

Proposal 168

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Amend the spring bear baiting season in Units 21B, 21C, 21D, 24B, 24C, 24D, and 25D to open April 1 and close June 30, no change to the fall season (August 1–October 31) as follows:

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

Amend the spring bear baiting season in Units 21B, 21C, 21D, 24B, 24C, 24D, and 25D to open April 1 and close June 30. No change to the fall season (August 1–October 31).

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

The current April 15 opener occurs during spring break-up, when access to remote bait sites is often unsafe or not possible. These units are largely roadless and depend on snowmachine or ski-equipped aircraft access. By mid-April, warming temperatures frequently create overflow, deteriorating ice, and unpredictable travel conditions that limit safe access.

Early April generally provides more stable late-winter conditions, allowing safer and more efficient transport of bait and equipment before break-up. Bears typically emerge from dens in early to mid-May, so this change would not increase harvest opportunity, only allow earlier bait site establishment and improve reliability of operations.

This proposal improves safety, access, and consistency for hunters and guides while maintaining current harvest timing. No negative impacts to bear populations are anticipated.

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

Informal discussions with other area users.

PROPOSED BY: Charles Jagow

(OI-F26-085)
