

Proposal 1

Effect of Proposal:

Ban the take of big game between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in GMUs 1–5

East POW AC Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

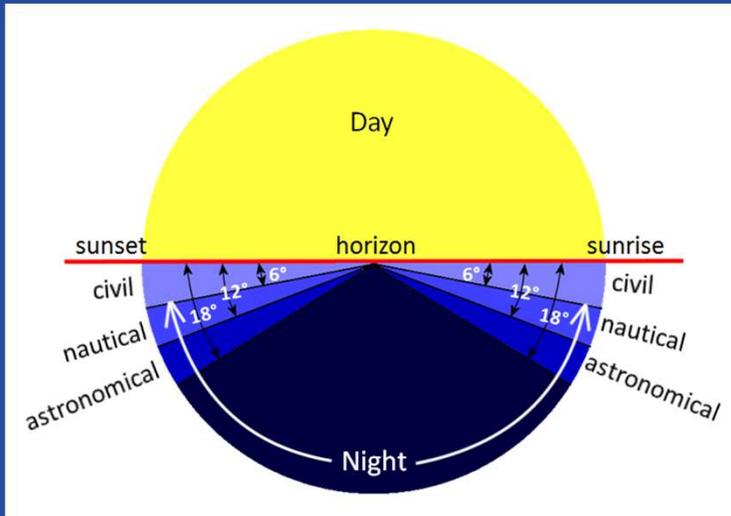
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Proposal 1

Civil Twilight



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<https://www.weather.gov/lmk/twilight-types>



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Proposal 1

Background

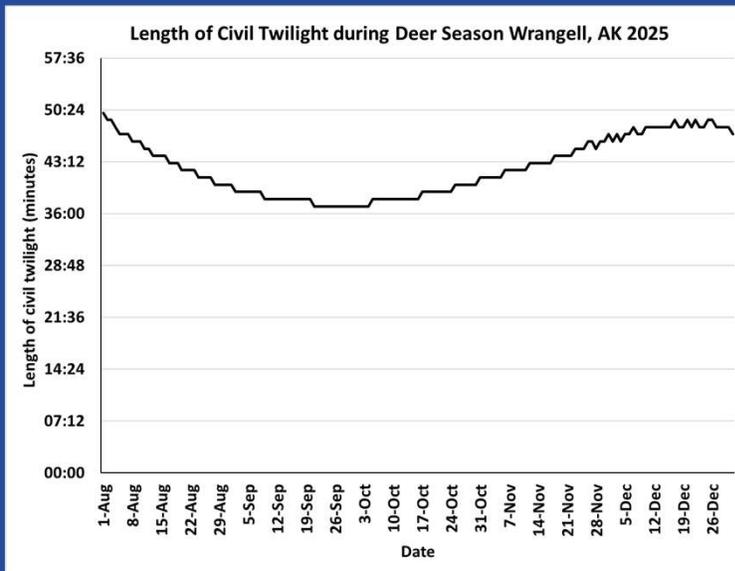
- Currently no legal shooting hour restrictions for big game
- Waterfowl regulations have restrictions
- May not use artificial light to take big game
- Most other states use 30 minutes before and after sunrise and sunset for big game
- There is a positive cultural and traditional use finding for most big game in southeast

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Proposal 1



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Proposal 1

Effect of Proposal:

Ban the take of big game between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in GMUs 1–5

East POW AC Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

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Proposal 2

Effect of Proposal:

Ban the take of deer between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in GMUs 1–5

East POW AC Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

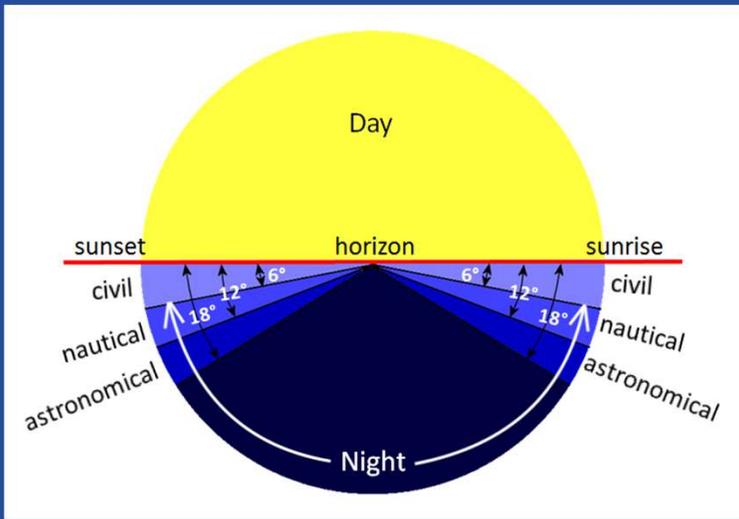
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Proposal 2

Civil Twilight



The diagram illustrates the different types of twilight based on the sun's position relative to the horizon. A large yellow sun is shown above a horizontal red line representing the horizon. The area above the horizon is labeled 'Day'. The area below the horizon is divided into three layers of twilight, each with a specific angle from the horizon: 'civil' (6°), 'nautical' (12°), and 'astronomical' (18°). The area below the astronomical twilight is labeled 'Night'. The sun is shown setting on the left and rising on the right. The diagram is set against a dark blue background.

7 <https://www.weather.gov/lmk/twilight-types>



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Proposal 2

Background

- Currently no legal shooting hour restrictions for big game
- Waterfowl regulations have restrictions
- May not use artificial light to take big game
- Most other states use 30 minutes before and after sunrise and sunset for big game

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Proposal 2

Background

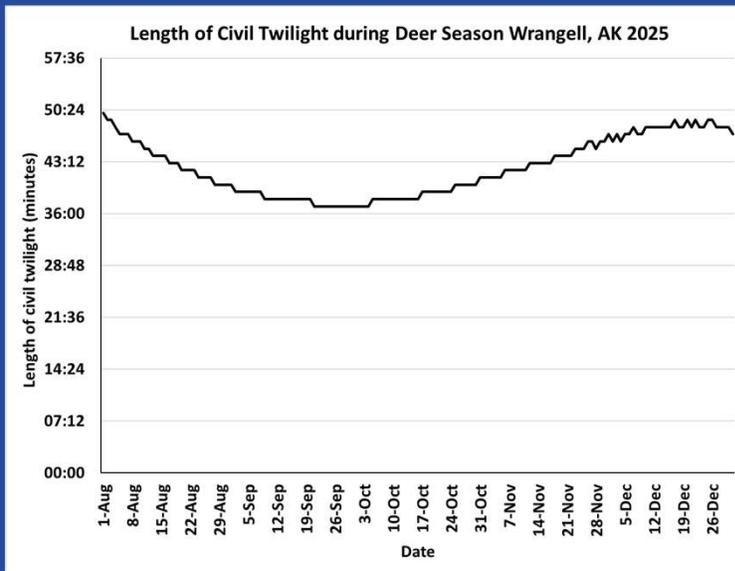
- Positive cultural and traditional use finding for Sitka black-tailed deer (negative for GMU 1D)
- Amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence
 - GMU 1A = 5 – 40
 - GMU 1B = 40 – 50
 - GMU 1C = 30 – 40
 - GMU 2 = 1,500 – 1,600
 - GMU 3 = 150 – 175
 - GMU 4 = 5,200 – 6,000
 - GMU 5 = 20 – 40

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Proposal 2



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Proposal 2

Effect of Proposal:

Ban the take of deer between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in GMUs 1-5

East POW AC Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral

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Proposal 3

Effect of Proposal:

Allow same day airborne (SDA) mountain goat hunting in Units 1 - 5

Ketchikan AC Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Customary and Traditional Use Findings For Region 1

Unit 1A Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 5 – 10
Unit 1B Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 5 – 10
Unit 1C Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 25 – 30
Unit 1D Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 10 – 15
Unit 4 Mountain Goats = Negative	
Unit 5 Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 1 – 2

Proposal 3



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Background

- SDA restrictions based on Federal Airborne Hunting Act of 1956
- Exceptions:
 - e.g. deer, caribou, bait stations, Unit 16
- Recent SDA proposals for bear have failed



