

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Close all beaver trapping in the Anchor 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 Anchor River drainage in Unit 15C is closed to all beaver trapping for five years with a required review before reopening. Closing trapping for this length of time with a required review before reopening will provide the time needed to begin a re-establishment effort. Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, under the direction and assistance of ADF&G, will conduct animal surveys and reviews as needed.

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 Anchor River drainage and its 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 unless renewed.

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

Beavers 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 Conservation District proposes to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to promote the restoration of beaver populations in this watershed. Without a trapping moratorium restoration efforts are unlikely to be successful.

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

This proposal was developed with consultation and support from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Homer Advisory Committee, the Alaska Trapper's Association and members of the community of Homer.

PROPOSED BY: Matthew James, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District (OI-F25-032)
