

## **PROPOSAL 37**

### **5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping.**

Remove the two per day bag limit for beaver when taken by firearm and allow the use of firearm from October 10 – May 31 in Unit 17 as follows:

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
(1) Beaver		
Unit 17[, FIREARMS OR BOW AND ARROW MAY BE USED TO TAKE BEAVER FROM DEC. 1–APR. 14, AND FIREARMS MAY BE USED TO TAKE UP TO 2 BEAVER PER DAY FROM APR. 15—MAY 31]	Oct 10 – May 31	No limit.
....		

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unit 17 currently has no limit for beaver under trapping regulations and no open season under hunting regulations. The current regulation is prohibitive when there is no limit via trapping. Beaver populations are doing well and are found in the majority of drainages where there is suitable habitat in Unit 17. The harvest trend has been decreasing since its peak in 2005 primarily due to decreased trapper numbers in Bristol Bay, lower demand for fur, decreasing fur prices, and decreased trapper incentive (Figure 37.1).



Figure 37-1. Beaver harvest through trapping and hunting in Unit 17, RY2002–2022.

There are currently no conservation concerns for beaver in Unit 17 and allowing increased methods of take and aligning season dates for take with firearm with the trapping season should reduce regulatory confusion, and aid those who subsist on fall beaver for meat and spring beaver for their fur.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-065)

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