

Permits for Bear Baiting

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 92.044 (b)(4). Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Increase the number of bait station sites temporarily from 10 to 20 per guide use area as follows:

We request increasing the number of baits per guide use area temporarily from 10 to 20. This regulation would only apply to the spring 2021 bear hunts. Most guides that use baiting as a method only use one of their three allotted guide use areas for baiting. This limits their ability to temporarily expand to make up for losses

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The COVID-19 crisis has devastated hunting businesses in the spring of 2020. Other actions will be taken to mitigate these losses in some sectors of the industry, but baited hunting was overlooked in the emergency Board of Game Meetings in the spring of 2020.

Guided baited bear hunting takes place almost exclusively in units where bears are managed very liberally due to large harvestable surpluses and little hunting pressure. There would be no conservation concern to increasing effort temporarily in these areas. There are a few guides that use bait in units 7, 14, 15, and southeast but none of them use the currently allowed 10 baits due to other land use authorization restrictions. The guides that use 10 baits are primarily, if not completely limited to the remote areas of units 11, 12, 13, 16, 20 and 25. An alternative would be to limit this temporary regulation to these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association (EG-F20-123)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Require bear baiting sites to be at least one mile apart as follows:

I recommend that regulation be put into place to keep bait sites at least one mile apart.

I would also recommend that the Department of Fish and Game create a centralized database to keep track of registered bait sites including exact locations. Only then can the department keep from registering bait sites too close together.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As bear baiting becomes more popular, hunter conflicts in the field are becoming more common due to the lack of organization. Currently, there are no regulations in place to keep bait sites at a safe distance from each other. For example, two or more people can register a bait site in the same location. Many people are putting bait sites too close together which leads not only to hunter conflict but also serious safety concerns.

PROPOSED BY: Tim Nelson (EG-F20-008)
