

*Note: Proposal 146 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region Meeting in March 2019.*

**PROPOSAL 146**

**5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limit for moose.**

Change the bag limit for Tier II moose hunts to any moose and establish a resident antlerless moose drawing hunt in Unit 16B as follows:

We would prefer the addition of antlerless hunting for residents when this population is above the upper end of the population objective. The amended regulation would modify the Tier II bag limit from bull to **moose** and would add antlerless permits by drawing for both a fall and winter season without removing any existing hunts.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Unit 16B moose population is currently estimated (March 2018) at 10,000 moose. The population objective for Unit 16B is 6,500 – 7,500 moose. The population is above objective (10,000) as of March 2018. The population needs to be reduced to be within objective for that population (6,500 – 7,500).

There is currently a biologically available resource for harvest (antlerless moose) that may be precluded by a delay in regulatory action due to the three-year board cycle and the process of drawing application that will delay use of the available antlerless moose until the year 2022 if this ACR is not accepted. If there is a winter with significant snowfall (as occurred in 1989-90 and 1999-00), the population of moose in Unit 16B will likely experience a steep decline and the available harvest will be lost and unavailable in the future.

If the problem is not addressed prior to the regular cycle, there will be a significant loss of available harvest. Additionally, the effects of the overpopulation will likely cause a depletion of winter forage and exacerbate the impacts of the next severe snow winter, causing the population to decline to a greater degree than if the population is within its objective.

There is no allocation in this proposal, as the subsistence hunt is liberalized to any moose and the added antlerless opportunity by draw is open to all resident hunters.

The advisory committee represents hunters who utilize the Unit 16B moose population.

**PROPOSED BY:** Susitna Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-ACR4)

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*Note: Proposal 147 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region Meeting in March 2019.*

**PROPOSAL 147**

**5 AAC 85.020(8). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

Change the hunting season dates for brown bear in Unit 9B as follows:

Unit 9(B) ... Residents and Nonresidents

1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only. September 20 – October 21 (Odd years only) May 10 – 31st (Even years only)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In March 2018, the season length for brown bears in Unit 9 was shortened to October 7 – 21 and the spring season length was shortened to May 10-25 because of concern for overharvest. However, this concern does not extend to Unit 9B where harvest and human population is lower, and bears tend to den earlier in the fall. ACs and local guides are requesting a return to September 20 to October 21 and spring season dates of May 10-31 for Unit 9B. The department of Fish and Game (department) does not object to the change.

The department’s intent was for shortened seasons for Units 9C, 9D, and 9E, the southern portion of the Alaska Peninsula. During deliberations, this was expanded to include all of Unit 9 during deliberations and went unnoticed.

Bears in Unit 9B move into the high country for denning early in October, making them much more difficult to access for hunters, unnecessarily reducing opportunity for harvest

Nonresident hunters who have already booked guided hunts in fall, 2019 (this biennial season occurs during odd years only) must be rescheduled or cancelled. If this change were made at the next regular meeting in 2021, guides and hunters in Unit 9B would have limited fall opportunity until fall, 2021. There would be little change in availability of bears three years from now.

If the problem is not solved, there will be a loss of bear hunting opportunity for guides and hunters in Unit 9B for several years.

The request is predominantly not allocative because the season length for residents and nonresidents is the same for biennial hunts, with guided nonresidents typically taking 75 – 100% of the harvest. In addition, residents have subsistence hunt RB502 (September 1 – May 31) and near-village RB525 (year-round). Total harvest with biennial hunts open, is typically 20 – 60 bears in Unit 9B, and less than five when resident-only seasons are open.

The Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee is a local group with members from the communities of Iliamna, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Kokhanok, Igiugig, Newhalen, Port Alsworth, and Pope Vannoy that meets to discuss fishing and wildlife issues and to provide recommendations to Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-ACR8)

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*Note: Proposal 148 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region Meeting in March 2019.*

**PROPOSAL 148**

**5 AAC 85.020(8). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

Change the hunting season dates for brown bear in Unit 9B as follows:

Unit 9(B) ... Residents and Nonresidents

1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only. September 20 – October 21 (Odd years only) May 10 – 25 (Even years only)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In March 2018, the season length for brown bears in Unit 9 was shortened to October 7 – 21 because of concern for overharvest. However, this concern does not extend to Unit 9B where harvest and human population is lower, and bears tend to den earlier in the fall. ACs and local guides are requesting a return to September 20 to October 21 for Unit 9B. The Department of Fish and Game (department) does not object to the change.

