

**PROPOSAL 136**

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

Extend the season for the brown bear registration hunts in Units 7 and 15 to June 15 as follows:

Brown bear

Units 7 and 15

1 brown bear every year by registration permit only

Resident season

Nonresident season

Sept. 1 to [MAY 31] **June 15**

Sept. 1 to [MAY 31] **June 15**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lost brown bear hunting opportunity during the spring season on the Kenai Peninsula, Units 7 and 15. Hunting for brown bear on the Kenai Peninsula is closely managed using an annual harvest quota of 50 to 60 bears or 8-12 females five years old or older, from all known mortality. Harvested brown bear in these Units must be reported to ADF&G within five days and presented for sealing within ten days. Since this quota management system has been in place (fall of 2013), the season has only been closed one time on the Kenai National Refuge portion of Unit 15. The hunting method of baiting bears is allowed on the Kenai National Refuge for black bear, but it is not allowed for brown bear.

A review of brown bears seasons reveals 12 units or portions of units have spring seasons ending either June 15 or June 30. Unit 13 has an open season all year.

There will be some concern about harvesting a bear with a poor-quality hide if hunting is extended later in the spring. However, some bears have poor-quality hides in the fall and spring. Hunters can be selective and avoid harvesting a bear with a rubbed hide.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ted Spraker

(EG-F22-055)

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