

## **PROPOSAL 103**

### **5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.**

Increase the bag limit for black bear in Units 19B and 19C from three to five as follows:

Black bear bag limit for Units 19B and 19C is five bears for both residents and nonresidents.

OR

Black bear bag limit for Unit 19 is five bears for both residents and nonresidents.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Stony Holitna Advisory Committee proposes an increase in the resident and nonresident black bear bag limit in Unit 19B and 19C to five bears.

The bag limit in these two subunits is presently three bears.

Units 19A, D, and E have a five-bear bag limit.

- There is a surplus of bears throughout Unit 19
- At the 2020 Interior Region Board of Game (BOG) meeting, the Stony Holitna Advisory Committee made Proposal 106 to activate a lethal bear predation control in eastern Unit 19E, mostly along the Stony River, between the villages of Stony River and Lime Village (which is already part of the intensive management plan in Units 19E and 19A). The proposal failed due to perceived ineffectiveness due to limited habitat in that area, as well as the huge cost for that sort of program.
- Large areas of game habitat have been depleted due to multiple wildfires in recent years.
- The Kuskokwim is experiencing poor salmon runs.
- Moose predation by bears is high and increasing.
- Both black and brown bears have been foraging in villages and picking fish nets & smoke houses, creating a safety concern.
- A five-bear bag limit in Units 19B and 19C will make the bag limit for black bears consistent throughout Unit 19.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stony Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F23-023)

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