



Alaska Board of Game

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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Western Arctic/Western Region Meeting
Mini Convention Center, Nome, Alaska
January 17-20, 2020**

MEETING SUMMARY

The Board of Game (board) convened the Western Arctic/Western Region meeting on Friday, January 17, 2020 in Nome at the Mini Convention Center. 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 6. Public testimony began Friday, January 17 at 3:50 PM, and concluded Saturday, January 18 at 2:40 PM. The board heard from 33 testifiers, ten of whom were advisory committee representatives (see RC 23).

Board deliberations began Saturday afternoon following public testimony. The board considered 44 proposals, adopting 23, and deferring two to future meetings. Three of the adopted proposals were reauthorizations for antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions. Board action for each proposal is provided below as: C = carried; CA = carried as amended; F = Failed; D = deferred; DA = deferred as amended; 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=01-17-2020&meeting=nome.

Regionwide & Multiple Units (5 proposals)

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 18, at 3:01:29 PM.

- F (2-5) Proposal 1:** Prohibit nonresident hunting of moose or caribou under intensive management in the Western Arctic/Western Region until harvest or population objectives are met.
- F (0-7) Proposal 2:** Establish intensive management programs for bear across the Western Arctic/Western Region.
- C (7-0) Proposal 3:** Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

CA(7-0) **Proposal 15:** Address customary and traditional use findings for Alaska hares in Unit 18 and modify the season and bag limit. *The board reconsidered the proposal on 1/20/20 at 03:15:41 PM and amended it with language from Record Copy (RC) 22, to set the season for Alaska hares in Units 18, 22, and 23 as August 1 – May 31, with a bag limit of 2 per day, 6 total, and to require the salvage of hide or meat for human use.*

In a separate motion prior to consideration of Proposal 15, the board adopted a positive finding for customary and traditional uses for Alaska hares in Units 18, 22, and 23; and a positive finding for Snowshoe hares in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

C (7-0) **Proposal 43:** Address customary and traditional use findings for Alaska hares in Unit 22 and modify the season and bag limit. *The board's action on Proposal 15, RC 22, supersedes this action.*

Statewide (1 proposal)

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 18, at 4:27:57 PM.

CA (7-0) **Proposal 169:** Clarify that big game tags be paid for and issued prior to hunters taking big game that require tags. *The board amended Proposal 169 with substitute language in RC 14 which clarifies the term "previously purchase".*

Bethel Area Proposals – Unit 18 (14 proposals)

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 19, at 9:28:04 AM following the area overview provided by ADF&G.

C (7-0) **Proposal 4:** Extend the hunting season and bag limit for muskox in Unit 18, Nelson Island.

C (7-0) **Proposal 5:** Extend the hunting season and bag limit for muskox in Unit 18, Nunivak Island.

CA (6-1) **Proposal 6:** Add muskox to the list of species that can be taken under a cultural education program permit for Unit 18. *The board amended the proposal to apply to all of Unit 18.*

CA (7-0) **Proposal 7:** Change the opening date for the registration moose hunt, RM615 in Unit 18. *The board amended the proposal to establish the season dates as 9/1 - 10/15, with a bag limit of one bull, excluding the take of bull calves.*

C (7-0) **Proposal 8:** Extend resident season for moose hunting in Unit 18 Remainder.

CA (7-0) **Proposal 9:** Modify the hunting season and bag limit for moose in Unit 18. *The board amended the proposal with RC 15 as substitute language which retained the proposed season dates and hunt area; it also removed the restriction that only allowed for a 21-day season*

C (7-0) **Proposal 10:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 18. *The board and department clarified the “up to” wording is not correct and will be excluded.*

F (1-6) **Proposal 11:** Establish a minimum caliber rifle to be used to harvest moose in Unit 18.

NA **Proposal 12:** Establish a minimum caliber ammunition to be used to harvest moose in Unit 18. *The board took no action due to action on Proposal 11.*

F (1-6) **Proposal 13:** Prohibit the sale of antlers from moose harvested in Unit 18.

C (7-0) **Proposal 14:** Modify the bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 18.

C (7-0) **Proposal 16:** Extend the hunting season dates for brown bear in Unit 18.

C (6-1) **Proposal 17:** Change the opening date for bear baiting in Unit 18. *In a separate motion prior to consideration of Proposal 17, the board adopted a positive finding for customary and traditional uses for black bear in Unit 18.*

F (0-7) **Proposal 18:** Allow the use of game bird wings and backs to be used for trapping bait in Unit 18.

Kotzebue Area Proposals – Unit 23 (7 proposals)

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 19, at 3:02:35 PM following the area overview provided by ADF&G.

C (6-0-1) **Proposal 20:** Open a year-round, resident season for caribou bull harvest in Unit 23.

NA **Proposal 19:** Open a year-round, resident season for caribou bull harvest in Unit 23. *The board took no action due to action on Proposal 20.*

F (0-7) **Proposal 21:** Reduce the bag limit for caribou in Unit 23.

