

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Interior Region meeting to the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 14-18, 2014.)

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Remove the salvage requirement for brown bear taken over bait stations in Units 12, 20C, 20E, and 21D as follows:

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

(5) all edible meat 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 9(E), Unit 17, Unit 18, that portion of Units 19(A) and 19(B) downstream 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 are optional; [ALL EDIBLE MEAT OF A BROWN BEAR TAKEN UNDER A PERMIT ISSUED UNDER 5AAC 92.044 IN UNITS 12, 20(C), 20(E), AND 21(D) SHALL BE SALVAGED;]

ISSUE: The requirement to salvage all edible meat from a brown bear if the bear is taken at a black bear bait site in Region III. Note: This regulation change should be applied to units in Regions II and IV if adopted.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Salvage of brown bear meat is only required when bears are taken in a brown bear subsistence area under a special permit. Applying this condition to brown bears taken at a black bear bait site is unnecessary and confusing to hunters since meat salvage in all other general season hunts is not required.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of the resource harvested will be improved by allowing those hunters that harvest brown bears for the meat to salvage as much of the animal as they desire, while hunters that do not consider brown bear meat edible will not be unnecessarily obligated to retrieve all the edible meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters that do not consider brown bear meat edible. Additionally, by repealing this regulation enforcement will benefit by less confusing regulations imposed on hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one should be impacted by repealing this regulation. Individuals wanting brown bear meat could make arrangements to salvage the meat from a harvested bear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Changing the meat salvage requirements for brown bear, all edible meat, to match the regulation for black bear, meat from the four quarters and backstrap. This was rejected because most hunters do not consider brown bear meat edible compared to other big game animals such as moose or caribou. It would also still be confusing to hunters since black bear meat salvage is only required from January 1 to May 31 but brown bear meat salvage is required any time a black bear baiting season is open.

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(The Board of Game deferred a portion of this proposal (Section 2) from the 2014 Interior Region meeting to the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 14-18, 2014.)