

To the Alaska Department of Fish & Game,

My name is Adam Rector. I am writing in OPPOSITION to the proposed regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with the use and taking of game in Game Management Units 9B, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A, and 19B. I am a year-round resident of Alaska and I work professionally in the tourism and wildlife industry, specifically relating to bears in Lake Clark National Park here in Alaska.

My Opposition is based on the following reasons:

The state's predation program is not science based, and seems to be yet another attempt by the department to circumvent the State's judicial system's ruling from earlier in the year. This proposed change continues to be in bad

faith against the citizens of the state of Alaska.

The state has made no amendments to the plan since it was found to be unlawful. This is an obvious attempt to circumvent the state's judicial system, which is put in place for this kind of accountability.

ADF&G is a state run and taxpayer funded department. As such, the public deserves the ability to comment on major proposals such as this intensive management plan.

Attempting to pass such a measure without public comment, and then attempting to force it through with an emergency order is a great disservice to the citizens of Alaska, to whom this department is supposed to serve.

An assessment of the impact of bear populations is important to this plan due to the decline of salmon populations in

south central and south west Alaska. Bear reproductive patterns are tied closely to salmon populations, and as the salmon decline, it is reasonable to suspect that bear populations could follow suit. While there is a department draft from June of 2024 that states "predator numbers are expected rebound in a few years after control is suspended.", there have not been any recent studies to back up this statement as a primary protein source for these bears continues to struggle.

Thank you for your time,  
Adam Rector