Proposal 3

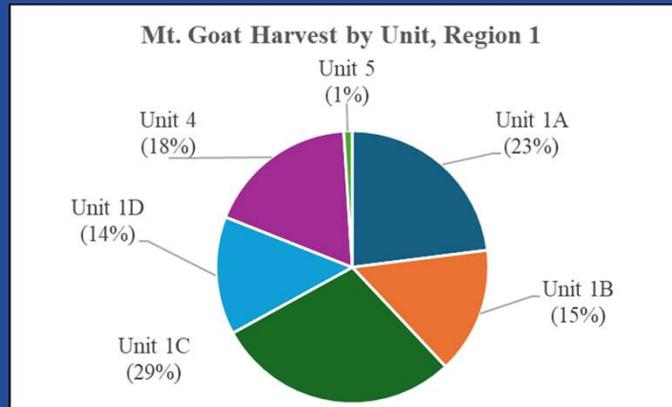


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Region 1 Goat Harvest

- RY15 – RY24 = 147 average (range of 105 – 169)
- NR harvest ~ 35%



Proposal 3

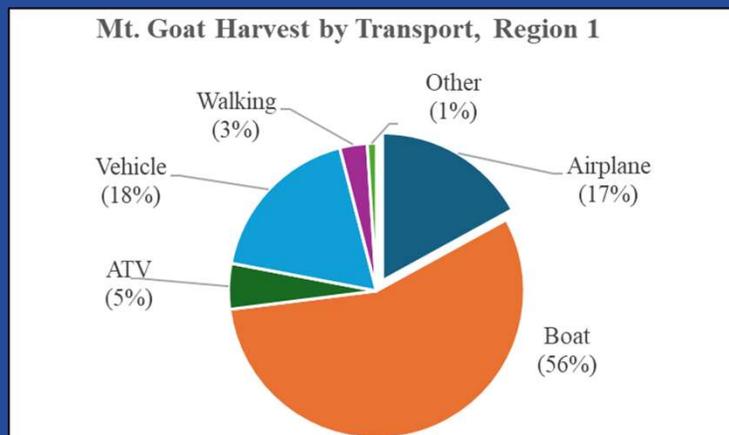


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Region 1 Goat Transport Types

- ~25 mountain goat/year by airplane



Proposal 3



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Discussion

- Targeting specific animal (e.g. sheep, moose) unlikely
- Weather a significant factor in success
- Few land and shoot possibilities



Proposal 3



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Conclusion

- Methods and Means determination
- Public perception
- Potential for increased interest in aircraft
- No conservation concerns
- Could reduce opportunity



Proposal 3



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Proposal 3

Effect of Proposal:
Allow same day airborne mountain goat hunting in Units 1 - 5

Ketchikan AC Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



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Proposal 4

Effect of Proposal:
Mountain goats in Units 1 – 5 would count against bag limit if wounded and lost

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



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Customary and Traditional Use Findings For Region 1

Unit 1A Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 5 – 10
Unit 1B Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 5 – 10
Unit 1C Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 25 – 30
Unit 1D Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 10 – 15
Unit 4 Mountain Goats = Negative	
Unit 5 Mountain Goats = Positive	ANS = 1 – 2

Proposal 4



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Discussion

- Black and brown bears in Units 1 – 5, 8
- Elk in Unit 8



Proposal 4



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Discussion

- Proposals for other species failed due to food security issues
- Goats susceptible to wounding loss
- Reported goats count toward quotas



Proposal 4



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Conclusion

- Could help managers managing small quotas
- Public perception



Proposal 4



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Proposal 4

Effect of Proposal:
Mountain goats in Units 1 – 5 would count against bag limit if wounded and lost

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



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Proposal 5

Effect of Proposal:
Change the brown bear bag limit in Units 1A, 1B, and 1C to one bear every year for residents and non-residents.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



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- **Positive C&T finding**

ANS:

- Unit 1A, outside the Ketchikan Nonsubsistence Area = 2-3
- Unit 1B and 3 = 1
- Unit 1C, outside the Juneau Nonsubsistence Area = 1

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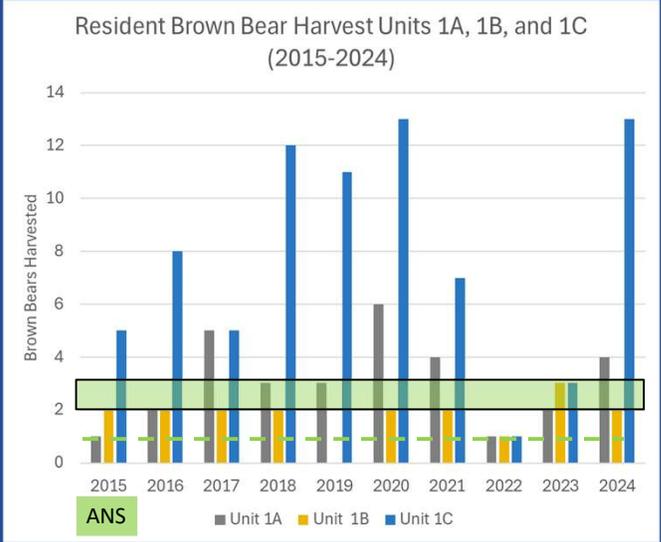
Proposal 5

Background

- Bag limit 1 bear/4 reg. years
 - Except Berners Bay (1 bear/reg. year)
- Similar proposals in Unit 1C failed in 2023
- Harvest is typically managed for 4% of the estimated population (Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Team)

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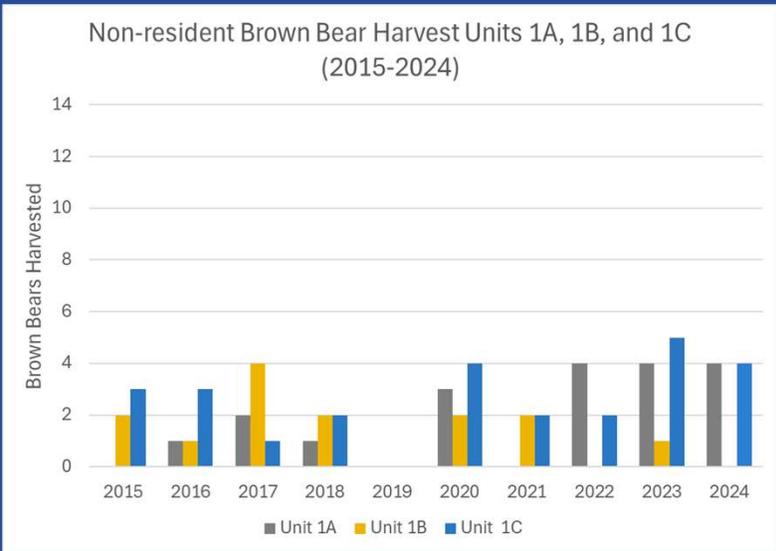
Proposal 5



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Discussion

- Slow reproductive cycle
- Possible local depletions
- Guides in Units 1A, 1B, and 1C
- Board of Game Policy (2023-227-BOG)



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Proposal 5

Effect of Proposal:
Change the brown bear bag limit in Units 1A, 1B, and 1C to one bear every year for residents and non-residents.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



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Proposal 6

Effect of Proposal:

Align the hunting season for wolves in Unit 1 to August 1 – May 31

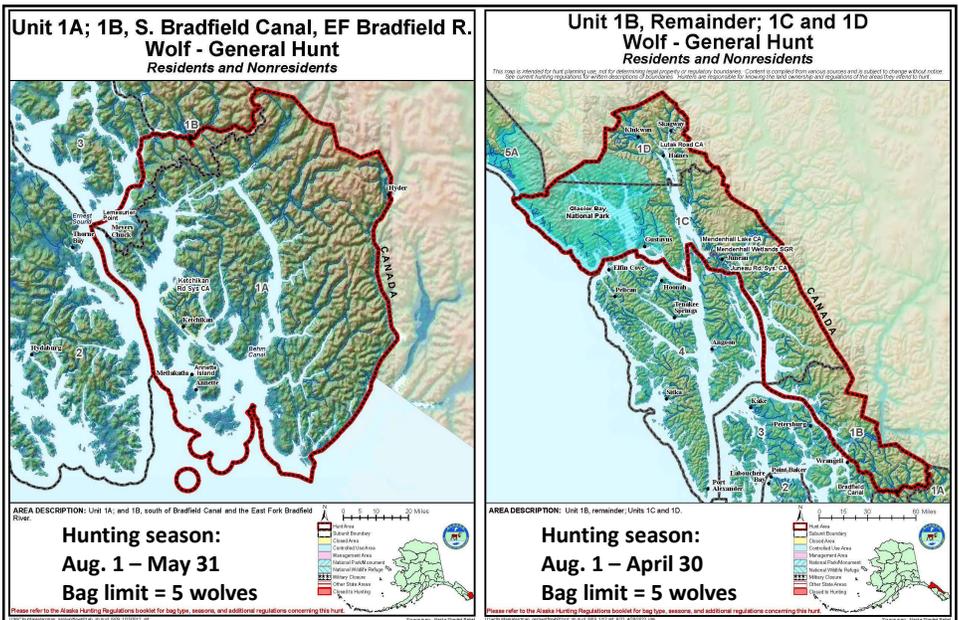
Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Support

