

PROPOSAL 137

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

Remove the current harvest cap for the RB300 hunt in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

Remove the current quota on Kenai bears unless there is conservation concern.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Currently, there is no conservation concern with Kenai brown bears and the majority of the bears are in hard to reach and in accessible or unhuntable places by federal regulation. Survey data shows the large majority of Kenai bears are in Unit 15B and only accessed by two major lakes, covered by federal management and restrictions to access. Over regulation of this hunt is limiting opportunity when no unit-wide survey having been done in over a decade. Even the previous surveys were done on the protected refuge after two plus months of baiting was done out of the area leading to a lower population survey. Hunters can currently hunt a very low portion of the bear habitat on the Kenai and a fraction of the area can be hunted over bait. The point being now matter how many bears are taken in huntable areas, hunters with currently federal regulations couldn't hunt out the Kenai bear.

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

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