

## **PROPOSAL 152**

**5 AAC 85.020. Seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

**5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Units 24C and 24D, and open a fall bait season in Units 21B and 24B as follows:

Establish a resident two bear bag limit for residents (5AAC 85.020) in Units 24C and 24D.

Establish a fall bear baiting season (5AAC 92.044) in Unit 21B and 24B.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal seeks to increase the harvest opportunity from one brown bear per regulatory year to a two brown bear bag limit for residents in Units 24C and 24D and allow harvest of brown and black bears from August 1 –September 30 at registered bear bait stations in Units 21B and 24B. Resident hunters that take brown bears are low in number and should be afforded additional harvest opportunity with a two brown bear limit. Units 21 and 24B already has a two brown bear limit for residents and this would align bag limits with nearby Units.

Adding fall bear baiting in Units 21B and 24B would align brown bear baiting with surrounding units. The Board of Game first approved harvest of brown bears at black bear bait stations in Unit 21D in 2012, Units 24C and 24D in 2014 spring bear baiting in Unit 21C in 2017 and spring bear baiting in 2020.

The 20-year trend in the harvest data indicated that brown bear harvest was stable even though bag limits, seasons and methods were liberalized. Males were harvested at a higher rate than females and average ages of the harvested bears remained stable indicating that the population was not over exploited.

**PROPOSED BY:** Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F23-069)

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