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Proposal 6



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Proposal 6

Background

- 2010 Board of game meeting season extended
- Average harvest with a firearm is low in GMU 1
 - Firearm harvest in GMU 1A and portion of 1B averaged 5 wolves per regulatory year and 1 wolf in May from RY2011-RY2024
- GMU 1 average harvest with a firearm from RY2011-RY2024 is 12 wolves per regulatory year
- Positive C&T, ANS = 90% of the harvestable portion

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Proposal 6

Background

Game Management Unit 1 Wolf Harvest with a Firearm by Sex from Regulatory Year 2011 - RY2024				
Regulatory Year	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
2011	12	5		17
2012	9	9		18
2013	7	9	1	17
2014	7	6		13
2015	8	4		12
2016	6	3		9
2017	11	3	3	17
2018	7	5		12
2019	6	5		11
2020	6	7		13
2021	3	8		11
2022	5	4		9
2023	3	3		6
2024	6	2		8
Average	7	5		12

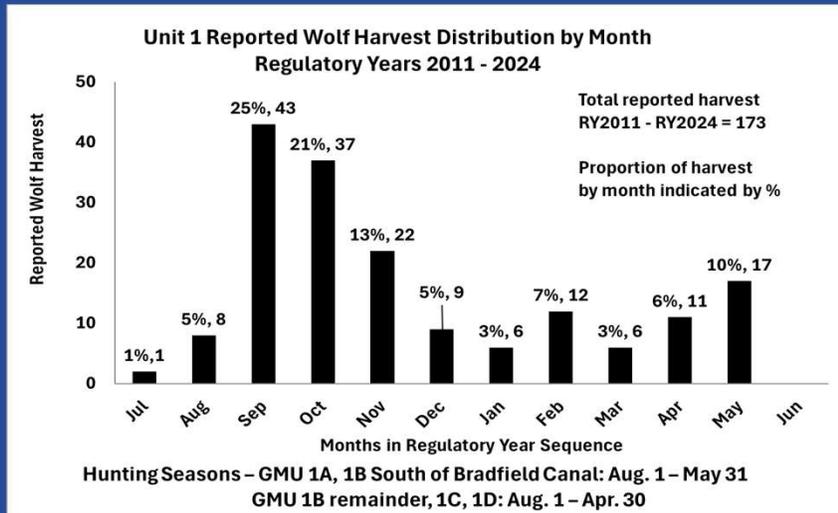
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Proposal 6

Background



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Proposal 6

Discussion

- Harvest during May is likely opportunistic
- Total harvest is predicted to increase by 2-3 wolves annually
- Not likely to cause biological concern
- Would reduce regulatory complexity

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Proposal 6

Effect of Proposal:
Align the hunting season for wolves in Unit 1 to August 1 – May 31

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Support

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Proposal 7

Effect of Proposal:
Align the wolf hunting season in Game Management Unit 1A, 1B, and 1C to August 1 – May 31

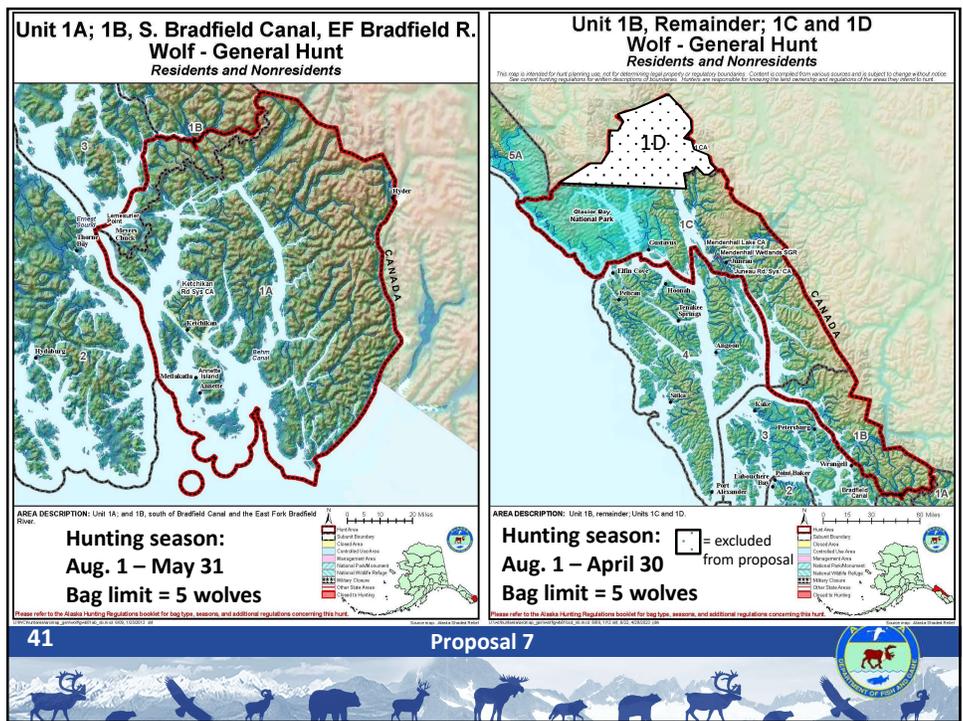
Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Support

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Proposal 7

Background

- 2010 Board of game meeting season extended
- Average harvest with a firearm is low in GMU 1
 - Firearm harvest in GMU 1A and portion of 1B averaged 5 wolves per regulatory year and 1 wolf in May from RY2011-RY2024
- GMU 1B remainder and 1C average harvest with a firearm from RY2011-RY2024 is 6 wolves per regulatory year
- Positive C&T, ANS = 90% of the harvestable portion

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Proposal 7

Background

Game Management Units 1A, 1B, 1C Wolf Harvest with a Firearm by Sex from RY2011 - RY2024

Regulatory

Year	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
2011	10	5		15
2012	4	6		10
2013	5	8	1	14
2014	6	5		11
2015	8	3		11
2016	4	3		7
2017	11	3	3	17
2018	6	5		11
2019	5	5		10
2020	5	6		11
2021	3	8		11
2022	4	4		8
2023	3	3		6
2024	4	1		5
Average	6	5		11

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Proposal 7

Background

Units 1A, 1B, 1C Reported Wolf Harvest Distribution by Month
Regulatory Years 2011 - 2024

Total reported harvest
RY2011 - RY2024 = 147

Proportion of harvest
by month indicated by %

Months in Regulatory Year Sequence

Hunting Seasons – GMU 1A, 1B South of Bradfield Canal: Aug. 1 – May 31
GMU 1B remainder, 1C, 1D: Aug. 1 – Apr. 30

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Proposal 7

Background

- Harvest during May is likely opportunistic
- Total harvest is predicted to increase by 2-3 wolves annually
- Not likely to cause biological concern
- Would reduce regulatory complexity

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Proposal 7

Effect of Proposal:
Align the wolf hunting season in Game Management Unit 1A, 1B, and 1C to August 1 – May 31

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Support

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Proposal 8

Effect of Proposal: Create a mountain lion season for residents and nonresidents for Units 1–5.

Wrangell Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral




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Proposal 8

Proposed Hunt Structure

Hunt Area	Resident and Nonresident Season
Units 1–5	Aug 1-Jun 15

1 mountain lion per regulatory year, excluding kittens and females with kittens.

