

PROPOSAL 16

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

Lengthen the fall brown bear hunting seasons for in Units 9D and 9E for residents and nonresidents as follows:

5 AAC 85.020(18) Unit 9D and 9E Brown/Grizzly Bear.

Brown/Grizzly Bear for both residents and nonresidents in Unit 9D and 9E.

One bear every 4 regulatory years by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> and in person in King Salmon beginning July 5.

Open Season: **October 1** [October 7] – October 21.

If nothing is done, the brown/grizzly bear hunting opportunity in Unit 9D and 9E will continue to be underutilized with only a 14-day season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lengthen the registration RB368 fall hunting season for brown/grizzly bears in Units 9D and 9E to October 1-21. This would then align all of Units 9A, C, D and E RB368 registration hunts. Currently the season is October 7 – 21 in Units 9D and 9E and October 1-21 in Units 9A and C.

I believe the intent of shortening the season last cycle was to lessen the overall harvest of brown bears. Currently, there is no shortage of brown bears in Units 9D and E. The brown bear population appears to be healthy and on the rise with a diverse age class of brown bears. On a side note, having the season start earlier will thus create a safer hunting experience. Throughout the fall the days get shorter, and the weather patterns worsen. Hunters going afield or returning are constantly negotiating a travel window and that window gets smaller every day throughout the October season. Allowing hunters into the field a week earlier will facilitate the daylight and weather window easier.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? No.

PROPOSED BY: Spencer Pape

(EG-F24-057)
