

Definitions

PROPOSAL 1 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(6) Definitions. Modify the definition of bag limit as follows:

The definition of "bag limit" should be as follows:

5 AAC 92.990(a)(6) “bag limit” means the maximum number of animals of any one game species a person may **kill or harvest** [TAKE] in the unit or portion of a unit in which the **killing** [TAKING] occurs; an animal disturbed in the course of legal hunting does not count toward a bag limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The definition of "bag limit" is excessively restrictive because it includes the definition of the word "take". "Take" is defined as taking, pursuing, hunting fishing, trapping or **in any manner** disturbing, capturing, or killing or **attempting** to take, pursue, hunt, fish, trap, or in any manner capture or kill fish or game. So if a hunter goes into the field and simply attempts to hunt a given species, he has by definition taken that animal and thus probably already exceeded his bag limit. I have been told that the definition of "take" is controlled by the legislature but that the definition of "bag limit" is a regulation of the Board of Game.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

(EG-F17-049)

PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(87). Definitions; 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports; and 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Modify the definition of youth hunt, allow youth hunters to obtain their own harvest ticket, and remove the hunter education requirement for youth hunters as follows:

There are three areas in current regulation that would need to be adjusted to accomplish change:

1) I recommend the Board of Game (board) change the definition of youth hunt to accommodate hunters starting at eight years of age (this is the minimum age allowed by state statute).

Regulation:

- a. Youth Hunt – a hunt limited to a child aged **8** [10]–17 and an accompanying adult that is a licensed resident hunter 21 years of age or older. If the child is a nonresident, the accompanying adult must be a resident parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the child. The bag limit counts against both the youth and the accompanying adult.

2) Additionally, I recommend allowing hunters from the ages of eight to seventeen to obtain their own harvest ticket or drawing tag that would allow them to participate in youth hunting seasons. The current regulation specifies the need for youth ten to seventeen obtain a harvest ticket or drawing tag for youth hunts. In conjunction, I also ask the board to consider waiving the requirement that the youth have completed a hunter education course before partaking in youth hunts, since immediate adult supervision is required for all “youth hunts”. Regulation:

- a. Hunters under age 10 may not have their own big game bag limit, so they may not obtain harvest tickets or permits **with the exception of youth hunters hunting in a youth hunting season.** (See “Youth hunts only” pg. 13 of the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet.)

- b. Youth hunts only: Hunter education is **not** required for youth hunters participating in “youth hunts[.]” **under the required supervision of an accompanying adult that is a licensed resident hunter 21 years of age or older. Additionally, participants in a “youth hunt” may obtain their own harvest ticket/draw permit.** (See page 35 of the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for “youth hunt” definition.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The opportunities currently available to youth participating in “Youth Hunts” excludes children younger than ten years of age. Under the current regulations, children younger than ten can hunt during the general season/draw hunt under the supervision of and using a licensed hunters permit or harvest ticket, but do not have the opportunity to participate in youth hunts specifically for youth hunters.

Changing the definition of “Youth Hunt” to allow youth under ten years of age to participate would let children gain more experience in the field with adults who would have the chance to teach children during special seasons that have been created specifically for youth hunters in mind.

In a hunt that is specifically made for young hunters, where immediate adult supervision is required, excluding children who are capable of and interested in hunting is unnecessary and counterproductive. Regulations within youth hunt special seasons, as well as in hunts where a child under ten harvests an animal in the general season, require youth harvests to be applied towards the accompanying adult’s bag limit.

Our future generation of hunters and outdoors people should be given every opportunity to partake in the outdoor experience, including those designated for our youth. This change would provide further opportunities for the hunting community to engage future generations in the outdoors.

PROPOSED BY: Jacob Mattila (HQ-F17-021)

PROPOSAL 3 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(68). Definitions. Modify the definition of regulatory year as follows:

Replace regulatory year with calendar year regulations or define regulatory year such that it matches the definition for a calendar year. There would need to be an unusual regulatory year to transition from July 1 to January 1.

Example:

Regulatory Year 2018 (7/1/2018–6/30/2019) would become (7/1/2018–12/31/2018)

Regulatory Year 2019 and future years would run January 1 to December 31

For the purposes of hunts which might cross regulatory year boundaries, pick a simple definition such as "the regulatory year of the hunt will be the year of the normally scheduled open date of

the first season" so that emergency season adjustments do not change the regulatory year of a hunt.