Salvage requirements: Skull and hide

Sealing requirements: Skull and hide within 15 days of kill




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Proposal 8

Background

- There have been 5 documented observations of mountain lions in Alaska.
- A young male mountain lion was shot on the east side of Wrangell Island in 1989.
- In 1998 a mountain lion was photographed at Meyers Chuck, Cleveland Peninsula.
- Also in 1998, a mountain lion was snared in Totem Bay, Kupreanof Island.



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Proposal 8

Background

- In June 2024 a young male mountain lion was shot on southwest Wrangell Island.
- An adult male mountain lion was captured in a wolf snare on Kuiu Island in April 2025.
- All 4 of the mountain lions killed in Unit 3 have been males, 3 of 4 being young males.

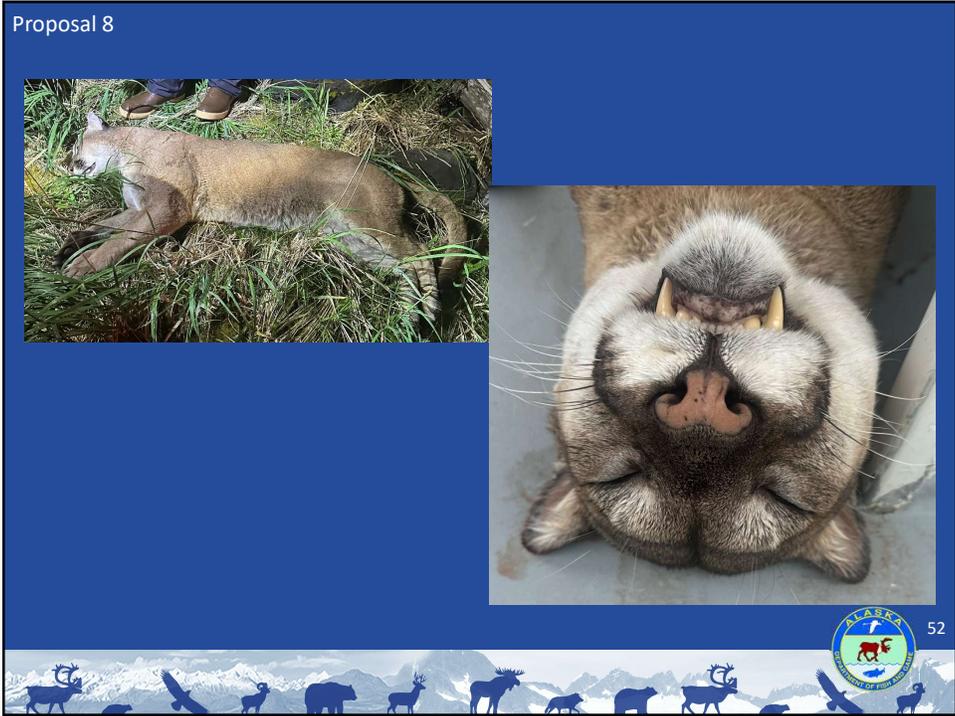


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Proposal 8

Discussion

- No mountain lion images have been captured by trail cameras operated by ADF&G or by the public in Unit 3.
- Mountain lions are considered sparse in the northern half of British Columbia, where there is no open mountain lion season.
- The department conducts no management activities for mountain lions other than documentation of occasional observations.



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Proposal 8

Discussion

- No harvestable surplus of mountain lions in the region, no established breeding population.
- Adoption of the proposal would result in some costs to the department as sealing materials and methods are developed to capture harvest data necessary to track harvest and monitor populations.



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Proposal 8

Effect of Proposal: Create a mountain lion season for residents and nonresidents for Units 1–5.

Wrangell Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



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Proposal 9

Effect of Proposal: Create mountain lion hunting and trapping seasons for residents and nonresidents for Units 1–5.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral



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Proposal 9

Proposed Hunt Structure

Hunt Area	Resident and Nonresident Season
Units 1-5	No Closed Season

1 mountain lion



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Proposal 9

Background

- There have been 5 documented observations of mountain lions in Alaska.
- A young male mountain lion was shot on the east side of Wrangell Island in 1989.
- In 1998 a mountain lion was photographed at Meyers Chuck, Cleveland Peninsula.
- Also in 1998, a mountain lion was snared in Totem Bay, Kupreanof Island.



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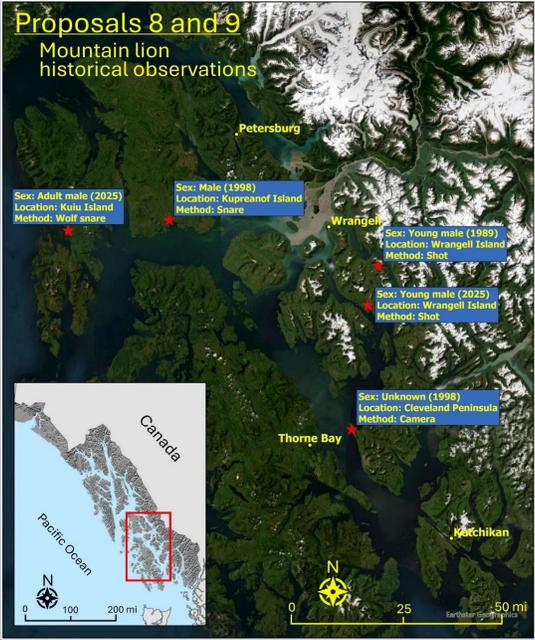


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Proposal 9

Background

- In June 2024 a young male mountain lion was shot on southwest Wrangell Island.
- An adult male mountain lion was captured in a wolf snare on Kuiu Island in April 2025.
- All 4 of the mountain lions killed in Unit 3 have been males, 3 of 4 being young males.



Proposal 9



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Proposal 9

Discussion

- No mountain lion images have been captured by trail cameras operated by ADF&G or the public in Unit 3.
- Mountain lions are considered sparse in the northern half of British Columbia, where there is no open mountain lion season.
- The department conducts no management activities for mountain lions other than documentation of occasional observations.

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Proposal 8

Discussion

- No harvestable surplus of mountain lions in the region, no established breeding population.
- May want to consider reporting or sealing requirements.
- May want to consider excluding the take of kittens and females with kittens if the intent is to maintain a hunt.



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Proposal 9

Effect of Proposal: Create a mountain lion season for residents and nonresidents for Units 1–5.

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Proposal 10

Effect of Proposal:
Remove sealing requirement for beaver in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Neutral




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Background

<u>Area</u>	<u>Open Season</u>	<u>Limit</u>
Units 1 - 5	Nov 10 – May 15	No limit

Beaver must be sealed within 30 days after the close of the season.

Positive C&T finding for furbearers in Units 1-5 (including beaver). ANS = 90% of the harvestable portion.



Proposal 10




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Discussion

- No sealing requirements:
 - Interior (Units 12, 19-21, 24, 25, 26B/C)
 - Arctic/Western (Units 18, 22, 23, 26A)
- RY15-24: average 225/year (Range 100 – 325)



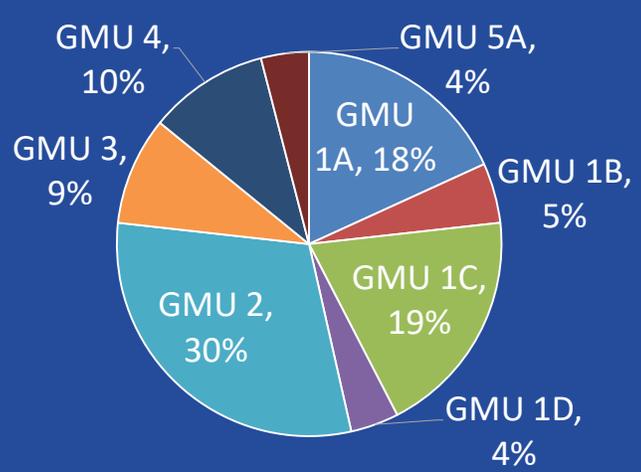
Proposal 10



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Regional Beaver Harvest by GMU



Proposal 10



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Conclusion

- Populations appear stable, no conservation concerns
 - firearms approved in 2015
 - season extended 2019
- Sustainably managed either way
- Limited tools to monitor



Proposal 10



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Proposal 10

Effect of Proposal:

