

PROPOSAL 243

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Require all snares set in the Kodiak Road system within Unit 8, to include breakaway mechanisms as follows:

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

On the Kodiak road system, all snares must include breakaway mechanisms as follows:

All snares must be equipped with a breakaway mechanism (of a designated minimum poundage) on the loop-end of the snare and the snare cable and anchor must be stronger than the breakaway mechanism.

This change was proposed during each of the last two cycles, first by the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee in 2019 (Southcentral Region meeting: March 14-19, 2019; Proposal 109) and then again by the Humane Society of Kodiak in 2023 (Southcentral Region Meeting; March 17-22, 2023; Proposal 81). Despite broad community support for both proposals they were ultimately not adopted by the Board. At those meetings, comment from the Board of Game (BOG) and the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA) indicated that community outreach, led by ATA, was the preferred approach instead of a regulatory change. In the intervening six years, ATA has made no effort to conduct community outreach in Kodiak; meanwhile, the number of incidents and volume of community discussion related to this issue has only increased.

The inclusion of appropriately sized breakaway mechanisms would allow trappers to continue targeting furbearers with snares along the Kodiak road system. While at the same time, this would reduce catch of non-target animals, promote responsible trapping practices, and reduce user group conflict. Inclusion of breakaway mechanisms is not expected to significantly increase direct costs for an individual to participate in trapping activities.

Note: The Humane Society of Kodiak is not a member of, nor formally affiliated with, the Humane Society of the United States

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

There has been an increase in catch of non-target animals in snares set along the Kodiak road system, including bears, deer, and domestic animals. The main concern is with locking style snares that do not incorporate breakaway mechanisms. Snares without breakaway mechanisms cause severe injury or death to non-target animals, resulting in increased mortality of valuable game resources (i.e., bears and deer) and conflicts between trappers and other user groups, particularly when domestic animals (i.e., dogs and livestock) are involved.

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

While Alaska Department of Fish and Game Advisory Committee has submitted this same proposal previously with broad support, the current proposal is submitted without coordination with the local advisory committee.

PROPOSED BY: The Humane Society of Kodiak (OI-F25-165)
