



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

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Headquarters

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An Agenda Change Request (ACR 5) has been submitted by the Delta Junction Advisory Committee to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 92.044 Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. The proponent is asking the board to allow brown/grizzly bears to be taken over bait in Unit 20D, including those areas south of the Tanana River.

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 is unaware of any effects of regulations that were unforeseen when the regulation was adopted.
- C. The department is unaware of any biological concerns for the population in this area.
- 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 situation that would cause a biologically allowable resource harvest to be precluded by delayed regulatory action.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for brown bears in areas of 20D outside of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area. The amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses is 1-2 bears.

Proposals to open all or portions of 20D to the hunting of brown bears over bait have been put before the Board in 2017 (Proposals 117-121), and 2020 (Proposal 93). Department responses to those proposals have been centered around conservation concerns for brown bears in the area, should baiting be allowed. The department anticipates extensive interest in harvest over bait in this accessible area and noted that current harvest is within the management objective of 5-15 bears per year.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Unit 20D regulations is winter/spring of 2024. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its March 2023 meeting in Soldotna to allow for more public input.

Sincerely,

Ryan Scott

Ryan Scott
Assistant Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation