Proposal 26

Establish new IM population and harvest objectives for deer Units 1-5 or exempt Units 1-5 from IM harvest and population objectives

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-11
Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Sitka	Support	10-3 (1 abstain)

Background

- IM harvest and population objectives established in 2000
  - Harvest objectives based on average annual harvest during 1994 - 1998 plus 10 %
  - Population objectives based on estimated deer habitat capability
- Traditional deer pellet surveys used to monitor deer population trends

Discussion

- **5 AAC 92.108 Identified big game IM prey populations and objectives**

Unit	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective	Avg. Harvest (2004-2013)
1A	Positive	15,000	700	265
1B	Negative	---------	---------	---------
1C	Positive	6,200	450	398
1D	Negative	---------	---------	---------
2	Positive	71,000	2,700	3,273
3	Positive	15,000	900	604
4	Positive	125,000	7,800	5,347
5	Negative	---------	---------	---------

Discussion

- Weather, predation, and habitat change can all influence deer numbers
- Units 1A & 3 IM programs (inactive)
- Current deer population and habitat work
  - DNA pellet technique
  - Browse & forb assessment
  - Traditional pellet surveys
  - Wolf abundance
  - Second growth thinning & use
- Habitat change
  - Assess reductions in deer winter habitat
  - Assess changes associated with forest succession

Current Deer Population Status and Trend in Units with Positive Findings

Unit	Avg. Harvest (2004-2013)	Population Status	Population Trend
1A	265	Low	Slightly increasing
1C	398	Moderate	Stable
2	3,273	Moderate - High	Stable
3	604	Low	Stable
4	5,347	High	Slightly increasing

Summary

- Current research is intended to inform population and harvest objectives as well as feasibility of IM for deer in this area
- These efforts may entail active management when measurable effects of those actions can be delineated
- At this time, changes in IM population and harvest objectives would only delay investigation into the feasibility of IM for deer in SE.

Proposal 26

1. Invalidate Sitka black-tailed deer population and harvest objectives provided in 5 AAC 92.108
2. Establish new population and harvest objectives for deer
3. Asks the board to discuss recommending to the Alaska Legislature that deer in Units 1-5 be exempt from harvest and population objectives

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-11
Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Sitka	Support	10-3 (1 abstain)

Proposal 27

Establish a June 15 - July 31 deer hunting season for elderly or disabled hunters in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Craig	Oppose	0-8
Petersburg	Take No Action	
Upper Lynn Canal	Take No Action	
Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-10 (1 abstain)
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11

Current Regulations

- **Season dates and bag limits vary widely in SE Alaska**

Unit	Dates	Bag Limit	
1A Cleveland Peninsula	Aug 1-Nov 30	2 Bucks	
1A Remainder	Aug 1-Nov 30	4 Bucks	
1B	Aug 1- Dec 31	2 Bucks	
1C Douglas, Lincoln, Shelter, Sullivan Is.	Aug 1-Sept 14	Bucks	4 Total in 1C
1C Douglas, Lincoln, Shelter, Sullivan Is.	Sept 15-Dec 31	Deer	
1C Remainder	Aug 1- Dec 31	2 Bucks	
1D	no open season		
2	Aug 1-Dec 31	4 Bucks	
3 Mitkof is., Petersburg Mgmt Area	Oct 15-Dec 15	2 Bucks	Archery Only
Mitkof (remainder), Woewodski, and Butterworth Islands and Lindenberg Peninsula	Oct 15-Oct. 31	1 Buck	
3 Remainder	Aug 1-Nov 30	2 Bucks	
4 Portion of Chichagof Is.	Aug 1-Sept 14	Bucks	3 Total
4 Portion of Chichagof Is.	Sept 15-Dec 31	Deer	
4 Remainder	Aug 1-Sept 14	Bucks	4 Total
4 Remainder	Sept 15-Dec 31	Deer	

Discussion

- Enforcement Issues
  - State vs. Federal seasons
  - Proposed Season would overlap regulatory years

- Federal subsistence board recently rejected similar proposal

Summary

- Allocation issue
- Regulations currently allow for methods and means exemptions
- Designated hunter and proxy programs

Proposal 27

Establish a June 15 - July 31 deer hunting season for elderly or disabled hunters in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Craig	Oppose	0-8
Petersburg	Take No Action	
Upper Lynn Canal	Take No Action	
Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-10 (1 abstain)
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11

Proposal 28

Extend the wolverine trapping season in Units 1-5 by 74 days to align the end date with that of wolf trapping season

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-7 (4 abstain)
Petersburg	Oppose	3-5 (2 abstain)
Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose	0-5
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11

