

Request for Reconsideration of Proposal 232

This request is based on a typed mistake by the department which changed perceived intent of the proposal.

We believe that the board should reconsider Proposal 232 since verbiage was used in making the decision that was not actually in the proposal.

During the department presentation, Assistant Director Scott misspoke and said that the proposal read “wounded and lost” when it actually reads “dead and wounded”. This “lost” verbiage seemed to cause some board members to feel uncomfortable with the proposal and was unnecessary since that verbiage isn’t found anywhere in the proposal. Mr. Scott also omitted that dogs are already allowed to retrieve dead furbearers under the trapping regulations which makes this an addition to an already existing regulation, rather than a new regulation altogether.

The inaccurate information presented by the department greatly hindered the boards decision making process for this proposal. Under current trapping regulations, unleashed dogs are already allowed to retrieve dead furbearers. The misrepresentation of this proposal by the department lead to decisions based on inaccurate information. The public should be able to have confidence in the board and departments abilities to read the actual proposals and make decisions based on the correct information in order to benefit the public and wildlife conservation.

For these reasons we request that a motion be made to reconsider Proposal 232. The following slides lay out examples of where the department was mistaken.

This slide depicts the discrepancy between the departments verbiage of the proposed regulation change and the verbiage actually written in the proposal. This verbiage caused concern with some board members but nobody checked the proposal to verify the correct verbiage during the board discussion.

Proposal 232
Public proposal

Allow the use of dogs for recovery of wounded or lost furbearers

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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This is a clear discrepancy which caused the board to make decisions based on inaccurate information presented by the department.

PROPOSAL 232

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Allow the use of dogs to recover wounded furbearers as follows:

Add regulatory language that would better facilitate recovery of furbearing animals as follows:

Methods for Trapping

You may use any method to take furbearers with a trapping license unless it is prohibited below. The following methods and means are illegal for taking furbearers:

YOU MAY NOT:

- use a dog (except to retrieve **dead and wounded** furbearers);

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recovery rates for wounded and crippled small game and waterfowl go up substantially when utilizing a well trained hunting dog to track, locate and retrieve them. The same could be said of wounded furbearers such as fox, lynx, coyote, etc. if a dog is allowed to be used for recovery. This change would not change any restrictions already established on the use of dogs while hunting furbearers but would only allow for the recovery of furbearers already wounded by the hunter/trapper. This small regulation change would only be a benefit to recovery of game.

PROPOSED BY: Elijah Barbour

(EG-F21-041)

Actual verbiage used in proposal adding to existing regulation found on page 13 of the current trapping regulations

This slide shows the omission by the department of the existing trapping regulation which allows the use of dogs for furbearers. The department outlined existing hunting regulations but left out the existing trapping regulations found on page 13 of the current trapping regulation booklet.

Background

Proposal 232

- A single, leashed dog may be used to track a wounded big game animal
- Dogs may be used to hunt black bears under a permit issued by the department
 - 10 permits issued per year
- Dogs may be used to hunt coyotes in Unit 20D
- Dogs are routinely used to hunt small game to do exactly what the proposal asks for

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Methods for Trapping

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YOU MAY NOT:

- shoot from, on, or across a highway;
- use poisons or a substance that temporarily incapacitates wildlife, *except with written permission from the Board of Game or with the use of an Electronic Control Device (ECD) Taser-type device that temporarily incapacitates game, except under a permit issued by the department;*
- take a wolf or wolverine with a firearm until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which you have flown in an airplane; *however, you may shoot a wolf or wolverine caught in a trap or snare on the same day you have flown;*
- use a helicopter to transport you, your trapping equipment, or any furbearer; *however, a helicopter may be used during emergency rescue operations in a life-threatening situation;*
- use an aircraft, snowmachine, motor-driven boat, or other motorized vehicle for the purpose of driving, herding, or molesting furbearers;
- take furbearers with the use or aid of a machine gun, set gun, or a shotgun larger than 10 gauge;
- take furbearers with the aid of a pit, fire, light (other than sunlight or moonlight), laser sight (excluding rangefinders), electronically-enhanced night vision, any forward looking infrared device, any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, or communicates wirelessly, and used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device, any camera or other sensory device that can send messages through wireless communication, artificial salt lick, explosives, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, deer urine, elk urine, chemical (excluding scent lures), or a conventional steel trap with an inside jaw spread over 9 inches. *Exceptions: Killer-style (body-grip) trap with a jaw spread of less than 13 inches may be used. Artificial light may be used for the purpose of taking furbearers Nov 1- Mar 31 in Units 7 and 9-26 during an open season;*
- use wireless communication to take a specific animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day after the use of the device;
- disturb or destroy beaver houses or any furbearer den (*except that muskrat pushups or feeding houses may be disturbed in the course of trapping*);
- use a dog (*except to retrieve dead furbearers*);
- use a hook, net or fish trap (*except a blackfish or fyke trap*);
- wear foot gear with felt soles or other absorbent fibrous material in freshwater streams;
- take furbearers from a motorized land vehicle - you must be off or out of any motorized land vehicle before shooting, see exceptions for taking wolves and wolverines on next page;
- shoot furbearers from a motor-driven boat unless the motor has been shut off and the progress from the motor's power has ceased; see exceptions for taking wolves on next page.

