

PROPOSAL 170

5 AAC 92.450. Description of game management units.

Modify the Unit 1C and Unit 4 boundaries as follows:

Unit 1C: that portion draining into Stephens Passage and Lynn Canal north of Cape Fanshaw and south of the latitude of Eldred Rock, including Berner's Bay, Sullivan Island, **Pleasant Island, Porpoise Islands**, and all mainland portions north of Chichagof Island and south of the latitude of Eldred Rock, and excluding drainages into Farragut Bay.

Unit 4: All islands south and west of Unit 1C and north of Unit 3, including Admiralty, Baranof, Chichagof, Yakobi, **and** Inian [, AND PLEASANT] Islands and all seaward waters and lands within three (3) miles of the coastlines.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Shift the boundary between Unit 1C and 4 to include Pleasant and Porpoise Islands in Unit 1C

Pleasant and Porpoise Islands are much more closely related ecologically and geographically with the Gustavus Forelands (Unit 1C) than with Chichagof Island (Unit 4) to the south. Pleasant Island is a small island approximately one mile south of Gustavus. Porpoise Islands are a very small series of islands east of Pleasant Island. For management purposes, current big game regulations for the remainder of Unit 1C are more appropriate for Pleasant and Porpoise Islands than Unit 4 regulations.

Pleasant Island is an important source of deer for the community of Gustavus. From RY2014 to RY2018 hunters harvested five deer total (range 0-4) on Pleasant Island. During the previous five-year period (RY2009 – RY2013), 152 deer (range 8-56) were harvested. Winters have been mild which can result in greater dispersal of deer across the landscape contributing to variability in harvest. Wildlife can move freely between Pleasant Island and the Gustavus Forelands. The distance between Pleasant Island and the mainland is approximately 0.65 mile (~1 km).

Deer hunting regulations for Unit 4 allow residents and nonresidents to harvest six deer annually between August 1 and December 31. Antlerless harvest is allowed after September 15. Federally qualified hunters can hunt through January and may harvest additional deer for any other federally qualified hunter under the federal designated hunter program. Gustavus residents are federally qualified. Harvest under these regulations are currently unsustainable for this island.

Deer hunting regulations for the Remainder of 1C are two bucks for residents and nonresidents from August 1 to December 31 under state regulations and four deer for federally qualified rural residents. Under federal regulations, does are allowed between September 15 and December 31. These regulations are likely unsustainable for Pleasant Island as well, but are currently more suitable than Unit 4 regulations.

Black bears are occasionally observed on Pleasant Island. There is currently no hunting season for black bears in Unit 4. If Pleasant Island was moved to Unit 1C, there would be a black bear season from September 1 to June 30 for both residents and nonresidents.

Wolf seasons and bag limits for wolves are currently identical for Unit 1C and Unit 4 under both hunting and trapping regulations.

Porpoise Islands are a group of very small islands east of Pleasant Island and while not much wildlife occur on these, it is appropriate to include these in Unit 1C.

Adoption of this proposal will require assessment of current customary and traditional findings and amounts necessary for all species for subsistence determinations for both Unit 4 and Unit 1C.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-059)