The Department of Fish and Game’s intent was for shortened seasons for Units 9C, 9D, and 9E, the southern portion of the Alaska Peninsula. This was expanded to include all of Unit 9 during deliberations and went unnoticed.

Bears in Unit 9B move into the high country for denning early in October, making them much more difficult to access for hunters, unnecessarily reducing opportunity for harvest

Nonresident hunters who have already booked guided hunts in fall, 2019 (this biennial season occurs during odd years only) must be rescheduled or cancelled. If this change were made at the next regular meeting in 2021, guides and hunters in Unit 9B would have limited fall opportunity until fall, 2021. There would be little change in availability of bears three years from now.

If the problem is not solved, there will be a loss of bear hunting opportunity for guides and hunters in Unit 9B for several years.

The request is predominantly not allocative because the season length for residents and nonresidents is the same for biennial hunts, with guided nonresidents typically taking 75 – 100% of the harvest. In addition, residents have subsistence hunt RB502 (September 1 – May 31) and near-village RB525 (year-round). Total harvest with biennial hunts open, is typically 20 – 60 bears in Unit 9B, and less than five when resident-only seasons are open.

Submitters of the ACR are guides, hunters, subsistence hunters, trappers, and staff.

**PROPOSED BY:** Casey Foster, Chester Williams, Jim Tilly, Marlene Tilly, and Jessica Williams

(HQ-F18-ACR11)

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*Note: Proposal 149 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southeast Region meeting in January 2019 and the Southcentral Region meeting in March 2019*

**PROPOSAL 149**

**5 AAC 85.0XX. Hunting seasons and bag limits for mule deer.**

Establish seasons and bag limits for mule deer statewide, excluding Sitka black-tailed deer, as follows:

The department is asking the board to address new species coming from places in Canada that have winter ticks and perhaps other parasites and pathogens. Winter ticks are a threat to cervid health in Alaska, especially for moose.

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?**

The department would like the board to address how to best manage non-native wildlife that moves into Alaska, and how to best handle the pathogens and parasites they carry.

Currently mule deer have been documented in interior Alaska—specifically in the Interior/Northeast Arctic region—however, pathogens and parasites are not region-specific, nor are they specific to mule deer, and the department prefers this be addressed on a statewide basis or other appropriate scale.

The Board of Game received an emergency petition from the Kenai Fish and Game Advisory Committee to open a hunt for mule deer with no closed season and no bag limit as a result of the sightings. The Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game used the authority delegated him by the board to evaluate and act on the petition. The petition was denied; however, due to biological concerns, the department submitted an Agenda Change Request to discuss the issue with the board. In discussing this proposal, the board may wish to refer to the petition, as well as any samples the department may have collected from any resulting mule deer harvest in order to monitor future health risks to Alaskan wildlife.

Winter ticks have not been documented in Alaska yet; however, the department would like to provide the board with information specific to additional pathogens and parasites that might be introduced to Alaska by mule deer, not just winter ticks. Winter ticks are prevalent in other places in North America and heavy infestations of winter ticks on moose can result in severe anemia, skin irritation, hair loss, and ultimately, death. This, combined with perhaps increased sightings of mule deer in Alaska, have led to the department requesting this be discussed out of cycle.

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

(HQ-F18-ACR2)

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*Note: Proposal 150 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region meeting in March 2019.*

**PROPOSAL 150**

**5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Establish a September registration hunt for one bull moose in Unit 18 South of the Eek River drainage and north of the Goodnews River drainage as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 18, that portion south of the Eek River Drainage and north of the Goodnews River Drainage	Sept. 1–Sept. 30	No open season.
1 antlered bull by registration permit only		

Unit 18 has a positive intensive management finding, with a population objective of 1,000–2,000 moose, and a harvest objective of 60–200 moose.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in all of Unit 18, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 200–400.

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?**

State managed land is currently open to Alaska residents with a general season harvest ticket from September 1 – September 30. Federal lands have been closed to moose hunting since 1994. In that time moose numbers have increased to 173 observed in March 2018. This proposal seeks to align the state and federal regulations, providing more opportunity to the public.

It is in the best interest of the hunters to align the moose hunt on state managed lands with the federal season and bag limit of one antlered bull from September 1–30. The new state hunt is proposed to be managed under a state registration permit, rather than the current harvest ticket.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-ACR12)

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