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Proposal 139

Public Proposal

Change the evidence of sex requirements
for species with horns

Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**




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Proposal 139 – Change the evidence of sex requirements for species with horns

Remove requirement for evidence of sex to remain naturally attached for horned animals, and specify that horns are evidence of sex for animals with horns

The proposal states that horns may be transported simultaneously with last load of meat (currently allowed)



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Proposal 139 – Change the evidence of sex requirements for species with horns


CURRENT REGULATIONS (abbreviated)

5 AAC 92.150. Evidence of sex and identity.

(a) Horns of a Dall sheep must be salvaged

(b) If bag is restricted to one sex (except sheep), external sex organs remain attached (except deer)

(c) Both antlers must be salvaged if bag limit includes antler restrictions; antlers or horns may not be altered unless required



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Proposal 139 – Change the evidence of sex requirements for species with horns

If adopted this proposal would:

• Require the salvage of horns for all species

• Evidence of sex would no longer be required for horned-species hunts limited to one sex




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Proposal 139 – Change the evidence of sex requirements for species with horns

- Sex specific bag limit has varied over the years for horned-species
- Distinct sexual dimorphism in sheep horns
- More difficult to determine sex by horns alone for mountain goat, musk ox, bison; all age-classes are legal



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Proposal 139

Public Proposal

Change the evidence of sex requirements for species with horns

Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**



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Proposal 140

Public Proposal

Eliminate the evidence of sex
requirement for big game having bag
limits restricted to one sex

Department Recommendation: **OPPOSED**




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Proposal 140 – Eliminate evidence of sex requirement for big game having bag limits restricted to one sex

This proposal would eliminate the evidence of sex
requirement for big game having bag limits restricted to one
sex.

The proponent also mentions changing the definition of
evidence of sex to include horns or antlers, presumably for all
horned or antlered game, but it is unclear if this is intended to
be included for this proposal



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Proposal 140 – Eliminate evidence of sex requirement for big game having bag limits restricted to one sex

CURRENT REGULATIONS (abbreviated)

5 AAC 92.150. Evidence of sex and identity.

- (a) Horns of a Dall sheep must be salvaged
- (b) If bag is restricted to one sex (except sheep), external sex organs remain attached (except deer)
- (c) Both antlers must be salvaged if bag limit includes antler restrictions; antlers or horns may not be altered unless required




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Proposal 140 – Eliminate evidence of sex requirement for big game having bag limits restricted to one sex

Effects of this proposal if adopted:

- Eliminate the requirement to keep evidence of sex (sex organs) in hunts limited to one sex
- A different regulation for determining sex of harvested game animals (except sheep and some deer) would be needed




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Proposal 140 – Eliminate evidence of sex requirement for big game having bag limits restricted to one sex

- Proposed alternative to use DNA testing
 - Increased time in determining bag limit compliance
 - Sample
 - Handle
 - Catalog
 - Ship
 - Test
 - Receive results




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Proposal 140 – Eliminate evidence of sex requirement for big game having bag limits restricted to one sex

Other considerations:

- Possession and/or storage of meat while waiting for results
- Funding source for testing thousands of samples
- Evidence of sex definition to include horns and antlers would require exception for caribou




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Proposal 140 – Eliminate evidence of sex requirement for big game having bag limits restricted to one sex

- Regulation of female harvest essential for sustained yield management
- Leaving evidence of sex naturally attached minimizes potential for non-compliance
- UC-Davis Veterinary Laboratory
 - Skeletal muscle (1-2 in.²); frozen & shipped on ice
 - \$44/test; 15 days for results
- Division of Wildlife Conservation has no data on spoilage of meat due to retaining evidence of sex




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Proposal 140 – Eliminate evidence of sex requirement for big game having bag limits restricted to one sex

The department is opposed to this proposal because:

- It would hinder the ability of AWT to determine legality in the field
- In-season enforcement would not be possible
- Process for citing non-compliance would slow significantly; handling of samples could be questioned
- Changing definition of evidence of sex to include horns or antlers is problematic (head and/or antler retention not required for all hunts)



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Proposal 140

Public Proposal

Eliminate the evidence of sex requirement for big game having bag limits restricted to one sex

Department Recommendation: **OPPOSED**



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Proposal 141

Transfer of Possession

Allow the transfer of possession of game meat and parts to be captured in digital video format or on paper

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 141

Transfer of Possession

5 AAC 92.135. Transfer of possession. (a) Unless the person who took the game is accompanying the person possessing the game, until all salvage is completed as required under this chapter, a person who gives or receives game or a part of game shall immediately furnish, upon demand by a peace officer a statement signed by both parties describing the following:

- (1) the names and addresses of each person who gave or received the game;
- (2) when and where the game was taken;
- (3) what game or part of game was transferred; and
- (4) the hunting license number of the person who took the game.

