

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Close all beaver trapping within the Deep Creek and Anchor River drainage south to but excluding the Fox River drainage in Unit 15C, for five years as follows:

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

The Deep Creek and Anchor River drainage south to but not including the Fox River drainage in Unit 15C should be closed to beaver trapping for five years with a population assessment before reopening. Closing trapping for this length of time with an ADF&G assessment before reopening will provide the time needed to evaluate the re-establishment effort.

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

The following areas are closed to trapping as indicated:

...

(4) Unit 15

...

(E) That portion of Unit 15(C) within the Deep Creek and Anchor River drainage south to the northern boundaries of the Fox River Drainage and all tributaries is open to trapping under Unit 15(C) seasons and bag limits, except that the trapping of beaver is not allowed.

(i) This closure will remain in effect for approximately five years from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031 a review of population levels will be conducted by ADFG before reopening.

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

Beaver are no longer a functional part of the ecosystem in the Anchor River drainage. As a keystone species, the loss of beaver from the system is negatively impacting wildlife such as moose, salmon, songbirds and other species that rely on the habitat that beavers create. Trapping opportunities have been lost and flood control and water retention naturally provided by beaver impoundments is absent, which negatively impacts human infrastructure in the Anchor River Drainage.

The Homer Soil and Water District proposes to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to promote the restoration of beaver populations in this watershed. A trapping moratorium during these restoration efforts are likely to increase the success of the program. Unit 15C's harvest of beaver in 2023 was five animals with a five year average of four being taken,

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

This proposal was created out of concern for the beaver population by the Homer Advisory Committee in close cooperation with the Homer Water and Soil Conservation District and ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-044)