The shortened regulatory year for transitioning should prevent any hunts from having to occur twice in a regulatory year. Some hunts will "skip" a regulatory year but would still be held at their usual time. In the example above there would be no 2018 DB132, however it would still occur and be listed as a 2019 hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Help address confusion between regulatory and calendar years for hunters and ADF&G staff. This would also synchronize the permitting and license years. This is particularly confusing for hunts with season dates that fall entirely outside the calendar year of the regulatory year.

Example: 2017 DB132 is scheduled for 4/1/2018–5/15/2018

This will also eliminate the need to display two years everywhere a regulatory year is printed to address this specific confusion.

Disclaimer: I am a wildlife conservation employee and am submitting this personally. This does not reflect the opinion of ADF&G or the Division of Wildlife Conservation. After the transition period, I believe this would reduce the complexity of the systems and reports for wildlife conservation staff.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Waters (EG-F17-033)

PROPOSAL 4 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26). Definitions. Change the definition of edible meat for large game birds as follows:

Regulation change:

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.

(26) "edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); in the case of small game birds, except for cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast; in the case of cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast, **back, wings, gizzard, and heart** and meat of the femur and tibia-fibula (legs and thighs); however, "edible meat" of big game or small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably lost as a result of boning or a close trimming of the bones, or viscera;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) is proposing that the definition of edible meat for large-sized migratory game birds in the fall/winter migratory bird hunting

regulations be more consistent with that for the spring/summer subsistence migratory bird harvest regulations to reduce or prevent waste. The current definition of edible meat for swans, geese, and cranes to be salvaged for human consumption is the meat of the breast and meat of the legs and thighs. The AMBCC Native Caucus is proposing to further define edible meat for swans, geese and cranes to include breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart.

PROPOSED BY: Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
(EG-F17-048)

PROPOSAL 5 – 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions. Change the definition of a moose antler point/tine as follows:

5 AAC 92.990(a)(13) “brow tine” means a tine emerging from the first branch or brow palm on the main beam of a moose antler; the brow palm is separated from the main palm by a wide bay; a tine originating in or after this bay is not a brow tine; **an antler point or tine originating within two inches from the base, and less than three inches in length, will not be counted as a brow tine;**

5 AAC 92.990(a)(46) “moose antler” definitions:

- (A) “50-inch antlers” means the antlers of a bull moose with a spread of 50 inches or more measured in a straight line perpendicular to the center line of the skull;
- (B) “spike-fork antlers” means antlers of a bull moose with only one or two tines on at least one antler; [AN ANTLER POINT OR TINE ORIGINATING WITHIN TWO INCHES FROM THE BASE, AND LESS THAN THREE INCHES IN LENGTH, WILL NOT BE COUNTED AS A TINE,] male calves are not considered spike-fork bulls; **spike-fork bulls can be either spike and/or fork configuration;**
- (C) “spike” means antlers of a bull moose with only one tine on at least one antler; for the purposes of this subparagraph, male calves are not considered spike bulls;
- (D) **“fork” means antlers of a bull moose with only two tines on at least one antler;**

5 AAC 92.990(a)(61) “point” means any antler projection that is at least one inch long, and that is longer than it is wide, measured one inch or more from the tip; **an antler point or tine originating within two inches from the base, and less than three inches in length, will not be counted as a tine;**

5 AAC 92.990(a)(80) “tine” has the same meaning as “point”;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Selective harvest regulations for bull moose have evolved from those originally envisioned (50-inch three brow tine (BT) pre-1987 and spike-fork 50-inch three BT in 1987). Today there are 50-inch 3BT, 4BT and 2BT by 2BT descriptions of legal moose in regulation. There are also spike-fork and spike categories of legal moose. Proposals have recently been considered for other configurations.

Confusion still exists by some hunters about legal bull moose. This new language attempts to clarify regulations previously passed by the Board of Game about “drop tines” or “burr tines”

(points emerging from the base or very near the base). This proposal clarifies that “drop tines” or “burr tines” do not count as spikes, forks, or brow tines. In addition, this proposal clarifies the term “spike-fork” includes both spike or fork bulls. Finally we add a definition of “fork” bulls for additional clarification.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-027)
