

PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a resident-only early season for the current registration brown bear hunts in Unit 9, or open resident-only registration or drawing permit hunts as follows:

Solution 1) Create a new registration or draw hunt for resident hunters *only*, mirroring the current RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts, to allow a spring season on odd numbered years and a fall season on even numbered years.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula

Brown/grizzly bear

Units 9A, 9C, 9D, 9E

RBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21

RBXXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

Unit 9B

RBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21

RBXXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

Solution 2) Provide a five-day early start to residents for the RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula

Brown/grizzly bear

Units 9A, 9C, 9D, 9E

RBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–5

RBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 10–15

Unit 9B

RBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–5

RBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 10–15

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

Resident hunting and harvest opportunity for brown bear in Unit 9.

We are continually receiving reports from resident brown bear hunters in Unit 9 that guides have many areas locked-up to access by residents, and guides are claiming areas as their own when resident hunters do manage to fly or boat into areas. There are many conflicts between guides on state lands and conflicts between guides and residents on both federal and state lands.

Both the spring (even numbered years only) and fall (odd numbered years only) registration permit hunts (RB368, 369, 370) are unlimited. After the Board of Game (board) went to a registration hunt in 2012, the harvests by nonresidents has been over 80 percent (see table below). These high nonresident (mostly guided) harvests reflect some of what is going on in Unit 9 with resident access problems and conflicts between guides and residents.

Department of Fish and Game Data

Unit 9 Brown Bear Harvest

<u>REGYEAR</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>
2013	89	415	506
2014	6	0	7
2015	88	369	462
2016	6	1	8

Most of the harvest takes place the first week of both the spring and fall hunt according to the Department of Fish and Game (department) data. The department has no conservation concerns for brown bears in Unit 9 at this time.

We would like the board to consider two solutions to provide better resident hunter access and opportunity and success in Unit 9. Institute a resident-only early season for the RB 368, 369, 370 registration permit hunts, or allow a resident-only registration or draw hunt for brown bears in Unit 9 during the even and odd years the current RB 368, 369, and 370 hunts have no open season. The current level of competition from guides and guided nonresident hunters is overwhelming and causing too many conflicts, access and opportunity issues for resident hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(EG-F17-072)
