

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Change the bag limit and open a fall season for brown bear hunting in Unit 3 as follows:

Unit 3: One brown bear **every regulatory year**, by permit, from March 15 – May 31 AND **September 15 – December 31**.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The population of brown bear is increasing in Unit 3. Historically, there have not been brown bears in this unit. Unit 3 includes Mitkof, Wrangell, Zarembo, Kupreanof, and Kuiu Islands and the communities of Wrangell, Petersburg, Kupreanof, and Kake. The unit is utilized by sport fishermen, hunters, mushroom pickers, berry pickers, etc. As the population of bears grows there will be an increase of bear encounters. In the fall, when most of the aforementioned activities are taking place, there is a greater chance of people encountering a brown bear.

On Mitkof Island, there are people who live very near to places that brown bear are already being observed. Chickens, garbage, and other human activities are known to attract bears, and it is only a matter of time before brown bears become a public safety problem.

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