

Petersburg & Wrangell Area – Units 1B & 3

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a fall brown bear season for residents in Unit 3 as follows:

For residents only: One bear (spring or fall) every four regulatory years by permit available in Douglas, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, and Wrangell, or online or by mail from Petersburg beginning August 17. (September 15 – December 31 season dates.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Add a fall brown/grizzly bear hunting season for Unit 3. Hunters will not have an opportunity to hunt brown/grizzly bear in the fall when other hunts (i.e.: deer, bear, moose) are ongoing. Hunters who would prefer hunting in the fall would benefit, possibly in conjunction with a deer or moose hunt. A fall hunt may not improve quality of the resource unless it reduces rubbing, common with spring hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-194)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a fall brown bear season for residents in Unit 3, Mitkof Island as follows:

September 15 - December 31, Mitkof Island only:

For residents only one brown bear spring **or fall**, every four regulatory years, by permit available in Douglas, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka and Wrangell, or online or by mail from Petersburg beginning **August 14**.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide an opportunity for hunters to take a brown bear in the fall when other hunts (i.e. deer or moose) are ongoing. A fall hunt may provide a superior hide as rubbing can be a problem in the spring.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-248)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a fall brown bear season for residents in Unit 3 as follows:

Add a fall hunt that reflects the dates of the nearby game management units (September 15-December 31). This would provide more opportunity at a time of year when bear habitat is more accessible.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the brown bear season in Unit 3 runs from March 15 to May 31. This time frame provides a very small window of opportunity because access is limited and hunters wishing to pursue bear off of the road systems aren't able to do so due to snow accumulation. Since the season began in 2006, only four

brown bear have been harvested in all of Unit 3. The bears are a resource and also pose an increasing threat to people recreating on the islands.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-257)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.510(5)(B). Areas closed to hunting, and 92.530(24)(A).

Management Areas. Clarify the boundaries of the Petersburg Closed Area and the Petersburg Management Area due to changing city boundaries as follows:

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

(5) Unit 3:

...

(B) in the Petersburg vicinity, a strip one - fourth mile wide on each side of the Mitkof Highway from **mile marker X.X of Mitkof Highway** [THE PETERSBURG CITY LIMITS] to the Crystal Lake campground is closed to the taking of big game, except wolves;

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

(24) the Petersburg Management Area:

(A) the area consists of that portion of Unit 3 on Mitkof Island north and west of a line from Frederick Point to the highest point in Section 8, T59S, R90E, to the highest point in Section 7, T59S, R80E, to the highest point in Section 13, T59S, R79E, to the highest point in Section 23, T59S, R79E, then due south to **56° 42' 30" N** [THE PETERSBURG CITY BOUNDARY]; and at least one - quarter mile from any airport property, dwellings, businesses, highways, roads or streets within the corporate city limits;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Borough of Petersburg's recent transition from city limits to expanded borough boundaries has resulted in the need to revise the boundary descriptions for the Petersburg Road System Closed Area and the Petersburg Management Area. The actual physical location of the closed area will not change with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-324)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 92.510(5)(A). Areas closed to hunting. Clarify the boundaries of the Wrangell Road System Closed Area as follows:

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

(5) Unit 3:

(A) a strip one - fourth mile wide on each side of the Stikine (Zimovia) Highway from **mile-marker xx.x of the Stikine (Zimovia) Highway** [THE WRANGELL CITY LIMITS] to the Tongass National Forest Boundary is closed to the taking of big game;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The City and Borough of Wrangell’s recent transition from city limits to expanded borough boundaries has resulted in the need to revise the boundary description for the Wrangell Road System Closed Area. The actual physical location of the closed area will not change with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-325)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 92.150(c). Evidence of sex and identity. Redefine "broken antler" for Units 1 and 3 as follows:

An antler that was broken while growing and is visibly grown around or over is not considered illegal by the broken antler regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The broken antler regulation was put in to stop hunters from making illegal moose antlers legal by breaking antlers. This regulation went too far and protection is taking moose that have a barely noticeable healed or grown-over break.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-256)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions. Define “points” for forked moose antlers for the RM038 registration hunt in Unit 1C as follows:

Small points originating from the antler base shorter than the ear will not be counted in making a forked antler moose illegal for the registration hunt, RM038.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Small points that grow from the antler base on moose are almost impossible to see and should not make an antler illegal.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-255)
