

PROPOSAL 42

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

Consolidate the nonresident brown bear registration permits into a single, unit-wide fall registration permit and a single, unit-wide spring registration permit.

5 AAC 85.020(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Units and Bag Limits

Nonresident Open Season

Unit 23

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Aug. 1-Oct. 31

Apr. 15-May 31

1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 23 currently has fourteen nonresident registration hunts; seven fall hunts and seven spring hunts that correspond to the seven historic guide use areas. The number of permits issued for each of these hunts is not currently limited.

Nonresident hunters often do not know which of the seven hunt areas they will be hunting and are advised by their guides to acquire permits for each area that the guide operates in. This allows the most flexibility for guides and hunters to work around weather and other field conditions but often leaves the hunter with multiple permits to acquire, carry in the field, and report on post-hunt. It is not unusual for a hunter to be unaware of which hunt area they ultimately hunt in or for them to fail to report on registration permits that were acquired but not hunted on; there is a legal penalty for failing to report. The department proposes to simplify the process for hunters, guides, and department staff by consolidating the fourteen registration hunts into two, unit-wide, registration permits; one for the fall season and one for the spring season. Transitioning to a two-permit structure should not have any biological effects or the distribution of hunt pressure relative to the current structure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-060)
