permit hunt for muskox in Units 21D, 22A, and 24D. *The board amended the proposal to establish a resident drawing permit hunt in Units 21D and 24D with season dates as 2/1 – 3/15, with a bag limit of one bull, and up to 5 permits available. The board also established a negative customary and traditional use finding for muskox in Units 21D and 24D.*
- CA (7-0) **Proposal 31:** Establish a registration permit hunt for muskox in Units 21D, 22A, and 24D. *The board amended the proposal to apply only to Unit 22A, adding the hunt to the existing hunt in Unit 22 which has a season of 8/1 – 3/15, and a bag limit of 1 bull.*
- F (3-4) **Proposal 76:** Establish a non-intensive management predator control plan in Unit 21 for bears and wolves.
- F (1-6) **Proposal 75:** Develop a feasibility assessment for intensive management of wolves and bears in Units 21D and 24.

Northeast Alaska Area – Units 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B and 26C

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 11, at 8:33 AM. The area overview provided by ADF&G was given March 10 at 4:51 PM.

- F (0-7) **Proposal 77:** Open a resident permit hunt for muskoxen in Unit 26B.

CA (6-1) **Proposal 79:** In Unit 26B Remainder, modify the resident season and bag limit for caribou and open a registration permit hunt. *The board amended the proposal to remove the cow registration hunt.*

F (0-7) **Proposal 80:** In Unit 26B Remainder, modify the resident season and bag limit for caribou; open a resident registration permit hunt; and change the nonresident general season hunt to a registration permit.

F (0-7) **Proposal 81:** Increase the nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 26.

F (2-5) **Proposal 78:** Eliminate the registration caribou permit RC907 and general season caribou harvest ticket requirement for North Slope residents.

CA (4-3) **Proposal 82:** Establish the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A, open a new resident and nonresident drawing hunt for sheep within the area, and change the bag limit for the resident registration permit, RS595. *The board amended the proposal to change the bag limit for the RS595 hunt to one ram, ¾ curl or less and sealing will not be required. The board changed to name of the management area to the Eastern Brooks Range Management Area.*

NA **Proposal 83:** Modify the bag limit for sheep in the RS595 hunt in Unit 26C. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 82.*

C (6-1) **Proposal 84:** Extend the sheep season in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area within Units 24A, 25A, and 26B.

NA **Proposal 85:** Open an archery only registration sheep hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area in Units 24A, 25A, and 26B. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 84.*

Tok Area – Units 12 and 20E

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 11, at 2:11 PM, following the area overview and update on 2019-2023 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan by ADF&G.

C (7-0) **Proposal 86:** Reauthorize the Upper Yukon–Tanana Predation Control Program.

F (0-7) **Proposal 87:** Change for the Fortymile caribou registration hunt in Unit 20 to a drawing hunt with a longer season.

F (1-6) **Proposal 88:** Resume intensive management for wolves in a portion of Unit 12, 20D, and 20E. *In a separate action, the board set the harvest of objectives for moose for Unit 12 at 150 – 300 moose, and Unit 20E at 250 – 500 moose.*

F (1-6) **Proposal 89:** Allow hunters to possess registration permits for both caribou (RC860) and moose (RM865) while hunting in Unit 20E.

F (0-7) **Proposal 90:** Allocate up to 25% of nonresident drawing tags for sheep in the Tok Management Area to second degree kindred relatives.

Delta Area – Unit 20D

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 11, at 4:51 PM, following the area overview provided by ADF&G.

CA (7-0) **Proposal 91:** Reduce the bag and possession limits for grouse in a portion of Unit 20D. *The board amended the proposal to remove the falconry provision.*

F (0-7) **Proposal 92:** Allow methods and means disability exemptions within the Delta Controlled Use Area.

F (0-7) **Proposal 93:** Expand the area in Unit 20D where brown bears can be taken over bait.

C (7-0) **Proposal 94:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D.

McGrath Area – Units 19, 21A and 21E

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 12, at 9:47 AM, following Advisory Committee testimony and the area overview provided by ADF&G.

CA (7-0) **Proposal 95:** Establish a resident winter moose hunt in Unit 19D East. *The board amended the proposal to allow the use of aircraft and clarified the hunt season duration will be the month of February.*

CA (7-0) **Proposal 96:** Reauthorize the Unit 19D-East predation control program. *The board clarified the area description excludes the Black River drainage.*

F (0-7) **Proposal 97:** Change the Tier II permit hunt for moose in Unit 19A to a registration permit hunt.

NA **Proposal 98:** Change the Tier II permit hunt for moose in Unit 19A to a registration permit hunt. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 97.*

C (7-0) **Proposal 99:** Change the Tier II moose permit hunt (TM680) in Unit 19A to a household permit .

F (0-7) **Proposal 100:** Extend the resident season dates for hunting moose in Unit 19A Remainder.

F (0-7) **Proposal 101:** Remove the horsepower restriction in the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area in Unit 19A.

F (0-6-1) **Proposal 102:** Shift the season dates for the Tier II moose permit hunt in Unit 19A.

