

**PROPOSAL 101**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

Extend the general season for brown bear, open for take by bow and arrow only, in Unit 14C Remainder as follows:

Unit 14C, Remainder

Residents and Nonresidents

One bear every regulatory year, Sept. 1 – May 31

**OR**

**One (1) brown bear, every regulatory year, by bow and arrow only June 1-June 30**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adding additional hunting days that are restricted to archery equipment would greatly add to hunter opportunity, while also keeping the impact on the resource to a minimum. Harvest rates for bowhunters are much lower than those who use firearms, which creates a valuable opportunity for hunters to enjoy more time in the field without necessarily expecting to take an animal. Members of our organization have reported seeing a rise in brown bear activity in remote areas of Unit 14C Remainder while pursuing black bears. These members report often seeing more brown bears than black bears in this area and would like additional time to pursue them during the spring season. We believe that this extension can be accomplished without having a big impact on brown bear populations if it is restricted to the use of archery equipment only. Unit 14C Remainder is already remote, and hunters willing to access these areas are not numerous. The limited access as well as the limits of archery equipment would add to the difficulty in harvest, limiting impact on brown bear populations while also providing more opportunity for hunters to pursue bears.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association

(EG-F22-124)

\*\*\*\*\*