



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

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April 22, 2020

To: Alaska Board of Game

From: Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)

Re: For consideration during the January 21, 2021 Work Session meeting to be held in Wasilla

Dear Board Members,

RHAK had initially drafted this as a proposal for the 2021 Statewide meeting, and in discussion with Executive Director Tibbles, she felt this may be the best avenue to approach a proposal to adopt a Finding or Policy. However, we certainly don't want this to get denied for the Work Session and/or lost in the myriad of other issues that will come before the board during the Work Session.

Here's what we want to address, and this is from our original proposal draft for the Statewide 2021 meeting:

Amendments to Proposals submitted by the public that run completely contrary to the original proposal

At the last Region III BOG Meeting in 2020, Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) submitted a proposal (#146) to limit the number of nonresident hunters being awarded the DC 827 caribou draw permit, asking that no more than 10 percent of the permits be awarded to nonresidents, and a minimum of 90 percent of the permits to residents. At that time the DC 827 caribou draw permit was open to all equally, and due to an influx of hunt booking agents flooding the draw permit application pool nonresidents were typically receiving 25 percent of the permits, which we strongly disagreed with.

When the Board deliberated our proposal, they successfully amended and passed it guaranteeing nonresident caribou hunters at least 25 percent of the DC 827 permits.

This decision was the complete opposite of the intent of our proposal! The Board could have just voted down our proposal, allowing hunt bookers to continue to flood the application pool for the DC 827 caribou permit leading to the same high nonresident percentage of awarded permits. Instead, they forever guaranteed nonresidents a minimum of 25 percent of those permits.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has Standing Rules that address this issue in their Finding #91-128-FB¹, and in that Finding it states: "*Do not change or reverse the*

¹ <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/findings/ff91128x.pdf>

intent of a proposal/issue. For example, if a proposal's intent is to restrict a particular fishery and the board wishes to close or expand the fishery, the board will not amend the original proposal. The board will defeat, table or take no action on that proposal and then develop a board generated proposal to accomplish the action they feel is needed."

We would like to see the Board of Game adopt a similar Finding or Policy or Standing Rules governing amendments that change or reverse the intent of public proposals, as happened with RHAK proposal #146 at the Region III 2020 meeting.

We understand that amendments to public proposals are often necessary for clarification, and that minor changes are often warranted. We are not asking that the Board not be allowed to make amendments to proposals. But these kinds of amendments that take the complete opposite position of the proposer should not be allowed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mark Richards
Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska
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