

PROPOSAL 247

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Allow the use of artificial light for taking fox under a trapping license as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions,

The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(7) with the aid of a pit, fire, artificial light, laser sight, electronically enhanced night vision scope, radio communication, cellular or satellite telephone, artificial salt lick, explosive, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, chemical (excluding scent lures), or a conventional steel trap with an inside jaw spread over nine inches, except that

(C) for the purpose of taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season November 1 - March 31 in Units 7 and 9 - 26, **and during an open season January 1 - March 31 in Unit 8 for land-based trapping only**, artificial light may be used;

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

Under current regulation, use of artificial light is prohibited for trapping in Unit 8.

Fox are one of the main furbearers in Unit 8. With no natural predators such as coyote or wolf and the ready availability of marine food sources year-round, their population is relatively unchecked. Winter trapping months in Unit 8 have limited daylight and notoriously poor weather, limiting trapping opportunity. By allowing the use of artificial light the state could provide for additional opportunity of an underutilized resource. Traditionally, fox farming and trapping was a thriving industry in Unit 8.

Because of the potential for obfuscation of illegal use of artificial light from boats during open deer hunting season, this provision could be limited to land-based use by those with a trapping license, and only after the deer hunting season has been closed.

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

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