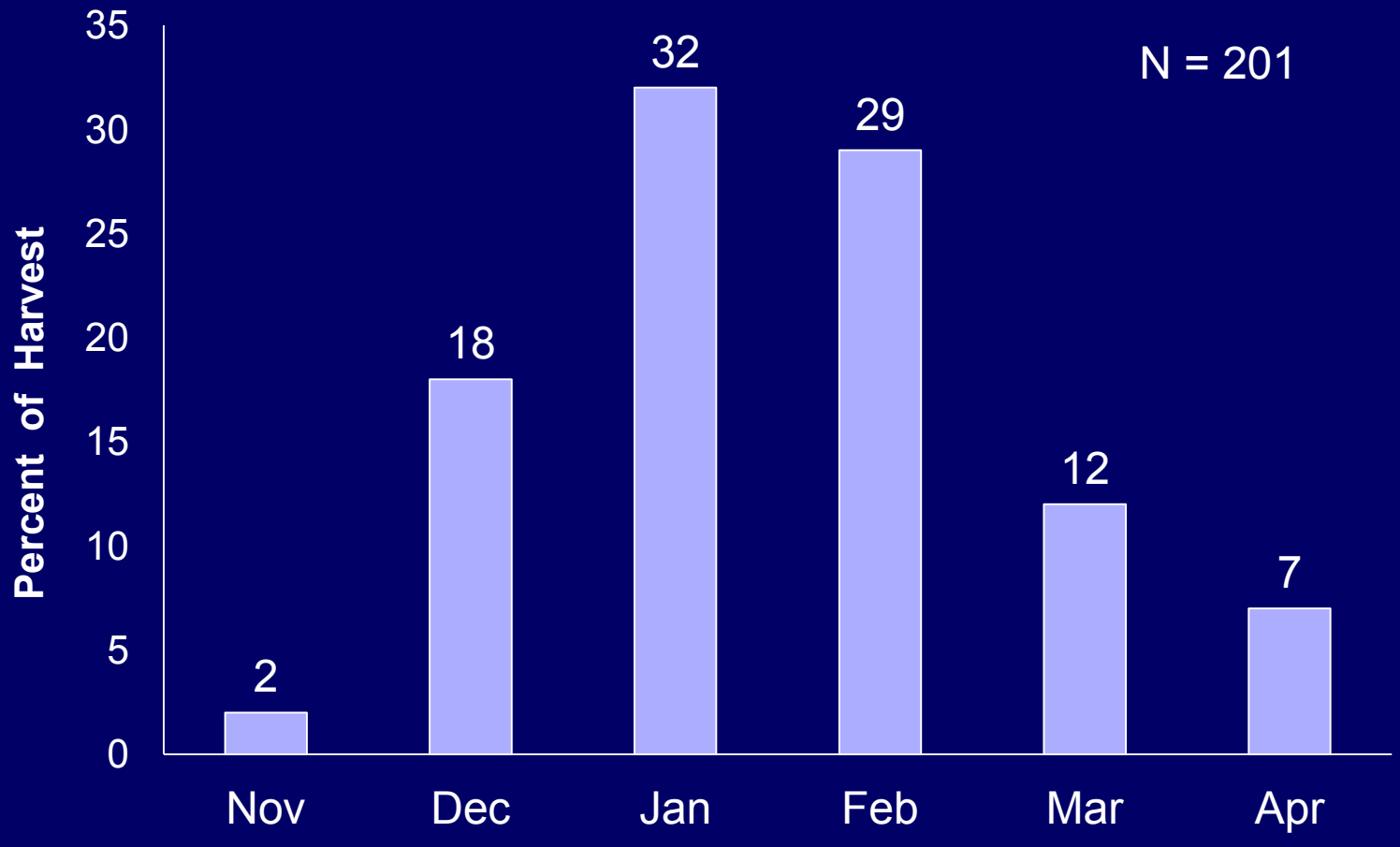
Regulation History

- Current season dates adopted by Board in 2008
- Prior to 1985: wolverine trapping season varied from
  - Dec 1 - Jan 31
  - Nov 10 - Feb 15
- 1985-2008
  - Nov 10 - April 30
- 2009-Present
  - Nov 10 - Feb 15