F (0-7) **Proposal 103:** Establish a Tier II permit for moose hunting in Unit 19A Remainder.

C (7-0) **Proposal 104:** Reauthorize the Unit 19A predation control program.

C (6-1) **Proposal 105:** Authorize predator control for wolf and bear in Unit 19A.

F (3-4) **Proposal 106:** Expand the predation control area for bear in Unit 19A.

C (7-0) **Proposal 107:** Establish a resident winter moose hunt in Unit 21E.

F (1-6) **Proposal 108:** Require trophy destruction of moose antlers taken from Unit 21E under RM836 permits and establish check stations.

C (7-0) **Proposal 109:** Replace the moose general season hunts for residents and nonresidents in Unit 21A with registration permit hunts.

DA (7-0) **Proposal 110:** Allow proxy hunting for moose in Unit 19D. *The board deferred the proposal as amended to apply statewide, to the Statewide Regulations meeting in March 2021.*

NA **Proposal 111:** Allow proxy hunting for moose in Unit 21A and 21E. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 110.*

C (7-0) **Proposal 112:** Open a registration permit hunt for moose in a portion of Unit 19C and eliminate the general season hunt.

CA (6-1) **Proposal 113:** Require hunter orientation for nonresident moose hunters in Unit 21A and 21E. *The board amended the proposal to require orientation for all nonresidents.*

CA (7-0) **Proposal 114:** Establish a winter registration hunt for antlerless caribou in Units 19D and 21A and remove the winter harvest ticket hunt in Unit 19D Remainder. *The board amended the proposal to include a portion of Unit 21B above the Little Mud River, and to be open to residents only.*

CA (7-0) **Proposal 115:** Require meat to be left on the bone for caribou, moose and bison in Units 19, 21A, and 21E. *The board amended the proposal to require salvage prior to October 1st.*

NA **Proposal 116:** Adopt a Board of Game finding for the Unit 19A Portage Mountain Muskoxen Herd Strategy. *The board took no action because ADF&G will develop a plan as the herd grows.*

NA **Proposal 117:** Determine a customary and traditional use finding for grouse in Unit 19 and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence take. *The board took no action on the proposal because a positive finding for customary and traditional use for grouse and ptarmigan in Unit 19 was adopted in a separate motion.*

NA **Proposal 118:** Determine a customary and traditional use finding for ptarmigan in Unit 19 and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence take. *The board took no action on the proposal because a positive finding for customary and traditional use for grouse and ptarmigan in Unit 19 was adopted in a separate motion.*

C (5-2) **Proposal 119:** Extend the lynx trapping season in Units 19C, 19D, and 21A.

Fairbanks Area – Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 13, at 10:27 AM, following the area overview provided by ADF&G.

F (5-2) **Proposal 120:** Shorten the season for the any bull moose drawing permit hunt in Unit 20A.

F (0-7) **Proposal 121:** Establish hunt areas for moose drawing permit DM770 in Unit 20A.

C (5-2) **Proposal 122:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A.

- F (0-7) **Proposal 123:** Expand the Healy-Lignite Management Area in Unit 20A.
- NA **Proposal 124:** Allow shotguns for hunting within the Healy-Lignite Management Area in Unit 20A. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 126.*
- NA **Proposal 125:** Allow shotguns for hunting small game, within the Healy-Lignite Management Area in Unit 20A. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 126.*
- CA (5-2) **Proposal 126:** Allow shotguns and rimfire weapons for hunting small game within the Healy-Lignite Management Area in Unit 20A. *The board amended the proposal to remove the use of rimfire firearms.*
- F (0-7) **Proposal 127:** Modify the boundary of the Wood River Controlled Use Area in Unit 20A.
- F (1-6) **Proposal 128:** Modify the boundary of the Wood River Controlled Use Area in Unit 20A.
- CA & D **Proposal 129:** Change the closure dates for the Yanert Controlled Use Area (CUA) in Unit 20A to align with the Wood River CUA, and clarify whether horse feed is considered “hunting gear.” *The board amended the proposal to expand the closure date to October 31 by a vote of 7-0, and deferred the request for a definition for “gear” as amended to apply statewide, to the 2021 Statewide Regulations meeting.*
- F (0-7) **Proposal 130:** Disallow the issuance of methods and means disability exemption permits for the Yanert Controlled Use Area in Unit 20A.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 131:** Limit the use of off-road vehicles for moose hunting in Unit 20A.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 132:** Shorten the moose hunting season in Units 20A and 20C.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 133:** Establish the Stampede Trail Management Area in Unit 20C for archery and muzzleloader hunting only.
- C (7-0) **Proposal 134:** Open a resident youth hunt for moose in Unit 20C.
- CA (7-0) **Proposal 135:** Shorten the moose season five days in a portion of Unit 20B. *The board amended the proposal to change the nonresident bag limit to one bull with 50-inch antlers or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.*
- NA **Proposal 136:** Extend the nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 20B Remainder. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 135.*
- C (6-1) **Proposal 137:** Eliminate the muzzleloader registration moose permit hunt RM782, in Unit 20B.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 138:** Create a fall archery and muzzleloader hunt for moose in Unit 20B Remainder.
- F (0-7) **Proposal 139:** Allow muzzleloader hunting in addition to the archery hunt in the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River in Unit 20B.
- C (5-2) **Proposal 140:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B.

