



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

**Department of Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
Headquarters

1255 West 8th Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526  
Main: 907.465.4190  
Fax: 907.465.6142

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An Agenda Change Request (ACR 5) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 92.170 Sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine. The proponent is asking the board to create a requirement for all wolves taken in Unit 2 to be sealed within 7 days of harvest.

With respect to the board's Agenda Change Request (ACR) acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- A. The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- B. The department did not foresee the detrimental effect eliminating the short sealing period would have on calculating accurate population estimates.
- C. In 2019 the Board established a fall Unit 2 population objective of 150-200 wolves. ADF&G's ability to calculate accurate population estimates is key to setting annual season length and maintaining the population within the objective range.
- D. The department is unaware of any unforeseen or unexpected events that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses as defined in AS 16.05.258(f).
- E. The department is unaware of any unexpected resource situations that would cause a biologically allowable resource harvest to be precluded by delayed regulatory action.

Wolves taken during the hunting season with a hunting license must be sealed within 30 days of take; and wolves taken during the trapping season with a trapping license must be sealed within 30 days of the close of the season. In 2019 ADF&G proposed the Board eliminate the 14-day sealing requirement for wolves harvested in Unit 2, resulting in the sealing requirements for Unit 2 wolves to revert to within 30 days of harvest under a hunting license and within 30 days of the close of the season under a trapping license. Since that change ADF&G has determined the short sealing period enabled the department to more accurately estimate the number of wolves in Unit 2. Accurate population estimates are a key element in harvest management for this contentious population. We request that the Board establish a 7-day sealing period for all wolves harvested in Unit 2.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Unit 2 regulations is during winter/spring of 2021/2022. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its March 2021 meeting in Fairbanks to allow for more public input.

Sincerely,



Eddie Grasser  
Director  
Division of Wildlife Conservation