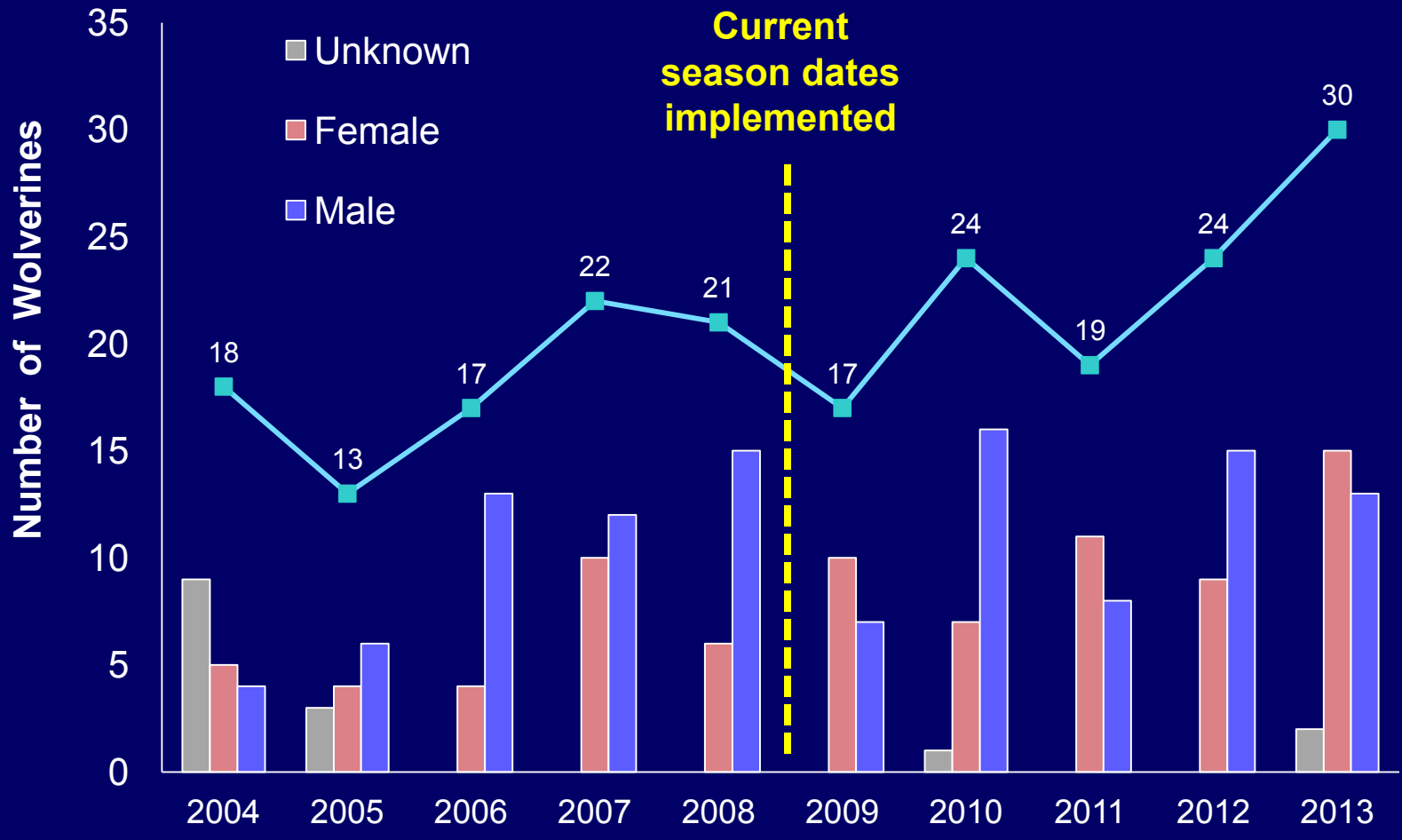
Discussion

- Existing Feb. 15 end date intended to protect denning females
- Wolverine kits are born in Feb-Mar
- Extending season 74 days would expose denning females to harvest when they have dependant young … resulting in loss of litters
- Loss of litters = reduced recruitment

Region I Wolverine Harvest Chronology (1999-2008) with Nov 10 to Apr 30 season



Region 1 Wolverine: Trapper Harvest (2004 – 2013)



Summary

- Most wolf trappers remove sets by April to avoid bears
- Incidental wolverine catch in wolf sets very low
  - Of 114 wolverines sealed from 2009-2013, just 3 were taken after Feb 15th (2 in March and 1 in April)
- Despite shorter season, harvest actually increased
  - 2004 – 2008 (with longer season) 91 wolverines taken
  - 2009 – 2013 (with shorter season) 114 wolverines taken
- Ending wolverine season on Feb. 15 aligns the end date with that of most furbearers

Proposal 28

Extend the wolverine trapping season in Units 1-5 by 74 days to align the end date with that of wolf trapping season

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-7 (4 abstain)
Petersburg	Oppose	3-5 (2 abstain)
Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose	0-5
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11

Proposal 29

Require trappers in Units 1-5 to check traps at specified intervals after being set (3-5 days).

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Craig	Oppose	0-8
Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Sitka	Oppose	0-10
Upper Lynn Canal	Support	5-0
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11
Juneau-Douglas	Amend & Support	8-3

Background

- Trap checks not required in most areas of Alaska
- Gustavus (Unit 1C): All traps/snares must be checked within 3 days of being set and within each 3 days thereafter.
- Pros & Cons

