

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REVIEWER LETTER

Dear Reviewer,

August 2014

The Alaska Board of Game will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its meetings scheduled for **January through March 2015**. The proposals generally concern changes to the hunting and trapping regulations for the Southeast, Central/Southwest, and Southcentral Regions. The board will also consider a number of sheep hunting proposals for the Interior Region which were deferred from the previous cycle. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff submitted these proposals. The proposals are published essentially as they were received.

The proposals are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXX] are deletions from the regulation text.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this book. Some regulations may have statewide application and affect other regions of the state so please read all the proposals presented in this book. Proposals are grouped by the meeting to which they pertain (see *Proposal Index* for each meeting). Within each meeting the proposals are then organized by area. The proposals are listed in tentative order for which they are intended to be considered during the meetings. The final order of proposals to be deliberated by the board, also known as the “roadmap,” will be made available approximately two weeks prior to each meeting. However, the roadmap may be changed up to and during the meeting.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, **the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.**

After reviewing the proposals, please send written comments to:

ATTN: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094
Online: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

Public comment, in combination with Advisory Committee comments ADF&G staff presentations, provide the Board of Game with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Written comments become public documents. The following are recommendations for providing written comments:

Timely Submission: Submit written comments by fax or mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting for which the topic will be considered (see tentative meeting schedule on page vi). Written comments received after the two-week period will be accepted but will not be included in board member workbooks until the beginning of each meeting. If you provide written comments during a board

meeting, submit 20 copies to Board Support Section staff, who will distribute your written comments to board members. If including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.

Length: Prior to the two-week deadline, the board will accept written comment of up to 100 single sided pages in length from any one individual or group related to proposals at any one meeting. After the two week deadline and during the meetings, written comment will be limited to 10 single sided pages in length.

List the Proposal Number: Written comments should indicate the proposal number(s) to which the comments apply. Written comments should specifically state “support” or “opposition” to the proposal(s). If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate “support as amended” and provide your preferred amendment in writing. This will help ensure written comments are correctly noted for the board members. You do not need to list the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) number.

Do Not Use Separate Pages When Commenting on Separate Proposals: If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

Provide an Explanation: Please briefly explain why you are in support of or opposition to the proposal. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved in each proposal, not a mere calculation of comments for or against a proposal. Advisory committees and other groups also need to explain the rationale behind recommendations. Minority viewpoints from an advisory committee should be noted in advisory committee minutes along with the majority recommendation. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pros and cons of each issue. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient.

Write Clearly: Comments will be scanned and photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins on all sides to allow room for insertion into the board workbooks. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly.

Advisory Committees: In addition to the above, please make sure the Advisory Committee meeting minutes reflect why the committee voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient. Detail the number of members in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and indicate represented interests such as subsistence, guides, trappers, hunters, wildlife viewers, etc.

Tentative agendas for each meeting are included in each regional section. Meeting information, documents, and a link to the audio is available through the Boards of Game website at: <http://boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov>. Board actions will also be posted on the website shortly after the meeting.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 at least two weeks prior to the schedule meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game
(907) 465-4110

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
2014/2015 PROPOSAL BOOK**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>INTRODUCTION SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
Reviewer Letter.....	i-ii
Table of Contents.....	iii-iv
Guidelines for Public Testimony	v
Tentative Meeting Schedule	vi
Board of Game Long-Term Meeting Cycle.....	vii-viii
Board of Game Membership Roster	ix
Boards Support Section Staff.....	x
Additional Information on Sheep Hunting Proposals.....	xi-xii

<u>PROPOSAL SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
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SOUTHEAST REGION (REGION I)

Proposal Index	1
Meeting Agenda.....	4
Petersburg & Wrangell Area – Units 1B & 3	5
Sitka Area – Unit 4	8
Ketchikan Area – Unit 2	11
Juneau, Haines/Skagway & Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D & 5	15
Regional and Multiple Units.....	25

CENTRAL/SOUTHWEST REGION (REGION IV)

Proposal Index	37
Meeting Agenda.....	43
Arctic/Western Region Reauthorization Proposals	44
King Salmon Area – Units 9 and 10	51
Dillingham Area– Unit 17	52
Glennallen Area – Units 11 and 13.....	61

Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B, and 16	104
Sheep Hunting Proposals for Central/Southwest and Interior Regions	115
Regional and Multiple Units.....	134
Interior Region – Reauthorization Proposals.....	143

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION (REGION II)

