

# Federal Subsistence

WP 26-39 Brown Bear Unit 17 Season

Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

**Organization:** Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (BBRAC)

**Issue**

The BBRAC would like to the extend the Federal subsistence season for brown bears in Unit 17 to year-round.

**Regulation to change**

**Unit 17—Brown bear**

*Unit 17—1 bear by State registration permit only*

*Sep. 1-May 31*

**How the New Regulation would Read**

**Unit 17—Brown bear**

*Unit 17—1 bears by State registration permit only*

~~*Sep. 1-May 31*~~

**July 1 – June 30**

**Justification**

This proposal requests the Federal Subsistence Board extend the season for brown bears in Unit 17. The Alaska Board of Game adopted Proposal 32 at their January 2025 meeting to extend the Unit 17 brown bear season to year-round, effective July 1, 2025.

submitted to BOG by Dan Dunaway 7-14-25

Federal Subsistence  
WP 26-38 Unit 17 Brown Bear

Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

**Organization:** Dan Dunaway

**Issue**

Increase the annual bag limit for brown bears in Unit 17 from 1 bear to 2 bears and eliminate State registration.

**Regulation to change**

**Unit 17—Brown bear**

*Unit 17—1 bear by State registration permit only*

Sept. 1-May 31

**How the New Regulation would Read**

**Unit 17—Brown bear**

**Unit 17—2 bears**

Sept. 1-May 31

**Justification**

This proposal requests the Federal Subsistence Board increase the annual brown bear bag limit in GMU 17 from 1 to 2 bears. Beginning in 2011 the Alaska Board of Game adopted a 2 bear per year bag limit in an effort to reduce human bear conflicts and to provide greater opportunity to hunters while the bear population was thought to be large and increasing. The 2-bear limit does not appear to have significantly increased the local bear harvest. Regulations currently allow the sale of hides as handicrafts and an added bear would provide added economic opportunity to local subsistence users. Public comments made at recent BBRAC meeting indicate brown bears are very abundant in GMU 17 and a 2-bear bag limit is not likely to have any negative impact on the populations. This proposal would also remove registration requirement but would NOT eliminate the requirement to seal harvested bears with ADFG. The State has not been registering brown bear hunter in GMU 17 for some time now.

source:

Peterson, C 2023. *Brown Bear management report and plan, Game Management Unit 17: Report period 1 July 2014–30 June 2019, and plan period 1 July 2019–30 June 2024.* Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report and Plan ADF&G/DWC/SMR&P-2023-17, Juneau, AK

[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/research/wildlife/speciesmanagementreports/pdfs/brownbear\\_2014\\_2024\\_smr\\_gmu\\_17.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/research/wildlife/speciesmanagementreports/pdfs/brownbear_2014_2024_smr_gmu_17.pdf)

submitted to BOG by Dan Dunaway 7-14-25