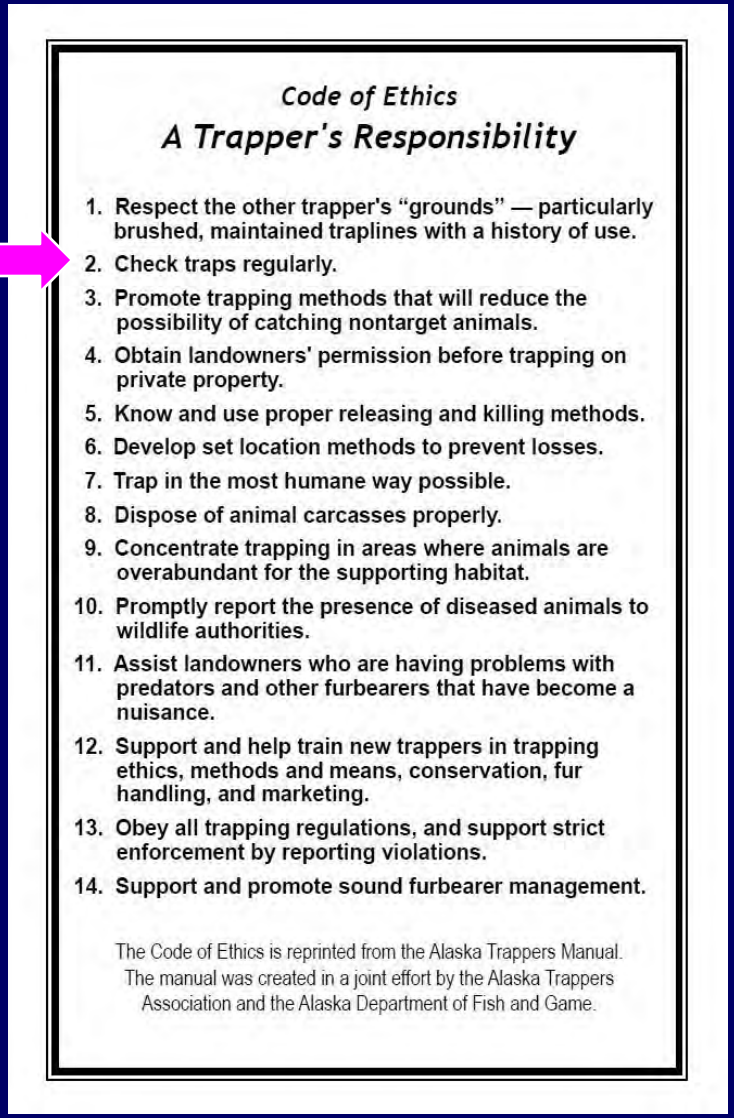
Discussion

- Public Perception
  - Routine checks demonstrate responsibility
- Weather
  - Southeast experiences freeze/thaw cycles throughout winter
  - Weather can make travel hazardous
- Practicality
  - May be difficult to check due to length of line

Discussion

Ethical issue

- **Encourage regular trap checks**
- **Recognize practical & safety limitations**



Code of Ethics

A Trapper's Responsibility

1. Respect the other trapper's "grounds" — particularly brushed, maintained traplines with a history of use.
2. Check traps regularly.
3. Promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching nontarget animals.
4. Obtain landowners' permission before trapping on private property.
5. Know and use proper releasing and killing methods.
6. Develop set location methods to prevent losses.
7. Trap in the most humane way possible.
8. Dispose of animal carcasses properly.
9. Concentrate trapping in areas where animals are overabundant for the supporting habitat.
10. Promptly report the presence of diseased animals to wildlife authorities.
11. Assist landowners who are having problems with predators and other furbearers that have become a nuisance.
12. Support and help train new trappers in trapping ethics, methods and means, conservation, fur handling, and marketing.
13. Obey all trapping regulations, and support strict enforcement by reporting violations.
14. Support and promote sound furbearer management.

The Code of Ethics is reprinted from the Alaska Trappers Manual. The manual was created in a joint effort by the Alaska Trappers Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Proposal 29

Require trappers in Units 1-5 to check traps at specified intervals after being set (3-5 days).

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Craig	Oppose	0-8
Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Sitka	Oppose	0-10
Upper Lynn Canal	Support	5-0
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11

Proposal 30

Remove the requirement to provide GPS coordinates for black bear bait stations in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Craig	Oppose	0-8
Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose	0-4 (1abstain)