Proposal Index	157
Meeting Agenda.....	161
Cordova Area– Unit 6.....	162
Kodiak Area – Unit 8.....	164
Anchorage Area – Unit 14C	168
Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15.....	175
Regional and Multiple Units.....	196

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
GUIDELINES FOR
PUBLIC TESTIMONY &
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

Persons planning to testify before Board of Game hearings must fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board's staff. Persons providing written material for the board members must provide at least **20 copies** to the staff; and **submit with your blue testimony card**. Do not wait until it is your turn to testify to submit written material, as it may not be distributed to the board in time for your testimony. **Provide a name and date on the first page of written material and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials.**

When the chairman calls your name, please go to the microphone; state your name and whom you represent. At the front table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking. A yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining. A red light will indicate that your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments.

If you wish to give testimony for more than one group (i.e., yourself plus an organization, or advisory committee), you only need to turn in one sign-up card, listing each group you will be representing. When you begin your testimony, state for the record the group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the first group you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for the second group, give comments for that group.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions. **A person using derogatory or threatening language to the board will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

Generally, the board allows five minutes for oral testimony, whether you testify for yourself or on behalf of an organization. The board chairman will announce the length of time for testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

Advisory Committee representatives are usually allowed 15 minutes to testify, and should restrict testimony to relating what occurred at the advisory committee meeting(s). Testimony should be a brief summary of the minutes of the meeting, and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An Advisory Committee representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony.

PLEASE NOTE: The time limit on testimony does not include questions the board members may have for you.

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
TENTATIVE MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS
2014/2015 MEETING CYCLE**

Southeast, Central/Southwest, and Southcentral Regions

Meeting Dates	Topic	Location	Comment Deadline
January 8, 2015 [1 day]	Work Session	Juneau Westmark Baranof Hotel	Dec. 26, 2014
January 9-13, 2015 [5 days]	Southeast Region	Juneau Westmark Baranof Hotel	Dec. 26, 2014 [ACR Deadline: Nov. 10, 2014]
February 13–20, 2015 [8 days]	Central\Southwest Region	Wasilla Best Western Lake Lucille Inn	Jan. 30, 2015 [ACR Deadline: Dec. 15, 2014]
March 13 – 17, 2015 [5 days]	Southcentral Region	Anchorage UAA Student Union	Feb. 27, 2015 [ACR Deadline: Jan. 12, 2015]

Total Meeting Days: 19

Agenda Change Request Deadline: 60 days prior to each meeting.

The proposal deadline for the 2015/2016 meeting cycle will be May 1, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526
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www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
MEETING CYCLE**

The board regulations meeting cycle generally occurs from January through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. Each region will be discussed on a two-year cycle. When the regional area is before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species (Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Wolf Control Implementation Plans
- Bag Limit for Brown Bears
- Areas Closed To Hunting
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas; Controlled Use Areas, and Areas Closed To Trapping

Regulations specific to an area (e.g., Permits for Access to Round Island) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that Region. Proposals for changes to regulations pertaining to reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, will be taken up annually.

The Board of Game does not consider proposals to statewide regulations in every meeting cycle. Instead, the Board of Game reviews statewide regulations on a four-year cycle, distributed between meetings, every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated “Cycle A” and “Cycle B” meeting schedule is set forth on the next page of this publication.

The proposal deadline is May 1 every year. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the proposal deadline is the Friday preceding that weekend.

<u>REGION:</u>	<u>MEETING CYCLE:</u>		
Southeast Region (Region I) Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2014/2015	2016/2017	2018/2019
Southcentral Region (Region II) Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15	2014/2015	2016/2017	2018/2019
Central/Southwest Region (Region IV) Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, 17	2014/2015	2016/2017	2018/2019
Arctic/Western Region (Region V) Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A	2015/2016	2017/2018	2019/2020
Interior Region (Region III) Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C	2015/2016	2017/2018	2019/2020

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
STATEWIDE REGULATIONS SCHEDULE**

