

## **PROPOSAL 39**

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

Lengthen the brown bear hunting season in Unit 23 for residents to no closed season as follows:

#### **5 AAC: 85.020(21).**

Resident hunters: 2 bears every regulatory year; **No closed season** [AUG. 1-MAY 31].

In addition to other regulations, Residents only subsistence hunters: 2 bears every regulatory year by permit; **No closed season** [AUG. 1-MAY 31].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current state hunting season for brown bear/grizzly bear in Unit 23 for resident general hunting and for resident subsistence hunting by permit is closed in June and July. This proposal would open resident general and resident subsistence hunting in Unit 23 of brown bear to year-round.

Brown bear populations have increased in Unit 23, and there is currently no conservation concern for hunting in June and July, which is when many area residents are at remote subsistence camps yet do not have opportunities to hunt brown bear then. Open hunting year-round would also encourage hunting and assist with the recovery of the declining caribou and moose populations that often fall prey to bears, and increase safety of residents. The current bag limit for residents is two bears per regulatory year of which can be taken in the general hunt or by permit. This regulation change would also match the federal regulations for Unit 23.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council (NWARAC) (HQ-F23-011)

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