

Proposal 45

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

Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures within Unit 22 as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures within Unit 22.

(a) A person may not establish a bear bait station to hunt bear with the use of bait or scent lures without first obtaining a permit from the department under this section.

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions:

(1) a person may only establish a black bear bait station, or a black and brown bear bait station in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), that portion of the remainder of 14(C), excluding Glacier Creek drainage outside of Chugach State Park, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24(B), 24(C), 24(D), 25(C), and 25(D) if that person obtains a permit under this section;

(2) a person must complete a bear hunter clinic given by the department before that person may obtain a permit from the department under this section;

(3) a person must be at least 18 years of age to be issued a permit;

(4) a person may not have more than two bait stations established with bait present at any one time, except that in Units 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, and 25, a registered guide-outfitter may operate up to 10 bait station sites at a time in each guide use area that the registered guide-outfitter may conduct big game hunting services in under AS 08.45.750, and may either personally or through licensed class-A assistant or assistant guides establish and maintain those sites simultaneously, if a signed big game commercial services contract under 12 AAC 75.260 is used for each hunter that uses any of the sites;

(5) a person may not use bait or scent lures within

(A) one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, or the Alaska Railroad;

(B) one mile of a

(i) house or other permanent dwelling, except that bait may be used within one mile of a cabin if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system, as identified by the department in the permit, from the bear baiting station;

(ii) business; or

(iii) school; or

(C) one mile of a developed campground or developed recreational facility;

(D) five miles of a community in Unit 22

(6) a person may not give or receive remuneration for the use of a bait station, including barter or exchange of goods; however, this paragraph does not apply to remuneration from a client to a registered guide-outfitter, master guide-outfitter, or employee of the contracting guide for providing big game hunting services;

(7) a person using bait or scent lures shall clearly identify the site with a sign reading "bear bait station" that also displays the person's hunting license number, and the permit number;

(8) only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or big game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait;

(9) repealed 4/8/2012;

(10) a permittee must remove bait, litter, and equipment from the bait station site when hunting is completed;

(11) repealed 4/8/2012;

(12) repealed 7/1/2016;

(13) in Units 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, **22**, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C), a hunter who has been airborne may take or assist in taking a black bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures if the hunter possesses a permit issued by the department if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking; in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16, 18, 19, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), that portion of 20(D) north of the Tanana River, 20(E), 20(F), 21, **22**, 23, 24(B), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), a hunter who has been airborne may take or assist in taking a brown bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures if the hunter possesses a permit issued by the department if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking;

(14) before a person establishes a bear baiting station and places bait at the baiting station that person shall, at the time of registration, provide to the department the specific location of the baiting station on a form provided by the department;

(15) the department may accept registration up to 15 days prior to opening the baiting season in Unit 18.

(c) Except as otherwise limited in this section, a person may bait and hunt another persons's bait station site if the person has written permission from the person who registered the site.

(d) In this section, "operate" means to establish, register, bait, maintain, or hunt a bait station site.

(e) In this section, "equipment" means barrels, tree stands, game camera, and other items associated with a bear bait station. Tree stands may be left in the field year-round with permission of the landowner or such other person authorized to give permission.

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

The Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (SPRAC) requests the Board of Game allow bear baiting in Unit 22, as a means to harvest brown and black bears. The SPRAC did not specify exact dates that bear baiting would be allowed.

The SPRAC believes that the alarming decline of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) justifies the need to increase the hunting success of bears within the region and requests the inclusion of Unit 22 to the list of exceptions in 5 AAC 92.044, with the added provision that bear baiting cannot occur within 5 miles of a community for safety reasons. The SPRAC is extremely concerned about the continued viability of the WACH and believes that hunters must make every effort to reduce predation on the herd by encouraging them to harvest their bag limit. There are no conservation concerns for bears in Unit 22 and this would increase opportunity.

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

The Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (SPRAC) represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in Game Management Unit 22. The Council provides a public forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding matters related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region, and speaks on behalf of 19 communities within the region.

The proposal was developed at the March 2026 Council meeting at the request of Council members who reside in the region.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (OI-F26-052)