CYCLE “A” 2018, 2022, 2026

5 AAC Chapter 92 Statewide Provisions:

- .001 Application of this Chapter
- .002 Liability for Violations
- .003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- .004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and Transporting Game
- .005 Policy for Changing Board Agenda
- .010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
- .011 Taking of Game by Proxy
- .012 Licenses and Tags
- .013 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide Services
- .018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
- .019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
- .020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
- .025 Permit for Exporting a Raw Skin
- .028 Aviculture Permits
- .029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
- .030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid Prohibited
- .031 Permit for Selling Skins, Skulls, and Trophies
- .033 Permit for Science, Education, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- .034 Permit to Take and Use Game for Cultural Purposes
- .039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- .042 Permit to Take Foxes for Protection and Enhancement of Migratory Birds
- .047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
- .104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions
- .106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
- .110 Control of Predation by Wolves
- .115 Control of Predation by Bears
- .116 Special Provisions in Predation Control Areas
- .141 Transport, Harboring, or Release of Live Muridae Rodents Prohibited
- .165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- .170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- .171 Sealing of Dall sheep horns
- .210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
- .220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
- .230 Feeding of Game
- .250 Transfer of Musk oxen for Science and Education Purposes
- .450 Description of Game Management Units
- .990 Definitions

CYCLE “B” 2016, 2020, 2024

5 AAC Chapter 92 Statewide Provisions:

- .009 Obstruction or Hindrance of Lawful Hunting or Trapping
- .035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- .036 Permit for taking a Child Hunting
- .037 Permit for Falconry
- .040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
- .041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- .043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- .044 Permit for Hunting Black Bear with the Use of Bait or Scent Lures
- .049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- .050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
- .052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .057 Special Provisions for Dall Sheep and Mountain Goat Drawing Permit Hunts
- .062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- .068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- .069 Special Provisions for Moose Drawing Permit Hunts
- .070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- .075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- .080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- .085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
- .090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- .095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- .100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
- .130 Restriction to Bag Limit
- .135 Transfer of Possession
- .140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- .150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- .160 Marked or Tagged Game
- .260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
- .400 Emergency Taking of Game
- .410 Taking of Game in Defense of Life or Property
- .420 Taking Nuisance Wildlife
- 98.005 Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose Seasons.

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
MEMBER LIST**

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Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached through:

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Boards Support Section

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BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION STAFF LIST

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Additional Information on Sheep Hunting Proposals

Attention Sheep Hunters:

During the last few board meetings, the Board of Game received several proposals requesting changes to sheep seasons statewide. Hunters are expressing dissatisfaction with Dall sheep harvest opportunities. Many of the concerns expressed have noted increasing conflict among Alaska resident sheep hunters, hunting guides, transporters, and nonresident sheep hunters. The board deferred Interior Region proposals until the March 2015 board meeting in Anchorage. However, given the need for lengthy discussions to address the various complexities, the Board of Game has chosen to address these proposals at the February 2015 board meeting in Wasilla. At that time, the board will consider changes to all aspects of sheep hunting seasons and bag limits for the Central/Southwest and Interior Regions. The Southcentral Region sheep proposals will remain scheduled for the March 2015 board meeting in Anchorage.

The Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has contracted with the University of Alaska to survey the public that may be impacted by potential changes, including sheep hunters, guides, transporters and air taxi operators. The survey will attempt to learn more about sheep hunter characteristics, behaviors and preferences, to quantify the extent of hunter satisfaction or dissatisfaction with current sheep hunting opportunities, and to quantify the extent of hunter approval or disapproval of potential changes to sheep hunting regulations and management.

The survey was distributed during the summer of 2014, and results will be available in late October or early November. The results will be available on the Board of Game website at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov. In addition, the results of the hunter survey and summaries of trends in sheep populations, harvest, and allocation will be presented to the public by ADF&G at venues in Fairbanks and Anchorage. The Fairbanks meeting will be held at the Murie Auditorium on the UAF campus on November 19, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The Anchorage meeting will be held at the Loussac Library on November 21, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. These meetings are purely informational and are in no way Board of Game meetings or board sub-committee meetings.

At the February and March 2015 meetings, the board will consider potential changes including, but not limited to:

- Earlier seasons for residents
- Change all general season hunts to registration or draw permits
- Shorter seasons for nonresidents
- Drawing permits required for nonresidents
- Reduce permits for nonresidents
- Limit nonresidents hunting with a next-of-kin relative
- Resident only hunts
- Limit hunters to hunting only one area
- Smaller hunt areas with limited participation
- Require training or orientation for all hunters

- Changes to sealing requirement
- Changes to full-curl bag limit
- Reduce bag limit, (for example one sheep every three years, etc.)
- Changes to same-day-airborne restriction
- Restrict transportation used in some areas
- Youth, restricted weapons, walk-in only hunts

The public is encouraged to review the results of the survey and provide comments to the board by January 30, 2015 for the Central/Southwest meeting and February 27, 2015 for the Southcentral meeting.

