

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Shorten the season for black bear hunting in Unit 6D as follows:

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

5 AAC 85.015 Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Shorten the season for black bear hunting in Unit 6D from:

October 1 [September 10] - June 10

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

Increased harvest and hunting pressure on black bear in Unit 6D, Prince William Sound, particularly sows.

In 2000, when the tunnel opened to vehicle traffic, hunting in Prince William Sound changed forever. Harvest more than doubled, nearly tripled. Of particular concern was the increase in sow harvest which had a significantly higher percentage of sows in the fall. Over time, fall harvest numbers declined and so did the sow harvest. Fall harvest is increasing again and once again fall harvest has a significantly higher sow harvest percentage than in the spring.

Without more protection on sows it is highly unlikely harvests in the range of 500 are sustainable and increases the chances of a crash.

Closing the season when sows are most vulnerable offers the least amount of additional restriction with the highest reduction of sow harvest.

Other regulation options considered were moving season opening from September 10 to September 25, as most bears are off streams by then.

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

Collected statistical data and opinions from Cordova Department of Fish and Game office.

Will be presenting this proposal to the Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee fall of 2025 for their consideration.

PROPOSED BY: David Pinguoch

(OI-F25-060)
