

## **PROPOSAL 107**

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

Open a fall brown/grizzly bear baiting season in Unit 21E as follows:

Brown/grizzly bear to be taken at a bear bait station in Unit 21E from April 15th-June 30th (spring) and August 10th-October 15th (fall). Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, salvage, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The brown/grizzly bear population has grown over the past few years in Unit 21E. With the lack of salmon returning to the Yukon River and its tributaries it is causing the brown/grizzly bears to prey upon moose more often as a result. Although Unit 21E has a two brown/grizzly bear bag limit for residents there is still a low harvest rate. The rivers and streams, where most of the bears inhabit, are heavily timbered making it difficult to spot and stalk bears. Opening a spring and fall baiting season will provide a more effective method for hunters to hunt the denser forest while also allowing hunters to observe the bears longer allowing for a more selective harvest of older mature bears. This unit is directly adjacent to units of similar characteristics where the taking of grizzly bears at a black bear bait station is currently permitted.

**PROPOSED BY:** Blair Hickson

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