

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 92.010(j). Harvest tickets and reports.

5 AAC 92.165(1). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

Repeal the shorter harvest reporting and sealing requirements for black bears taken by nonresidents on Kuiu Island in Unit 3 as follows:

5 AAC 92.010(j). Harvest tickets and reports

[FOR BLACK BEAR, A NONRESIDENT HUNTER WHO TAKES A BLACK BEAR ON KUIU ISLAND IN UNIT 3 SHALL REPORT THE SEX AND LOCATION OF THE KILL TO THE DEPARTMENT’S DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OFFICE IN PETERSBURG WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF HARVEST.]

5 AAC 92.165(1). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

[IN UNIT 3, KUIU ISLAND, A BLACK BEAR TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT HUNTER MUST BE SEALED WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE TAKING AND MAY NOT BE TRANSPORTED FROM UNITS 1–4 UNTIL SEALED;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In response to conservation concerns related to a rapidly escalating harvest of black bears by nonresidents during the late 1990s and early 2000s, in regulatory year (RY) 2001 the Board of Game (board) established an annual nonresident harvest guideline level (HGL) of 120 bears for Kuiu Island. To facilitate harvest management and implementation of the 120-bear HGL, the board also imposed a five-day notification of kill requirement and a 14-day sealing requirement for black bears taken by nonresidents on Kuiu Island.

To better regulate harvest, in November 2010 the board adopted a public proposal requiring a drawing permit for nonresident black bear hunters in Units 1–3 who do not enlist the services of a registered hunting guide. As a further conservation measure, the board and guides agreed to limit total guided nonresident harvest of black bears to the mean annual harvest level during RYs 2007–2009.

As a result of these measures, the harvest of Kuiu Island black bears by guided and unguided nonresidents has fallen from a mean of 85 bears per year during RYs 2007–2009 to a mean of 43 bears per year during RYs 2014–2016; well below the 120-bear HGL. Therefore, the Department of Fish and Game (department) feels the five-day notification of kill requirement and requirement to seal a bear within 14 days in Units 1–4 are no longer necessary to manage nonresident harvest of Kuiu Island black bears.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-071)
