

PROPOSAL 98

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

Lengthen the fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 8 as follows:

Unit 8

Fall season: Oct. **10** [25] – Nov. 30

Change the start date of the fall hunting season in Unit 8 from October 25 to **October 10.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Change the opening date of the fall Kodiak brown bear season from October 25 to October 10.

1. By starting the season 15 days earlier, hunters would have an additional one hour and 30 minutes of daylight to start a hunt.
2. The temperatures and climate conditions on October 10, in general, are much warmer than October 25 and much milder than later in November.
3. The many lakes used for access to hunting areas are much less likely to freeze up and strand hunters earlier in October.
4. For many hunters that are elderly or not in top physical condition, having the opportunity to hunt in milder weather is safer and potentially more successful.
5. Many resident and nonresident deer hunters plan their hunts to coincide with the deer rut, which begins in late October and runs through November. Starting the brown bear season on October 10 would reduce the competition and conflict for some brown bear and deer hunters.

If the brown bear season opening remains on October 25, all hunters, regardless of their physical abilities, will continue to hunt in potentially more dangerous and harsh conditions. More late season deer hunters will continue to have conflicts with brown bear hunters.

Also considered requesting that the season begins on October 1. The negative impact of this change could be that the Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak will be required to spend more days each fall issuing brown bear permits and sealing hides and skulls.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Acord

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