Remove sealing requirement for beaver in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Proposal 11

Effect of Proposal:

Allow cameras that can communicate wirelessly for taking furbearers in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Background

- Regulation dates back to 2017
 - BOG discussion entirely related to big game
- Trapping regs (5 AAC 92.095) incorporate hunting regs by reference (5 AAC 92.080)

Positive C&T finding for furbearers in Units 1-5,
ANS = 90% of the harvestable portion



Proposal 11



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Conclusion

- Pros
 - Enhance safety and efficiency
 - Possible increase to catch rates
 - Animal in trap
- Cons
 - Potential for abuse



Proposal 11



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Proposal 11

Effect of Proposal:

Allow cameras that can communicate wirelessly for taking furbearers in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Neutral



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Proposal 12

Effect of Proposal:

Prohibit the use of enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) devices for taking furbearers in Units 1–5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Opposed

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Proposal 12

Background

- Night vision – amplifies available light
- Forward looking Infrared (FLIR) – detects infrared radiation emitted from a heat source
- Positive C&T finding for furbearers in GMU 1-5; ANS = 90% of harvestable portion

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Proposal 12

Background

- Board of Game meeting History
 - 2016: prohibit the use of FLIR
 - 2024: Allow for the use of night vision and FLIR for take of furbearers in Region 3
 - 2025: Allow for the use of night vision and FLIR for taking furbearers statewide
- Most states allow the use of night vision or FLIR for harvesting furbearers

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Proposal 12

Discussion

- Proponents of proposal are concerned with potential for abuse of this regulation
- If adopted, this would be the only region prohibiting the use of night vision and FLIR

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Proposal 12

Effect of Proposal:

Prohibit the use of enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) devices for taking furbearers in Units 1–5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Opposed

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Proposal 13

Effect of Proposal:

Prohibit the use of enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) devices for taking furbearers in Units 1–5 during any open deer season

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Opposed

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Proposal 13

Background

- Night vision – amplifies available light
- Forward looking Infrared (FLIR) – detects infrared radiation emitted from a heat source
- Positive C&T finding for furbearers in units 1-5;
ANS = 90% of harvestable portion

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Proposal 13

Background

- Board of Game meeting History
 - 2016: prohibit the use of FLIR
 - 2024: Allow for the use of night vision and FLIR for take of furbearers in Region 3
 - 2025: Allow for the use of night vision and FLIR for taking furbearers statewide
- Most states allow the use of night vision or FLIR for harvesting furbearers

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Proposal 13

Background

- Proponents of proposal are concerned with potential for abuse of this regulation
- If adopted, this would be the only region prohibiting the use of night vision and FLIR

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Proposal 13

Background

- State and Federal Seasons vary:
 - Shortest season: Unit 3 Oct. 1 – Nov. 7
 - Longest season: Unit 2 July 24 – Jan. 31
 - Most common season: Aug. 1 – Dec. 31

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Proposal 13

Effect of Proposal:

Prohibit the use of enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) devices for taking furbearers in Units 1–5 during any open deer season

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Opposed

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Proposal 14

Effect of Proposal:

Change the bag limit on fishers in Units 1-5 from 1 to 3 fishers

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Support

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Proposal 14

Background

- Classified as a furbearer
- Trapping season:
 - Dec 1st – Feb 15th
- Bag Limit = 1
- Positive C&T finding
 - No ANS has been determined by the board



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Proposal 14

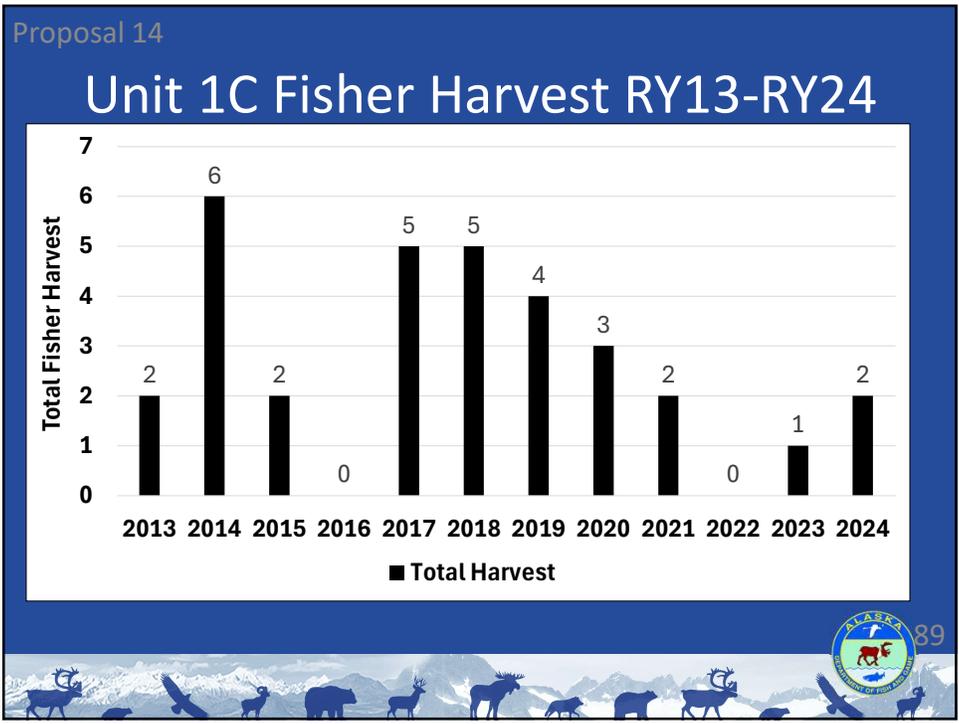
Background

- RY13 was 1st trapping season
- 6 fishers harvested incidental to other trapping from RY96-RY11
- 32 fishers (17 F, 15 M) were harvested in Unit 1C from RY13-RY24
- 1 fisher harvested in Unit 1D (RY23)



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Proposal 14

Discussion

- Trappers would like to keep more fishers
- Do not have a population estimate
- Potential for localized depletion



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Proposal 14

Effect of Proposal:

Change the bag limit on fishers in Units 1-5 from 1 to 3 fishers

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Support



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Proposal 15

Effect of Proposal:

Remove the bag limit on fishers in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Support



92

Proposal 15

Background

- Classified as a furbearer
- Trapping season:
 - Dec 1st – Feb 15th
- Bag Limit = 1
- Positive C&T finding
 - No ANS has been determined by the board



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Proposal 15

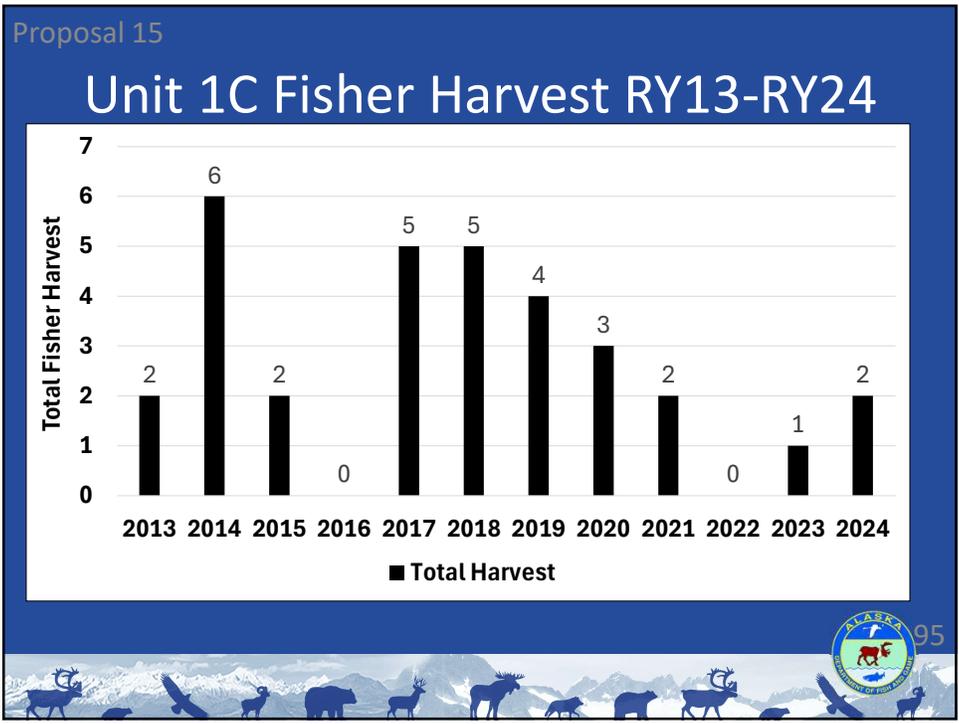
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- RY13 was 1st trapping season
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- 1 fisher harvested in Unit 1D (RY23)



