

**PROPOSAL 50**

**5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.**

Increase the “up to number” for drawing permits (DL030) for unguided nonresident black bear hunters on Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 3 Kupreanof Island NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT A GUIDE 1 bear by drawing permit only; up to [100] <b>125</b> permits may be issued		Sept. 1—June 30

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At its fall 2010 meeting in Ketchikan, the Board of Game (board) adopted a proposal requiring nonresident black bear hunters who do not enlist the services of a registered hunting guide to obtain a drawing permit prior to hunting black bears in Units 1–3. Implementation of the new regulation was delayed until fall 2012 to allow guides time to adjust and the department time to implement the new drawing permit requirement for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide.

During deliberations on the original proposal, the board asked the Department of Fish and Game (department) to provide estimates of black bear numbers, bear densities, and to determine sustainable harvest levels for geographical areas of concern and/or areas that were believed to constitute discrete management areas. The board then used department figures to establish the allowable number of bears to be taken by nonresidents without a guide and guided hunters within each of ten distinct geographic areas identified by the department. Based on the department’s estimates of sustainable harvest levels, the board established the annual number drawing permits available for nonresident hunters without a guide on Kupreanof Island at 80 permits. To provide the department with some flexibility regarding the exact number of drawing permits issued each year, the board authorized the department to issue up to a maximum of 100 drawing permits annually on Kupreanof Island (DL030).

From regulatory year (RY) 2012 to RY2016, the department offered 80 drawing permits annually for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kupreanof Island. After five years, the department evaluated hunt statistics associated with the drawing permit requirement, including the level of hunter participation, effort, success rate, and total harvest of black bears taken annually on the island. Based on that evaluation, beginning with the fall 2017 season, the department increased the number of drawing permits available to nonresidents hunting black bear without a guide on Kupreanof Island up to the maximum allowable 100 permits.

Given that the maximum number of allowable drawing permits established by the board has been reached on Kupreanof (DL030), the department requests that the board increase the “up to”

number of available permits for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kupreanof from the current 100 to 125 permits annually. Such action will allow the department to provide additional hunting opportunity should it determine a harvestable surplus of bears exists on the island.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-067)

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