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Advisory Announcement

For immediate release

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Juneau-area Sitka black-tailed deer season opens Aug. 1

(JUNEAU) — With Sitka black-tailed deer season opening on Aug. 1, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reminds hunters of changes to Unit 1C and 4 hunting regulations, which went into effect in 2019, and will again be valid for the 2021 deer season. Specifically, these changes target Douglas Island and Unit 4 except for the portion of the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area, east of Port Frederick.

On Douglas Island (Unit 1C), the bag limit for does during the any deer portion of the season (Sept. 15 to Dec. 31) has been reduced to one. Hunters and ADF&G biologists expressed concerns over hunter success on the island, and the regulations were changed to conserve female deer to assist with an increase in population numbers.

“Limiting the doe harvest on Douglas Island is an attempt to increase fawn production and in turn, grow the deer herd on Douglas,” ADF&G Area Biologist Roy Churchwell, said. “You can still harvest four deer on Douglas, but only one of them can be a doe.”

The regulations for the rest of Unit 1C remain unchanged from last year.

On nearby Admiralty Island (Unit 4), ADF&G is seeing the opposite situation, a robust population that can sustainably support additional harvest. In response, the bag limit was increased from four to six deer.

“Unit 4, and particularly Admiralty Island, consistently has the highest deer densities and highest hunter success as anywhere in Alaska. Wildlife managers of Unit 4 wanted to give hunters the ability to take advantage of that,” Churchwell said.

Bag limits for Northeast Chichagof Island remain unchanged at three deer.

“Regardless of where you hunt, it’s important to always check the regulations for the area you are going,” Churchwell said.

For more information about deer hunting in the Juneau area, contact the Douglas ADF&G office at 907-465-4265. Hunters interested in Unit 4 can also contact the Sitka Area Office at 907-747-5449.

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