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Proposal 15

Discussion

- Trappers would like to keep more fishers
- Do not have a population estimate
- Potential for localized depletion



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Proposal 15

Effect of Proposal:

Remove the bag limit on fishers in Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:

Support



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Proposal 16

Proposal:

Change the migratory game bird season dates in Units 1 – 5 to October 8-January 22

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

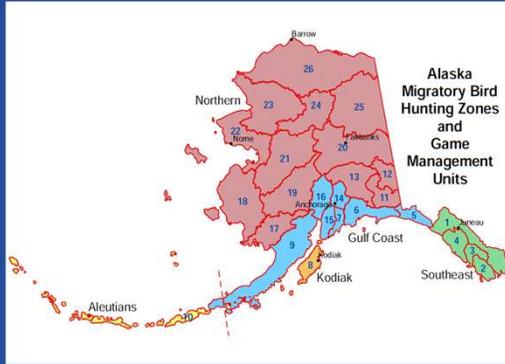


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Proposal 16

CHANGE THE MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASON DATES IN UNITS 1 – 4 (5) TO OCTOBER 8-JANUARY 22

Note: GMU 5 is in the Gulf Coast Hunt Zone; federal regulations prohibit changes to season dates across hunt zones



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Proposal 16

CURRENT REGULATIONS

- Current season dates: Units 1 – 4 uses a two-segment (split) season
Open: September 1 – November 30
Closed: December 1 – December 15
Open: December 16 – December 31
- Positive C&T finding, no ANS



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Proposal 16

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE

The proposal would revert to a consecutive-day season in Units 1 – 4 (SEAK Hunt Zone) with dates from October 8 – January 22

- Lose the benefit of a two-segment season that allows both early and late season opportunity
- October season start would tradeoff early season hunting in September for late season opportunity



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Proposal 16

BACKGROUND

Issue: difference in hunter preferences for targeting early migrants versus late season wintering waterfowl

Regulatory constraints:

- Hunt season - 107 days
- Framework season is between Sept 1 and Jan 26
- Season dates uniform within hunt zone
- Season has either consecutive day or two-segment (split) structure



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Proposal 16

BACKGROUND

Past board proposals to adjust season dates -

- 1996; 1998; 2000:** Change season dates to Oct 8 - Jan 22
- 2006:** 3 proposals change season dates to Sept 16 – Dec 31
- 2008:** Amend season dates to run from early Oct to mid-Jan
(board amended season dates to Sept 16 – Dec 31)
- 2010:** Allow waterfowl hunting to begin on Sept 1
- 2015:** Shift season to 2 weeks earlier in Unit 5A
- 2019:** Shift waterfowl season to Sept 1 – Dec 16 or alternate odd/even years



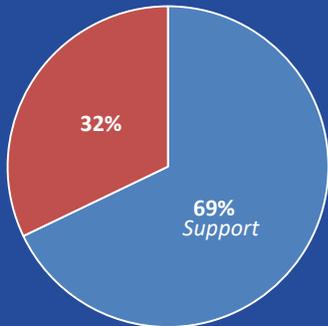
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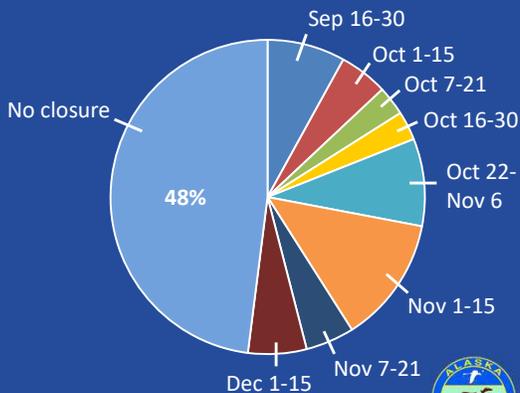
Proposal 16

BACKGROUND

Support transfer of split option from Kodiak to SEAK?



Preferred closure dates?



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BACKGROUND

- In 2020, the department successfully petitioned the USFWS to reassign the split season option to SEAK
- In 2023, the board approved the department's proposed split-season structure resulting in the current regulation



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CONSIDERATIONS

The department supports a split-season configuration in SEAK (Units 1 – 4) to balance hunter preferences for early and late hunting opportunity

Con:

- Adds regulatory complexity
- Loss of mid-season opportunity
- Disagreement on closure dates

Pro:

- Early migrants/winter birds
- No tradeoff hunting holidays
- Flexibility in split season



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Proposal 16

Proposal:
Change the migratory game bird season dates in Units 1 – 5 to October 8-January 22

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral



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Proposal 17 **Units 1-5 Grouse**

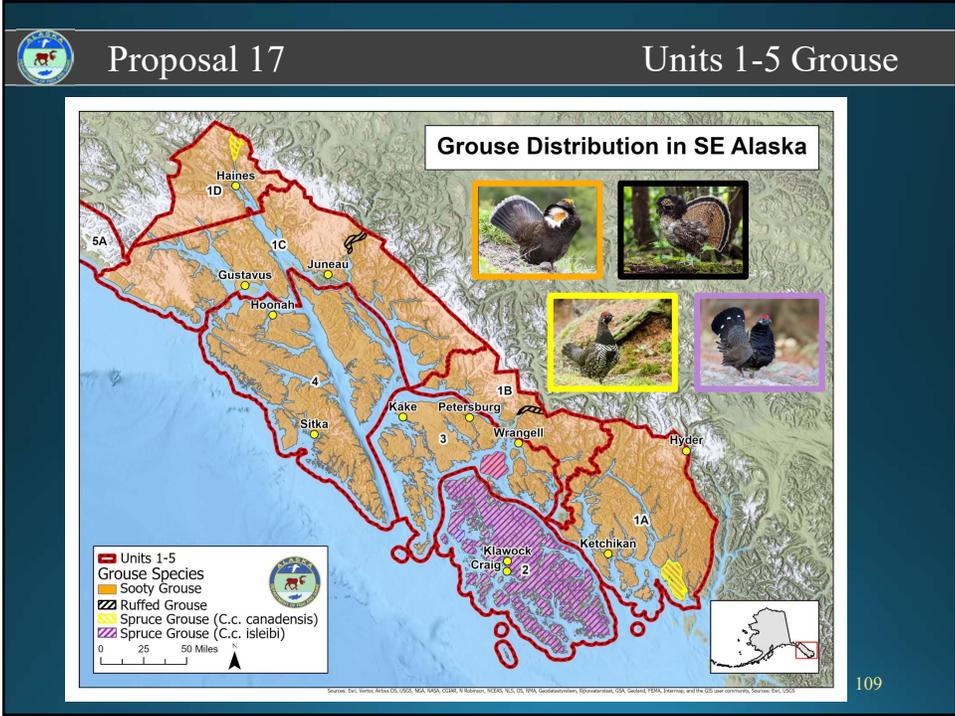
Change the regulations to only allow the take of male grouse from March 15 - May 15 within Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: **Opposed**

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Proposal 17 Units 1-5 Grouse

Sooty Grouse Sex Identification

Male Sooty Grouse Female Sooty Grouse

Photo credit: Tom Lawler Photo credit: Mike Taras

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Proposal 17
Units 1-5 Grouse

Ruffed Grouse Sex Identification

<p>Male Ruffed Grouse</p>  <p>Photo credit: Frederick Lelievre</p>	<p>Female Ruffed Grouse</p>  <p>Photo credit: Leah Hill</p>
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Proposal 17
Units 1-5 Grouse

Spruce Grouse (*C. c. canadensis*) Sex Identification

<p>Male Spruce Grouse</p>  <p>Photo credit: Luke Seitz</p>	<p>Female Spruce Grouse</p>  <p>Photo credit: Mike Taras</p>
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 Proposal 17 Units 1-5 Grouse