Background

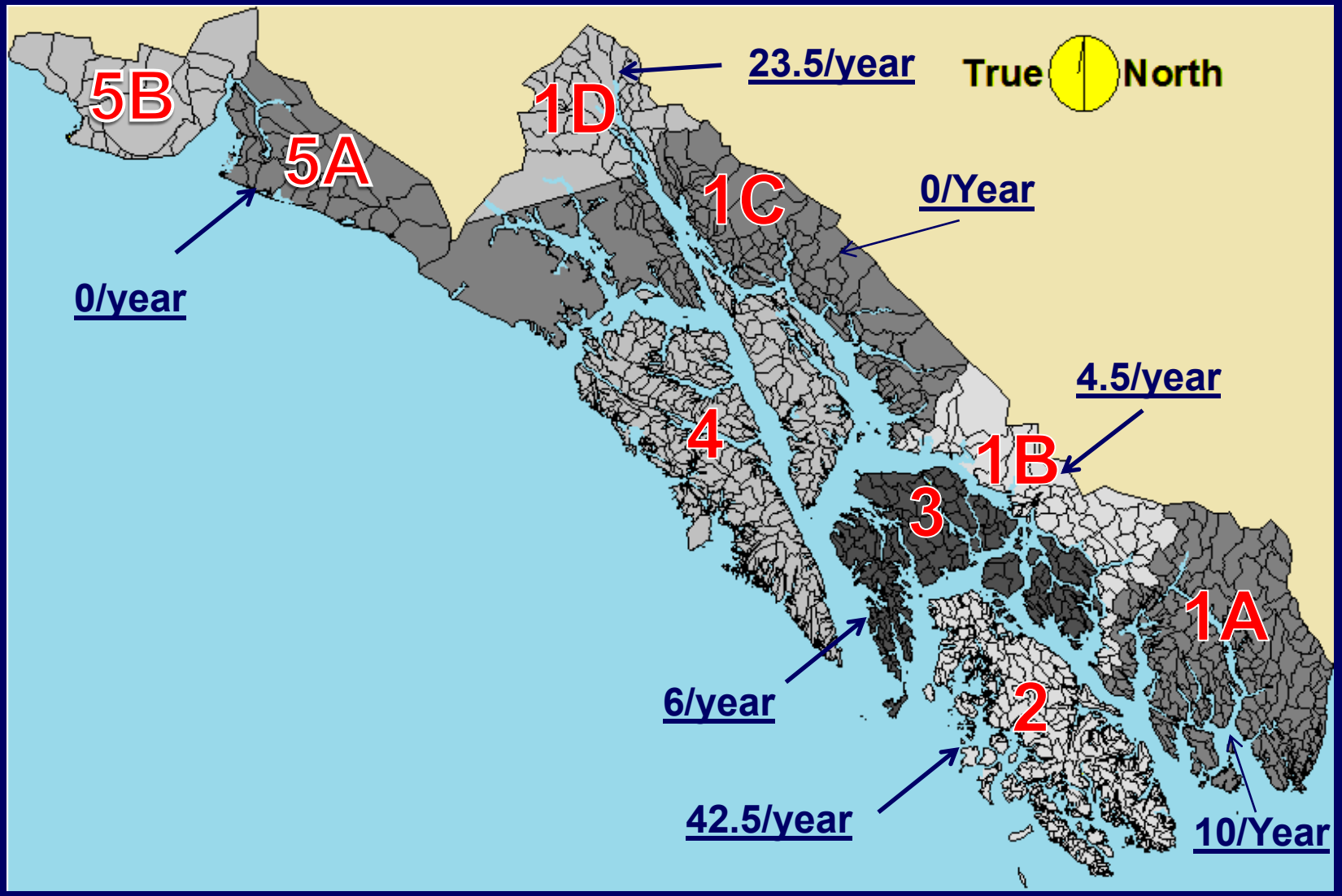
- Regulation implemented at request of AWT during 2010 BOG meeting
- Site compliance & enforcement efficiency improved

Discussion

Baiting permits have conditions intended to address public safety concerns:

- Required distance from residential areas
- Required distance from roads
- Sites must be properly posted
- Sites must be cleaned up

Registered Baits Sites by GMU



Proposal 30

Remove the requirement to provide GPS coordinates for black bear bait stations in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Craig	Oppose	0-8
Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose	0-4 (1abstain)

Proposal 31

Eliminate the regulation requiring hunters to count wounded bears towards their bag limit; or further define "wounded" in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Sitka	Oppose	0-14
Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose	0-5
Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-11
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11

Current Regulation

In Units 1 – 5, and in Unit 8, all bears wounded by a hunter count toward the bag limit for the regulatory year

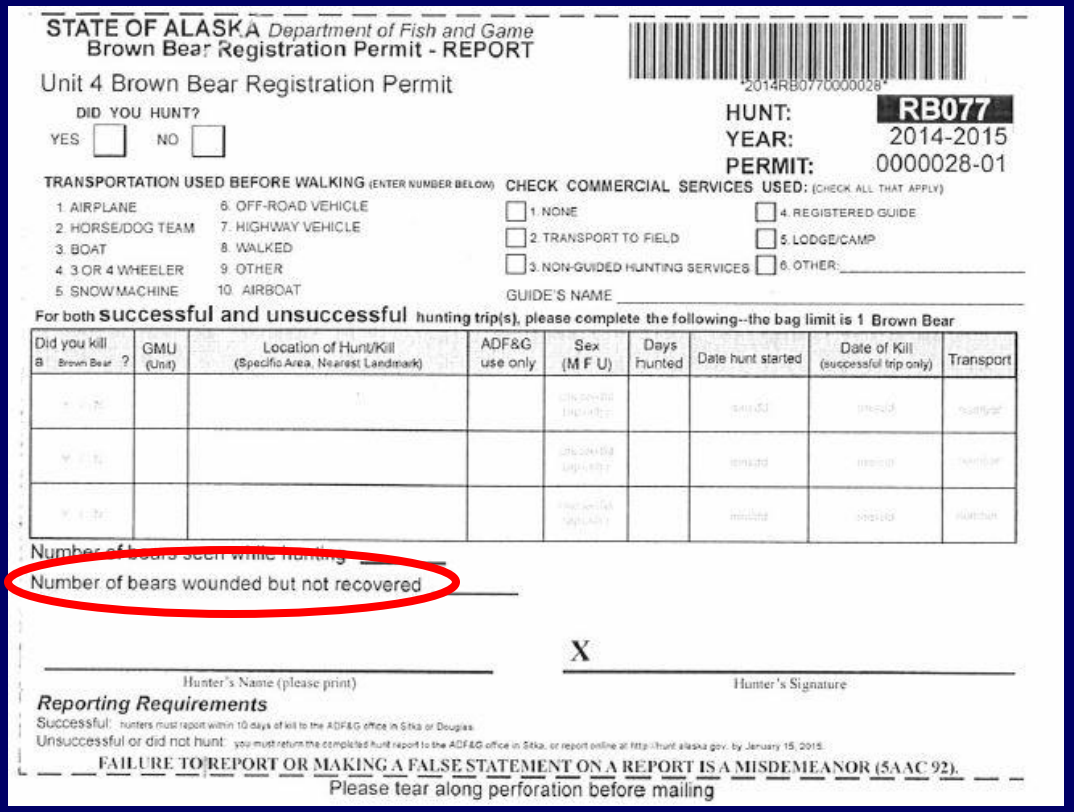
"Wounded" means there is a sign of blood or other sign that the bear has been hit by a hunting projectile.

