

**PROPOSAL 4**

**5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Allow the harvest of game from a boat in Units 1–5 as follows:

**Remove Section (9):**

"from a boat in Units 1–5; however, a person with physical disabilities, as defined in Alaska Statute 16.05.940, may hunt from a boat under authority of a permit issued by the department;"

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I propose allowing harvest of game animals in Southeast Alaska (Units 1–5) from a boat not under power. Southeast Alaska is the only part of Alaska where it is illegal to shoot from a boat that is not under power. This is not due to general concerns over shot placement or hunter ethics, as shooting from a boat is allowed in all other parts of the state. This is also not because of any concerns that are particular to Sitka black-tailed deer or brown/black bears. Prince William Sound has all three species and it is legal to shoot from a boat not under power there. Kodiak has Sitka black-tailed deer and brown bears and it is also legal to shoot from a boat not under power in that unit as well.

It is common for hunters in Units 1–5 to shoot from a boat not under power; each year there are a number of pictures on social media that are highly suggestive of deer harvested from a boat as well as posts on social media/internet from other hunters throughout Southeast Alaska that either admit to or imply shooting from a boat is being used as a harvest method. When combined with the occasional violation charged in the court system, both support that this is happening on a regular basis.

Changing this rule would bring regulations regarding shooting from a boat not under power in Units 1–5 in line with those in the rest of the state. It is unlikely that it would lead to significant increase in the number of deer harvested as it is not uncommon for hunters to harvest deer in this way.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nicholas Orr

(EG-F18-035)

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