

PROPOSAL 235

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game.

Allow the use of artificial light while hunting small game animals that have no closed seasons and no bag limit as follows:

Page 18 of the Hunting Regulations Handbook:

- Using artificial light, EXCEPT:

--While hunting small game animals that have no closed season *and* no bag limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Snowshoe hares are extremely abundant in certain areas of the state, which is reflected in many places having no closed season and no bag limit for snowshoe hares. Because of the high reproductive rate of snowshoe hares, as well as the difficulty in effectively hunting them, allowing the use of artificial light while hunting would provide a new, unique opportunity without damaging the population. Using artificial lights would increase the time when hunters could effectively take hares, and also provide an advantage. Because of this, the regulation would only take effect in game management units where there is no closed season and no bag limit. Since similar logic would apply to other small game animals with no closed season and no bag limit, the proposed legislation allows for artificial light while hunting any small game animal that meets the requirements of no closed season and no bag limit.

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