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Proposal 141

Transfer of Possession

Allow the transfer of possession of game meat and parts to be captured in digital video format or on paper

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 142

Sale of Trophies

Eliminate the requirement for a permit to sell
legally harvested big game trophies

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 142

Sale of Trophies

5 AAC 92.031. Permit for selling skins, skulls, and trophies.

(a) taxidermist

(b) probate and bankruptcy

(f) divorce

(g) brown bears in 2 brown bear/year areas

(h) A person may sell a lawfully harvested and
prepared big game trophy if that person first obtains a
permit from the department.

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Proposal 142

Sale of Trophies

History of trophy sales in AK

Statehood: Taxidermists

1970s: Estate executives (Probate)

Bankruptcies

2012: Divorce

2022: Other (sales for all reasons)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Taxidermist	2	0	2	1	1	4
Probate	6	11	12	8	10	7
Bankruptcy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Divorce	0	0	1	0	2	2
Other	87	102	29	--	--	--

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Proposal 142

Sale of Trophies

Eliminate the requirement for a permit to sell legally harvested big game trophies

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 143

Sale of Trophies

Necessary updates to 5 AAC 92.200 Purchase and sale of game if Proposal 142 is adopted to allow sale and barter of all big game trophies

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 143

Sale of Trophies

5 AAC 92.200. Purchase and sale of game.

- Prohibits the sale of trophies without a permit.**
- Prohibits the sale of big game animal skulls, and horns or antlers that are still attached to the skull (there is an exception that allows sale of black bear, wolf, and wolverine skulls).**
- Prohibits the barter of big game trophies.**

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Proposal 143

Sale of Trophies

5 AAC 92.200(c) A person may not barter, advertise for barter, or otherwise offer for barter

- (1) a big game trophy, or a black bear trophy of any kind;
- (2) the antler of a caribou taken in Unit 23, unless the antler is a naturally shed antler or has been made into an article of handicraft;
- (3) the gallbladder of a bear.

(e) the barter of subsistence-taken game meat is subject to the following:

- (1) the following individuals and businesses are prohibited from engaging in the barter of game meat taken for subsistence uses:
 - (A) a person or business holding a license under AS 43.70 or AS 43.75, or its employee, to engage in the commercial sale of the food items or nonedible items provided by the barter exchange; and
 - (B) a person or business licensed under AS 43.70 or AS 43.75, or its employee, to engage in providing the services provided by the barter exchange;
- (2) the terms of this subsection do not restrict barter of furs and furbearers, or barter of handicrafts;
- (3) a person may not barter a big game animal horn or antler that is still attached to any part of the skull, or a big game animal skull, except the skull of a black bear, wolf, or wolverine;
- (4) in this subsection, "commercial" means for profit or disposal in commercial channels.

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Proposal 143

Sale of Trophies

Necessary updates to 5 AAC 92.200 Purchase and sale of game if Proposal 142 is adopted to allow sale and barter of all big game trophies

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 144

Sale of Trophies

Shorten the time period taxidermists must wait to sell unclaimed furs, skins and trophies from 6 months to 60 days.

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 142

Sale of Trophies

5 AAC 92.031. Permit for selling skins, skulls, and trophies.

(a) A licensed taxidermist may sell an unclaimed, finished skin or trophy under a permit issued by the department after the finished skin or trophy has been held unclaimed for six months, and after the taxidermist sends notice of intent to sell, by registered mail at least 15 days before the sale, to the last known address of the person who ordered the taxidermy work.

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Proposal 142

Sale of Trophies

History of trophy sales in AK

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Proposal 144

Sale of Trophies

Shorten the time period taxidermists must wait to sell unclaimed furs, skins and trophies from 6 months to 60 days.

Public Proposal

Recommendation: Neutral

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