

PROPOSAL 140

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

Extend the season for brown bear under RB300 open for take by bow and arrow only, in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

RB300

All of Unit 7 and 15, where hunting is legal.

Residents and Nonresidents

One (1) brown bear, every regulatory year by permit Sept. 1-May 31

OR

All of Unit 7 and 15, where hunting is legal excluding within ½ mile of the Russian and Kenai Rivers.

Residents and Nonresidents

One (1) brown bear, every regulatory year by permit, 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 on the Kenai Peninsula and desire an extended time in which 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. This hunt is already a registration hunt and the department can easily close it by emergency order if deemed necessary. It should be remembered that this hunt currently has an unlimited number of permits to be issued. The geographic restrictions 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-F22-123)
