



THE STATE
of ALASKA

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
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An Agenda Change Request (ACR 3) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. The proponent is asking the board to remove conflicting and redundant methods and means for taking beavers during trapping seasons across the state, and to clarify legal methods of take for beaver during trapping seasons.

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

- A. The allowance to use firearms statewide for beaver trapped, found in 5 AAC 92.095(a)(3)(B) appears to be an error in regulation. This regulation has also been printed in the Alaska Trapping Regulations book and disseminated each year to the public since 2022.
- B. The numerous exceptions and requirements for taking beaver under trapping regulations across the state have been restricted and alternately relaxed across the state, which has resulted in numerous confusing regulations, making it difficult for trappers, the department, and enforcement to know which regulation to follow.
- C. The department is unaware of any biological concerns.
- 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.

The requested change will remove conflicting and unnecessary regulatory language, and clarify for all involved what is legal and where.

Pieces of 5 AAC 92.095 are region-specific, and others are statewide, leaving it unclear which meeting would be the appropriate one to address this regulation. While the department has received questions from the public about conflicting regulations governing this activity, overall the number of complaints and questions are low. The department does not believe there will be any disservice to trappers if the board addresses this ACR at one of the regularly scheduled regional board meetings. The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Statewide regulations is during winter/spring of 2027/2028. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its January meeting in Wrangell.

Sincerely,

Ryan Scott

Ryan Scott

Director

Division of Wildlife Conservation