This slide shows how the proposal would only be adding two words to an already existing trapping regulation, which the department completely left out of their board presentation.

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- use a helicopter to transport you, your trapping equipment, or any furbearer; *however, a helicopter may be used during emergency rescue operations in a life-threatening situation;*
- use an aircraft, snowmachine, motor-driven boat, or other motorized vehicle for the purpose of driving, herding, or molesting furbearers;
- take furbearers with the use or aid of a machine gun, set gun, or a shotgun larger than 10 gauge;
- take furbearers with the aid of a pit, fire, light (other than sunlight or moonlight), laser sight (excluding rangefinders), electronically-enhanced night vision, any forward looking infrared device, any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, or communicates wirelessly, and used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device, any camera or other sensory device that can send messages through wireless communication, artificial salt lick, explosives, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, deer urine, elk urine, chemical (excluding scent lures), or a conventional steel trap with an inside jaw spread over 9 inches. *Exceptions: Killer-style (body-grip) trap with a jaw spread of less than 13 inches may be used. Artificial light may be used for the purpose of taking furbearers Nov 1- Mar 31 in Units 7 and 9-26 during an open season;*
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- use a dog (except to retrieve dead furbearers);
- use a hook, net or fish trap (*except a blackfish or fyke trap*);
- wear foot gear with felt soles or other absorbent fibrous material in freshwater streams;
- take furbearers from a motorized land vehicle - you must be off or out of any motorized land vehicle before shooting, *see exceptions for taking wolves and wolverines on next page;*
- shoot furbearers from a motor-driven boat unless the motor has been shut off and the progress from the motor's power has ceased; *see exceptions for taking wolves on next page.*

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PROPOSED BY: Elijah Barbour

(EG-F21-041)

The intent of this proposal is to facilitate for the recovery of valuable fur bearing resources to the hunter and trapper. This proposal does not in any way allow for the pursuit or take of fur bearers with a dog, but only allows for the recovery of those wounded. This is does not differ from a dog sitting in a duck blind, waiting to be sent to locate a downed and possibly crippled bird.

Once an animal is injured or killed the hunter/trapper has an ethical responsibility to do everything in his or her power to retrieve and utilize the animal. This only clarifies that if an individual has a trained retrieving dog, the dog can retrieve both dead AND injured (in other words, soon to be dead) furbearer.

This proposed addition to current regulation would ensure that an animal who has been mortally wounded can still be pursued, recovered, and not left to waste.

A dog sitting with the handler while calling predators does not differ from a dog sitting with the hunter while calling water fowl and does not allow for a uncontrolled dog running through the woods.

The Department of Fish and Game presented misleading information to the Board of Game by giving inaccurate information and omitted the current regulation context. This caused the board to act on Proposal 232 based on misinterpreted information.

Proposal 232 should be reconsidered for the following reasons:

- Incorrect verbiage was used by the department with the word “lost” which is found nowhere in the proposal and grossly misrepresented the proposals intent.
- The department only listed the current use of dogs under HUNTING regulations and failed to list the already existing regulation applying to the use of dogs for furbearers under TRAPPING regulations.
- The department gave the board the impression that this would be a new regulation rather than adding to a current trapping regulation.
- In order to maintain public faith and trust in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game Process, we believe the Board of Game should reconsider Proposal 232 for the reasons mentioned above.

- Mike Harris
- Logan Kurtz
- Elijah Barbour
- Gabe Alexander
- Elizabeth Harris

- Dori Hollingsworth
- Christopher Tobias
- Ryan Chatterton
- Tom St. Clair
- Brianna Krieger

- Don Lietzau
- Scott Breitsprecher
- Cary Harris
- Cindy Lietzau
- Jordan Alvis