

Klawock Fish & Game Advisory Committee

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Proposal: The Klawock AC proposes to eliminate the female deer(doe) harvest in GMU 2.

The Sitka Blacktail deer population on Prince of Wales Island (PoW) crashed in 2017, 2018 & 2019 mainly due to the increase in wolf population from 2015-2019.

Between 1985 and 2001 the wolf harvest on PoW ranged from 18-132 wolves and the season length was Dec. 1- March 31 with no closures and no limit.

In 1993, the 1st petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was filed and Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADFG) defeated it.

In 2011, a 2nd petition was filed and ADFG countered with a wolf management change in 2015 to avoid the listing.

In 2015, wolves on PoW were managed under a quota system resulting in the following harvest:

2015: 7 total wolves harvested
2016: 30 total wolves harvested
2017: 62 total wolves harvested
2018: 46 total wolves harvested

The 2018 deer season was dramatic for many of us. We saw more wolf scat with deer bones/hair in it than we saw deer. Nearly every mountain, road, beach, etc. had wolf scat on it and our deer were very hard to find since so many had died from wolves.

In 2019, ADFG changed wolf management to its current format of a variable season length which resulted in the harvest of 164 wolves. This jump in wolf harvest triggered the 3rd petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the ESA in July of 2020.

With a lot of effort, ADFG defeated the petition and has continued to manage wolves under its current format with a tight season length to control the take.

ADFG has a good handle on wolf management but PoW still suffers from a depressed deer herd.

Elimination of the doe harvest will help our deer population recover.

Every female deer is invaluable until our herd rebounds.

Respectfully,

The Klawock Fish & Game Advisory Committee