

PROPOSAL 73

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

5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Eliminate the RB601 brown bear subsistence registration permit for Unit 21D and Unit 24A, B, C, & D as follows.

	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
5 AAC 85.020 (a)		
...		
(19)		
Unit 21(D)		
[1 BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR BY REGISTRATION PERMIT]	[AUG. 10—JUNE 30 (SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]	[NO OPEN SEASON]
1 bear every regulatory year	Aug. 10—June 30	Aug. 10—June 30
....		
(22)		
Unit 24		
[1 BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR BY REGISTRATION PERMIT]	[AUG. 10—JUNE 30 (SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]	[NO OPEN SEASON]
1 bear every regulatory year	Aug. 10—June 30	Aug. 10—June 30

5AAC 92.165(a)(3) Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

(a)

...

(3) in Unit 9(B), all drainages in Unit 9(E) that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E), Unit 17, Unit 18, that portion of Units 19(A) and 19(B) downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, [UNIT 21(D),] Unit 22, Unit 23, [UNIT 24,] and Unit 26(A), brown bear taken by a resident hunter under a subsistence registration permit is not required to be sealed unless removed from the area described in the permit or presented for commercial tanning within that area; before a brown bear skin or skull is removed from the area described in the permit or presented for commercial tanning within that area, the skin or skull must first be sealed by an ADF&G representative.

5AAC 92.220(a)(5) Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

(a)

...

(5) all meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters of a brown bear taken under a subsistence registration permit in Unit 9(B), all drainages in Unit 9(E) that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E), Unit 17, Unit 18, that portion of Units 19(A) and 19(B) downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, [UNIT 21(D),] Unit 22, Unit 23, [UNIT 24,] and Unit 26(A) shall be salvaged for human consumption; salvage of the hide or skull is optional; all edible meat of a brown bear taken under a permit issued under 5AAC 92.044 in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(B), 15, 16, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(E), 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D) shall be salvaged.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the RB601 brown bear subsistence registration permit for Unit 21D and Unit 24A, B, C, & D.

Because the brown bear tag fee exemption exists in these areas under the general hunt, there is no longer a need for the RB601 subsistence permit. The RB601 permit is no longer used, it inconveniently requires subsistence hunters to obtain the permit in advance, it requires salvage of the meat, and it requires destruction of the hide. The only benefit it potentially provided was the sealing exemption, but the area biologist has always accommodated getting hides and skull sealed.

In order to make sure bears sealing was convenient, the Galena area biologist has traveled to remote villages, had hides shipped to him (freight collect), had local sealers do the sealing, or sent temporary sealing forms to the hunter. Regardless, of those accommodations, most hunters chose to hunt under the general hunt conditions and the last bear harvested under the RB601 permit was in 2010.

According to ADF&G reports, the RB601 subsistence brown bear season is no longer utilized by residents of Units 21D and 24 and creates confusion in the regulations. Although bag limits, salvage, and sealing requirements were important distinctions between the RB601 subsistence hunt and the general season brown bear hunts originally, the elimination of the tag fee requirement appears to be the most important factor for local and non-local resident hunters choosing the general season hunt. Only one bear was harvested during regulatory years 2009 through 2018 on the RB601 permit by local residents (in RY10), but 226 bears were harvested under the general season hunt during that period. Only five bears have been harvested on the RB601 permit since it was created in RY04. ADF&G reports that 96 hunters obtained the RB601 during RY09–RY19 due to confusion over the permit requirement, with the intent of hunting under the general harvest regulations. Current general hunt regulations accommodate subsistence harvest.

The RB601 permit was created in RY04 when the Northwest Brown Bear Management Area was repealed. ADF&G has provided broad flexibility for sealing hides for all hunters in order to accommodate limited access to sealers in rural communities.

Brown Bear Regulation	Required for General Hunt	Required for RB601
Sealing	Yes	No (unless leaves GMU or Commercial Tanning)
Hide Salvage	Yes	No (unless sealed)
Skull Salvage	Yes	No (unless sealed)
Meat Salvage	No (unless baited)	Yes
Permit	No	Yes
Tag Fee	No	No
Trophy Destruction	No	Yes (if leaves GMU or Commercial Tanning)
Aircraft	Yes	No
Season	Aug 10–June 30	Aug 10–June 30
Bag limit	1 bear per Regulatory Year	1 bear per Regulatory Year

PROPOSED BY: Jack Reakoff

(EG-F19-036)