Spruce Grouse (*C. c. isleibi*) Sex Identification

Male Spruce Grouse	Female Spruce Grouse
	
Photo credit: Blair Dudeck	Photo credit: Mike Taras

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 Proposal 17 Units 1-5 Grouse

Current Regulations for Units 1-5:

- Season Dates: August 1 - May 15
- Bag/Possession Limits: 5 per day & 10 in possession
- No current C&T finding
- No ANS

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Proposal 17 Units 1-5 Grouse

Proposed Regulations for Grouse in Units 1-5:

Season Dates/Bag & Possession Limits:

- August 1 - March 14 (both sexes)
Bag/Possession Limits: 5 per day & 10 in possession
- March 15 - May 15 (males only)
Bag/Possession Limits: 5 males per day & 10 males in possession

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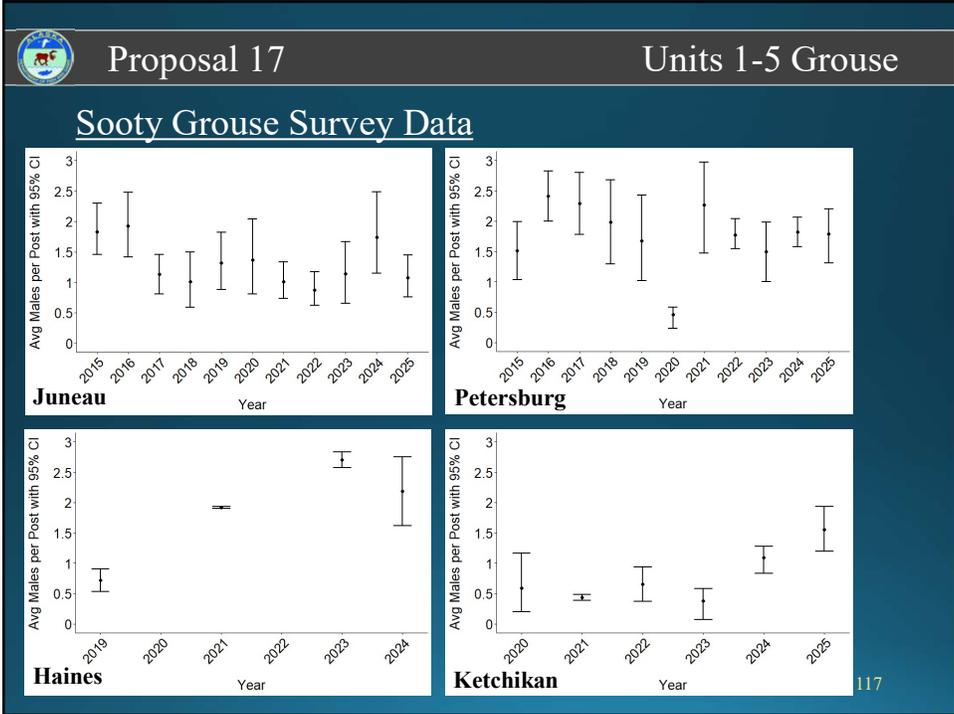
Proposal 17 Units 1-5 Grouse

Regulations: Background

- Grouse season in Units 1-5 same since 1987-1988
- Bag & Possession limits same since 1965-1966
- Most AK grouse seasons end Mar 31 or Apr 30

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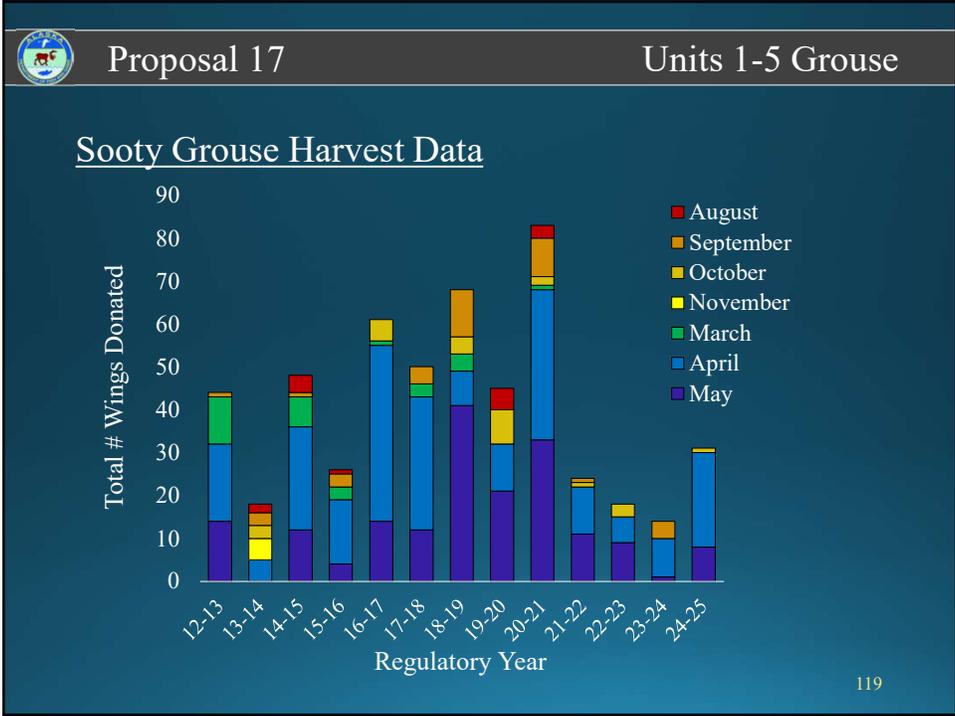
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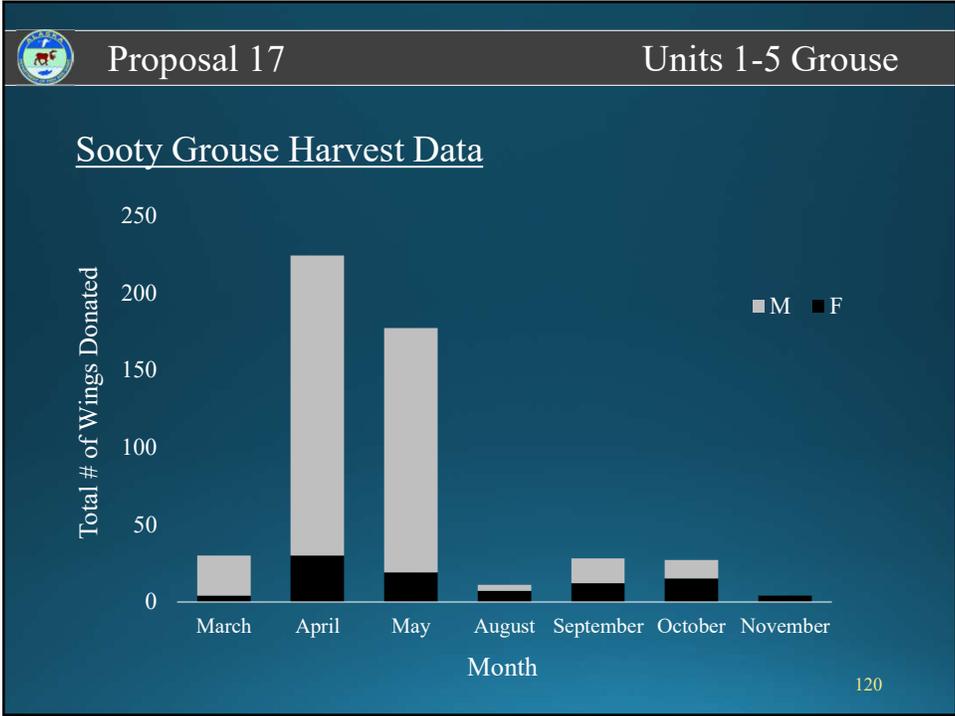
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 Proposal 17 Units 1-5 Grouse

Considerations

1. Possible to differentiate between males and females
 - Combination of physical traits and behavioral cues
 - Challenging while in field
2. Sooty grouse numbers appear to be relatively stable
 - Some harvest of both sexes taking place in spring
 - Unclear if proposed regulation change will have intended effect

