

PROPOSAL 208

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

Change the brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 9C to align with Unit 9A as follows.

If the Board of Game adopted this solution, the new regulation would be as follows:

1) SEASON DATES EVEN NUMBERED YEARS:

Units 9A, 9B and 9C: May 10-May 31; Units 9D, and 9E: May 10-May 25

2) SEASON DATES ODD NUMBERED YEARS:

Unit 9A and 9C: October 1 – October 21; Units 9D and 9E: October 7 – October 21

Note: The map referenced in this proposal is available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook>.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue I would like to see the Board of Game address is the change of season dates in Unit 9C to align more with the “upper Alaskan Peninsula” season dates of Unit 9A.

Unit 9C, when looked at on a map (attached), is primarily the Katmai Preserve on the northern side, then wraps around to the west (BLM lands and private lands) and down towards the south, connecting to a small section of state land on the lower southwest corner. This is highlighted yellow on the attached Game Management Unit 9 map for reference.

When looking at Unit 9C, one can see that the majority of land is the Katmai National Park, where hunting is prohibited. This national park acts as a buffer from the lower Alaskan Peninsula of Units 9E and 9D. When the dates changed, Unit 9C was left out of being included with keeping its original dates of the upper peninsula like 9A and 9B and was instead “looped in” with 9E and 9D.

Unit 9C being on the upper Alaskan Peninsula has weather trends that are totally different from Units 9E and 9D. Unit 9C is adjoining 9B to the north and the majority of the southern line is the Katmai National Park adjoining Unit 9E to the south. In the fall and the spring, Units 9C’s weather patterns are more identical to Units 9A and 9B, rather than 9E and 9D. In the winter Unit 9C’s colder winter weather comes much earlier. In the spring the thaw tends to be much later. So with the change of the seasons to match the lower Alaskan Peninsula Units 9E and 9D, this puts 9C at a disadvantage of bear activity and movement and the weather patterns tend to limit successful hunting opportunity. The area in Unit 9C that is open to hunting is very small and limited since the majority of 9C is Katmai National Park, closed to hunting. By changing the seasons back to the original dates will allow both resident and nonresident opportunities at better weather patterns more in line with Units 9A and 9B with better success as well.

PROPOSED BY: Cabot Pitts (EG-F21-020)
