

PROPOSAL 29

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Shift the hunting season for waterfowl in Unit 1C as follows:

Waterfowl season starts September 1 and ends on December 16.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the waterfowl season in the Juneau-Douglas area (or whatever the corresponding federal area is for Juneau-Douglas) back to a September 1 opening day with closure on December 16. The switch from September 1 to December 16 to a September 16 to December 31 season resulted in the equivalent of 15 fewer days to hunt and much lower probability to harvest teal in Juneau area. During September 1–16 there are 13–14 hours of daylight during shooting hours while during December 16–31 there are about only six hours of shooting light. Thus, 15 fewer days to hunt. Green-winged teal, considered by many the best duck to eat in the Juneau area, are pretty much gone by late September. During December, mostly sea ducks and resident mallards and Canada geese are available and often low-quality table fare. In contrast to the September 16 opening, the traditional September 1 opening also allows hunters to hunt before and after school and/or work.

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