F (0-7) **Proposal 22:** Extend the season for taking cow caribou in Unit 23 Remainder.

F (0-7) **Proposal 23:** Restrict the use of snow machines for taking caribou in Unit 23.

CA (6-0-1) **Proposal 24:** Remove the restriction on caribou calf harvest in Unit 23. *The board amended the proposal to apply to Units 22 and 26A.*

NA **Proposal 25:** Remove the restriction on caribou calf harvest in Unit 23. *The took no action due to action on proposal 24.*

Utqiagvik Area Proposals – Unit 26A (4 proposals)

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 19, at 4:41:31PM following the area overview provided by ADF&G.

C (7-0) **Proposal 26:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the western portion of Unit 26A.

F (2-7) **Proposal 27:** Increase the nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 26.

F (2-5) **Proposal 28:** Eliminate the registration caribou permit RC907, Units 23 and 26A, and general season caribou harvest ticket requirement for North Slope resident hunters.

C (7-0) **Proposal 29:** Increase the resident bag limit for brown bears in Unit 26A.

Nome Area Proposals – Unit 22 (13 proposals)

The audio for board deliberations on this section begins January 20, at 09:02:16 AM following the area overview provided by ADF&G.

DA **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, and deferred it to the Interior & Eastern Arctic Region meeting scheduled for March 2020.*

D **Proposal 30:** Include muskox on the list of species that can be taken under a proxy permit in Unit 22. *The board deferred the proposal to the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 2021, to apply to musk ox in all units.*

F (0-7) **Proposal 32:** Allow caribou to be taken east of and including the Nuluk River drainage in Unit 22E.

C (7-0) **Proposal 33:** Modify hunting seasons and require a registration permit for moose hunting in Unit 22D Remainder.

F (0-7) **Proposal 34:** Open a nonresident drawing hunt for moose in Unit 22D Remainder.

CA (4-3) **Proposal 35:** Change the availability of Unit 22 registration permits for moose hunting with an option to require a registration permit for the Unit 22D Remainder hunt. *The board amended the proposal to make permits available 7/25 - 8/25 from vendors in Unit 22, and no online issuance.*

NA **Proposal 36:** Change the availability of Unit 22 registration permits for moose hunting. *The board took no action due to action on Proposal 35.*

F (2-5) **Proposal 37:** Close the nonresident moose hunt in Unit 22C.

CA (7-0) **Proposal 38:** Modify the hunting season for moose in Unit 22A. *The board amended the proposal with substitute language, RC 21, which changes the boundary of the hunt area to the Egavik Creek drainage.*

F (3-4) **Proposal 40:** Require a registration permit for brown bear hunting in Unit 22C.

CA (4-3) **Proposal 41:** Extend the season dates for brown bear hunting in Unit 22B and 22C. *The board amended the proposal to require a registration permit in Unit 22C for residents.*

C (7-0) **Proposal 39:** Extend the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 22D and 22E and increase the resident bag limit.

F (0-7) **Proposal 42:** Allow the use of snow machines to position brown bears for harvest in Unit 22.

Proposals Outside the Board of Game's Authority

NA **Proposal 167:** Allow more guides in the Unit 23 hunt area.

Miscellaneous Actions

The audio for miscellaneous actions begins January 20, at 3:18.11.

The Department of Fish and Game requested board consent to make a housekeeping correction to 5 AAC Chapter 98, dealing with customary and traditional findings for emperor geese and waterfowl. Specifically, Units 9, 10, and 17 were omitted from the codified regulations by the publisher. The department will work with Department of Law to include the correction in the regulations to be filed from this meeting cycle. No objections or concerns were expressed by the board.

Member Barrette raised the topic of providing information for the public about the process for submitting changes the board's long-term meeting schedule since it is not in regulation. For example, during the 2020 work session, the board considered and approved a written request to schedule 5 AAC 92.037 (Permits for Falconry) every six years instead of three years. Chairman Spraker offered to work with the board's executive director to develop information about how the public can offer changes to the board's meeting cycle.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 pm.

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Oral Reports

Friday, January 17, 2020

1. Agency Updates/Reports
 - Ryan Scott, Division of Wildlife Conservation
 - Lisa Olson, Division of Subsistence
 - George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management
 - Cheryl Brooking, Department of Law
 - Captain Aaron Frenzel, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
 - Brian Glaspell, US Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Jeannette Koelsch, National Park Service
2. Western Arctic/Western Region Overview for the Division of Wildlife Conservation – Tony Gorn, ADF&G
3. Regional Research Overview for the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Lincoln Parrett, ADF&G
4. Regional Research Overview for the Division of Subsistence - Beth Mikow & Dave Runfola, ADF&G
5. Western Arctic Caribou Herd Update and Overview – Alex Hansen, ADF&G
6. Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group Report – Charlie Lean, Working Group Member