

PROPOSAL 14

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Change the bag limit for taking fisher from one to three per season in Southeast Region units as follows:

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

Change the bag limit for fishers in Southeast Alaska (unit(s)) from one/season to three/season.

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

Sign and sightings of fisher, particularly on trap lines, have been increasing and winter conditions are trending more favorable for their preferred habitat.

During a recent (March) Juneau Chapter of the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA) meeting local trappers discussed fisher harvest and while no one was specifically targeting fisher, we have caught fisher in other sets. It was a good step in the right direction to allow one fisher per season while ADF&G was doing more research on fisher, however with the additional information showing that fisher populations have expanded and are continuing to expand it would be valuable to trappers to be able to utilize the resource and also valuable information to ADF&G on fisher harvest if the bag limit was expanded.

In a study conducted in 2018 by Kupferman, Crupi, Waits, and Gilbert, fisher prevalence was shown to correlate positively with vegetation height, and detection decreased with increased snow density. Changing environmental condition and years without much snow have resulted in trappers and hunters seeing more sign of fishers in southeast Alaska. While not every trapper targets them, they are often caught in the same type of sets as used for marten and wolverine. Additional information gleaned from trapper harvest can continue to inform where fisher are shifting to and inform on what they are eating through coordinating with trappers to gather harvest information and any specimens/carcasses for study. It is important to further understand the impact of the fisher on marten populations as those have been and will be a mainstay of Alaskan trapping.

This recommendation is to expand the fisher trapping annual harvest to three fisher.

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

Yes, discussed with the local Alaska Trappers Association.

PROPOSED BY: Rueben Graves

(OI-F25-188)
