

## **PROPOSAL 159**

**5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls.**

**5 AAC 92.170. Sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine.**

**5 AAC 92.175. Sealing of beaver.**

Change the sealing and reporting requirements to business days instead of calendar days as follows:

*All Hunting/Trapping Sealing and Reporting regulation requirement are to be based off of ADF&G Office **Business Days, including exemptions of State & Federal Holidays.***

Example.

Bear - 30 *business* day sealing requirement for brown bear, black bear at an ADF&G office from the date of harvest or from the first state business day if harvested on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.

Moose - 5 business day reporting requirement to an ADF&G office from the date of harvest or from the first state business day if harvested on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.

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

### **SEALING AND REPORTING.**

***Calendar day vs. business day.*** Alaska hunting and trapping regulation requires sealing or reporting of wildlife on a *calendar day*.

### **ISSUE**

- *ADF&G offices operate only during the business week.*

- *ADF&G staff is not available to perform required sealing and reporting tasks on weekend days, as well as state or federal holidays.*

- *Alaska State Troopers have refused to seal bears on weekends or have indicated they are not equipped with the correct supplies to perform sealing or reporting requirements for species.*

- *Hunters/trappers are at a disadvantage to comply with state regulation as state staff and or office may not be open to the public to comply with existing regulation.*

- *In the event of state budget issues, and ADF&G staff was reduced to a -day work-week, this could place a further disadvantage to hunters/trappers to comply with sealing and reporting regulation.*

- *If a pandemic, terror attack or natural disaster presents itself and closes ADF&G offices, hunters and trappers cannot comply with sealing and reporting regulation if offices are closed.*

Example: A moose hunter has five days to check in his/her harvest under the spike, fork, 50-inch or three brow tine regulation. While hunting with a family/group on a weeklong trip, perhaps he/she harvests a bull on a Tuesday...they must then potentially end a hunt early to return to town

to check the bull into ADF&G by Friday as Monday would be day six from the harvest, and thereby outside of the acceptable sealing period. Therefore, hunting opportunity for others in the party would consequently be limited to accommodate the harvest over the ability to continue to hunt as the season allowed. ADF&G offices are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, as well as holidays therefore limiting the opportunity to comply as currently based on CALENDAR days, and not BUSINESS days with the **5-day reporting regulation**.

**PROPOSED BY:** Zach Decker

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