

Salvage and Sealing Requirements

PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

5 AAC 92.170. Sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine.

5 AAC 92.175. Sealing of beaver.

Change the sealing and reporting requirements to business days instead of calendar days as follows:

*All Hunting/Trapping Sealing and Reporting regulation requirement are to be based off of ADF&G Office **Business Days, including exemptions of State & Federal Holidays.***

Example.

Bear - 30 *business* day sealing requirement for brown bear, black bear at an ADF&G office from the date of harvest or from the first state business day if harvested on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.

Moose - 5 business day reporting requirement to an ADF&G office from the date of harvest or from the first state business day if harvested on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

SEALING AND REPORTING.

Calendar day vs. business day. Alaska hunting and trapping regulation requires sealing or reporting of wildlife on a *calendar day*.

ISSUE

- ADF&G offices operate only during the *business week*.

- ADF&G staff is not available to perform required sealing and reporting tasks on weekend days, as well as state or federal holidays.

- Alaska State Troopers have refused to seal bears on weekends or have indicated they are not equipped with the correct supplies to perform sealing or reporting requirements for species.

- Hunters/trappers are at a disadvantage to comply with state regulation as state staff and or office may not be open to the public to comply with existing regulation.

- In the event of state budget issues, and ADF&G staff was reduced to a -day work-week, this could place a further disadvantage to hunters/trappers to comply with sealing and reporting regulation.

-If a pandemic, terror attack or natural disaster presents itself and closes ADF&G offices, hunters and trappers cannot comply with sealing and reporting regulation if offices are closed.

Example: A moose hunter has five days to check in his/her harvest under the spike, fork, 50-inch or three brow tine regulation. While hunting with a family/group on a weeklong trip, perhaps he/she harvests a bull on a Tuesday...they must then potentially end a hunt early to return to town to check the bull into ADF&G by Friday as Monday would be day six from the harvest, and thereby outside of the acceptable sealing period. Therefore, hunting opportunity for others in the party would consequently be limited to accommodate the harvest over the ability to continue to hunt as the season allowed. ADF&G offices are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, as well as holidays therefore limiting the opportunity to comply as currently based on CALENDAR days, and not BUSINESS days with the **5-day reporting regulation**.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Decker

(EG-F20-009)

PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Clarify the wanton waste regulation to specify that game animals taken by domestic pets must be reported and salvaged for human consumption, as follows:

- (a) A person taking game not listed in (a) of this section shall salvage for human consumption all edible meat, as defined in 5 AAC 92.990. In addition,

(1)...

(7) any owner or caretaker of a domestic animal that kills a game animal must, in addition to salvaging the meat for human consumption, report the take to the department no less than annually. If the owner or caretaker cannot identify the species of the game animal, it must be delivered to the department for identification as soon as possible.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Domestic animals kill millions of game animals in Alaska annually according to estimates based on national figures. Dogs account for some of this take, but cats are primarily responsible for the high numbers. Many of these game animals are protected species such as songbirds; however, some dogs are capable of killing game animals as large as moose (most frequently calves) and cats kill snowshoe hares, red, ground and flying squirrels, spruce and ruffed grouse, ptarmigan and ducks (all of which require salvage of meat or hides); unclassified game such as shrews, mice and crows (all of which are included in the hunting regulation booklet); furbearers such as marten, ermine and muskrats; as well as a wide variety of other game animals (primarily wild birds).

By definition, all wild animals in Alaska are game animals. Compiling and analyzing game harvests is a fundamental exercise of the Department of Fish and Game's mandate and authority. Unfortunately, cats don't always bring prey items back to their owners. But many do. There is no other straightforward way to ascertain the impact of domestic pets on game animal populations than by requiring the owners to report their pets' annual kill.

A reporting requirement for harvesting game animals is not without precedent. The state requires hunters to report kills on harvest tickets in accordance with 5 AAC 92.010. Similarly, a person who collides with a big game animal is required to notify the Alaska State Troopers as soon as possible, according to 5 AAC 92.220(b), and those figures are shared with the department.

Alaska is the only state with a legislative mandate to manage game animals intensively for human consumption. The Alaska Legislature and Board of Game have demonstrated a compelling interest in minimizing the wanton waste of game. The meat of most game animals killed by pets is wasted. It's a reasonable extension of the legislature's intensive management and wanton waste laws to better understand and minimize the wanton waste of game killed by pets.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Sinnott (EG-F20-035)

PROPOSAL 161

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Change the salvage requirement for sheep, goat and deer to all meat on the outside of the ribs as follows:

Change the salvage requirements of sheep, goat and deer from [ALL THE MEAT OF THE RIBS] to **all of the meat on the outside of the ribs.**

This would not include moose, caribou, elk, bison and muskox.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see the salvage requirements of sheep, goat, and deer be changed to make it all of the meat on the outside of the rib rather than all the meat of the ribs. This would NOT include moose, caribou, elk, bison and muskox.

