

Note: Game Management Unit 8 is outside the scope of the Central Southwest Region meeting.

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Lengthen the nonresident hunting season for Emperor geese in Units 9 and 10, and increase the number of permits allocated to nonresident hunters as follows:

Oct. 8 - Jan. 22 NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 goose by drawing permit only; up to **150** [25] permits may be issued in combination with Unit 9, that portion within the Izembek State Game Refuge.

Oct. 16 – **Dec. 16** [Oct. 31] NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 goose by drawing permit only; up to **150** [25] permits may be issued in combination with Units 8, the remainder of Unit 9, and 10 Unit 9, remainder.

Sept. 1 - Dec. 16 NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 goose by drawing permit only; up to **150** [25] permits may be issued in combination with Units 8, that portion of Unit 9 within the Izembek State Game Refuge, and 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Emperor goose fall-winter hunting has now been open for seven seasons. Residents may register for one permit to harvest up to a statewide total of 1,000 (liberal) or 500 (restrictive) geese harvested each season. Nonresidents have been allowed to hunt for the past six of those seven years and have been limited to 25 total tags allowed. Resident hunters have harvested fewer than 150 geese each season and participation appears to be declining among resident hunters. Meanwhile, nonresident interest has increased as demonstrated by a 200%+ increase in the numbers of nonresident hunters applying for DO508 permits - from 263 applicants for the 2018 season to 826 applicants for the 2024 season. Harvest data shows that resident hunters are not interested in hunting Emperor Geese - nonresidents are very interested. Nonresident hunts take place in November through January in rural areas and benefit local economies while not taking resource opportunities away from local Alaskans.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and game Advisory Committee? No.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Wasley

(HQ-F24-040)