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 Proposal 17 Units 1-5 Grouse

Change the regulations to only allow the take of male grouse from March 15 - May 15 within Units 1-5

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: **Opposed**

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Proposal 18 **Units 1-5 Grouse**

Change the grouse hunting season in Units 1 - 5
to August 10 - May 31

Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation: **Neutral** on delaying
start date to August 10 but **Opposed** to extending season
to May 31

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Proposal 18 **Units 1-5 Grouse**

Grouse Distribution in SE Alaska

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 Proposal 18 Units 1-5 Grouse

Current Regulations for Units 1-5:

- Season Dates: August 1 - May 15
- Bag/Possession Limits: 5 per day & 10 in possession
- No current C&T finding
- No ANS

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 Proposal 18 Units 1-5 Grouse

Proposed Regulations for Grouse in Unit 1-5:

- Season dates: August 10 - May 31
- Bag/Possession Limits: 5 per day & 10 in possession

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Proposal 18 **Units 1-5 Grouse**

Regulations: Background

- Grouse season Units 1-5 same since 1987-88
- Bag & Possession limits same since 1965-66
- Most AK grouse seasons end Mar 31 or Apr 30

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Proposal 18 **Units 1-5 Grouse**

Sooty Grouse Survey Data

Year	Avg Males per Post with 95% CI
2015	~1.8
2016	~1.9
2017	~1.1
2018	~1.1
2019	~1.2
2020	~1.3
2021	~1.0
2022	~1.0
2023	~1.1
2024	~1.7
2025	~1.1

Year	Avg Males per Post with 95% CI
2015	~1.5
2016	~2.3
2017	~2.1
2018	~1.9
2019	~1.5
2020	~0.5
2021	~2.1
2022	~1.6
2023	~1.2
2024	~1.6
2025	~1.7

Year	Avg Males per Post with 95% CI
2019	~0.7
2021	~1.9
2023	~2.7
2024	~2.1

Year	Avg Males per Post with 95% CI
2020	~0.5
2021	~0.4
2022	~0.6
2023	~0.4
2024	~1.0
2025	~1.6

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Proposal 18 Units 1-5 Grouse

Harvest Data: Wing & Tail Feathers

Male **Sooty Grouse** Tail Fan

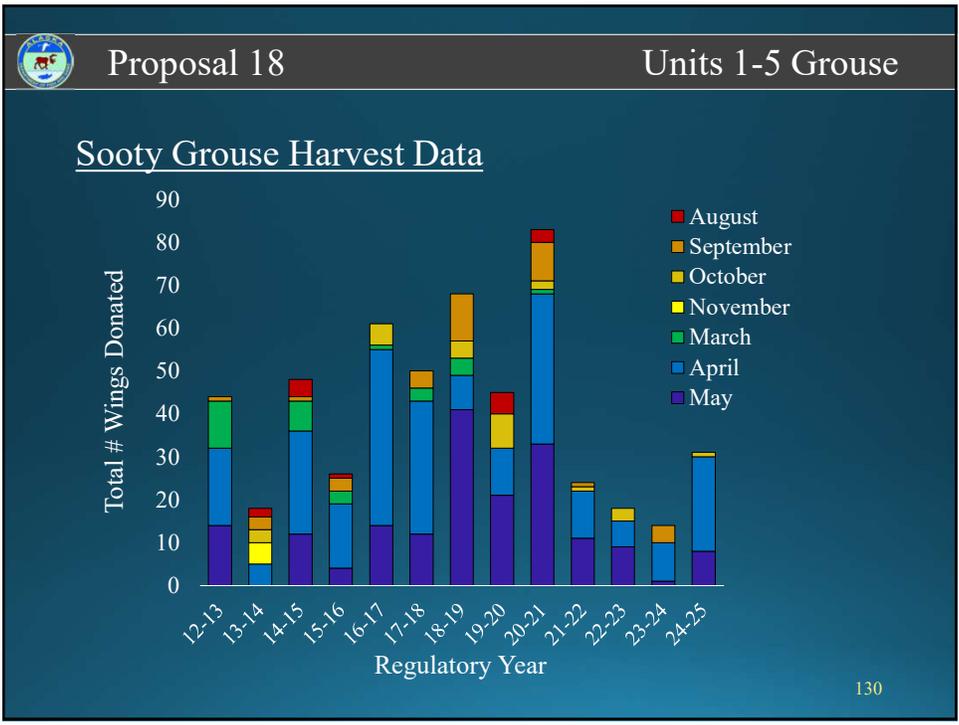


Female **Sooty Grouse** Tail Fan

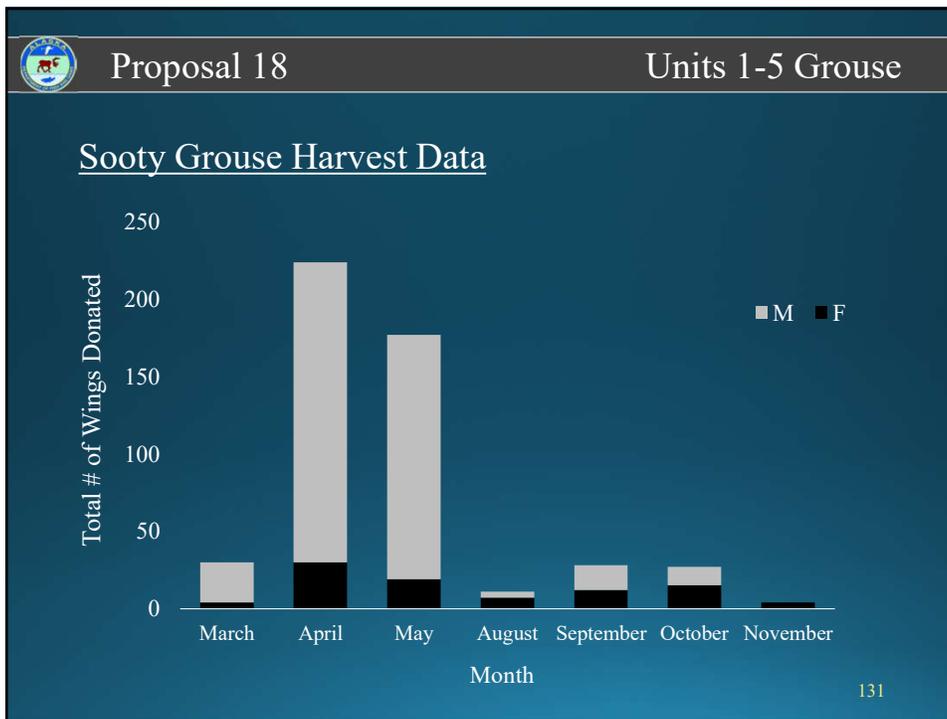


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Proposal 18 Units 1-5 Grouse

Sooty Grouse Nest Data (B.C.)

- Hatch dates: June 8 - June 28
- Avg clutch size: 6
- Incubation period: 26 days
- Nest initiation dates: May 8 - May 28*

*Rough estimate based on back calculating

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 Proposal 18 Units 1-5 Grouse

Spruce Grouse Nest Data

- Nesting activity: May 14 - July 1 (P.O.W.)
- Hatch dates: June 15 - June 30 (Kenai Pen.)*
- Avg clutch size: 8
- Incubation period: 23 days

➤ Nest initiation dates: May 16 - May 31**

*Approximate date range
**Rough estimate based on back calculating

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 Proposal 18 Units 1-5 Grouse

Ruffed Grouse Nest Data

- Mean hatch dates: June 6 - June 17 (B.C.)
- Avg clutch size: 11
- Incubation period: 23 days

➤ Nest initiation dates: May 1 - May 12*

*Rough estimate based on back calculating

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 Proposal 18 Units 1-5 Grouse

Considerations

1. Sooty grouse numbers appear to be relatively stable
 - Some harvest of both sexes taking place in spring
2. Extending season to May 31 will overlap nesting
 - Harvest of nesting/incubating females is a concern

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 Proposal 18 Units 1-5 Grouse

Change the grouse hunting season in Units 1 - 5 to August 10 - May 31

Advisory Committee Proposal

Department Recommendation: **Neutral** on delaying start date to August 10 but **Opposed** to extending season to May 31

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