

PROPOSAL 139

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

Shorten the brown bear hunting seasons in Units 7 and 15, and divide the RB300 hunt into spring and fall hunts, with each having separate caps as follows:

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

I suggest to provide for both fall and spring opportunities. We reset the dates to October 1 which was originally used to prevent incidental take during moose season and a spring date of June 15. Then break RB300 into two separate hunts including a RB301 hunt for Unit 7. Then each having their own quota of 10 breeding age sows in a calendar which includes DLP and roadside incidents.

I would support the board using discretion on a change on the quota numbers here based on recent department data, but only if it doesn't decrease below 10 for both units

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

RB300 brown bear hunt. In 2024, the hunt closed just a few days early in the spring and closed entirely for the fall. This was due to the sow limit of ten bears based on data that is over 15 years old.

The problem with this hunt is that one quota is used for two entire game units and the survey data used did not include the majority of the areas currently baited but rather in the refuge areas, this survey also was done after bears were baited out of the area for the three previous months at a time when food sources were low. We are currently treating two entire game units as one population of animals, when the bears of the Hope and Girdwood are not traveling to Homer. The best bear habitat on the Kenai is around Russian River to Tustamena and a large part of this area is inaccessible or very difficult to spot and stalk. Which is why 80 percent of the baits in the State are in these units.

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

I have spoken with many hunters, biologists and subject matter experts on this.

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin

(OI-F25-004)
