

Proposal 46

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

Reduce the minimum distance from 1 mile to 3/4 mile from a house or permanent dwelling for setting up a bear bait station as follows:

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

Revise the distance under "You may not set up a boat station within 1-mile of a :etc. to 3/4 mile.

This proposal reduces the minimum distance for 1 mile to 3/4 mile for setting up a bear bait station from a house of permanent dwelling, providing more opportunities for hunters without substantially increasing danger from unexpected sudden human/bear conflicts.

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

I would like to see in increase of opportunity, as well as a potential increased harvest in bears, for bear baiting by reducing the minimum distance for 1 mile to 3/4 mile (3960 feet) from a house of dwelling. Numerous proponents of this proposal have indicated that it is exceedingly difficult to find a legal sight within the existing 1 mile minimum, adding that numerous potential sites at just at or less than 1/10th of a mile under the 1-mile requirement.

This proposal has the potential to increase the harvest of bears that may have a human conflict as black bears are known to travel 2.5 miles and brown bears may travel 10 miles or more to locate food.

A precedent of less than one mile is relatively common. Presently, the following minimum distances are:

Alaska-1 mile from a dwelling or 5280 feet

Maine-0.28 miles from a dwelling or 1500 feet

New Hampshire-300 feet from a dwelling

Idaho-1/2 mile from a dwelling or 2640 feet

WI, MN, WY, MI allow baiting w no mile measurement.

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

The proposer (self) submits this proposal based upon decades of bear baiting experience; difficulty locating a legal site; much scouting and research; and input from multiple users who believe this adjusted distance would increase opportunity while maintaining public safety of non-consumptive users.

The proposer believes this proposal has statewide implementation implications. The proposer would respectfully ask the BOG to take up this proposal for region 3 & 4. Should the BOG take no action or fail in the proposal, the proposer would have the opportunity to revise the proposal for the statewide meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Brush

(OI-F26-145)
