

PROPOSAL 68

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Open a fall bear baiting season in Unit 21C as follows:

Allow harvest of bears at registered bait stations in Unit 21C from 1 August – 30 September. Bear baiting is authorized by a permit and the dates are established through the discretionary authority of the Department of Fish and Game. I would like the Board of Game to direct the department to establish this proposed fall hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase harvest opportunity and allow a bear baiting season in Unit 21C during the fall (August 1 – September 30th). Fall and spring bear baiting and the harvest of brown bears taken over registered bear bait stations is currently allowed in Units 21D, 24C, and 24D. However, black bear and brown bear baiting is currently allowed in Unit 21C only during the spring. I would like to align the fall bear baiting season in Unit 21C with the adjacent Units. Unit 21D has allowed bear brown bear baiting since 2012 and Units 24C and 24D were opened in 2015. Harvest of brown bears at bait sites in Unit 21C was first allowed beginning in 2018. The first fall black bear baiting season was allowed in Unit 21D (KCUA portion) in 2000. Bear baiting and the harvest of brown bears at bait stations is already allowed in the spring from 15 April - 30 June in Unit 21C, and an additional opportunity in the fall would align the seasons with neighboring Units 21D, 24C and 24D.

ADF&G reports that only two brown bears (one in Unit 24D, one in Unit 21C) have been harvested at bear bait sites in the Galena Management area since they were first allowed in 2012, so harvest is not expected to increase above what the black or brown bear populations can support. ADF&G also reports that the total harvest of brown bears is low and continually below the sustainable harvest level for Units 21B, C, and D, so additional harvest opportunity is available in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Hill

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