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NEWS RELEASE

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Kenai Peninsula Registration Brown Bear Hunt Opens September 1

(Soldotna) – Registration brown bear hunt RB300 in Kenai Peninsula Game Management Units 7 and 15 opens September 1, but before heading into the hills loaded for bear, there are a few things hunters must know.

First, permits are required and available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or at Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices in Soldotna, Homer, Anchorage and Palmer. Hunters must also have valid 2014 Alaska hunting licenses and brown bear locking tags. Tag fees are \$25 for Alaska resident hunters, \$500 for nonresident hunters. Nonresident hunters must be accompanied in the field by an Alaska-licensed guide or resident hunting-license holder at least 19 years of age within second-degree of kindred.

Hunters must report harvests to the Soldotna ADF&G office within five days of the kill; reports may be made in person or by phone at (907) 260-2905. All bears must be sealed within 10 days of the kill at department offices (taxidermists are not authorized to seal Kenai Peninsula brown bears) in Soldotna, Homer, Anchorage, or Palmer.

To promote conservation of Kenai Peninsula brown bears, hunters are encouraged to take mature boars. The department's Kenai Peninsula management goal for the 2014 calendar year is to ensure that human-caused brown bear mortalities – including bears taken by hunter harvest, road kills, defense of life or property, and illegal kills – do not exceed 70, and that human-caused adult sow mortalities do not exceed 17. Adult sows are those determined to be at least five years of age. To learn how to tell mature boars from sows at a distance, request a copy of the booklet "Brown Bear: Identifying Males and Females in the Field," available at department offices, or see the video "Take a Closer Look" on the website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=brownbearhunting.resources>

Currently, the department has documented 54 human-caused brown bear mortalities, including five adult females, in Kenai Peninsula GMUs 7 and 15. If human-caused bear mortality levels approach the management goal, the fall hunting season may be closed early.

Prior to entering the field, hunters are reminded to check with land owners and federal land managers to make sure the area they plan to hunt is open to hunting and to learn about any special restrictions.

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