Background

- Regulation adopted for Units 1-4 in 2004
  - Extended to Unit 5 in 2006
- Board wanted to prevent additional harvest once a bear was wounded and not recovered
  - Conservation concern
- Proponent wants “wounded” redefined as “mortally wounded”
  - Board previously defined wounded

Discussion

- Regulation applies to both brown and black bears
  - No longer included on black bear HT report



STATE OF ALASKA *Department of Fish and Game*
Brown Bear Registration Permit - REPORT

Unit 4 Brown Bear Registration Permit

2014RB0770000028

DID YOU HUNT? YES ☐ NO ☐

HUNT: RB077
YEAR: 2014-2015
PERMIT: 0000028-01

TRANSPORTATION USED BEFORE WALKING (ENTER NUMBER BELOW)

1. AIRPLANE
2. HORSE/DOG TEAM
3. BOAT
4. 3 OR 4 WHEELER
5. SNOW MACHINE
6. OFF-ROAD VEHICLE
7. HIGHWAY VEHICLE
8. WALKED
9. OTHER
10. AIRBOAT

CHECK COMMERCIAL SERVICES USED: (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

☐ 1. NONE ☐ 4. REGISTERED GUIDE
☐ 2. TRANSPORT TO FIELD ☐ 5. LODGE/CAMP
☐ 3. NON-GUIDED HUNTING SERVICES ☐ 6. OTHER: _____

GUIDE'S NAME _____

For both **successful and unsuccessful** hunting trip(s), please complete the following--the bag limit is 1 Brown Bear

Did you kill a Brown Bear ?	GMU (Unit)	Location of Hunt/Kill (Specific Area, Nearest Landmark)	ADF&G use only	Sex (M F U)	Days Hunted	Date hunt started	Date of Kill (successful trip only)	Transport

Number of bears seen while hunting _____

Number of bears wounded but not recovered _____

_____ X _____
Hunter's Name (please print) Hunter's Signature

Reporting Requirements

Successful: hunters must report within 10 days of kill to the ADF&G office in Sitka or Douglas.

Unsuccessful or did not hunt: you must return the completed hunt report to the ADF&G office in Sitka, or report online at http://hunt.alaska.gov, by January 15, 2015.

FAILURE TO REPORT OR MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT ON A REPORT IS A MISDEMEANOR (5AAC 92).

Please tear along perforation before mailing

Discussion

Current regulation requires hunters to count wounded black & brown bears against their bag limit.

- Requirement provides insight on extent of wounding loss
- Wounded is already defined in state regs.

Summary

- Dept. wants regulation to be consistent statewide
- Board chose not to adopt the revised definition for "wounded" at its 2014 Statewide meeting
- Proposal submitted for both Southeast & Southcentral board meetings

Proposal 31

Eliminate the regulation requiring hunters to count wounded bears towards their bag limit; or further define "wounded" in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Sitka	Oppose	0-14
Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose	0-5
Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-11
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11

Proposal 32

Allow residents of Units 1-3 to transfer 1 of their 2 black bear harvest tickets to a nonresident relative within 2nd degree of kindred; and require resident hunter to accompany the nonresident hunter in the field when hunting black bears.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

