



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Headquarters

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An Agenda Change Request (ACR 5) has been submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 92.029(b) Permit for possessing live game. The proponent is asking the board to narrowly define swine species to *Sus scrofa domesticus* that may be possessed in Alaska without a permit as described in 5 AAC 92.029.

With respect to the board's Agenda Change Request (ACR) acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- A. The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- B. The department is aware of effects of regulations that were unforeseen when the regulation was adopted.
- C. The department does believe that there is a biological concern that is caused by existing regulations.
- D. The department is unaware of any unforeseen or unexpected events that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses as defined in AS 16.05.258(f).
- E. The department is unaware of any unexpected resource situations that would cause a biologically allowable resource harvest to be precluded by delayed regulatory action.

As written, 5 AAC 92.029 allows for all species of swine (*Sus scrofa* Var.) to be possessed in Alaska without a permit. Swine were included in the list of species that may be possessed without a permit as far back as 1980, and likely farther, though it is unknown exactly when they were added to the list of species that may be possessed without a permit from the department. A recent request to the department to import wild boars prompted a review of 5 AAC 92.029 and allowable swine species.

Wild boars (also known as Russian boars or European boars) are known to severely impact habitats for which they are not native and are particularly adept at escaping confinement. Swine can also reproduce rapidly and produce multiple young per litter, and can thrive in high latitude environments such as Alaska. Lower 48 states and Canadian Provinces have been contending with wild boar populations and have experienced severe habitat damage. Wild boars are also known to consume small mammals and ground-nesting birds and eggs. Attempts to remove wild boars, once established, have proven to be difficult to impossible.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Statewide regulations is during winter/spring of 2021/2022 and 2024/2025. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its March 2022 meeting in Fairbanks to allow for more public input.

Sincerely,

Ryan Scott

Ryan Scott
Assistant Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation