

PROPOSAL 13

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

Lengthen the fall brown bear hunting seasons in Units 9D and 9E for residents and nonresidents, and lengthen the nonresident spring season as follows:

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

Units 9D and 9E

One bear every four regulatory years by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> and in person in King Salmon beginning July 5, RB368, both residents and nonresidents, **October 1 - October 21** [OCT 7- OCT 21].

One bear every four regulatory years by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> and in person in King Salmon beginning April 2, RB370, residents, May 10 - May 31.

Nonresidents, **May 10 - May 31** [MAY 10 - MAY 25].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

I recommend restoring the brown bear seasons to what they were prior to 2018 when they were shortened. At the 2018 Dillingham meeting, the seasons were shortened by six days each, spring and fall. They are presently May 10 - May 25th for nonresidents for the even years, and October 7th to October 21st for residents and nonresidents in the odd years. The winter of 2011-12 was devastating to the brown bears in these Units. During this winter, in my estimation, we lost 50 to 75% of our young bears and sows; the older boars seemed to have made it through the winter in good shape. This was reflected in the skull size of harvested bears. The season was shortened to reduce the harvest of sows until the population had recovered. It has been 12 years, and we are seeing many more sows with cubs and young bears these days. I believe they have recovered enough to restore these seasons back to their prior lengths.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? I spoke with some other guides who guide in these areas and they were in agreement.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

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