

**PROPOSAL 29**

**5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping.**

**5 AAC 92.095(a)(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

Lengthen the season and liberalize methods and means for trapping beaver in Unit 9 as follows:

Liberalize the season and methods and means for trapping beaver in Unit 9 or in just subunits 9D and 9E, if the board thinks a unit-wide liberalization is too much.

In Unit 9, no closed season and no bag limit. A trapping license is still required.

In Unit 9 you may shoot up to the established bag limit with a firearm throughout the season provided that either the meat or hide is salvaged.

In Unit 9, from June 1 to October 9, taking of beaver by any means other than firearm is prohibited.

Beaver taken in Unit 9 only need to be sealed if they are to be sold as raw fur.

In Unit 9 you may shoot a beaver on the same day you have flown in an airplane if the beaver is either caught in a trap or snare, or you are more than 300 feet from the airplane.

In Unit 9 you may disturb or destroy a beaver dam. (Under current regulations, you may not disturb or destroy a beaver house or den.)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The beaver population is ever expanding in Unit 9. They are damming up more small streams every year and preventing salmon from reaching their spawning grounds. Many of these small streams have lost their entire run of salmon. It was especially bad in the summer of 2019 when there was an extensive drought. I witnessed where beavers dammed two of the major spawning streams where I guide for brown bear. There was no salmon in them at all and no bears on the streams. These streams are normally 15 feet wide and two-or-more feet deep but with the reduced water flow because of the drought they were able to dam them. As of May 12, 2020, they are still dammed. The beaver population needs to be reduced. The liberalization of the beaver season, harvest methods, bag limits, salvage requirements and eliminating some of the sealing requirements will give everyone the maximum opportunity to harvest the surplus of beavers in this unit. Many of the residents and some nonresidents have expressed interest in being able to harvest a few beavers when they are hunting other species. Local residents will be able to harvest beaver anytime they want for food or fur. Most of Unit 9 is very remote with very little harvest of beavers at all.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Montgomery

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