

Joe Klutsch
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Members of the Alaska Board of Game,
RE: Proposal 206

I am writing to request you reconsider your action on proposal 206. I have been hunting on the Alaska Peninsula for brown bears in GMU 9E since the 1970s. I have participated as a member of the Naknek/Kvichak AC for over 40 yrs. I have worked with area biologists and other members of the department to ensure and advocate for conservation of brown bears in GMU9. This included shortening both spring and fall seasons, making the fall season a week shorter on the front end and the spring season a week shorter on the end of the season. To extend this season for 7 days would be inconsistent with the Boards previous actions regarding 9E/D brown bears.

Once again, RHAK is claiming that there is insufficient opportunity to hunt these bear populations. Their arguments are flawed. There is MORE than ample opportunity for residents to hunt unit 9 brown bears. There is simply no reason to extend this season, and from a conservation standpoint, it is inconsistent.

Furthermore, extending the season another week later in the spring only makes females more vulnerable, which is the last component of the population that we want to see harvested. Regrettably, resident hunters in general are less selective. Many can not tell a boar from a sow, and many will shoot the first bear they see. This is the last thing we need to have happen on the Alaska Peninsula.

After all of these years participating in the BOG process and actively hunting for nearly 50 years in GMU 9, I feel I have some standing in this matter. Your consideration of my views regarding reconsideration of 206 will be greatly appreciated.

Joe Klutsch
Master Guide 91