

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 92.132. Bag limit for brown bear.

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Change the bag limit for hunting brown bear in Unit 3 to one bear every regulatory year as follows:

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

5 AAC 85.020 Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear

(2) Unit 3 - One bear every [4] regulatory year[S] by registration permit only

5 AAC 92.132 - Bag limits for brown bears - A person may not take more than one brown bear every four regulatory years, except that.

(1) the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 (C), Berners Bay drainages, Unit 3, Units 6 (except Unit 6(D)), 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(B), (C), that portion within the Chugach State Park Management Area, Units 15, 16(A), 18, 19(B), 19(C), 20 (except Unit 20(E)), 22(C), 24(A), 24(C), 24(D), 25(A), 25(B), 25(C), 26(B), 26(C) is one bear per regulatory year; a bear taken in these units does not count against the one bear every four regulatory years' bag limit established for brown bears in other units; in Units 16(B), 19(A), 19(D), 20(E), 21, 22(A), 22(B), 22(D), 22(E), 23, 24(B), 24(D) a person may take two brown bears per regulatory year; a bear taken in these units does not count against the one bear every four regulatory years' bag limit established for brown bears in other units;

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

This proposal would remove the waiting period following a successful brown bear harvest in Unit 3. The islands that make up Unit 3 are historically not known for permanent brown bear populations. Areas close to the Stikine River flats and bordered closely by mainland portions of Unit 1B do see some regular brown bear occurrences, however the vast majority of the region remains predominantly inhabited by black bears with brown bear sightings few and far between. The majority of sightings are by hunters targeting other species and folks participating in various recreational activities. Many of the latter are often unprepared for a brown bear encounter because they are historically so uncommon. Unit 3 does not currently allow any nonresident opportunity in either the spring or fall hunts. Removing the waiting period would allow hunters that choose to take an opportunity bear or conflict bear to not be punished by disqualification in the other true brown bear regions with waiting periods.

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

Developed myself during discussions with other Unit 3 big game hunters that would like the opportunity to take a conflict/opportunity bear in areas where public sentiment for brown bear presence is low, without incurring the four year waiting period for t

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