

ACR 8 – Change the hunting season dates for brown bear in Unit 9B.

SUBMITTED BY: Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.
5 AAC 85.020(8) Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. 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 does not object to the change.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

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)

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.** The department'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.
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.** 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.
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?** None.
- 4) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?** No, there is an extended season (September 1 – May 31) for resident subsistence hunters and a year-round, near-village registration hunt for resident participation.
- 5) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?** Yes. 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.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? Loss of bear hunting opportunity for guides and hunters in Unit 9B for several years.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. 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.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE. We do not consider this an allocative issue.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. 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 to Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING. No.