

ACR 5 – Establish a 7-day sealing period for all wolves harvested in Unit 2.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 92.170 (b) Sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

In 2019 ADF&G proposed the Board of Game (board) eliminate the 14-day sealing requirement for wolves harvested in Unit 2 resulting in the sealing requirements for Unit 2 wolves to revert to within 30 days of harvest under a hunting license and within 30 days of the close of the season under a trapping license. Since that change we have determined the short sealing period enabled ADF&G to more accurately estimate the number of wolves in Unit 2. Accurate population estimates are a key element in harvest management for this contentious population.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

We request that the establish a 7-day sealing period for all wolves harvested in Unit 2.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.** N/A
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.**

ADF&G did not foresee the detrimental effect eliminating the short sealing period would have on calculating accurate population estimates.

- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**

In 2019 the board also established a fall Unit 2 population objective of 150-200 wolves. ADF&G's ability to calculate accurate population estimates is key to setting annual season length and maintaining the population within the objective range.

- 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)?** N/A
- 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?** N/A

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

More refined information on when each animal is removed from the population directly informs the model used to estimate the population size, which has the potential to improve the accuracy

and precision of the estimate used for harvest management. Having more precise population estimates helps prevent under or over-harvesting the population for which there is a fall population objective and a pending Endangered Species Act (ESA) petition. Annual population estimates will be less accurate, which could result in under or over-harvesting the population for which there is a pending ESA petition.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This proposal only affects when harvest is required to be reported.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

Non-allocative.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation is responsible for sustainable harvest management and for maintaining Unit 2 wolves within the fall objective range of 150-200 wolves as established by the board.

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.