

PROPOSAL 206

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting season and bag limits for brown bear.

Open a resident only early/late season for brown bear in Unit 9 as follows:

The best solution would be for the Board of Game to provide a resident only early/late season by including the original season dates in Unit 9 that were wrongly shortened for residents in 2018:

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula brown/grizzly bear

RBXXX or DBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–6

RBXXX or DBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 26-31

Another solution would be to create a resident only draw hunt with a limited allocation determined by the Department of Fish and Game, mirroring the current RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts, to allow a spring season on odd numbered years and a fall season on even numbered years.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula brown/grizzly bear

DBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21

DB XXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident hunting and harvest opportunity for brown bear in Unit 9.

We continue to receive reports of conflicts between resident brown bear hunters and guides in Unit 9, particularly those guides that operate on federal lands with exclusive guide concessions. We also continue to receive reports of conflicts among different guides on state lands in Unit 9, as well as among guides and resident hunters. There are limited places to land an aircraft, and guides have most areas essentially “locked up.” The limited number of air taxis that will fly into Unit 9 often won’t fly resident hunters because of agreements with guides. When resident hunters do fly in they often get complaints from guides that it is “their area” and they should move on to another place, and if they go somewhere else they run into the same issues where competition between the nonresident hunters/guides and resident hunters leads to conflicts.

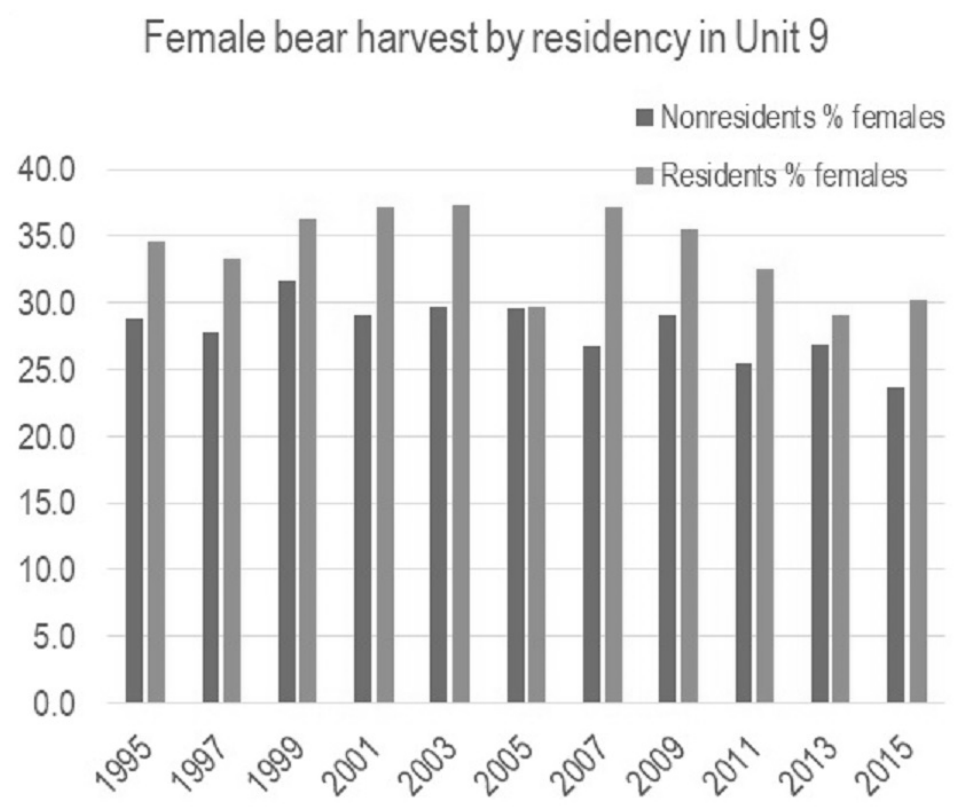
During the last Region IV (Central/Southwest) cycle, Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) addressed this with Proposal #132, requesting resident-only early spring and fall brown bear seasons in Unit 9. We included data from the ADF&G on harvest levels by residents and nonresidents that showed (and still does) that nonresident guided hunters take 80 percent of the brown bear harvest each season.

Surprisingly, ADF&G stated during the last Region IV cycle meeting that they suddenly had conservation/biological concerns for the Unit 9 brown bear population, after years of unlimited nonresident opportunity and nonresident guided hunters taking 80 percent of the harvest. The board amended our proposal to do the very opposite of what we requested and shortened the spring and fall brown bear seasons in Unit 9 by one week for both residents and nonresidents based on

those ADF&G concerns. From the meeting summary on Proposal 132: “Open a resident-only early season for the current registration brown bear hunts in Unit 9, or open resident-only registration or drawing permit hunts. The board amended the proposal by changing the existing registration hunt dates in Unit 9 to October 7-21, and May 10-25, excluding the subsistence hunts.”

This was completely uncalled for as nonresident guided hunters are the component continually taking the vast majority of the harvest in Unit 9, and are most responsible for any overhunting or other biological effects on the bear population. Resident hunters should not have had their seasons shortened when it is nonresident hunters taking so much of the harvest.

As to sow harvests, the graph below from the ADF&G shows that the sow harvests among residents and nonresidents are not that far apart, but this data is misleading because it compares the total nonresident harvests with the total resident harvests:



This data below, also from ADF&G is a better example of what is really going on with sow harvests, and shows that it is the nonresident hunters who are overwhelmingly taking the vast majority of the sows among the Unit 9 brown bear population:

	Nonresidents		Residents	
	<u>no. females</u>	<u>% females</u>	<u>no. females</u>	<u>% females</u>
1995	109	28.8	45	34.6
1997	121	27.8	41	33.3
1999	166	31.7	53	36.3
2001	156	29.1	48	37.2
2003	143	29.7	54	37.2
2005	153	29.5	35	29.7
2007	139	26.7	39	37.1
2009	142	29	38	35.5
2011	123	25.4	39	32.5
2013	110	26.8	25	29.1
2015	87	23.7	26	30.2

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F21-012)