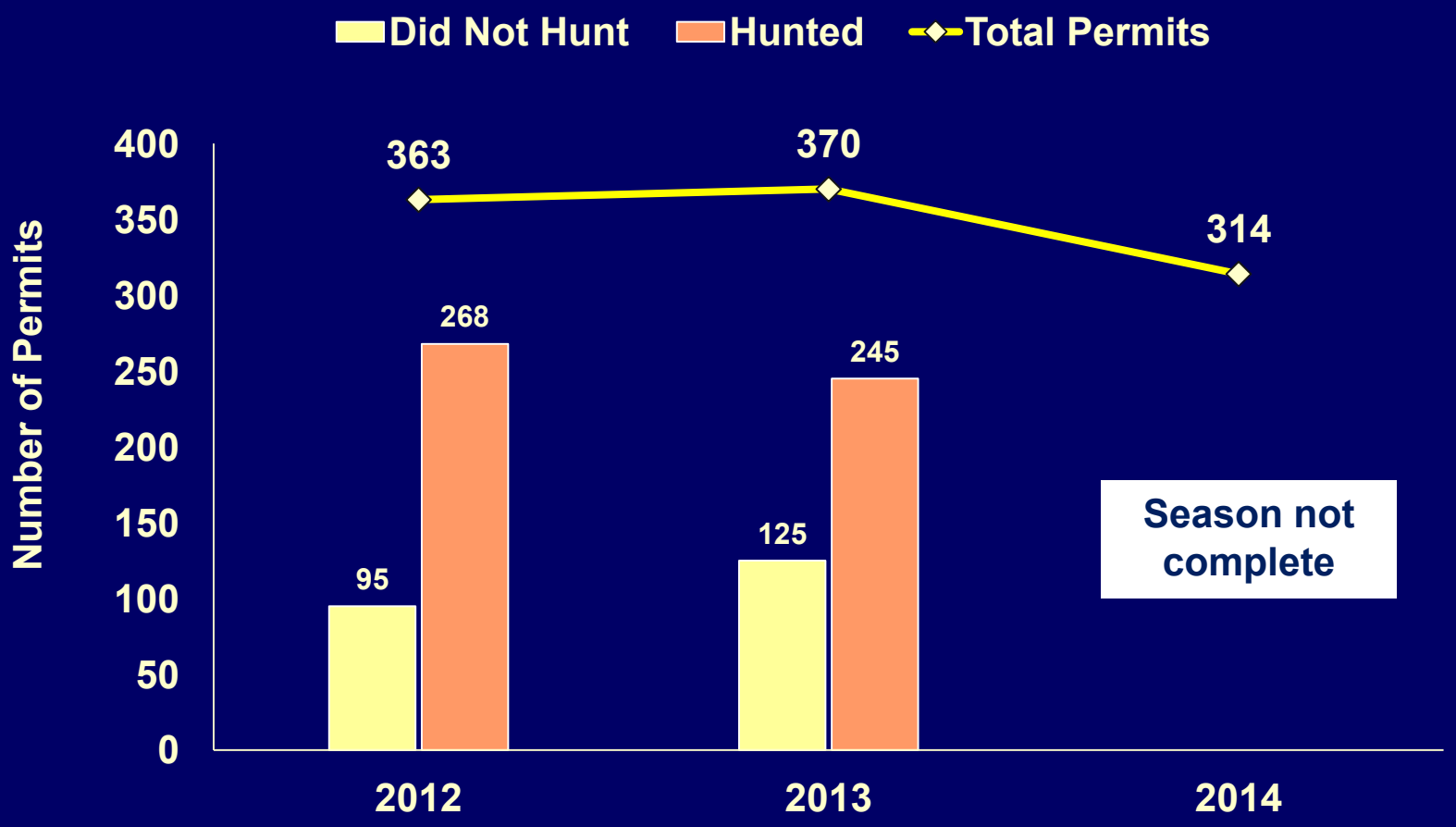
AC Recommendations:

Craig	**Support**	**6-0**
Petersburg	**Oppose**	**0-10**
Wrangell	**Oppose**	**0-11**

Background

- Black bear harvest tickets first required in 2009
- Due to conservation concerns, numerous black bear proposals at fall 2010 Board meeting
  - Implemented drawing permits for unguided nonresident black bear hunters
  - Drawing permits not required for guided nonresident hunters
  - Regulation took effect in 2012
- Some drawing hunts undersubscribed
  - May need to reassess the need for black bear drawing hunts in some subunits

Nonresident Black Bear Drawing Permits (2012-2014)



Proposal 32

Summary

- Under the existing system, opportunity remains for nonresident black bear hunters to participate via the undersubscribed permit system
- Would compromise ability to limit the overall number of hunters as originally intended
- Administratively difficult to manage
- Could have statewide implications for other GMUs and species
- May be contrary to the board's findings on allocation

Proposal 32

Allow residents of Units 1-3 to transfer 1 of their 2 black bear harvest tickets to a nonresident relative within 2nd degree of kindred; and require resident hunter to accompany the nonresident hunter in the field when hunting black bears.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Craig	**Support**	**6-0**
Petersburg	**Oppose**	**0-10**
Wrangell	**Oppose**	**0-11**

Proposal 33

Allow the use of felt soled waders and wading boots while hunting in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Sitka	Oppose	2-10
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11

Background

- Board of Fisheries adopted prohibition on “felt soles” for sport fishing in 2009
- Board of Game adopted similar prohibition for hunting in 2012
- Regulation intended to protect freshwater bodies and fisheries in Alaska from:
  - Invasive aquatic species
  - Disease transmission

