

Alaska Adventures Unlimited

March 14, 2019 Meeting

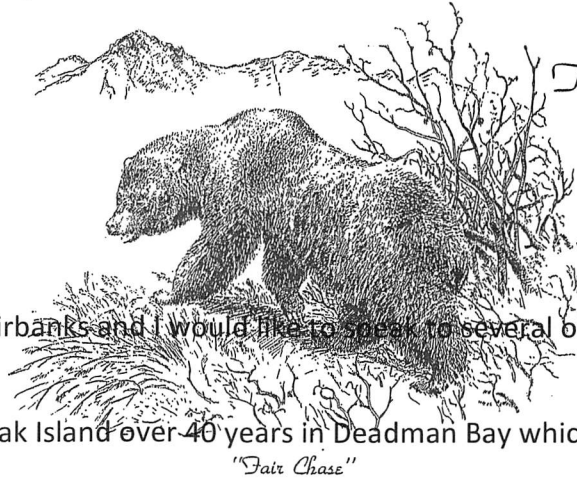
The Alaska Board of Game

Dear Chairman and Members

Written Comments

My name is Tom Kirstein, I live in Fairbanks and I would like to speak to several of the proposals that concern unit 8, Kodiak Island.

I have professionally guided on Kodiak Island over 40 years in Deadman Bay which is within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.



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"Fair Chase"

RC0036

Proposal 93, Bag limits for Deer

Leave the deer bag limit at the current level as it has been for many years! Three deer harvest seems adequate for the fluctuation of this population.

Oppose this proposal

Proposal 95, Bag limits for Goat.

I agree with the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee to lengthen the Goat Season to March 31. I question the need for inspection or sending pictures however.

Other Solutions: Two Goats, only one which may be a Billy goat. No other restrictions apply.

Support this proposal

Proposal 98, Hunting season for Brown Bear earlier opening

The opening of the Fall Season earlier would likely scare the harvest right out of the Departments management goals. Should consideration be given for any earlier Fall Hunt opening I would suggest that skull size minimums be part of the conditions of the hunt to protect the harvest of female bears. An earlier open season could take place with these skull size minimums, putting the harvest considerations only on male bears. A pilot program may be of consideration for an earlier Fall season and a later closing date for the Spring season. Perhaps the seasons could rotate with the openings of Fall and Spring on the Alaska Peninsula. On odd years (Alaska Peninsula) the Fall Bear Season for Kodiak is October 25 opening, during even years the Fall season opens earlier because there is not a fall Alaska Peninsula bear season. Spring seasons for Kodiak could be longer during odd years because of the Alaska

Peninsula bear season is during the fall. Spring seasons for Kodiak would be mid May during even years for the Alaska Peninsula.

Support with conditions

Proposal 99, Allocation of Brown Bear Permits

The allocation for resident, non-resident hunters has been in place over 40 years with the 60/40 percentages of allocation. At the time the permit system was established there was consideration given that would make the allocation 50/50, and especially on those portions of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The conservative allocation of permits was decided upon back then and implemented to manage the bear population harvest. This management program for Kodiak is both a State and Federal success. Both the guiding industry and resident hunters have benefited with a healthy growing brown bear population of today.

The author mentions that non-resident hunters exceed residents harvest levels of bears, however it seems that guided hunters would naturally have higher success rates do to professional guided hunts.

The proposal wants the Board of Game to change the allocation of permits for resident hunters, taking the non-resident allocation. The guiding industry on Kodiak Island is very well established with a long history, that part of tourism we call hunting adventures. The economic value to Alaska, to Kodiak Island, to those of us that make our livings providing the big game adventures while hunting these bears would be devastating to say the least!

I would ask that the board not make changes to the current permit system from the 60/40 allocation! Please take strong consideration from the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee on these various proposals.

I Oppose this proposal

Proposal 100, Brown Bear Drawing Permits for Second Degree of Kindred

I support the separate draw for second degree of kindred bear permits recommended by the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I would ask that the Board take action on this proposal.

I Support this proposal

Proposal 103, Brown Bear Drawing Permits

The current drawing program has been working well for years and with slight changes such as guide unique verifying codes, this process for non-resident hunter works very well. Resident hunters should in no way be able to apply for non-resident permits, at all! This proposal is more about disrupting the current drawing process for the non-resident hunters and asking that those permits be available for resident hunter applicants if any particular area was undersubscribed. Kodiak Island is unique, it is the shining example in Alaska and one of the oldest permit allocations for a big game species that works well for resident and non-resident hunters alike. Guiding on Kodiak Island for Brown Bear is special for sure, those guides who operate on Federal Refuge are restricted to those areas of operation. State Land areas don't have restricted guiding concessions but the drawing process works the same as designed for the non-resident guided hunter.

I Oppose

I would ask that the Board take no action on this proposal.

Proposal 104, Brown Bear Permits for Resident Hunter

The proposal would like to see all Resident Permits be available for use. I believe the harvest history should be maintained with input from the Department for the allocation of bear permits. I would suggest that if any additional permits should be considered that the department apply skull size minimums and promote male bear harvest only.

I Oppose

Proposal 130, Second Degree Kindred Drawing Permits

I agree with the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee for a solution measure to solve the allocation of second degree permits, to establish a separate draw as proposal 100 suggest.

I Support

Board Members, thank you for serving on the Board of Game, it is very much appreciated!

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