NA **Proposal 141:** Eliminate registration moose permit hunt RM785, in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 140.*

NA **Proposal 142:** Eliminate registration moose permit hunt RM785, in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 140.*

NA **Proposal 143:** Eliminate all antlerless moose drawing hunts in Unit 20B except for the Minto Flats Management Area. *The board took no action due to the action on Proposal 140.*

F (0-7) **Proposal 144:** Shorten the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A and 20B.

C (5-2) **Proposal 145:** Modify the nonresident bag limit for moose in Unit 25C.

CA (5-2) **Proposal 146:** Allocate up to ten percent of the caribou drawing permits for DC827 in Unit 20A, to nonresidents. *The board amended the proposal to allow up to 25% of the available permits to be issued to nonresidents.*

F (0-7) **Proposal 147:** Extend the hunting season for brown bear in Units 20A and 20B Remainder.

F (0-7) **Proposal 148:** Extend the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 20B Remainder.

C (7-0) **Proposal 149:** Allow brown bears to be taken over bait in Unit 25C.

F (0-7) **Proposal 150:** Establish an intensive management plan for wolves and bear in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B.

F (1-6) **Proposal 151:** Change the season dates for hunting wolves in a portion of Unit 20C.

F (0-7) **Proposal 152:** Establish closed areas for the taking of wolves near Denali National Park in Unit 20C.

F (0-7) **Proposal 153:** Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 20F.

C (7-0) **Proposal 154:** Restrict the taking of waterfowl in the Badger Slough area in Unit 20B to falconry and archery with flu-flu arrows.

Antlerless Moose Hunts & Brown Bear Tag Fee Reauthorizations for other Regions

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins March 14, at 8:29 AM.

C (7-0) **Proposal 155:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 1C.

C (7-0) **Proposal 156:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 5A, Nunatak Bench.

C (7-0) **Proposal 157:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.

C (7-0) **Proposal 158:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13

C (7-0) **Proposal 159:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Units 14A and 14B.

C (7-0) **Proposal 160:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.

C (7-0) **Proposal 161:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C.

C (7-0) **Proposal 162:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.

C (7-0) **Proposal 163:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C.

NA **Proposal 164:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Units 16A. *the board took no action because the hunt was not supported by the advisory committees as required in Alaska Statute 16.05.780.*

C (7-0) **Proposal 165:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A.

C (7-0) **Proposal 166:** Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region.

Proposals Outside the Board of Game's Authority

NA **Proposal 168:** Request to ADF&G to not grant the National Park Service a permit to collar wolves in and near Denali National Park.

Miscellaneous Actions

The audio for miscellaneous actions begins March 14 at 9:29 AM.

The board adopted findings (RC 51 as amended) providing recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to address the allocation of animals to ceremonial harvest in Unit 20B. *(Vote: 7-0)*

The board adopted findings (RC 52 as amended) providing recommendation to ADF&G to address the allocation of animals to ceremonial harvest in Unit 20B. *(Vote: 7-0)*

The board's wolf and bear management and conservation policies are set to expire January 2021 and will be an agenda item during the next meeting cycle.

The board clarified intent regarding the changes to the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area which will be scheduled for the 2021 Statewide Regulations meeting. Although the need for a committee or working group was discussed during the oral hearing, the board did not establish one. Both ADF&G and the board recognized the complexity of the issue and the need to involve different levels of government, individuals, and organizations with any proposed changes. Member Al Barrette volunteered to be the board's contact for the department on this topic.

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Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting
Pike's Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, AK
March 6-14, 2020**

Oral Reports

1. State and Federal Agency Reports and Updates

Ryan Scott, ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation

Lisa Olson, ADF&G Division of Subsistence

George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management

Kristy Tibbles, ADF&G Boards Support

Cheryl Brooking, Department of Law

Lt. Aaron Frenzel, Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Greg Siekaniec, Regional Director, USF&WS,

Dave Schirokauer, Chief of Resources for Denali National Park & Preserve; NPS

Brooks Ludwik, Park Superintendent, State Parks, Department of Natural Resources

2. Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Overview – Darren Bruning, ADF&G

3. Regional Research Overview for the Division of Subsistence - Alida Trainor and Brooke McDavid, ADF&G

4. Wildlife Disease and Health Update – Dr. Kimberlee Beckmen, ADF&G

5. Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area Overview – Glenn Stout, ADF&G

Management Area Overviews

In addition to the oral reports listed above, ADF&G staff provided the board with management area overviews prior to each section of proposals.

2019-2023 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan – Jeff Gross, ADF&G

This report was given prior to the deliberations on the Tok Area proposals.