Summary

- Adopting this proposal will result in inconsistency with Board of Fish regulation
- Proposal also submitted to Region II and Region IV Board meetings
- Should the Board adopt this proposal the department requests ban on felt soles be lifted statewide

Proposal 33

Allow the use of felt soled waders and wading boots while hunting in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg	Oppose	0-10
Sitka	Oppose	2-10
Wrangell	Oppose	0-11

Proposal 34

Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg Oppose 0-10

Background

- Migratory birds managed by USFWS
  - Proposal primarily concerns waterfowl
- Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Tag
  - Harvest Information Program (HIP)
- USFWS Waterfowl hunter & harvest survey
  - Mailing list generated from HIP enrollment
  - Parts collection efforts where needed

Discussion

- Statewide harvest reporting unnecessary
  - USFWS collects demographic and harvest data
  - Expensive to duplicate efforts
- Federal survey lacks local hunter and harvest detail
  - Managers have permit authority if information is needed (e.g., Mendenhall Wetlands WU001)
  - Less commonly hunted species are not well represented
- Similar proposal submitted at March 2014 statewide meeting

Summary

- Harvest data is collected by USFWS
  - ADFG provides hunter contact information
- ADF&G has tools to collect information if needed
- Expensive to administer and manage data

Proposal 34

Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg Oppose 0-10

Proposal 35

Require crossbow hunters to successfully complete a crossbow hunter education course prior to hunting in Southeast Alaska

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Juneau-Douglas	Amend & Support	11-0
Wrangell	Support	10-1

Background

- Crossbow education and certification is not currently required in Alaska, however …
  - methods and means exemption requires archery certification prior to use of a crossbow for hunting

Discussion

- Crossbows have specific safety, function, and shooting concerns
- ADF&G Hunter Information and Training personnel have been discussing crossbow education and course components
  - Online archery course
  - Crossbow specific workbook
  - Crossbow proficiency shoot

Summary

Should the Board adopt this proposal the department recommends:

- Regulation be implemented through the Statewide 2016 Cycle B Board meeting
- Postpone effective date for 2 years to develop education program, train HIT staff, and offer training opportunities to hunters

➢ Proposal also submitted for Region II and Region IV Board meetings

Proposal 35

Require crossbow hunters to successfully complete a crossbow hunter education course prior to hunting in Southeast Alaska

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Juneau-Douglas	Amend & Support	11-0
Wrangell	Support	10-1

Proposal 36

Eliminate the requirement to remove all contaminated soil from black bear bait sites in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg	TNA	
Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose	0-5
Wrangell	Amend & Support	10-0

Background

- Units and subunits open to bear baiting:
  - 1A, 1B, 1D, 2, 3, and 5
- Baiting season: April 15-June 15
- Baiting clinic required
- GPS coordinates required as permit condition

Discussion

Baiting permits have stipulations to address public safety concerns:

- Must be required distance from houses, schools, roads, etc.
- Sites must be posted properly
- Sites must be cleaned up

Discussion

Summary

- Soil, vegetation and duff contaminated by grease at black bear bait sites falls under the definition of “bait” and must be removed from site.
- Contaminated soil can attract bears after the baiting season has ended.

Proposal 36

Eliminate the requirement to remove all contaminated soil from black bear bait sites in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Oppose

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg	TNA	
Upper Lynn Canal	Oppose	0-5
Wrangell	Amend & Support	10-0

Proposal 37

Add 5 days to all resident hunting seasons and allocated 75% of drawing permits to residents in the Southeast Region.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg	Oppose	0-10

Discussion

These are both allocation issues …

- Add 5 days to all resident hunting seasons
  - Existing season dates intended to provide the appropriate level of harvest & opportunity
- Allocate 75% of drawing permits to residents
  - Relatively few drawing hunts in Southeast
  - Most big game hunts managed by registration permit

Discussion

- Residents already received ~ 97% of drawing permits issued for hunts in Southeast (2004-2013)
- Proposal would reduce the number of drawing permits currently awarded to residents in Southeast
- Proposal has been submitted to Region II and Region IV Board meetings

Proposal 37

Add 5 days to all resident hunting seasons and allocated 75% of drawing permits to residents in the Southeast Region.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Petersburg	Oppose	0-10

Proposal 38

Allocate 90% of all big game drawing permits in the Southeast Region to state residents

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-11
Petersburg	Oppose	0-10

Discussion

- Allocation issue
- Relatively few drawing hunts in Southeast
- Most big game hunts managed by registration permit
- Residents already received ~ 97% of drawing permits issued for hunts in Southeast (2004-2013)
- Proposal would reduce the number of drawing permits currently awarded to residents in Southeast
- Proposal has been submitted to Region II and Region IV Board meetings

Proposal 38

Allocate 90% of all big game drawing permits in the Southeast Region to state residents

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

AC Recommendations:

Juneau-Douglas	Oppose	0-11
Petersburg	Oppose	0-10