This would encourage hunters to still take as much good meat as logistically possible from the animal, but not enforce the taking of rib meat between the actual ribs. A hunter may remove the entire rib cage if they choose, or they may be selective when it comes to not taking bloodshot or tainted meat from any portion of the rib meat. Especially in mountain animals, poor shots or damage to the meat from a fall are much more common and often contaminates the inside of the rib meat. This would allow the hunter to salvage the usable meat and not worry if checked by a wildlife trooper. It would also apply to deer in southeast Alaska and on Kodiak, where large brown bears are present, and there may be a safety issue when butchering deer in the field. The process of removing the meat between the ribs adds precious time to a twilight hunting situation, where leaving the kill site in an appropriate amount of time is imperative. In most cases this would amount to less than a pound of meat. It is already not required to remove rib meat from black bear

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-008)

PROPOSAL 162

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Require the salvage of the meat or hide of snowshoe hare as follows:

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. (a) Subject to additional requirements in 5AAC 84 - 5 AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

- (1) the hide of a wolf, wolverine, coyote, fox, lynx, marten, mink, fisher, weasel, and land otter, and the hide or meat of a beaver, muskrat, pika, ground squirrel, **snowshoe hare**, or marmot;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently there is no salvage requirement for snowshoe hare statewide. This proposal would create a statewide salvage requirement for human use. The human use requirement would be met as long as some portion of the carcass is used for human consumption, trapping, sewing, dog training, dog food, etc. This proposal would simply prohibit the take of a snowshoe hare with no attempt to recover, eat, or in any way make an attempt to use part or all of the carcass. Trappers would be allowed to use a whole or portion of a carcass for trapping bait.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-057)

PROPOSAL 245

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Eliminate the requirement to salvage rib meat on the bone for moose, caribou, and bison as follows:

The intent of this proposal is to make the salvage requirements regarding rib meat consistent statewide for moose, caribou, and bison, notwithstanding the requirements for the community subsistence harvest permit under 5 AAC 92.220(6).

One solution would be to remove “and ribs” from 92.220(d)(3) as follows:

(d)(3) for moose taken before October 1 in Units 13, 19, 21, 23, 24, and 25 for caribou taken before October 1 in Units 13, 19, 21(A), 21(E), 23, 24, and 25(A), and for bison taken before October 1 in Units 19, 21(A), and 21(E), the edible meat of the front quarters, **and** hindquarters, [AND RIBS] must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Requirement to salvage rib meat on the bone for moose and caribou in various units.

Meat on bone requirements for moose and caribou in several game management units were put into effect over concerns with meat spoilage, and in part so wildlife enforcement could better ensure salvage requirements were met. But these salvage requirements are not consistent statewide. Only Units 13, 21, 23, 24, and 25 have the requirement that the rib meat of moose and caribou (and bison) must be salvaged naturally attached to the bone.

Hunters are fully capable of salvaging the rib meat without leaving it attached to the bone, and without it spoiling, as is evident that this requirement does not apply statewide. As to identifying that the rib meat was completely salvaged, again the requirement does not apply statewide to other moose, caribou, and bison hunts in high-use areas or off the road system.

It is both difficult and cumbersome to leave rib meat attached to the bone, and we don't see the removal of this salvage requirement having any negative effects on overall meat salvage, spoilage, or on enforcement efforts. Rib meat dries out fast when attached to the bone and “rolling” or filleting the ribs is an optimum way to salvage and keep rib meat from spoiling or drying out. Many hunters on longer hunts, or when the harvest happens at the beginning of a hunt, choose to eat the rib meat in the field so the extra weight and space of the rib bones is not such a factor. Aircraft hunters would like to be able to legally remove the rib meat from the bones before loading into the airplane to save space and weight.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F21-008)

PROPOSAL 246

5 AAC 92.171. Sealing of horns and antlers.

Change the sealing method for Dall sheep horns to avoid damage as follows:

I would like to see the board adopt language that removes [PERMANENT] from the sealing requirement and allows for the use of a locking tag attached to the skull or through a hole drilled in the skull plate, or another method that does not require damage to the sheep’s horns. Perhaps even a provision could be made to let a hunter choose the permanent plug if they wish, but the statute would be brought into line with the temporary nature of sealing of other Alaskan trophy animals and furbearers such as brown bears, some black bears, wolves, lynx, otters, and wolverines with a locking tag that can be removed during the taxidermy process.

5 AAC 92.171.

A person may not alter, possess, transport, or export from the state, the horns of a Dall sheep ram taken in any hunt where there is a horn configuration bag limit, the horns of a Dall sheep ram taken in Units 6-11 and Units 13-17, or the horns of a Dall sheep taken under a registration permit in Unit 19(C), unless the horns have been [PERMANENTLY] sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if designated by the department. **The seal must remain on the skull or skull plate until the taxidermy cleaning process has commenced;** except the horns of a ¾-curl or less sheep taken in the registration hunt in Units 25(A) and 26(C) do not need to be sealed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current sealing methods for Dall Sheep horns (using a numbered aluminum “plug”) cause unnecessary and often unwanted damage to a hunter’s trophy. Upon sealing, a hole is drilled into one of the sheep’s horns, and a permanent plug is inserted. Although common for sealing sheep horns in other states, this method of permanent sealing provides no inherent useful data, research materials, testing samples, resource protection, or other tangible benefit to the State of Alaska that could not otherwise be provided by sealing with a locking tag on the skull or skull plate, but it does require permanent damage be done to the trophy itself.

It is also notable that only one of the sheep’s horns is sealed (suggesting that both horns are staying naturally attached to the skull or skull plate and considered “sealed), and sealing is not required for some horns such as winter-killed pick-ups, or horns taken before sealing was required (If taken care of, it’s effectively impossible to distinguish between horns taken two years ago, and 25).

This sealing method is also not consistent with most other big game animals and species that require sealing in Alaska, including CITES animals like brown bears, which are sealed with a locking tag that can legally be removed and damage repaired during the taxidermy process. They are sealed in a manner that is not permanently damaging to the trophy. The sealing process and requirement for Dall sheep is valuable and beneficial to the resource and its management, but the specific method of permanent sealing currently used causes unnecessary and often unwanted damage to the trophy. Many of the state’s sheep hunters would prefer a less destructive sealing method, such as the locking tag that was used in 2004 and 2005 in the first years that sealing of sheep horns was required.

PROPOSED BY: Tyler Freel (EG-F21-009)
